

Representing the interests of former foodstuff processors who add value to former foods by converting them into animal feed.



David Moss
Technical Manager,
AIC and
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Introduction

In 2023, the UKFFPA celebrated a decade since its establishment, marking a significant milestone in its mission to unite companies for the advancement and promotion of the former foodstuffs processing sector while addressing food losses in the supply chain. Through the commendable sustainability initiatives of our Members, the elimination of landfill use in this sector has been achieved, playing a pivotal role in supporting the Government's commitment to reducing food wastage.

Since our association's inception, we have consistently prioritised food safety and traceability above all else. As a relatively small association, our effectiveness hinges on the unwavering commitment of our Members. I extend heartfelt thanks to all our Members for their dedicated efforts over the past decade. Gratitude is also extended to AIC for not only providing our secretariat but also for their support in imparting knowledge and skills to our Membership.

Looking ahead, our focus is on identifying additional safe foodstuffs in the distribution and retail sectors currently going to waste, redirecting them up the waste hierarchy into animal feed. Collaborating with stakeholders, particularly the Government, is imperative to ensure that animal feed takes precedence over waste processing methods such as using foodstuffs for anaerobic digestion.

The pursuit of circularity and sustainability remains a central theme, and UKFFPA is committed to tirelessly promoting the efficient utilisation of former foodstuffs across the UK. This effort aims to assist livestock sector customers in minimising their environmental impact and achieving net zero goals.



John Knight
UKFFPA Chair
Technical Director SugaRich

History

Paul Featherstone
Former UKFFPA Chair
(October 2013 – April 2020)



Long before the expression ‘Circular Economy’ had been coined or the United Nations had published its ‘Sustainable Development Goals’, the UK feed industry was already utilising surplus food as a valuable feed ingredient. Driven by customer demands and the launch of feed assurance schemes, the mantra of the Former Foodstuff sector was the same then as it is now – feed safety. Two simple words that encapsulate so much more.

As the Former Foodstuffs sector grew and the importance of our products as a feed ingredient was being recognised it became clear that our industry was missing something – a voice.

And so, from the most unlikely of places, came the motivation needed to develop a unified voice. Our sector’s work was rightly being noticed and at the request of the Food Standards Agency (FSA) the requirement for a unified trade body was warranted. With the guidance and mentoring of AIC and much background work, the inaugural meeting of the United Kingdom Former Foodstuff Processors Association (UKFFPA) took place in London in October 2013.

“Repurposing is vital and Feed Safety is paramount”

Hosted by the FSA at Aviation House the representatives of companies involved in the sector put on our best ‘finery’ and arrived en masse in London.

It was a great honour and privilege to be voted in as the inaugural Chair of the UKFFPA, a role I cherished during my time in office. Being Chair also gave me a seat at the table of a developing European association, at which I rigorously represented the UKFFPA, not least because the UK sector was already well developed but also because the UK’s views were highly valued across Europe.

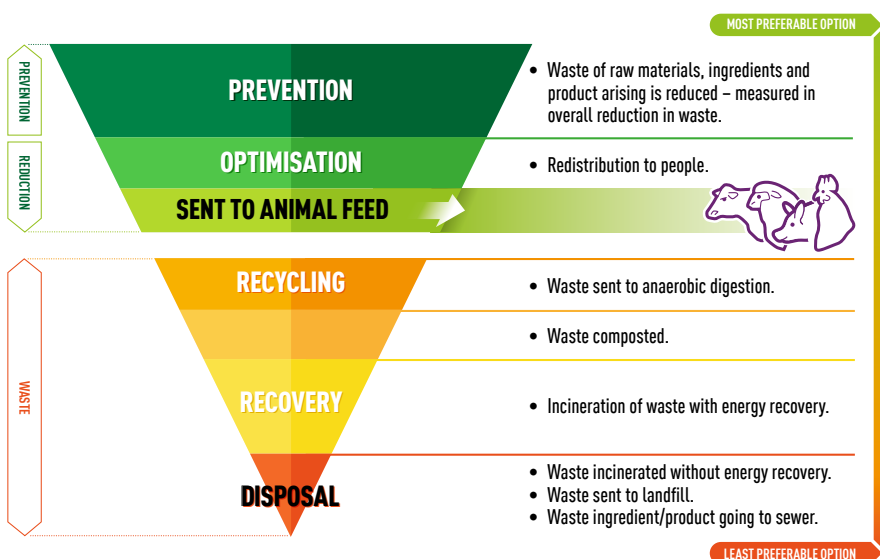
The UK became, the leading player in the formation and subsequent running of the soon to be formed European Former Foodstuff Processors Association (EFFPA) which, 10 years on, is still a key role of the UK association.

I am proud to have been part of the significant development of our sector and the great work the UKFFPA has done – I know there are yet more opportunities and challenges ahead, but two key messages remain – “repurposing is vital” and “feed safety is paramount”.

The food and drink material hierarchy

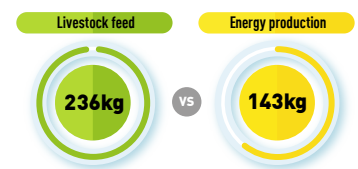
Globally over a third of food produced is lost, and in the UK alone that represents a sum of over 9.5 million tonnes.

Created in 2014, the hierarchy is a framework that helps businesses and organisations that produce, handle, treat, or dispose of surplus or waste food and drink to minimise the environmental impact of food and drink waste, maximise the value of food and drink surplus, and reduce associated waste.



Using former foods for feed production saves almost twice as much carbon dioxide compared with sending it for energy production.

Some 236kg of carbon dioxide equivalent per tonne of former food is saved when using this material for livestock feed. That’s compared with only 143kg of carbon dioxide equivalent when that same material is used for energy production, according to the FAO Food Waste Footprint.



Low-carbon feeds



By capturing the nutrients present in downgraded foods and turning them into highly nutritious feeds, former food processors can play a vital role in the circular economy helping the farming industry to achieve its net zero 2040 goal.

Back in 2021, UKFFPA Members collaborated to achieve a Global Feed LCA Institute (GFLI) environmental impact score and see former foods products added to the GFLI database. The results showed that when livestock farmers used our products, they could significantly reduce the carbon cost of their feeds.

Find out more at www.globalfeedlca.org

GFLI data is periodically reassessed and UKFFPA Members can reduce the environmental impact of producing former foods by adopting the use of solar power plants, rainwater capture and reed beds to treat wastewater.

UKFFPA Animation and FAR training



Spreading the word

More than 1,100 Feed Adviser Register (FAR) registered feed advisors were introduced to the environmental benefits of using former food-based feeds in animal rations when UKFFPA produced a training presentation as part of the FAR continuous professional development 2021 Sustainability Module.

This same year, an animation was created to improve wider audiences' awareness and understanding what the former foods sector does, as well as the important role the sector plays in the circular economy by reducing losses from the food chain.



"After supporting the formation of UKFFPA in 2013, the Food Standards Agency is pleased to be celebrating 10 years of collaborative working with the association and its members to drive improvements in the former food processing sector. The sector has made a substantial contribution to preventing food waste and making the food supply chain more sustainable."



"Former foodstuffs businesses have always been a key sector within the Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS), and the formation of the UKFFPA has helped ensure that feed safety is protected through developing robust but realistic requirements for the industry to comply with."



Simon Williams
Technical Manager, AIC Services

Sustainable livestock feeds – the next five years

The focus on the sustainability of livestock production and the food products those production systems produce will only intensify in the coming years.

The challenge the livestock sector faces is to provide transparency and evidence, in the form of data, to supply chain partners so they, in turn, can communicate to their customers meaningful information on how 'sustainable' foods derived from livestock are.

The goal is to provide information through the supply chain which ends up on product labels, thereby enabling consumers to make informed choices.

The feed industry will contribute to this requirement in several ways:

1

The responsible sourcing of 'forest commodities' such as soyabean meal, palm oil and their derivatives

2

The increased use of co-products from food and biofuel industry processing

3

The increased use of former food products

4

The use of additives such as amino acids, enzymes, and methane inhibitors

5

The development of 'novel' protein streams from carbon capture, algae, and insects

6

The use of GFLI LCA database to measure these impacts and to pass on this information to downstream supply chain partners

For the former food products sector, securing a continuous supply of material will be a major priority given the increased competition for these materials from the bio-gas and bio-fuel sectors.

New food production processes and even non-food production processes such as fermentation technologies may provide useful new streams of co-products for use in the animal feed sector.

A vital component of any new product stream will be the opportunity to provide LCA data. There is a considerable opportunity for former food products and co-products in that they tend to enter the feed processing stage with very low emission factors compared to 'traditional' feed materials.

Given the requirement for lower emission livestock products, increasing the former food and co-product component of livestock diets, whilst maintaining or even enhancing the nutritional profile of the feed, will be a crucial element in helping to improve the sustainability of the livestock production sector.

James McCulloch
Head of Animal Feed, AIC

