

Pig member newsletter

Spring 2022



Spring has sprung

Joe Bailey, Head of Farming

Lighter days, thriving nature and new life. But in the current gloom of world events and challenges beyond our control, some days can feel overwhelming. Spring is perhaps a reminder to focus on what is important, our families, friends and those we care for at work.

In March, we welcomed Mike (Michael) Baker as the new interim chief executive of RSPCA Assured. He has 25 years of leadership experience in animal welfare - including farm animals - having previously been chief executive of [The Brooke](#), [World Animal Protection](#) and [The Donkey Sanctuary](#), and a former President of [Eurogroup for Animals](#).

Mike will be leading RSPCA Assured through an exciting period of transformation whilst helping the organisation find a new long-term chief executive to lead the charity into the future.

I hope you find joy, peace, and hope in this season of change.



Come and see us at the Pig & Poultry Fair!

Jeremy Costello, Marketing Executive

Are you coming to the Pig & Poultry Fair? Come visit us on stand 91 in hall 2. We will be there from 10 - 11 May.

We want to see as many members as possible, so please drop by for a hot drink and a chat. Our team will be around to answer any questions that you might have about the scheme or the RSPCA's higher welfare standards.

If you would like to request a meeting in advance, please click the link below, or feel free to chat with us on the day.

[Request a meeting](#)

Update from Farm Animals Department

Kate Parkes, Senior Scientific Officer (Pigs)

It's great to be back at work after maternity leave, although it is a difficult time to be returning with the challenges currently being faced by the pig sector. I am still getting up to speed somewhat but am here to answer any standards related queries members may have. Please feel free to [get in touch](#).

You may have seen that there has been a recent addendum to the [pig](#)

[standards](#), to reflect that in February this year a new amendment was introduced to the legislation on slaughter and killing allowing piglets to be killed using non-penetrative captive bolts within certain parameters.

After quite a delay, [Defra](#) and the [Welsh government](#) have also confirmed that manual blunt force trauma is not allowed, even in emergency situations. The standards have been amended to reflect this, and more information can be found in the addendum and a separate newsletter that has previously gone out to members.

Following my return, I hope to continue with the work that I started before my leave, including reviewing the standards on minimum space allowances, feeder space requirements and requesting permission to tail dock, nose ring, and teeth clip.

I look forward to getting back in touch with many of you.



Welly Vision: the campaign so far

Xenia Kingsley, Senior Marketing Manager

In 2021 we launched our micro-documentary series [Welly Vision](#) as part of a major push to better educate shoppers about farming and where their food comes from.

Presented by food journalist, campaigner, and Food Unwrapped presenter, Kate Quilton, the first and second instalments of Welly Vision are available to view now on RSPCA Assured's website and [YouTube channel](#).

[Read more](#)

Certification body change

Neil Scott, Head of Certification

We are delighted to have signed a contract for [Supply Chain In-sites \(SCI\)](#) to be our certification partner for the next three years. And we are currently in discussions to agree on a start date.

Whilst being a newcomer to the industry, the SCI team has many years of experience in farm assurance and certification to ISO17065. Their future plans are very much in line with how we would like to develop RSPCA Assured and we are looking forward to working with them.

We are extremely grateful for all of the hard work, support and engagement we've had from those at NSF who have partnered with us over recent years.

It's very much business as usual whilst we transition to SCI and members do not need to do anything different. We will keep you updated as the transition progresses.

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