



Dear valued Beef and Lamb member,

Thank you for being part of the Red Tractor Beef and Lamb assurance scheme.

These comprehensive standards underpin our industry's strength and credibility, securing its future as a world-leader in animal health and welfare and responsible medicines use.

They have been written, reviewed and approved by our Technical Advisory Committee, which is made up of farmer representatives, leading industry experts and supply chain stakeholders, and our Sector Board.

Some standards have been introduced or revised to help our members adapt to changes in legislation or meet evolving supply chain demands.

We are pleased to have consensus on advancing our sector in many important areas, including bringing an end to tethered housing systems and wider use of analgesic and anaesthetic when carrying out husbandry procedures.

Agreement has also been reached on managing BVD through an eradication programme detailed in your herd health plan. Initially this is a recommendation, but from October 2022 it will become a standard.

These are necessary standards for our members as they will drive our sector forward, carefully balancing the evolving needs of consumers, farmers, processors and retailers.

In an ever-changing world, Red Tractor assurance is your definitive point of reference for peace of mind that your farm business meets key requirements to supply the food chain.

For example, your scheme aligns with the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) Code of Practice, meaning you can purchase and use effective rodenticides without the extra cost of training and licensing.

Building on the sector's reputation on antibiotic use, Red Tractor's medicine standards align with the new Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA) Alliance. This helps to deliver against the industry's commitment to use antibiotics responsibly, improve staff training and minimise the development of antibiotic resistance.

With ever-increasing interest and scrutiny of how food is produced, compliance with these standards not only serves to protect the reputation of your own farm, but the entire sector in which you play a vital part.

Here's to a secure and sustainable future for British farming.

Best wishes,

Alistair Mackintosh

Chairman, Red Tractor Beef and Lamb sector board