



Technical Manager – Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet Job Description

The Company

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” based on world class standards, independent assurance and robust compliance Red Tractor is a progressive and critical body within the food & drink industry.

Reporting to: Head of Operations

The Opportunity

Red Tractor have an exciting opportunity within the Technical Team for an experienced, enthusiastic and progressive Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet Technical Manager, with agriculture / food industry experience to manage the Combinable Crops & Sugar Beet scheme standards ensuring they are fit for purpose and respected by the industry.

Key responsibilities include:

- Manage Red Tractor combinable crops & sugar beet farm standards, providing technical expertise and recommended direction for standards development
- Manage Technical Working Groups to develop and deliver the sector technical strategy and achieve consensus
- Manage the reputation of Red Tractor in the combinable crops & sugar beet sector and the impact of poor compliance, including liaising with the Compliance Manager on delivery of assessments
- Lead the liaison with stakeholders within the sector to ensure they are engaged in the development of standards and the operation of the scheme
- Support where necessary to ensure the scheme recognition / benchmarking by a variety of stakeholders e.g RED, SAI, VI
- as a voluntary scheme under the Renewable Energy Directive is maintained
- Contribute to the delivery of the wider RT Technical Strategy as a key member of the Technical team
- Provide technical expertise to the Communications and Marketing teams to support activities
- Representing Red Tractor externally – presenting at and attending industry and stakeholder meetings
- Managing issues such as exposés and complaints, acting as the first point of contact along with the Head of Operations

Complexity

The main sources of complexity are:

- Working collaboratively with other Technical Managers, Certification Bodies and other stakeholders to deliver the combinable crops & sugar beet technical strategy
- Keeping abreast of industry developments and issues to inform and influence standards development
- Liaising with stakeholders from across the supply chain who may have opposing views on the direction and development of the standards
- Managing issues when they arise, to ensure prompt action and to ensure all relevant parties are kept up to date with progress and information relevant to their interest

Knowledge and Skills

- Degree (preferably Agriculture related but not essential)
- Background in agriculture / food production / arable production gained through education and/or work experience
- Understanding of the combinable crops & sugar beet supply chain and market influencers
- Ability to confidently and credibly present both internally and externally
- Ability to manage multiple projects at the same time
- Ability to influence and achieve consensus amongst external stakeholders
- Computer literate
- Knowledge and experience of farm assurance schemes and their role in the supply chain
- Self-motivated, articulate and well organised
- Ability to build good working relationships internally and externally

Working Hours and Benefits

This position will work a total of 37.5 hours per week. The normal core hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. It may however, be necessary on occasion to work outside these hours to meet the demands of the business.

Location and Travel

The position is normally located in the Red Tractor Head office in Fenchurch Street, London (normally pre-Covid19 on average 2-3 days a week). Some travel throughout the UK will be required. *Since March 2020, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the RT Staff have been based from home with meetings on-line. There will be a need to attend the London office when required at a later date depending on the wider situation.* Please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss location/travel arrangements.

Applications to application@redtractor.org.uk