

UFAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEED ASSURANCE SCHEME



Welcome

Welcome to the spring 2026 UFAS Update newsletter. We are pleased to bring you the latest updates and important news for Participants.



Simon Williams

Technical Manager for AIC Services



Launch of the Sustainable Commodities Scheme

AIC Services, working in collaboration with a dedicated group of feed industry members, has now launched the **AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS)**. This single, industry-developed certification scheme is designed to help feed sector businesses meet evolving regulatory and market expectations for deforestation-free and conversion-free supply chains.

The Scheme has been developed to align with key regulatory frameworks and supply-chain requirements, including:

- **European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)** – Regulation (EU) 2023/1115
- Commitments made by UK supply-chain partners, including signatories to the UK Soya Manifesto

The first two modules, covering alignment with EUDR from origin to UK and chain of custody requirements for UK based operators are now published.

These modules allow Participants to demonstrate that in-scope commodities have been sourced legally and produced without deforestation, supported by independently verified certification.

With the Scheme now formally launched, AIC is progressing through early implementation stages. Test audits will begin in early 2026, ahead of full certification availability later in the year. A Certification Body has been appointed to manage audits and issue certificates in accordance with ASCS Rules.

For more information, please visit the **AIC Animal Feed Sector** page or contact Sue Whittington at sue.whittington@agindustries.org.uk.

To learn more about the AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme (ASCS), please visit the **website**.



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GB Register for Feed Additives update

The new GB Register for Feed Additives officially went live on 1 April 2025. A number of issues were identified relating to the removal and revocation of certain additives, many of which are widely used across the feed industry, from the list of Authorised Regulated Food and Feed Products for Great Britain. Since then, several corrections to the Register have been made.

Active collaboration between representatives from the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC), the British Association of Feed Supplement and Additive Manufacturers (BAFSAM), the British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA), UK Pet Food, and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is ongoing. This joint work aims to resolve outstanding concerns and minimise the risk of future disruption arising from Register management decisions.

AIC will continue to provide updates as and when the FSA implements further changes to the Register. We strongly advise all Participants to review the Register and to contact James McCulloch at james.mcculloch@agindustries.org.uk if you identify any additives that have been removed but remain in use and are considered critical to the feed industry.



PATH-SAFE project

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has published a summary of the outcomes from the Pathogen Surveillance in Agriculture, Food, and the Environment programme (PATH-SAFE) to which AIC and its Members contributed as part of one of the workstreams.

The PATH-SAFE programme was a four-year, £24 million cross-government initiative led by the FSA. Running from 2021 to 2025, it aimed to modernise the UK's bio-surveillance systems by using genomic sequencing and environmental sampling to detect foodborne pathogens and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) across the agri-food chain.

In 2022, AIC was approached by FSA, Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to explore the feasibility of collecting feed samples for investigation of potential transmission of antimicrobial resistance via imported feed materials.

The outcome was the collection of over 600 samples of feed materials and compound feeds (both heat-treated and non-heat treated) to establish the prevalence of Salmonella species and antimicrobial resistance in animal feed. The outcome of this analysis will form the basis of a peer-reviewed academic paper, and it has

already influenced policy and surveillance priorities, summarised by the following statement:

“ PATH-SAFE provided data on AMR risk from imported livestock feed, which plugged an information gap. Risk of AMR was estimated to be low, which helped inform decisions to de-prioritise animal feed as a surveillance metric for the time being. ”

More specifically the feed project concluded that:

“ Animal feed [is] unlikely to be a major or direct source of this AMR for livestock, which showed higher figures in the UK Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance (VARSS) reports ”

AIC would like to thank the Members who were involved in the project, which has resulted in this important outcome for the UK feed industry.

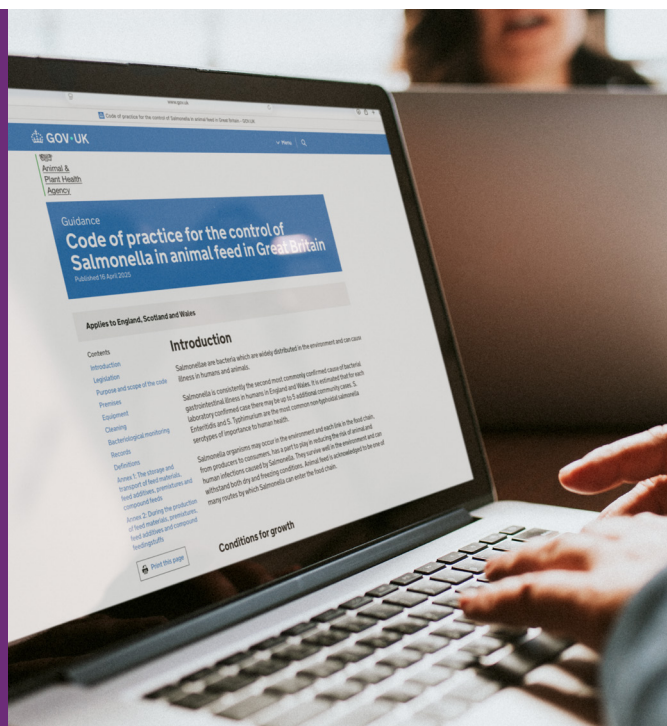
Salmonella codes

Following the publication of the **Salmonella code for animal feed in Great Britain** last year, officials have confirmed that a hard copy or PDF version of the Code will not be produced.

For businesses that prefer a printable or downloadable version, a "Print this page" option is available at the bottom of the Contents menu, enabling you to print directly or "print to PDF" to save a copy.

AIC is in discussions with Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland (FSA NI) to clarify which Salmonella Codes feed businesses in Northern Ireland should be following.

AIC has also provided feedback on the draft Salmonella Code currently being developed by the Department for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for application in the Republic of Ireland.



Reducing stress on audit day

Rightly or wrongly, audit day can be very stressful for Participants, and in some cases, for the auditor as well. AIC, in conjunction with certification body Kiwa, is committed to reducing this pressure. When scheme auditors met for a training day earlier in the year, part of the session focused on practical ways to make the audit experience calmer, clearer, and more supportive for everyone involved.

Work is now underway to turn these discussions into tangible improvements for Participants. AIC will be sharing the outcomes and details of the changes shortly, ensuring businesses know exactly what to expect and how these updates will help create a more positive audit experience.



UFAS case study

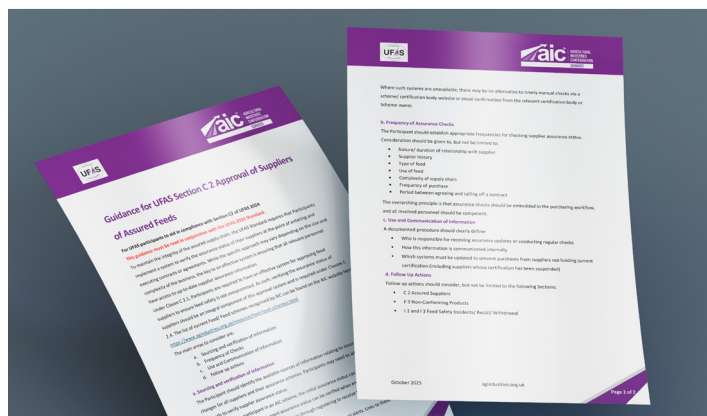
A case study was published recently focusing on UFAS Participant BioMar Ltd. Emma Matheson, Quality and Environmental Compliance Manager at BioMar, explains why the business chose to join UFAS, how it maintains compliance, and the benefits it gains from being part of the scheme.

The case study also provided AIC with valuable feedback on how the scheme operates in practice, how audits are experienced, and suggestions for future development.

You can visit the [AIC website](https://www.aic-uk.org.uk) to download the case study or read it online.

AIC Services would like to develop more case studies across the UFAS scopes. If you would like to feature, please contact our Communications Manager, Wendy Ford at wendy.ford@agindustries.org.uk.





Verifying supplier assurance guidance

Guidance has been developed to support Participants of UFAS, the Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) and the Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC) in navigating compliance with the new clauses set out in the 2024 Standards. These Standards require that there is *“a system in place to verify the current assurance status of the suppliers when entering and executing a contract or agreement.”*

This requirement ensures that feed safety is not compromised by mandating an effective system for the approval and verification of feed suppliers' assurance status. Verifying the assurance status of suppliers should be an integral component within a documented system and routine workflow. The specific system and approach businesses take to meet Clause requirements may vary depending on the complexity and size of the business.

The guidance document outlines four key focus areas for Participants when verifying the current assurance status of suppliers:

- **Sourcing and verification of information**
- **Frequency of checks**
- **Use and communication of information**
- **Follow up actions**

Guidance documents for **UFAS**, **FEMAS** and **TASCC** are available on the **AIC scheme webpages** to assist Participants in complying with the relevant sections of the Standards.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the applicable Standard.



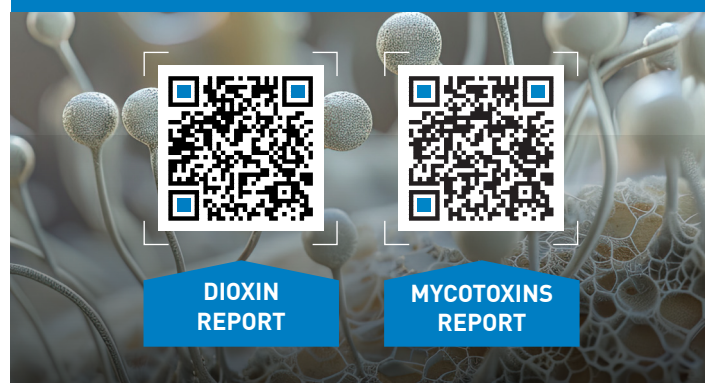
**UFAS GUIDANCE
DOWNLOAD**

Latest UFAS undesirables in feed results published

AIC has published the latest findings from the 2024 UFAS annual undesirables testing programme. This round of testing revealed no exceedances of dioxin action or legal limits in samples submitted by UFAS-accredited compound feed Participants in the UK and Ireland.

Furthermore, the levels of mycotoxin content detected during this period indicates that the overall risk of mycotoxin in animal feed remains low.

For further details, please scan to download the full reports:



AIC Feed Safety Calculators for risk assessment

A new online resource is now available on the website, bringing together clear guidance and step by step video walk throughs for all four AIC feed safety calculators: the **Feed Safety Analysis Calculator**, **Catalogue of Feed Materials Calculator**, **Feed Material Register Calculator**, and **Additives, Additive Preparations and Process Aids Calculator**.

This resource is designed to help Participants understand what each tool does, why it matters, and how to apply it in practice.

Each calculator is supported by a short instructional video developed in partnership with Kiwa. The videos are simple, practical, and provide Participants with clear direction on how to use the tools effectively making them an ideal reference resource.



You can access the calculators on **AIC's website**.