



MAY 2021

CROPS AND SUGAR BEET

TECHNICAL UPDATE AND PRACTICAL ADVICE

FROM YOUR RED TRACTOR ASSURANCE TEAM

INDUSTRY REACTION

Cecilia Pryce, Head of Compliance, Shipping and Research, Openfield

“Many Red Tractor and SQC farmers are unaware that they have been audited as RED compliant / sustainable since the RED scheme insisted that farmers be approved, mainly because it was linked to the way land has been farmed since 2008.

“As most farmers have only ever wanted to improve their farms’ environmental footprint, farms are more likely to have taken land out of production and added it to environmental schemes rather than drain peat bogs, plough up highly biodiverse grass land or chop down forests. This means many farmers are likely to have very little to be concerned about when it comes to maintaining their RED status under the new changes.

“The changes are anticipated to still focus on the status of your land since 2008 with some limited paperwork requirements, which is honestly a small price to pay to have a sustainable status. The Trade have a very similar system through TASC RED and are also likely to have to make some changes in how we trade and move commodities, including new wording on the passport under section 8. RED requirements have been running for many years and simplistically involves every truck load of OSR and crops sold to certain destinations being recorded with the farmers NUTS II status and default carbon emissions.

“The trade have also been mass balancing crops in commercial stores – it’s not new, it’s just something farmers haven’t had to think much about. For clarity, UK and global farmers selling commodities under RED have always had to comply under the same rules and those rules will now involve some more paperwork at farm audit level, but rest assured the trade will still have to do the main leg work when it comes to paperwork.”

Brett Askew, Red Tractor Crops Board & North East Crops Board Chair

I’ve been working on the biofuels brief with the NFU since 2010 lobbying EU Commission and Westminster from the early days of ILUC (indirect land use change) to the Crop Cap and

more recently E10. This wouldn't have been successful if we did not have a suitable delivery platform for RED.

“Red Tractor is the perfect platform to demonstrate the farmers crops sustainable criteria to be eligible for biofuels. It's extremely pleasing to see that when RED II, which will be implemented shortly, it will continue to be audited under Red Tractor.

“Thereby providing UK farmers with continued access to biofuels and delivering price support to UK wheat/OSR, and much valued competition to the protein market, with readily supply of DDGS/Rape Meal from the biofuel plants.”