



# Red Tractor Assurance

***Successful roll-out of welfare outcome measures in the Red Tractor Assurance Dairy Scheme***





# UK Farm Assurance

- **Developed in 1990s**
  - Food Safety Act 1990
  - High profile food scares
- **To protect reputation of UK agriculture**



# Why was Red Tractor created?

- By 2000 well established industry owned farm assurance schemes
- No way for consumers to identify farm assured products
- In 2000 Assured Food Standards was created to manage the new Red Tractor logo for food and drink
- The logo was subsequently redesigned in 2003



# Who is Red Tractor Assurance?

- A small not-for profit organisation owned by the UK food and farming industry
  - NFU, NFUS, UFU, AHDB, BRC, DairyUK (FDF)
- Employs a team of 19
- Red Tractor logo found on £14bn UK food and drink



# Red Tractor Standards

- **Red Tractor Assurance sets the following standards:**
  - **Farms**
    - **Beef and Lamb, Dairy, Pigs, Poultry, Fresh Produce, Combinable Crops and Sugar Beet**
  - **Livestock Auction Markets and Collection Centres**
  - **Livestock Transport**
  - **Meat Processors**



# Setting Standards

- **Scope:**
  - Food Safety
  - Traceability and Origin
  - Animal Health and Welfare
  - Environmental Protection
- **Technical Advisory Committees**
  - Made up of qualified experts and experienced stakeholders



# Revising Standards

- Reviewed every three years
- Consultation – giving key stakeholders an opportunity to comment
- Continuous engagement with stakeholders including retailers, food service customers, industry supply chains and farming unions



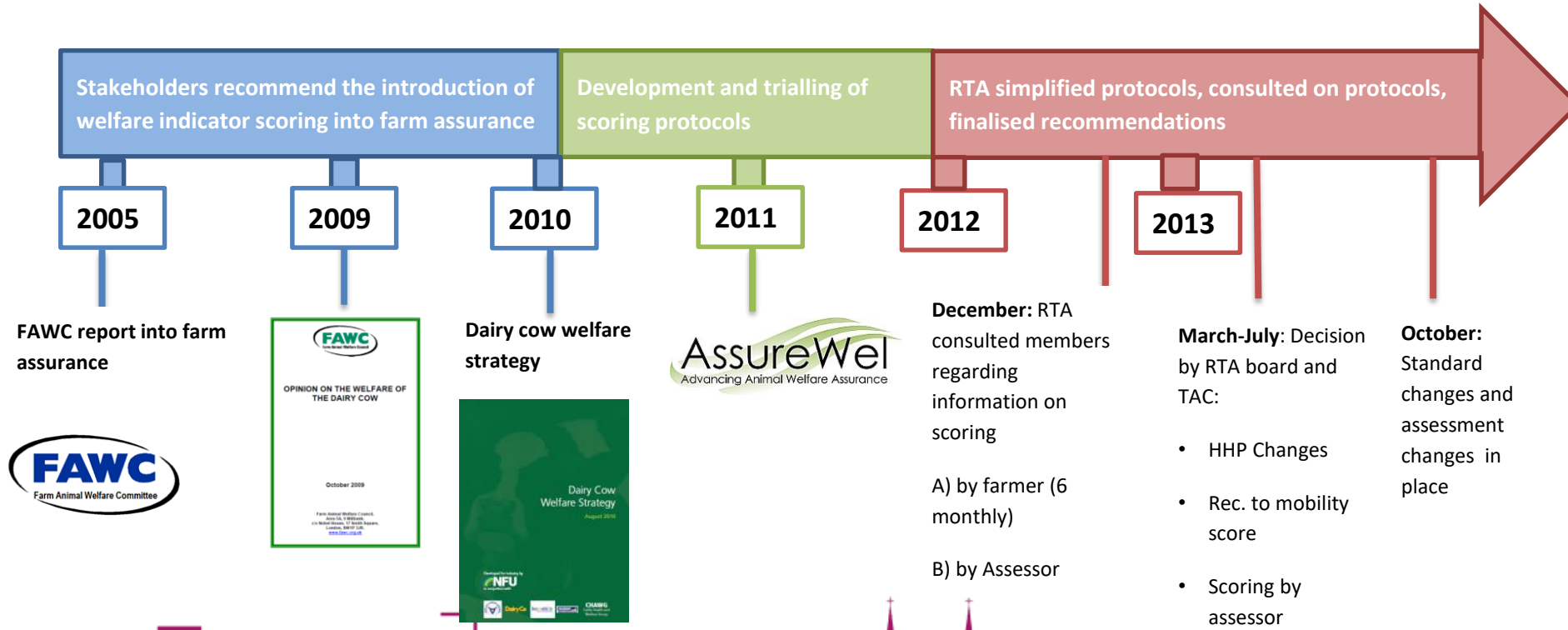


# Red Tractor Assurance Dairy Scheme

- Over **11,000** members across the UK
- Covers **95%** of UK milk production
- UK average herd size **143** (AHDB Dairy)



# Welfare Outcomes



# Assurewel

- **A 6 year collaborative project between Uni of Bristol, Soil Association and RSPCA**
- **Funded by Tubney Trust**
- **Project ended in 2016**
- **Main Aim: to develop a practical system of welfare outcome assessment for the major farm animal species, which could be used in farm assurance schemes**



# Assessment and Certification

- **5 independent certification bodies**
- **320 assessors**
- **Dairy farm assurance assessment every 18 months**
- **Welfare outcome measures assessed at the same time**



# Assessor Training

- **Initial training**
  - All assessors trained by certification bodies
  - Red Tractor online training and ‘ensuring understanding’ tests
  - Assurewel training – classroom/ farm-based and online
- **Ongoing training**
  - Assurewel refresher courses and tests
  - Red Tractor compliance and integrity audits



# WELFARE OUTCOMES SCORESHEET

Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Any cows scored at Pasture?: Y/N

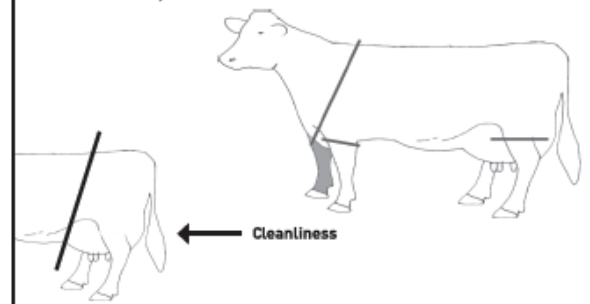
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total No. Cows	
<b>I.D. of cows scored</b>												
<b>BODY CONDITION</b> (Record Thin/ Moderate/ Fat)											Thin:	Fat:
<b>CLEANLINESS</b> (Record Clean/ Dirty)											Dirty:	
<b>HAIRLOSS (H) LESIONS (L) SWELLINGS (S)</b>											Total cows with H, L or S (max 10)	
<b>MOBILITY</b> (Record score 2/ 3)											2's:	3's:
											Total (2's + 3's)	

0cm  2cm

0cm  5cm

Comments:

Locations of H, L or S:



# Individual Cow Observations – Body Condition



**Scoring:**

**Thin = Defra score 1 to less than 2**



**Moderate - Good = Defra score 2 or 3 to less than 4**



**Fat = Defra score 4 or 5**



# Individual Cow Observations - Cleanliness

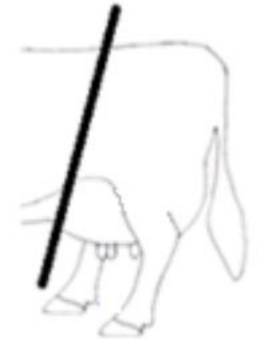
Scoring:

0 = Clean

*No dirt or only minor splashing present*

2 = Very Dirty

*An area of dirtiness (i.e. layer or plaques of dirt) amounting to at least forearm length (40cm) in any dimension*





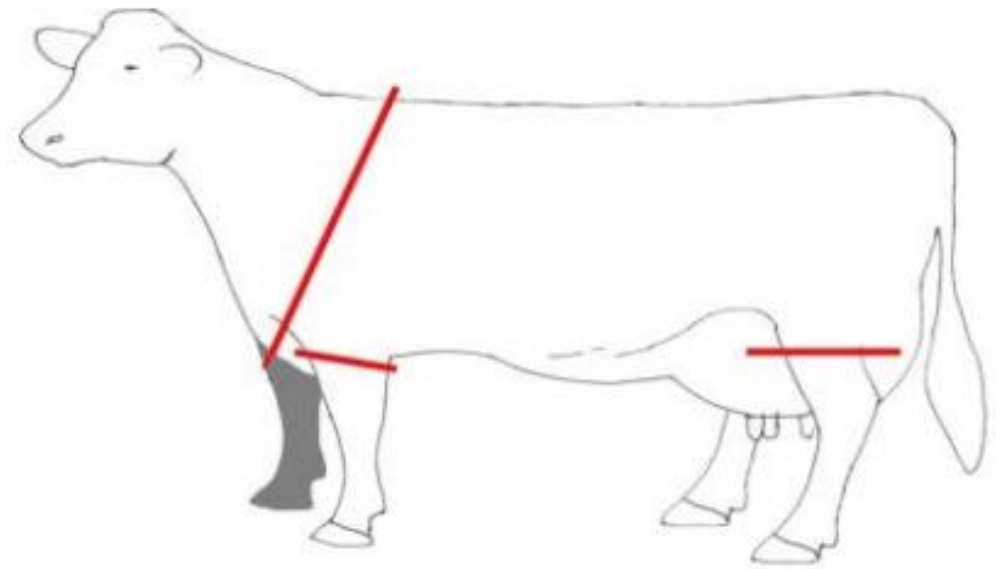
# Individual Cow Observations – Hairloss, Lesions & Swellings

Scoring:

H = Hairloss patches

L = Lesion

S = Swelling



# Individual Cow Observations - Mobility

## Scoring:



### **0/1 = Good/Imperfect mobility**

*Walks with even weight bearing and rhythm on all four feet, with a flat back; long fluid strides possible; or steps uneven (rhythm or weight bearing) or strides shortened; affected limb/s not immediately identifiable*



### **2 = Impaired mobility**

*Uneven weight bearing on a limb that is immediately identifiable and/or obviously shortened stride (usually with an arch to the centre of the back)*



### **3 = Severely impaired mobility**

*Unable to walk as fast as a brisk human pace (cannot keep up with the healthy herd) and signs of impaired mobility (score 2)*

AHDB Dairy Mobility Scoring method



# Action on Welfare Outcome scores

- **No direct relationship with non-conformances**
- **Assessors refer back to input standards e.g. cleanliness to bedding provision**



# Standard recommendations

- **Body Condition Scoring**
- **Mobility Scoring**
  
- **To be carried out by producer, staff member or third party**
- **No effect on certification if not undertaken**



# Data collection

- **From farmer records:**
  - Mastitis: cases per 100 cows per year
  - Lameness: cases per 100 cows per year
  - Culling rate (and subset of involuntary culls – died and killed on farm)
  - Calf mortality (0-24hrs, 24hrs-42 days)



# The farmer's perspective

- **Constructive to have an objective assessment of cow condition and mobility**
- **Even if already scoring as routine or for a retail contract it serves as a sense check**
- **The most practical and applied element of the Red Tractor Audit which farmers can understand**
- **Provides the best snapshot of overall herd health and welfare which can be used to direct the auditor during inspection**



# Conclusions

- **Over 200,000 cows scored against Assurewel Welfare Outcome measures**
- **Huge dataset for analysis**
- **Important to put data into context – compare with other datasets available**
- **Important to use data to improve welfare and inform farmers – benchmarking?**



# Thank you for listening

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