



## FEMAS Sector Note No. 2 – Forage Crops

These Sector Notes apply to businesses producing **or placing on the market** Forage Crops **for use as** animal feed.

These Notes are not exhaustive, are intended to assist in the application of the corresponding requirements of the FEMAS Standard and are not to be considered in isolation.

**Section 1** of these Sector Notes includes definitions of specific relevance to this sector.

**Section 2** of these Sector Notes includes additional sector-specific information to assist Participants in complying with **Requirements, Interpretation, Guidance and Further Information** of the FEMAS Scheme. The FEMAS Scheme Rules provide the following definitions:

**Requirement** – Sets mandatory standards with which Applicants and Participants must comply to achieve and maintain certification.

**Interpretation** – Provides specific means for Applicants and Participants to achieve the desired outcome of the preceding Requirement. Applicants and Participants are expected to consider Interpretation and apply as relevant to their business. Failure to follow interpretation, resulting in the desired outcome of the Requirement not being achieved will lead to a non-conformance being raised against the requirement.

**Guidance** – Non-mandatory suggestions of useful tools and techniques for achieving and maintaining compliance or continuous improvement.

**Further information** – External sources of useful information, typically including references/web links to documents or other sources of information.

**NOTE: Revisions introduced in this edition of the Sector Notes are highlighted in Blue.**

### 1 Definitions

<b>Forage Crops</b>	Including but not limited to Lucerne / alfalfa, sanfoin, clover, lupins after flowering, vetches, <b>straws, nettles</b> , herbage legumes, herbage grasses and protein concentrates obtained from lucerne / alfalfa juice and from grasses, which may have been dried prior to supply as animal feed.
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## 2. Sector-Specific Notes

HACCP and Feed Safety Risk Assessment		
<b>B 1.7</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<p><i>Sector-specific potential hazards include but are not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hazards as a consequence of wildlife activity e.g. animals being caught in mowing machines, feathers from roosting birds and presence of badger latrines.</i></li> <li>• <i>Undesirable plant species (including from field margins) inadvertently being incorporated into forage crops (e.g. ragwort, hemlock, nightshade species, etc)</i></li> <li>• <i>The presence of toxic weed seeds (including from field margins) inadvertently incorporated into forage crops</i></li> <li>• <i>Glass, metal and other hazards entering harvesting machines due to human activity</i></li> <li>• <i>Hazards introduced by applications of fertilisers, soil improvers etc. e.g. accumulated undesirable substances present in the soil (e.g. cadmium, lead, mercury, arsenic, etc.), manure, slurry or sewage sludge applied on the fields</i></li> <li>• <i>Presence of pollutants, such as Dioxin and PCBs and heavy metals dispersed from nearby industrial incineration and other industrial activities</i></li> <li>• <i>Failure to comply with specified harvest interval periods following the use of agrochemicals, fertilisers or other applications to the land.</i></li> </ul>

Personnel		
<b>G 2.1</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<i>This includes personnel responsible for growing and harvesting crops.</i>

Handling and Processing Equipment		
<b>G 7.1</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<i>This includes harvest equipment, farm vehicles and any handling equipment used in the forage operation by either the Participant or their suppliers and subcontractors.</i>

<b>Calibration and Control of Monitoring and Measuring Devices</b>		
<b>G 8.1</b>	<b><i>Interpretation</i></b>	<i>This includes equipment used during the growing and harvesting of crops.</i>

<b>Equipment Intended to Control Physical Contamination</b>		
<b>H 13.1</b>	<b><i>Interpretation</i></b>	<i>This includes equipment used during the growing and harvesting of crops.</i>

<b>Despatch of Packaged Feed</b>		
<b>H 17.1</b>	<b><i>Interpretation</i></b>	<i>Unwrapped bales should be considered as unsealed packages, and therefore assured transport is not required subject to the Participant carrying out a risk assessment to demonstrate that feed safety is maintained.</i>

<b>Despatch Documentation</b>		
<b>H 18</b>	<b><i>Interpretation</i></b>	<i>Unwrapped bales should be considered as unsealed packages for the purposes of labelling.</i>



Agricultural Industries Confederation Limited  
First Floor, Unit 4 The Forum,  
Minerva Business Park, Lynch Wood,  
Peterborough, PE2 6FT.  
Telephone: 01733 385230

E-mail: [enquiries@agindustries.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@agindustries.org.uk)  
[www.agindustries.org.uk](http://www.agindustries.org.uk)

