

Always Check the FQ Status of Animals before Buying or Selling



Contents

Page 1

Always Check the FQ Status of Animals before Buying or Selling

Page 2

Non-Conformance Update

Page 3

LMC Extends FQAS Mart Clinics

Privacy Policy

Page 4

Electronic Version of FQAS Standard

Noel McNeill joins LMC as new Farm Quality Assurance Manager

1

Farm to Farm Moves-Buyer Beware

It is important when purchasing animals from other farms that the buyer checks the Farm Quality Assurance status of the seller's herd. If a farmer purchases animals from a suspended herd that animal will lose its 'FQ' status and will have to remain on an assured farm(s) for 90 consecutive days to regain its 'FQ' status.

2

Movements to Marts prior to becoming Approved

Issues will also occur when an animal has moved off a farm in the 90 days prior to the herd becoming assured. If, for example, a herd becomes approved, the general rule is that all animals residing on that farm for 90 days or more will have an animal status of 'FQ'. If however an animal is moved out of the herd prior to becoming assured and subsequently returns that animal will have to spend 90 days on farm before it regains 'FQ' status.

3

Movements when Herd is Suspended

Similarly, if a herd becomes suspended, an animal's FQ status is temporarily removed from APHIS/NIFAIS. Irrespective of their destination, if livestock are permitted out of the herd during this period of suspension and subsequently return, the full residency period must be completed in order to achieve FQ status.

Non-Conformance Update

LMC contracts Northern Ireland Food Chain Certification (NIFCC) to inspect against the NIBL FQAS Standard and determine whether certification will be granted. Non-conformances may be raised if a producer does not fully adhere to a specific code in the Standard. These non-conformances must be rectified within the timescale provided for the farm to either become assured or retain its Farm Quality Assured status.

From 1st June 2018 all NIBL FQAS participants were inspected against the

April 2018 version of the FQAS Product Standard and Rules.

Non-conformances have been assessed for the first five months of introduction of the revised standards 2018 and within this period, NIFCC conducted 4145 inspections. *Table 1* details how each of the new standards rank as regards compliance. Rank No. 1 indicates the standard that has resulted in the highest number of non-conformances.



Table 1

Standard	Change	Ranking (1=highest No. of N/Cs)
8.3	Farm Procedures Signing of a declaration to indicate that the Farm Safety elements of the FQAS Standards are understood.	1
2.14	Animal Health Recording the following within the Veterinary Medicine Record: Date withdrawal period ends (to assist producers in determining when cattle/sheep are eligible for slaughter following withdrawal periods for veterinary medicines)	2
	Reason for treatment (to assist producers in considering why certain veterinary medicines are being used)	
	2.4	
3.19	Animal Nutrition Completion of a bait plan and compliance with CRRU guidelines-see Appendix 3e.	4
7.5	Environmental Care Compliance with legal requirement to soil test if using Phosphorus fertilizer and retention of records if importing/exporting slurry.	5
7.7	Environmental Care Evidence that any operator who applies plant protection products (PPP's) such as pesticides must hold a certificate of competence.	6
	Records of application of PPP's.	7
	Evidence that spraying equipment is tested before being used or within 5 years of purchase.	8
	Evidence that agrochemicals are stored, applied and disposed of in a manner that prevents contamination and pollution.	9
2.1	Animal Health Housed calves must be inspected by the farmer/ stockperson at least twice a day.	10

The highest ranking non-conformance is a signed declaration stating understanding and awareness of Farm Safety. This is most likely due to the Standard not being available at inspection. If a copy of the standard is

not available the producer will receive a number of non-conformances as there are various pages within this book which need to be completed e.g. farm safety guidance, training records, emergency notice.

There continues to be non-conformances related to correct recording of veterinary medicines in the Veterinary Medicine Record (VMR) book. It is important that all veterinary medicines are recorded in both the purchase and usage sections of

the VMR. This information is key for the producer to know which animals have been treated and withdrawal periods associated with these to prevent issues with residues.

The animal health activities template was reviewed as part of the three yearly standards review to try to assist with completion of the animal health planning activities for the year however this still appears to be a common non-conformance. A well-considered animal health plan can help to identify

any herd/flock health issues, encourage preventative action, reduce risk of animal diseases and potentially reduce veterinary bills.

Compliance levels with the other standards ranked 4-7 in Table 1 are high.

Producers seeking assistance with non-conformance rectification or preparation prior to an inspection can call the Farm Liaison Officer on the FQAS Helpline number on: 028 9263 3024. The Helpline is open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm.

To obtain copies of FQAS Standard and Rules, VMR books, feed record books or application packs, contact the above number or visit the website:

<https://www.lmcni.com/farm-quality-assurance/documentation/>

LMC Extends FQAS Mart Clinics

In August LMC announced that the FQAS Farm Liaison Service would be extended to include all quality assured marts in the Province to further assist FQAS participants.

Currently, LMC's Farm Liaison Officer, Terry White, runs FQAS mart clinics every month in each county- Ballymena, Kilrea, Omagh, Markethill, Enniskillen and Saintfield- which will continue as normal. The latest addition to the service has seen Terry visiting each of the other quality assured marts.

The FQAS Mart Clinics have been operating since 2012 and have proved very useful to participants/applicants of the scheme who require assistance to join or deal with inspections/non-conformances. The decision was taken to extend this valued service to every quality assured mart in the country over



the course of the year in an attempt to ensure every producer is gets an opportunity for assistance if required. It is well known that some producers can find a number of the scheme requirements, such as the completion of records, a little daunting. The Liaison Service is in place to assist farmers in a face-to-face manner and to ensure that as many producers as possible can continue to benefit from being a member of the scheme.

The daily FQAS helpline that LMC also currently provides is still available alongside the mart clinics. The marts that Terry attends will be published in the LMC Bulletin in Farming Life and participants who have provided a valid mobile number will receive a text. Details will also be available on LMC's website, Twitter and Facebook page.

Privacy Policy

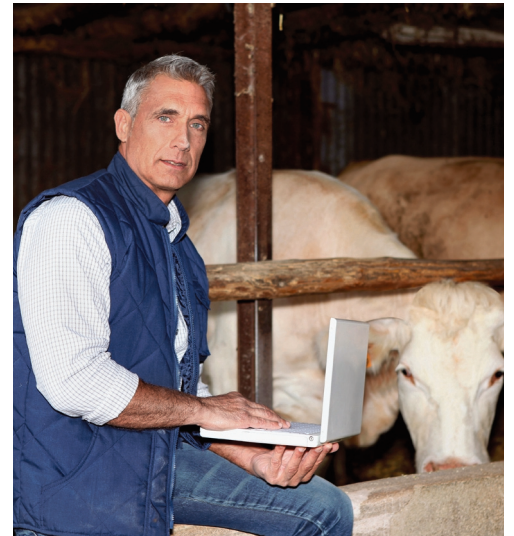
In line with the recent changes to the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in May 2018, LMC provided all participants of FQAS with a copy of the FQAS Privacy Policy which outlines how LMC/NIFCC processes your data in line with the operation of the scheme. It is

important that the personal data held by LMC/NIFCC is accurate. Please keep LMC/NIFCC informed if your personal data changes. The Privacy policy may be amended from time to time – updated versions will be published on the website: www.lmcni.com.



Electronic Version of FQAS Standard

In a bid to keep pace with the rapidly changing technological landscape LMC is now offering an opportunity for members to complete their NIBL FQAS Standard and Rules (2018) booklet electronically. The Standard can be downloaded from the LMC website: www.lmcni.com/fqas and completed on any home computer that can access pdf documents. This means that the Standard can be saved electronically and edited as required.



Noel McNeill joins LMC as new Farm Quality Assurance Manager



LMC is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Farm Quality Assurance Manager whose primary responsibility will be to manage the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS).

Born and raised on a farm in Annaclone, County Down, Noel McNeill has a strong background in the production of beef and lamb and officially began his new role with LMC at the end of November.

Graduating from Queens University, Belfast with a degree in Agricultural Technology, Noel secured a job with

Dunbia Group where he remained for over four years working as a member of the Agricultural Team.

Speaking about his new role as FQAS Manager, Noel confirmed that he is eager to get started and is looking forward to what the future may bring.

"Although the Northern Ireland beef and lamb industry is very much in my blood, my new role is a big change to what I had been doing with Dunbia Group and I'm very excited and ready for the challenge ahead," he said.

"As FQAS Manager I'll have a chance to work on a different aspect of the supply chain and I'm hoping that all my previous experience will help me to do the best job I can on behalf of LMC's stakeholders and the wider industry."

It is no surprise that one of the immediate challenges that Noel will face in his new role is ensuring that NIBL FQAS evolves to meet the needs of the industry post Brexit.

"There's no denying that the uncertainty posed by Brexit is unsettling for the Northern Ireland red meat industry," Noel continued. "My aim going forward is to ensure that NIBL FQAS maintains the same high standards that Northern Ireland is famous for and that it continues to meet the needs of our industry customers."

"Northern Ireland beef and lamb is amongst the best in the world and our high standards are underpinned by NIBL FQAS, a critical tool in marketing beef and lamb on the global platform and gaining access to a range of global markets."

Disclaimer

LMC does not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of any third party information provided in or included with this publication. LMC hereby disclaims any responsibility for error, omission or inaccuracy in the information, misinterpretation or any other loss, disappointment, negligence or damage caused by reliance on third party information. All information contained within the FQAS newsletter is correct at time of writing. To opt out of receiving the FQAS Newsletter, please contact 028 92633024 or email FQAS@lmcni.com