



## FACTS

### Using fertilisers?

...then you need professional advice

from an FQA – a FACTS Qualified Adviser

[www.factsinfo.org.uk](http://www.factsinfo.org.uk)

# The **FACTS**

## ...A UK-wide network

Over 2200 FACTS Qualified Advisers (FQAs) cover the whole UK. Some are employed by fertiliser manufacturers and merchants; others are self-employed. All are trained to help farmers and growers optimise their crop production, meet assurance requirements and protect the environment.

To find an FQA for your business visit [www.basis-reg.com](http://www.basis-reg.com)



## ...Annual qualification

Today, FQA status can only be gained by passing stringent written and oral examinations. Then, FQA status has to be renewed annually which involves completion of required Continuing Professional Development. Only FQAs who have met the required standard can carry the current year's membership card, with the unique number farmers need for their crop nutrient records.



## ...First class advice

When it comes to crop nutrition, the key word today is 'optimisation'. It involves understanding the nutrient status of each field, accounting for any organic manures and calculating any purchased fertiliser requirements to make the most of the crop.

An FQA will guide you every step of the way, helping to ensure you minimise any adverse environmental effect and comply with relevant regulations.





**Tailored up-to-date advice, to meet the needs of farmers and the environment as well as ensuring food security for the consumer**

The FACTS network primarily helps farmers and growers make the most of all the nutrients available to them – whether in soil, manures or mineral fertiliser.

However, the network can deliver much more.

### **Planned crop nutrition**

Typically, nutrient applications double the output of crops and grassland. Optimum crop or grass nutrition is the key to farm profit. An FQA brings together experience, the latest expertise and a detailed understanding of a farm or field to ensure cropping is optimised.

### **Up to date knowledge**

An FQA is obliged to undergo Continuing Professional Development to ensure the advice given is up to the minute in terms of both science and regulation. And, an FQA has access to the FACTS Information Service which is a compendium of knowledge that can be applied to any farm challenge.

### **Complying with regulation**

The EU water framework and nitrate directives all impose restrictions on how manures and fertilisers can be applied. Other regulations cover storage on-farm. An FQA will help the farmer understand current regulations, stay within the law and meet the needs of assurance schemes.

### **Protecting the environment**

Besides complying with regulations, many farmers are increasingly keen to enhance the environmental quality of their land and its biodiversity. Many FQAs will be able to help ensure optimum crop nutrition and environmental improvement go hand in hand.



## FACTS Qualified Advisers

The status FACTS Qualified Adviser (FQA) can only be used by someone who has the required qualification and who maintains their Continuing Professional Development (CPD). CPD is gained through membership of the BASIS Professional Register or by subscription to the Annual FACTS Scheme and its associated Information Service.

Most FQAs choose to be both a member of the Professional Register requiring them to attend CPD training events and also subscribe to the information service which is tailor-made for their information requirements.

All farm assurance schemes and the UK Environment Agencies have a copy of the FQA Directory which they can use for validating a FQA's authenticity in farm records. The Directory is data protected.



### To find a FQA call:

The FACTS Office at  
BASIS 01335 343945/346138  
[facts@basis-reg.co.uk](mailto:facts@basis-reg.co.uk)

For a copy of the FQA Directory see:  
[www.basis-reg.com](http://www.basis-reg.com)

For initial training, exam details  
and CPD to become an FQA  
[www.basis-reg.com/agriculture/factstraining.aspx](http://www.basis-reg.com/agriculture/factstraining.aspx)

For more information on the FACTS Information  
Service (subscription only, eligible to all those  
qualified) [www.factsinfo.org.uk](http://www.factsinfo.org.uk)