

JOURNAL

Summer 2022 | Working in support of modern, sustainable, commercial agriculture

Politics and policies

Ukraine crisis - keeping up to date with developments and providing information

Environment

Nutrient management at the heart of positive change

Events

Back to in-person events to meet Members and stakeholders



aic
AGRIBUSINESS
CONFERENCE
2022

Save
the date
16 NOV 2022

An update from AIC Chief Executive Robert Sheasby



AIC's work has been distracted by the war in Ukraine and the resulting impact on Member businesses and supply chains in the UK and further afield. You can read more about this in our policy update. As we adjust to another 'new normal', I am grateful to Members for evidence that enables AIC to convey to Government the impacts facing your businesses.

Whether it's sustainability, nutrient use efficiency, grain passport, GM approvals across Food Standard Agencies, running crop protection webinars for Government, or staying close to Gene Editing legislation... there is plenty for AIC to do.

The economic outlook shows headwinds of inflation, and impact on working capital will be felt well into next year – something that Government is only now starting to recognise. On the positive side, food security is now back on the agenda. We eagerly await the delayed Government response to the Dimbleby national food strategy.

Meet Rose Riby – our new Sector Head

We welcome Rose Riby as Head of Arable Marketing and Seeds. Previously, Rose was Knowledge Exchange Manager Cereals and Oilseeds for AHDB in the northeast.

Rose is busy meeting with committees and wider Members to ensure the work of AIC continues to meet your business needs.



Policy Update

AIC policy work continues to be heavily dedicated to the situation in Ukraine. Much of AIC's time has been spent on working with politicians from around the UK, our European trade associations, devolved contacts, civil servants, journalists, agricultural unions, and trade associations. Our priority has been to ensure that timely and accurate information is provided to Members and external audiences.

Through our close work with Government, we have seen several key lobbying successes. These have included FSA approvals being made on non-EU GM imports, zero tariffs on maize imports from the USA, and early BPS payments in England to address cashflow concerns.

However, some domestic policy issues still need to be addressed. Sustainability issues, UK domestic food policy, trade deals, gene editing, and ongoing political engagement, underline the need for AIC to balance the immediate pressures of matters in Ukraine with long-term UK agricultural policy.



Edward Barker,
Head of Policy and External Affairs

Environment Policy - Nutrient management is at the heart of positive change

Over the next 10 years – and beyond – there will be major emphasis on nutrients and their role in crop, soil, and animal health, and thus the part they play within our national food and environmental strategies. There will be a new focus on methods by which nutrients are supplied to farmers and growers as fertilisers and feeds, and the way that qualified advisers and farmers will help implement new policies to deliver farm goods ever more sustainably.

At AIC, we appreciate that strong collaboration between all parties is vital to achieving long-term successful outcomes. Our work will focus on building strategic alliances in numerous ways:

- Acting as a sounding board to Defra's Nutrient Management Expert Group, which we have requested maintains its work in providing integrated science-led advice to Defra Ministers.
- Within the crop Nutrient Management Steering Group and technical working groups producing the national crop nutrient management recommendations published by AHDB, and with partnership input and funding of joint public and private research trials.
- Serving the FACTS Advisory Committee and FAR Working Group to ensure training and CPD is joined-up and complementary to policy changes.
- As part of the Agriculture and Land Use Alliance – farming together to achieve net zero, including joining-up work-streams to get results from more efficient use of nutrients.
- Sharing of knowledge up and down the food chain through the WRAP Forums with food and drink bodies.
- Industry, Government, and Environment Agency, working on the transition to better soil health and optimisation of organic manures.
- Opening dialogue on the role for genetics and IPM and new protein sources in meeting efficiency targets, and production and environmental goals.

Members are invited to get involved and collaborate with AIC on this ongoing work.



Jane Salter,
Head of Environment Policy

Members demonstrate their work to policy makers and regulators

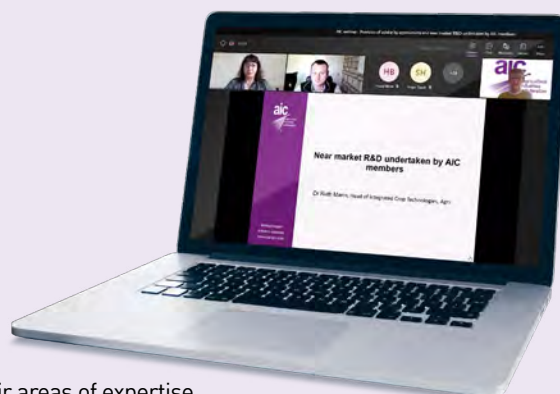
AIC held a series of webinars during March for CRD and Defra staff involved with various aspects of plant protection product (PPP) regulations. We also covered the role that BASIS-qualified agronomists play in ensuring that farmers and growers are given the best advice possible.

The five webinars covered:

- An overview of farming in the UK.
- The UK distributor network, product planning and forecasting.
- Safe and secure storage and distribution of professional PPPs.
- Provision of advice by agronomists and advisory models and near market R&D undertaken by Members.
- IPM and biopesticides.

The webinars were chaired by Hazel Doonan, and Crop Protection and Agronomy sector Members who delivered presentations relevant to their areas of expertise.

AIC plans further engagement with policy makers and regulators during the year to demonstrate the valuable work that Members undertake in provision of advice on, and supply of, crop inputs.



Hazel Doonan,
Head of Sector Crop Protection & Agronomy

Seed sector update

In April the Government announced that there will be no further implementation of import controls on plant and plant products from the EU. This means that low risk (article 73) goods will no longer require pre-notification from July 2022. A revised target Border Operating Model will likely be implemented in late 2023. Frequency of checks and fees which apply to EU and rest of the world goods will continue to be implemented from July 2022.

AIC has produced a video animation – available on the AIC website – giving an overview of the Seed Sector, explaining the role between seed breeders and end users, the development of new varieties, and the benefits to farmers.

Finally, a Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill will be introduced in Parliament, following the recent Queen's Speech. The Bill is the first major step in Government policy to liberalise agricultural innovation in England. AIC will monitor and support the legislation closely.



Rose Riby,
Head of Arable Marketing & Seeds

Arable Marketing

The conflict in Ukraine and broader global pressures continue to add significant challenges to the arable marketing sector. The UK has imposed a 35% additional tariff duty on imports of Russian or Belarussian goods, whereas the EU has focussed its sanctions more on vessels and operators. Meanwhile, both the EU and UK have signalled their intentions to suspend tariffs and quotas on Ukrainian imported goods. Finally, from 1st June, the UK will be able to import maize from the USA without a tariff, bringing it into line with the EU.

As the fallout of the Ukraine conflict is felt, the arable marketing sector will continue to closely engage with our European equivalent body (COCERAL) to ensure timely exchange of information. This co-operation has been extremely valuable, as underlined in May when AIC attended its annual meeting in Rotterdam.



Angela Booth honoured by FEFAC

Angela Booth, Director of Responsibility at AB Agri, AIC Chair, and chair of the FEFAC Feed Safety Management Committee has been awarded Honorary Membership of FEFAC, the European Compound Feed Manufacturers' Federation.

The award was made in recognition of her exceptional contribution to the FEFAC Sustainability Charter 2030, including the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines and the Product Environment Footprint Category Rules (PEFCR) as key components of FEFAC's new sustainability pillar. Angela was also the first elected chairperson of the FEFAC Sustainability Committee (2013 – 2018).

The award was confirmed at the 67th FEFAC General Assembly meeting on 2nd June in Utrecht, The Netherlands.



Impact on feed market from Russian invasion of Ukraine

In the first month or so of the conflict, AIC's Feed sector focused on assessing any strategic dependencies on feed materials and additives sourced from Ukraine and Russia.

Various feed materials have been under consideration, with a particular focus on organic feed materials, given that the UK sector is highly dependent upon imports.

Whilst markets remain challenging, the focus has shifted away from feed material supply to some of the issues which might impact the smooth flow of materials into the UK. High on the agenda has been the implication of delays in approval of GMOs.

We continue to monitor the position in EU member states on temporary easements of pesticide MRLs for some imported feed materials from South America. This is particularly pertinent for any materials that might be shipped from Ireland or The Netherlands, where easements are currently under discussion.



James McCulloch,
Head of Sector Animal Feed

Minister ‘blinks’ on farm support payments for fertiliser

After concerted lobbying of ministers by AIC and other stakeholders, Government acceded to requests for intervention, albeit without extra cash, and announced steps to support farmers with cost pressures over fertiliser prices. Direct payments in England will now be paid in two instalments each year for the remainder of the agricultural transition period, to help farmers with cashflow.

Farmers with eligible applications will receive the first payment of 50% from the end of July and the second from December.

[More information can be found on the government website.](#)

The announcement was accompanied by the release of work by AHDB which modelled the impact of fertiliser prices and applications in the arable sector, detailing impact on yields and gross margins, as well as risk management options to lock into output prices.

[Read the full report on the AHDB website.](#)

It is hoped that these combined measures can kickstart farmer confidence to coincide with new season prices.



Jo Gilbertson,
Head of Sector Fertilisers

AIC Scotland

AIC Scotland held its spring meeting on 27th April at McDiarmid Park, Perth. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to network with industry colleagues and to discuss a range of important issues facing the Agri-supply industry.

AIC met key Scottish stakeholders at the Royal Highland Show on 23rd June. AIC has recently become a corporate supporter of RSABI and AIC's CEO Robert Sheasby, and Scottish Policy Manager Ian Muirhead participated in the RSABI cycle challenge at the show, which aims to reach 125,000 km to mark the charity's 125th anniversary.



Ian Muirhead,
Policy Manager, AIC Scotland

AIC Wales

The first AIC Wales Newsletter was sent to Members and stakeholders in May, highlighting efforts to ease and inform on the supply chain disruption, and the direction and policy timeline of the Welsh Government.

A 26th July meeting is planned in Wales to further develop AIC Wales activities with the main aim of discussing and initiating the creation of an

AIC Wales Committee Forum. AIC Wales will attend the Welsh Royal Show taking place 18th - 21st July.



Michael Muncy,
Policy Manager, AIC Wales

Pig & Poultry Fair 2022

After two years of cancelled events, it was great for FAR to exhibit again at the Pig & Poultry Fair 2022 on 10th & 11th May at Stoneleigh. Many AIC Members exhibited at the show and stakeholders including Defra, NFU, and AHDB were present.

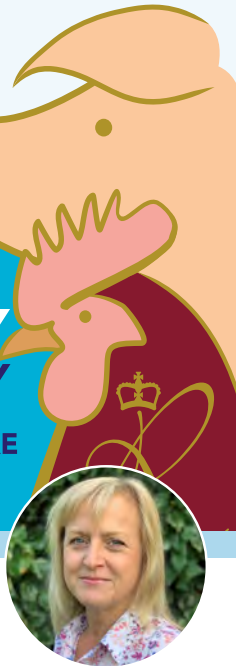
Several FAR nutritionists spoke on a variety of subjects in the Pig & Poultry Forums. The focus in the forums was chiefly around the topic of nutrition, considering feeding costs, and improving efficiency and performance to optimise nutrition for economic and environmental sustainability.

Lots of interest was shown at the FAR stand from both current and potential new Members, farmers and stakeholders, for the register and recent developments around the FAR qualification in Animal Nutrition and the Environment.

**BRITISH
PIG & POULTRY
FAIR 2022 10-11 MAY**

**STONELEIGH, WARWICKSHIRE
PARTNERED BY ABN**

Sue Whittington,
Technical Manager



Berlin Feed Conference

The UK feed industry was well represented at the GMP+ International Feed Safety Summit in Berlin, in early April, with presentations from several AIC Members. As the first 'in-person' event since the start of the pandemic, it acted as a timely reminder of the lost networking opportunities when conferences were forced to go online.

Amongst the speakers were Angela Booth (AB Agri and AIC Chair) talking about the importance of training in the development of a feed safety culture, Nick Major (For Farmers UK) explaining the benefits of the Global Feed Lifecycle Initiative (GFLI), and Patrick Charlton (Alltech UK) was part of a group discussion on threats and challenges to food and feed safety.

The UK was further represented by John Kirkpatrick from Tesco who offered insights into consumer attitudes towards animal feed and sustainability, as well as the economic challenges facing producers and customers.

**Global
Feed Safety
Summit 2022**

By GMP+ International

Simon Williams,
Technical Manager



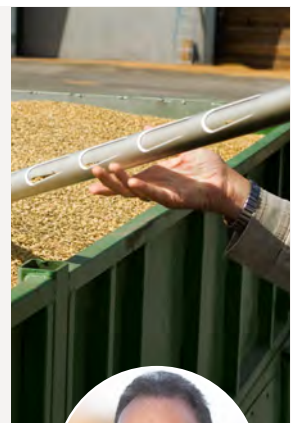
Imported Crop Standards

Over the past year, AIC was asked to consider implementing 'gatekeeper' assurance for domestically grown crops by some of our stakeholders and a group of farmers. This would act as an alternative to the current suite of farm assurance schemes that are currently used.

After extensive discussions with the industry and stakeholders, it has been concluded that there is no market demand for this approach as well being more expensive and onerous to administer.

At the current time, given additional uncertainty of current commodity supply chains, it has been decided not to introduce this in the UK. A position statement and presentation regarding this issue can be found on the [AIC website](https://www.agindustries.org.uk).

John Kelley,
Chief Operating Officer, AIC & Managing Director, AIC Services



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For any membership queries, please contact Tracy Smith, Membership Manager on tracy.smith@agindustries.org.uk



Tracy Smith,
Membership Manager

Dates for Your Diary in 2022

- **The Fertiliser Industry Dinner** - The Principal Hotel in York, on the evening of Thursday 3rd November 2022.
- **Agribusiness** - 16th November 2022, Holiday Inn West, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough.
The **pre-conference supper** will take place on the 15th November, at Orton Hall, Peterborough.
- **The Seed Industry Dinner** - The Principal Hotel in York, on the evening of Thursday 1 December 2022.



New UKFFPA Animation

AIC and UK Former Food Processors Association (UKFFPA) have created a short, animated video to help farmers, food and feed manufacturers, legislators, and the public understand the value of including former food products in livestock feed.

UKFFPA Members play a vital role in reducing waste with a 'waste less, use more' ethos. Promoting a circular economy is a key element in supporting a sustainable UK agri-food supply chain, saving over 650,000 tonnes of food that would otherwise go to waste.

UKFFPA Members have recently acquired Global Feed Lifecycle Assessment Institute (GFLI) verified carbon footprint scoring showing significant reduction in a farm's environmental footprint when using former foods within their safe and nutritious animal feed.

The animation can be viewed on the [UKFFPA](#) page of the AIC website or on [YouTube](#).



David Moss,
Technical Manager



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