

Taking FAR to farming events

In this Issue

- FAR Advisers pivotal to change
- Update on FAR Modules
- Catch up with AIC Policy Manager for Scotland
- 'Find a FAR adviser' tool
- Training in Northern Ireland



One of the main aims of FAR for 2019 is to increase awareness amongst farmers, stakeholders, and people coming into the industry. One of the ways in which we are doing this is to have stands at the main livestock events across the country including Dairy Tech, Welsh Sheep and Beef Expo.

An updated FAR leaflet for farmers has been created and will be discussed and handed out to visitors during the events. A new FAR stand has also been produced (pictured above).

Come and meet us:

- 5 June** NSA North Sheep in Settle, Yorkshire
- 11 Sept** UK Dairy Day – Telford

FAR moves into CPD

With the completion of FAR Module 4 at the end of May, the focus of FAR training will move to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for all FAR Members. Year one of CPD will provide training on feed additives, legislation and maximum permitted levels (MPLs).

As with previous FAR training modules, the CPD will comprise online presentations followed by a set of 10 i-validation questions which each feed adviser must successfully complete to maintain full FAR status.

FAR CPD is aiming to launch in late summer 2019.

Prioritising stakeholder communications

During late 2018 and early 2019 FAR continued its engagement with stakeholders via conference calls and discussions. The aim has been to ensure that a wide range of food and farming organisations are kept updated on the latest FAR developments and future plans.

A variety of conversations have taken place with organisations including AHDB, NFU, Food Standards Scotland, and Assured Food Standards. FAR will look to continue its engagement throughout 2019.



quality feed advice : increasing production efficiency : reducing emissions

FAR Module 4 section 2

The aim of FAR Module 4 as a whole is 'To understand how nutrition and feeding management can be used to mitigate environmental impact'.

FAR Module 4 section 2 covers nitrogen in monogastrics and nitrogen in ruminants with training consisting of an online training presentation and a set of i-validation questions.

Feed advisers need to successfully complete this Module by the end of May to maintain their full FAR status.

FAR Modules 1 and 2 being recorded

FAR is making progress with the recording of the ruminant and poultry FAR Module 1 and 2 presentations. So far 65% of the ruminant presentations have been recorded and half of the poultry presentations have currently been recorded. Towards the end of the year, FAR will also look to record the pig presentations with a small working group.

Having these presentations available online, rather than through in-house training will enable new feed adviser entrants to access the material at a convenient time to suit. I-validation questions will accompany the presentations which will also be available online.

FAR Advisers are pivotal to steering change

Jane Salter, Head of Environmental Policy writes:



Since his appointment, the Secretary of State for the Environment has quickened the pace of Defra activity. In just one year we have seen

the publication of Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan, the Clean Air Strategy, the draft 'Agriculture Bill', the draft 'Environment Bill' and several consultations on waste with a focus on eliminating food waste and plastic packaging.

The devolved administrations are similarly involved in UK-wide policy development or are working on their own national approaches.

AIC is collaborating with the whole food chain to help steer a steady ship for agriculture, with the aim of achieving evolution not revolution.

For the livestock sector the most pressing environmental target is ammonia – based on a reduction of 16% by 2030. It took the best part of 30 years to make an impression on nitrate loss to water, so 12 years will be challenging. Success will require a combination of Government interventions through grant aid, incentives and regulatory mechanisms will be necessary.

Focus for environmental agenda

Details of the regulatory aspects are still to be worked on. However, the productivity and environmental agendas will need careful alignment. It is clear that the focus will lie on:

- Housing design and management
- Covering slurry storage
- Low emissions spreading techniques
- Incorporation of manures
- Ensuring levels of protein in livestock diets are matched to nutritional needs
- Improving fertiliser use efficiency by using treated urea

FAR Advisers are already well prepared to help farmers make on-farm changes where necessary. Module 3 training covered both the policy context

and the practicalities of ammonia mitigation.

This investment in training has been recognised in **Defra's Code of Good Agricultural Practice for Reducing Ammonia Emissions.**

The more that FAR Advisers can do to ease farmers into longer-term planning, the better. According to Defra's Clean Air Strategy 2019, by 2025 low-emission spreading equipment for slurries and digestate will be a legal requirement, with large volumes being controlled before then. Slurry and digestate stores will be a legal requirement by 2027. There will also be new mandatory design standards for new 'intensive' poultry and pig units. These will be extended to beef and dairy farms over a threshold still to be agreed. Defra has committed to introduce Best Available Techniques under a permitting approach for beef and dairy.

The changes that need to take place, while also giving farmers every opportunity to enhance production, will clearly be far reaching. Changes can be complementary to performance. The biggest hurdle is how to help farmers over the affordability issue as payback periods for some farms may just be too far out of reach.

FAR Advisers can help by encouraging customers to explore grant aid available through Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catchment-sensitive-farming-officer-contacts>

Defra points farmers to FAR Advisers in its Code for reducing ammonia
"Before making adjustments to the diets of your livestock, you may wish to seek advice from a registered feed adviser to ensure that the appropriate dietary requirements of the animals are being met. Make sure they are up-to-date, for example ask for their Feed Adviser Register (FAR) card. Guidance on legislation regarding diets is available from the Food Standards Agency."

Further information:

Jane Salter, Head of Environmental Policy jane.salter@agindustries.org.uk

Catching up with new AIC Policy Manager for Scotland



AIC's recently appointed Policy Manager for Scotland, Ian Muirhead has been updated on FAR and its activities in Scotland. The update

included future objectives and plans for 2019. Ian will be discussing FAR (where appropriate) during engagement with a wide range of stakeholders in Scotland.

Following the meeting Ian said: "Having met with FAR Manager Inge Verwoerd, I realise how important and effective a role the Register plays in ensuring efficient livestock production here in Scotland. It is key in ensuring that AIC Member companies provide professional advice to livestock farmers, and also that feed advisers have a framework for Continuous Professional Development and lifelong learning.

"Here in Scotland, where our agricultural industry is heavily reliant upon livestock production, FAR will play a pivotal role in ensuring we help to meet government targets for reduced emissions from livestock, whilst at the same time helping to make farmers more efficient and profitable."

Further information:

Ian Muirhead,
Policy Manager AIC Scotland
ian.muirhead@agindustries.org.uk

Exploring 'Find a FAR adviser' tool

In response to stakeholder requests FAR is considering creating an online tool which allows farmers to find a FAR qualified feed adviser within a certain radius of where they live. This tool will not provide individual names or contact details, instead it will provide a generic contact email and phone number for companies that employ FAR accredited feed advisers. This tool will help to build FAR awareness and accessibility with farmers across the UK which will help build the robustness and credibility of FAR with stakeholders and farmer customers.

Currently farmers can contact AIC and request a search (on their behalf) for this information.



PROFESSIONAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Tried & Tested is there for farmers to improve nutrient management

Our toolkit of practical nutrient, manure and feed planning guidance resources is aimed at farmers and their advisers to make nutrient planning simple and easy to do.

"Designed to work alongside RB209, these tools can help you to manage your nutrients efficiently and reduce environmental risks."

For your FREE copy visit nutrientmanagement@nfu.org.uk or call 02476 858 896

Follow us on twitter @Tried_Testad

Created by the Industry, for the Industry



Northern Ireland FAR training



FAR members play an integral role in advising farmers on optimum livestock nutrition to maximise returns and reduce nutrient losses.

The Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association (NIGTA), in association with AIC, has developed a regional FAR module for Northern Ireland's feed advisers which takes account of specific local environmental challenges. The region is an area of intensive livestock production and, with 75% of the food product exported, agriculture in the Province carries the environmental footprint of four times the amount of food consumed by its population.

Emissions from farming, particularly ammonia and phosphorus, need to be effectively managed through precision nutrition programs delivered by trained and competent advisers. The initiative has been the subject of widespread consultation with all relevant agencies and is warmly welcomed by government, agricultural and environmental stakeholders.

The ruminant training is delivered by CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise) at Greenmount College. The course includes a visit to the dairy unit to discuss abatement technologies and strategies that have been put in place to reduce nutrient losses.

To date 70 ruminant advisers have successfully completed the training and further training sessions are planned for June (dates TBC). A separate monogastric training module is also under development.

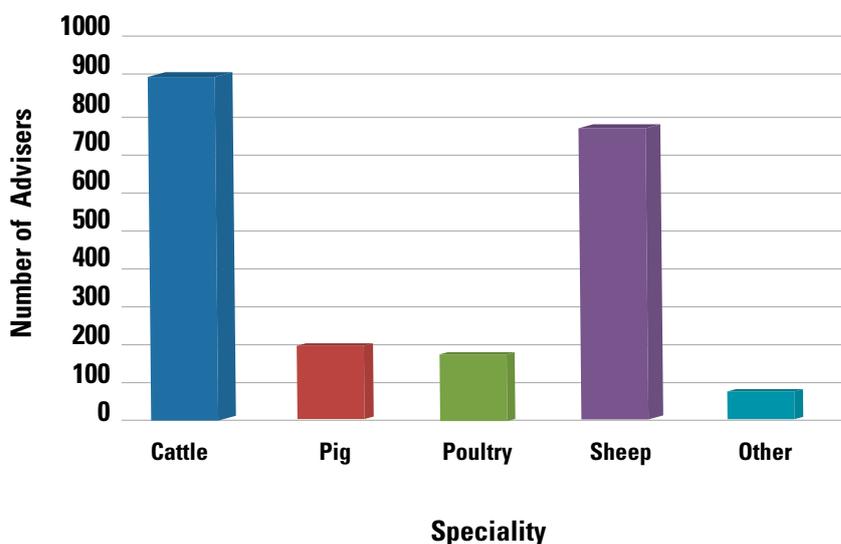
Number of feed advisers

The total number of feed advisers now stands at 1087



Feed adviser stats

Feed advisers by regions as at 26/04/2019



English feed advisers by region as at 26/04/2019

