



NIFCC

November 2008

Issue 1

NEWS

Cost Effective Assurance for the Poultry Industry



- ◀ Displaying the certificates that NIFCC will award when auditing the Assured Chicken Production Scheme are Willis Mackey, Agricultural Director, O'Kane Poultry; Valerie McCann, Company secretary, NIFCC; Joe Lawson, Technical Manager, Moy Park and Eric Reid, Production Director, Moy Park.

Northern Ireland Food Chain Certification (NIFCC) has recently won the contract to deliver inspection and certification services, under the Assured Chicken Production Scheme, to the Northern Ireland poultry industry.

Commenting on this development, Colin Duffy, NIFCC Chairman said 'We are delighted to have added the Assured Chicken Production Scheme to our portfolio of assurance services. We are the only non-profit making certification body in GB and this new business is another

significant step forward in our primary objective of delivering cost-effective assurance schemes across the agri-food sector.'

Eric Reid, Production Director of Moy Park, said 'NIFCC put forward a very professional and competitive package which will enable the industry here to maintain its high standards more cost effectively.'

Willis Mackey, Agricultural Director with O'Kane Poultry added 'The auditing standards in the poultry industry ensure consumer

confidence as they are European standards audited by an independent certification body, rather than the poultry companies themselves.'

NIFCC will audit the entire poultry production chain from breeding farms, hatchery, and broiler growers through to transportation and slaughter. The audit visit is a very thorough process which covers a comprehensive list of criteria to be inspected. This covers, traceability, the farm plan, emergency plans, health and hygiene, feed and water, environment,

production records and depopulation of the houses.

Joe Lawson, Technical Manager with Moy Park pointed out that the assurance scheme also includes the five freedoms introduced in 1992 by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. This includes freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury or disease; freedom from fear and distress and freedom to display most normal patterns of behaviour.





Northern Ireland Food Chain Certification (NIFCC) is an independent certification body established by the Northern Ireland Agri-food industry. **NIFCC** is accredited by UKAS to the European Product Certification Standard EN 45011.

NIFCC currently provide inspection and certification services to quality assurance schemes for Beef and Lamb, Chicken, Cereals, Livestock Transport and Livestock Markets.

Northern Ireland Beef & Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme



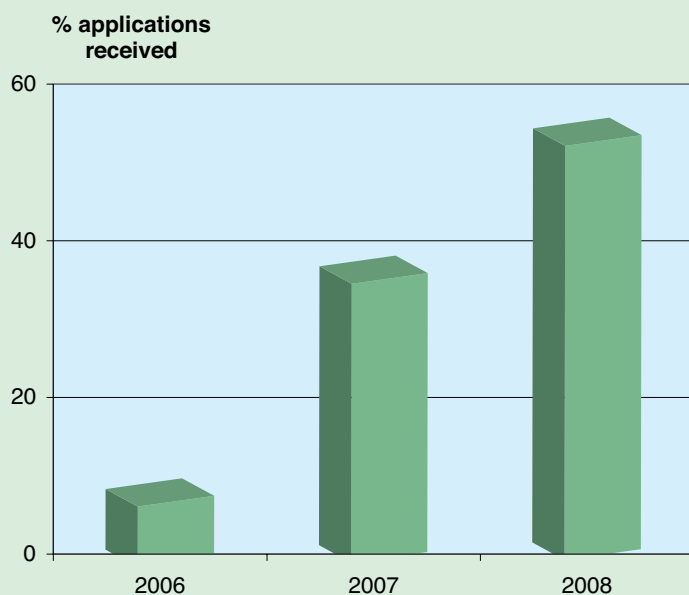
In the last 12 months, an average of 23% of farms inspected against the FQAS Product Standard, have been fully compliant.

In instances where non-conformances have been raised, the following are the most commonly occurring non-conformances:

- 1** Revised Cattle & Sheep Welfare Codes are not available
- 2** Common Veterinary Operations not recorded in the Medicine Record Book
- 3** Medicine Records are not fully complete (purchase and usage sections)
- 4** Repairs required to sharp edges in livestock housing
- 5** Ingredient declaration for purchased compound feed not retained



Assured British Meat Livestock Transport Scheme



NIFCC have been inspecting and certifying the ABM Livestock Transport Scheme since 2006. NIFCC currently offer Livestock Transport Assurance at 25% less than the fees charged by other UK Certification Bodies.

The graph shows how the number of applications received by NIFCC has increased over the last three years.

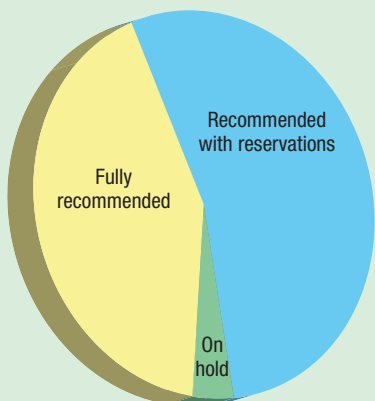
Inspection for the transport scheme looks at the following areas:

- 1** Documentation for employees and livestock movements
- 2** Procedures for the transport of livestock
- 3** Vehicle construction



Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured Cereals Scheme

Outcome of cereal inspections



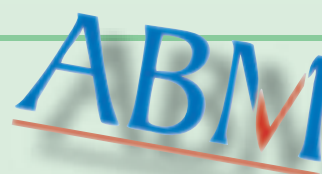
NIFCC have carried out approximately 1100 Cereal inspections since April 2006. The graph illustrates the high percentage of scheme participants that have been fully recommended or recommended with reservations.

NIFCC can carry out combined farm inspections e.g. joint beef/lamb and cereal inspection, therefore reducing the number of on farm visits.

The inspector will check the grain storage area, harvesting equipment and scheme records during the inspection.



Assured British Meat Livestock Market Scheme



NIFCC started to inspect and certify the Livestock Markets Scheme in December 2007 and since then the following livestock markets have become approved members

Clogher Valley Livestock Market

Crossmaglen Region Enterprises Limited (Newry)

Donemana Livestock Sales

Downpatrick Co-operative Marketing Limited

Draperstown Livestock Market

Dungannon Farmers Mart

Fane Valley Livestock Sales (Newtownhamilton)

Gortin Livestock Sales

Hilltown Farmers Attested Sales Limited

J.A. McClelland & Sons (Ballymena)

Kilrea Livestock Market

Lauri O'Kane & Son (Draperstown)

Lisahally Livestock Market

Markethill Livestock and Farm Sales

Millar Livestock Sales (Strabane)

Omagh Auction Mart Limited

R.A. Noble (Moira)

Rathfriland Farmers Co-op Limited

Safe Livestock (Armagh)

Safe Livestock (Newry)

Saintfield Livestock Mart

Sperrin & Bann Valley Mart (Maghera)

Ulster Farmers' Mart (Enniskillen)



◀ Hampton Hewitt, owner of Markethill Livestock and Farm Sales, receiving the mart's ABM Market Scheme certificate from Noel Lavery, NIFCC Operations Manager and Linda Dougan, LMC FQAS Liaison Officer, looking on are Markethill staff Davey Roulston (far left), Market Manager and Stephen Keys, Quality Manager.

Student placements at NIFCC



◀ NIFCC currently offer two students placement opportunities each year to assist with administration and certification duties within the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme, Farm Quality Assured Cereals Scheme and ABM Livestock Transport Scheme.

Hilary Andrews and Clare Thompson started their student placements in June 2007. Clare is a student at the University of Ulster in Coleraine, completing a BSc Honours Degree in Consumer Studies and Hilary is a student at Loughry College, studying a BSc Honours Degree in Food Supply Management.

As their placement at NIFCC drew to a close they commented on the benefits of the last year, 'coming from an agricultural background we both understood the practical implications of farming. It was interesting to learn and work within different sections of NIFCC, and deal with all aspects of the certification process from beginning to end. From working within this environment we feel that we have improved our communication and people skills. These skills will be a benefit to us as we return to university and compete for employment in the work place.'

NIFCC would like to welcome Robert Henning and Avril Ritchie as they begin their placement year for 2008/2009.

NIFCC Staff at Headquarters

NIFCC headquarters is based in Lisburn with 10 administration staff and 18 inspection staff.

If you would like additional information on any of the Schemes NIFCC inspect and certify, please visit our website www.nifcc.co.uk or contact NIFCC offices on 028 9263 3017.

If you have any queries regarding registrations, inspections or certification please feel free to contact any of the staff listed below:

NIFCC Operations Manager: Noel Lavery.

Registrations: Jacqui Sloan (Registrations Administrator), Robert Henning (Registrations Assistant).

Inspections: Robert Downey (Inspections Manager), Jill McKinstry (Inspections Administrator), Lisa Lavelle (Inspections Assistant).

Certification: Daphne Brennan (Certification Manager), Catherine MacAuley (Certification Officer), Stephen Sands (Certification Officer), Sheryl Carlisle (Certification Administrator), Avril Ritchie (Certification Assistant).