



Member Matters - August 2023

All the latest news from Red Tractor.



From The CEO

Introduction from Red Tractor CEO Jim Moseley

Here's your August *Member Matters*, which reports on Red Tractor returning to TV, how Red Tractor and Tesco are combining dairy farm audit visits and how Red Tractor is helping the industry retain access to urea, plus much more.

Dear Member,

Unseasonably wet weather has kept many combines off your fields for much of the summer, which is difficult and frustrating, so I hope you'll see the following as some good news which may help to 'lighten the load'.

You've heard consistently over recent months about how Red Tractor continues to seek every opportunity to reduce the audit burden for members. This month we have two great examples of how we are making progress against that agenda.

The announcement that Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group auditing will be managed by Red Tractor

from this November will lighten the load for 450 members in the dairy sector.

As reported by Farmers Guardian last week, we are also working with Defra to minimise the time you have to spend on demonstrating compliance with the Red Tractor standards if you are an English livestock farmer participating in the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. We are in the early stages of this which follows actions we have already taken to improve the dairy, beef and lamb standard manuals to reduce duplication and we hope to be announcing further improvements to lighten the load for farmers towards the end of the year.

I'm excited to see our advertising campaign back on TV next month. It's a great opportunity for us to remind people how hard farmers continue to work to meet Red Tractor Standards and deliver responsibly produced, high quality products to the market.

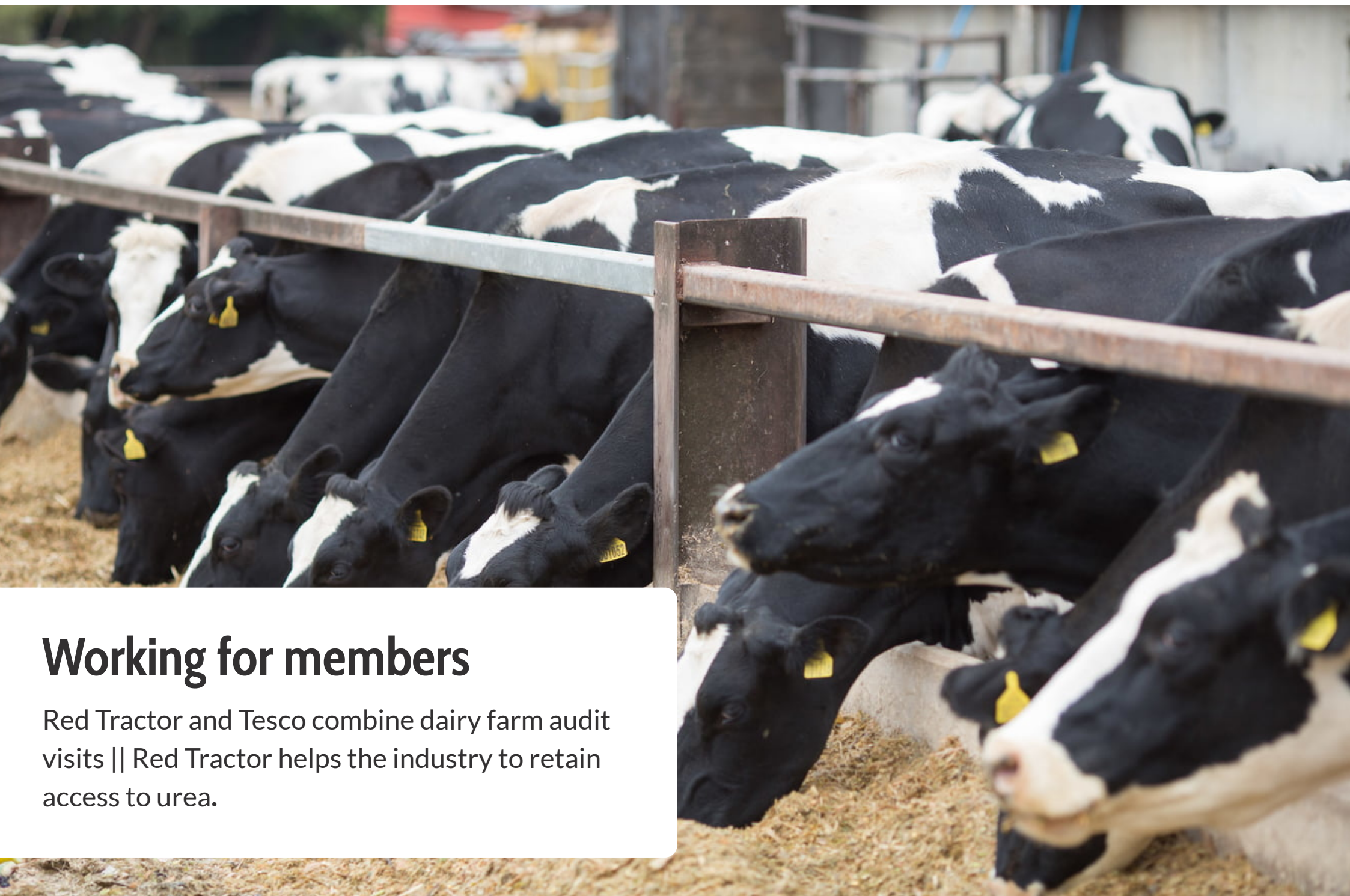
Best wishes,

Jim Moseley



Jim Moseley, Red Tractor CEO

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our survey into the new format of Member Matters. We are taking on board your suggestions wherever we can.



Working for members

Red Tractor and Tesco combine dairy farm audit visits || Red Tractor helps the industry to retain access to urea.

Red Tractor and Tesco combine dairy farm audit visits

From November this year Red Tractor will audit the physical elements of the Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group Livestock Code Practice at the same time as completing the farms routine Red Tractor assessment.

Combining these audits will lighten the load for 450 Tesco Sustainable Dairy Group (TSDG) members concerned.

Thomas Atkins, Tesco Agriculture Manager, commented: "Following a service provider review we have now agreed that future TSDG auditing will be managed via Red Tractor. Moving forwards future TSDG audits will be completed at the same time as dairy farmers' routine Red Tractor assessment.

"We have reviewed the TSDG standards and removed a number of standards which we believe

duplicate the Red Tractor Dairy Standard. We are really proud of the work TSDG farmers do to prioritise health and welfare on their farms. We continue to work closely with our dairy to ensure high welfare standards whilst looking to cut red tape where possible."

Dairy farmer and Tesco supplier Will Hosford, commented on the news: "This is a welcome change for Tesco dairy farmers like me, as it means we no longer have to have a separate annual TSDG visit by another inspector. The Red Tractor audit is the only one we need where the TSDG elements will also be checked."



"Future TSDG auditing will be managed via Red Tractor." Tom Atkins, Tesco Agriculture Manager

Philippa Wiltshire, Red Tractor Head of Operations, commented: "Tesco giving responsibility to Red Tractor for their auditing moving forward is a huge vote of confidence in the way Red Tractor operates."

"We are always looking to strike a balance between the level of assurance that food customers and retailers need to demonstrate to consumers and finding ways to reduce the audit burden for farmers. Technology is improving Red Tractor's ability to reduce administration and duplication for members allowing them to share documents and data where necessary with their customers. We are keen to offer other businesses in the Red Tractor supply chain similar opportunities to help and support our farmer members."

This is an example of the benefits of Red Tractor membership, and how it can lighten the load for farmers.

As part of Tesco's acknowledgement of Red Tractor, dairy producers will upload TSDG documentation onto The Portal – Red Tractor's digital records tool. Files uploaded to The Portal will be reviewed by processors allowing the on-farm audits to really focus on animal husbandry.

This acknowledgement echoes Tesco's 2018 recognition of Red Tractor's Fresh Produce

standards as being equivalent to it Nurture scheme, benefitting around 800 Red Tractor fruit and vegetable suppliers.



"A huge vote of confidence in the way RT operates." Philippa Wiltshire, Red Tractor Head of Operations

Industry asks Red Tractor to help retain access to urea

Earlier this year, Farming Minister Mark Spencer warned that if the urea industry doesn't self-regulate usage this year, regulations might be imposed by Defra.

The government consultation on reducing ammonia emissions from solid urea fertilisers ended in January 2021.

To support self-regulation, the industry asked Red Tractor to introduce a standard in on-farm schemes next year which will demonstrate responsible use of uninhibited urea fertiliser.

Starting April 1, 2024, urea-containing fertilisers must only be applied in England under specific requirements [outlined here](#). Non-compliant businesses post-April 1, 2024, will need to undergo the NEW BASIS Module: [Reducing Ammonia Emissions](#).

This module equips farmers with knowledge and tools to lower ammonia emissions from manufactured fertilisers, organic materials in livestock settings, storage, and land application.

Nitrogen pollution is a significant concern for the environment. An effective industry solution to managing urea will help to mitigate its negative impact on water quality, air pollutants, soil health and plant species, which will contribute to a healthier and more balanced environment.

(Note: Farmers in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales can apply fertiliser containing urea (solid and liquid) as per relevant legislation.)

NFU Deputy President, Tom Bradshaw said 'We have informed Defra that the industry self-regulation approach to the use of uninhibited urea fertiliser under a new Red Tractor standard will be enforced from 1 April 2024.



Tom Bradshaw, NFU Deputy President

The NFU and industry partners fought hard for two years to achieve a robust and pragmatic industry-led approach, without this, the clear proposal from Defra was an outright ban on the use of uninhibited urea fertilisers.'

He added 'With the Government's Clean Air strategy targeting, among other things, a reduction in ammonia emissions, farming must demonstrate we can play our part in reducing emissions while maintaining competitiveness.

Demonstrating responsible use of urea fertiliser will show government that we can act responsibly and hopefully open the door to other industry-led solutions.'



News-In-Brief

Red Tractor returns to TV || APHA seeking help
for BSE risk status || Calf Week approaches ||
Defra Update - SFI Payments

Red Tractor returns to TV

Red Tractor is back on live TV next month as the 'Farmed with Care' campaign returns for the second time this year.

The adverts share a series of proof points that demonstrate how Red Tractor ensures food is responsibly produced and meets the scheme's rigorous standards.

"When the Red Tractor's there, your food's farmed with care".

The advertising campaign reminds consumers and deepens their understanding about why they can trust products carrying the Red Tractor logo.

Research has found that Red Tractor is the most trusted assurance scheme in the UK, with seven out of ten main shoppers aware of the logo, seeing it as an independent source they can trust.

[Watch all the ads on our website](#)



Watch again: In this member webinar from March this year, the Red Tractor team explains how we promote your produce



Tractor Fact: "Personal vet"



Tractor Fact: "Rain or shine"

APHA still seeking help for BSE risk status

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is still reaching out to cattle farmers as they make strides towards achieving negligible BSE risk status.

Given the historical impact of BSE in the UK, the entire industry has a significant interest in preventing any recurrence of the disease and associated human health risks. Attaining negligible BSE status assures consumers, domestically and internationally, that the UK's beef products are safe for consumption.

The UK's substantial beef industry relies on both domestic and international markets for trade. Gaining and maintaining negligible BSE status is important for wide access to global markets. Many countries have strict import requirements related to BSE risk, and having a favourable status will enhance the opportunities for UK beef around the world.

Moving from controlled to negligible BSE risk status calls for a robust display of effective BSE surveillance and comprehensive mitigation measures.

To support the change in status APHA needs to assess the number of silos or similar loose feed containers that predate the 1996 feed ban and are still in use on cattle farms or have been used

[**CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY.**](#)

recently. They have developed a brief survey to investigate this. Your participation is extremely valuable in ensuring the accuracy and effectiveness of this risk assessment process.



Third calf week approaches

GB Calf Week taking place from 13-20 September, is a week-long campaign by AHDB and the NFU focusing on dairy beef genetics and TB calves.

In the past three years, in part thanks to changes in Red Tractor standards, the strategy has driven significant progress in breeding healthy calves for specific purposes within the dairy or beef supply chains. Breeding calves with an end market in sight and maximising the value of each calf is a key component to the profitability of dairy enterprises.

Depending on where you are in the country, bTB may be something you are having to deal with regularly or a threat that rears its head once every four years. The GB Calf Strategy group has worked to reduce obstacles for TB-affected producers, leading to small yet impactful changes that enhance flexibility and demonstrate collaboration between the industry and government in tackling TB.

The week will begin at [UK Dairy Day](#) in Telford, followed by on-farm events and a social media weekend where farmers can discuss challenges, solutions, and engage with industry experts.

**[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT'S
ON DURING THE WEEK HERE](#)**



Defra Update - SFI Payments

As part of the Farming Innovation Programme, DEFRA has announced it will provide an additional £14 million worth of funding.

Applications will close Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 11am and eligible projects must have a total cost of between £1 million and £3 million.

This funding is designed to encourage collaboration between agricultural businesses and researchers, progression towards net zero, and to develop solutions which improve the overall productivity through new technology and practical solutions to farming practices.

[CLICK HERE FOR ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE](#)

Targeting Continuous Improvement

Thank you to all the members who shared their feedback on Member Matters in our second survey following the move to the new format (supported by Turtl) to make our content easier to access and navigate.

More than two-thirds rated the overall quality of the publication and the variety of topics covered as

helpful. More than two-thirds also rated the new format of Member Matters as helpful. We'll continue to review and look for ways to make improvements.

The team are also ready to support with any technical challenges in any way they can.

If you have further feedback, please drop us an email to Member Help: memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk.





On The Road

Annual Cumbria Farmer Awards showcases
farming talent || Red Tractor at UK Dairy Day

Annual Cumbria Farmer Awards showcases farming talent.

The 2023 Cumbria Farmer Awards brought together some of the county's most outstanding farmers and food producers at Wigton on Friday 18th August.

The winner of the Red Tractor Judges Choice award at the glittering event was the Taylor family and their Eden Farm Rapeseed Oil. Farming close to Penrith, the Taylors grow 400 acres of varied arable crops and run a flock of over 400 breeding sheep, all Red Tractor assured.

They impressed the judges with their passion about British produce, food traceability and the field to fork experience.



Red Tractor Technical Manager Jemma Holden (right) and the Taylors

RT at UK Dairy Day

[UK Dairy Day](#) is set to take place on 13th September at the International Centre in Telford.

A key gathering for the dairy industry the event offers attendees a platform for networking and learning, plus the opportunity to see cutting-edge developments in the sector. Key representatives from the team will be available to talk about the standards and all things Red Tractor.

Free to attend, the event promises to deliver a wealth of knowledge and interactions that are indispensable for anyone invested in the dairy trade.



Thank you for reading
Member Matters - August 2023

We are happy to help via memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk.