



CHAIRMAN

Red Tractor Assurance Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Sector

Assured Food Standards (AFS), is the organisation that manages and promotes the world-leading Red Tractor food chain assurance scheme.

The Scheme is a fundamental part of the entire food chain, from farmer to shoppers via retail and the food service industry. It reassures shoppers that the £14bn worth of food and drink carrying the Red Tractor logo, is traceable, safe and farmed with care. With a bold ambition of becoming the “Flagship of British Food & Farming” Red Tractor is a progressive and critical body within the food & drink industry.

A vacancy has arisen for a Chairman of the Red Tractor Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Sector Committee, the body that manages the Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet farm assurance scheme standards and technical strategy. The Chairman of the Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Sector Board will also be appointed as a Director of Assured Food Standards and a member of the Main Board.

Key responsibilities include leading the Sector such that it contributes to the Red Tractor vision & purpose and ensuring the effective functioning and continued development of the Red Tractor Assurance Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Scheme and its standards. The ideal candidate will be a strong leader, able to bring together diverse interests and establish clear strategies for the Sector. Board, Senior Management or Industry Leadership experience together with an excellent knowledge of the arable industry is required.

This is a part-time position which is remunerated on the basis of approximately 25 days per year.

Further details are available upon request from Jim Moseley, CEO, Assured Food Standards: application@redtractor.org.uk

Please send an up to date CV to Jim Moseley at application@redtractor.org.uk

Jim Moseley
Assured Food Standards
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Closing date: Friday 15th May 2020

Job Description

Chairman, Red Tractor Assurance Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Sector

Background

Assured Food Standards (AFS), is the organisation that manages and promotes the world-leading Red Tractor food chain assurance scheme. Its owners represent the entire food chain, from the Farming Unions of the UK, AHDB and Dairy UK through to the British Retail Consortium. However, AFS operates independently, setting internationally recognised standards, managing an independent inspection regime and marketing the Red Tractor logo, which with a value approaching £14bn, is used extensively in retail, foodservice and by many brands.

The Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme covers six sectors: beef & lamb, dairy, pigs, poultry, crops & sugar beet and fresh produce. The schemes are a fundamental part of the entire food chain, from farmer to shoppers via retail and the food service industry. The standards are developed using scientific evidence, legislative requirements and best practice, these, together with a robust inspection regime, reassure shoppers that Red Tractor food is safe, traceable and farmed with care. The scheme is used by every major supermarket group and foodservice operator in the UK, as part of their buying specification and due diligence.

Red Tractor's vision & purpose is : to be the Flagship of British Food & Farming – a scheme that Shoppers demand, Customers insist on, Farmers aspire to and Government are proud of.

The Role

The Sector Chair is appointed as a Director of AFS and, therefore, a member of the Main Board. As a consequence the role interacts with four stakeholder bodies – the Sector Committee, the Main AFS Board, the Standards Committee and potentially another sub-committee of the Main Board. The key responsibilities for each are described below :

Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Sector Committee

- Chair the Sector Committee (3 to 4 meetings p.a.) to develop the technical strategy for the sector and to take it forward with the engagement of all stakeholders, such that it contributes to the Red Tractor Vision & Purpose
- Ensure good governance is applied and that discussion is fair, open and balanced
- Ensure the Sector Committee includes active representation from all relevant stakeholders in the sector and is balanced across the food chain
- Recommend where additional ad-hoc expertise may be required in the development of strategy
- Develop and maintain effective communication with sector related stakeholders at all stages in the supply chain and its regulation (including Producer Associations and Organisations, Processors, Retailers, Food Service Sector, Food Standards Agency, other Assurance Schemes, Certification Bodies)

- Represent the sector and AFS publicly to promote the philosophy of Red Tractor Assurance in a manner that is united across sector

Main AFS Board

- Represent the Sector on the Main Board (6 meetings p.a.)
- Contribute to the development of the Red Tractor vision, purpose, strategies and business plans
- Act as an ambassador for Red Tractor

Standards Committee

- Attend and participate in the AFS Standards Committee (6 meetings p.a.), to ensure a harmonised approach to standards and common technical issues, taking into account the requirements and pressures on all sectors, sharing best practice and understanding the priorities facing Red Tractor.

Main Board sub-committees

- Participate in AFS Board sub-committees if and when required. The sub-committees are currently Marketing, Audit & Finance, Nominations, Remuneration. AFS Board members are expected to be a member of at least one of these committees which are usually scheduled to be on the same days as other AFS meetings.

Skills and Experience required:

- Sufficient personal stature to command the confidence and respect of a wide range of interests and organisations
- Board, Senior Management or Industry Leadership experience
- The ability to set a clear vision and strategy for the Sector
- Political astuteness and the ability to both embrace and drive change
- Effective and experienced at chairing meetings that include diverse interests, delivering clear decisions, summaries and actions
- Experience of the Food Chain, through relevant experience in the Production, Commercial and/or Public Sector, with a strong understanding of the arable industry
- Excellent communicator with the confidence to deal with the media and other stakeholders

Remuneration

The role will be for a three year term, renewable for a second three term dependant on approval by the Main Board and Sector Committee. It is anticipated the commitment will be 25 days per year and remuneration will be £10,000 per annum plus expenses.