



SCOTTISH  
QUALITY CROPS

# NEWS UPDATES

September 2025

## THE START OF A NEW SCHEME YEAR

As another harvest and another SQC scheme year is almost complete, we wanted to share the latest news from SQC.

2025 has been a significant year for UK farm assurance, with the publication of the Farm Assurance Review.

At SQC, we welcome this work and over the summer have been using the recommendations to review our own scheme: what works well, where we can improve; how we continue to keep farmers' priorities at the heart of what we do – while fulfilling the assurance needs of the supply chain. As a co-op, that focus remains central.

The last few months have also been busy feeding back on other

policy areas pertinent to our scheme and members, including the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and new research being undertaken by AHDB on imports and their related requirements.

As we head into the new scheme year on 01 October, a quick reminder, for any growers still needing to book their assessments, to contact the FIA office so it can be completed before 30 September.

Finally, a huge thank you for working with us over this scheme year – this is what underpins the strength and integrity of the SQC scheme.

We look forward to working with you again for the new scheme year which starts on 01 October 2025.



Teresa Dougall,  
SQC Managing Director

## SQC STRATEGY Year 3 Achievements

We are pleased to have recently published our annual update document outlining what we have achieved over the last year in relation to our SQC Strategy 2022 – 2027.

The focus remains on our assurance scheme and its integrity via four key components:

- Scheme Developments
- Scheme Relevance and Communications
- Our Certification Body, FIA
- SQC Governance

The four key components within the Strategy allow us to ensure growers remain at the core of SQC – ensuring ongoing engagement with and retaining access to a wide range of markets through a pragmatic assurance scheme that meets the needs of the supply chain.

Have a look at what we have delivered and rest assured that we will continue to review what we do for members best interest.

Click [HERE](#) to review the full document and for more details.





Earlier this year, the Farm Assurance Review published its report with key recommendations for farm assurance schemes across the UK. This was to highlight some of the challenges farmers have raised and to ensure that assurance bodies are supporting their farming members effectively. The focus was, in particular, on improving transparency, efficient processes, advances in technology and clear communications.

SQC values the work that has gone into this report – which not only identified issues across farm assurance but proposed potential solutions – via the strategic recommendations and associated actions – which could ultimately prove beneficial across the full supply chain.

Over the last few months, we have reviewed the SQC Assurance Scheme in line with the report's findings, recommendations and proposed actions. Our status on these can be viewed in the attached documents (also available on our website [HERE](#)).

- **FAR Recommendations** provides the SQC view on each of the nine key strategic recommendations in the report
- **FAR Actions** gives the latest SQC status on these activities

## UK Farm Assurance Review

### Where are we at?



As always, if you have any comments or questions on any specific actions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [teresa.dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk](mailto:teresa.dougall@scottishqualitycrops.co.uk)

## Have you signed up yet to our FIA Auditee Portal?

Since its launch, over 1,250 SQC growers have accessed the FIA Auditee portal – and we thank those of you who have taken the time to do this.

Within the new FIA Auditee Portal, you are currently able to download and print your 2025 grain passports. Access to the 2025 grain passport is only phase 1 of this project. So, sign up now...

For those of you who still need to register, please refer to your email from FIA – [no-reply@foodassurance.co.uk](mailto:no-reply@foodassurance.co.uk) – issued week commencing 2 June which contained instructions on how to login and register – we urge you to do so now to make it an easy transition for you as the portal develops.

	<b>STAGE 1</b> <b>Week commencing 2/6/2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will receive an email from "no-reply@foodassurance.co.uk"</li> <li>Email Subject: "Welcome to INTACT Platform"</li> <li>Email contains instructions how to login and register to the FIA Auditee Portal</li> </ul>
	<b>STAGE 2</b> <b>Week commencing 2/6/2025</b> <p>Register to become a user of the FIA Auditee Portal by following the instructions outlined in the above "Welcome to INTACT Platform" email</p>
	<b>STAGE 3</b> <b>Week commencing 8/6/2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FIA will issue a second email from "agriculture@foodassurance.co.uk"</li> <li>Email Subject: "SQC Harvest Passport"</li> <li>Email will inform you that your SQC Grain Passport is available for you to view and download within your FIA Auditee Portal</li> <li>Following receipt of the above email, please log in to your FIA Auditee Portal, proceed to view and download your SQC Grain Harvest Passport following the user guide provided</li> </ul>

**Please Note:**  
To assist with the transition of the new Auditee Portal, a pdf copy of your specific grain harvest passport will also be attached to the above email – allowing quick access to print copies as required.

# SQC STANDARDS

## Full Review Underway

As you know, SQC follows a continuous review process of its Standards – and we are fortunate to be able to do this given SQC's streamlined business structure and co-op model.

Our new Standards document – for scheme year commencing 01 October 2025 – will be with you soon. There are no changes aside from those already promoted via the SQC Standards Addendums (Oct 2024 and May 2025) which took into account a wording change to Standard 2.15 and changes to definitions as required via the EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

In line with the Farm Assurance Review, we are now undertaking a full review of our Standards to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose.

We will be consulting with farmers and the full supply chain over the next few months with the intention to complete our review for 01 October 2026.

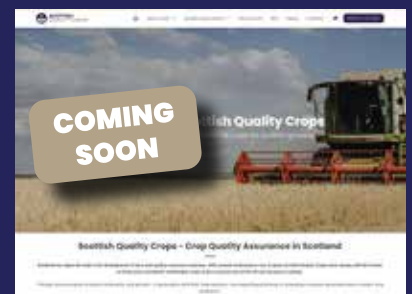


**Review of Scheme Standards currently underway and will be with you soon**

## SQC INDUSTRY CHECKER

We are pleased to announce that the new SQC Industry Checker (replacing the former SQC Member Checker) was formally launched in July.

This allows the supply chain to access accurate information on the assured status of SQC growers – and to receive updates where changes to assured status have been made. We continue to work with the supply chain to ensure that the new system meets their requirements.



## SQC WEBSITE

Your new SQC website is to be launched this Autumn. This will provide easier access to all your SQC documents as well as the latest news and updates.

We have taken on board comments from our assured growers and stakeholders to ensure we keep you updated and that SQC is transparent in promoting how we work – what we do and why we do it.

Communication and collaboration is paramount to how we work and the redesigned website is part of constantly improving this.

More information on this will follow soon.

## REMINDER

All audits for this scheme year need to be complete before 30 September. If you are still awaiting a date, please contact FIA – details as below.

## FIA Contact Details

Telephone: 0131 609 0558 or [info@foodassurance.co.uk](mailto:info@foodassurance.co.uk)  
Website: [sqccrops.co.uk](http://sqccrops.co.uk) (where you will find an enquiry form) or [foodintegrityassurance.co.uk](http://foodintegrityassurance.co.uk)



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