

LMC



***FOOD FORTRESS-‘THINKING GLOBALLY-
ACTING LOCALLY’***

The Industry Response

Ian Stevenson

Background

‘The dioxin crisis (2008) highlighted that the food chain is only as secure as it’s weakest link.’

‘The onus is on industry to ensure that all that can be done is being done to protect the various (industry) sectors’

ASSURING FOOD SAFETY IN NORTHERN IRELAND



• Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland (LMC) convened a group of industry representatives to tackle this problem and a report with recommendations was produced in January 2011

Report and Recommendations of the
Industry Feed Assurance Group

JANUARY 2011



IFAG Report Recommendations

- ▶ 14 recommendations produced
- ▶ Recommendations placed the onus on industry at each level of the supply chain to provide assurances that:
 - All feedstuffs were purchased from an assured source
 - Feed sampling was strategic and risk based
 - Industry would work with regulators to assess both existing and emerging risks and share information



The Current Situation–FQAS

- ▶ Red meat industry has been operating the Farm Quality Assurance Scheme for over 20 years.
- ▶ FQAS provides assurances consumers based on 3 key
 - 1. Food Safety
 - 2. Animal Welfare
 - 3. Care for the Environment
- ▶ In Q3 of 2013 98.5% of p reported cattle were FQA cows)
- ▶ Section 3 of FQAS Standards Animal Nutrition



The Current Situation–FQAS (2)

- ▶ Code 3.13 of the FQAS Standard requires that all externally sourced feed materials and crop products / by-products must be sourced from an assured source:
 - AIC's Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS)
 - AIC's Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS)
 - A scheme with an agreed equivalent standard
 - Another assured farm
- ▶ The only exceptions to the above include farm-to-farm trading of crops (excluding dried feed grain) and by-product feeds or permissible food by-products sourced directly from human food / drink manufacturers, which can be accompanied by a warranty declaration
- ▶ Code 3.15 states that when compound feed is purchased it must be from an assured manufacturer and / or merchant. The manufacturer / merchant must be certified under AIC's UFAS Scheme or a recognised equivalent.

Implementation of 'Food Fortress'

- ▶ Code 3.13 of the FQAS Standard requires that all externally sourced feed materials and crop products / by-products must be sourced from an assured source:
 - AIC's Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS)
 - AIC's Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS)
 - A scheme with an agreed equivalent standard
 - Another assured farm
- ▶ The only exception to the above will be farm-to-farm trading of forage feeds which can be accompanied by a warranty declaration if coming from a non-assured farm
- ▶ Code 3.15 will state that 'all externally sourced manufactured feedstuffs must be sourced from an assured manufacturer and / or merchant.' The compounder must be certified under AIC's UFAS Scheme or a recognised equivalent **AND** be a member of the Food Fortress Feed Materials Scheme.

Food Fortress– Assurance

- ▶ Implementation of this initiative provides added assurances for farmers, processors, customers and consumers
- ▶ Sets Northern Ireland apart as a fortress for food production and food safety
- ▶ By being smart with science there is no net cost to industry
- ▶ A agri–food industry worth £4bn must be safe guarded



Working Together for Growth

LMC Strategic Priorities:

1. The industry is equipped with the tools to encourage its commercial development.
2. A better-informed industry, and general public.
3. Facilitating industry relationships, with impartiality, and integrity.
4. To be a relevant customer focused organisation that stakeholders understand, and meets their agreed requirements.

Agri-Food Strategy Board Report:

Recommendation 58:

‘The animal feed sector must implement the recommendations of the Food Fortress feed materials assurance scheme currently under development at the Institute for Global Food Security. Processors must make the new quality standard a requirement of their supply chain.’

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."
Albert Einstein

- ▶ Dioxin Incident of 2008 cost the Northern Ireland Agri-food sector millions of pounds.
- ▶ Industry decided to take steps to safeguard this vitally important sector
- ▶ LMC facilitated the production of the Industry Feed Assurance Group (IFAG) report in January 2011 and industry will implement the recommendations in 2014
- ▶ If the agri-food industry is to grow we must build on our strong reputation for quality produce and a track record of industry excellence.



Conclusion

- ▶ The beef and sheep meat industry contributes over £1 bn to the local economy and the sector continues to grow.
- ▶ This growth is based on our ability to produce high quality produce for markets both at home and for export markets.
- ▶ The Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) underpins beef and sheep production in Northern Ireland
- ▶ The introduction of the Food Fortress Feed Materials Scheme is further evidence of how seriously we take food production here.
- ▶ Customers demand food that is safe, wholesome, nutritious and produced to the highest standards and that is exactly what our local beef and sheep industry delivers