

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS**

**59<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ACAF on 19 September 2012**

**Presentation Paper: Gaps in the feed chain -**

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Animal Science**

**September 2012**

# Gaps in the feed chain –

Livestock feed advisors

A Register of Accredited Animal Scientists and Animal Technologists

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&

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Animal Science

# Background

- UK Livestock industry - an international reputation
- Serviced by commercial nutritionists, feed formulators, livestock technicians and on-farm advisers with a wide range of qualifications, experience and technical knowhow.
- Many - highly expert and knowledgeable, keen to improve their standing in a rapidly changing scientific, technological and industrial environment.
- No adequate public Professional Register to verify, assure, improve and recognise expertise.

# Strengthening Competencies

- CPD is variable; lacking incentive and formalised support needed for public recognition.
- The BSAS Register addresses the above and services the requirements of individual supporting organisations for an Accreditation Scheme.
- The Register is open to all those involved in the care, utility, sustainability, product quality and safety, and efficiency of animals.
- Applications are Associate or Certified level.

# Organisations involved

- Applications are considered by The Accreditation Panel
- The panel reflects the sector from which the application is made and
- considers a candidate's experience, qualifications and competencies in relation to the candidate's own stated description;
  - (a) Designated Professional activity
  - (b) Specialism(s)
- Rubric, governance and conduct of the scheme is the responsibility of the Accreditation Panel, which reports to BSAS Council.
- The setting and maintenance of standards is audited / endorsed by the **Society of Biology** who also facilitate the interests of The Science Council. The **Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons** is appraised and supportive.

# Training – CPD

- The scheme is CPD-driven.
- Re-registration every 3 years with CPD evidence
- CPD relevant to chosen areas of expertise
- Training delivered by any appropriate agency, event or organisation (including in-house)
- Accreditation Panel assesses CPD
  - (a) is of the required standard and
  - (b) fits member's descriptor on the Register.
- The Accreditation Panel also oversees the professional conduct

# Further initiatives and how ACAF could help

- Success of the scheme = Registered members continuing their professional development at both science and technology levels; academia and industry.
- A Public Register of independently assessed competency and expertise within our areas of professional interest is important.
- Strategic encouragement of this real and robust scheme will deliver both 'assurance' and 'enhancement'.
- The scheme is now operational.
- **ACAF support and encouragement to its sectorial interests would be most welcome.**