



Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd

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Applying for Membership of FAWL

Who is eligible to join?

Any beef and lamb producer in Wales is eligible to join but can only become a member if, on assessment, the farm is seen to comply with a set of standards covering animal welfare, hygiene and environmental controls.

How do I become Farm Assured?

The process involves applying to the Scheme and becoming a member of Welsh Lamb and Beef Producers Ltd (WLBP). You must then have your first assessment visit and rectify non-conformities, if any. Once compliance with the Scheme has been verified you will be recognized as a FAWL member.

How do I apply?

It is essential that you read the Producer Manual, particularly the Scheme Standard, to ensure that you are ready to make your application and are fully prepared for the assessment.

Please complete the Application Form and, if required, provide additional information on a separate piece of paper.

The annual subscription is payable by direct debit, see below for details. Please complete the Direct Debit Mandate and return it with your application.

You will be contacted within 14 days of our receiving your application to make arrangements to visit your farm. If you cannot agree a suitable date for assessment within a reasonable period of time, then we will write to you to ask you to contact us when you are ready for a visit.

When do we pay?

The annual subscription is payable by direct debit, details of current fees can be found on the "Scheme Fees" leaflet. Your subscription will be debited from your account on or after the 28th of the month in which you join and annually thereafter. A VAT invoice will be sent to you for your records.

Am I ready to apply?

You will want to be sure you are ready for the assessment before you apply.

The Scheme Standard contained in the Producer Manual should be read carefully so that you can attend to any potential non-conformances before your assessment.

Some non-conformances may require a further assessment to verify corrective action and this may incur a cost to you. To avoid this, you should attend to any matters at variance with the Standard *before* assessment.

When do I receive my certificate?

Once your farm is found to conform to the Scheme Standard you will be sent a Certificate of Conformity. This entitles you to sell your stock as assured by the FAWL Beef and Lamb Scheme.

QWFC Certificates of Conformity are subject to the terms of the Scheme Regulations as amended from time to time, which can be found on our website www.fawl.co.uk or requested on 01970 636688.

What if we have several units?

If the business has several units but remains under the same operational control, one assessment is normally sufficient but it may be necessary to undertake a longer assessment that will cost more. You will be contacted to agree to this before we proceed.

Re-assessment?

You will be re-assessed at least once every 18 months to confirm continuing compliance and a small section of members are selected for random inspection. If during those re-assessments the same non conformance is raised as had been previously found, QWFC may require a member of the FAWL scheme to provide more evidence of how that member can conform with the scheme's standard on a regular, on-going basis. It may even be necessary to undertake random re-assessment at the expense of the member. Your membership of the scheme can be withdrawn at any time, if it is found that you have a critical non compliance with the standard.

Further Information

For a copy of the Scheme Regulations in full and other details on the operation of the FAWL Beef & Lamb Assurance Scheme and the QWFC Certification Procedure, please visit our website www.fawl.co.uk or contact us directly on 01970 636688.