



**SCOTTISH
QUALITY CROPS**

NEWS UPDATES

July 2026



**Teresa Dougall,
SQC Managing Director**



ENCOURAGING COLLABORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

I kick off this summer's newsletter looking back over previous years' updates and finding it hard to believe that it is now four years since I joined SQC. At that point, we wanted to take things 'back to basics' – promote our scheme and better explain who SQC is; what SQC does and why SQC does it.

The full Standards review that we began at the start of the year aligns with this as your Standards Setting Committee and Board of Directors looked at each Standard individually to justify why it is there; is it required and is it fit for purpose.

What I have enjoyed most about this process has been the engagement

with our growers and the industry to discuss the scheme and what we can do to improve it further – making sure we are in tune with the requirements of the supply chain whilst ensuring that farmers can deliver what is being asked for.

The SQC structure as a co-op allows us to encourage collaboration and development; sharing of ideas and discussion and identification of new opportunities. And, this is what we all need to focus on during these challenging times.

We wish our growers all the best for harvest and, as always, if you have any questions please contact me on teresa.dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk

SQC Grain Passports 2026

Weekly reminders are being issued by FIA to all growers to sign up to the FIA Auditee Portal or to check you recall your log in details if you did this previously. Now is the time to do this – before you need your grain passports, which this year are only available from within the portal.

Remember – you can't use last year's passport – all passports have the issue year at the bottom of the document.

We'd like to thank FIA who were on the SAOS stand over all four days of the Royal Highland Show and assisted a number of SQC members with portal queries.

We are also pleased to announce that FIA has recently appointed a Member Support Officer, a dedicated role to assist any members with portal or passport queries, who can be contacted via the FIA office number and email.

If you have already registered and accessed the portal

Please check you can still access it
via the below website

<https://saos.intact-platform.com/Login.aspx>

If you have forgotten your log in details, you can reset your username and password within the portal. Refer to attached "How to re-set Password" User Guide for step-by-step guidance.

If you still haven't registered

Please contact the FIA Office on **0131 609 0558** to request FIA Auditee Portal Registration details

AND REMEMBER – HELP IS ON HAND

If you have any additional queries about registering or logging in, please contact the FIA team on:

Telephone: **0131 609 0558**

or email info@foodassurance.co.uk

Extension of contract between SQC and FIA

That spirit of collaboration may also have been what helped us build an excellent working relationship and partnership with our Certification Body, FIA, since they joined us – also four years ago.

Further to a robust review of their contract and outcomes from that – along with an application presented to our Board on

their future objectives as a Certification Body – SQC has extended FIA's contract for a further three years to end of September 2030.

SQC thanks the full team at FIA for their commitment to working together in the development of SQC and the assurance scheme and, most importantly, keeping farmers at the heart of the business.

Booking of SQC Assessments

Remember – all growers must be assessed during the scheme year which runs from 01 October to 30 September, and this year is marching on quickly. If you haven't had your audit for this year, we urge you to work with your assessor when contacted to agree a date. The assessors are

out and about across the country and can let you know when they will next be in your area. We want to support you to get the audit undertaken in good time to ensure that it can be delivered and certified well before the end of the scheme year.

SQC FULL STANDARDS REVIEW

Since the last update in April, SQC has completed a second stage of consultation with farmers and the supply chain. Three meetings have since been held with the SQC Standards Setting Committee to discuss all feedback received across both consultation periods and a SQC Board of Directors meeting is now scheduled for 16th July to agree on the proposed changes.

In addition, we have been working to reorder the Standards to align them better to the audit process and farming practice, and propose to remove some Standards to minimise duplication and simplify the Standards that are in place.

Following the Board meeting, we will publish on our website the updated

Standards Review and Justification document and a separate document listing the agreed changes.

Throughout the process, we have engaged with UKAS – the UK Accreditation Service – and we will share our findings with them to allow for a review of changes agreed before final publication.

Minor amendments will be made to the Standards for the scheme year 1st October 2026 to 30th September 2027 – these will be announced soon. Further to the above review from UKAS and a redesign of the Standards document, we anticipate launching the new Standards on 1st October 2027. As always, we will keep everyone informed as we progress.

KEEP IN TOUCH THIS SUMMER

Come and say hello. I will be joining NFUS members on their stand at Turriff Show on Monday 3 August. This is the third consecutive year that SQC have worked with NFUS to provide this opportunity for open discussion and questions and we look forward to seeing many of you there again.

Further to the success of our recent stakeholders' SQC mock assessment, we are working with the NFUS North-East Regional Manager, Lorna Paterson and Scott Campbell, NFUS member and representative on the SQC Board to deliver a mock assessment for growers in late October. Running through an audit live on farm, this will be an opportunity for questions and discussion to create a better understanding of the process and its objectives.

Finally, do you use LinkedIn? If so, why not follow SQC and keep up to date. Plus, keep your eyes open for some new video footage coming soon – looking at assurance through the eyes of the supply chain.



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www.sqcrops.co.uk

FIA Contact Details

Telephone: **0131 609 0558** or info@foodassurance.co.uk
Website: sqcrops.co.uk (where you will find an enquiry form) or foodintegrityassurance.co.uk

Click here to follow SQC on LinkedIn 