

Benefits of the NDFAS

This leaflet covers the following:

- A Scheme developed by the industry
- Scheme membership - What does it offer?
- Why consumers should be interested in the NDFAS
 - The 'Little Red Tractor'
 - Credibility
 - Standards
 - Consistency of farm assessment
- How the Scheme can help to ensure the delivery of a quality product

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See the NDFAS website at www.ndfas.org.uk.

Try taking a tour of the NEW NDFAS virtual farm!

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A Scheme Developed by the Industry

In 1997 the steering committee for the National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme was established. The steering committee was comprised of representatives from key sectors of the dairy industry who now form the Board of NDFAS Ltd.

The steering committee developed a set of standards that addressed both animal welfare and milk production practices in an attempt to provide consumers with greater confidence and further reassurance about the quality of milk and dairy products that they buy.

Scheme membership - What does it offer?

Scheme membership is through the milk purchaser and provides:

- An opportunity for dairy farmers to demonstrate that they can meet a high standard of production.
- A mark of quality for the end product.
- An accepted and standardised system of operation which is transparent and auditable.

Why Should Consumers be Interested in the National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme?

The 'Little Red Tractor'

The Board of the NDFAS has taken the decision to join Assured Food Standards and now having met all of the qualifying criteria for this initiative have achieved full membership. Milk and dairy products produced by NDFAS registered milk purchasers can now bear the 'British Farm Standard' logo, illustrated right:



The British Farm Standard is a mark of real quality - only products that have been produced to the highest specification are eligible to use the logo.

Credibility

This new scheme currently represents more than 80% of active G.B. dairy farmers through milk purchaser membership of the Scheme.

Besides having the backing of the major supermarkets, the Scheme also offers producers the option of approval for assurance to the NDFAS standards simultaneously with accreditation to the RSPCA's welfare labelling scheme, Freedom Food - via the one inspection.

Standards

The farm assessment standards of the National Scheme sets a benchmark for consistent standards across milk purchasers who have registered with the NDFAS.

By developing a national standard, this Scheme can now claim to have a consistent approach to dairy Farm Assurance throughout Great Britain.



Consistency of Farm Assessment

Farm assessment personnel are trained by a single, Lantra registered training team. As well as sitting a written exam, assessment personnel are:

- Accompanied on farm for two farm visits as part of the training programme which needs to be successfully completed.
- Audited every 15-18 months.
- Provided with regular updates regarding changes to Scheme standards.

How will the Scheme help to ensure that a quality product (which considers animal welfare and the environment as well as milk hygiene and quality) will be delivered?

This will be achieved through the following:

- Carrying out regular audits of milk purchaser members of the Scheme.
- Carrying out random auditing of farms that have been accredited.
- Achieving UKAS accreditation for the Scheme.