

Agrisupply

Trade Assurance Schemes Benefits



FEED & FOOD SAFETY



Providing safe feed and food is essential to ensure that the risk of a food or feed 'incident' is minimised. A complex web of supply chains combine to achieve this and the Agricultural Industries Confederation's (AIC) feed trade assurance schemes form a vital part of the 'assured chain' which minimises risk.

Food and Feed Ingredients

Farm inputs – feed and feed ingredients – are important links in this supply chain and each has its own dedicated assurance scheme: the Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS), Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) and the Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCC).

Fertilisers

AIC minimises the risk of fertilisers being used as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) through its Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS).

Biofuels

Linked to feed assurance schemes is the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) assurance which ensures the various renewable energy criteria are met.

Seeds

Safe use of seed dressing is important for managing seed production. AIC operates the European Seed Assurance Scheme in the UK to minimise risk in seed treatment.

Companies are certified to each scheme by meeting strict criteria and completing an annual independent audit. Once the certification process is complete, companies in these schemes gain a range of key benefits including:

- **Managing and minimising risk in their business**
- **Ensuring their business is complying with regulation**
- **Earned recognition means less visits by local enforcement authorities**
- **Gaining a due diligence defence for their business**
- **Support for their business's trade, as AIC schemes have mutual recognition with many European assurance schemes**

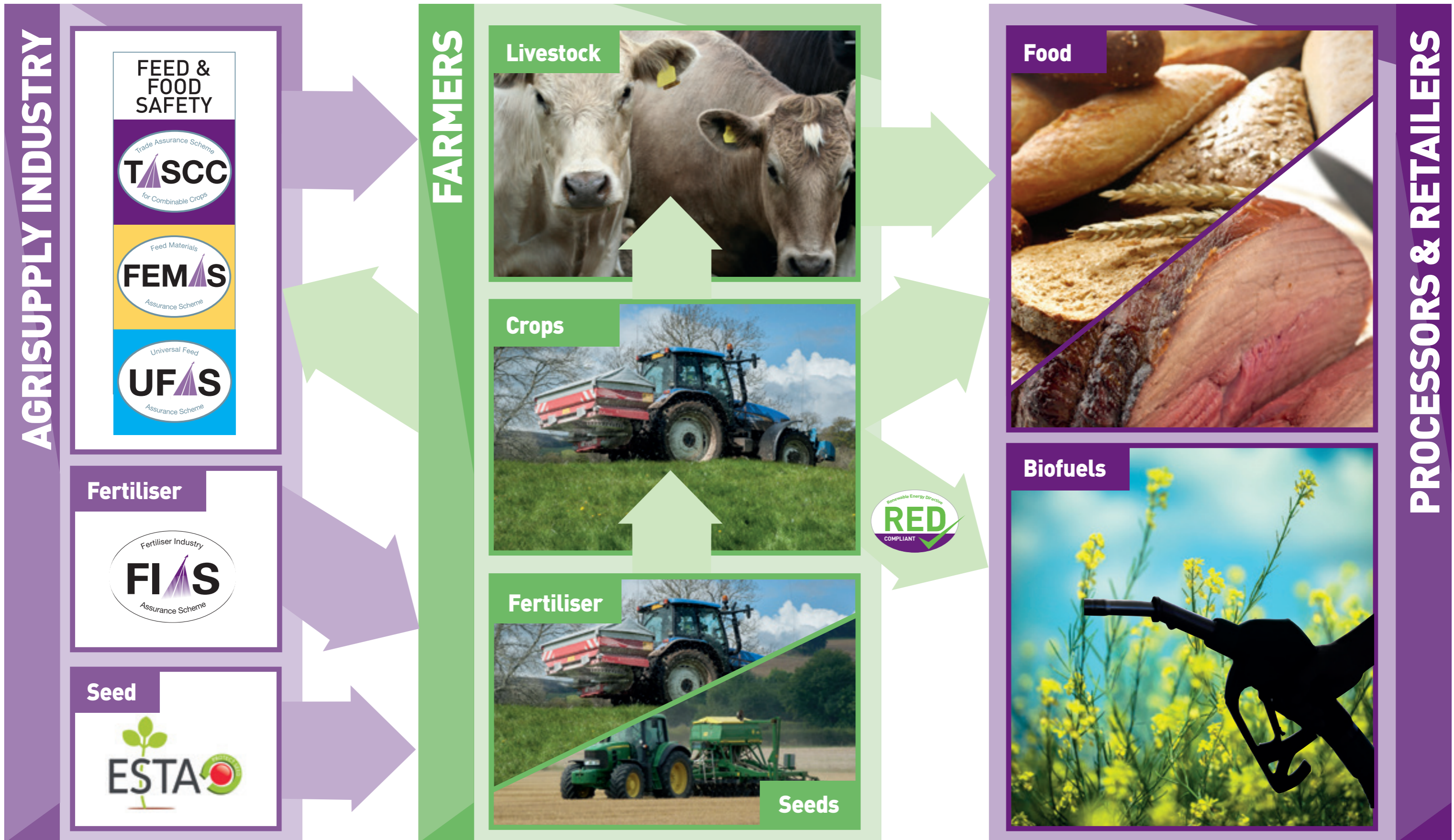
The AIC assurance schemes are designed for:

- Feed compounders
- Feed ingredient suppliers
- Fertiliser manufacturers
- Agricultural merchants
- Seed processors
- Biofuel producers

However, many other businesses are eligible to participate including: hauliers, storekeepers, ports, shipping operators, and testing facilities.

AIC Trade Assurance Schemes

and where they fit in the agri-food supplychain



How do AIC schemes demonstrate a high level of Governance?

AIC is responsible for the overall management of these schemes. However, each scheme has a Steering Group and a Working Group that includes stakeholders, Government representatives and industry representatives. Each group has strategic objectives to reflect the key priorities of each scheme. This approach ensures schemes:

- are practical to operate
- are up to date with regulations
- avoid unnecessary red tape
- reflect current working practices
- meet the needs of food and feed customers

All codes of practice are regularly updated with industry input to ensure any changes in requirement from governments, industry or customers are taken fully into account.

... and independently audited

Each year certified companies in the AIC schemes are independently audited against the codes of practice. Auditors are practical, experienced people who aim to help participants improve their practices and comply with industry requirements. Participants have to complete any non-conformances identified at audit, before they can be certified.



Independent UKAS accreditation

All AIC schemes are accredited by UKAS, where applicable. This provides independent recognition in the areas of assurance and compliance.

UFAS (Universal Feed Assurance Scheme) covers feed compounding and feed merchandising. It helps achieve 'safe feed' for both the feed and food supply chains. Participants: approx. 750 in UK and Ireland. Market coverage: c. 95%.

TASCC (Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops) deals primarily with combinable crops (cereals, oilseeds, pulses, etc). It covers trading, testing, transport and storage of crops and other feed materials. Participants: approx. 1400. Market coverage: over 95%

FEMAS (Feed Materials Assurance Scheme) deals with a diverse range of feed ingredients including: fishmeal, surplus food, natural minerals and feed additives. Assurance by FEMAS or another recognised scheme is a requirement of UFAS. The scheme has a high market coverage.

FIAS (Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme) addresses fertiliser security and traceability. This pioneering scheme is now being considered by other European countries. Participation is

high amongst UK fertiliser manufacturers and merchants and an increasing number of hauliers are joining.

ESTA, the European Seed Treatment Assurance Scheme, is a seed treatment assurance scheme devised by the European Seed Association (ESA) in response to EU Directive (2010/21) which requires applications of insecticide seed treatments to '*only be performed in professional seed treatment facilities*'.

RED, the EU's Renewable Energy Directive, came into force in June 2009. This was set up by the EU to achieve the binding target of 20% final energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. TASCC and UFAS have gained approval from the Commission as voluntary schemes under RED. This allows them to be used as the mechanism for auditing sustainability and providing the simplest, most cost-effective solution for farmers and merchants alike.



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Being a certified company within AIC Assurance Schemes provides benefits which include:

1. Minimising company risk

By adopting an independently audited assurance framework, a certified company will have a lower risk profile which should ensure that operations are carried out safely and effectively.

2. Satisfying the needs of customers, governments and industry

Representatives from these groups sit on various steering and working groups to ensure that the correct standards are developed and implemented.

3. Fewer visits from enforcement authorities

AIC has gained 'Earned Recognition' with the Food Standards Agency and Veterinary Medicines Directorate which means that participants will have fewer visits from Local Authorities and Trading Standards due to their certified assurance status. This saves both time and money for the certified participant.

4. Visibility of 'Certified Company' status

The live assurance checker provides data on which companies are certified and which are suspended. The checker is publicly accessible on the AIC website for both suppliers and customers to view.

5. I-learning

I-learning is an on-line training service which is free to certified participants of AIC Assurance schemes. The courses are module based and include questions and can be accessed by managers and staff at any time. A certificate of completion is issued which can be used as part of the scheme audit.

6. European access

The food and feed schemes are mutually recognised by other European schemes. This allows free movement of trade and goods across borders. It also reduces participants' costs and minimises paperwork.

7. Technical information

AIC's website has dedicated areas for each scheme allowing access to the latest technical information regarding the schemes. Regular email briefings are issued to participants as well as occasional newsletters. Seminars are held to enable you to learn and question the experts face to face.

8. Lower insurance premiums

Insurance brokers have assessed participants in the feed schemes as having a 'lower risk' profile and are able to offer lower rate premiums to certified participants.