

# Animal Feed & Genetic Engineering

October 1999

## Why ABN?

As the third largest animal feed manufacturer in the UK[1], ABN is one of the biggest users of genetically modified (GM) crops in the country. The company uses unsegregated (mixed GM and non-GM) soya and maize in many of its products, which are then eaten by livestock on farms across the country. The effects of this on livestock and on people who eat the meat and dairy products that come from them is unknown.

Through pressure from activists, campaigners and consumers, human food manufacturers have been forced to use only identity preserved (non-GM) ingredients. There is currently very little incentive for ABN to follow their example.

## Who owns ABN?

ABN is wholly owned by Associated British Foods PLC (ABF). ABF is wholly owned by Wittington Investments Ltd [2].

ABF PLC  
68 Knightsbridge, London SW1.  
Tel 0171 589 6363 Fax 0171 584 8560

Wittington Investments  
Weston Centre, Bowater House, London,  
SW1X 7LQ.  
Tel 0171 589 6363

## Head Office

ABN Ltd  
ABN House, Oundle Road, Woodston,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE2 9QS  
Tel 01733 555552. Fax 01733 422258  
Managing Director - Alan Murphy

## ABN

### What is ABN?

ABN (Associated British Nutrition) is a subsidiary of Associated British Foods (ABF) PLC, which also owns many well-known brands such as Allinson, Kingsmill and Sunblest breads, Ryvita, Twinings teas and Silver Spoon sugar [3]. ABN produces most of its animal feed through a subsidiary of the company called J. Bibby Agriculture. Other subsidiaries also manufacture animal feed (more on back page). As well as manufacturing animal feed, ABN are involved in the management of various livestock schemes and the merchandising of agricultural products. The company also owns the fifth largest animal feed manufacturer in China, ABN Huinong Feed Company [4].

ABN is a member of the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association (UKASTA) (for more on UKASTA see briefing 'Introduction and Strategic Overview', details back page). Its representative there is Dr Helen Raine, ABN Technical Director (see 'Other Key People' below).

Earlier this year the company ran a free school milk competition with 14 dairies and the Express newspaper. The prize for the 14 lucky winning schools was free milk for the rest of the year. The aim of the competition was to encourage young children to drink milk as, according to ABN's Rory McKibbin, research has shown that a lifetime's drinking habits are established by the age of 12 [5].

J. Bibby has several livestock research projects around the country. Some of these are at institutions that will be familiar to many anti-GE campaigners. This is not a comprehensive list.

Rowett Research Institute  
Scottish Agricultural College, Edinburgh and Auchincruive  
Newcastle University  
ADAS Feed Evaluation Unit  
ADAS Dairy Research Centre  
ABN Pig and Poultry Research Unit

This briefing aims to give campaigners an insight into the company and so help them to find ways of persuading the company to stop using GM ingredients. If successful, campaigners will be robbing the likes of Monsanto and AgrEvo of one of their largest sources of income in the UK.

**Financial Details**

Turnover £256.2m  
 Pre-Tax Profit £8.2m. Year to September 1997 [1]

**Number of Employees**

896 in September 1997 [6]

**Key Personnel**

**Directors**

Peter Jackson  
 David Langlands  
 Alan Murphy  
 Dr Helen Raine  
 John Shirbon  
 David Yiend [7]

**Other Key People**

As well as being a director, Dr Helen Raine is ABN's Technical Director. She is a member of the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association's National Executive Committee and is Chairman of its Feed Executive Committee.

She is also a member of the new Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs which was set up by MAFF to examine the safety and use of animal feed. It "will review the implications of new developments, particularly the use of GM materials." It will also provide 'independent' advice to the Food Standards Agency and Agriculture Ministers in the government [8].

In addition she has given evidence on behalf of J. Bibby Agriculture to the BSE enquiry [9].

Dr Michael Marsden is Research and Technical Manager of ABN. He is responsible for the specifications of all ruminant (cattle and sheep) feeds and is also giving evidence on behalf of J. Bibby to the BSE inquiry [9]. He also chairs the UKASTA scientific committee [10]. This is part of UKASTA's animal feed sector and is responsible for, among other things, lobbying government on environmental issues which effect its members [11].

Direct Line 01733 422 131

**ABN's position on GM**

ABN doesn't have a position statement on the use of GM ingredients. However, according to Dr Michael Marsden (see 'Other Key People' this page) the majority of ABN's products do contain GM material. He says that there isn't currently sufficient demand for non-GM animal feed to warrant ABN producing more than niche quantities. This is done on an ad hoc basis when a customer demands it, though even then ABN will only supply it if it is economically viable. Like many others in the industry, he believes that it would be relatively easy to produce dairy and sheep feed without GM crop ingredients because soya and maize can be excluded. However, this still leaves the issue of GM micro ingredients unresolved, (see 'Introduction and Strategic Overview' briefing).

Dr Marsden claims that it would be difficult to produce pig and poultry feeds without using soya and as identity preserved (segregated non-GM) is currently much more expensive than unsegregated soya. Since the end product would be more expensive, this would be unpopular with farmers, he says. He goes on to state that it is also currently difficult to obtain large quantities of IP soya, though this may become easier in the future.

Companies in the US have recently announced that they are going to segregate maize because some varieties grown in the US have not been approved in Europe [12] and farmers are being urged to consider growing non-GM varieties by the American Corn Growers Association [13]. With pressure from Europe, soya growers may follow suit.

Dr Marsden also stressed that there is a risk of cross-contamination throughout the supply chain and that there is a need for a legally defined threshold (acceptable level of GM contamination). This effectively means that they want a legal definition of GM free that allows them to continue to include some GM ingredients!

**Some of J. Bibby's Products**

Feed for dairy cattle - Diamond Grasslink. Supreme Grasslink. Supreme Gold (high levels of maize). Graslink Gold, Plus and 16 Diamond Dairy 20. Supreme Dairy 20. Super Magnum. Dairy Extra 18. Magnum Plus 18. Premium Dairy 16  
 Feed for beef cattle- Primestock range  
 Pig feed - Primary Range, Pioneer Range and Sow Feed (Drysoy Plus, Supersow and Superlac)  
 Sheep - Prime Breeder 22 Cake. Super Sheep Cake. Premium Ewe 18 cake/nuggets. Various lamb pellets. Diamond Sheep Breeder 34. Super Sheep Cake and Intensive Lamb Pellets.

**J. Bibby and BSE**

J. Bibby are giving evidence to the BSE inquiry. The company has admitted that it produced cattle feed containing meat and bone meal from other cattle. This is thought to be the mechanism by which BSE was transmitted through herds - and thence to humans. Dr Helen Raine and Dr Michael Marsden (see 'Other Key People') are giving evidence on the company's behalf [14].

# Where is ABN?

## England - North West

J Bibby Agriculture  
Ingleside, Paddock Lane, Audlem,  
Cheshire, CW3 0DP.  
Tel 01270 812473  
Mill producing sheep, cattle, pig and  
poultry feeds.  
Manager Dave Dodd

Lower Philips Road, Whitebirk Ind  
Est, Blackburn, Lancs, BB1 5SL.  
Tel 01254 59506. Fax 01254 682439  
Mill  
Site Manager Peter Marsden

High Mill, Langwathby, Penrith,  
Cumbria, CA10 1NB.  
Tel 01768 881431. Fax 01768 881766  
Mill producing various feeds  
Manager Mr J Edgar

## England - North

J Bibby Agriculture  
Bishopdyke Road, Sherburn in Elmet,  
Leeds, W Yorks, LS25 6JZ.  
Tel 01977 684784. Fax 01977 684656  
Mill producing sheep, cattle, pig and  
poultry feeds  
Manager Mr Warns

## England - West Midlands

J Bibby Agriculture  
Ennerdale Road, Harlescote,  
Shrewsbury, Shrops, SY1 3TD.  
Tel 01743 441081. Fax 01743 465457  
Mill producing sheep, cattle, pig and  
poultry feeds.

## England - East Midlands

J Bibby Agriculture  
75 Northgate, Newark, Notts,  
NG24 1BR.  
Tel 01636 676012. Fax 01636 707258  
Mill producing various types of feed  
Site manager Robert Reed.

## England - East Anglia

A.B.N, J Bibby Agriculture and Trident  
Feeds  
ABN House, Oundle Road, Woodston,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE2  
9QS  
Tel 01733 555552. Fax 01733 422258  
(ABN and J Bibby)  
Tel 01733 422220. Fax 01733 890182  
(Trident Feeds)  
Head Office  
Managing Director Alan Murphy

J Bibby Agriculture  
Sedge Fen Road, Southerby, Downham  
Market, Norfolk, PE38 0PS.  
Tel 01353 676234  
Mill producing pig and poultry feeds  
Manager Mr Morley

58 Station Road, Framlingham,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 9EE.  
Tel 01728 723374 Fax 01728 724227  
Mill producing mainly pig but also  
some poultry feed.  
Manager Mr Osslar

## England - South West

A B N Farm Costings,  
Cheviot Ho, Castle St, Salisbury,  
Wiltshire, SP1 3SP.  
Tel 01722 415683  
Office

J Bibby Agriculture  
Bristol Road, Bridgewater, Somerset,  
TA6 4TB.  
Tel 01278 683551. Fax 01278 684697.  
Mill producing sheep, cattle, pig,  
poultry and game feeds  
Manager David Pope

Sporting Feeds (J Bibby Agriculture)  
3A, West Market Place, Cirencester,  
Glos, GL7 2NJ.  
Tel 01285 658884. Fax 01285 651038

## England - South East

J Bibby Agriculture  
Enstone Airfield, Chipping Norton,  
Oxford, Oxon, OX7 4NR.  
Tel 01608 678503  
Mill, producing ruminant (sheep  
and cattle), pig and poultry feeds.  
Produce some organic feeds.  
Site Manager Boyd Barrington.

Central Laboratories  
Wildmere Industrial Estate,  
Banbury, Oxon, OX16 7TU.  
Tel 01295 222710  
Test animal feeds. Test for several  
animal feed companies, biggest  
customer is J.Bibby. They receive  
end products and raw materials  
which they analyse for nutritional  
content and 'undesirables' such as  
pesticide residue.  
Operations manager Chris Ingram

Farming Supplies (Maldon)  
Fullbridge Mill, Maldon, Essex.  
Tel 01621 852462  
Mill producing sheep and cattle  
feeds. In process of going organic.  
Manager Simon Grist

## Scotland

ABN Scotland  
Damside, Cupar Muir, Cupar, Fife,  
KY15 5SL.  
Tel 01334 657070  
Mill.  
Operations Manager Gordon  
Jessiman.

J Bibby Agriculture  
New Mill, New Mill Road,  
Kilmarnock, KA1 3XD.  
Tel 01563 546600  
Store of finished products,  
Distribution Centre and Customer  
Service Centre.  
Manager Simon Dodds

For more information about what mills do and differences between different types of feed, see the briefing 'Introduction and Strategic Overview', details back page.

### Wales

J Bibby Agriculture  
Cillefwr Ind Est, Johnstown, Carmarthen,  
SA31 3RB.  
Tel 01267 232041. Fax 01267 230983.  
Mill producing mainly cattle feed. Also some  
sheep feed.  
Mill manager Hugh Jones

### Northern Ireland

J. Bibby Agriculture and Jordans Animal  
Feeds  
Knockmore Mill, 160 Moira Road, Lisburn,  
Co. Antrim, BT28 1JB.  
Tel: 01846 662611. Fax: 01846 677202  
Mill producing various feeds

### Footnotes

1. Key Notes Report. Animal Feedingsuffs 1999. Key Note Ltd
2. Who Owns Whom 1999. Dun and Bradstreet
3. Hoover's Company Profiles September 1999
4. ABF website. [www.abf.co.uk/trading.html](http://www.abf.co.uk/trading.html)
5. Farming News 05/03/1999 P11
6. Key British Enterprises 1999. Dun and Bradstreet
7. Companies House Information Centre
8. Hermes - UK Government Press Releases 13/07/1999
9. Hermes - UK Government Press Releases 01/10/98
10. Conversation with Michael Marsden August 1999
11. UKASTA website. [www.ukasta.org.uk](http://www.ukasta.org.uk)
12. Financial Times 11 September 1999 p13. 'Cold comfort from crop segregation'
13. Los Angeles Times 5 October 1999
14. [www.bse.org.uk/witness/htm/stat154.htm](http://www.bse.org.uk/witness/htm/stat154.htm). The BSE Inquiry Statement No 154. Dr Raine gave evidence on days 17 and 61, Dr Marsden on day 61.

### Other Corporate Watch briefings on animal feed and genetic engineering

Introduction and Strategic Overview  
BOCM Pauls Ltd  
Dalgety Group Ltd  
Other Major Animal Feed Manufacturers

### Subsidiaries of ABN involved in animal feed

#### J. Bibby Agriculture

By far the largest of ABN's animal feeds businesses.  
Contact details as ABN head office.

#### Trident Feeds

Specialises in Molassed Sugar Beet Feed and feed made from the by-products of distillers (spirits manufacturers).  
Based at ABN head office.  
Tel 01733 422220. Fax 01733 890182

#### Jordans Animal Feeds

A large feed manufacturer in Northern Ireland.  
160, Moira Rd, Lisburn, County Antrim BT28 1JB  
Tel 01846 662 611. Fax 01846 677 202

#### Central Laboratories

This company analyses the feed of ABN's feed businesses. They receive end products and raw materials which they analyse for nutritional content and 'undesirables' such as pesticide residue.  
Wildmere Industrial Estate, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 7TU  
Tel 01295 222 700. Fax 01295 222709

#### Farming Supplies (Maldon)

The company only produces feed for sheep and cattle. It doesn't use any antibiotics or growth promoters in its products. The company is in the process of converting to organic.  
Fullbridge Mill, Maldon, Essex  
Tel 01621 852 462. Fax 01621 857 274

#### KW Alternative Feeds

Involved in alternative feeding systems, selling a range of feeds.  
2 Giles Cross Bradford Peverell, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9SJ  
Tel: 01305 267763

#### Badminton Speciality Feeds.

Manufacturer of horse, pet and speciality feeds.  
16, Mill St, Oakham, Leicestershire LE15 6EA  
Tel 01572 756 091. Fax 01572 756 021

#### Other briefings in this series

AgrEvo

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