

Growing the success of Irish food & horticulture

***Bord Bia***  
Irish Food Board

# **Sustainable Beef & Lamb Assurance Scheme**

March 2017

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# 1. Introduction



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Scheme Development

The Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme (SBLAS) was developed by a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representing Bord Bia – the Irish Food Board, Teagasc, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI), the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM); University College Dublin (UCD), Animal Health Ireland (AHI), Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF), Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA), Irish Farmers Association (IFA) and Meat Industry Ireland (MII). The criteria specified in the SBLAS incorporate Food Safety Management / HACCP principles as they apply to the production of meat from beef and lamb animals.

This Standard includes the criteria for beef and lamb production (Section 3) against which the herd / flock will be assessed. It replaces the previous Beef and Lamb Quality Assurance Standard, Revision 01 of 2010.

## 1.2 Scheme Overview

The SBLAS has been developed in response to the demands of the marketplace. There is an increasing demand from purchasers of Irish meat products for proof that the meat is produced sustainably on farms that are certified members of an accredited quality assurance Scheme which is based on sustainability principles incorporating environmental, social and economic aspects.

Irish beef farms already produce meat sustainably according to a European Union (EU) survey<sup>1</sup>. This survey reported that Ireland has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest carbon footprint for beef in the EU (27 countries) and also performs favourably in relation to lamb. Through measurement and analysis the SBLAS will demonstrate the sustainability of Irish beef and lamb farming at individual farm level and provide constructive feedback to farmers to help them with decision making aimed at improving their sustainability performance.

Each member's farm is visited at 18-month intervals by an independent auditor. A comprehensive report on the performance of the farm is produced which can be used by the farmer to identify and implement measures that could further improve the sustainability performance of his or her farm enterprises.

## 1.3 Objectives

The primary objectives of the Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme are:

- To demonstrate to customers that quality beef and lamb are produced sustainably under an accredited Scheme;
- To provide a uniform mechanism for recording and monitoring:
  - quality assurance criteria, and
  - sustainability criteria for beef and sheep farms;
- To set out the criteria for best practice in Irish beef and lamb farming, and
- To provide an on-going means of demonstrating best practice at farmer level.

## 1.4 Scheme Detail

The two main components of the SBLAS are Sustainability and Quality Assurance.

### Sustainability

Sustainable agriculture is defined (see 1.8 Definitions) as 'the productive, competitive and efficient production of safe agricultural products, while protecting and improving the natural environment and the socio-economic conditions of farmers and local communities, and while safeguarding the health and welfare of all farmed

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<sup>1</sup>EC Joint Research Centre: Evaluation of the livestock sector's contribution to the EU greenhouse gas emissions (GGELS) - Final report - Administrative Arrangements AGRI-2008-0245 and AGRI-2009-0296.

species.' Sustainable production therefore means that not only should farms be operated efficiently, but that producers should also aspire to pass the land and resources on to the next generation in as good (or, indeed, better) condition than they inherited it.

In the meat sector, leading multinational customers are looking for suppliers who have credibility in sustainable production. In order to retain and grow long-lasting business relationships with these customers, sustainability initiatives (in areas such as minimising greenhouse gas emissions, conservation of water, good soil management, improving biodiversity, enhancing social and economic performance) are required to demonstrate the sustainability performance of the farms through independently derived data. Under the SBLAS, data is assembled from all available sources relating to the performance of the farm (live sales, slaughtering, farm inputs, etc.). This information is then merged on the Bord Bia database with the additional data collected by the Bord Bia farm auditor during audit. Calculations are performed on this database using the combined data in accordance with the accredited Bord Bia Carbon Footprint Model. These calculations provide the carbon footprint of the meat produced. This is a key indicator of the sustainability of the farm.

A report on the overall carbon footprint of the farm will be returned to every participating farmer. Also documented in this report is the performance achieved in key farm management areas (i.e. grazing season, nitrogen usage, slurry management, age at first calving, calving rate and daily liveweight gain) which contribute to the production of greenhouse gases (GHG). Through use of the Carbon Navigator tool, individual targets for each of these key management areas can be set by the producer to reduce the farm's overall carbon footprint.

In addition, during the farm visit the auditor will collect data on:

- Water use
- Energy use
- Biodiversity
- Economic and social sustainability

As the data bank of this information grows more complete, feedback on each of the above will be included in the report returned to the farmer. Data from comparative farming systems will also be used to highlight where improvements (if any) could be implemented. Bord Bia will collaborate with other agencies and industry to guide farmers on how to improve their overall farm sustainability performance based on analysis of the data collected as part of the Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme.

### Quality Assurance

The Standard (and the Scheme based on the Standard) is accredited to the International Standard for Product Certification ISO 17065: 2012<sup>2</sup> by the Irish National Accreditation Board. During the Bord Bia visit, the compliance of the Applicant / Producer (in areas relating to legal, quality and customer requirements relevant to traceability, food safety, hygiene, health and safety, welfare, etc.) with the quality assurance criteria in the Standard is assessed. A report on the level of compliance achieved is then prepared for the Applicant / Producer.

## 1.5 Benefits from Participation in the SBLAS

### On farm benefits

Sustainable production and efficient production go hand in hand. Sustainability involves minimising the amount of resources (e.g. energy, feed, water etc.) used by the enterprises involved, as well as implementing measures that enhance the environmental performance of those enterprises. These sustainability measures also typically deliver economic benefits through lower costs of production.

Data from Teagasc indicates the potential efficiency benefits for farmers in some of the areas that influence a farm's carbon footprint, such as the following:

- A 10-Day extension to the Grazing Season reduces costs by €25 per suckler cow and cuts carbon footprint by 1.7%.

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<sup>2</sup>International Standards Organisation <http://www.iso.org/iso/home.html>

- Reducing age at first calving from 29 months to 28 months improves returns by €50 per cow and reduces carbon footprint by 0.3%.
- Improving calving rate from 80% to 85% lifts returns by around €45 per cow and reduces carbon footprint by 4%.
- Increasing lifetime average daily gain from 900g to 1,000g lifts returns by around €63 per head and reduces carbon footprint through higher output.

Similar potential gains are possible for lamb farming. These highlight the economic benefits for focusing on sustainable production practices and / or increased output.

### Industry benefits

The Scheme will assist in the marketing of meat in several ways, including demonstrating the commitment of Irish beef and lamb farms to 'green' farming practices. Beef and lamb sourced from sustainable farms will gain access to markets that demand certification.

As part of the Origin Green Sustainability Programme, sustainability assessment will be a key area of focus. The SBLAS builds on previous work completed in the areas of beef and lamb production. It will enhance Bord Bia's ability to effectively communicate the current credentials of the Irish livestock sector to key customers and to highlight how the industry is focussing on optimising its performance in a number of key sustainability areas. This will help create a market preference for Irish beef and lamb among those customers with stated sustainability targets.

## 1.6 Sustainability Information Collection

In preparation for the Bord Bia farm visit, and in order to reduce as much as possible the time required to collect data on the farm, Bord Bia requests permission from the farmer to obtain data from other sources as follows: breeding organisations (e.g. Irish Cattle Breeding Federation), DAFM (i.e. AIM, the Animal Identification and Movement database) and other organisations that have access to data relevant to meat production (e.g. abattoirs). The purpose in seeking this data is to obtain as much as possible of the data relating to the key inputs and outputs for the farm enterprise. The data requested includes:

- 1. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)** – A full livestock profile for each herd is requested from AIM. This provides a complete picture of the numbers in different animal categories by tracking the births, deaths and movements of animals in and out of the herd over the course of the previous year.
- 2. Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF)** – The following farm performance information is requested from ICBF:
  - Number and breeds of cows
  - Number of calves registered
  - Calving rate
  - Average calving interval
  - Age at first calving
  - Replacement rates
  - Animal Breeding Index (Euro-Star)
  - BVD or other available health related data
  - Sale and purchase weights

**3. Abattoirs** – Additional data that may be available on animal cleanliness, meat quality, eligibility for bonus payments, etc.

The information and data collected is maintained in a confidential manner in accordance with the Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003. It is used solely for the calculation of the sustainability performance of the farm. No data relevant to any individual herd or farm is shared with any organisation without the consent of the farmer.

## 1.7 Normative References of the Standard

This standard incorporates the key legislative requirements relevant to beef and lamb farming. However it is also recommended that Applicants / Producers consult other best practice guidelines and legislation referenced in Reference Information, Appendix 1.

The Scheme is based on the requirements of existing legislation and standards including:

- ISO 17065 (2012) Conformity assessment — Requirements for certification bodies certifying products, processes and services;
- Codex Alimentarius: Recommended International Code Of Practice General Principles Of Food Hygiene (Cac / Rcp 1-1969, Rev. 4-2003);
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) as outlined by Codex Alimentarius (1997 3<sup>rd</sup> edition);
- Relevant National and EU legislative requirements;
- Recognised international quality management standards such as ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System – Requirements) and ISO 22000: 2005 (Food safety management systems — Requirements for any organization in the food chain).
- PAS 2050: 2011 - Specification for the assessment of the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services.
- Other legislation, standards and codes of practice as set out in Appendix 1, Reference Information.

**Note:** *Compliance with this standard does not guarantee compliance with all relevant legislation. It is also recommended that farmers consult with their Agricultural and Veterinary advisors, as well as with the relevant competent authority.*

## 1.8 Definitions

**Note:** *The terms below are used throughout the Standard. Readers should refer to this section for explanations and / or definitions of the terms and abbreviations. These terms and abbreviations apply to their use in this Standard only.*

**Note:** *Where used, the character “ / ” is intended to mean “and or”.*

**AIM:** The DAFM Animal Identification & Movement database (formerly called CMMS) for recording cattle and sheep movements.

**Applicant:** A beef and / or lamb herd owner applying for membership of the SBLAS who has not yet received a membership audit.

**Assessment:** The evaluation, conducted by a trained assessor, of the extent to which an enterprise meets the sustainability criteria set out in the Standard.

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**Audit:** The evaluation, conducted by qualified auditor during a Bord Bia farm visit, in order to determine whether the enterprise complies with the Scheme Regulations (as set out in the Standard: Section 2, Scheme Regulations) and the Scheme Criteria (as set out in the Standard: Section 3, criteria for beef and lamb farmers).

**Bord Bia:** The Irish Food Board.

**Bord Bia Approved Advisor:** An independent person who has attended Bord Bia training on the SBLAS, is registered on the Bord Bia database, and is approved by Bord Bia to provide audit closeout assistance to applicants / producers.

**Bord Bia Register / Database:** The Bord Bia register / database (either term may be used) of the current certified members indicating their membership status.

**Bovine:** where used in the Standard is intended to refer to cattle.

**Certification Committee:** A Committee appointed by Bord Bia to which the Bord Bia Quality Assurance Board has devolved responsibility and authority for all certification decisions with regard to membership of the Scheme.

**Certification Period:** The period for which certification is valid. Certification is normally awarded for a period of 18 months from the date of certification decision. The full details are set out in Scheme Regulations 2.8.

**Competent Authority:** Where used, 'competent authority' (as defined in (EC) 882: 2004) indicates the central authority of a Member State competent for the organisation of official controls or any other authority to which that competence has been conferred; it shall also include, where appropriate, the corresponding authority of a third country.

**DAFM:** The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

**EBI / Euro-Star:** The Breeding Index for bovine animals in Ireland.

**EMA:** The European Medicines Evaluation Agency.

**Farm:** Indicates both the land under the control of the participating herd owner and the farm enterprise that is operated by that herd owner where the herd is certified.

**Farm Auditor:** The independent auditor carrying out the farm audits.

**Farm Visit:** This entails two components: the farm audit and the collection of the farm sustainability information.

**FAWAC:** The Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council.

**Food Protection:** The protection of food products from intentional adulteration by biological, chemical, physical, or radiological agents. It addresses additional concerns including physical, personnel and operational security. This is also referred to in the food sector as 'food defence'.

**Formal Training:** The training conducted by a competent organisation, where a certificate is issued.

**FQAS:** The Bord Bia Feed Quality Assurance Scheme.

**FSAI:** The Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

**HACCP:** Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point – an internationally recognised system for the identification and control of hazards relating to food safety.

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**HPRA:** Health Products Regulatory Authority – the body in Ireland that regulates medicines including animal remedies (see also [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie)).

**Herd Number:** A unique number assigned to the herd, or to the holding of the keeper of animals (beef and / or lamb).

**ICBF:** Irish Cattle Breeding Federation.

**Member / Producer:** both terms (Member or Producer) are used for a herd owner that is a certified Member of the SBLAS. 'Producer' also has the meaning of the person with responsibility for the management of the herd (even on a temporary basis).

**Quality Assurance Board:** An independent subsidiary Board within Bord Bia that has overall responsibility for policy in relation to the operation of the Assurance Scheme.

**Residues:** Identifiable traces of substances with a pharmacological action, of their metabolites and of other substances transmitted to animal products that are likely to be harmful to human health.

**Scheme:** The Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme consists of the following elements:

- The SBLAS standard (this Standard);
- The process for ensuring that the Criteria as set out in the Standard are met (through auditing);
- The process for collecting and analysing the data under the Sustainable Assessment Criteria;
- The certification process whereby all the compliance data is evaluated and a certification decision is made.

**SBLAS Scheme:** The Bord Bia Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme.

**SBLAS Standard:** The Bord Bia Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Standard. This consists of the criteria as set out in Sections 1 (Introduction), 2 (Scheme Rules), 3 (Beef and Lamb Criteria) and 4 (the associated Appendices) of the Standard.

**Sustainability:** The productive, competitive and efficient production of safe agricultural products, while protecting and improving the natural environment and the socio-economic conditions of farmers and local communities, and while safeguarding the health and welfare of all farmed species (as stated in [www.SAIplatform.org](http://www.SAIplatform.org) of which, Bord Bia is an affiliate member).

**Teagasc:** The Agriculture and Food Development Authority.

**Technical Advisory Committee:** A committee representing the stakeholders in the beef and lamb production sector, which is assigned the role of advising Bord Bia on the technical content of the Standard.

**Veterinary Prescription:** A written prescription issued by a registered veterinary practitioner in respect of an animal under his or her care that provides for the administration of an animal remedy to the animal.

**Veterinary Written Directive (VWD):** this means a veterinary authorisation for the manufacture and subsequent use of a medicated animal feed.

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## 1.9 Cautionary Notes

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this Standard, Bord Bia cannot accept any responsibility for errors or omissions.

Bord Bia is not liable for any costs or potential or estimated loss of earnings resulting from having to comply with any criterion of this Scheme, or in regard to the consequences of being found to be in breach of any legal requirement.

Compliance with this standard does not guarantee compliance with all relevant legislation.

The text in this Standard is intended to reflect the law as it stands on the date that this code is published. However, the text in the Standard will usually paraphrase rather than quote, the law, in an attempt to offer clarity of meaning. For precise wording, the relevant legislation should be read.

All references to legislation in this Standard are given on an 'as amended' basis.



## 2. Scheme Regulations

## 2. Scheme Regulations

This section contains important general information for Applicants and Producers and it is crucial that sufficient time is taken to read and fully understand this section of the Standard.

### 2.1 Scope and Membership

This Standard applies to the production of beef and lamb animals for meat production.

Membership of the Scheme is voluntary and open to all beef and / or lamb herd-owners that have valid herd registration with the competent authority.

During the Bord Bia farm visit, the performance of the farm under Sustainability and Quality Assurance criteria will be assessed; the herd-owner must submit to both.

### 2.2 Database Information

A Bord Bia database or register indicating the status of all certified herds of the Members of the Scheme will be maintained. All data is maintained on a confidential basis on the database in accordance with the Data Protection Act (see Appendix 1, Reference Information).

Bord Bia records all relevant and / or applicable data during the Bord Bia auditor's farm visit on the Bord Bia database. This database performs a number of functions:

- Recording the contact details of the farm in order to facilitate the conducting of correspondence and the arrangement of visits to the farm (such details include name of herd-owner, address, phone numbers, directions to the farm, etc.);
- Identifying the enterprises that are present on the farm (i.e. the main production types and systems, other enterprises present (e.g. tillage), presence of an outside farm, size of the farm or enterprises, etc.) as relevant to the Sustainability and / or the Quality Assurance criteria;
- Collating the data gathered in the course of farm surveys in order to calculate the carbon footprint of the farm and to assess the performance of the farm against the sustainability criteria or survey, etc., and
- Providing audit reports.

The Bord Bia database is linked to the Bord Bia public website, through which various links are available for checking herd certification status, as well as for downloading documentation relating to the Schemes (e.g. the Standard, templates, other information relevant to the Scheme, etc.).

#### Database Access

The Bord Bia database is accessible directly by Abattoirs and Livestock Marts but only for application and membership status verification purposes.

Producers can also access the database for closeout purposes. Details will be provided at the time of the audit by the auditor and also in the written report following an audit where non-compliances requiring closeout were identified. Where the farmer opts to avail of the closeout team services (see clause 2.5.3.2 Notes 2 & 3 below) to assist with the closeout process or to avail of a facilitator to assist with early re-application, the farmer will need to authorise the closeout team or facilitator to access the database on the farmer's behalf. The closeout team and facilitators will have received training in this aspect.

Access to the database is provided on an 'as-required' basis only. In each case a username and password is required in order to be able to access the information relevant to the assessment of the herd.

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Access to Bord Bia documentation relevant to the Scheme (Application Forms, Standard, Farm Book) is available online at [farm.bordbia.ie](http://farm.bordbia.ie).

## 2.3 Eligibility

### 2.3.1 Herd Eligibility

Any beef and lamb herd-owner with a valid herd registration may apply to participate in the Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme. Certification to the standard, however, will only be granted to Applicants / Producers who demonstrate, through an independent Bord Bia audit, that the herd meets all the relevant criteria as set out in the Standard.

Where there are both beef and lamb animals normally present in the herd, the scope of the audit must include both species and there must be evidence of recent activity in relation to both species.

### 2.3.2 Applicant / Producer Eligibility

In order to be eligible for certification, the applicant must be able to demonstrate compliance with all the relevant criteria. In addition, all records required under the Scheme must have been correctly maintained for a period of at least 6 months prior to audit.

Existing certified Members must be able to demonstrate compliance with all the relevant criteria. All required records must also have been continuously maintained in accordance with the Scheme criteria since the last audit.

Where Applicants have been convicted of an offence under legislation relevant to any part of the SBLAS Standard in the previous 3 years, application for participation in the Scheme may be denied until a period of 3 years has elapsed since the date of conviction.

If, during the period of certification, a Producer is convicted of such an offence, the Producer is obliged to advise Bord Bia of the conviction and the membership of the Scheme may be withdrawn for a period of up to 3 years from the date of conviction. Failure to inform Bord Bia of a conviction will also be deemed a violation of the conditions of membership; in this instance, suspension for a 3 year period will apply from the date Bord Bia discovers evidence of a conviction.

Certification under the SBLAS implies that the herd and the animals from the herd have been determined to meet the SBLAS requirements. No other implication can be drawn.

### 2.3.3 Animal Eligibility

Only animals that have been on a Producer's farm (or farms<sup>1</sup>) for a total of 70 days for cattle and 42 days for sheep are eligible under the Scheme. For applicants a preparatory period of 6 months applies (see 2.3.2).

The meat from all animals meeting the residency requirements from a quality assured herd is eligible for marketing under the Scheme, with the following exceptions: Cloned animals and casualty animals slaughtered on-farm.

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<sup>1</sup>Where an animal has been registered on more than one SBLAS certified herd for a cumulative period of at least 70 days (e.g. 50 days on the current certified farm, 22 days on a previous certified farm), the animal is eligible under the Scheme.

## 2.4 Control, Monitoring and Compliance

### 2.4.1 Control

Overall control of the Scheme will be exercised by the Bord Bia Quality Assurance Board. This Board is representative of the relevant sectors of the food industry and has delegated the responsibility for drafting the Standard, as well as for subsequently formulating any required amendments, to the SBLAS Technical Advisory Committee.

The decision of the Quality Assurance Board on any matter relating to the content of the Standard, or to the control or operation of the Scheme, is final (subject to the Appeals Procedure – see Section 2.9).

### 2.4.2 Monitoring

Monitoring of the Producer's ongoing compliance with the standard will be carried out through audit by Bord Bia or its nominated agents. Independent auditors with relevant experience of the sector will carry out the farm audits; a report of the audit findings will be issued directly to the Producer.

After initial certification, each herd will be independently audited at determined intervals. The maximum interval between successive audits will normally be 18 months.

Bord Bia (or its appointed agents) reserves the right to carry out supplementary unscheduled audits for the purpose of verifying compliance with the standard, or in order to determine that corrective and / or preventive actions submitted after audit closeout are in place. Failure to permit access to such an audit may result in the suspension of the herd from the Scheme.

Bord Bia (or its appointed agents) reserves the right to remove samples (feed, water, soil, other inputs, etc.) for independent analysis, in order to establish compliance with the Standard.

Auditors are entitled to seek access to relevant regulatory reports.

Applicants / Producers must facilitate auditors and Bord Bia representatives by granting access to all buildings and areas of the farm that are associated with the beef and / or lamb production enterprise. Where this access is not granted, certification may be denied.

Applicants / Producers must also supply any information requested by the auditors relevant to establishing compliance with the Standard.

Bord Bia will occasionally require the performance of the auditor to be observed by another member of the audit team during a given audit. This will be communicated in advance to the Applicants / Producers.

### 2.4.3 Compliance

The full onus of responsibility for compliance with this Standard is on the Scheme Applicants / Producers and not on Bord Bia, its agents or any other third party.

Where it is established during audit that there are serious breaches of legal requirements relevant to animal identification, animal welfare, remedies use, use of banned inputs, environmental protection or health and safety, Bord Bia reserves the right to notify the relevant authority.

## 2.5 Criteria Categories, Compliance and Non-Compliance

### 2.5.1 Categories

The Quality Assurance criteria where compliance with the Standard is required (text on clear background in Section 3 Producer Criteria) are classified as Critical and General.

- **Critical:** These criteria are printed in **bold** typeface and are identified in the text (in Section 3 Producer Criteria) as **(Critical)**. These relate to areas of high significance (e.g. food safety and traceability) and to Scheme rules.
- **General:** These criteria are printed in normal typeface in the text (in Section 3 Producer Criteria). These relate to core best practice.
- **Additional Sustainability Criteria**, under which information will be collected during the Bord Bia farm visit, are printed in green text. These Criteria are used in calculating the sustainability performance of the farm, but not in the calculation of the audit score.

### 2.5.2 Compliance / non-compliances

Where compliance with quality criteria is required, the auditor will assess the performance during the audit as follows:

- **Compliance:** there is full compliance with the criterion (e.g. the record is available, correctly completed and up to date) and the performance is rated as 2;
- **Area for Improvement (AFI):** the criterion is being met in some respects, but not in other respects (e.g. there is a record, but several entries are incorrect or missing) and the performance is rated as 1;
- **Non-compliance (NC):** there is a complete failure to meet the criterion (e.g. there is no record of the activity) and the performance is rated as 0;
- **Not applicable:** the criterion does not apply on this farm (e.g. there is no out-wintering of animals).

All the applicable scores are calculated on the auditing device. This results in an overall audit score. There are 154 criteria in total (i.e. those in the white background), including 9 critical criteria and 145 general criteria. For a farm to be eligible for certification it must:

- Have full compliance with all critical criteria; **and**
- Have no non-compliances; **and**
- Obtain a score of 60% or greater in the general criteria.

Where there was full compliance on all critical criteria the score calculation can be illustrated with the following example:

- Total general criteria = 145;
- Total not applicable criteria for this herd = 15;
- Total applicable general criteria = 130 (therefore the maximum score achievable = 260);
- The actual score achieved = 238; this could arise, for example, where there were 5 non-compliances (which each score 0) and 12 Areas for Improvement (which each score 1);
- The actual overall score = 92% (238 / 260).

The overall percentage performance of the farm is calculated in this way only when the audit is completed.

### 2.5.3 Addressing Non-Compliances

A herd cannot be certified if there are any critical or general non-compliances against the standard. The following scenarios deal with addressing non-compliances identified at audit.

#### 2.5.3.1 Critical Non-compliances

Where a Critical non-compliance is identified during audit, the Producer is advised of this. Corrective action must be taken within 48 hours of completion of the audit and Bord Bia informed (e.g. via the database). A re-audit will be scheduled to verify close out of the critical non-compliance. Where the corrective action is not taken within 48 hours of the completion of the audit or the corrective action is inadequate, the herd will not be eligible

for certification and will be excluded from the database with immediate effect. The Producer can re-apply to participate in the Scheme only after a period of 6 months. A full re-audit will be required upon re-application.

### 2.5.3.2 General non-compliances (no critical non-compliances)

Where general non-compliances are identified during the audit, the auditor will advise the Applicant / Producer of each non-compliance as they are identified. In addition to this the Applicant / Producer will also receive a summary report outlining all the non-compliances at the end of the audit. The Applicant / Producer will also be advised of the final audit score, calculated as per 2.5.2 above.

#### Score less than 60%

Where the overall score achieved is less than 60%, the herd cannot be certified. The Applicant / Producer can re-apply to participate in the Scheme only after a period of 6 months. Before re-application all non-compliances must have been addressed and sufficient AFIs must have been closed out to achieve a minimum overall score of 60% at next audit.

#### Score greater than 60% with some non-compliances

Where the overall score is greater than 60% and some non-compliances identified, they must be closed out on the database in the period as agreed between the Applicant / Producer and the auditor (maximum 1 month). Evidence of the close-out must be uploaded to the Bord Bia database and if acceptable the audit will be considered for certification without re-audit.

A commitment to address the AFIs must be given to the auditor.

Where the corrective action is not taken within the agreed time period or the corrective action is inadequate the herd will not be eligible for certification and will be excluded from the database. The Applicant / Producer can re-apply to participate in the Scheme only after a period of 6 months. A full re-audit will be required upon re-application.

#### Score greater than 60% with only AFIs

Where areas for improvement (AFIs) are identified during audit, the Applicant / Producer must give an undertaking to address these issues prior to the next audit.

Where the herd is excluded from the Scheme, the Producer can apply directly to Bord Bia for early re-audit. However before a re-audit can take place, the Producer must engage with a Bord Bia nominated Facilitator who will collaborate with the Producer to ensure that all critical and general non-compliances have been adequately addressed. Where this is confirmed, in writing to Bord Bia by the Facilitator, a re-audit will be arranged by Bord Bia. A list of the Bord Bia nominated Facilitators will be communicated to Producers wishing to avail of an early re-audit.

**Note 1:** *The above scenarios apply generally. However, there exists a number of specific criteria in the standard that necessitate an exclusion period of 6 months or longer, in the event that a non-compliance with these criteria is identified. These are individually identified with a specific note in the Producer Criteria and, regardless of the overall score achieved, will determine the period after which re-application can be made. In addition, where the same non-compliance(s) are raised in consecutive audits a period of exclusion of 6 months or more may be imposed before a re-application will be considered.*

**Note 2:** *The Bord Bia nominated Facilitators are personnel that apply to Bord Bia to undertake the work of facilitating Applicants / Producers with the closeout process. Each such Facilitator will have attended detailed training on the SBLAS Scheme and on the closeout process. Each Facilitator will, with the consent of the participating herd owner, have access to the herd's audit results.*

**Note 3:** *Applicants / Producers will also be able to avail of a close-out team / technical help desk to assist with uploading closeout information. Where non-compliances are identified by the auditor, the Applicant / Producer will be advised (as part of the audit closeout) how to contact the technical help desk. The close-out team / technical help desk is not available to Producers seeking an early re-audit (see Facilitator role above).*



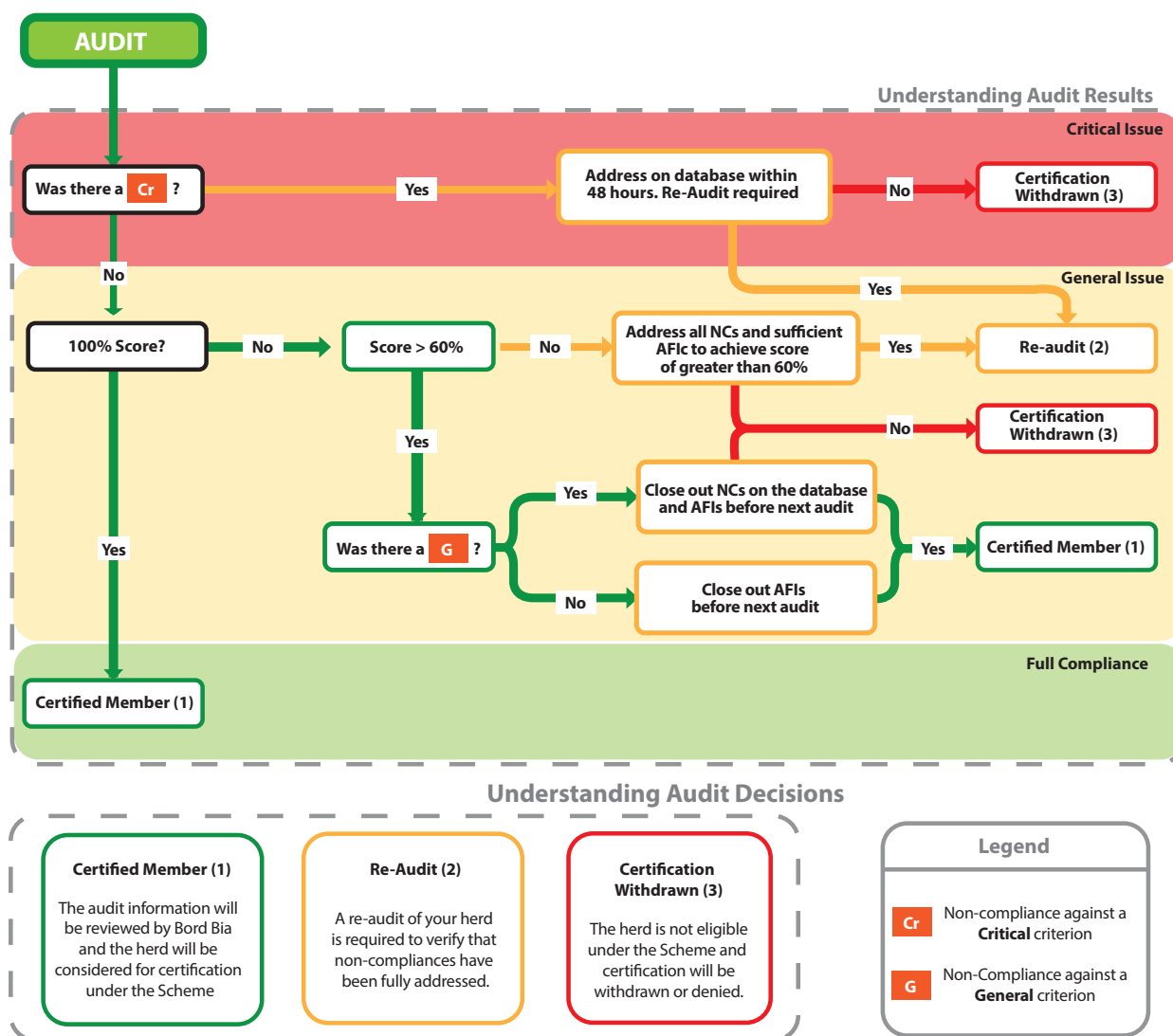


Figure 1: Understanding Audit Results

## 2.6 Recommendations for Best Practice

There are a number of recommendations for best practice included in this standard (these are printed in orange in Section 3). Compliance with these recommendations is not mandatory for certification. Nevertheless these issues may be evaluated during audit and the result recorded.

## 2.7 Application, Audit and Certification Process

### 2.7.1 Application

Applicants / Producers seeking membership for the first time must complete the application form provided by Bord Bia. The application form can be obtained directly from Bord Bia or downloaded from Bord Bia online at [farm.bordbia.ie](http://farm.bordbia.ie). The application form also contains consent forms permitting the release of relevant data from DAFM’s Animal Identification and Movements (AIM) database, Meat Processor abattoirs and the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF). On receipt, by Bord Bia, of the completed application form, an audit will be scheduled under the Scheme.

### 2.7.2 First Audit and Certification

The application will be evaluated and, if appropriate, a full independent audit of the Applicant / Producer will be carried out to determine the capability of the Applicant / Producer to meet all the requirements of the Standard.

The Applicant / Producer must provide full records that comply fully with the requirements of the Scheme for the 6 months immediately prior to the audit.

When the Applicant / Producer is deemed to comply with the requirements of the Standard, as determined by an independent audit, the herd will be considered for certification under the Scheme. When certified, the Producer will be advised and the herd number will be listed as a Member on the database. The Producer will be advised of the date of expiry of the certificate and provided with a web link to verify this.

### 2.7.3 Renewal Audit / Renewal of Certification

The certification is normally for an 18 month period. Existing Producers will be contacted to arrange a re-audit approximately 4 months prior to the expiry of the current certification. This period is to ensure that there is adequate time to complete the audit process and any required close-out. Where the re-audit cannot be arranged (e.g. the Producer cannot be contacted or refuses to collaborate in arranging a re-audit), membership of the Scheme will be withdrawn and the Producer notified.

### 2.7.4 Joint Audit of Sustainable Dairy Assurance Scheme (SDAS) with the SBLAS audit

Where Applicants / Producers also require audit under the SDAS, Bord Bia will organise for both audits to take place on the same day.

## 2.8 Certification Decisions

The certification decision (i.e. to grant, maintain, extend, withdraw, suspend or refuse certification to / from the Applicants / Producers) is made by the Bord Bia Certification Committee. This decision is made primarily on the basis of the audit findings. However, other factors recorded by the auditor, or additional considerations that come to light after the audit (such as failure to meet regulatory compliance), may be taken into consideration in arriving at the certification decision.

Certification is normally granted for an 18 month period after the date of certification, or until the next certification decision. Based on the circumstances of the audit (including the number and type of non-compliances and the timeliness and comprehensiveness of the closeout provided), the Certification Committee may, at its discretion, grant certification for a shorter period than normal (i.e. less than 18 months).

The decision is published on the Bord Bia database and the current status of the herd can be verified by entering the herd number in the following link: [farm.bordbia.ie](http://farm.bordbia.ie).

All certification decisions are notified in writing to the Applicants / Producers. This certification documentation can be used as evidence of certification under the SBLAS, but may not be used for any other purpose without the permission of Bord Bia. In the event that certification is withdrawn, the certification documentation must be disposed of and the Producer's name will be removed from the register of certified Members.

Certification documentation is issued under the following conditions:

- Members may make claims regarding certification only in respect of the scope (i.e. beef and / or lamb production) for which the herd has been certified;
  - Certification documentation is not used in such a manner as to bring Bord Bia into dispute. Members must not make any statement regarding the herd certification which Bord Bia may consider misleading or unauthorised;
  - No certification documentation, report, or any part thereof may be used in a misleading manner;
-

- Members must comply with the criteria of the Bord Bia Scheme where reference is made to Bord Bia certification in any communication media (e.g. documents, brochures, advertising, etc.).

## 2.9 Appeals

The Applicant / Producer may appeal decisions in relation to certification status by writing to Bord Bia within two weeks of the date of issue of a certification decision.

Bord Bia's Appeals Procedure will be followed and, where necessary, the matter will be referred to Bord Bia's Appeals Committee. The decision of Bord Bia's Appeals Committee is final. However this does not affect the right of the Applicant / Producer to refer the issue to the Ombudsman for consideration. Contact can be made at:

Office of Ombudsman, 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2;  
Tel. 01 639 5600; Fax. 01 639 5674;  
Email: [ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.ie](mailto:ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.ie)  
Website: [www.ombudsman.gov.ie](http://www.ombudsman.gov.ie)

## 2.10 Complaints

An Applicant / Producer may lodge a complaint regarding the audits or any other aspect of the operation of the Scheme, at any time. All complaints must be in writing and must be addressed to Bord Bia. All such complaints will be acknowledged and investigated by Bord Bia.

## 2.11 Implementation Date and Revision Updates

This edition (Revision 02) will come into operation on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. After that date only this edition will apply and the Beef and Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme Revision 01 will be revoked.

When changes occur to the text of this Standard in the future, the changes will be issued in whole or in part to all Applicants and Producers who are in turn responsible for ensuring that the revised text is inserted and the obsolete sections replaced.

## 2.12 Notification of Change (Certified Herds / Members)

In the event that the status of the certified Member changes (e.g. change of ownership, change of herd number, change of scope of operation), Bord Bia must be immediately informed and will decide upon the appropriate actions required (e.g. re-audit).

Applicants and Producers should also ensure that any change in contact details is communicated promptly to Bord Bia.



### **3. Producer Criteria**



### 3. Producer Criteria

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### 3.0 Foreword and Layout

The Bord Bia Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme is a voluntary Scheme open to all farmers producing bovines<sup>1</sup> and ovines intended for meat production. The Scheme is accredited to the international standard for product certification (ISO 17065: 2012).

The criteria in this Standard are intended to support the Producers' legal obligation to ensure that (a) food from animals is safe for human consumption; (b) the feedstuffs used on the farm are safe for use in food production, and (c) the enterprise is managed in a safe and environmentally friendly manner.

This Standard sets out the various criteria as follows:

#### Background Text

The blue text sets out the context of the subsequent criteria in the sub-section and is presented for information purposes only.

#### Quality Assurance Criteria

Black text surrounded by a black frame sets out the criteria under which compliance will be assessed. These are identified as a list within each section with a lower case letter, as follows: a), b), c), etc. Compliance with these criteria (as set out in full detail in the Scheme Regulations Section 2.5) is required to be eligible for certification under the Scheme as Member.


#### Additional Sustainability Criteria

The green text sets out the additional sustainability criteria that will be assessed during the Bord Bia farm visit. These are identified with an uppercase letter and number as follows: S1, S2, S3 ... S15. Information on these criteria will be collected during the visit as part of an assessment of other aspects of the sustainability performance of the farm; compliance with these criteria is not required for certification. However, implementing measures to address these criteria will improve the farm's sustainability performance.


#### Best Practice Recommendations


The orange text sets out the recommendations for best practice. These are identified with an uppercase letter and number as follows: R1, R2, R3... R40. Compliance with these criteria is not required for certification.

All this information will be maintained on a fully confidential basis (as per Scheme Regulation clause 2.2). It will be used to provide feedback to the herd owner.

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<sup>1</sup>The term "bovines" where used in the Standard is in accordance with the definition in clause 1.8 and means "cattle".

### 3.1 Records

#### Background Information

During the Bord Bia farm visit, the auditor will seek to establish (through observation, questioning and the assessment of relevant records) the performance of the Producer under all the criteria of the Standard. Producers will therefore understand the importance of maintaining of complete up-to-date records.

- a) Complete records and prescriptions (i.e. without unexplained gaps) must be available for at least 6 months prior to first audit under the Scheme (in the case of new Applicants), or for the period since the last audit (in the case of existing / previously certified herds).
- b) The producer must provide information / data on each of the following performance monitoring criteria:
  - i. Turnout and housing dates for all groups of animals;
  - ii. Harvest dates and DMD of grass-based forages (where available) used on farm;
  - iii. Types and quantities of concentrate feeds used during the year;
  - iv. Use of chemical fertilisers (e.g. dates, types and quantities used);
  - v. Manure spreading and application method.

### 3.2 Stockmanship, Capability and Competence

#### Background Information

Producers will be aware of their legal requirement to ensure that food from animals is safe for human consumption and their obligation to ensure that the food or feed they use, produce, transport or sell on or from the farm is safe for use. Producers will also be aware of the need to produce animals that meet the market requirements for meat quality and composition. Producers can avail of many sources of information on best practices on the farm. Sources such as Teagasc, the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Council (FAWAC), Animal Health Ireland and their publications provide guidelines.

- a) The Producer must be able to demonstrate competence in herd-owner / keeper responsibilities, having a minimum of 5 years relevant on-farm experience or having received relevant training.
- b) The Producer and staff in positions of day to day management of the stock must be conversant with the principles of best practice in animal welfare<sup>2</sup> and general management and have a regular inspection routine for all animals which must be increased during vulnerable times such as calving, lambing, during adverse weather, etc.
- c) A contingency plan must be in place to safeguard the health and welfare of the animals in the event of planned and unplanned absences or circumstances.
- d) The Producer must be aware of his / her obligations in relation to the Clean Livestock Declaration aspect of the Food Chain Information (FCI) declaration (See Appendix 3) and must implement measures to ensure that each animal is clean enough so that it does not present an unacceptable risk for slaughter and dressing operations.

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<sup>2</sup>The publications are available from FAWAC [www.fawac.ie](http://www.fawac.ie). – See Appendix 1 Reference Information.



- e) The Producer must be aware that certain diseases can be transmitted from animals to humans and he / she must be familiar with possible preventive measures (See Appendix 4: Zoonoses and Notifiable Diseases).
- f) Animals must be treated and handled in a manner that minimises stress and avoids injury or carcase damage.

For the following requirements g) to l) Producers must ensure that:

- g) Animals are not lifted or dragged by the head, horns, ears, legs, tail or fleece.
- h) Lambs, in particular, are handled in a manner that avoids damage to the carcase.
- i) Where dogs are used to assist handling of cattle or sheep, there must be no evidence of injury or undue stress to the sheep or cattle.
- j) Animals are handled without excessive physical force and without the use of electric goads.
- k) Where the destruction of an animal is deemed necessary on humane grounds, it must be carried out under veterinary supervision / advice or by a licensed slaughter service. The death must be recorded on the AIM database or in the relevant register (bovine or sheep).
- l) The Producer is aware of and complies with the requirements for on-farm slaughter of healthy animals that have suffered an acute accidental injury (See Appendix 5, On-Farm Slaughter of Healthy Animals).

**m) Cloned animals are not permitted in the herd / flock (Critical).**

**Note:** Where a non-compliance is identified regarding the requirements in 3.2.m (cloning), a re-application will not be accepted until all cloned animals and their progeny have been removed from the herd.

Consider implementing measures to address the following, as appropriate to your enterprise:

- S1. Obtain and understand relevant and up-to-date technical information through communication with qualified advisors, access to farming publications, membership of a farming organisation, participation in a formal discussion group, attendance at events of interest to farming, attendance at animal health information meetings, attendance at co-op advisory meetings, etc.
- S2. Conduct an ongoing review of the farm to identify opportunities for improvement (e.g. replacement breeding strategy by participation in the breeding performance (Euro-Star / EBI or other beef and lamb production initiatives), and to accommodate future developments in conjunction with a qualified advisor.
- R1. Attend training on welfare, food safety management for beef and lamb producers, safe handling of chemicals, responsible use of remedies and chemicals, biosecurity.
- R2. When cows are dried off after weaning, use teat sealants instead of dry cow therapy where possible.

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### 3.3 Identification and Traceability

#### Background Information

The SBLAS Standard seeks to assure the consumer with regard to traceability on the farm. Producers will therefore be aware of the importance of being able to demonstrate full traceability for all beef and lamb animals on their farm(s). The central system for ensuring identification and traceability of cattle on farms is the DAFM Animal Identification & Movement (AIM) system, on which all movements are finally recorded. For sheep, the National Sheep Identification System (NSIS) applies. Producers will be aware that the flock keeper needs to be registered, an up-to-date flock register maintained, sheep identified (e.g. with tags or boluses), the total numbers and details of all sheep on farms recorded annually and all sheep movements on and off the farms clearly documented. The requirements of AIM and NSIS are incorporated in this Standard.

- a) **Each Producer must have a valid DAFM herd number and a current valid herd / flock register (Critical).**
- b) The disposal of fallen / dead animals (bovines and ovines) must be done in compliance with the current DAFM requirements and the required disposal evidence must be available (e.g. receipt for collection / AIM record), with the relevant register updated.

#### Bovine Herd Register and Residency

Each Producer must have a system for recording bovine movements<sup>3</sup> that meets the regulatory requirements:

- c) There must be a current listing of all bovines on the holding and all cattle births, deaths and movements on and off the farm must be recorded and records retained.
- d) All cattle on the farm aged 20 days or more must be tagged with two matching tags and registered on AIM within 7 days of tagging in accordance with the legal requirements. However, where tags have been lost, the DAFM approved replacement procedure must be followed<sup>4</sup>.
- e) There must be a valid passport (or approved alternative) available for each animal within 40 days of birth.
- f) All cattle sold for slaughter as quality assured animals must be resident on a Bord Bia certified farm (or farms) for a minimum of 70 days prior to slaughter and this must be recorded.

#### Sheep Herd / Flock Register and Residency

- g) Each Producer must have a system for recording ovine movements that addresses the National Sheep Identification System (NSIS) requirements.
- h) All lambs or sheep sold for slaughter as quality assured animals must be resident on a Bord Bia certified farm for a minimum of 42 days prior to slaughter and this must be demonstrated through records.
- i) Sale documents (i.e. dispatch dockets) for sheep / lambs meeting the residency requirement must not include sheep / lambs that do not meet the residency requirement.
- j) All breeding ewes, lambs and rams present on the farm must be tagged in accordance with DAFM requirements.

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<sup>3</sup>The DAFM website [www.Agfood.ie](http://www.Agfood.ie) can be used for online registrations and for animal movements.

<sup>4</sup>Farmers will be aware that where animals have lost ear tags or there are missing cards, a DAFM approved procedure must be followed to secure replacement tags / cards. Producers should, where necessary, consult their local DVO office for clarification.

### 3.4 Animal Remedies and Related Equipment

#### Background Information

The Producer will be fully committed to producing safe food. There are occasions where animal remedies must be used for animal health and welfare purposes. Both the Producer and his or her veterinary practitioner share the joint responsibility to ensure that animal remedies are used responsibly in order that the health of other species (including humans) is not adversely affected. Resistance (including antimicrobial resistance, anthelmintic resistance, etc.) to medicines has emerged as a serious problem in human and animal medicine. In the case of animal remedies that require a prescription (e.g. anti-biotics) the Producer and veterinary practitioner will ensure that any antimicrobial remedies are prescribed and used in a manner that minimises the risk of development of resistance to these remedies, i.e. appropriate prescription and correct use (not over-use or under-use).

All animal remedies for use in food producing animals are currently authorised by either the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) or by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA) and carry a Veterinary Product Approval (VPA) or EMA approval number. Producers should note that remedies purchased outside the state, or over the Internet, are unlikely to be approved for usage in Ireland (for further details please see Appendix 6, Supply and Sale of Animal Remedies).

Correct storage and disposal of unused, empty and expired animal medicines, as well as veterinary waste materials (e.g. used containers, used needles / syringes, etc.), is an essential part of good farming practice. It is therefore important to observe label directions for storage and disposal.

**Note:** *The Producer should contact the relevant local authority for information on proper disposal.*

For further information see Waste Management Acts 1996 and 2002. See also Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Waste Catalogue and Hazardous Waste List (available on the EPA website: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)).

#### Animal Remedies Purchase, Use and Administration

**a) Only authorised remedies that carry a VPA, EMA or other official approval number and that were purchased from approved sources are permitted (Critical).**

**Note:** *See also Appendix 6, Supply and Sale of Animal Remedies for approved supply sources.*

- b) The herd or flock must be under the routine care of a veterinary practitioner and Producers must formally identify the following:
  - i. The primary veterinarian and (where applicable) all other veterinary services provider(s), and
  - ii. The primary supplier and (where applicable) all other supplier(s) of veterinary products.
- c) All the remedies purchasing information (including name and address of supplier, date of purchase / receipt, authorised name of the animal remedy and quantity) must be recorded in one of the following ways:
  - i. Retention of all invoices / purchase records, provided they contain ALL the necessary detail (as outlined above);
  - ii. Computer-based records containing the above details, with these clearly accessible to inspection;
  - iii. Details entered in the Animal Remedies Purchases Record section of the Bord Bia Farm Book (see example of an Animal Remedies Purchases Record in Appendix 7).

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- d) Label instructions and prescriptions with respect to target species, class of livestock, dosage rates, treatment duration and withdrawal periods must be observed and this must be demonstrated in the animal remedy usage record.
- e) An up-to-date register of remedy usage, on an individual animal or group basis, must be maintained in one of the following formats:
  - i. For bovines, the ARR section of the Bovine Herd Register (BHR). (Note: some of the BHR books issued do not have an ARR section, hence options ii, iii or iv must be used);
  - ii. The Bord Bia Remedies Usage Record in the Bord Bia Farm Book (see example of Animal Remedies Usage Records in Appendix 7);
  - iii. Computer based records, provided these are easily accessible for inspection;
  - iv. Other means satisfying legal requirements.
- f) For each administration, the following information must be recorded:
  - i. Date of administration;
  - ii. Authorised name and quantity of the animal remedy administered;
  - iii. Identity of animal to which the remedy was administered (including ear tag number if appropriate) OR, for group administrations, the identity of the group of animals treated;
  - iv. Date on which the withdrawal period ends;
  - v. Name of person administering remedy;
  - vi. Name of prescribing veterinary practitioner (if applicable).

**Note:** *Where a repeated non-compliance is identified in a subsequent audit regarding the requirements in 3.4c – 3.4f above, the herd will be made ineligible for certification and a re-application will not be accepted until a period of 6 months has elapsed. This is to ensure that there is at least a 6-month period during which all required records regarding animal remedies are fully and properly completed.*

- g) **The records maintained must demonstrate that animals were not sold for slaughter before the date of end of the remedy withdrawal period. This also includes animals sold at mart or directly to another farmer; in these cases the Producer must advise of any remedy treatments if sold within the withdrawal period (Critical).**
- h) **Remedies must be administered in accordance with manufacturers’ or veterinary practitioners’ instructions (Critical).**

**Note:** *Bord Bia may require the Producer to provide written confirmation from the veterinary practitioner(s) or veterinary products supplier(s) regarding the remedy purchase or usage level on the farm.*

- i) The Producer must retain notifications from DAFM and Abattoir.
- j) The Producer must inform Bord Bia in the event of a residue positive test result immediately on receipt of official confirmation.

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**Animal Remedies and Equipment Storage**

- k) A medicine store must be provided that is secured in a manner so as to be accessible only to the person(s) responsible for the herd (see Appendix 8: Medicine Storage Guidelines).
- l) All expired animal remedies must be removed from the medicines store (or segregated and clearly identified within the store) and controlled pending safe disposal, and any quantity of unused / expired medicines returned to the supplier for disposal must be recorded in the Animal Remedy Records.
- m) All animal remedies (including pour-on remedies, etc.) must be retained in their original labelled container, stored in isolation from other products such as farm chemicals and, where they require refrigerated storage (e.g. vaccines and other remedies), stored in a suitable fridge.
- n) All veterinary equipment must be stored separately from farm chemicals and other hazardous products and maintained safely in a clean condition.
- o) All used needles and syringes must be controlled pending safe disposal in suitable labelled receptacles, boxes or containers.
- p) Producers must be aware of the correct procedure to follow in the event of a needle breaking in the animal during administration and not being recovered (i.e. the tag number must be recorded and the relevant information passed to the purchaser at the time of sale).

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### 3.5 Animal Feeds and Water

#### Background Information

Correct nutrition of the animal is vital to good performance, animal health and to food safety. In Ireland, beef and lamb are largely fed on grass or grass silage. It is common practice, however, to supplement this diet with home produced and purchased feedstuffs at key periods, including during the winter period, for early season lamb and also during weaning.

The Producer will also provide animals with ready access at all times to clean water, and will be aware of the need to ensure that the feed regime of all animals is maintained in the event of unexpected events or unplanned absences.

The Producer will be aware that Bord Bia has implemented a Feed Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS), under which all feeds supplied to Bord Bia certified farms need to be sourced from a FQAS certified supplier. Producers involved in feed mixing on the farm also will be aware that they need to observe the relevant FQAS requirements. Where the Producer is mixing on the farm, certification under the FQAS is a prerequisite to achieving certification under the SBLAS.

- a) Cattle and sheep must derive the bulk of their feed throughout their lifetime from grass and grass-based forages and this must be demonstrated through records (e.g. Own Farm Feeds record in Farm Book).
- b) There must be sufficient quality feed / fodder (grass, forage, roots, etc.) and clean water available to the animals of all ages, in order to safeguard their health and welfare (see 3.7.d for the specific criterion for young animals).

**Note:** Data will be collected on the feeding regime for the different groups of animals as part of the farm performance assessment.

- c) **Only animal proteins derived from milk, egg and non-ruminant gelatine may be used in feeds (Critical).**
- d) **Feedstuffs, other than farm-to-farm cereal / fodder purchases, must only be sourced from suppliers approved by the competent authority and in accordance with the Feed Quality Assurance Scheme<sup>5</sup> (Critical).**
- e) Bovine and ovine feeds must be manufactured without the incorporation of tallow.
- f) Feed delivery documentation / label information for all feed deliveries must be retained for examination.

**Note:** While this is primarily the feed supplier's responsibility, the Producer is responsible for ensuring that the information is provided and that the feed label or accompanying documentation contains (at a minimum) the following information: the species of animal for which the feed is intended; a list of ingredients or category in descending order of inclusion; the name, address and licence number (DAFM or equivalent approval number) of the manufacturer; batch number; declaration of nutritional composition.

- g) For farm to farm cereal / fodder purchases, details of the purchase (which could include name of supplier, herd / tillage number, date of purchase, product purchased, quantity, and any other relevant information) must be recorded.

**Note:** This can be recorded in the Bord Bia Farm Book (see section Feed Purchases Record in Appendix 9). Other recording systems that capture the same information will be acceptable.

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<sup>5</sup>As part of the FQAS, a full list of the approved feed suppliers will be published on the Bord Bia website. See [www.bordbia.ie/FQAS/Approvedsuppliers](http://www.bordbia.ie/FQAS/Approvedsuppliers)

- h) The types of feeds produced on the farm and fed to the animals must be identified.

**Note:** This can be recorded in the Bord Bia Farm Book (see section Own Farm Feeds Record in Appendix 9). Other recording systems that capture the same information will be acceptable.

- i) Producers who carry out on-farm mixing, and are incorporating products identified on the delivery documentation or on the label as 'additive' or 'premix of additives', must have a current license for this activity from DAFM and must be approved under the Bord Bia Feed Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS). This also includes the feeding of any high risk feed material<sup>6</sup>

**Note:** Where Producers carry out any home mixing, this activity may need to be certified under the Feed Quality Assurance Scheme (details of the relevant sections of the FQAS are available from Bord Bia. See also Appendix 19: FQAS Home Mixer Level 1 Relevant Criteria).

- j) The Producer must ensure that the feed storage areas or facilities are maintained in a clean and dry condition as well as protected in order to minimise contamination from sources such as rodents, birds, cats, insects, moulds and dampness.
- k) Chemicals, oils and other potentially toxic substances (including paints, preservatives, detergents, disinfectants, etc.) must be kept isolated from animal feeding-stuffs in order to prevent any accidental contamination of the feeds.
- l) The Producer must ensure that all feeding equipment (including receptacles, feed troughs, bins, mixing equipment and areas where mixing occurs) and vehicles and loaders are maintained in a manner that minimises cross-contamination (e.g. from chemicals, oils, other farm wastes and manures).
- m) Watering devices, including drinkers and storage facilities, must be kept clean and regularly inspected to ensure they are in good working order and sited so as to minimise risk of fouling and freezing in cold weather.
- n) Where the water supply is derived from well(s), the well-head(s) must be sealed and the area around the well-head(s) maintained in order to prevent water contamination.
- o) Tanks for storage of drinking water supplied in the animal housing must be covered and / or protected to prevent contamination.

Where non-ruminants (especially pigs, poultry and horses) are also present on the farm, the following additional requirements apply:

- p) Cattle and sheep must not be fed non-ruminant feeds and feed storage facilities must be managed so as to prevent cross contamination of the beef / lamb rations with feed rations intended for other non-ruminant species (Critical).**
- q) Where feeds for non-ruminants are handled, separate feed handling equipment must be used, or else the handling equipment must be thoroughly cleaned between each use.

R3. Take steps to minimise exposure of stock to poisonous plants (e.g. yew, ragwort, foxglove, hemlock, deadly nightshade, etc.).

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<sup>6</sup>High risk material listed in Appendix 8 of the Bord Bia Feed Quality Assurance Scheme.



### 3.6 Land Management

#### Background Information

The Producer will be aware of the need to manage the land available to their farming enterprise(s) in order to optimise production while also maintaining and / or improving the environment. The Producer will also be aware of the need to comply with the Nitrates Directive – S.I. No. 378 of 2006, European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2006 - on nitrate fertilisation of the soil.

- a) The storage and or use of raw or treated sewage, sewage sludges or sewage-derived products on Bord Bia certified farms is prohibited (Critical).**

**Note:** *Where a non-compliance is identified regarding this requirement, the herd will be excluded from the Scheme and a re-application will not be accepted until 12 months after the date that the last prohibited product was stored or spread on farm.*

- b) The Producer must ensure that cattle cannot gain access to drains and watercourses, except at controlled access points.
- c) The Producer must comply with the regulatory requirements and restrictions relating to areas of special conservation under their control. Particularly in the case of out wintering, the Producer must avoid placing livestock on poorly drained land and steps must be taken to minimise poaching, soil erosion and compaction particularly near watercourses.
- d) Farm roadways must be managed and maintained to minimise damage to the land and to minimise the risk to watercourses.
- e) Fertilisers must be stored in a manner that protects them from damage and prevents pollution of land or waterways, including from run-off.

Consider implementing measures to address the following, as appropriate to your enterprise:

- S3. Incorporate clover into grassland swards where appropriate, in order to aid nitrogen (N) fixation and reduce the need for chemical N.
- S4. Have a procedure for assessing grass growth and availability that ideally includes recording of grass growth rates (e.g. using a grass plate).
- S5. Carry out soil testing for pH, P and K at least every 5 years so as to be able to ensure that pH and soil fertility levels are maintained at optimum levels and so as to ensure that applications of fertiliser follow a balanced nutrient plan that takes account of soil fertility, as well as the contribution from slurry and stocking rates. (**Note:** the target is to balance the application of nutrients in farm manures, slurry or fertiliser with crop uptake, in order to avoid unnecessary residues in the soil or pollution from over-application).
- S6. Develop knowledge of the plant types and bird species present on the farm and identify measures to improve biodiversity over time.
- S7. Ensure that the requirements of the Nitrates Directive are met.

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### 3.7 Specified Management Tasks: Bovines

#### Background Information

The Producers and personnel responsible for the management of the farm will realise the value of having suitable training and experience in animal husbandry, health and welfare. The Producer will have knowledge of and apply best practices in relation to the following: animal health and welfare; animal feeding and grassland management; animal housing; animal husbandry and handling; maintaining normal animal behaviour; planning for herd health; prompt treatment of sick animals, and responsible use of animal medicines. Producers will be aware of the need to minimise pain associated with surgical procedures such as castration, disbudding, dehorning etc. through the use of analgesics and anaesthetics and by conducting the procedures at the optimal age. Producers will also be aware that they are legally required to be competent to conduct these procedures and will also be aware of the FAWAC guidelines on welfare.

- a) Where stock bulls (including vasectomised bulls) are housed individually, they must have sight of other farm animals or other farm activity.
- b) Calving facilities must be available that permit cows to be restrained promptly and safely, as required.
- c) Calving pens must be maintained in a hygienic and safe condition so as to minimise risk of infection and injury during calving.
- d) Calves must have access to sufficient quantities of fresh water, milk or other liquids to satisfy their nutritional and fluid intake needs from 2 weeks of age.
- e) Calves under 8 weeks may only be housed in individual pens where they have direct tactile and visual contact with other calves. Such calves may be individually isolated if a veterinary practitioner certifies that this is necessary for health / behaviour reasons. Calves over 8 weeks may not be individually penned, except if a veterinary practitioner certifies that this is necessary for health / behaviour reasons.
- f) Producers must consider whether castration is required to meet market requirements and where it is decided to castrate animals, the following conditions apply:
  - i. Where castration using a clamp (e.g. Burdizzo) is carried out, it must be completed before 6 months of age or, if older than 6 months, by a veterinary practitioner (see also recommendation R4 with regard to the use of pain relief);
  - ii. Where castration is carried out using rubber rings, it must only be carried out in the first week of life.
- g) Routine dehorning of bovines is prohibited.
- h) Disbudding of calves by thermal cauterisation<sup>7</sup> must be carried out before 4 weeks of age and must be done in a competent manner that minimises stress. Where disbudding calves over 14 days of age a local anaesthetic must be administered prior to the commencement of the disbudding procedure.
- i) Dehorning of older animals (i.e. over 28 days of age) must only be carried out by a veterinary practitioner using appropriate anaesthesia and analgesia (pain killing drugs).
- j) Routine tethering of stock is prohibited.
- k) A sire selection policy (either by stock bulls or AI) based on available breeding data must be in place, in order to minimise calving difficulties (particularly for heifers) and to improve the economic performance of the herd.

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<sup>7</sup>No other means of disbudding is permitted under the Scheme.

- l) Documentation must be available to demonstrate that synchronisation of oestrus, where practiced, was carried out under veterinary supervision or prescription as appropriate.
- m) Routine induction of calving is prohibited.
- n) Routine tail docking of cows and calves is prohibited.

**Note:** *Where the tails of cows or calves have been docked the herd will be excluded from the Scheme and a re-application will not be accepted until 12 months has elapsed.*

- R4. *Where the decision is made to castrate on the farm, using a clamp (e.g. Burdizzo) for castration, carry out this procedure as early as possible before 2 months of age and with the use of pain relief.*
- R5. *When males are kept entire, graze and pen them separately from females once they reach 7 months of age, or earlier if behaviour dictates.*
- R6. *Ensure that newborn calves receive colostrum during the first 6 hours (and ideally within one hour of birth) and have access to a source of long fibre from 14 days of age.*
- R7. *Ensure that the breeding programme in place on the farm takes informed advice (Teagasc, ICBF, other advisors) into account.*
- R8. *Ensure that prompt treatment is given to any cow experiencing calving difficulties.*

### 3.8 Specified Management Tasks: Ovines

- a) Where present, the Producer must maintain all lambing facilities (including pens) in a clean condition.
- b) Where sheep housing facilities are not available and sheep are out-wintered, a sheltered dry lying area (i.e. a free-draining area with no visible surface water), ideally located in close proximity to the farmyard, must be provided to protect against inclement weather and to minimise the danger of predators.
- c) Rams must be confined in groups with limited space, in order to prevent fighting when mixing unfamiliar rams.
- d) All adult sheep must be shorn at a minimum of once per year.
- e) Shearing of ewes in the 6-week period prior to lambing must be avoided.
- f) Producers must have a routine for drafting lambs on the basis of body weight and fat cover.
- g) Producers must consider whether castration / tail docking is required to meet market requirements and where it is decided to castrate / tail dock lambs, the following conditions apply:
  - i. Where castration is carried out using rubber rings, it must only be carried out in the first week of life.
  - ii. Where castration is carried out using a clamp / bloodless castrator (e.g. Burdizzo) it must only be done up to 3 months of age or if older by a veterinary practitioner.
  - iii. Tail docking (where practised) must be carried out using rubber rings only in the first week of life and sufficient tail must be left to cover the vulva in the female and the anus in males.

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- h) Fly-strike must be treated in good time, either by dipping or through the use of other remedies that cause less stress to the animal.
- i) The Producer must be able to demonstrate knowledge of nutrition requirements pre- and post-lambing.
- j) The Producer must be able to demonstrate that he or she is sufficiently experienced or trained in both lambing procedures and post-lambing care.
- k) The Producer must have a replacement programme that takes into account factors including general health and wellbeing (e.g. feet and teeth).
- l) Additional monitoring of sheep must be conducted as follows:
  - i. Sheep must be monitored for lameness and foot condition and treated as appropriate to correct the problem;
  - ii. Where foot baths are used, a programme must be in place to ensure that the dip remains effective when in use;
  - iii. Teeth must be monitored and, if necessary, appropriate action taken (e.g. making available suitable feed);
  - iv. Sheep must be monitored regularly to minimise faecal matting.

- R9. Use pedigree rams (e.g. Sheep Ireland Euro Star index) selected according to a breeding objective (e.g. to ensure high carcase lean meat and high growth-rate lambs).
- R10. Ensure that ewes are in the appropriate body condition at the key stages of the production cycle especially at housing prior to lambing to ensure a BCS (Body Condition Score) of 2.5 – 3 at lambing.
- R11. Give particular attention to the appropriate disposal of afterbirth. (See 'Scrapie: Guidance Notes for Farmers', published by DAFM, a copy of which has already circulated to flock owners).
- R12. Closely monitor lambing, either in a sheltered confined area or while housed.
- R13. Where lambing outdoors, carry out castration and tail docking operations in a manner that minimises mis-mothering.
- R14. Request contract shearers to disinfect their equipment between farms.
- R15. Lengthen the rotation gap in order to reduce bacterial contamination on pastures and to reduce foot rot bacteria (which will not normally survive on pasture without sheep longer than 12 days).
- R16. Avoid poorly-drained land, rough concrete and rough ground around gates and troughs.
- R17. Only introduce sheep with healthy feet to field root crop feeding. Carry out foot checks prior to introduction. Subsequently, perform frequent checks for 'mud-balling'.
- R18. The main foot dip solutions recommended are copper sulphate (10% solution), zinc sulphate (10% solution) and formalin (3% of 40% formaldehyde).
- R19. Producers should be familiar with approaches to minimise the development of anthelmintic resistance within their flocks.
- R20. Ensure that, when sheep are treated in a manner such as dipping, shower / jetting, etc., the animals are handled so as to minimise the risk of stress or dip ingestion.

### 3.9 Animal Health and Welfare

#### Background Information

The Producer will be aware of the need to adhere to best practices in the production of beef and lamb in terms of product safety and quality, while also adhering to good animal welfare standards and protecting the environment. Consumers are increasingly conscious of animal health and welfare issues and require assurance that best practices are in operation on the farm. Stockmanship is therefore a key factor in animal welfare.

The Producer will be aware that the health of the animals is crucial, both to food safety and productivity on the farm. Producers will have a close relationship with their veterinary practitioner and will be conscious of the need to try to prevent animal health and welfare problems. The Producer will also be aware of the importance of recording animal health data and making this available to their veterinary practitioner. Producers will also be aware that certain diseases are notifiable to DAFM because of the risk of transmission to humans or their animal health, animal welfare and economic impact. The suspicion or occurrence of such diseases must be reported to the local Regional Veterinary Office (RVO). Further details, including a list of these diseases, are detailed in Appendix 4: Zoonoses and Notifiable Diseases.

- a) Cattle producers must comply with the requirements of the Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Regulations of 2014 (and subsequent revisions), including BVD testing of animals within specified timescales.
- b) Cattle producers must dispose of animals considered persistently infected (PI) with BVD virus (those with an initial positive or inconclusive virus result without a subsequent negative re-test) within 5 weeks of the date of the initial test being carried out.
- c) All animals suspected or considered to be PI must be isolated (with their dam if necessary) to minimize the risk of transmission of infection to other animals (particularly those in calf) in their own and neighbouring herds.

Producers must have animal handling facilities for the management of their livestock. These must address criteria 3.9.d & e below:

- d) For Cattle: a pen, crush and restraining facilities are required. These facilities must be appropriate to the enterprise and must permit animals to be restrained while minimising risk of injury and stress. These facilities must be maintained in a manner that ensures the safety of both the livestock and the stockperson.
- e) For Sheep: access to a functional sheep handling facility that facilitates foot treatment is required.
- f) All bovine animals must be presented for testing in accordance with the DAFM disease eradication and control requirements.
- g) In the event of positive or inconclusive Tuberculosis or Brucellosis reactors being identified on the farm, there must be a procedure for isolating the animals.
- h) Each Producer must follow a documented Animal Health Plan (AHP), based on the needs of the farm, which is drawn up by the Producer (ideally in conjunction with his / her veterinary practitioner and / or agricultural advisor) and reviewed annually and is equivalent to the template set out in Appendix 10a: Animal Health Plan.

**Note:** During audit, the AHP will be cross referenced with the animal remedy usage and with specific management tasks and tests.

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- i) Boundaries and fences must be maintained in a stock-proof condition to minimise contact with animals of other herds and to minimise risk of injury to animals.
- j) Sick animals must be treated promptly and segregated where required.
- k) All purchased stock must be monitored for signs of disease for a one month period after purchase.
- l) The producer must have a procedure for the control of internal parasites through grassland management and dosing.

**Note:** Guidelines relating to 3.9.i - 3.9.l are published by Animal Health Ireland (see Appendix 1: Reference Information).

- m) A record of significant animal health events (e.g. abortions, disease incidences including respiratory disease, leucosis, salmonellosis, leptospirosis, paratuberculosis or Johne's disease, blackleg, BVD, etc.) must be maintained. (see Appendix 10b Animal Mortality & Significant Health Issues Records).
- n) Farm dogs and cats must be managed so as to reduce risk of the spread of parasites or disease to livestock and humans.

- R21. Ensure that where lambs are sold for slaughter, the Producer has access to a weighing facility (either owned or rented or otherwise available locally).
- R22. Ensure that the authorities are informed as soon as possible in the event of suspicion or occurrence of a notifiable diseases (see Appendix 4: Zoonoses and Notifiable Diseases).
- R23. Cattle producers should be familiar with the leaflets from Animal Health Ireland on IBR, JD, Biosecurity, Parasite control and Colostrum management.
- R24. Take steps to ensure that the Producer is aware of the status of their herds in regard to Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and Johne's disease (JD) and, depending on outcomes, take appropriate steps in conjunction with the veterinary practitioner, including participation in animal health control programmes and adherence to established best practice guidelines such as those published by Teagasc and Animal Health Ireland (AHI) on IBR, JD, Biosecurity, Parasite control and Colostrum management.
- R25. Examine all breeding cows and ewes regularly in relation to body condition score and implement a feeding regime to remedy any problems.
- R26. Implement measures to minimise lameness, hock swellings and other illnesses, and treat all such illnesses promptly.
- R27. Monitor the incidence of animal mortality (e.g. stillbirths, deaths) and involuntary culling (for health reasons such as lameness, infertility and mastitis) and implement corrective actions.
- R28. Implement an observation period for purchased stock, purchase animals of known health status, and take all possible measures to prevent purchasing animals that are health risks prior to them arriving on the farm (e.g. negative status for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), Leptospirosis, vaccination status, letter of assurance from vendor's veterinary practitioner etc.). Adhere to established best practice guidelines on the introduction of purchased stock such as those published by Teagasc and Animal Health Ireland (AHI) on IBR, JD, parasite control and colostrum management (see [www.animalhealthireland.ie](http://www.animalhealthireland.ie)).

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R29. Keep animals in social groups and monitor all animals for expressions of desirable behaviour such as licking and grooming.

R30. Ensure that there is good human-animal contact to minimise fear of people.

### 3.10 Biosecurity and Pest Control

#### Background Information

The Producer will be conscious of the need to minimise the risk of diseases being brought onto the farm. To this end, the Producer should provide suitable disinfection facilities at the farm gate, control access to the farm and advise visitors of their responsibilities. Particular attention should be paid to higher risk vehicles, such as those transporting slurry and other animal wastes, or vehicles that are likely to have been in contact with animals of other species or from other farms. The Producer will also be aware of the need for responsible control of rodents, birds and other pests in the farmyard, in order to prevent disease spread by contamination of feedstuffs (including forage) and feeding surfaces (e.g. troughs). The selection and placement of approved pest control products is important, given the desirability of minimising the impact on the environment, as well as minimising exposure to non-target species. Good practices and controls should be developed in relation to pest control (See link in Appendix 1: Reference Information, page 3: 'Responsible Use of Rodenticides CRRU code').

**Note:** In accordance with clause 3.1.a, complete records (i.e. without unexplained gaps) must be available for the 6-month period prior to joining the Scheme (in the case of new Applicants) or for the period since the last audit (in the case of existing / previously certified herds).

- a) Personnel entry and traffic movement must be kept to a minimum and visitors to the farm made aware of their responsibilities regarding biosecurity, e.g. through a prominently displayed notice (see Appendix 18: Restricted Access Signage Guideline; see also 3.14.c regarding the availability of the Farm Safety Risk Assessment).
- b) The Producer must provide facilities for visitors and ensure that they disinfect footwear on arrival at the farm, using suitable disinfectants.
- c) Only officially approved pest control products, which carry official approved numbers from the Pesticide Registration and Control Division<sup>8</sup> of DAFM, may be used on the farm.

**Note:** This 5 digit approval number appears in either of the following formats: PCS 12345 (for Pesticide Control Service), or BPA 12345 (for Biocide Product Approval).

- d) Product specifications (e.g. labels, technical data sheets) demonstrating suitability for use in the particular context must be available for each rodenticide used.
- e) The Producer must operate and maintain an effective pest control programme in the farmyard.
- f) Where baiting is used, the following requirements apply:
  - i. A farmyard sketch identifying the locations of the bait points must be available;
  - ii. Baits must be placed in a manner that prevents access of non-target species and minimises the risk of cross-contamination of feed or water;
  - iii. Baits must not be placed inside feed storage areas, in order to prevent inadvertent contamination of feed materials by the baiting products;
  - iv. There must be a programme for the inspection and replenishment of the bait points; and

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<sup>8</sup>See the PCS website [www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie)

- v. There must be a routine for the collection of dead rodents and their safe disposal, as per product label instructions.
- g) All practical steps (including structural, operational and environmental hygiene controls and measures) must be in place to minimise insect infestation (including weevils, mites, flies, cockroaches) in feed storage and handling areas, incorporating the application of physical or chemical treatments as required.

R31. Create a biosecurity plan setting out management practices for issues such as incoming stock, isolation, cleansing and disinfection, sharing of vehicles with other farms, regular visitors, collection of fallen stock etc. that adheres to best practice guidelines, including those published by Animal Health Ireland. (See [www.animalhealthireland.ie](http://www.animalhealthireland.ie) and see also Appendix 17: Biosecurity Guidelines).

R32. Locate manure heaps and slurry tanks with a view to preventing access by stock.

### 3.11 Housing

#### Background Information

The quality of the housing provided has a significant impact on animal health and performance. Particular attention ought to be paid to the space allowances in lying areas, access routes and roadways, feeding and watering areas and to the overall ventilation requirements.

The Producer will be aware that poor ventilation can lead to the build-up of toxic gases, which are a serious hazard to both livestock and farm personnel. In addition, poor ventilation can predispose to health problems (particularly pneumonia). The Producer will thus ensure that properly designed ventilation is in place to permit free circulation of air above animal height, while avoiding draughts at livestock level.

The Producer will also be aware that artificial lighting is required to facilitate monitoring and inspection of housed animals after dark. Specific expert advice on the layout of buildings suitable for beef and lamb animals is available from Teagasc.

- a) Housing must be constructed, managed and maintained to permit effective cleaning and disinfection and to minimise risk of injury (through sharp projections, holes in walls or floors, etc.).
- b) Sheds and other facilities must be managed and maintained so as to facilitate clean cattle and sheep production.
- c) Where bedding is provided, the bedding must be maintained in a manner that provides for a comfortable clean environment conducive to producing clean animals for slaughter.

**Note:** See also criterion 3.2.d on ensuring that each animal is clean enough so as not to present an unacceptable risk for slaughter and dressing operations.

- d) Electrical fittings and wirings must be maintained in a manner that is safe and inaccessible to livestock.
- e) All mechanical, electrical and automated equipment must be maintained to ensure effective operation and to prevent injury to personnel or animals.

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- f) Animals must be housed in a manner that permits natural daylight to be available.
- g) Appropriate lighting must be provided to permit full inspection of the animals after dark, particularly for calving / lambing animals.
- h) Ventilation must be sufficient to provide fresh air and to minimise draughts and condensation.
- i) Housing and facilities must facilitate emergency exit in the case of fire, flooding or other serious situations.
- j) Producers must conform with the space allowances for animals as outlined in Animal Housing, Space & Transportation in Appendix 11.
- k) Feed barriers must be designed and positioned so as to allow normal feeding behaviour and to minimise the risk of injury to the animal.
- l) Isolation unit(s) must be available to isolate animals infected, or suspected of being infected, with diseases communicable to humans (see also the DAFM specification on Animal Housing, Space & Transportation, Appendix 11 on the design of the isolation unit).

R33. Ensure that electrical installations (including the power unit of electric fences) are correctly bonded to minimise the risk of stray electric voltages.

R34. Only engage electricians that are formally registered (RECI<sup>9</sup> or equivalent) to carry out work on electrical installations.

### 3.12 Transport

#### Background Information

Animal transport should be managed in a way that ensures that the animals arrive at their destination safely and without undue stress since the quality of the meat is adversely affected by stress.

Commercial livestock hauliers, as the persons in charge of the animals during transit, are obliged to ensure that the welfare of the animals is safeguarded during transport, loading and un-loading. The Producer (when moving or transporting their own stock) has similar responsibilities while the animals are in transit. The Producer will be aware that the design and operation of the transport vehicles used to transport livestock is important for ensuring that the animals arrive clean and uninjured at the abattoir and that their safety is taken into account at all times.

**Note:** In accordance with clause 3.1.a, complete records (i.e. without unexplained gaps) must be available for the 6-month period prior to joining the Scheme (in the case of new Applicants) or for the period since the last audit (in the case of existing / previously certified herds).

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<sup>9</sup>Registered Electrical Contractors of Ireland.  
<sup>10</sup>Sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport only if they are slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause additional suffering; in cases of doubt, veterinary advice must have been sought. They may be considered for transport under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned.



- a) The Producer must ensure that the animals are fit for transport on the intended journey and that the animals must be transported in a way that does not cause them injury or suffering<sup>10</sup>.

**Note:** *Unfit or injured animals may only be transported under the direction of a veterinary practitioner. Animals becoming unfit during transport must be delivered as soon as possible to a suitable place for unloading or slaughter.*

- b) Where the Producer procures hauliers for transportation of animals for journeys greater than 65 kilometres, the Producer must use approved or registered hauliers and keep a record of the licence or permit.

**Note:** *This list is available from the DAFM website (see Appendix 1: Reference Information).*

- c) The Producer's own transport must comply with the following key requirements:
- i. Vehicles must be designed for ease of cleaning and a routine must be in place for maintaining the vehicle in a clean state between uses;
  - ii. Vehicles must be such as to avoid risk of injuries from sharp projections;
  - iii. Loading ramps must be designed and operated in a manner that prevents animals slipping or falling from the ramp;
  - iv. Ramps must be equipped with battens, bridges, gangways and side protection gates that are operational;
  - v. Lighting (including portable lighting) must be available for loading or unloading in the dark;
  - vi. Ventilation must be available in transit at all times;
  - vii. A visual assessment of the animals must be possible at any time during a journey;
  - viii. Where vehicles are decked, these decks must be designed to minimise seepage onto lower deck animals.

**Note:** *See Appendix 11: Animal Housing, Space & Transportation, section 5: 'Transportation'.*

- d) Producers must inform themselves regarding the maximum and minimum loading densities<sup>11</sup> for cattle and sheep, as appropriate, as set out in Appendix 11: Animal Housing, Space & Transportation, section 5: 'Transportation'.

R35. Transport animals in production groups to avoid stress.


R36. Where freshly calved or lambed animals, animals about to calve or lamb, and infirm or fatigued animals are transported on farm (to pasture, to sick quarters or calving / lambing pens) this should be done in a manner that minimises stress.

R37. Minimise transport times through planning and arranging bookings in sufficient time.

R38. Load and unload livestock at their own pace.


R39. Make provision to enable covering of vehicles in inclement weather, and also to prevent the escape of slurry.

R40. Provide a wheel dip, wheel wash or other wheel disinfection facility at the farm entrance.

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<sup>11</sup>The Producer could refer to the DAFM leaflet entitled 'Guidelines for Animal Welfare During Transport Within Ireland' and the FAWAC document 'Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals During Transport'.

### 3.13 Environment

#### Background Information

In Ireland, beef and lamb animals are predominantly produced from grass. This contributes significantly to the reputation and market position enjoyed by beef and lamb products from Ireland. Accordingly, the Producer will be aware of the need to manage the grass-based farm enterprises in an environmentally friendly manner, while also contributing to improved biodiversity. Irish farms perform well in this regard compared with other countries, as ensured by and demonstrated through the widespread participation in various biodiversity enhancement programmes such as the Agri-Environment Options Scheme (AEOS), Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS), etc. With the advice available from organisations such as Teagasc and agricultural consultants, Producers will be able to maintain or enhance the biodiversity of their farms. Producers will be familiar with these codes of practice mentioned above and also with the Statutory Management Requirements (SMR) commonly referred to as cross-compliance requirements relevant to maintaining land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) – see Appendix 1: Reference Information.

Many leading customers are seeking ways to reduce water consumption throughout their supply chain, since water is seen as the critical issue that will influence the security of product supply over the medium to long term. Ireland is particularly attractive in this respect, since in excess of 99% of the water used in Irish livestock production comes from natural rainfall. This, combined with the fact that less than 0.1% of Ireland’s land-mass is under water stress, establishes a unique point of difference for customers. However, Producers will be aware of their obligation to use water responsibly.

- a) Adequate facilities for collecting and storing of all manures and effluents (including farmyard manure, slurries, effluents arising from silage storage and dirty water or yard run-off) must be in place in order to prevent pollution and disease.
- b) The Producer must be aware of the legal restrictions that apply to manure and fertiliser spreading on the farm (permitted spreading times, spreading restrictions etc.) and must store and apply them in a manner that minimises the risk of pollution, contamination and the spread of disease (see Appendix 12: Guidelines for Organic Material Application).
- c) Where a Producer imports manure or slurry from another farm, a record must be maintained outlining details such as date, quantity (tonnes / litres) and name of supplying farm.
- d) Fuel oil storage facilities must be managed in a manner that minimises risk of spillage and / or contamination during fuelling and waste oils and lubricants must be collected and controlled pending disposal through an approved facility (e.g. one approved by the Local Authority).
- e) All waste plastic products (sheeting, bags, containers, drums) must be collected and controlled pending collection from approved collectors with a National Waste Collection Permit and receipts from approved collectors must be retained for inspection.
- f) Farm machinery must be stored, maintained and operated in a manner that minimises both the biosecurity risk and the risk of injury to animals and personnel.
- g) Farmyards must be maintained in a tidy, orderly manner, with particular attention paid to areas adjacent to feed stores and feeding areas.
- h) The burning of plastics on farms is prohibited.

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- i) A licence must be available where mature trees are felled.

Consider implementing measures to address the following, as appropriate to your enterprise:

- S8. Participate in existing environmental development or protection Scheme(s) e.g. GLAS, AEOS, Beef Data and Genomics Programme, etc.
- S9. Develop procedures to minimise water use, e.g. collecting rainwater for use in yard washing.
- S10. Identify and monitor potential sources of water loss (water supply pipes, leaks from taps, drinkers, troughs and nozzles, etc.).
- S11. Develop a policy on reduction, reuse and recycling of relevant materials.
- S12. Monitor fuel / energy usage and develop a policy on the use of alternative energy / fuel sources.

### 3.14 Farm Personnel: Health, Safety and Social Sustainability

#### Background Information

Producers will be aware of their legal responsibility to have either a completed Farm Safety Risk Assessment (FSRA) where there are fewer than 3 employees on the farm, or a completed Farm Safety Statement (FSS) where there are three or more employees. The Producer will be aware that the FSRA or FSS assessment needs to be reviewed on an on-going basis and communicated to employees and visitors.

The Producer will understand the need to ensure that all avoidable hazards (for both livestock and humans) are eliminated: these include unfenced lagoons, open wells, excessively low or insecure electric wiring, poorly fenced land bordering roads and railways, inadequately protected machinery, access to or gridding of agitation points, etc. The Producer will be aware that many agencies provide advice on this. In addition, the Producer will be aware of the existence of publications from various sources dealing with this issue (Health and Safety Authority of Ireland (HSA), Teagasc, Farming Organisations, Insurance providers etc. See also Appendix 13: Farm Safety Risk Assessment / Farm Safety Statement Guidelines.)

The Producer will be aware that safe agricultural employment plays an important role in the economic development of local populations and communities. He or she will also be aware of the positive impact on local economies brought about by the local sourcing of materials, labour and services. While many farms are family-owned and operated, the Producer will also be aware of the need to ensure that employed farm staff members are treated fairly, in terms of hours worked, work environment, annual leave entitlements, benefits, etc.

The emphasis on family farming, with land held (in most cases) by the same family for a number of generations, is almost unique to Ireland. The economic viability of the farm business itself is vital. Producers will be aware of the need to plan ahead, assess current performance, identify potential opportunities and prioritise expenditure in order to ensure the economic efficiency and viability of the farm, and to source supplies locally where possible.

- a) Producers are legally required to assess the risks on their own farms and to implement preventive measures. Therefore, an up-to-date FSRA / FSS (as appropriate) must be available which, identifies the specific hazards on the farm, assesses the risk of injury and specifies how these risks are to be controlled. (see Appendix 13: Farm Safety Risk Assessment / Farm Safety Statement Guidelines).

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- b) The FSRA or FSS (as relevant) must be available to all people who visit and work on the farm, such as Farm Workers, Farm Relief Personnel, Contractors, etc.
- c) Where the FSRA or FSS (as relevant) is not immediately available to hand, a notice must be displayed in a prominent position visible to all visitors (see also 3.10.a above regarding biosecurity), advising of the availability of the FSRA or FSS on request.
- d) The Producer must ensure that all avoidable hazards (for both humans and livestock) are eliminated, including open / unfenced lagoons, open wells, dangerous agitation points (access and ventilation), low or insecure electric wiring, poorly fenced land bordering roads and railways, inadequately protected machinery, etc.
- e) The Producer must ensure that basic first aid supplies (including eyewash, disinfectant, etc.) are accessible at all times.

**Note:** *The first aid supplies may be kept in a farm building or in the dwelling house, provided that these buildings are adjacent to the farmyard buildings.*

- f) When handling or using hazardous materials (such as pesticides, sheep dips, etc.) protective clothing and respiratory equipment, as recommended by the manufacturers, must be used, and when not in use must be stored in a separate enclosed area, away from chemicals or food produce.
- g) The Producer must be aware that in the event of a farm accident that must be reported<sup>12</sup>, the Producer must inform the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and attend subsequent safety training where required by the HSA.
- h) A plan for dealing with emergencies (such as personal injury, fire, flood or power failure) must be in place. This includes ensuring that calving pens and cattle handling facilities are designed to ensure that there are escape routes for farm personnel.
- i) A means of fire control (e.g. fire extinguishers<sup>13</sup>) must be in place on site and checked at a minimum of every 5 years.

Consider implementing measures to address the following, as appropriate to your enterprise:

- S13. Minimise the dangers associated with slurry gases released during agitation.
- S14. Where there are workers employed on the farm, establish an employee welfare policy that emphasises respect and fair treatment in the workplace, along with worker wellbeing and worker development (see Appendix 14: Welfare in the Workplace Policy).
- S15. Establish the contribution of the farm to the local community and augment it where possible.
- R41. At least one person normally based on the farm must have received first aid training.

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<sup>12</sup>Farmers are required to report certain accidents to the HSA as set out in the Code Of Practice For Preventing Injury And Occupational Ill Health In Agriculture COP (sub-section 18) – see Appendix 1: Reference Information.

<sup>13</sup>The producer is recommended to consult with a fire safety expert on the number and type of extinguishers required on the farm.

### 3.15 Pesticides (Plant Protection Products and Biocides)

#### Background Information

The term 'Pesticides' includes both plant protection products (PPPs) such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides and biocides such as detergents, sanitisers, disinfectants, rodenticides, etc. Such chemicals whether used on farms or elsewhere are subject to approval by the relevant competent authority (DAFM). The Producer will be aware of the need to comply with all regulations relating to the use of pesticides, the need for safe handling and storage in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations, as well as the requirements for the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with manufacturer recommendations (see Appendix 15: Handling and Storage of Pesticides).

Additionally, producers must address the requirements of the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) (2009 / 128 / EC – see Appendix 1: Reference Information) which establishes a framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides. Amongst other things, this requires that the producer demonstrates the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through the maintenance of records, showing that alternative options to pesticide control methods, e.g. the use of resistant varieties, mechanical topping, soil testing (for pH, lime status), etc., have been considered.

These strategies aim to reduce the risks of pesticides to human health and the environment, and also to delay the development of resistance in the target population to a particular pesticide active substance. The SUD also introduces new requirements on sale, supply and use of PPPs. Since 26 November 2015, only a DAFM registered professional user (PU) can apply PPPs authorised for professional use.

Product labels are designed to ensure that all risks involved with the use of a particular product are highlighted. Safe handling, storage and use are promoted through the inclusion of warning symbols and risk and safety phrases on the label. Producers must, therefore, read these carefully and abide by the directions and recommendations contained therein.

- a) Only pesticides registered with DAFM and bearing a current PCS Number or IE-BPA Number must be present on the farm.
- b) Pesticides must only be used for the purpose for which they have been authorised and in accordance with the label instructions.
- c) Pesticides must be handled in accordance with safe procedures outlined in Appendix 15 (Handling and Storage of Pesticides) and a copy of this Appendix or equivalent must be displayed and readily accessible (e.g. on a notice board in the store).
- d) When not in use, pesticides must be stored securely in a dedicated Pesticide Store, in their original packaging or container (see Appendix 15 - Handling and Storage of Pesticides).
- e) Any person applying professional use<sup>14</sup> pesticides on farm must be registered with DAFM as a Professional User.

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<sup>14</sup>PPPs are categorized as either Professional Use or non-Professional / Amateur Use products. Professional use products are products that may only be applied by Professional Users (PUs) who must be registered with DAFM. Non-Professional / Amateur use products are products that may be used in a home garden situation by any person and there are no restrictions on the use of such products and there is no requirement for such users to be trained or registered with DAFM. Product labels generally indicate whether a product is for Professional use or non-Professional / Amateur but the status of all registered products can be checked at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/getprod.asp>

- f) As of 26th November 2016, all blast and orchard sprayers and all boom sprayers with a boom width of >3m (and older than 5 years) must be inspected and certified by a registered DAFM inspector before it can be used for the application of professional use PPPs. Proof of certification must be available.
- g) For each pesticide used, a record must be maintained of the following: (these may be recorded in the Pesticide Application Record as shown in Appendix 16 or in the Bord Bia Farm Book or equivalent record):
  - i. Location / LPIS No;
  - ii. Product name;
  - iii. PCS Number;
  - iv. Crop (winter or spring if appropriate);
  - v. Area / tonnage treated;
  - vi. Volume of water used;
  - vii. Date applied;
  - viii. Reason / rationale for use;
  - ix. Professional User number (PU).
- h) Empty chemical containers must be managed in accordance with DAFM / EPA Good Practice Guide for Empty Pesticide Containers (see Appendix 15 - Handling and Storage of Pesticides), i.e., triple rinse, puncture and store safely pending disposal.
- i) There must be a safe disposal method for rinsate from application equipment and / or surplus spray mix (i.e. on untreated crop or designated fallow ground and where permitted).
- j) Products that have been withdrawn from the market (expired or revoked) should be used up within the allowed time period and thereafter must be controlled pending disposal as hazardous waste.



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## 4. Appendices



## Appendix 1

**Note:** This is a list of the key Irish and EU legislation relating to Beef and Lamb farming. It is not intended as a definitive list of all relevant legislation and does not replace any applicable statutory requirement. It is the duty of producers to keep fully up to date with all legislation and legislation changes that are relevant to their farming activity.

### REFERENCE INFORMATION

#### Feed and Food Hygiene

- Regulation (EC) No. 178 / 2002 Of The European Parliament And Of The Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety.
- Regulation (EC) No. 852 / 2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs.
- Regulation (EC) No. 853 / 2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin.
- S.I. No. 432 / 2009 European Communities (Food and Feed Hygiene) Regulations 2009.

#### Identification and Traceability

- S.I. No. 77 / 2009 European Communities (Identification of Bovines) Regulations 2009.
- Regulation (EC) No. 21 / 2004 Establishing a system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals.
- Regulation (EC) No. 1760 / 2000 Establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products (and implementing Regulations).
- S.I. No. 276 / 1999 European Communities (Identification and Registration of Bovine Animals) Regulations, 1999.
- S.I. No. 258 / 1999 European Communities (Supply of Information on the Origin, Identification and Destination of Bovine Animals) Regulations 1999.
- National Beef Assurance Scheme Act, 2000.

#### Animal Remedies

- Regulation (EC) No. 470 / 2009 Of The European Parliament And Of The Council Of 6 May 2009 laying down community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin.
- S.I. No. 183 / 2009 European Communities (Control of Animal Remedies and their Residues) Regulations 2009.
- S.I. No. 786 / 2007 European Communities (Animal Remedies) (No.2) Regulations 2007.
- Council Directive 96 / 23 / EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products.
- Regulation (EC) No. 1831 / 2003 Of The European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 On Additives for use in Animal Nutrition.
- Animal Remedies Act, 1993.

#### Transport

- S.I. No. 675 / 2006 European Communities (Animal Transport and Control Post) Regulations 2006.
- Regulation (EC) No. 1 / 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations.
- S.I. No. 98 / 1995 and S.I. No. 326 / 1997 Diseases of Animals (Protection of Animals during Transport) Orders, 1995 and 1997.

**Note:** See also DAFM documents on transport below.



## Animal By-Products

- S.I. No. 187 of 2014 European Union (Animal By-Products) Regulations 2014.
- Commission Regulation (EU) No 142 / 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1069 / 2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules as regards animal by-products and derived products not intended for human consumption.

## Animal Health and Welfare

- S.I. No. 50 / 2016 Notification and Control of Diseases affecting Terrestrial Animals Regulations 2016.
- S.I. No. 532 / 2015 European Union (Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies) Regulations 2015.
- S.I. No. 118 / 2014 - Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Regulations (2014).
- S.I. No. 311 / 2010 - European Communities (Welfare of farmed animals) Regulations 2010.
- Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (and related Statutory Instruments).

## Other

- Labour Court; Joint Labour Committee notice AGRI 2010 No 3.
- EC Joint Research Centre: Evaluation of the livestock sector's contribution to the EU greenhouse gas emissions (GGELS) - Final report - Administrative Arrangements AGRI-2008-0245 and AGRI-2009-0296.
- Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003.
- Data Protection Act, 1988.

## Feedstuffs

- Regulation (EC) No. 1831 / 2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition.
- S.I. No. 88 / 1999 European Communities (Approval and Registration of Establishments and Intermediaries operating in the Animal Feed Sector) Regulations, 1999.
- S.I. No. 390 of 1999, European Communities (Putting into Circulation Of Feed Materials) Regulations, 1999 (information regarding feeding meat and bonemeal or fishmeal).
- S.I. No. 335 of 1999, European Communities (Approval and Registration of Establishments and Intermediaries Operating in The Animal Feed Sector) (Amendment).
- S.I. No. 283 of 1998, European Communities (Feedingstuffs) (Tolerances of Undesirable Substances and Products) Regulations, 1998.

## Farm Safety & Sewage / Sludge Application

- FSAI: Food Safety Implications of Land-spreading Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Organic Materials on Agricultural Land used for Food Production in Ireland (2008).S.I. No. 299 / 2007 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007.
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.
- Agriculture Code of Practice: available from HSA via their website: [www.hsa.ie/Eng/Your\\_Industry/Agriculture\\_Forestry](http://www.hsa.ie/Eng/Your_Industry/Agriculture_Forestry)
- S.I. No. 148 / 1998 Waste Management (Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations, 1998.

## Environment

- S.I. 138 of 2013, European Union (Industrial Emissions) Regulations 2013.
  - Waste Management Act, 1996 and 2002.
  - Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992.
  - Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 and 1990.
-

## Cross compliance

The list of cross-compliance measures includes the following Statutory Management Requirements (SMR):

- SMR 1 Protection of water against pollution caused by nitrates.
- SMR 2 Conservation of wild birds.
- SMR 3 Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna.
- SMR 4 Food and feed hygiene.
- SMR 5 Restrictions on the use of substances having hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists in farm animals.
- SMR 6 Pig identification and registration.
- SMR 7 Cattle identification and registration.
- SMR 8 Sheep and goat identification and registration.
- SMR 9 Prevention and control of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs).
- SMR 10 Plant protection products (PPPs).
- SMR 11 Welfare of calves.
- SMR 12 Welfare of pigs.
- SMR 13 Animal welfare.

There are various inspection forms and other information available on the DAFM website: [www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments).

## Useful Publications:

- DAFM website: Transport of Live Animals ([www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animaltransport/))
  - o Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Bovines.
- FAWAC: ([www.agriculture.gov.ie/fawac/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/fawac/)):
  - o Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals During Transport;
  - o Revised Animal Welfare Guidelines for Beef Farmers 2008;
  - o Animal Welfare Guidelines for Sheep Farmers 2003;
  - o Animal Welfare Guidelines for Managing Acutely Injured Livestock on Farm.
- Joint publication by the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Environment, Heritage and Local Government: Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters Regulations 2008.
- Fertiliser Association of Ireland: Code of Good Practice for the Environment and Quality Food Production, 2nd Ed. 1999.
- Animal Health Ireland: ([www.animalhealthireland.ie](http://www.animalhealthireland.ie)) – guidance, publications and leaflets on topics including BVD, IBR, Johne's disease, Biosecurity, Parasite control and colostrum management.
- Teagasc: ([www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)):
  - o Managing Phosphorous in Farming, Nov. 1997;
  - o Prevent Silage Pollution, Jan 1994;
  - o Producing Clean Cattle, a Guide for Farmers;
  - o Animal Welfare Guidelines.
- EPA: Waste Catalogue and Hazardous Waste List (see the EPA Website).
- DAFM Publication: Code of Good Farming Practice for farm mixing of ingredients.
- HSA Guidelines on Farm Safety Statements and Farm Safety Assessment documentation.

## Useful websites:

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)
- Food Safety Authority of Ireland: [www.fsai.ie](http://www.fsai.ie)
- Teagasc: [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)
- Irish Cattle Breeding Federation [www.icbf.com](http://www.icbf.com)
- Animal Health Ireland: [www.animalhealthireland.ie](http://www.animalhealthireland.ie)
- Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)
- Health and Safety Authority: [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)
- The Fertiliser Association of Ireland: [www.fertilizer-assoc.ie](http://www.fertilizer-assoc.ie)
- Poisonous wild plants: [www.wildflowersofireland.net](http://www.wildflowersofireland.net)
- Responsible use of rodenticides (CRRU Code): [www.thinkwildlife.org/crru-code](http://www.thinkwildlife.org/crru-code)

## Appendix 2

### SAMPLE PRODUCER DECLARATION FORM

- I have received a copy of the Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme (**SBLAS**) **Standard** and will abide at all times by the conditions applicable to producers as laid down in the Standard.
- I understand that my participation in the Scheme is a demonstration of my commitment to achieving the **highest standards in food production** and my responsibilities in the food chain.
- I will provide full and **accurate details** of my farming practices relating to the Bord Bia Scheme.
- I confirm that the auditor has, to the best of my knowledge, no **conflict of interest** in carrying out this audit (i.e. has not provided individual training, consultancy, or other services that would affect the integrity or impartiality of the audit process / or recommendation).
- I undertake to ensure that the auditor is fully aware of any **hazards** that need to be avoided while doing the audit.
- I understand that this audit is **sample based** and that therefore any non-compliances reported herein cannot be construed to include all such non-compliances.
- At all reasonable times I will allow the auditor **access to records**, and to record other relevant information about the farm enterprise.
- I agree to allow the auditor to take **photographs** during the audit. I understand that the purpose of these photographs is to document any non-compliance identified and photographs are to be used as an aid to close-out non-compliances once the audit has been completed.
- I agree to permit my name and **Membership Status** to be included on the Bord Bia Register / Database.
- I agree to accept contact from Bord Bia or its nominees in relation to **SBLAS related events**.
- I understand that, should this audit be discontinued prior to completion following my request or due to factors / circumstances within my control, this will result in an automatic Non Eligible audit recommendation.
- I understand that by agreeing to participate in the SBLAS, I am agreeing to allow ICBF and DAFM to release information relating to my herd to Bord Bia for the purpose of generating a carbon footprint. I understand that this information will be used for no other purpose and will not be shared with any other third party by Bord Bia.

<b>Herd Number</b>		
<b>Producer Name</b>		
<b>Signed</b> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/>	X	
<b>Signed (Auditor)</b>	X	<b>Date:</b>

## Appendix 3

### FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION

The Food Chain Information document for animals contains a declaration from the Producer concerning the identification of animals, the observation of withdrawal periods of veterinary medicines and the cleanliness of animals and the suitability of animals for transport, as well as information on the health status of the animals and the farm of origin. Farmers rearing animals must therefore take all reasonable practical steps to ensure that their stock are acceptably clean (from faecal matter) at slaughter to minimise the risk to consumer health from potential infection of *E. coli* O157:H7 and other potential pathogens.

#### Specific responsibilities are defined as follows:

##### Producer

1. The Food Chain Information document must be signed by the Producer, the haulier and the slaughterhouse operator.
2. The Producer must complete the form by filling in their name, address, herd number and the number of animals in the consignment. A series of declarations must be signed confirming that the animals are: properly identified, are clean enough not to present an unacceptable risk for slaughter and dressing operations, are not injured to the extent that transport to a slaughterhouse would cause them undue suffering. The time of loading is also recorded by the Producer. The Producer must communicate the name of her / his private veterinary surgeon to the slaughterhouse.

##### Haulier

3. The haulier must declare that the vehicle is in a suitable condition for transport and that the animals are not injured to the extent that transport could cause them undue suffering.

##### Slaughterhouse Operator

4. The slaughterhouse operator must request, receive, check and act upon the contents of the Food Chain Information document. The slaughterhouse operator must sign the Food Chain Information document to confirm that they have received and checked the requested information, and the results of these checks must be recorded.
5. The slaughterhouse operator must make the Food Chain Information document available to the Official Veterinarian (OV).

##### Official Veterinarian

6. The OV will check and analyse the Food Chain Information (FCI) document and verify that the FCI has been received and checked by the Food Business Operator (FBO).

## Appendix 4

### ZOONOSES AND NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Zoonoses are diseases or infections that are naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals to man. Over 200 zoonoses have been described. All persons that work with animals may be at risk. Micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi can cause illness by infecting the body when they are swallowed or inhaled, or when they penetrate the skin.

Good management practices associated with the care of sick animals, the use of protective clothing, the covering of all exposed cuts and grazes and good personal hygiene should all form part of the prevention programme on all participating farms in the SBLAS. Hands should be washed and dried before eating, drinking or smoking.

Producers should request advice from their veterinary practitioner in relation to the prevention of zoonoses and should immediately consult their medical practitioner should they become ill with suspected zoonoses.

**The most common zoonoses are summarised in the Table on the next page.**

#### Notifiable Diseases

The Producer should be aware of a number of diseases which, if suspected or confirmed, must be notified to an authorised officer at the relevant District Veterinary Office, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in accordance with the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, the Bovine TB, Brucellosis Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Regulations (2014), and other relevant disease orders.

The Producer must contact his / her veterinary practitioner in the event that a potentially notifiable disease is suspected, and ensure that DAFM is notified.

The following is the list of diseases from Schedule 2 of S.I. No. 110 / 2014 – Notification & Control of Animal Diseases Regulations 2014.

#### General

Anthrax, Bluetongue, Brucellosis in ruminating animals and swine, Campylobacteriosis, Caseous Lymphadenitis, Contagious Agalactia, Foot and Mouth Disease, Johne's Disease, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Pulmonary Adenomatosis, Rabies, Rift Valley Fever, Salmonellosis (caused by or involving Salmonella Enteritidis or Salmonella Typhimurium), Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (other than BSE / Scrapie), Tuberculosis in ruminating animals.

#### Cattle

Bovine Brucellosis, Bovine Tuberculosis, Bovine Leukosis, BSE, Cattle Plague (Rinderpest), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Lumpy Skin Disease, Warble Fly.

#### Sheep

Enzootic Abortion of Ewes, Pulmonary Adenomatosis (also known as Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma or Jaagsiekte), Maedi Visna, Scrapie, Sheep Pox, Sheep Scab.

Table 1: The most common zoonoses

Disease	Causative Organism	Principal Animals Involved	Probable Means of Spread to Man
<b>Brucellosis</b>	<i>Brucella abortus</i>	Cattle	Occupational and recreational exposure
<b>Campylobacter enteritis</b>	<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> <i>Campylobacter coli</i>	Cattle, pigs, poultry, dogs, cats, wild birds	Mainly food-borne; also waterborne (in milk) or occupational exposure
<b>Clostridial diseases</b>	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> , type A <i>C. septicum</i> , <i>C. novyi</i>	Domestic and wild animals	Food-borne; occasionally wound contaminant
<b>Enterohemorrhagic <i>Escherichia coli</i> infections</b>	<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7; also implicated are types O26:H11, O111:H8, O104:H21, and O48:H21	Cattle, humans	Ingestion of undercooked ground beef, or food or water contaminated with bovine faeces
<b>Leptospirosis</b>	<i>Leptospira interrogans</i> (200 serovars) in 23 serogroups	Domestic and wild animals; also common in rodents, dogs	Occupational and recreational exposure; water and food-borne
<b>Listeriosis</b>	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> types 1 / 2a, 1 / 2b, 4b	Numerous mammals, birds	Ingestion of raw contaminated milk, cheese, mud, water, and vegetables
<b>Louping ill</b>	<i>Flavivirus</i>	Sheep, goats, grouse, small rodents	Tick ( <i>Ixodes ricinus</i> ) bites
<b>Q fever</b>	<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	Sheep, cattle, goats, cats, dogs, rodents, birds, ticks	Mainly airborne; exposure to placenta, birth tissues, animal excreta; occasionally ticks and milk
<b>Salmonellosis</b>	<i>Salmonella enterica</i> (2,000 serovars)	Poultry, pigs, cattle, horses, dogs, cats, wild mammals and birds, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans	Foodborne infection, especially in the elderly, infants, or the immune suppressed; occupational and recreational exposure
<b>Tetanus</b>	<i>Clostridium tetani</i>	Principally herbivores, but all animals may be carriers	Wound infection and injections
<b>Tuberculosis</b>	<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>	Cattle, pigs, and other animals	Ingestion, inhalation, occupational exposure
<b>Toxoplasmosis</b>	<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	Mammals, especially cats, food animals, birds	Ingestion of oocysts shed in faeces of infected cats or found in meat or raw milk
<b>Ringworm Dermatophytosis</b>	<i>Microsporum</i> , <i>Trichophyton</i> , and <i>Epidermophyton</i> spp	Dogs, cats, cattle, rodents, other animals	Direct contact with infected animals, fomites
<b>Cryptosporidiosis</b>	<i>Cryptosporidium parvum</i>	Cattle, other animals	Occupational contact and ingestion; waterborne

## Appendix 5

### ON-FARM SLAUGHTER OF HEALTHY ANIMALS

On-farm slaughter of healthy animals that have suffered an acute accidental injury is permitted under the legislation provided the following steps are observed:

1. An ante-mortem examination by registered veterinary surgeon is to be carried out;
2. Slaughter is carried out by a veterinary surgeon or licensed slaughter person;
3. The correct withdrawal periods for any animal remedies used in the treatment of the animal were observed;
4. The farmer and veterinary practitioner must make signed declarations, which include details of any known treatment administered, and
5. Prior arrangements were made with the relevant slaughterhouse to accept the carcase for dressing.

Producers should note that on arrival at the abattoir, the suitability of the carcase for use in the food supply chain will be assessed by the abattoir veterinarian and the Official Veterinarian.

**Note:** *Meat from casualty animals or animals slaughtered on-farm are not eligible product under the Bord Bia Meat Processor Quality Assurance Scheme.*

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## Appendix 6

### SUPPLY AND SALE OF ANIMAL REMEDIES

#### Marketing Authorisation

Animal remedies may not be placed on the market prior to the granting of the marketing authorisation number. The types of authorisation acceptable are as follows:

1. **VPA** (Veterinary Product Authorisation or equivalent) number: The VPA number is given to the product by the Health Products Regulatory Authority (or equivalent) when the product is approved for sale and supply in Ireland.
2. **TSA** (Therapeutic Substances Act) number: The TSA number was given to the vaccine product by the Department of Agriculture when they were originally approved. This number is being replaced by the VPA number as products come up for review in the future.
3. **EMEA** (European Medicines Evaluation Agency) number: The EMEA assigns a number to the product when the product is approved for sale and supply in Europe. However, a VPA (or equivalent) number should also be available for the product when sold in Ireland.

#### Buying Animal Remedies: General Guidelines<sup>1</sup>

##### Where can I buy animal remedies?

This depends on the sales category (route of supply) given to the product when it was licensed.

- If it is a 'Licensed Merchant' (LM) product, it can be purchased from any Licensed Merchant outlet, from a pharmacy (which stocks animal remedies) or from a veterinary practitioner. A prescription is not needed for such products.
- If it is a 'Pharmacy Only' (PS) or 'Prescription Only Exempt' (POM(E)) product, it can be purchased from a pharmacy or from a veterinary practitioner. A prescription is not needed for such products.
- If it is a 'Prescription Only' (POM) product, a written prescription for the product must be obtained from a veterinary practitioner. The Producer is then free to purchase the medicine from that veterinary practitioner, from a pharmacy or, for certain 'POM' products (a list of which is available from DAFM), from a Licensed Merchant's outlet.

##### How will I know the sales category of an animal remedy?

Licence holders are required to show the route of supply (in the above format) on the labelling and associated packaging. Product without this information on the label is likely to be not licensed for the Irish market; if you are supplied with such incorrectly labelled product, you should contact your local District Veterinary Office, as possession of such a product may be an offence.

##### Can I buy animal remedies from salespersons calling to my farm?

Salespersons are not allowed to call to farms in order to sell and supply animal remedies. However, certain suppliers have licences under which their salespersons are allowed to call to farms to take orders for 'non-POM' animal remedies, which are supplied subsequently through a separate delivery service. These salespersons are required to carry a copy of their 'solicit order' licence and farmers should ask to see a copy of the licence.

##### Can I buy animal remedies from a mail order catalogue?

Yes, but only if the seller is authorised to do so. A limited number of suppliers are licensed to sell 'non-POM' animal remedies by mail order. Before buying from any such supplier, you should look for confirmation that the seller has a mail order licence, or if, in any doubt, you should contact the DAFM.

##### Can I buy animal remedies on the internet?

In general, farmers should be very careful about buying medicines on the Internet, because of the risk of buying unauthorised products. The Department licenses suitable Irish-based Internet sites to sell 'non-POM' animal remedies. Such sites are required to display a DAFM authorisation reference. If in any doubt about a particular site, you should contact DAFM.

<sup>1</sup>Reproduced from DAFM website, July 2015





### Animal Remedies Usage Records (Template)

Date of Administration	Name and Quantity of Animal Remedy Administered per Animal		Identity of Animal given Remedy (including the ear tag no. or a clear reference to it). State Number of Animals if Batch Treatment	*Date of End of Withdrawal Period (if any)		Name of Person Administering the Remedy	Name of Prescribing Veterinary Surgeon (if applicable)	Condition Treated (Optional)
	Remedy Name	Quantity		Meat	Milk			
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

**Note:** Blank record sheets available in the Bord Bia Farm Book and also online at [farm.bordbia.ie](http://farm.bordbia.ie)

## Appendix 8

### MEDICINE STORAGE GUIDELINES

**Note:** *This is a recommendation for the safe storage of animal remedies as set out in section 3.4k. It is not intended as a definitive guide to the safe handling and storage of animal remedies and does not replace any applicable statutory requirement.*

- The medicine store should be of a sufficient size and strength to hold all animal remedies, whether unopened or partially used, that may be in stock at any one time.
  - Only animal remedies recommended to be stored at room temperature should be kept in an ambient medicine store.
  - The medicine store should be located indoors and should be out of reach of children.
  - The medicine store should be kept locked at all times. The key should be kept in a safe location. This location should be communicated to all relief farm workers.
  - The medicine store should contain a clear warning label.
  - The medicine store should not be located in direct sunlight or adjacent to any source of heat or cold.
  - The medicine store should not be located in a building or store that contains animal feedstuff.
  - All spillages should be removed immediately from the medicine store and disposed of in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
-



**Own Farm Feeds Records (Template)**

Home-Grown Feed Record				On-Farm Mixing
(Tick all relevant boxes)	Dairy	Beef	Sheep	
Fresh Grass				Mix One
Grass Silage				
Maize Silage				
Arable Silage				
Whole Crop Cereal Silage				
Hay				
Straw				Mix Two
Fodder Beet				
Beet Tops				Mix Three
Sugar Beet				
Turnips / Swedes				
Potatoes				
Carrots / Parsnips or Byproducts				
Field Beans				Mix Four
Peas				
Barley				
Oats				
Wheat				
Triticale				Mix Five
Linseed				
Rapeseed				Mix Six
Other (Specify)				
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

**Note:** Blank record sheets available in the Bord Bia Farm Book and also online at [farm.bordbia.ie](http://farm.bordbia.ie)

# Appendix 10a

## ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN (Template)

Animal Health Plan completed on ___/___/___ having reviewed Hard Health Status for last year												
Animal Group	Animal Health Activities		Tick all Relevant Boxes					Tick all Relevant Boxes				
	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
Cows	Vaccinations	Leptospirosis Clostridial Respiratory					Vaccinations	Leptospirosis Clostridial Respiratory				
	Control	Pre-calving scour					Control	Fluke Stomach Worms Lice Hoose				
	Control	Check for Summer mastitis Check for mastitis Check / treat lameness Take precautions against Redwater Take precautions against Grass Tetany Take precautions against bloat					Control	Parasite Control				
	Issues						Issues	Check / treat lameness Take precautions against Redwater Take precautions against grass tetany Take precautions against bloat				
	Vaccinations	Leptospirosis Clostridial Respiratory Calf scour					Vaccinations	Other Health Issues				
	Control	Fluke Stomach Worms Hoose Lice					Control	Pasteurellosis / Pneumonia Clostridial Respiratory				
Calves	Control	Fluke Stomach Worms Hoose Lice					Control	Fluke Lung Worms Round Worms Flystrike / Scabs / Lice				
	Issues	Check / treat lameness Take precautions against Redwater Take precautions against bloat					Issues	Check / treat lameness Take precautions against grass tetany Take precautions against bloat Check for mastitis Shear / treat Flystrike etc				
	Vaccinations	Leptospirosis Clostridial Respiratory					Vaccinations	TB test Brucellosis test Faecal samples				
	Control	Fluke Stomach Worms Hoose Lice					Control	Farm Hygiene				
	Issues	Check / treat lameness Take precautions against Redwater Take precautions against grass tetany Take precautions against bloat					Issues	Check / clean feed storage area Clean / disinfect animal housing Clean / disinfect animal handling Clean / tidy farmyard				
	Vaccinations	Leptospirosis Clostridial Respiratory					Vaccinations	Other Health Issues				
Weanlings / Stores	Control	Fluke Stomach Worms Hoose Lice					Control	Fluke Lung Worms Round Worms Flystrike / Scabs / Lice				
	Issues	Check / treat lameness Take precautions against Redwater Take precautions against grass tetany Take precautions against bloat					Issues	Check / treat lameness Take precautions against grass tetany Take precautions against bloat Check for mastitis Shear / treat Flystrike etc				
	Vaccinations	Leptospirosis Clostridial Respiratory					Vaccinations	TB test Brucellosis test Faecal samples				
	Control	Fluke Stomach Worms Hoose Lice					Control	Farm Hygiene				
	Issues	Check / treat lameness Take precautions against Redwater Take precautions against grass tetany Take precautions against bloat					Issues	Check / clean feed storage area Clean / disinfect animal housing Clean / disinfect animal handling Clean / tidy farmyard				
	Vaccinations	Leptospirosis Clostridial Respiratory					Vaccinations	Other Health Issues				

Note: The blank spaces can be used for additional entries relevant to your form

Note: Blank record sheets available in the Bord Bia Farm Book and also online at [farm.bordbia.ie](http://farm.bordbia.ie)

## Appendix 10b

### ANIMAL MORTALITY & SIGNIFICANT HEALTH ISSUES RECORDS (Template)

Date	Animal Id / Description	Mortality		Health Problem Identified	Action Carried out
		Yes	No		
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

SAMPLE DOCUMENT

**Note:** Blank record sheets available in the Bord Bia Farm Book and also online at [farm.bordbia.ie](http://farm.bordbia.ie)

## Appendix 11

### ANIMAL HOUSING, SPACE & TRANSPORTATION

#### 1. Cattle Housing Guidelines

Housing System	Liveweight Range (kg) / Animal Type							
	200 – 300	301 – 400	401 – 500	501 – 600	601 – 700	700+	Dry Suckler Cow	Lactating Suckler Cow
<b>Wholly bedded shed</b>	2.0 – 2.9	3.0 – 3.4	3.5 – 3.9	4.0 – 4.4	4.5 – 4.9	5.0	4.0 – 5.0	5.0 – 6.0
<b>Combination bedded &amp; slatted floor</b>	2.0 – 2.9	3.0 – 3.4	3.5 – 3.9	4.0 – 4.4	4.5 – 4.9	5.0	4.0 – 5.0	5.0 – 6.0
<b>Part bedded / outdoor feeding</b>								
Indoor lying area	2.0	2.0 – 2.3	2.4 – 2.7	2.8 – 3.2	3.3 – 3.6	3.7	2.8 – 3.6	3.7 – 4.6
Outdoor feeding / exercise area	1.0	1.0 – 1.1	1.1 – 1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3 – 1.4	1.3 – 1.4
<b>Fully Slatted sheds</b>	1.6 – 1.8	1.8 – 1.9	1.9 – 2.0	2.1 – 2.2	2.3 – 2.4	2.5 +	2.6 – 3.0	3.0 – 3.2

**Table 1:** Recommended Space Allowances (m<sup>2</sup> per head) for Growing or Adult Cattle

**Note:** The above recommendations are given as a broad guideline. On-farm requirements may exceed (or can be lower than) the above, depending on: animal size, amount of bedding provided, shed design / ventilation, calving dates, diet and animal cleanliness requirements. Requirements for pedigree stock may have to be adjusted significantly from those outlined above.

Feeding Regime	Suckler Cows	Finishing Cattle	Light Store Cattle	Weanlings
Ad lib roughage	300 – 400	300 – 350	250 – 300	225 – 300
Restricted roughage	600 – 700	600 – 650	500 – 600	400 – 500
Concentrates / Roots	600 – 700	600 – 650	500 – 600	400 – 500

**Table 2:** Recommendations on Feed Space Allowances (mm per head)

**Note:** The above recommendations are a guideline. Actual requirements may vary, depending on specific animal, feeding system, feed barrier design etc. Space requirements may also be significantly lower in cases where concentrates are fed ad-lib or where complete diet feeding systems are used (check with farm advisors and / or Teagasc for full information).



## 2. Sheep Housing Guidelines

(Extracted from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Specification 146: Wintering Facilities for Sheep - June 2016)

### Floor Space

The recommended pen floor space (m<sup>2</sup> / head) for housed in-lamb ewes (unshorn) is as follows:

Type of Ewe	Slats m <sup>2</sup>	Bedded m <sup>2</sup>
Large (body weight 90 kg)	1.2	1.4
Medium (body weight 70 kg)	1.1	1.2
Small (body weight 50 kg)	1.0	1.1

**Table 3:** Recommended pen floor space for housed in-lamb ewes (unshorn)

Where sheep are shorn, up to 20% less floor area is required.

A ewe with one lamb requires 30% additional floor space, 60% extra for 2 lambs.

### Feeding Space

The recommended feeding space is as follows (mm / head):

Type of Ewe	*Meal feeding	Roughage (hay rack)	Easy Feed Silage
Large (body weight 90kg)	600	200	200
Medium (body weight 70kg)	500	200	200
Small (body weight 50kg)	400	175	175

\*It is essential for all sheep to be able to feed meals together.

**Table 4:** Recommended feeding space

Lambs up to 45 kgs on ad-lib concentrates require 100mm feeding space. Lambs up to 45 kgs on restricted feeding require 300mm.

### Depth of Pens

Pen depth is limited by the trough space. Ideally, the pen depth should be such that all sheep can be fed from feeding passages. In practice, particularly where existing buildings are adapted, trough space may be required on two sides of the pen.

$$\text{The ideal pen depth} = \frac{\text{Floor space per ewe}}{\text{Trough space available per ewe}}$$

**Group Size**

Group size of 25 ewes per pen is recommended for small flocks and 40–50 ewes per pen for large flocks. No pen should be designed for more than 60 ewes.

**Floor Type**

The choice of floor, either concrete or slatted, depends on the management and straw availability. Unless straw is readily available, slats may be installed.

The dry straw requirement to absorb urine produced is as follows:

Type of Animal	Feed	Dry Straw Requirement
Average Ewe	Silage	72 kg (4 std square bales) / 100 days
	Hay	45 kg (2.5 std square bales) / 100 days
Store Lamb	Concentrates	24 kg (1.5 std square bales) / 70 days

**Table 5:** Dry straw requirement

**Example:**

Floor space per ewe	1.2 m <sup>2</sup>
Meal Feeding space per ewe	0.45 m
Calculation: Required Pen depth is	$1.2 \div 0.45 = 2.66$ m

**3 Cow Housing Guidelines**

A cow housing system should provide:

- A comfortable, well drained lying area;
- Shelter from adverse weather;
- Space to allow the animal to move, lie down and rise freely without undue risk of injury; and
- Access to adequate food and water to maintain health and vigour.

Sufficient housing capacity must be available for all housed cows. This can be in the form of cubicles or loose housing, or a combination of the two.

## 4 Minimum Space Allowances for Young Calves

Dairy Calves	Dairy Calves	Housed Suckler Calves
*Individual Calf Pen	*Group Pens	Calf Creeps **
Pen Length: At least equal to 1.1 times actual calf length (i.e. nose to tail length)  Pen Width: At least equal to calf height (to withers)  Calves are not to be confined to individual pens after 8 weeks of age (unless for disease control / treatment purposes).	For calves < 150 kg provide a minimum 1.5m <sup>2</sup> per head  For calves: 150 to 219 kg, provide a minimum 1.7 m <sup>2</sup> per head  For calves ≥220kg provide a minimum of 1.8m <sup>2</sup> per head	Newborn suckler calves should have access to a designated, comfortable, solid floor, draught free calf creep. This requirement is particularly important for cows and calves housed in slatted houses and cubicle houses.  For Spring born calves, provide 0.9 to 1.1m <sup>2</sup> creep area.  For Autumn born calves: provide a minimum 1.5 m <sup>2</sup> creep area (depending on calf size / turnout date)

\*EU Welfare of Calves Regulations 1995 and 1998, Council Directive 2008 / 119 / EC and S.I. 311 / 2010

\*\* Teagasc Guidelines

**Table 6:** Minimum Space Allowances for Young Calves

**Note:** Calves must not be confined to individual pens after 8 weeks of age (unless for disease control / treatment purposes) (see also 3.7.e).

## 5 Transportation: Ramp and Space Requirements

While the Regulation (EC) No. 1 / 2005 establishes the space requirements as set out below, the main concern in the SBLAS is that animals are transported in a manner that ensures their safety and welfare at all times. This calls on the experience of the farmer as a stockperson to ensure that this concern is addressed at all times.

### Ramp Specification

While the Regulation (EC) No. 1 / 2005 defines the angles of loading / unloading ramps, the main concern in the SBLAS is that the ramps are designed and operated in a manner that ensures that the animals can climb up or down without risk or difficulty, and that animals are transported in a manner that ensures their safety and welfare at all times.

The ramp specification in Regulation (EC) No. 1 / 2005 is defined as follows:

Ramps shall not be steeper than an angle of 20 degrees, that is 36.4 % to the horizontal for pigs, calves and horses and an angle of 26 degrees 34 minutes, that is 50 % to the horizontal for sheep and cattle other than calves. Where the slope is steeper than 10 degrees, that is 17.6 % to the horizontal, ramps shall be fitted with a system, such as provided by foot battens, which ensure that the animals climb or go down without risks or difficulties.

## Space Requirements

**Bovines:** The space requirements for bovines in transport are as follows:

Transport Space Requirements for Bovines		
Small Calves	50 kg Average	0.3 – 0.4 m <sup>2</sup> / head
Medium Sized Calves	110 kg Average	0.4 – 0.7 m <sup>2</sup> / head
Heavy Calves	200 kg Average	0.7 – 0.95 m <sup>2</sup> / head
Medium Sized Cattle	325 kg Average	0.95 – 1.3 m <sup>2</sup> / head
Heavy Cattle / Cows	550 kg Average	1.3 – 1.6 m <sup>2</sup> / head
Very Heavy Cattle / Cows	>700 kg	> 1.6 m <sup>2</sup> / head

**Table 7:** Transport Space Requirements for Bovines

**Ovines:** The space requirement for ovines in transport are as follows:

Transport Space Requirements for Ovines		
Shorn Sheep or Lambs	< 55 kg	0.2 – 0.3m <sup>2</sup> / head
	> 55 kg	0.3 – 0.4 m <sup>2</sup> / head
Ewes	< 55 kg	0.4 – 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> / head
	> 55 kg	0.5+ m <sup>2</sup> / head

**Table 8:** Transport Space Requirements for Ovines

## 6 Isolation Facilities

### Isolation Facility: Additional

Under the SBLAS it is acceptable for groups of animals to be isolated together. This applies to bovines and ovines. A group of cattle that has been diagnosed with an infectious disease may be isolated, for example during treatment or pending removal from the farm, or a number of bought-in sheep may be isolated together for a period of time pending integration into the flock.

### Isolation Facility: Grant-aid Details

These parameters are extracted from the details for buildings as set out in DAFM Specification S.101 of July 2016 (Minimum Specifications For The Structure Of Agricultural Buildings).

**Note:** Please ensure to refer to the current criteria in relation to isolation facilities published on the DAFM website.

To be eligible for grant assistance the following apply:

Each isolation box must meet the following requirements: be for one animal only; have no common air space with any other buildings or yards to which animal have access; have no door communicating with any other animal housing, animal yards or main animal passage ways; have its own separate entrance; be of adequate size to allow free movement of the animal (recommended size for a cow: 3.6m x 4m); have plastered (or smooth-surfaced) walls up to a height of not less than 2m; have concreted or suitable surfaced floor; and have adequate ventilation.

Effluent from isolation box (or boxes) must be effectively controlled by applying one of the following:

- a) Dry bedding: Effluent must be contained by using sufficient straw or other suitable absorbent material.
  - b) Separate holding tank: Effluent must be piped directly to a separate holding tank.
  - c) Existing slurry tank: Effluent must be piped directly to an existing slurry tank. However, when the box is required for the isolation of an animal, the drainage system must be:
    - completely shut off and the effluent effectively controlled by dry bedding, as in (a), or
    - effluent diverted to a separate holding tank, as in (b), by means of a diversion system (diversion manhole).
-

## Appendix 12

### GUIDELINES FOR ORGANIC MATERIAL APPLICATION

Organic materials (i.e. manures, soiled water, sludges and composts) are a valuable source of essential soil nutrients and conditioning. When used in an environmentally responsible manner, they can minimise the need for chemical fertiliser. However, these materials are also potential sources of pathogens (of both human and animal health significance) and chemical contaminants. Farmers must ensure that materials used for land spreading are both safe and suitable for use, and must manage these materials in a way that minimises the risk to both animal health and / or food safety. In particular, when applying organic materials to grazing land, farmers must allow for sufficient time between application and grazing.

Further detailed information on this topic is contained in a Food Safety Authority Scientific Committee report entitled 'Food Safety Implications of Land-spreading Agricultural, Municipal and Industrial Organic Materials on Agricultural Land used for Food Production in Ireland (use keyword "land-spreading" and visit [http://www.fsai.ie/resources\\_publications.html](http://www.fsai.ie/resources_publications.html)).

The storage and / or use of treated or untreated sewage sludge is prohibited on Bord Bia quality assured farms (see Criterion 3.6.a). This applies to all land in the management of the herd owner.

Sludges are permitted where these are from industrial waste treatment (e.g. food processing) and where a current EPA licence is available that permits land spreading on food-producing land.

#### Organic Materials Treatment Guidelines

To ensure the safety for food production of the product to be applied, it is recommended that all organic materials applied to crops have been treated in one of the following ways:

**Composting** of solid organic materials is a particularly effective method of controlling microbial pathogens. For best results, however, the process needs to be actively managed. The material should be treated as a batch and turned regularly (at least twice within the first 7 days), either with a front-end loader or (preferably) with a purpose-built compost turner. This should generate high temperatures over a period of time (e.g. above 55°C for 3 days), which are effective in killing pathogens. Temperatures should be monitored. The compost should be allowed to mature as part of the treatment process. The whole process should take at least 3 months.

**Lime treatment of liquid organic material** (addition of quick lime or slaked lime to raise the pH to 12 for at least 2 hours) is an effective method of deactivating bacterial pathogens. The liquid organic material should be allowed to mature as part of the batch treatment process for at least 3 months prior to land spreading.

**Batch storing:** Solid, liquid and slurry organic materials should be stored for at least 6 months (i.e. no additions of fresh manure should be made to the store during this period) in order to be effective in killing pathogens.

**Other:** Guidelines on safe use of organic materials is available from DAFM and Teagasc.

## Appendix 13

### FARM SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT / FARM SAFETY STATEMENT GUIDELINES

The main pieces of legislation governing occupational safety and health in the agriculture and forestry sector are the **Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (General Application Regulations) 2007**.

The risk assessment approach is at the core of this legislation. Employers with three or more staff have a legal duty to prepare a written health and safety document, which is referred to as a Safety Statement.

However, since the introduction of the 2005 Safety Health & Welfare at Work Act, employers with fewer than three employees can fulfil this legal duty by complying with an approved, sector specific **Code of Practice / Farm Safety Risk Assessment**.

An online Farm Safety Risk Assessment entitled the Farm Safety Code of Practice was recently launched, whereby farmers can complete and store their risk assessment on line – see [www.farmsafely.com](http://www.farmsafely.com)

A Farm Safety Risk Assessment / Farm Safety Statement is a practical written plan aimed at minimising the risk of injury or ill health for all who work on the farm, or who are affected by the work. The duty of preparing and implementing the document lies with the person in control of the farm. It is strongly recommended, however, that a Farm Safety expert is consulted in the preparing of the document.

The Farm Safety Risk Assessment / Safety Statement must be reviewed on a regular basis, according as farming conditions and activities change, and new machines and new hazards are brought onto the farm. The document must be retained by the farmer and brought to the attention of all who work on the farm. The safety of all farm animals should also be a major consideration when preparing a safety statement. A defined evacuation route for all livestock in the case of fire should be included in the safety statement.

Reference should be made to the 'Farm Safety Handbook' published by the Health and Safety Authority of Ireland, which is available from any of their offices throughout the country, through their website [www.HSA.ie](http://www.HSA.ie), or through their information phone number (see website).

Some common issues of concern that could be addressed in the Farm Safety Risk Assessment / Safety Statement, include the following:

#### **Manure Storage and Handling**

- Conducting slurry agitation in a safe manner: when the building is empty, staying out of the building for as long as possible after agitation starts (particularly the first hour) to avoid hazards arising due to slurry gases.
- Ensuring that personnel do not enter empty slurry tanks without professional advice.
- Protection of slurry lagoons, such as by placing robust fences or barriers (e.g. security-type fencing) around hazards such as open tanks, lagoons etc.
- Safe access to / gridding of agitation points, etc.

#### **Electrical**

- Making safe all electrical appliances and the wiring associated with these (especially where such wiring is excessively low or insecure) in housing and buildings.
  - Protection of electrical installations from water.
  - Ensuring that overhead wires are at a sufficient height to avoid contact with machinery and tipping trailers.
-

**Machinery**

- Ensuring that all tractor PTO points are protected with approved guards at all times while in use.
- Erecting safety rails on top of the walls of open silage pits.
- Safe storage of machinery.
- Safe use of mechanical equipment and machinery (including PTO guards).

**Children**

- If children have access to the farm yard area, then a safe and secure play area should be designated.

**Fire**

- Where applicable, fire exits should be clearly marked.
- Fire extinguishers should be available and regularly serviced.
- The risk from transmissible diseases (zoonoses as per Appendix 4) relevant to the farming enterprise should be assessed.
- The risk associated with hazardous chemicals usage should be assessed.
- Making contractors aware of the hazards prior to commencing work.

**Other Risks**

- Covering / protecting open wells.
- Fencing of land bordering roads and railways to prevent contact with animals from other herds.

**Note:** *The above is not a complete list nor does it represent a recommendation by Bord Bia, as it is each individual farmer's legal responsibility to assess and address the risks that pertain to his / her own farm.*

Contact the HSA for further information ([www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)).





## Appendix 14

### WELFARE IN THE WORKPLACE

Employers must provide adequate and appropriate welfare facilities for employees while they are at work. The minimum statutory conditions applicable in Ireland are set out by the Labour Court in the Joint Labour Committee notice AGRI 2010 No 3 (see Appendix 1 Reference Information).

Acceptable working conditions take into account payment for work undertaken and the ability of the worker to balance their commitments to work, family and community. Working hours, employee health and safety, and the potential of employees to fulfil the needs of others within their environments have been considered on this farm. The text in the page below contains a sample policy as a guideline to farmers who have employees and who wish to implement a 'welfare in the workplace' policy on the farm (see Criterion S14).

**Note:** *This document is based on the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) principles published by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform Working Group on Dairy, which has adopted the Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practice – a joint publication of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), published in January 2004.*

#### Welfare in the Workplace Policy

The policies relating to employees and workers on this farm are as follows:

1. Employees / workers' working hours and conditions will comply with the legislation.
  2. Wages and benefits received by employees / workers will comply as a minimum with local and national legislation.
  3. Working conditions will comply with applicable laws as well as International Conventions and Recommendations related to occupational health and safety.
  4. Employees and workers are encouraged to become involved in general educational activities.
  5. Employees and workers are encouraged and supported to undertake training on all aspects of sustainable agricultural practices.
  6. In so far as it is possible, the farm will contribute to the economic and social benefit of the local community.
  7. Where workers are employed, and required to handle chemicals, potentially hazardous materials (e.g. mouldy hay) the farmer must provide training on handling such materials and medical testing for workers as necessary.
  8. Workers are not required to handle hazardous chemicals when suffering from a respiratory disease or when pregnant.
  9. Workers are informed of their legal rights and obligations.
  10. Work is provided on an equal opportunity basis and pay is based on skill level.
  11. Workers have a right to association and labour unions are not opposed.
  12. Where non-native workers are employed language and cultural barriers are taken into account.
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## Appendix 15

### HANDLING AND STORAGE OF PESTICIDES

**Note:** The term “pesticides” comprises a) plant protection products (PPP) e.g. herbicides, fungicides and insecticides and b) biocides e.g. detergents, sanitisers, disinfectants and rodenticides.

*This is a recommendation for the safe handling and storage of pesticides and for disposal of empty pesticide containers. It is not intended as a definitive guide and it does not replace any applicable statutory requirement.*

*These measures are important under cross-compliance requirements.*

#### Safe Handling of Pesticides: Guideline

1. Purchase only approved pesticides.
2. Maintain only minimum stocks of pesticides (to avoid out of date pesticides).
3. Read the label before opening the pesticide and observe all safety precautions. Use pesticides in accordance with manufacturers’ recommendations.
4. Wear the correct personal protection equipment for the particular pesticide and operation involved.
5. Have a supply of clean water for washing off splashes.
6. Wash hands and exposed skin before eating or drinking, and shower down after the job is complete.
7. Thoroughly rinse all equipment used, and store it safely.
8. Unused pesticides should be disposed of in a safe manner and so as not to harm personnel, animals or the environment.
9. Pesticides should only be used in a manner that protects hedgerows and waterways, and prevents drift and run-off.
10. Pesticides (and fertilisers) should be applied in a manner that:
  - Avoids non-target areas and crops / pasture by applying at low wind speed conditions;
  - Avoids water-logged, steep, cracked, compacted, or frozen ground;
  - Takes into account the weather forecast before application;
  - Minimises the amount applied by selecting optimum nozzle characteristics,

At all times, treat pesticides as dangerous substances and identify the hazards associated with their use in the Farm Safety Statement / Farm Safety Risk Assessment.

#### Safe Storage of Pesticides: Guideline

1. Store in external designated storage facilities, which are labelled and locked, and well away from food. Pesticides may be stored in a washable cabinet or shelf, but may also be placed on a clean concrete platform or non-corrosive frame at least 300mm from the floor.
2. Do not transfer pesticides to other storage containers, especially soft drinks, bottles or food containers.
3. Ensure that the pesticide store is secure and is dedicated to the storage of pesticides. It should be constructed to ensure that leakages or spillages are retained within the store (bundled), and where shelving is provided, the shelving is made from non-absorbent materials.
4. Put a clearly visible warning sign at the entrance to the store.
5. Ensure that facilities are available that include at least:
  - a list of key emergency contact numbers displayed near the entrance of the store (e.g. doctor, fire service);
  - materials for soaking up small spillages or leakages (e.g. bucket of sand or peat);
  - recommended protective clothing and equipment (cleaned and properly maintained);
  - calibrated weighing scales and measures for liquids.
6. Ensure that powdered products are either separated from or stored above liquids.
7. Only store products in their original container (see [www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie) for advice on storing pesticides).

### **Empty Pesticide Containers: Good Practice Guide**

1. Triple rinse empty pesticide containers after use and wash container caps and threads.
2. Inspect and fully drain the triple rinsed containers.
3. Puncture empty pesticide containers to prevent re-use.
4. Place empty containers in Farm Plastic Recycling Ltd bags, available from local Co-op or agri-merchant.
5. Store bags in safe dry place while filling.
6. Bring filled recycling bags to your local authorised bring centre (see [www.farmplastics.ie](http://www.farmplastics.ie) for details).
7. Retain receipt as record of responsible disposal.

For further information see "7 Steps: Good Practice Guide for Empty Pesticide Containers" on [www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie)

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## Appendix 17

### BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES

A biosecurity policy should be developed to minimise the risk of diseases being introduced to the farm and preventing disease spread within the farm. The policy could include the following:

- Dealing with incoming stock: sourcing from Bord Bia certified farms, evaluation of the animal(s) on arrival by competent stockperson or veterinarian, maintaining the animal(s) separate from the main for a period (e.g. 1 month) during which the health status of the animal(s) is monitored.
- Cleaning and disinfection of equipment, handling of chemicals, formulation of cleaning procedures and specification of their frequency.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of buildings and facilities, including calving boxes, hospital pens, cubicles, lying areas, structural components of buildings in contact with animals (e.g. stanchions, troughs, crush, etc.).
- Management of equipment that is shared with or borrowed from other farms.
- Dealing with visitors, including regular visitors (e.g. visitor log, foot sanitising, control of access of vehicles).
- Siting of manure heaps or slurry tanks so as to prevent access by stock, and also to prevent odours which could give rise to milk taint.
- Prevention of access to the farmyard without authorisation.
- Pest control.

**Note:** Guidelines are also provided by other organisations (such as Teagasc, AHI, etc.). Visit [www.biosecurity.ie](http://www.biosecurity.ie) for detailed guidance documents from AHI.

## Appendix 18

### RESTRICTED ACCESS SIGNAGE GUIDELINE

It is the responsibility of the farmers involved (both suppliers and purchasers) to ensure that visitors to the farmyard are controlled and managed, in order that these personnel are aware of their responsibilities regarding health and safety and biosecurity when visiting the farm. Closed gates at the entrance to the farmyard, upon which suitable signage is displayed, can help to achieve this.

It is not intended that these guidelines should apply to personnel who visit the farmyard on a regular basis with the permission of the farmer, such as milk collection personnel, AI personnel, etc.

The signage ought either to be affixed to the entrance gate or placed in a prominent position in the farmyard, so as to be seen immediately on entry to the farmyard by visitors.

Ideally, the sign would contain the following 3 statements:

- No access beyond this point without permission OR No unauthorised access beyond this point
- A health and safety statement is available on request
- This is a food producing farm – please observe the biosecurity measures

OR

- Access to the dairy facilities (bulk tank and milking parlour) is prohibited unless accompanied by the farmer.

**Note:** Please consult local providers for suitable signage.



## Appendix 19

### FQAS HOME MIXER LEVEL 1 (RELEVANT CRITERIA)

The details provided in this appendix (Appendix 19) are intended to be a synopsis of the relevant requirements extracted from the Feed Quality Assurance Standard (FQAS) that would apply to a beef and lamb farm where simple home mixing (Level 1 Home Mixer) is in place.

Participants are advised to acquire a copy of and read the Feed Quality Assurance Standard to ensure that there is a full understanding of the applicable requirements. Copies are available by contacting Bord Bia or by downloading the document from the website: [www.bordbia.ie/industry/farmers/quality/pages/qualityassuranceschemes.aspx](http://www.bordbia.ie/industry/farmers/quality/pages/qualityassuranceschemes.aspx)

### FQAS Scheme Regulations

The FQAS Scheme came into operation in February 2016 and all farmers must ensure that feed is only sourced from Bord Bia certified suppliers. A list of the certified suppliers is available at <http://www.bordbia.ie/industry/farmers/quality/Pages/FeedMemberList.aspx>

The FQAS Scheme Regulations applicable to a Home Mixer Level 1 can be taken to be the same as for the SBLAS.

Closeout of non-compliances that may be identified during audit will be the same as for the SBLAS and the same technical help desk, database access and facilitator supports apply (see SBLAS Scheme Regulations 2.5.3.2 Notes 2 & 3).

### FQAS Level 1 Home Mixer Requirements:

**Note:** *Only those requirements from the FQAS that are considered to be directly relevant to a Beef and Lamb Producer are reproduced here together with the numbering as set out in the FQAS. This means that some of the requirements are omitted here where they are already addressed in the SBLAS.*

#### Scope:

Level 1 Home Mixer is defined as any farm where home mixing is taking place but where no products categorised as high risk under the FQAS are being fed on the farm (see FQAS Appendix 8 Categorised Feeds). This means that none of the following products are being fed on the farm: apple pomace, bakery products, bread, potato chips (wet, uncooked), potato feed puree, residue from fruit and vegetable processing. Some 52 other products are permitted: please consult Appendix 8 of the FQAS available as above for details.

In addition, Level 1 Home Mixers must meet the following conditions:

- Crops used are produced directly from farms in Ireland (note requirements on direct flame drying see 6.1.h and 6.1.j);
- The home mixed feeds are only being fed to ruminants or to non-ruminants, but not to both.
- None of the ingredients in the feeds supplied to the animals are restricted for that species (as per Appendix 8 Categorised Feeds – i.e. no tallow or fishmeal).

## 6.1 General

6.1.a – c: These FQAS requirements are already covered in the SBLAS standard.

**6.1.d: Any feed / feed ingredients imported directly onto the farm by the farmer from outside Ireland must be categorised as low risk as set out in Appendix 8, Risk Categorisation and must be obtained from a supplier that is certified under an ISO 17065 accredited feed quality assurance Scheme and evidence of this must be retained (Critical).**

**6.1.e: Where the Participant requires to use a new material that is not currently on the low risk list, the Participant must apply to Bord Bia for permission to use the new material and must not use the material until permission is received (Critical).**

6.1.f & g: These FQAS requirements are already covered in the SBLAS standard.

6.1.h: Where direct drying systems are in place, the drying equipment must be managed and operated in accordance with the requirements in Appendix 3 of the FQAS: Drying.

**6.1.i: Farms using heating systems to dry grain or feedstuffs on the farm may only use electrical heating systems or heating systems that use fuels that are listed in Appendix 3 of the FQAS: Drying (Critical).**

6.1. k: This FQAS requirement is already covered in the SBLAS standard.

## 6.2 Process Controls

6.2.a: The home mixer must have a nominated nutritional advisor.

6.2.b: A record of the materials used in each mix type must be maintained.

6.2.c: A record must be maintained that shows what mixes are being fed to each animal group on the farm at all times (this can be done on a batch basis).

6.2.d & e: These FQAS requirements are already covered in the SBLAS standard.

## 6.3 Biosecurity

6.3.a-d: This FQAS requirement is already covered in the SBLAS standard.

## 6.4 Transport

6.4.a: This FQAS requirement is already covered in the SBLAS standard.