RED TRACTOR TECHNICAL MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTION (FRESH PRODUCE)

The Company

Red Tractor Assurance was established in 2000 and has grown to become the UK’s largest farm and food standards assurance scheme, covering food safety, traceability, animal health and welfare and environmental protection. The Red Tractor Farm Assurance Schemes cover six sectors: beef and lamb, dairy, pigs, poultry, crops and fresh produce. The Red Tractor logo on pack means your food or drink has met our responsible production standards and is fully traceable back to independently inspected farms.

A key objective for the Red Tractor team is to develop Red Tractor Assurance into the “flagship for British Food and Farming” using Red Tractor Standards, independent assurance and robust compliance as the key foundations of achieving this.

The Job

The role of a Red Tractor Technical Manager is to manage the delivery of all aspects of the Red Tractor Technical Strategy and technical aspects of the Red Tractor Business plan for their aligned sector area(s) with an emphasis on food safety, traceability and protecting the environment.

Sitting within the Red Tractor Technical Assurance Team and reporting into the Senior Technical Manager, our Technical Managers work with industry and government experts, our Technical Advisory Committees and Sector Boards to develop standards that help ensure Red Tractor farmers produce safe, traceable food that is produced responsibly. They also work closely with our Certification Bodies and Assessors to ensure that the measures are in place to ensure robust compliance. Red Tractor Technical Managers drive the standards development for their sector, which includes responsibility for ensuring that the standards achieve the optimum balance between farmer practicality and consumer expectation.

Main Accountabilities

- Manage Red Tractor fresh produce standards providing technical expertise, and recommended direction for standard development with an emphasis on food safety, traceability and protecting the environment.
- Provide expertise on environmental issues and priorities such as soils, water and land use and biodiversity, both in the fresh produce sector and in a wider agricultural context
- Work with a wide range of stakeholders with differing views, and influence to get the best solution for Red Tractor Standards, balancing on farm practicality with consumer expectations.
- Manage aligned sector Technical Advisory Committees to ensure relevant issues and opportunities are discussed and evaluated and decisions made regarding inclusion in standards.
- Deliver technical aspects of the Red Tractor Business Plan and Strategy on time to a high standard with support from the Senior Technical Manager and Head of Assurance.
- Keep a watching brief on developments in the farming sectors, general Government and NGO initiatives and campaigns and legislation in order to help inform standards development.
- Work with Scheme Member Manager to provide input for member communications and support at engagement events.
• Provide technical expertise to Marketing and Communications teams to support activities.
• Liaise with identified stakeholders, including retailer teams.
• Proactively engage with Certification Bodies, at a sector specific level, to drive the Red Tractor agenda.
• Provide technical expertise and support for Assessor training courses and communications.
• Represent Red Tractor on Industry bodies and groups.

How will I succeed?

• Good judgement, drive and influence and a targeted development plan.
• Delivery of KPIs and Red Tractor’s Technical strategy as defined within personal development targets.
• Be a role model for
  o Technical excellence and attention to detail
  o Good interpersonal skills across a wide range of contacts.
  o Effective planning and prioritisation
  o Excellent self-awareness and communication

What I need to do

• Degree or equivalent in relevant agriculture, food related, or relevant scientific subject
• Computer literate
• Minimum of 3 years’ experience in an assurance, agricultural or food technical/microbiology role within the farm to fork chain
• The role will require travel within the UK and occasional travel outside of the UK

What I need to show

• Works collaboratively with other Technical Team Members, Certification Bodies and other stakeholders to deliver technical plans and strategy for their sector.
• Identifies opportunities to improve Red Tractor ways of working internally, with Certification Bodies and with other stakeholders.
• Ability to quickly absorb technical information and draw summaries / conclusions to report to team and technical forums.
• Ability to present thoughts and ideas to external stakeholders and establish their buy in to plans
• Demonstrates good judgement when investigating and/or escalating issues.
• Adaptable and able to take on projects that may be outside of direct knowledge or comfort zone.
• Ability to confidently and credibly present both internally and externally.
• A self-starter with confidence and ability to use own initiative.

What decisions can I make?

• This role is an integral part of the Assurance team and will require regular liaison with all team members
• Decision on member status and next steps, following major incidents or when escalated by Certification Bodies.

Further information
This job is based at our Lavington Street office in London.
Closing date for applications is Friday 5th July 2019 with interviews taking place in London on Thursday 11th July 2019
Please send an up to date CV and covering letter to Jess Sloss at application@redtractor.org.uk
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