



The role of Farm Assurance

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Background

- What is Assured Food Standards?
 - Not for profit company owned by the whole food chain
 - Covers six sectors
 - Cereals and Oilseeds
 - Horticulture
 - Beef and Lamb
 - Dairy
 - Chicken meat
 - Pigs
 - All schemes accredited to EN45011 by UKAS

Background



- What do we do?
 - Our Technical Advisory Committees [TACs] set the standards
 - TACs made up of industry representatives
 - We manage the Certification Bodies who inspect the Standards on farms
 - We licence and monitor the packers who use the Red Tractor logo
 - We represent the assurance community to stakeholders
 - We communicate messages about Red Tractor to the wider community

Background



- What is the scope of Farm Assurance?
 - 78000 members
 - Between 65% and 95% coverage depending on sector
 - 450 Independent Inspectors
 - 370 Companies licensed to pack Red Tractor assured food
 - Red Tractor features on more than £5 billion of food every year



The role of Farm Assurance

- AFS not a VI signatory
- Soon became clear the assurance schemes were a vital delivery route
- Incentivisation group set up and AFS invited to take part
- Focus on
 - Crop Protection Management Plans [CPMPs]
 - National Register of Sprayer Operators [NRoSO]
 - National Sprayer Testing Scheme [NSTS]



Crop Protection Management Plans

- The Target
 - 30% of arable land covered by a CPMP by 2006
 - LEAF Audit deemed to be equivalent
- The Result
 - Latest estimate is around 2.4M Ha covered – twice the target
 - In assurance not a Critical Failure Point but –

2004	53.4% NC
2005	30.9% NC
2006	18.9%NC

National Register of Sprayer Operators



- The Target
 - 17500 members by March 31st 2006
- The Result
 - 22400 members by March 31st 2006
 - In assurance it is a Critical Failure Point
 - 30 CPD points required over 3 years
 - 2007 Crunch year for NRoSO

National Sprayer Testing Scheme



- The Target
 - 80% of land sprayed by tested machines by 31st March 2006
- The Result
 - 76% of land sprayed by tested machines by 31st March 2006
 - In assurance it is now a Critical Failure Point [August 2006]
 - Now it is a CFP confident of exceeding target
 - Period 1:4:05 to 1:12:05 = 3300 tests
 - Period 1:4:06 to 1:12:06 = 6148 tests

Conclusions



- Assurance Schemes can change behaviour
- They are prepared to be part of the self regulation agenda
- Although Standards change every year -
 - Change must be at a pace the industry can absorb
 - New Standards must be “do-able” and “auditable”
 - New Standards cost farmers money and/or time
 - Assurance Schemes must not be seen as a regulatory agency