


# FAR update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FEED ADVISER REGISTER SCHEME



## Welcome

Our work on sustainability is progressing at a fast pace. We are working hard to equip advisers with all the tools they need to provide the best advice on farm. We do hope you find this issue informative. If you have any questions or suggestions for future editions, please contact me directly or via the details on the back page.



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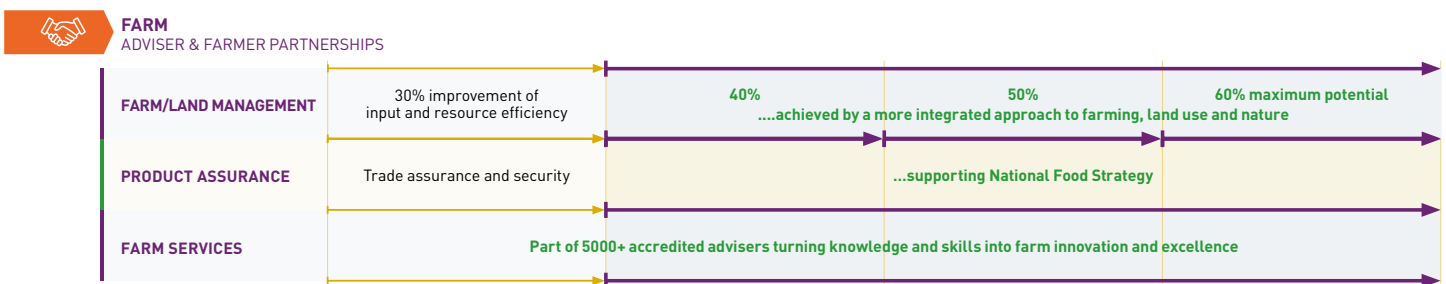
**Jane Salter, Head of Environment Policy**  
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## AIC Sustainability Roadmap progress – Achieving Farm Nutrient Balance

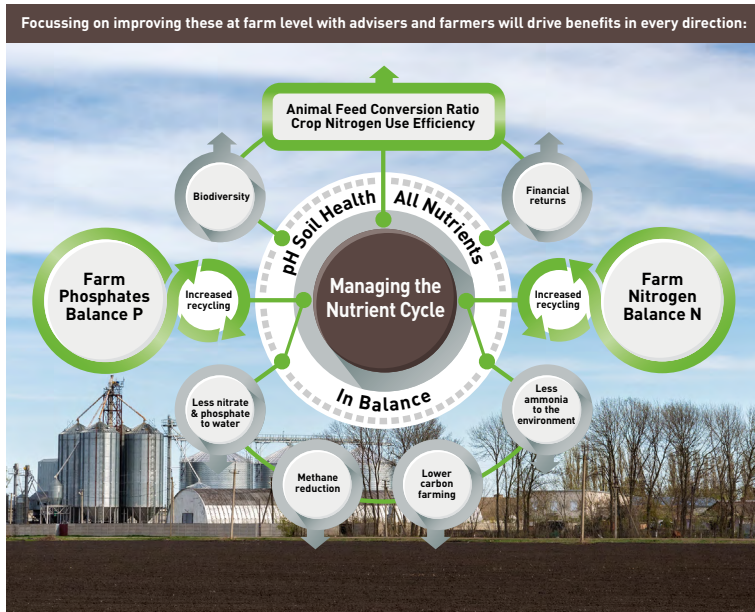
Within AIC’s Roadmap for a sustainable food chain is a commitment to establish industry-wide metrics. This will be achieved by working with partners across the food chain and by providing the industry with the necessary Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to promote continuous improvement. Naturally, the role played by FAR advisers will grow as a result.

The aim is to align thinking between all parties in the food chain. Some commonality is evolving with regards to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including for farm sustainability and animal nutrition. This will, of course, remain dependent on numerous factors such as sustainable sourcing and trading of raw material feeds, feed footprints, the role of feed additives and novel feed types.

Where the feed and fertiliser sectors are united is their collective dedication towards improving farm nutrient management. This is determined by three KPIs that they can best influence, all underpinned by soil and animal health: Farm Nutrient Balance (FNB), Feed Conversion Ratios (FCRs) and crop Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE).



Together, we have launched a campaign for achieving Farm Nutrient Balance. This has been welcomed and recognised by AHDB, AICC, BGS, CLA, LEAF, NIAB, and the NFU. FAR and FACTS will provide support for training and delivery. The campaign is only set to grow from here.



\* (NUE) ratio between amount of crop harvested and amount of N applied. \* (FCR) ratio of animal feed input to meat/milk/eggs output. \* (FNB) estimate of N and P in feeds, fertilisers, and any imported manures/organic materials minus N and P in harvested crops, liveweight and milk exported.

Policymakers are keen to align their policies with our key indicators of sustainability, due to the close interrelation between productivity and environmental performance. Good nutrient management is also vital for lowering carbon emissions within farming, and thus helping to meet overall environmental objectives.

So far, we have seen a 'buy-in' from industry partners and food chain representatives via the umbrella of the WRAP Forum. Find out more about WRAP here: <https://wrap.org.uk/taking-action/food-drink>

What is the next step? We need to define our metrics for nutrient management and be clear on how to measure them, along with best practice for benchmarking farm performance and setting targets for improvement that will, ultimately, deliver.

FAR and FACTS are working together to provide technical guidance (a basic information sheet) that advisers can refer to as needed, assisting them in helping the industry to achieve individual on-farm targets. The more we can do to prepare livestock farmers for the change now, the better. Environmental Permits for Dairy and Beef will be introduced in 2025 for England, akin to the current permits for pigs and poultry across the UK. Further details will follow on this matter.

## AIC progress against the FEFAC Sustainability Charter 2030

FEFAC are publishing their first progress report on the work they have done to meet the Sustainability Charter. Work from FAR has helped to support a number of the ambitions, including:

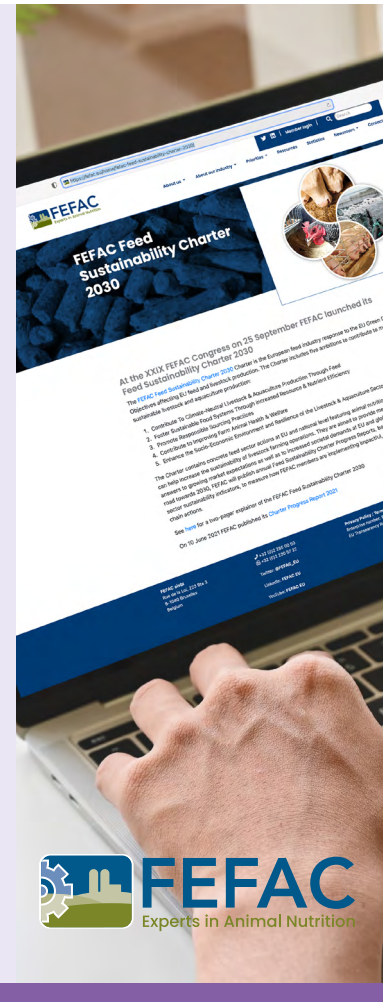
- Contribute to climate-neutral livestock & aquaculture production through feed.
- Foster sustainable food systems through increased resource & nutrient efficiency.

The report highlights the role which will be played by the Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) feed industry initiative, which aims to develop a free feed LCA database and tool that is publicly available. FAR are currently developing a CPD module for 2021-22 covering environmental policy, sustainability and feed for sustainable livestock production. This module will include GFLI and other tools that help advisers deliver effective advice that will improve productivity on farms and reduce their environmental impact. FAR is also playing a significant role in AIC's [Achieving Farm Nutrient Balance](#) initiative, which calls for an integrated approach to animal nutrition, along with other goals towards sustainable future food production and net zero carbon commitments.

### Contribute to Improving Farm Animal Health & Welfare

The FAR 2020-21 CPD module actively supports the goal of promoting better nutrition in animal health to fight against antimicrobial resistance. Our guidance will enable better decision-making and help to reduce antibiotic use on farm. Naturally, FAR will continue to do everything possible to support FEFAC in achieving the goals of their Charter.

You can see the full FEFAC Charter and report on the [FEFAC website](#).



## FAR CPD - Excellent reception for AMR training

Great feedback has been received on the antimicrobial resistance CPD training from The Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA):

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*The antimicrobial resistance course is a positive initiative developed for the Feed Advisers Register, ensuring that all those involved are aware of the AMR issue and can support livestock producers in meeting antibiotic use targets. It's a great example of the industry voluntarily joining up the dots so that all elements of the supply chain are on the same page as regards to the AMR challenge and responsible use of medicines.*

Chris Lloyd, RUMA Secretary General

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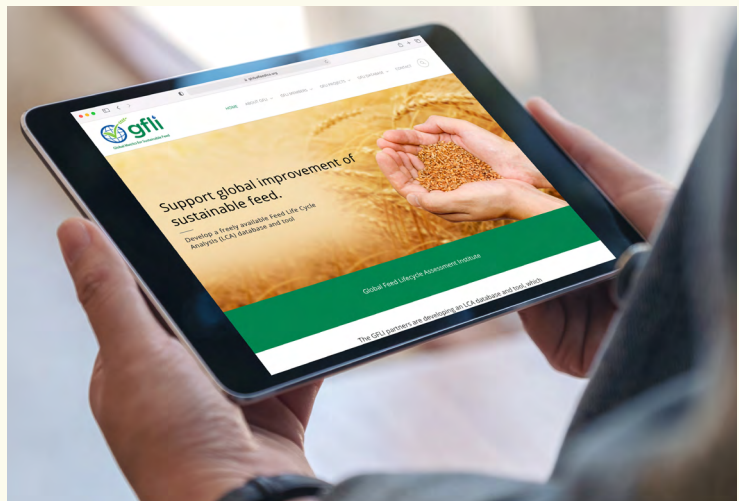


## Feed LCA data now available in GFLI database

The Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) database is now available online and offers free access for FAR advisers to feed material life cycle analysis data. The data is intended to support the meaningful environmental assessment of animal nutrition products and can help stimulate continuous improvements in the environmental performance of feed, animal production and the resulting food products.

In an effort to ensure the database is complete, UKFFPA have been part sponsors of a data-in project for a range of former food products. UKFFPA have submitted product data to Blonk Consultants who are in the process of verifying this data against the Product Environment Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) methodology which is a requirement for all data entering the GFLI database. Early indications suggest that the LCA scores for former foods will be lower than originally anticipated.

AIC are engaged in a project to extract from GFLI a subset of feed materials commonly used in UK



feeds and to give each material their global warming potential score expressed as kg CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne of product. AIC are hoping to complete this work within the next few weeks and the subset will be available to all involved in the supply chain, including FAR advisers and their customers. Feed advisers wishing to consult the full GFLI database can access it now by using the link below.

<https://globalfeedlca.org/gfli-database/>

## Game Feed Committee

AIC held their first Game Feed meeting in January 2021. The committee members represent a range of animal feed and game companies and meet at least twice a year to discuss various game-related topics and/or issues.

One of the first tasks for the committee is the development of a new Game Feed module for FAR registered game feed advisers.

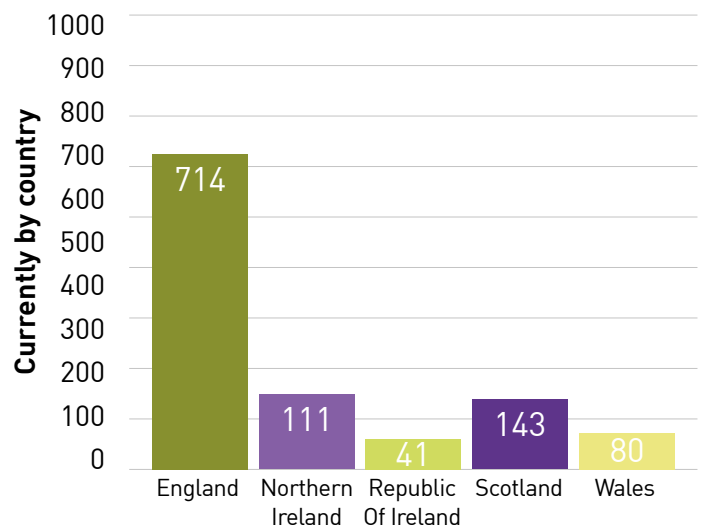
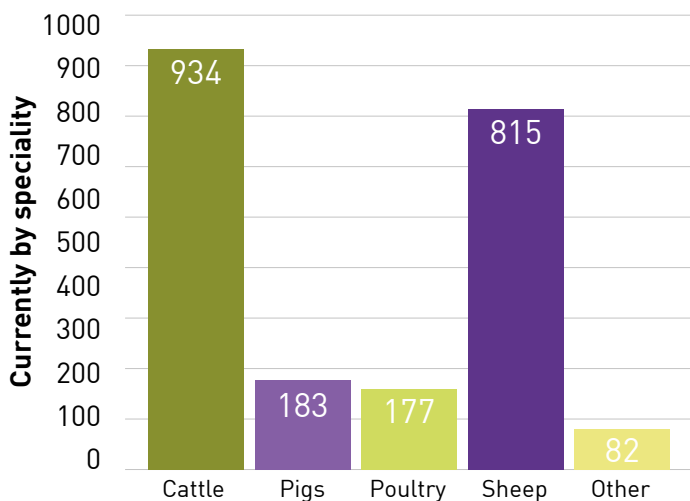
The module will look at various key aspects of game feed management including nutrition, health & welfare, feeding, labelling, essential KPIs, rearing/production systems and disease.

For more information on the Game Feed Committee please contact David Moss (AIC Technical Manager) at [david.moss@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:david.moss@agindustries.org.uk) or James McCulloch (AIC Head of Animal Feed) at [james.mcculloch@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:james.mcculloch@agindustries.org.uk).



**David Moss**  
Technical Manager

## FAR Statistics – feed advisers by speciality and country (1st June 2021)



### Final word from:

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*If a FAR member's situation changes – i.e. any change to livestock specialities, company employment or retirement – please contact me to ensure your details are kept up to date and your access to resources can be maintained.*



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