



Quality Assurance. **From farm to shop.**



Press Release

Producers get direct access to the QS database

Farmers and producers will be able to directly access their data stored in the QS database. So far, this was only possible through the coordinator. With the personal access the farmer receives:

- read-only access to all the company-related data stored in the QS scheme's databases, such as audit results and monitoring data, as well as
- information about access rights, meaning, which coordinator, certification bodies or – if consented - third parties have access to the data.

In the coming months, the coordinators will send the individual access data to the companies via e-mail or post.

In the QS scheme, coordinators represent the farmers in its entirety. In order to fulfill this responsibility, coordinators have access to the data stored in the database, which belongs to the companies coordinated by them, with the exception of particularly sensitive data (e.g. details about antibiotics prescriptions, diagnostic data of pigs). The coordinator can receive access to this data if written consent is previously granted by the farmer.

Data security in the QS Scheme

QS uses state-of-the-art information technology in the service of its scheme participants and the collection, storage and processing of their data. The security and reliability of this technology is equally as important as the trustworthy handling of the data. The scheme participants can fully trust the data security within the QS scheme: QS does not provide any company-related data to third parties without the explicit and prior consent of the scheme participant. A comprehensive information security plan, elaborated according to the standards of the German Federal Office for Security and Information Technology (BSI for its initials in German) is consistently adhered to and constantly reviewed.

QS Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH is owner of the QS quality scheme for food. The standards defined by QS set clear and verifiable production requirements for all stages of the food supply chain – from the feed sector right through to the food retail. The cross-stage monitoring of these requirements as well as the traceability of agricultural products and goods made from them characterise the QS scheme. More than 107.000 companies from feed sector, agricul-

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ture, slaughtering/deboning, processing and butchery, wholesale and food retail and more than 24.000 companies in the fruit, vegetables and potatoes supply chain have already chosen to become part of the QS scheme.

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