

# LIV-05

## The evaluation of the microbiological quality of feedstuffs

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The quality of a feedstuff is not only defined by the various nutrient contents, or by its composition in terms of raw materials, or its digestibility or its palatability, nor even by its appearance or sensory characteristics, but also by its hygienic status.

This presentation shows a joint project initiated by the German Agricultural Analytic and Research Institutes (VDLUFA) with partners in several European countries including Switzerland. It presents a method of assessing the microbiological quality of feedstuffs, as well as the history of how it became established in Europe, in particular in German-speaking countries. It describes the concept used and the signification of micro-organisms present in a sample, from harvest to storage.

Indicator micro-organisms, for which orientation values were established, act as a reference point in this assessment. The most used feedstuffs and raw materials have been studied.

This lecture gives also an insight of the work done within the EFMO (European Feed Microbiology Organisation), where proficiency tests and information exchange are made possible.

**Keywords** quality evaluation; feedstuffs; feed ingredients; aerobic mesophilic bacteria; moulds; yeasts; counts; indicator micro-organisms; orientation values; VDLUFA, EFMO