



Member Matters – Winter Edition 2023

All the latest news from Red Tractor



From the CEO

A truly independent review



Welcome to your Winter 2023 edition of Member Matters, in which we explore some of the benefits of your Red Tractor membership and take you behind the scenes of how, when activists strike, we defend farms that comply with our core standards.

Dear Member,

I want to start with brief comments regarding the NFU's review of Red Tractor Governance. Despite what you may have read in the agricultural press, the review is truly independent and my thanks to Minette Batters (NFU President) for emphasising that in her own recent comments.

The NFU has commissioned the review and the scope and remit has

been agreed with Red Tractor's owners. Those owners are: the NFU, the farming unions of Ulster and Scotland, AHDB, Dairy UK and the British Retail Consortium.

So, Red Tractor is the subject of the review, not the designer... or the owner!

At the end of October, Red Tractor confirmed our complete support for the Governance Review and our commitment to cooperating fully to ensure openness and pace.

Since then the NFU has appointed consultants Campbell Tickell to complete the review. Campbell Tickell are a management consultancy, specialising in governance, and advising charitable, not-for-profit and public sector organisations.

Campbell Tickell's work has already started and the NFU has said that the

emerging findings will be presented to NFU Council at the end of January. The final report should be made available in mid-February. Clearly, we will keep you updated once these findings are available.

In the meantime, it is Christmas next week! Let me take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy holiday season.

Best Wishes,

Jim Moseley

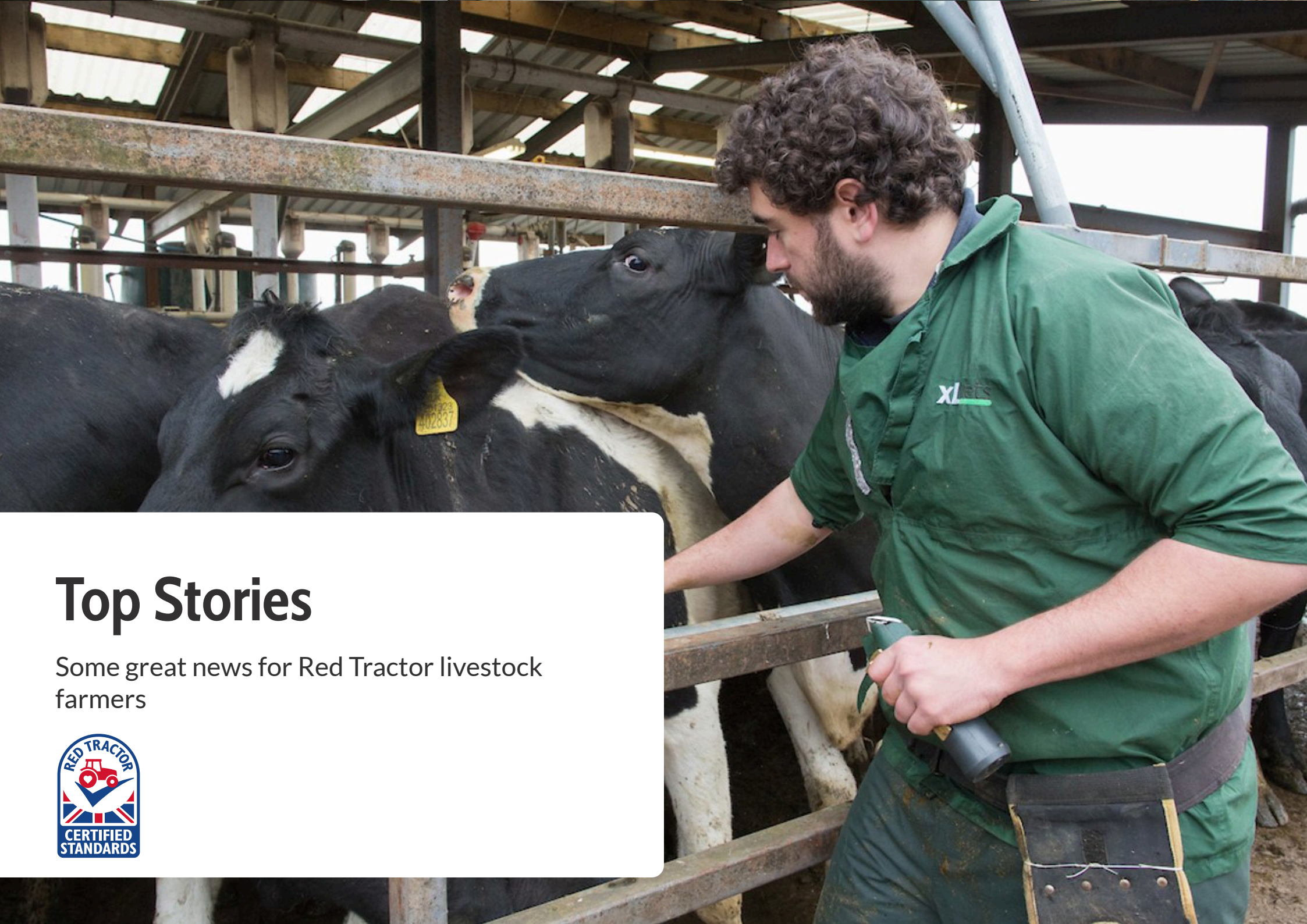
Red Tractor Chief Executive



Jim Moseley, Red Tractor CEO



Watch: Merry Christmas from Red Tractor



Top Stories

Some great news for Red Tractor livestock farmers



Red Tractor membership covers new vet attestation rules

From December 13th new legislation mandates that all UK animal product exports to the EU must have a veterinary attestation.

As a Red Tractor assured farmer – you've already fulfilled these requirements.

If you are selling livestock for slaughter and the processor exports or sells any products of animal origin to the EU, they will need to see proof that the animals have come from a farm that has had regular (at least annual) veterinary visits.

Red Tractor stands as a qualifying scheme - we prioritise animal health and welfare as one of our core principles. We know that effective

and purposeful health planning relies on management techniques that foster ongoing improvement through a proactive management system.

As a mandatory component of the Red Tractor standards your vet is already integrated in your health planning.

So, you do not need to do anything additional; no other vet declarations

are required – simply confirm to your buyer that you are Red Tractor assured.

This is a great illustration of the advantages associated with your Red Tractor membership. It demonstrates

how by being a Red Tractor farmer the burden is eased for you by offering an exemption from additional bureaucratic hurdles.

The new legislation came into force on December 13th.



Red Tractor facilitates market access to California for UK pig farmers

Red Tractor has recognised a major milestone for UK farmers in the pig sector, as NSF becomes one of the first UK certification bodies to offer California's Proposition 12 (Prop 12) certification for UK pork.

As part of Prop 12, the US state of California has introduced improved welfare requirements covering the housing of sows and gilts. From 1 January 2024 producers supplying California must have a valid certificate of Prop 12 compliance.

The Prop 12 requirements include increased freedom of movement and housing space. Red Tractor's existing outdoor-bred Core Standards for pigs already meet these new higher welfare requirements in California.

Indoor breeding farms providing

additional space can also achieve Prop 12 certification.

As part of its ongoing work to achieve maximum market access for farmers, during 2023 Red Tractor has been focused on securing this export opportunity for UK pig farmers and processors.



California: A new pork market

Red Tractor CEO, Jim Moseley commented:

"Market access is a key goal for food chain assurance and Red Tractor has been working closely on this with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and NSF over recent months. I'm delighted that we can now offer UK pig farmers access to this important market for selling safe and traceable UK pork.

"We have explored all the different options for achieving this, including whether the CDFA could simply recognise the Red Tractor scheme directly. However, Californian legislation requires the independent assessment and certification body to be certified by CDFA.

"That's why news that NSF has now been certified by CDFA is so significant. It makes it very easy for pig farmers and their processors to access the California market from January next year. As part of their existing Red Tractor assessment, they will be able to simply add the Prop 12 checks, where required, and have access to this important market for their pork.

"This is an important milestone for the pigs sector in this country. Hopefully it can be the start of a productive and ongoing new trading relationship. We're encouraging the CDFA to visit the UK so that they can see first-hand the high standards our Red Tractor farmers work to."



Now Prop 12 compliant: Red Tractor bred pigs

Dale Newitt, Director of Supply Chain Food Safety, NSF said:

"NSF's Prop 12 certification means British pork producers can now access the Californian market with greater confidence. This aligns perfectly with NSF's mission to improve and protect human health, as healthier animals mean safer, higher quality meat for consumers. California consumes nearly 15% of all US pork, yet only produces 1%, so it relies heavily on imports from other states and internationally, which, in 2022, the US imported over £1.3 billion pork products."



News in brief

Defending the standards you work to and slurry storage grants



Defending the standards you work to

Red Tractor will always defend its standards and the farming businesses which comply with them.

Working behind the scenes over recent weeks, the team have been challenging more claims by animal rights activists in the media.

Red Tractor defended the industry when The Observer asked us about Open Cages' take on last year's pre-slaughter broiler death statistics. 2022 was of course an unprecedentedly difficult year for the poultry industry across Europe. Both Avian Flu and the extreme heat affected all birds, no matter the breed.

In our statement and briefing to The Observer – and working alongside the British Poultry Council – we were able to establish the facts and secure

balance in the eventual write up.

Anti-livestock campaigners Viva! targeted a Red Tractor dairy farm, alleging to the Metro newspaper mistreatment of cattle and even cannibalism. Following our team's thorough investigations of the video footage provided by Viva and then an on-site spot check of the farm to verify the footage and veterinary paperwork, we found no evidence of



TheObserver

systemic issues on farm.

While Viva!'s claims ended up in print, the investigations provided Red Tractor with evidence to defend the farm in the Metro's article.

This evidence base is vital when dealing with the press, as it enables us to robustly defend farms that comply with standards from allegations made by animal welfare activists.



**CLICK TO LISTEN TO THE
EPISODE, "FINE PRINT"**

A better story:

In BBC Radio 4's new series, Fed, celebrity doctor Chris Van Tulleken's goes behind the scenes of the UK's chicken industry. As part of his investigation into the UK's most popular food, Red Tractor took him to a Moy Park chicken unit in Lincolnshire where he shadowed a Red Tractor assessment.

His report (episode 5) is an excellent reflection on the UK's chicken industry, which is underpinned by Red Tractor standards.

Packaging errors

How we move quickly and keep pressure on retailers to get things right.

You might have noticed on social media last month, images of misprinted packs of spinach in a Lidl store. Red Tractor started an investigation as soon as we became aware.

Within two days this had already included an unannounced check on the relevant packing site. We have established that following human error the Red Tractor logo has been

used incorrectly by Lidl's supply chain. All relevant packs were identified and Lidl confirmed none were on the shelf.

We take cases of this nature very seriously, and we expect Lidl to take action with their supply chain to improve processes and controls. Lidl have agreed to investigate further and our own investigation is ongoing.



Introducing our food heroes

This month we published our new Food Heroes book.



Watch: Food Heroes teaser

A celebration of British household brands, foodservice operators and food manufacturers that licence their products against the rigorous standards that Red Tractor Assured food and drink is produced to.

From January we'll be running a new social media campaign aimed at shoppers that uses this content to showcase our licencees in their own

words and illustrate why they have chosen to partner with Red Tractor.

The Red Tractor logo is on many of the brands we know and love, a symbol that the food in our homes is safe, traceable and farmed with care.

Keep your eyes peeled for our new consumer-facing campaign.

Bluetongue warning

Farmers in the UK are being issued a warning regarding the bluetongue virus.

CLICK: VISIT THE APHA WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON BLUETONGUE.

This caution comes after the disease has been detected in several cows in Kent. While peak midge activity is coming to an end and not all susceptible animals immediately exhibit signs of infection the consequences of Bluetongue can be serious, even fatal.

Stay vigilant and take precautions to safeguard livestock.

The first incident had been detected in one cow at a farm in Canterbury, Kent, on November 11. Defra and APHA confirmed the cow had been culled with a 10km temporary control zone in operation around the affected farm to restrict the movement of susceptible animals.

However, four more cases have been identified at two additional new farms in Canterbury, both within 5km of the first finding.

Slurry storage Defra update

Defra has announced that farmers in England can apply for the new round of the Slurry Infrastructure grant.

£74 million of grant funding is available in Round 2, which is more than double the funding offered in Round 1.

The grant seeks to help farmers invest in improved slurry infrastructure to tackle water pollution, improve air quality and make better use of organic nutrients. It forms part of a total £200 million being invested by Defra in infrastructure and equipment to

tackle agricultural pollution from slurry over the agricultural transition period.

Farmers can apply for grants of £25k - £250k towards different types of slurry store, slurry store cover and supporting equipment. Several improvements have been made to the scheme following feedback from industry after the first round. These include an increase in the amount of storage pig farmers can apply for; offering grants towards a slurry separator; and the option to retrofit covers onto existing stores.

The grant forms part of the government's Plan for Water which sets out more investment and stronger regulation to tackle every source of water pollution.

CLICK: READ THE FULL DEFRA SLURRY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT GUIDANCE AND WHAT'S ON OFFER

APHA guidance: Reducing disease risk

The Animal and Plant Health Agency have stressed in latest guidance the importance of reducing

The guidance covers the choice of appropriate storage locations, cleaning and decommissioning of silos used before 1st August 1996, and regular cleaning of all feed storage facilities.

The APHA also is advising farmers to empty and clean storage units before

**CLICK: VISIT THE
APHA WEBSITE FOR
MORE INFORMATION**



new consignments arrive, at least every 12 months, using methods that minimise contamination and avoid moisture and dust generation.

RUMA Conference 2023 - catch up

Recordings of this year's Responsible use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA) Conference are now

Each event featured panel discussions covering a range of topics relating to the responsible use of medicines in agriculture.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES IN AGRICULTURE ALLIANCE
ruma

The recordings feature industry speakers who provided their insight into a variety of responsible use topics, including the global and UK state of medicine use in agriculture, the environmental implications of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and the importance of expanding approaches to AMR beyond livestock.

**CLICK: WATCH THE
RUMA CONFERENCE
EVENT RECORDINGS**

Welsh farmers: Make your views heard

The Welsh Government is now in the final stages of its consultation on the [Sustainable Farming Scheme](#), the biggest shift in Welsh agricultural policy for a generation or more.

**CLICK: VIEW THE FULL
CONSULTATION ON THE WELSH
GOVERNMENT WEBSITE**

Welsh Government has launched its consultation on the final proposals for the Sustainable Farming Scheme – the scheme set to replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) legacy schemes, including the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), from 2025.

**THIS WAY TO
RED TRACTOR**

On The Road

We have been attending regional NFU meetings
and hearing your views on lots of issues



Engaging with NFU members

We always take the opportunity to meet with NFU members and provide updates on the all latest from Red Tractor.

Last month, Kit Papworth (Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet Sector Chair) and Philippa Wiltshire (Head of Operations) attended two regional NFU crops member meetings in the Midlands and Eastern regions, engaging in valuable discussions with around 80 members across both meetings.

These meetings provided a good opportunity for open two-way discussion and covered a variety of topics including imported grain, standards for the animal feed sector, Renewable Energy Directive, Urea, RT governance and the Greener Farms commitment environmental module.

Kit and Philippa were able to answer members questions and provided explanation on the history behind the current crops standards which enable member access to multiple markets through one single annual assessment.

Kit added: "Meetings like this, engaging directly with our members is really important so we can listen to their feedback on the Red Tractor scheme and answer any questions they may have."

Let us know if you have an event you would like a member of the Red Tractor team to attend: memberhelp@redtractor.org.uk



Kit Papworth (left) and Philippa Wiltshire (right)

Thank you for reading

Member Matters - November/ December 2023