pet sustainability coalition

Rangen Group

CASE STUDY

Building a More Responsible Feed Supply Chain:

# LESSONS FROM MAINTAINING ASC CERTIFICATION

## Overview

Rangen Aquaculture Nutrition maintains Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) Feed Standard certification as part of its long-standing commitment to responsible business practices, supply chain accountability, and continuous improvement.[1] While achieving initial certification represented an important milestone, the greater value lies in the systems and processes that support ongoing progress year after year.

The ASC framework has helped strengthen traceability, supplier engagement, environmental reporting, and responsible sourcing practices while reinforcing accountability across social and labor considerations.[2] As expectations, risks, and sustainability standards continue to evolve, certification provides a structured approach for assessing performance, identifying opportunities for improvement, and driving meaningful action across the business.

The lessons learned throughout this journey have created a foundation that extends beyond aquaculture feed production, helping inform broader sustainability efforts and providing a practical roadmap for other organizations seeking to strengthen environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and supply chain transparency.

## About Rangen Aquaculture Nutrition

A leading ingredient supplier to North American agriculture and food systems, Rangen Group is committed to responsible sourcing and supply chain transparency. Their approach to sustainability is informed by a longstanding purpose to provide the essentials for the world to thrive and a core set of values that include respect, integrity, safety, and excellence. They also maintain certification in Best Aquaculture Practices.

*"This journey is about more than our company; it's about setting a higher standard for aquaculture, pet food, and livestock feeds, and raising the bar for everyone who depends on them."*

**Kelli Barry, Senior Sustainability Specialist**

## Takeaways

Rangen Group was able to close the gap to earn, maintain ASC certification, and share key lessons for any company working to build a more sustainable, transparent supply chain:

### Build for the Long Term

Certification is most valuable when used as a framework for continuous improvement.

### Know Where You Stand

Gap assessments provide a clear understanding of strengths, risks, and opportunities for improvement.

### Make Sustainability a Shared Responsibility

Progress depends on collaboration across teams, suppliers, and stakeholders throughout the value chain.

### Keep Raising the Bar

Strong systems help organizations adapt to changing expectations and continually improve.

# The Challenge

Responsible business practices require more than meeting a single set of requirements. As sustainability expectations continue to evolve, companies must be able to demonstrate how they manage environmental impacts, support ethical labor practices, engage suppliers responsibly, and maintain transparency throughout their operations and supply chains.

Rangen had already established programs supporting responsible sourcing, environmental stewardship, and third-party certification. However, achieving ASC Feed Standard certification required bringing these efforts together within a comprehensive framework that could be consistently measured, monitored, and improved over time. This meant **strengthening internal coordination, expanding supplier engagement, enhancing data collection and reporting practices, and ensuring systems were in place to support ongoing compliance as requirements and industry expectations continue to evolve.**

The challenge was not simply obtaining certification, it was building a foundation for continuous improvement that would support responsible operations, accountability, and long-term sustainability performance across the business.

# Results & Lasting Impact

ASC certification reinforces many of the practices that are already prominent within Rangen, while creating new opportunities to strengthen performance across environmental, social, and responsible sourcing areas.

**Rangen reports the following improvements:**

- Stronger supply chain transparency and accountability
- Improved supply communication and documentation processes
- Enhanced environmental reporting and performance tracking
- Increased collaboration across departments and functions
- Greater confidence in meeting customer and stakeholder expectations
- A scalable framework that supports continuous improvement year after year

Most importantly, Rangen does not view ASC certification as a finish line. Maintaining certification requires ongoing engagement, regular evaluation of performance, and adaptation to evolving expectations.[3] This continual improvement approach helps ensure responsible practices remain embedded throughout the organization and continue to mature over time.

# The Solution

To align with ASC Feed Standard requirements, Rangen evaluated existing programs and identified opportunities to strengthen processes across the business.

Efforts focused on improving supplier engagement, enhancing traceability and documentation systems, expanding environmental reporting capabilities, and increasing cross-functional collaboration.

These improvements helped establish a more consistent framework for managing sustainability priorities and supporting ongoing improvement.

# A Roadmap for Continuous Improvement

While every organization begins from a different starting point, the lessons learned from this journey can help other facilities identify gaps, engage suppliers, and build systems that support responsible sourcing and continuous improvement.

**The goal is not simply to achieve certification, but to create lasting operational improvements that strengthen the supply chain and deliver value to customers, suppliers, and the broader aquaculture industry.**

[1]ASC announced certification of Rangen Aquaculture Nutrition's Buhl, Idaho, feed mill in November 2025. (ASC, 2025, "Rangen Leads U.S. Aquaculture Forward with First ASC Feed Certification").
[2]The ASC Feed Standard requires supplier cooperation and documented due diligence on ingredient manufacturers and primary raw material production. Its ingredient listing requirements cover ingredients representing more than 1% of annual ingredient weight received. The ASC Feed Standard includes requirements addressing forced labor, worker safety, and legal wages, alongside environmental requirements for water, waste, and energy use. It also requires annual reporting of site energy consumption and public disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions. (ASC, 2025, ASC Feed Standard).
[3]ASC requires at least annual internal audits and corrective measures where relevant. The external certification cycle lasts three years and includes an initial or recertification audit plus at least two surveillance audits. (ASC, 2025, ASC Feed Standard; Farm and Feed Certification and Accreditation Requirements).