

# FAR update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FEED ADVISER REGISTER SCHEME



Trouw Nutrition laboratory tour

## Welcome

Welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of the FAR Update. In this issue, I am pleased to share with you the recent silage sampling and analysis training day held for Trading Standards Officers, the release of AIC's 'Sustainability Action Plan' at AIC's Conference, and AIC's Sustainable Feed Principles.

You will also find an update on the development of AIC's Sustainable Commodities Scheme with certification modules aligned with EUDR and UKFRC and details on the advice Catchment Sensitive Farming officers are able to give farmers.

Please send any questions or suggestions to [far@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:far@agindustries.org.uk) or via the contact details on the back page.



**Sue Whittington**  
Technical Manager  
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## FAA hosts silage sampling training day for trading standards officers (TSOs)

FAA Group members, Massey Feeds, and Trouw Nutrition along with AIC hosted a silage sampling and testing training day recently in Derbyshire for Trading Standards East Midlands.

David Wilde of Massey Feeds led the practical on-farm silage sampling training session, on a dairy farm just outside Ashbourne, thanks to TR & EC Ball. David explained that due to the variable nature of silage, collecting representative samples across the clamp is vital and it is essential to remove as much air as possible from silage sample bags, making sure these are well sealed. He also explained that as fermentation of the silage continues with time, the sample should be sent to the testing laboratory

quickly to ensure the analysis accurately reflects what is being fed to the stock.

The group toured the laboratory at Trouw Nutrition with Richard Tunnicliffe, starting with sample receipt and logging, followed by a practical demonstration of how they are prepared and scanned to determine their nutritional content by Infrared Reflectance Spectroscopy (NIRS). The TSOs learnt more about the Feed Adviser Register, and how and why Advisers rely on accurate forage nutrient analysis to formulate diets.

For more information on forage sampling visit <https://www.faagroup.co.uk/forage-sampling/taking-samples>.



**Sarah-Jane Godfrey**  
Technical Manager

# AIC launches its agri-supply “Sustainability Action Plan” for a resilient UK agriculture and food system

Unveiled at AIC’s Conference on 13 November, the “Agri-supply: An action plan for sustainable efficiency” is a comprehensive blueprint dedicated to delivering a resilient UK agriculture and food system.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD >>>



The Action Plan provides insight and inspiration for companies operating in the major agri-supply sectors and covers the fundamental areas for sustainable agriculture and food production, including economic resilience, climate impacts, biodiversity, and sustainable communities.

It includes a summary of actions for the agri-supply industry, outlining clearly where businesses can make a start and further actions to build resilience.

By implementing the recommendations in the Action Plan, businesses can make tangible progress towards reducing their environmental impact, aligning with government policies, improving market access, and opening up wider investment opportunities.

The importance of the Feed Adviser Register to a resilient and sustainable food system is highlighted in several chapters in the report. This includes its value in providing professional development to employees and the importance of integrating FAR and FACTS when looking at farm nutrient balance.

It recognises the need to consider how CPD can be complementary between BASIS, FACTS, and FAR due to the dependencies and synergies between them, and the need for a whole farm system approach to management and actions.

The Sustainability Action Plan is available for download on AIC’s website, offering in-depth insights and practical strategies for businesses aiming to integrate sustainable practices into their everyday operations.



**Vicky Robinson**  
Head of Sustainability



## FAR training contributes to BSAS CPD

For Advisers who are members of the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS), FAR training can contribute to your CPD record for the BSAS professional registration. You can record it in the ‘mySociety’ area of the BSAS website.

The category is ‘Formal/educational – Attendance at training course’ with 2 points allocated per hour of training (rounded up for part hours) with the completion certificate provided as evidence.’ For further details email [sue.whittington@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:sue.whittington@agindustries.org.uk)



**Sue Whittington**  
Technical Manager

## AIC develops sustainable feed principles

AIC's feed sustainability committee was recently challenged to come up with a series of principles that should be considered when determining if feed is sustainable. AIC Members, and particularly FAR Advisers, will be talking to customers and other stakeholders regularly about "sustainable feed" and what is really meant by this.

The objective of setting out these principles is to help improve the understanding of all parties and to help FAR Advisers address questions from customers when asked how feeds can be made more sustainable.

### The principles are as follows:

**Animal health and welfare:** The well-being of animals is a vital aspect of sustainability. This includes providing nutritionally balanced diets, access to clean water, and an appropriate environment for growth, health, and welfare.

**Formulating to maximise efficiency of digestion:** To enhance overall efficiency by supporting nutrient digestibility and the reduction of resource inputs. To meet the specific nutritional needs of the animal at each stage of production and the environment it is reared in.

**Ingredient sourcing:** The feed should be composed of ingredients sourced responsibly, with consideration for environmental impact and social factors. Consider sourcing from schemes that set out principles around responsible sourcing. Feed should be sourced as locally as possible but as globally as necessary.

**Circularity:** Minimising waste through use of co-products and former foodstuffs. Application of the food and drink waste hierarchy.

**Traceability and transparency:** Sustainable livestock feed is compliant with the requirements of recognised assurance schemes. Using appropriate methodologies and datasets for expressing emissions of feeds in order to inform consumers and stakeholders of the contribution of feed to the food-producing and production lifecycles.

**Environmental impact of food production and distribution:** Sustainable feed production aims to minimise environmental degradation, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimising water usage in feed production. Consider energy efficiency and use of renewables in production facilities. Minimise packaging and optimise recyclable elements.

**Socially sustainable:** Sustainable livestock feed production encompasses ensuring fair employment, health and safety, community engagement and well-being, cultural preservation, social equity, and conflict resolution.

**Economically sustainable:** Balancing environmental sustainability with the long-term economic well-being of businesses engaged in commercial feed and food production.



**James McCulloch**  
Head of Feed

## AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme

AIC Services along with a working group of feed industry members have been developing the 'Sustainable Commodities Scheme' for compound feed manufacturers and feed ingredient suppliers with modules aligned with the requirements of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) (2023/1115) and UK Forest Risk Commodities (UKFRC) legislation.

The first module aligned with EUDR has been circulated for consultation until 20 January 2025. Scan the QR code to access the module and response documents.



**Sue Whittington**  
Technical Manager

## Catchment Sensitive Farming

Catchment Sensitive Farming offers impartial advice on reducing water pollution and ammonia pollution of air. Livestock diets can significantly impact on the pollution risk from slurries and farmyard manures.



The CSF24 - Livestock Nutrition Planning visit focuses specifically on optimising the amount and quality of nitrogen and phosphorus in diets to reduce losses to the environment in the form of ammonia, nitrate, and phosphate, without compromising animal performance or welfare.

Evidence shows that it is common for excessive levels of nitrogen and phosphorus to be fed to livestock, which results in unnecessary excretion to the environment.

Reviewing the balance of all livestock feed inputs, together with performance of livestock, will identify opportunities to optimise productivity and reduce waste.

This visit can be used for any livestock, but it is envisaged that it will be used predominantly for cattle, pigs, and poultry.

The feed adviser/livestock nutritionist and the vet (where relevant) for the holding is encouraged to participate in the advice visit and/or be consulted as part of the review.

Catchment Sensitive Farming also offers CSF25 - Whole Farm Nitrogen & Phosphorus Planning - relevant to Livestock Feeding and a Storage and Handling of Organic Manures and Silage (CSF4) visits.

If you are interested in recommending such visits to your clients, please get in touch with your local CSF Adviser. Visit [www.farmingadvice.org.uk/csf](http://www.farmingadvice.org.uk/csf) or [www.gov.uk/csf](http://www.gov.uk/csf) to find the email address of your local team.



**Nigel Simpson**  
Agriculture Lead - Catchment Sensitive Farming Natural England

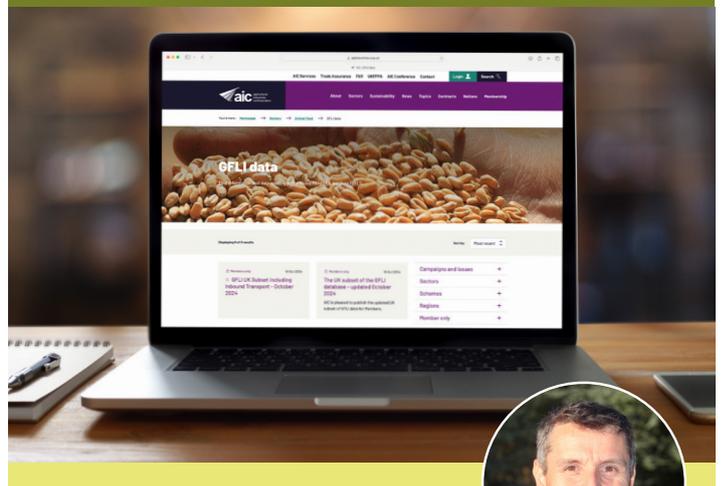
## GFLI UK subset update

AIC has recently published an updated UK subset of GFLI data for Members. It is taken from the GFLI's animal nutrition life cycle analysis (LCA) database of 1,511 feed ingredients that can be used to support the environmental assessment of animal nutrition products.

The subset presents environmental impact data for global warming, expressed as kg CO2 eq/ton product, for a selection of feed ingredients commonly used by UK animal feed manufacturers formulating their rations.

To ensure that AIC Members comply with the terms of our GFLI membership, which requires that only generated data is made available to our Members, the subset presents "generated data" by combining environmental impact data for global warming with inbound transport data.

Visit AIC's website for more information



**Andrew Pearson**  
Policy Manager

## Exhibitions: RUWF & DairyTech 2025

Join FAR and FAA at:

**Royal Ulster Winter Fair**  
12 December (stand E11)

**DairyTech 2025**  
5 February 2025 (stand T110)



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