

# FAR update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FEED ADVISER REGISTER SCHEME

**FAR** FEED ADVISER  
REGISTER


## ASCS Launch

The AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) has been developed with engagement from across the entire supply chain including commodity importers, compound feed manufacturers, producers, processors and retailers. Its aim is to help feed ingredient suppliers and compound feed manufacturers fulfil their due diligence requirements under the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) and to support compliance with the requirements of UK supply chains.

ASCS launched on 8 December and provides a single, commodity-agnostic scheme for commodities such as beef, soya, and palm products that may be linked to deforestation.

The certification Scheme is delivered through two modules:

- **Module 1:** Alignment with EUDR from point of origin to the UK.
- **Module 2:** For operators within the UK.

Through this independently verified Chain of Custody certification system, Participants must be able to demonstrate commodities they 'use' have been produced in accordance with 'local' laws and are free from 'deforestation'.

Participants will be listed on a publicly available register (the AIC Trade Assurance Checker), providing transparency and confidence for downstream customers. This approach will also support other

## Welcome

Welcome to the spring 2026 edition of the FAR Update. In this issue, I am pleased to share news of the launch of the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS) and the rollout of the FAR digital membership cards.

You will also find an update on the UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) negotiations and implications for the feed industry, an overview of AIC's feed sector's work in developing reference diet Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) for livestock, and the latest information on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) review of the Water Regulations and what it means for feed advisers.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please get in touch at [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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businesses within the supply chain, including those who are in scope of the EUDR for beef and cattle products exported to the EU, in meeting both regulatory and market requirements.

For further information visit **AIC's website**.

## UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) negotiations and feed industry implications

AIC, together with the British Association of Feed Supplement and Additive Manufacturers (BAFSAM), the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA), and UK Petfood, held a meeting with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Cabinet Office towards the end of December. The meeting was chaired by Professor Susan Jebb, Chair of the FSA. Its purpose was to consider the opportunities and challenges presented by 'dynamic alignment' and how industry partners would like to see transition and implementation taken forward.

All feed industry representatives expressed the view that the dysfunctional regulated products approval process in

Great Britain was holding the industry back. Reverting to EU approvals, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinions, and access to the EU Register of Feed Additives and the Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Register would be the preferable option.

AIC highlighted the need for a lengthy transitional period to enable businesses to adjust to the new regulations and to work through existing stocks of raw materials, additives, finished feed and packaging. Also emphasised was the need for the Government to negotiate full access to decision-making structures in the EU, most notably the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF), where decisions are made on

authorisation conditions for regulated products and on matters such as maximum residue levels (MRLs) and mycotoxins.

Finally, AIC indicated that the FSA would need to properly resource industry engagement following the signing of any agreement with the EU. The FSA would be required to keep industry representatives informed of EU regulatory changes, consultations and transition arrangements.



**James McCulloch**  
Head of Animal Feed



## Digital membership cards

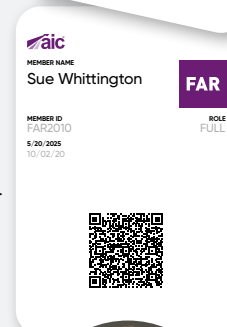
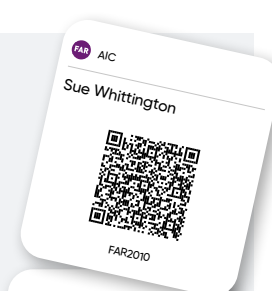
As part of the on-going development of FAR, AIC Services has developed a digital Feed Adviser card to replace the plastic cards previously used. This is a major digital transformation project for FAR, which will be integrated with the FAR database and accessible via Apple and Google Wallets.

### What's on the card?

- Digital wallet cards display the Adviser's name, membership number, role (status) and validity.
- QR codes link to a validation page showing the Adviser's membership status and areas of specialism.

The digital membership cards have been tested by Members of the FAR Working Group, and all FAR Members have been contacted by email from [far@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:far@agindustries.org.uk) with details of how to install the card on their devices. Once installed, users can scan the QR code associated with their card to view their FAR details, including their current FAR Participant status. This status reflects whether the Adviser is actively registered and compliant with the scheme's professional standards.

If you experience any issues accessing your card, or have questions about your details or this process, please get in touch via [far@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:far@agindustries.org.uk)



**Sue Whittington**  
Technical Manager



## Defra reviews agricultural water pollution regulations

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of key regulations relating to water pollution from agriculture. This includes the Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015 (Nitrate Vulnerable Zones – NVZs), the Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution Regulations 2018 (Farming Rules for Water), and the Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil (SSAFO) Regulations. As part of the first phase, AIC has actively participated in seven themed stakeholder sessions, held alongside farming, water and environmental organisations, with the final session taking place in November.

The contribution of livestock feed to nutrient management featured during the Land and Livestock Management Practices session. Here, Defra proposed the potential introduction of a requirement to balance nitrogen levels in livestock feed with production needs, thereby preventing the feeding of excess nitrogen. Following the session, Defra reported broad stakeholder support for a more prescriptive baseline for nutrient management, particularly regarding feed composition and low-emission manure spreading technologies.

In parallel, AIC is taking proactive steps to influence the direction of reform. This includes promoting the value of professionally qualified nutrient planning advice and advocating strongly for FAR and Fertiliser Advisers Certification and Training Scheme (FACTS) expertise.

AIC continues to collaborate closely with agricultural stakeholders and has been a joint signatory to a letter proposing practical solutions to emerging themes.

To ensure the role of feed is fully understood and accurately represented, AIC has held a one-to-one discussion with the Defra policy lead and has extended an invitation for Defra to attend both AIC's Feed Sustainability Committee and its Legal Affairs and Scientific Committee.

Phase two will involve the detailed design and testing of potential policy options, followed by wider consultation. Timelines for this phase, and for the final phase of finalising the reforms, remain unclear. However AIC will continue to engage and represent the interests of its Members throughout the process.



**Vicky Robinson**  
Head of  
Sustainability

## AIC Reference Diet Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) project

AIC has initiated a project to produce carbon values for a range of typical reference diets that cover all AIC Members' species interests – poultry (broiler and layer), dairy, beef, pig, sheep, equine and salmon.

AIC's Reference Diet Working Group has identified the diets and is now working through the process of producing the carbon data for each diet using GFLI (Global Feed LCA Institute) data, as well as agreeing the approach to take where data gaps exist. The final report will also provide guidance on how the data has been calculated, including important factors such as assumptions on soya sourcing, inbound and outbound transport values and the energy used in feed mills to produce the typical diets.

The report is expected to be completed by the end of April 2026.



**James McCulloch**  
Head of Animal Feed



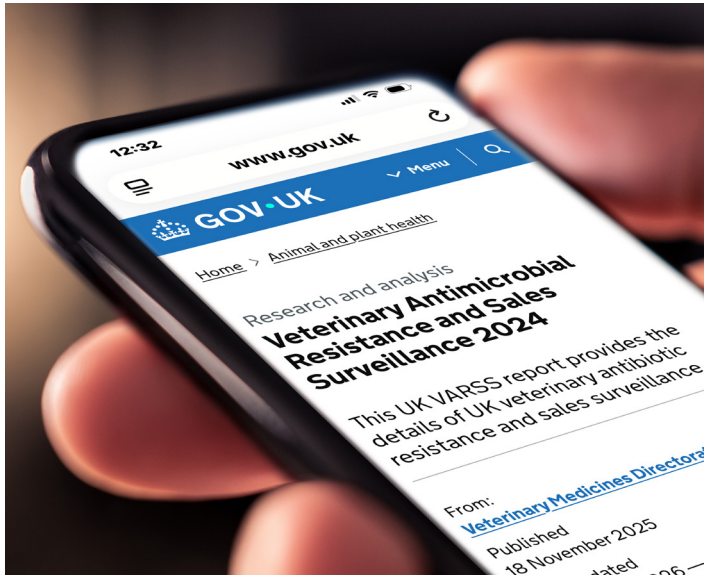
## UK Dairy Carbon Network

This initiative, led by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) aims to assess the efficacy of technologies that can help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to milk production across the UK.

The network is working with over 50 UK dairy farms to assess and implement practical on-farm solutions. It's focused on seven proven areas for emissions reduction, including innovations in animal management and land use. Its purpose is to support farmers in making more efficient use of resources while improving environmental sustainability.

For further information, visit:  
[ukdairycarbonnetwork.co.uk](http://ukdairycarbonnetwork.co.uk)

**UK DAIRY**  
Carbon Network



## Latest Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance Report (VARSS) published

In November the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) published the latest UK report providing details of their surveillance of UK veterinary antibiotic resistance and sales for 2024.

For further information visit

**Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance 2024 - GOV.UK**



## A quick reminder from Kerry

Just a reminder to keep us informed of any changes to your company details, for example, a change of address or Advisers who have left the business. Also, please remember that all students have 12 months from the date of issue to complete their training modules.



**Kerry Starr**  
Database Administrator

BRITISH

# Pig & Poultry

FAIR

**13-14 May 26**  
**NEC, Birmingham**

Come and visit us at stand 20 –162, near the Innovation Theatre on Wednesday 13 May and Thursday 14 May at NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT.

## New FAR online application form – Now live

Our new FAR application form is now available on our website. To apply, you will need to create an account or register on the website (if you have not already done so), and then complete the online application form here: [AIC | Becoming a Feed Adviser](#) or by scanning the QR code.

All FAR applicants can also upload their photograph directly through the website, or by scanning the QR code, ready for their FAR Digital Wallet ID Card.

If you have any questions or encounter any issues, please contact us at [far@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:far@agindustries.org.uk)

