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FEED & FOOD SAFETY

The value of FEMAS, TASCSC and UFAS assurance for UK feed and food safety



Executive summary

The procurement of safe feed and food materials has become increasingly critical due to geopolitical challenges, climate change, potential pandemics and increasing costs. Feeding the nation is more challenging than ever, and in response to this the UK's feed and food assurance framework continues to deliver safe and secure feed and food supply chains.

UK feed and food assurance schemes are essential for maintaining high safety standards at the start of the agri-food supply chain, where control is crucial. The complexity of global supply chains for crops and animal feed demands integrity and confidence. Failures in feed safety can jeopardize the entire food chain and public health, as seen in past crises like BSE and Salmonella outbreaks.

Key benefits

1. Ensuring feed and food safety for UK consumers
2. Reduced feed and food safety incident risk
3. Feed and food supply chain traceability

To prevent such risks, feed and food assurance schemes are now key components of global livestock and food production. AIC Services manages three critical trade assurance schemes:

Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) covering all feed ingredients, based on HACCP principles

Trade Assurance Scheme for Combinable Crops (TASCSC) ensuring crops like grain and oilseeds meet food and feed safety standards

Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) oversees 95% of commercial feed production in the UK and Ireland

These schemes maintain rigorous practices throughout the agri-food supply chain, ensuring safety and reliability.



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Background

Supply chains for crops and animal feed are typically long and complex, involving global sourcing, various transport methods, and storage facilities before reaching feed mills for processing.

Animal feed safety is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the food chain, as livestock products are ultimately consumed by the public.

Mismanagement and fraud in food and feed safety have previously led to devastating incidents, such as BSE, Foot and Mouth, and Salmonella outbreaks. More recent concerns include contamination with toxic chemicals like dioxin and melamine, resulting in significant consequences for the food sector.



To guard against these risks, feed and food assurance schemes have become essential in livestock and food production globally. FEMAS and UFAS cover nearly all commercially produced compound feed in the UK and Ireland. TASCC ensures responsible handling, transportation, and storage of crops after leaving the farm.

Schemes in focus

AIC Services manages the Schemes in collaboration with working groups, a joint development group, and review groups. The schemes work with the industry, Government and end users to ensure feed and food safety.

The requirements of the Schemes are aligned to ensure consistent wording and outcomes, benefiting participants certified in multiple schemes.

AIC Services and its committees regularly review and update the feed and food assurance standards, with a Certification Body overseeing the schemes.

Working Groups

Industry representatives meet three times a year to discuss current issues and receive updates from stakeholders and the certification body. These groups provide valuable input to ensure the Schemes remain effective. Each group has a Chair and Vice Chair with extensive industry experience, advocating for feed and food safety.

Joint Development Group

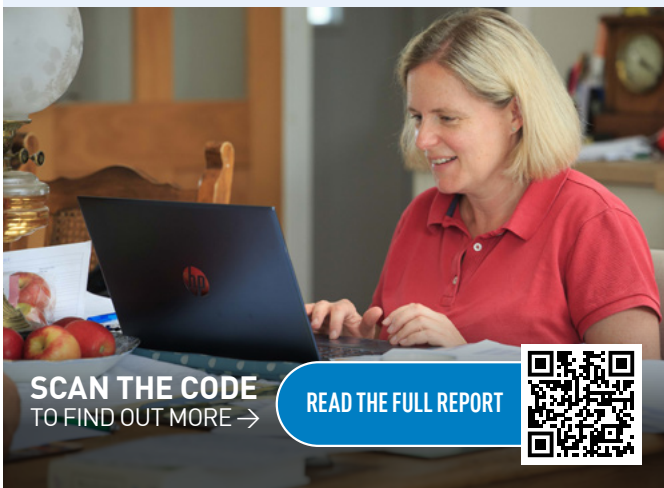
Representatives from each scheme review common clauses to ensure consistent outcomes across FEMAS, TASCC, and UFAS.

Review Groups

The schemes undergo a review every three years to meet legal and industry needs. Comprised of industry experts, these groups reflect diverse views on compliance and implementation to maintain feed and food safety.

A Feed & Food Steering Group is also in place to assure alignment of the schemes.

AIC Services also work closely with the AIC Policy Team to ensure that the latest policy developments are included in the feed schemes, where these are applicable.



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"FEMAS has become the leading feed ingredient assurance programme in the UK and Republic of Ireland, with participating companies across multiple supply sectors and around the world. FEMAS is a crucial tool in establishing the 'due diligence' required by feed safety regulations; a fact recognised by the granting of 'earned recognition' from the UK Food Standards Agency and other UK devolved authorities."



Tim Oliver

Chair, FEMAS Working Group

Earned Recognition

Earned Recognition with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) in England and Wales, Food Standards Scotland (FSS), DAERA/FSA Northern Ireland, and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) for UFAS medicated feed sites is achieved through rigorous compliance with key feed safety legislation.

This recognition confirms that schemes require Participants to meet essential safety standards, supported by robust, transparent, and impartial governance.

AIC Services upholds this recognition by submitting monthly, quarterly, and annual data, as well as engaging in regular meetings with authorities to maintain compliance with legislative requirements.

This collaboration facilitates information sharing during feed or food safety incidents, enhancing overall industry safety.

£3 million

– amount that reduced inspection frequency due to Earned Recognition is estimated to save the feed industry each year

Dovetailing with UK farm assurance

The feed assurance schemes are also recognised by major UK farm assurance programs, including [Red Tractor](#), [Scottish Quality Crops](#) and [Quality Meat Scotland](#).

Additionally, the [British Egg Industry Council's Lion Code](#) mandates that farmers purchase feed from certified Participants in FEMAS, TASCC, or UFAS schemes. These programs have broad farm coverage across the UK.

"AIC Services plays a crucial role in the grain supply chains, providing a trusted and comprehensive system of whole chain assurance. Red Tractor is proud to collaborate with both AIC and SQC to instil confidence in UK food consumers. This partnership strengthens the integrity of the food supply chain, ensuring the highest standards of quality and safety."

Jim Moseley
Chief Executive, Red Tractor

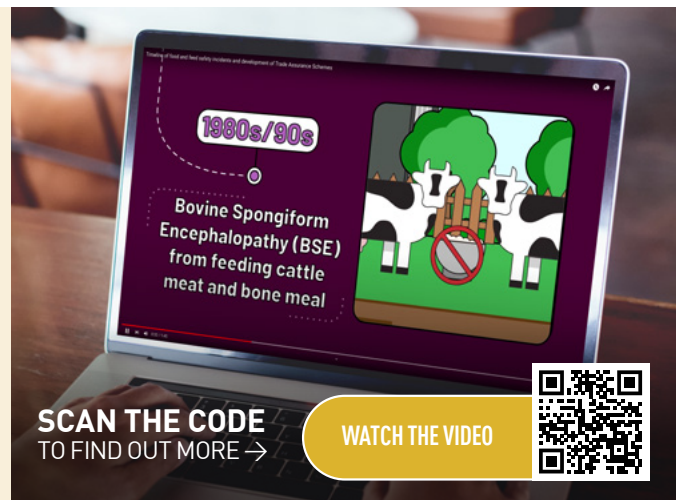


Feed and food incidents

In past decades a number of feed and food incidents put the health and safety of humans and animals at risk. This led to the development of the [FEMAS](#), [TASCC](#), and [UFAS](#) trade assurance schemes.

Prominent cases include Salmonella in eggs in the late 1980s, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in the 1980s and 1990s, and Foot and Mouth Disease in 2001.

Watch the summary video to find out more about feed and food safety incidents and the development of trade assurance schemes.



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"Animal feed is a vital part of the food chain. Problems with feed can put people at risk. Assurance schemes like AIC Services' are an important part of (food system) resilience. They help to keep standards high and allow resources to be targeted at businesses who are highest risk."

Professor Susan Jebb OBE
Chair, Food Standards Agency



"The industry has a wealth of leading experts in these fields which helps FEMAS, TASCC and UFAS remain fit for purpose."

"AIC Services feed and food trade assurance schemes will continue to develop with the Government and our stakeholders' requirements with strong support from the industry."

John Kelley
Managing Director, AIC Services

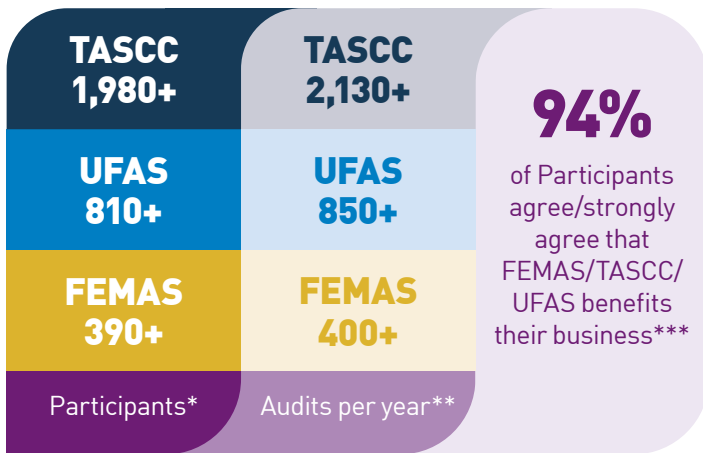


In numbers

Scheme data is collected and reviewed by AIC Services and the scheme committees, including information on Participant numbers per industry sector, numbers of audits completed, numbers of non-conformances raised, and the most common non-conformances seen.

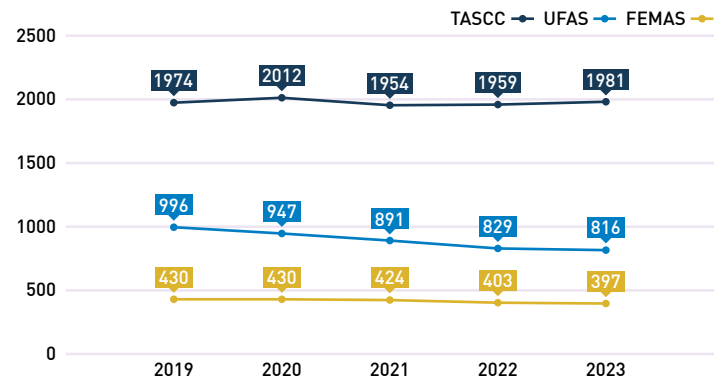
All of this information is used to ensure the scheme operates as required, is fulfilling its role in the assurance of the feed/food supply chain and where changes to the Standard or guidance may be required or additional training provided for Participants.

Scheme key numbers

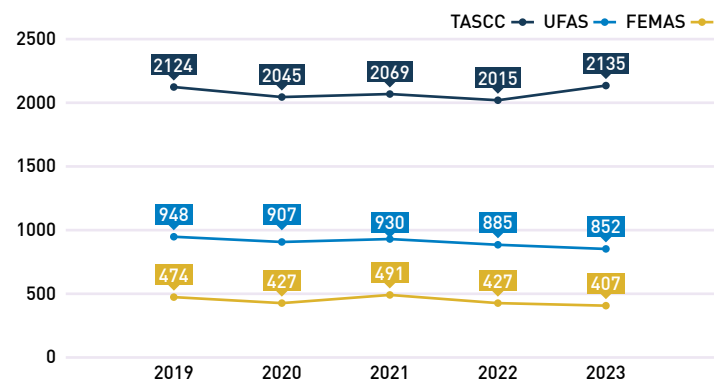


* 2023 data
 ** Total number of certified Participant sites
 *** 621 responses from 2023 survey

Total number of participants



Total number of audits

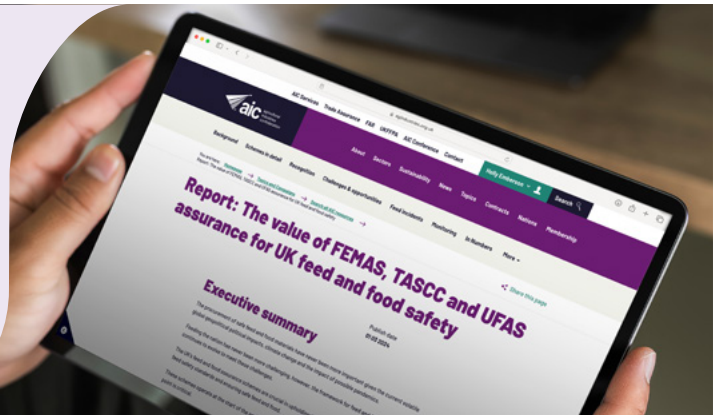


- Numbers participating in the FEMAS, TASCC and UFAS schemes have remained relatively static
- Certificate numbers are greater than Participants because each Participant business may have more than one site or scope

Support for Participants

Once a business joins FEMAS, TASCC, or UFAS scheme, they have access to support from both [AIC Services](#) and [Kiwa Agri Food](#).

Direct contact can be made with the scheme managers in both organisations regarding queries on interpretation, how the Standards are applied and general advice on compliance.



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