



PRESS RELEASE

UK Malt Industry Fights Back with World-Leading Scheme

A world-leading assurance scheme run by the UK Malt industry is helping it to fight back against the problem of over-supply in the market. In his annual statement to the industry, Euan MacPherson, Chairman of the Maltsters Association of Great Britain (MAGB) claims that the recently re-launched Assured UK Malt scheme has no equivalent anywhere in the world.

He says: "At this year's Drinktec exhibition we launched the latest phase of the Assured UK Malt scheme. On the evidence of research carried out before the event, and on intelligence gathered at the event itself, I have no hesitation in saying that no other country in the world has a scheme to match it.

"No other country can claim to have brought their malt industry together in a scheme that: includes all the country's major producers; brings together all aspects of the supply chain; includes over 25,000 farms in three assurance schemes; is independently audited and is accredited by an internationally recognised body."

This positive step forward comes at a difficult time for the industry in which issues include increasing energy costs, additional capacity coming online in an already oversupplied industry, particularly in Russia, and bilateral trade agreements that put UK maltsters at a disadvantage.

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However, Euan points out that the UK remains the second largest malt-producing nation in the EU, and UK maltsters will still require about 1.7 million tonnes of UK malting barley from the 2005 crop.

-Ends-

Notes for editors

The Assured UK Malt (AUKM) scheme is the only accredited malt scheme in the world. It was re-launched in 2005 following the inclusion of:

- Food Safety
- Product legality
- Good Operational Practice
- Product quality

The scheme is independently audited by PAI (Product Authentication International) which in turn is accredited by UKAS (UK Accreditation Service). More information on AUKM can be found at **www.assureduk malt.com**.

A copy of the MAGB Chairman's statement is attached.

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