

in partnership with:

Animal health & welfare: a solution from the Industry

Brussels, 18 February 2009

Welcome and Introduction of the Speakers

By Daniel Guéguén, moderator

Brief Presentation of EuLA

*by Jacques-Bernard De Jongh
EuLA President*

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the European Lime Association (EuLA) and the European Land Owners Organisation (ELO) who kindly lend its support to this event, I warmly welcome you tonight to this 90' minutes conference on “Animal Welfare and health in animal husbandry – a sustainable solution from the Industry”, where we will present you with information on the disinfection with lime in order to obtain a healthy environment in animal husbandry and also to minimize the onset of epidemics developing.

Before giving the floor to my colleagues, allow me to briefly introduce EuLA to you.

The European Lime Association represents around 100 companies employing around 11.000 people in 23 European countries (see slide 3).

As the voice for the European lime sector, its activities and mission evolve around:

- Promoting the interests of the European lime industry on all issues of common concern, such as sustainable development, product legislation, energy, environmental protection, health and safety, communication & image enhancement.
- Providing the members with a single voice and competent assistance
 - to address the complex legislative framework
 - on scientifically and technically sound dossiers
- Ensuring that the lime industry at large benefits from the sharing of non-sensitive information and play a supporting role in the promotion of best practices.

Lime is produced from natural calcium carbonate, i.e. from limestone or dolomite. At temperatures between 900 and 1000 degrees Celsius, CaO (burnt lime) is produced from calcium carbonate by burning (see graph on slide 6).

Lime is an essential raw material for the industry in a wide range of applications which one indirectly finds back in many products of everyday life. The most important quantities of lime in Europe are used in

- (1) The steel industry and treatment of non-ferrous metals (approx. 45%);
- (2) The chemical industry, paper and PCC industry, glass manufacturing (approx. 10%);
- (3) The building industry, road and soil stabilization (approx. 25%);
- (4) The environmental protection sector, agro-food industry, agriculture and forestry (approx. 20%).

In environmental protection, the qualities of lime as a natural base are used especially for water treatment, flue gas purification, sludge and waste treatment. The excellent fertilizing properties of lime become evident in soil conditioning and forest liming: lime increases the pH value of the soil, thus improving the intake of nutrients by the plants, binds heavy metals in the soil by forming insoluble salts, and by flocculation of clay improves the aeration of the soil.

Lime has been used for centuries for disinfection purposes. Its intrinsic properties which make it an effective disinfectant for the prevention and control of diseases will be outlined by the next speakers.

Introduction

by Larry Byrne

Chairman of the EuLA Animal By-Products Task Force

The publishing of this scientific information and Guidelines is timely as new strategies for the improvement of animal and human health have been launched over the last year. The development of these strategies is in reaction to recent disease outbreaks and in particular to the outbreak of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1 HPAI).

The consequences of avian influenza and other emerging infectious diseases can be catastrophic. For example the H5N1 HPAI outbreak has already cost approx. US\$20 billion in economic losses. If it develops into a global pandemic, it is estimated that it will cost about US\$2 trillion. Outbreaks have occurred in 63 countries since first detected in 2003 and while 50 have completely eliminated it, it is still entrenched in the other 13 countries. Diseases like H5N1 does not recognise borders and can spread by migratory birds, therefore an effective global response must be preplanned and well organised.

As a result of potential consequences, the WHO, FAO, OIE, UNICEF, World Bank and UNSIC have together launched the “One World One Health” strategy. The overall objective of this strategy involves increased surveillance, response, prevention and preparedness systems at all levels.

The EU Commission launched their new Animal Health Strategy (2007 – 2013) under the slogan “Prevention is better than Cure”. In addition the European Veterinarians launched their own strategy entitled “One Health, Healthy Animal = Healthy People”.

Important themes from these strategies are that improved *Bio security at farm level and Prevention and Control of animal diseases* are key priorities to minimise the risk of disease outbreaks. At our launch this evening, we will be providing detailed scientific research to show that the use of lime meets these goals in the various strategies.

The key message from our launch is that treatment with lime will greatly improve the bio security at farm level by elevating the pH of surfaces and material to a level which inactivates most diseases. As a result lime treatment helps prevent the arrival of diseases on farms, and if already contracted, it minimises the risk of further spreading.

This launch is the culmination of a lot of hard work over the last three years. In March 2006 a delegation from EuLA met with Dr Tim Gumble and colleagues from DG Sanco. Before the meeting concluded, DG Sanco asked if lime was effective for the treatment of avian influenza. They explained that the world was seeking an effective disinfectant which in the event of a pandemic would have to be widely available, cheap and relatively easy to use. Lime appeared to be an ideal product as it is produced in most countries, it is widely used by both wealthy farmers and the poorer classes and it is one of the cheapest alkalis available. DG SANCO asked EuLA to provide proof that lime will effectively inactivate H5N1.

Today, my colleague Dr. Marc Remy will publish the laboratory results from the Institute Pasteur de Lille (IPL) about the treatment of H5N1 with lime. He will also briefly discuss other test results obtained.

My colleague Dr. Andreas Wecker will explain the detailed Practical Guidelines on the use of lime for the Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza.

On the OIE website, it states that there are few universal disinfectants in existence. This is a frightening admission. However today, EuLA are delighted that you have been able to join us as we share our information to show that lime can be the universal disinfectant which the world demands. Lime will help greatly in the fight against future avian influenza epidemics and therefore prevent them from becoming pandemics.

WHO	World Health Organisation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Educational Fund
UNSC	United Nations System Influenza Coordinator
DG Sanco	Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection
IMA-Europe	European Industrial Minerals Association
EuLA	European Lime Association