



Primary Production Food Hygiene Enforcement

Building a Picture of Producer Information Top Tips Guidance for Local Authorities

Identification of Primary Production establishments

As one of the National Enforcement Priorities and to address a recommendation made by the European Commission audit 2015-7456 the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has produced a prioritised list of highest risk ready- to- eat crops, fresh fruit and vegetables (FFV) in the UK to enable targeted and efficient interventions. This list will be reviewed annually and published as part of the National Enforcement Priorities document.

<https://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/enforcework/food-law/guidance-enforcement-0/national-enforcement-priorities>

In order to prioritise interventions it is important to initially identify establishments producing the highest risk crops. For the years 2017-2018 and also 2018-2019, these crops are Micro leaves, Baby leaves, Herbs, Watercress, Lettuce, Spinach, Strawberries, Salad onions, Radishes, Celery and Chicory.

The FSA has considered how to assist enforcement authorities in building up a picture of producer information in their area, with an emphasis on identifying producers of the highest risk crops.

Building Up a Picture of Producer Information

The list of sources included in this document can be used by enforcement authorities as an aid to building up a list of producers. The sources listed should not be considered in isolation as there could be a crossover and exchange of information between different agencies.

This list is split into central and local sources of information. For building a picture of producer information the most relevant sources of information seem to be through local intelligence/desktop searches. Central sources of information don't contain information about single producers and are more high level overview, Links are still included to enable enforcement authorities to source useful background information.

Central Sources of Information

- Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)

[AHDB Horticulture](#) this site has links to growers associations [Protected Edibles Growers Associations](#) and also to [Growers Associations Field Vegetables](#)

- Grower Associations

For example the [British Growers Association](#) includes links to more specific product associations. See [Crop Associations](#) also the [Soil Association](#) may be a source of information for organic producers.

- Advisory Services

Agricultural Development and Advisory Service (ADAS) <http://www.adas.uk/> ADAS is the UK's largest independent provider of agricultural and environmental consultancy, rural development services and policy advice.

Farming Advice Service (FAS). [Farming Advice Service](#) This is a service funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to help farms understand and meet the requirements of Cross Compliance, Greening (the Basic Payments Scheme) and the European Directives on both water protection and sustainable pesticide use.

- Agriculture Departments and Rural Payments Agencies

These departments will hold information on farms that are claiming through the Basic Payment Scheme or Single Farm Payment Scheme. It should be noted this information may have limited use since most crops that are in the 'high risk category' are not eligible for subsidy payments. The data may however allow enforcement authorities to build up a picture of some aspects of production in their regions.

Defra / Rural Payments Agency

The following documents have been recommended by Defra crop and farm statistics and provide a useful overview:

- Structure of the Agricultural Industry in England and the UK at June (Defra June survey) – Detailed datasets and time series. June survey results broken down by English region, including county, local authority, maps of crop areas, farm types.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/structure-of-the-agricultural-industry-in-england-and-the-uk-at-june>

- Agriculture in the United Kingdom - An overview document of agriculture in the UK including horticulture crops. (Scroll down to 'documents' for latest publication)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs/series/agriculture-in-the-united-kingdom>

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

DAERA will hold information on farm businesses, including farms claiming single farm payment and herd and flock information, which includes livestock movement.

DAERA specialised advisors will also have information on particular production sectors including vegetable and fruit production.

- Water abstraction licences
Water abstraction might be used for irrigation so where postcodes are entered this can be a useful source of information. The water abstraction licences map can be found at the following link: <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/151261.aspx>

Local Sources of Information

- Internet
The internet can be a significant source of information on producers. A simple search can highlight not only growers, but packers, wholesalers and producer organisations.

E.g. search;

- Fresh herbs *County W*
- Lettuce growers *County X*
- Pick your own strawberries *County Y*
- Organic box scheme *County Z*

These results can produce leads to other sources of information and prompt additional searches. Enforcement authorities may wish to search on a regional or local basis.

An example of a really useful site for local searches is www.pickyourownfarms.org.uk

More innovative growers are also utilising less traditional environments e.g. tunnels/stations underground, increased use of hydroponics and LED lighting, searches could also include these key words and phrases.

In addition the internet can be used to research the other sub-categories listed in this document.

- Quality Assurance Schemes
Assurance schemes can be useful sources of information. In particular the Red Tractor Schemes can inform enforcement authorities on the activities of producers. In addition to Red Tractor there will be other private assurance schemes that will have information in relation to primary production such as British Retail Consortium (BRC) where there can be a requirement for an assured supply chain to the retail sector. It is expected that enforcement authorities will have access to producer information, both through online access to the scheme's web portal and through email updates. For example enforcement officers can obtain access to Assured Food Standards (AFS) information by registering through the LACORS/AFS Portal (<http://lacors.assuredfood.co.uk/lacors/>) and www.redtractorassurance.org.uk/checkers.

Registered users can login and download the list of assured producers in their selected area and will also receive monthly update emails. Additionally, the FSA will circulate details of Red Tractor members growing the specific highest risk crops annually to relevant Local Authorities.

- Local intelligence
Local intelligence can be a vital source of information. Officers can build up a picture of primary production in their areas. Some regions will have specialist production according to historical activity, climate and soil type. Some areas of production may be easily identified, for example protected crops, or those with intensive labour input. Other

information may be collected such as suppliers of primary produce to local packers or processors.

- **Retailers**
In particular information on local suppliers of fresh produce to retailers.
- **Local Farmers Markets**
Farmers markets are likely to have producers or suppliers of fresh produce.
- **Local press**
This can be a source of local information on suppliers, farm shops, farmers markets and wider relevant issues. For example local stories on flooding of farms could draw attention to potential contamination risk.
- **Other**
Punnet/packaging suppliers
Local press/social media to increase awareness and promote registration
Producer directories