

FQAS Corner

FQAS Recognised by Soil Association Food for Life Catering Mark

The Food for Life Catering Mark is a Soil Association award scheme which supports caterers who deliver fresh food which is free from undesirable additives and better animal welfare standards. Caterers who have gained the Catering Mark use unprocessed, seasonal produce and a growing proportion of local and organic ingredients, high welfare meat and sustainable fish.

The main principles of the Catering Mark are: fresh food you can trust, sourcing of environmentally sustainable and ethical food, championing local food producers and making healthy eating easier. The Catering Mark award scheme works on a certain set of standards in order to be classified as a bronze, silver or gold certification.

All meat on the menu at these approved catering establishments whether they are hospitals, restaurants, nurseries, schools and universities must be from farms which satisfy UK welfare standards. As of January 2012, the Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) has been added to the list of accredited welfare assurance schemes where meat can be sourced from to qualify for holding the Catering Mark. Red Tractor (AFS), Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL) are also approved welfare schemes for the Catering Mark.

The Northern Ireland Assembly has become the first organisation in the country to achieve the prestigious bronze Food for Life Catering Mark for all of the meals served in Parliament Buildings.

