

FAR update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FEED ADVISER REGISTER SCHEME



Vets and nutritionists working in collaboration to deliver improved performance, animal health & welfare

As a vet and a nutritionist, I can see both sides of the story but also understand the challenges faced on farms. I believe it is imperative that vets and nutritionists work together with the farmer to give well-rounded advice and assessment for optimal farm performance.

Vets and nutritionists bring different perspectives to a farm situation. Collaboration will improve production as well as animal health and welfare outcomes on farm.

I work with numerous farms where I am in regular communication with their practice vet and we hold meetings on farm with the farmer and other input providers such as fertility services.

Collaboration allows us to review different aspects of management and performance. It ensures that any targets for the farm are being worked towards by everyone involved and this drives progress.

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Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of FAR Update. In this issue, we mark the 10-year anniversary of FAR and outline why the Register has been recognised in the Government's Carbon Budget Delivery Plan. This ties in with this year's FAR CPD aim of improving nutrient balance on farm, and the launch of the AIC Sustainability self-assessment tool.

Also in this edition, nutritionist Debby Brown from Dugdale Nutrition Ltd shares her collaborative work on farm with local vets to improve production, animal health, and welfare.

The game feed module has been well received in its first year with new Associate Members joining the Register.

Please send any questions or suggestions to far@agindustries.org.uk or via the contact details on the back page.



Sue Whittington

Technical Manager

sue.whittington@agindustries.org.uk



Debby Brown

Veterinary Technical Manager
Dugdale Nutrition Ltd

When a vet sees issues starting to arise at a regular fertility visit, they feed this back to the farmer and the nutritionist. As there is a time lag between calving and service, or service and pregnancy diagnosis, this can lead to further discussion around changes that may have been occurring at the relevant time such as forage, weather, other feed inputs, and supplementation.

If a nutritionist is aware of forage changes and adapts the diet to balance this, discussing it with the vet will allow them to stay alert to changes in health and fertility and highlight problems earlier.

The aim of collaboration should be to identify potential risks to health, welfare, and production sooner and implement actions to reduce these risks. If issues occur, they are easier to remedy with a full farm approach, rather than working independently of each other.

Many health issues on farm will be influenced by nutrition, although some won't. Improving gut health with improved forage intake, supplementations, balancing the diet, and avoiding deficiencies and toxicities will also support improvements in foot health, udder health, and metabolic health.

Considering nutrition and health together will definitely improve health and welfare on farm.



FAR recognised in the Government's Carbon Budget Delivery Plan

The Government's Carbon Budget Delivery Plan published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on 30 March sets out a package of proposals and policies to meet carbon budgets under the Climate Change Act 2008.

Quantified agri-measures

Precision feeding – role of advice

Precision feeding is interpreted as assessing the composition of feed and quantity provided to meet, but not exceed, animal requirements.

Emissions reduction can be achieved by maximising feed utilisation thus minimising nutrient excretion, stabilising enteric fermentation and improving animal health, and minimising nutrient excretion in manure.

The Government anticipates industry adoption of precision feeding will continue to increase. Direct reference is made to the role of Feed Adviser Register (FAR) advisers in facilitating this by providing technical advice on best feeding practice.

Reference is also made to precision mixing machinery and the Government intends to provide funding under the Farming Innovation Programme (ukri.org) which could support the development of technology related to precision feeding.

Methane suppressants

A specific role is envisaged for methane-suppressing feed products (the example given is 3NOP, nitrate additives).

The Government anticipates working with The Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland, and industry representatives to explore suitable policy options to encourage rapid and extensive uptake of methane-suppressing feed products with proven safety and efficacy.

The Government will also focus on exploring mandating the use of methane-suppressing feed products in compound feed for cattle in England.

The Government will report on the findings of the recent call for evidence on methane-suppressing feed products which will inform their next steps "to encourage the extensive update of methane suppressing feed products."

View this resource online:

www.agindustries.org.uk/carbon-delivery-budget



James McCulloch,
Head of Feed

FAR turns 10

Over the past 10 years, **FAR's key achievements** include:



Ensuring livestock farmers have received professional and targeted advice - a feed adviser code of conduct promotes integrity and robust advice.



Helping agriculture reach net zero ambitions - matching animal nutrition needs with feed sustainability data reduces environmental impact.



Gaining support of feed advisers and the feed sector - more than 95% of industry advisers are registered with FAR.



Getting wider stakeholder industry group and government recognition - as part of the UK agriculture advisory framework, FAR has a key role in supporting industry objectives.



Producing a core competency framework and online learning tool - building knowledge gains access to full FAR membership.



2023 CPD Improving Farm Nutrient Balance

Launching later in the summer, this valuable training aims to help feed advisers take a consistent approach when discussing nutrient balance on farm with customers and will take advisers through nutrient balance analysis for each speciality.

AIC has received reports that some dairy farmers are being asked for their feed adviser's FAR membership card details by their first purchasers. Please remember to keep your CPD up to date to maintain your FAR membership.



New Game Feed Module

Following the success of the [FAR Game Feed Module 1](#), Module 2 is now in planning and should be released to Members in April/May 2024.

"The FAR Game Feed Module 2 will be the first of a group of shorter modules on specific themes and will focus on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and biosecurity" David Moss Technical Manager at AIC explains.

Worcestershire Game Farm owner Paul Jeavons says: "The FAR Game Feed Module 1 was excellent and I would encourage all to take it."

FAR Members can register for the FAR Game Feed Module by contacting Carolynn Palasiuk carolynn.palasiuk@agindustries.org.uk

Specialist game feed advisers who are not currently Members can register for the FAR Game Feed Module by joining FAR as [associate Members](#).

For more information contact David Moss david.moss@agindustries.org.uk



David Moss,
Technical Manager

DairyTech 2023

In February AIC's Services team were pleased to be at DairyTech in Warwickshire.

Technical Managers Sue Whittington, Roberta Reeve, and Gill Barrow were on hand to speak to Members and event attendees about the benefits of FAR and help answer any questions.



Find **FAR** and **FAA** at upcoming events, and in the agricultural press:

AgriScot - 22 November 2023

Royal Ulster Winter Fair - 14 December 2023

Look out for regular articles in the Farmers Guide, Anglia and Midlands Farmer



NOW AVAILABLE

Introductory Sustainability Training and the AIC Sustainability Self-Assessment Framework

Building on our Roadmap for a Sustainable Food Chain, these offerings to Members will assist them in assessing their company sustainability credentials and tracking continuous development in sustainability performance.

For further details please visit the Sustainability page of the [AIC website](https://www.aic.org.uk) or email sustainability@agindustries.org.uk



Carolynn Palasiuk

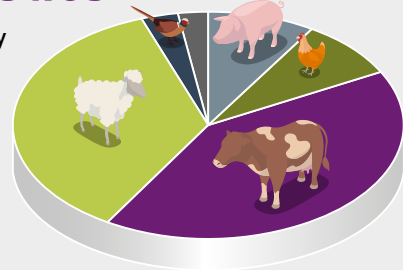
Final word from Carolyn

If any advisers have started a new position or are retiring, please let us know to ensure all our information is current and accurate.

Don't forget to check your **MyFAR** details on AIC's website. If any details are incorrect, any training module details are missing – or you have any questions, particularly if you are having difficulty accessing or completing the core training modules or annual CPD – please email carolynn.palasiuk@agindustries.org.uk

Statistics

Advisers by speciality:



195

Pigs

183

Poultry

903

Cattle

780

Sheep

53

Game

63

Other

Membership type:

Development 236

Advisers start as Development Members.

Full 796

Full membership obtained after completing core modules 1-4, and 12 months nutritional advisory work.

Associate 9

Associate Members offer nutritional advice for game birds only.

