

## FOOD AND FEED I

Rainer Malisch and Matthew Lorber

New surveys of **US food supply** give comprehensive updated information on the levels of PCDD/F and dioxin-like PCBs in **meat and poultry** (Huwe et al) and **cow's milk** (Schuda et al). Lorber et al determined the relative contribution of the major **feed components** to the total dioxin content of US dairy feeds

The Community Strategy to reduce the presence of dioxins and PCBs in feed and food comprises legislative measures which consist of three pillars: the establishment of maximum levels at a strict but feasible level in food and feed, the establishment of action levels acting as a tool for "early warning" of higher than desirable levels of dioxin in food or feed and the establishment of target levels, over time, to bring exposure of a large part of the European population within the recommended limits. Regulations set maximum levels for PCDD/F in food and animal feed and recommended action levels for PCDD/F in food and animal feed. The inclusion of dioxin-like PCBs should be reviewed by 31 December 2004. Target levels should be set by 31 December 2004. These important issues are addressed by two groups of authors: Gallani et al present data on levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in **food and feed in Europe** on the basis of a considerable amount of data received by the European Commission. Malisch et al show data and conclusions for food from different regions in Europe. These comprehensive data sets give an orientation for a possible development of **EU legislation**.

A surveillance programme on dioxin-like compounds in **fatty food in Korea** was performed by Suh et al.

In addition to these more general contributions, many papers deal with interesting detailed aspects: Data on **fish** in general and in particular from the Baltic sea are given by Ruoff et al. The Baltic Sea is in the public focus in Europe not only since Danmark considered results to be sufficient to ban fishing herring in the Eastern Baltic Sea in early 2004. In this context, also the data of Pisorska et al on fish from Polish coastal waters are of interest. Other papers on fish show the situation in trouts from French agriculture (Marchand et al), Irish farmed salmon (Gruemping et al), PCB levels in fish of a contaminated area at the Croatian coast of the Mediterranean Sea (Kovac et al) or in salmon from Europe (Zuccato et al).

Differences of dioxin levels in different sorts of **eggs** in Ireland were investigated by Tlustos et al showing that organic eggs have higher PCDD/F and PCB contamination than battery eggs, free-range eggs and barn eggs. **Milk** in the neighbourhood of municipal waste incinerators in France was analysed by Andre et al, **deer** following an accidental release from a special waste treatment center in Canada by MacKenzie et al.

**Other POPs** were determined in vegetable oils from Middle East: Jacobs et al report levels of PCBs, organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) and PBDEs in olive oil. Mamontova et al analysed cow's milk and soil of pasture from the Irkutsk Region, Russia, for PCBs, HCHs and DDTs. A completely different class of contaminants was determined by Matsukami et al: short-chain polychlorinated n-alkanes in food from Japan.

PCDD/F levels in different **animal feed** in Italy was evaluated by Ceci et al.

Not only findings of different contaminants in numerous kinds of food and animal feed are presented but also the **transfer from grass to cows** (Schulz et al) or the influence of a contamination of an area in Italy by a PCB plant on **soils and the transfer into the food chain** (La Rocca et al).

The efforts of **analytical quality control** performed by the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) in Italy and results for PCB determinations are discussed by Baltassari et al.