

# Farm Assurance Review (FAR)

## ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS – SQC FEEDBACK STATUS 2

The Farm Assurance Review identified 9 key strategic recommendations comprising 56 actions. UK Farm Assurance schemes have a responsibility to progress 37 of these.

The purpose of this document is to quickly identify where SQC views its own progress in respect of each of these 37 actions. The table below illustrates where SQC already meets the requirements; has work underway to meet the recommendation; work to be considered; or where it is not relevant to SQC specifically.

### 1. On-farm audits must be reduced, simplified and delivered more consistently

1.2	Revising Standards – focusing only on what is necessary	UNDERWAY
1.3	A right of appeal	ATTAINED
1.4	Proportionate sanctions	ATTAINED
1.5	Risk based, coordinated inspection	ATTAINED
1.6	Learning lessons – using experience to support members	ATTAINED
1.7	Working in tandem – collaboration and cooperation between schemes	UNDERWAY
1.8	Joint training for inspectors	ATTAINED
1.9	Transparency between schemes and regulators	ATTAINED
1.10	Addressing the impact of audit on farmer wellbeing	ATTAINED
1.11	Promoting consistency in inspections	ATTAINED
1.12	Inspection as a career path	ATTAINED
1.13	Risk based inspection	TO BE CONSIDERED

### 2. There must be a transformational step forward in embracing technology and managing data to deliver more effective farm assurance with greater added value for all

2.1	'Tell us once' – making good use of data	ATTAINED
2.2	Data ownership – the need for resolution	UNDERWAY
2.3	Creating a data co-op	UNDERWAY
2.4	Supporting farmers in a digital world	UNDERWAY
2.6	'Tell us once' – collecting and storing data	UNDERWAY
2.8	'Keep it live' – reviewing standards	UNDERWAY
2.9	Investing in technology	UNDERWAY

### 3. Farm assurance schemes need to reset and/or restate their decision-making structures to establish farmers as the driving voice in standards development

3.1	Creating and amending standards	ATTAINED
3.2	Appointments to sector boards	ATTAINED
3.3	Board structures in farm assurance schemes	ATTAINED
3.4	Balancing scheme demands	UNDERWAY
3.5	Using impact assessments	ATTAINED
3.6	A federation of farm assurance schemes	ATTAINED

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### 4. A new industry-led initiative must set out the future environmental ambitions for farm assurance, establishing this as an area of competitive advantage for UK farming

4.4	Telling the wider world what farming delivers for the environment	UNDERWAY
4.5	A 'foresight' exercise on future environmental standards	TO BE CONSIDERED

### 5. The inclusion of regulatory requirements within farm assurance standards and audits should be conditional on government and regulators agreeing a form of 'earned recognition'

5.3	Agreeing how regulatory sanctions and farm assurance work together	TO BE CONSIDERED
5.4	Extending 'earned recognition'	UNDERWAY

### 6. There must be greater coordination in the way in which farm assurance operates across the UK nations

6.1	Consider a new approach for combinable crops	NOT RELEVANT
6.3	Creating 'one voice' for UK farm assurance	ATTAINED
6.4	The role of whole life in farm assurance	NOT RELEVANT

### 7. Farm assurance schemes must better position the UK farming industry in world food markets and in competition with imported food

7.3	Farm assurance for combinable crops	TO BE CONSIDERED
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### 8. All farm assurance schemes must review, and, where necessary, improve their methods of communication with the farming industry

8.1	A 'farmer first' approach to communications	ATTAINED
8.2	Implementing the Commission's recommendations	UNDERWAY
8.3	Using features / advantages / benefits statements	ATTAINED
8.5	Implementing culture change	ATTAINED

### 9. The Red Tractor scheme must complete the implementation of recommendations in the Campbell Tickell report

9.1	Implementation of recommendations within Campbell Tickell report	NOT RELEVANT
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SQC has specifically asked that consideration be given to language used across the FAR documents. SQC prefers to refer to assessors and assessments or audits. Inspectors/inspections terminology is generally used in legislative terms, for example when undertaken by Government agencies rather than assurance schemes and certification bodies.

If assured growers or stakeholders have questions or require further information on any of the specific actions, please do not hesitate to contact Teresa Dougall, SQC Managing Director - [teresa.dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk](mailto:teresa.dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk)