

# UFAS update

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEED ASSURANCE SCHEME



## Welcome

Welcome to the winter 2021/22 UFAS Update. AIC has been working hard on progressing the next version of the UFAS Standard, whilst following the progress of the pandemic and trying to understand what this means for the feed industry and feed safety assurance. The end of 2021 also brings a change of Chairmanship of the UFAS Working Group. In this newsletter, we will update you on all our latest activities.



**Simon Williams**

Technical Manager for AIC Services

## Maize Aflatoxin Protocol

Since 2013, AIC has worked closely with European Schemes (EFISC-GTP, GMP+ International, OVOCOM FCA and QS) to monitor the risk of aflatoxin in maize from different origins, with the aim of minimising the possibility of food and feed safety incidents through sharing of data. The requirements of the resulting protocol are in FEMAS Sector Note 15, which has recently been updated to clarify the requirements. The Sector Note is revised several times a year as new data emerges and applies if the participant is purchasing maize from a supplier who is not in a participant scheme. UFAS participants should be aware that the protocol requires suppliers in each scheme to pass on the aflatoxin results to their customers for consignments of maize if they are from "Medium" or "High" risk countries.

## Kiwa Agrifood team

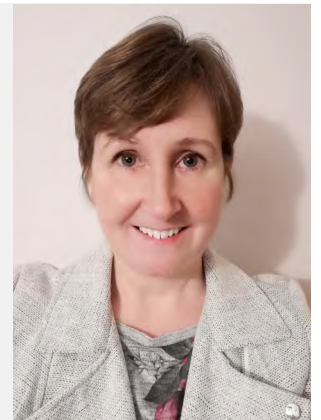
As part of the preparation for taking over the UFAS contract on 1st March 2022, Kiwa Agrifood have recruited a new UFAS Scheme Manager, Dawn Beswick.

Dawn has a background within animal feed, until last year holding the position of Site Manager at Carrs Billington's Stone mill. After leaving in early 2021, Dawn has pursued other interests including, most recently, lecturing at Staffordshire University on their Workplace Apprenticeship Degree Courses in both Operational Management and Project Management.

Dawn will be in touch with UFAS businesses over the coming weeks, however if you would like to speak with Dawn, please call her on **01423 878873** or email [dawn.beswick@kiwa.com](mailto:dawn.beswick@kiwa.com)

As well as Dawn, Luke Last has been recruited as an additional Administration Support, and will join the experienced and well established Kiwa Agrifood office team.

Please feel free to contact the administration team at Kiwa Agrifood on **01423 878873** or email [uk.feed@kiwa.com](mailto:uk.feed@kiwa.com) for admin and [uk.afaccounts@kiwa.com](mailto:uk.afaccounts@kiwa.com) for accounts.



**Dawn Beswick**  
UFAS Scheme Manager

## Divergence of regulation post-EU Exit

Barely a year has passed since the transition period ended following UK's departure from the EU. It was always recognised that one consequence of this would be divergence of regulations between the EU and Great Britain (with Northern Ireland primarily following EU rules).

Whilst there have been few changes to the main legal structures (non-ruminant processed animal protein

changes in the TSE Regulations aside), there has already been a significant "drift" in areas such as (re-) authorisation of feed additives and GM events. This means that products that were previously legal in GB, NI and EU may now be legal in only two, one, or none of the jurisdictions. UFAS participants are required to ensure the products they sell are legal in both the country of production and sale, adding a new level of complexity for businesses to deal with.



## UFAS Working Group Update

### Andy Hallington Retirement

At the end of 2021, Andy Hallington stepped down as UFAS Working Group Chair. He first joined the committee in 2003, before becoming Vice Chair in 2009 and Chair in 2015. During this time, Andy has also worked on the UFAS Review Group and been heavily involved with drafting the last five versions of the UFAS Standard. Andy has been an independent Chair for the last five years, having previously worked for several feed businesses, including as Quality and Health & Safety Manager at Carrs Billington. Andy is retiring from the UFAS Working Group and Review Group but will remain a member of the Joint Development Group until the drafting process for the 2023 standards is complete. AIC would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy for the commitment and energy he has put into supporting AIC over the years.



**Andy Hallington**  
Retiring UFAS Working  
Group Chair

## New UFAS Working Group Chair and Vice-Chair



**William Davidson**  
Chair of the UFAS Working Group

The UFAS Working Group has elected William Davidson, Operations Director at Davidsons Feeds, to take over from Andy Hallington as their Chair. William has served as Vice Chair since 2015 and initially joined the group to represent AIC Scotland Members. William is "hands-on" in managing his family business and brings a great deal of practical expertise to the UFAS Working Group discussions.



**Barry Rogers**  
Vice Chair of the UFAS Working Group

Barry Rogers, National Quality Assurance Manager at AB Connect, has been elected as Vice Chair of the UFAS Working Group. Barry's role includes ensuring compliance at AB Agri's monogastric sites and he brings a large amount of knowledge and experience in medicated feeds and management of Salmonella.

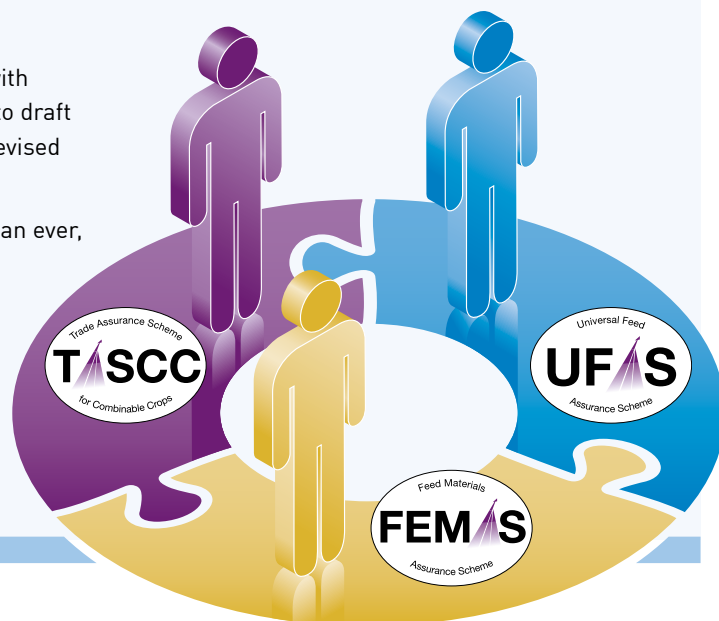
## Joint Scheme Development – A new approach to drafting AIC Schemes

Over the last ten years, AIC has worked with the FEMAS, TASC and UFAS Committees to bring the requirements of their respective schemes closer together. This has seen significant success with several sections of each scheme now having identical wording. However, due to the different revision schedules and separate Review Groups, it was felt that further progress would be difficult without a new approach.

As a result, a “Joint Development Group” has been formed with representatives from all three schemes. Together, they aim to draft common wording where appropriate and publish the three revised schemes simultaneously, during the first half of 2023.

Although the content of the schemes will be more aligned than ever, each one will retain its own identity, document format and guidance as well as scheme specific requirements where necessary.

The current timescales foresee the drafts of the three schemes being published for consultation in the second half of 2022, with the final documents published as soon as possible after comments have been reviewed.



## Certification Body Transition

Following a tender process in 2021, the decision was made to contract Kiwa Agrifood to certify the UFAS scheme from 1st March 2022. Preparations for the transition are now well underway, with regular transfers of data from LRQA to ensure that Kiwa can serve UFAS participants from day one. Key dates for participants are as follows:

### January 2022

- LRQA will issue last renewal invoices for February certificate expiries. LRQA and Kiwa will liaise over audit fees to minimise disruption for participants
- Kiwa will start contacting UFAS participants providing a new Certification Agreement which must be signed and returned before 1st March

### February 2022

- Kiwa UFAS participant portal will launch 1st February
- UFAS audits will be paused from 10th February. LRQA will complete all certification activities for these audits
- February 2022 – Kiwa Agrifood issues first renewal invoices

### March 2022

- 1st March 2022 – Kiwa Agrifood starts delivering UFAS audits
- UFAS audits onsite by default, with option for “hybrid audit”

### May 2022

- 1st May 2022 – LRQA participant portal will be taken offline



## Onsite auditing

Two years have passed since the first emergence of Covid-19, and the subsequent pandemic has changed the way many people work forever. For much of the last 18 months, UFAS audits have mainly been carried out remotely.

However, it's always been clear that, despite the best efforts of participants and auditors, there is no substitute for on-site audits to demonstrate compliance with scheme requirements. To this end, AIC has set out a phased approach to move back to on-site auditing as the default method. Clearly there is still significant uncertainty about the spread of new variants of the virus and its impact, but AIC believes that this is the right time to make this step. Participants should be assured that flexibility will be shown where circumstances require to ensure the health of participants and auditors is protected. Where participants have concerns about managing on-site audits, they should in the first instance contact the Certification Body to discuss.

## Participant Portal

One key benefit of being a participant in AIC schemes is the online portal for various scheme related functions. Kiwa Agrifood will launch their bespoke UFAS participant portal on 1st February 2022, initially offering the following functionality:

### Document store

This will be an area that participants can store key documents in a secure repository that is not linked to an audit. Unfortunately, **it has not been possible to automatically transfer stored documents** from the LRQA portal, so participants will have to transfer any documents themselves. Further instructions on this will be circulated, but the portals have a "drag and drop" function which will make this straightforward.

### Vehicle Inventory

UFAS participants operating a bulk vehicle fleet will already be familiar with this area of the portal as it has been shared between schemes for several years and compulsory since the introduction of UFAS 2020.

### Audits & Certificates

This area will initially be empty but will be where participants can upload documents prior to audit, submit corrective actions, and find audit reports and copies of certificates.

Participants will be contacted by Kiwa Agrifood during January to set up access to the Portal for relevant members of staff.



MAIN  
PORTAL



DOCUMENT  
STORE



AUDIT &  
CERTIFICATES



VEHICLE  
INVENTORY