

Background to the NDFAS

This leaflet covers the following:

- What do the NDFAS standards address?
- Founding members of the NDFAS
- Farmers, milk purchasers and retailers working together for the benefit of the consumer
- What is the current position of the Scheme?
- How are checks carried out?
- Additional responsibilities of the Scheme
- NDFAS Website

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Further information available at:

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

Try taking a tour of the NEW NDFAS virtual farm!

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Introduction

The National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme is the main assurance scheme for dairy farmers. With a number of different assurance schemes for other (non-dairy) forms of produce, it can be difficult for consumers to keep track of which scheme monitors which products. This factsheet has been prepared with a view to providing the consumer with information about dairy farm assurance.

What do the NDFAS standards address?

The Scheme is basically a set of dairy farm production standards that must be achieved and maintained in order to claim Farm Assured status. The production standards that are addressed include:

- Hygiene & Food Safety
 - Housing
 - Plant & Equipment
 - Feedstuffs & Water
 - Herd Health
 - Stockmanship & Training.
 - Contingency Procedures.
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Founding Members of the NDFAS

The National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme was developed by the following bodies:

- National Farmers Union (NFU).
- Dairy Industry Federation (DIF).
- Federation of Milk Groups (FMG).
- British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA).

Farmers, Milk Purchasers and Retailers Working Together for the Benefit of the Consumer

One of the main purposes of the Scheme is to re-assure all consumers of milk and dairy products that checks are in place along the entire milk supply chain, and that these checks could, if necessary, be used to help trace the cause of any problems.



What is the current position of the Scheme?

The Scheme:

- currently represents more than 80% of British dairy farmers.
- is endorsed by the major supermarkets.
- is in the process of joining Assured Food Standards - the organisation which administers the British Farm Standard.

How are the checks carried out?

The operational procedures of the Scheme currently require the following criteria:

- All dairy farms supplying NDFAS registered companies require to be assessed at regular intervals.

- The milk purchaser is responsible for organising farm assessments. Assessment personnel must be trained, certificated and audited on a regular basis.

Additionally, the NDFAS also carries out....

- periodic 'shadow assessments' with all farm assessors to ensure consistency at assessor level.
 - annual random farm audits on the farms that have already been 'National Dairy Farm Assured' to ensure consistency at farm level.
 - Records audits to ensure traceability.
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NDFAS Website

The website (located at www.ndfas.org.uk) contains further information on the operation of the Scheme, all of which is accessible to both the general public and also to milk purchasers who are seeking introductory information on Scheme membership.

