



Red Tractor Assurance



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News, updates and practical advice from your Red Tractor Assurance team // APRIL 2019

memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk • Combinable Crops, Fresh Produce, Pigs & Poultry, Dairy, Beef & Lamb - T. 0203 617 3670

Red Tractor leading the world in farm assurance standards

Independent global study of farm assurance schemes finds Red Tractor's breadth and depth to be second to none.

Red Tractor's standards are world-leading, according to a new, independent global study of farm assurance schemes.

Some of the world's most prominent schemes were benchmarked including many operating in countries which compete with the UK.

When compared like-for-like Red Tractor is second-to-none, especially in areas such as traceability and food safety.

Areas for development have been identified which align with Red Tractor's plan to introduce modular standards to cover specialist areas such as higher welfare, environmental enhancement and organic production.

Forensic research

Six months of research was conducted by independent Nuffield Scholar Dr Jonathan Birnie who holds a PhD from the Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland (now AFBI) & Queens University.

Dr Birnie said: "As a complete scheme Red Tractor is the highest performing on an international basis.

"While there are areas that could be developed the existing scheme is comprehensive and a great foundation on which to build additional standards."

Red Tractor CEO, Jim Moseley, said the findings strengthen Red Tractor's position as the scheme which can act as the flagship for quality British food both at home and abroad.

"Our vision and the work we are already implementing to develop standards in certain areas will place Red Tractor firmly at the centre of UK agriculture worldwide," he said.

"However, our focus remains on working hard to ensure that every standard is in place on every farm,

Opportunities for development

- Worker welfare and the ethical treatment of agricultural workers
- Environmental enhancement in areas such as soil management and control of manure and fertilisers in crops



Above: Assured Food Standards' Chairman Dame Lucy Neville-Rolfe hosted the report's launch at the House of Lords

every day.

"While specialist schemes may have higher standards on specific single issues they do not offer the breadth across all aspects of farm production."

Red Tractor's strengths

- Consistently world-leading in traceability and food safety
- The strongest overall scheme in the beef & lamb and dairy sectors, and joint strongest in fresh produce
- World-leading whole chain assurance in chicken
- Crop storage and water management in combinable crops
- Antibiotic monitoring in pig sector



Second burst of TV advertising confirmed

Following the huge success of Red Tractor's first ever TV advertising campaign, a second wave of activity got underway on 28 March.

Last autumn's advert led to 1.4m more shoppers planning to trade up to Red Tractor from the cheapest alternative.

Adverts are scheduled to run on Thursdays through to Sundays until the end of April on stations such as Channel 4, ITV, and the Sky network.

Preparation for a new inspection regime

Be audit-ready ahead of dairy and poultry implementation from April.

Poultry and dairy farmers are being reminded that the new risk-based inspection regime will be rolled out to their sectors in April.

This follows implementation in the pig sector since last November.

Red Tractor calculates the risk rating of a business through an internal system based on the nature and number of non-conformances found during routine inspections.

The criteria is not known by the assessor who remains completely independent.

Farms categorised as high risk following routine assessments will

now receive a follow-up visit from an assessor without prior warning to ensure the scheme's standards are being upheld.

Farmers are informed that they will receive an unannounced inspection which takes the form of a spot check rather than full audit.

If standards haven't improved, those farms could be suspended.

Red Tractor says a high-risk classification does not make a bad farm - it means extra work is required to ensure compliance with standards which is vital to protect the reputation of the scheme and all

its members.

Addressing non-conformances found during a routine inspection - either at the time of the inspection or within 28 days - will not change a farm's risk rating, a point which Red Tractor says is important for producers to be aware of.

Appeals relating to audits are handled by certification bodies and risk rating appeals by Red Tractor.

A guide to appeals can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y4kmuaaf>

Read the scheme rules for risk-based inspections at <https://tinyurl.com/y5nc5szm>

Movement interruptions

All livestock farmers should ensure they consider how they would cope in the event of being unable to move stock off farm.

All farms must have a documented disaster recovery or emergency plan covering the actions to be taken in the event of identified risks, such as a fire, flood or severe weather.

But most plans don't cover what happens if movements are interrupted. This is a potential eventuality in a number of situations, such as an abattoir breakdown or the farm becomes suspended from the Red Tractor scheme.

Risk-based webinar

Do you have a burning question about the new risk-based approach to farm assurance inspections?

Watch a detailed webinar online at

<https://tinyurl.com/ycrfsfxq>

Care line announced

Red Tractor has announced it will launch a confidential care line in June.

Available 24 hours a day the Farmed With Care Line will be an anonymous place for members, stakeholders, industry and the public to call if they have evidence of wrongdoing or practices which fall short of Red Tractor standards.

Reports can be made for any step of the assurance chain.



Jim Moseley defends UK food standards

Red Tractor CEO Jim Moseley responded to claims from the US Government that the European Union's approach to farming belong in the "museum of agriculture".

Mr Moseley's defence of UK food standards was quoted in The Guardian and Daily Mail.

He said: "Categorically, the UK's food standards are now under threat from the commercial appetites of the United States food lobby.

"British people deserve better than having their world-leading food standards sold out from underneath them.

"Our research shows that shoppers look for food that has been produced to the highest standards of food safety, animal welfare and traceability.

"A deal that allows illegal products to be brought into the UK, lets down the British public and undermines all the investment and efforts of British farmers."



Licensing team works with AHDB to target foodservice

The latest from our team involved at the front end with logo users that are close to the consumer.

Red Tractor's licensing team is continuing to develop new relationships in the foodservice sector to build the reach and reputation of assured food.

Much of the team's work is confidential due to its commercial nature but a new initiative is underway in partnership with the AHDB.

By joining forces Red Tractor hopes to be able to drive forward more activity in the sector.

Trade and commercial manager Jonathan Draper said: "AHDB works to drive consumption of British grown and reared products and specifically in meat it works to promote the use of the whole carcass. As Red Tractor has established some great working relationships with some of the largest foodservice operators in the UK it makes good sense to be more aligned.

Mr Draper said generally the foodservice sector can lack



innovation while AHDB works constantly to develop new concepts including working with chefs to implement new ideas.

"By working with AHDB we can add another string to our bow by combining resources to give us even more influence in conversations with the major players."



members must display their Red Tractor membership number and trailer identification number on the sides and rear of trailers used for off-farm transport. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y676kr69> for a full guidance document on all off-farm transport rules.

■ Fresh produce survey

It's been one year since Tesco began recognising Red Tractor's fresh produce standards as equivalent to its Nurture scheme, and views are being sought on the new assessment process. All members supplying Tesco should have received an email inviting them to take part in the questionnaire, but if yours is missing email memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk

Antibiotic news

Correct medicine storage vital

Livestock farmers are being reminded of the importance of the correct storage of animal medicines to ensure they maintain product efficacy and follow good stewardship principles.

A study by Paul Williams of MSD showed the majority of fridges fail to keep live vaccine within the recommended storage temperature range.

Failing to store products at the correct temperature is a risk to efficacy.

Red Tractor standards require appropriate storage of all medicines to ensure they are effective.



Foot spray change

Following a risk-benefit analysis, Red Tractor standards now permit antibiotic foot spray treatments in the milking parlour.

This allows farmers to treat lameness in a timely fashion.

Members should be mindful that some processor standards vary in this area and should check with their milk buyer if they are unsure.



NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Revised pig standard

Red Tractor recently revised pig standard AM.b to include the requirement for a copy of the Practical Guide to Responsible Use of Antibiotics on Pig Farms to be available either downloaded or printed. Any staff member administering pig medicines must have read the document. This standard will be audited from 1 April.

■ Calf housing

Following recent high-profile media coverage dairy and beef farmers are being reminded that calves housed in hutches have visual and tactile contact with other calves. This is a legal requirement and a Red Tractor standard (CR.a).

■ Crop transport

Combinable crops and sugar beet

Farming Help is at hand

Agricultural charities united in their mission to offer support to farmers and their families.

The UK's four main agricultural charities are joining forces under the banner of Farming Help to increase their reach and help those in need.

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, Royal Scotland Agricultural Benevolent Institution, Farming Community Network and Addington Fund are working together to avoid duplication and unnecessary competition.

By sharing resources Farming Help can provide various forms of support depending on the nature of the problem with either one charity leading or by working together.

It is designed to be a one-stop shop for financial or pastoral support and Red Tractor is pleased to help raise awareness.



RABI helps farming people on low incomes and

with few savings. The team talks in confidence, giving tailored support and advice. Whether it is a farmer, farm manager or farmworker, who is working, retired or unable to work due to an illness or disability, or a dependant, RABI may be able to assist. Examples include grants for domestic costs, funding for disability equipment, essential furniture and white goods, and care home top-up fees. The charity can also check state benefits entitlement and may fund a relief farmworker if a farmer is unable to work due to illness, an initial business review or training to bring in off-farm income. Go to www.rabi.org.uk or call 0808 281 9490 for more.



The Farming Community Network comprises about 400

volunteers across England and Wales who operate a confidential helpline (03000 111 999) and e-helpline (help@fcn.org.uk) daily from 7am-11pm. As farmers, or people with close links to farmers, the volunteers have a great understanding of the issues facing those who make contact and are on hand to listen and provide a sympathetic ear to anyone who needs help. They also provide free pastoral and practical support, regardless of whether the issue is personal, business or family-related. They will "walk with" anyone who seeks support and help them find a positive way through their problems for as long as it is needed.



The Addington Fund was established to help farmers in severe

financial difficulty during the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak. Since then, it has been on hand to help out as and when national and regional disasters have occurred in the UK by offering grants for feed and forage to those affected. Since then the Addington Fund has concentrated on providing strategically placed retirement homes for farmers and affordable housing to keep young families in their chosen rural location. A young entrants scheme is now being set up to give young people the opportunity to farm in their own right. Visit www.addingtonfund.org.uk for more information or to donate.



The Royal Scotland Agricultural Benevolent Institution provides emotional, practical and financial support in times of need. Emotional support is available through a daily helpline (0300 111 4166), case officers and volunteers, all of whom are mental health first aid trained. A call out service for the lonely and vulnerable is also available as is practical support. Financial support can be monthly payments or single grants for essential items. Business costs will be considered to help overcome a short term crisis.