

Beef
Quality
Assurance
Scheme

Producer Standard



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Irish Food Board

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1 Introduction

Introduction

1.1

DEVELOPMENT

The Beef Quality Assurance Scheme (BQAS) 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 and Food (DAF); industry (producers and processors) and technical experts.

It replaces the previous Producer Code of Practice issued in 1995.

1.2

OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the Beef Quality Assurance Scheme are:

- To set out the requirements for best practice in beef production at farm level,
- To provide a uniform mechanism for recording and monitoring beef quality assurance criteria on the farm with a view to achieving continuous improvement in production standards,
- To provide a means of demonstrating best practice at producer level,
- To underpin the successful marketing of quality assured beef.

1.3

PARTICIPATION

The Beef Quality Assurance Scheme is voluntary and application for membership is open to all beef producers who wish to participate. Certification to the standard, however, will only be granted to producers who meet the relevant requirements (see Section 2.2, Control and Monitoring).

1.4

NORMATIVE REFERENCES OF THE STANDARD

This standard incorporates the key legislative requirements relevant to beef production and animal welfare. However, it is also recommended that producers consult the National Beef Assurance Scheme (NBAS) documentation and the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAF) Good Farming Practice Booklet. Other relevant legislation is referenced in Producer Reference Information, Appendix 1.

Note: compliance with this standard does not guarantee compliance with all relevant legislation.

1.5

DEFINITIONS

Bord Bia: the Irish Food Board.

BQAS: the Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Scheme.

BQAS Register/Database: the register/database of the current BQAS certified members indicating the membership status.

Certification Body: the Body/Agency to which Bord Bia has devolved responsibility and authority for all certification decisions with regard to membership of the Scheme.

Certification Period: this will be 24 months from the date of certification under the Scheme or until the next audit.

CMMS: the Computer Movement Monitoring System, as operated by DAF.

DAF: the Department of Agriculture and Food.

FSAI: the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

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

Member: a Producer or Processor that is certified under the BQAS and is shown on the BQAS register/database.

Producer: a DAF registered beef Producer with a valid Herd Number.

Producer Standard: this consists of the provisions as set out in Sections 1, 2 & 3 of the Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Standard: Producer Requirements.

Scheme: the Beef Quality Assurance Scheme consists of three elements:

- The Producer Standard,
- The Processor Standard,
- The process for ensuring that the requirements as set out in the Standards are met (through auditing, certification, etc.) and that the relevant details are published.

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

Teagasc: The Agriculture and Food Development Authority.

1.6

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 requirement of this scheme or in regard to the consequences of being found to be in breach of any requirement.

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2 Scheme Regulations: Producers

Scheme Regulations: Producers

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

2.1

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership of the Scheme is voluntary and open to all Beef Producers that have a valid Herd Number.

2.1.1 *Application Process*

Producers seeking membership must initially apply in writing, either directly to the Certification Body (or to Bord Bia) using the Application Form provided with this Standard.

A separate Producer Declaration Form will be completed at the audit (see Appendix 2a and 2b included in the Standard for information purposes only).

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

When the Producer is deemed to have complied with the requirements of the Standard as determined by independent audit, the Producer will be considered for certification under the Scheme.

When certified, the Producer will be issued with a Membership Certificate and will be listed on a register/database.

2.1.2 *Database Information*

A BQAS register/database indicating the status of all certified producers will be maintained.

Bord Bia may also seek permission from certified Producers to publish production related data on the database in order to assist Producers to market their beef animals.

2.1.3 ***Producer Eligibility***

Producers that have been convicted of an offence under the Acts listed below in the previous 3 years will not be eligible for certification to this Standard. In addition, if, during the period of validity of the certificate, the Producer is convicted of an offence under the Acts listed here, the Certificate will be revoked and the Producer will be withdrawn from the Scheme:

- Animal Remedies Act 1993,
- Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 and Amended Act 1990,
- Diseases of Animals Act 1966-2001,
- Cruelty to Animals Act 1911.

2.2

CONTROL AND MONITORING

2.2.1 ***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 collaborates with the Technical Advisory Committee, which is responsible for drafting the Standard and formulating required amendments.

The decision of the Quality Assurance Board on any matter relating to the control or operation of the Scheme is final.

2.2.2 ***Monitoring***

After the initial successful application, monitoring of Producer's on-going compliance with the requirements of the Standard will be carried out by Bord Bia or its nominated agents through audit.

Each Producer will be independently audited at determined intervals. The maximum interval between successive audits will be 18 months. Professional Auditors with sectoral experience will carry out these audits and a full report will be issued to the Producer.

Bord Bia reserves the right to carry out Audits or Spot Checks on an unannounced basis for the purposes of verifying compliance with the requirements of the Standard or to determine that corrective/preventive actions specified during audit are in place.

Auditors are entitled to seek access to relevant regulatory reports.

The full onus of responsibility for compliance with the requirements of this Producer Standard is on Producers participating in the Scheme and not on Bord Bia or its agents or any other third party.

2.3

REQUIREMENT CATEGORIES AND APPLICATION OF NON-COMPLIANCES

2.3.1 *Categories*

For audit purposes non-compliance with the requirements of this Standard (see Section 3, Producer Requirements) are classified as Critical, Category 1 and Category 2.

Critical: A critical non-compliance is raised when, because of a breach of a requirement, a serious food safety hazard exists or is likely to occur. These requirements are printed in **bold, underlined** typeface and are identified in the text as ***(Critical)***.

Category 1: A category 1 non-compliance is raised when there is evidence that core best practice is not being observed. These requirements are printed in **bold** typeface and are identified in the text as ***(Category 1)***.

Category 2: A category 2 non-compliance is raised where best practice has not been fully complied with, but where departure from best practice will not immediately compromise the operation of Beef Quality Assurance Scheme. These requirements are printed in normal typeface.

2.3.2 *Certification Requirement*

Full compliance with all Critical requirements is an essential preliminary requirement for certification.

When there is full compliance on Critical requirements, the Category 1 & 2 Requirements will be scored as follows:

- Full compliance = 2 points
- Partial compliance = 1 point
- No compliance = 0 point

2.3.3 *Application of Non-Compliances*

Critical: Producers against whom a critical non-compliance has been raised cannot be certified to this standard and cannot supply product under the Quality Assurance Scheme.

Category 1: Producers must obtain a minimum score of 65% on Category 1 requirements with at least partial compliance on all requirements. This means that a 0 (zero) score against any Category 1 requirement automatically excludes the Producer from certification under the Scheme.

Category 2: Producers must obtain a minimum average score of 50% on all Category 2 requirements with at least partial compliance on all requirements. This means that a 0 (zero) score against any Category 2 requirement automatically excludes the Producer from certification under the Scheme.

2.3.4 ***Minimum Compliance Requirement***

The minimum percentage (%) compliance required (to be eligible for certification) will be reviewed by the Bord Bia Technical Advisory Committee after the first year of operation of the Scheme and annually thereafter. It is intended that the minimum % compliance requirement will be increased at these reviews based on analysis of the available audit data.

2.4

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BEST PRACTICE

There are a number of recommendations for best practice included in this standard (see Section 3, Producer Requirements). These are printed in italics on a light green background and are numbered (R 1, R 2, etc.).

While compliance with these requirements is not mandatory for certification, Producers that are eligible for certification will, however, receive recognition for meeting these recommendations. A maximum 10 additional percentage points is achievable for full compliance with all Recommendations for Best Practice. A pro-rata score will be given for meeting some of the Recommendations for Best Practice.

2.5

CERTIFICATION DECISIONS

The decision to grant, extend or remove certification of a Member of the Quality Assurance Scheme will be made by the Certification Body.

This decision will be made primarily on the basis of the audit findings, but other factors, which may be recorded by the auditor or may come to light after the audit (such as failure to meet regulatory compliance or other food safety requirements, or previous audit history) may be taken into consideration in arriving at the certification decision.

In the event that certification is withdrawn, the membership certificate must be returned and the Producer will be removed from the register of certified producers.

2.6

APPEALS

The Producer may appeal decisions that affect certification status by writing to the Certification Body within four (4) weeks of the date of issue of the result of the audit.

The request to appeal will be acknowledged and followed up by the Certification Body.

2.7

COMPLAINTS

The Producer may complain with regard to the audits or any other aspect of the operation of the Scheme. All complaints must be in writing and must be addressed to the Certification Body (or Bord Bia). All such complaints will be acknowledged and followed up.

2.8

REVISION UPDATES

Users should note that only this latest edition now applies. When future changes occur, updates will be issued in whole or in part and the obsolete sections must be destroyed.

2.9

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE

In the event that the ownership, structure or management of the Producer changes, the Certification Body must be immediately informed.

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3 Producer Requirements

Producer Requirements

OVERVIEW

This section of the Producer Standard contains all the production related requirements that the Producer must comply with.

There are three main panels in each sub-section.

1. The first panel (blue text on blue) in all cases sets background information that is relevant to the sub-section.
2. The second panel (blue text on white) sets out the specific production related requirements against which the Producers will be audited.
3. The third panel (blue text on green) sets out the recommendations for best practice.

3.1

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Background Information

Consumers and major meat buyers are making more demands on all food suppliers. This standard reflects what they are seeking as far as the production of beef is concerned. It is essential that beef Producers are familiar with the relevant sections of this standard and comply with the requirements outlined.

Producers should note that this standard is accompanied by other relevant documentation, i.e.

- Teagasc Guidelines on Animal Welfare for Beef Cattle Farms,
- Teagasc Guideline on Producing Clean Cattle,
- DAF Guidelines For Animal Welfare During Transport Within Ireland.

Food safety is the responsibility of all involved in the food chain with each party assuming responsibility for food safety aspects under their direct control. The key food safety provisions, in relation to Beef production, are detailed in this standard in the sections below.

- a) The records specified in this Standard must be kept for a minimum of 3 years.

R1: Seek advice from recognised sources, consult the relevant and current guidelines/publications produced by DAF and other relevant bodies, and undertake appropriate training in farming practices.

3.2

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

Background Information

Producers are keenly aware of the need to be able to establish traceability of their produce. Consumers also demand clear traceability for all foodstuffs and European Union legislation governing traceability of foods provides a framework for this information (see Reference Information, Appendix 1).

- a) **Each participant must have a valid DAF herd number (Critical).**
- b) **Each participant must have a DAF approved Bovine Herd Register that is maintained according to DAF rules (e.g. shows the current total of all male and female cattle on the holding; all animal movements onto and off the farm; bovine births and deaths) (Critical).**
- c) **All bovine animals (over 20 days of age) on the farm must have a valid animal identity card/passport (Critical).**
Note: All calves must be tagged within 20 days of birth with 2 official ear tags and registered with the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) within 7 days of tagging using the Calf Registration form.
- d) **Producers must obtain a permit prior to moving all cattle into or out of their holding directly to or from another holding and notify the CMMS of all on-farm deaths. All transactions must be recorded in the Bovine Herd Register (Category 1).**
- e) **Deaths of bovines must be recorded in the Bovine Herd Register. The disposal must be done in compliance with the current DAF requirements (as outlined in the Fallen Animal Collection Scheme, S.I. 79/2001) and evidence of this disposal (e.g. Receipt for Collection, Animal Movement Notification Form, or other official documentation) must be retained (Category 1).**
- f) **Cattle must be resident on a BQAS approved farm/farms for a minimum of 70 days prior to slaughter and this must be clearly demonstrated through records. This residency period may be longer where specific customer requirements apply (Category 1).**

3.3

ANIMAL REMEDIES

Background Information

All animal remedies for use in food producing animals are currently authorised by either the Irish Medicines Board or by the Minister for Agriculture and Food or by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA).

(Note: Some information on the various types of license is provided in Supply and Sale of Animal Remedies, Appendix 3).

- a) **All animal remedies purchased and used must be approved by the Irish Medicines Board and carry a Veterinary Product Approval (VPA) number, or a Therapeutic Substances Act (TSA) number (if originally approved by DAF) or an EMA number (Critical).**
- b) **To ensure that all animal remedies purchased and used are clearly and readily traceable, all the purchasing information, as required in each column of the Animal Remedies Purchases Record in the Bord Bia Farm Book must be completed (see Appendix 4a, Animal Remedies Purchases Record, which has sample data) (Category 1).**
Note: an alternative system for maintaining the required purchasing information (such as a computer based system, or a manual system where invoices/statements/purchase records are maintained) will be deemed acceptable.
- c) **All information required in the Bord Bia Animal Remedies Usage Record in the Farm Book (or equivalent such as the DAF Animal Remedies Record or a Computerised System) must be maintained (see Appendix 4b, Animal Remedies Usage Record, which has sample data) for Veterinary Surgeon Only (VSO), Prescription Only Medicines (POM) and all remedies that have a withdrawal period (Category 1).**
Note: follow the directions of the manufacturer carefully for all medicines.
- d) The use of the remedy must be clearly traceable to each administered animal's ear tag number. Where group administrations are done, each ear tag number (or a reference that allows the individual animals ear tag numbers to be clearly identified in the Bovine Herd Register) must be inserted in the record.

- e) **Animals must not be sold for slaughter before the date of end of an animal remedy withdrawal period (Critical).**

R2: Record all other animal remedies that are not VSO, POM or else have zero withdrawal period in the Animal Remedies Usage Record in the Farm Book.

R3: Write the Withdrawal Period and Expiry Date on the medicine container in a clearly legible format.

3.4

ANIMAL FEEDS AND RECORDS

Background Information

All beef in Ireland is produced largely from grass. However, it is common practice to supplement this with purchased feedstuffs.

- a) **With the exception of milk protein products, all other animal proteins (e.g. Meat and Bone Meal, Fishmeal, Poultry Offal Meal) must not be used as ingredients in feeds for bovines (Critical).**
- b) **Where the Producer has non-ruminants (including pigs and poultry) on the farm, the Producer must sign the relevant Producer Declaration Form (See Appendix 2b) and be able to demonstrate that the non-ruminant feed storage facilities are being managed (e.g. completely separate feed stores, clear identification of bins, stores and feed, cleaning of handling equipment between uses) so as to prevent cross contamination of Beef rations with feed rations intended for pigs or poultry (Critical).**
- c) In beef finisher rations, the use of all medicinal feed additives (including materials such as Flavomycin and Romensin) and tallow is prohibited.
- d) **Animal Compound feeds (either pelleted or coarse), Blends and Mineral/Vitamin mixes must only be sourced from a DAF Registered feed manufacturer and the feed label information must be retained for examination (Category 1).**

- e) This feed label information must show the following:
 - i. The species of animal for which the feed is intended (this is normally included on the feed documentation or labels),
 - ii. A list of ingredients or category in descending order of inclusion,
 - iii. The name and address of the manufacturer,
 - iv. A declaration of nutritional composition.
- f) For all other purchased animal feeds (e.g. straights and by-products), where the supplier has not provided feed label information, details of the purchase must be entered in the Feed Purchases Record in the Bord Bia Farm Book (see Appendix 5a, Feed Purchases Record, which has sample data). Other recording systems (which capture the same information) will be acceptable¹.
- g) Where fodder or farm crops are purchased directly from farm sources, the details must be entered on the Feed Purchases Record in the Bord Bia Farm Book (see Appendix 5a, Feed Purchases Record, which has sample data). Other recording systems (which capture the same information) will be acceptable.
- h) Details of all feeds grown on the home farm used for feeding to cattle must be recorded on the Own Farm Feeds Purchases Record in the Bord Bia Farm Book (see Appendix 5b, Own Farm Feeds Purchases Record which has sample data).
- i) Farmers who carry out on-farm mixing of ingredients with mineral/vitamin supplements must have applied for/be registered for this activity with DAF.
- j) Farmers who carry out on-farm mixing of specified ingredients (e.g. antibiotics or other additives specified by the DAF) must be approved by DAF for this activity.

¹ All feeds put on the market must be accompanied by the appropriate DAF specified feed label/docket information.

R4: *Keep the feed label information with the BQAS Record book.*

R5: *For 3.4 i and j, record these details in the Feed Purchase Record in the Farm Book (see Appendix 5a, Feed Purchase Record which has sample data).*

Note: producers should be aware that random and targeted testing of live cattle, carcasses and feedstuffs is routinely conducted by DAF.

3.5

CLEAN LIVESTOCK POLICY

Background Information

The Clean Livestock Policy was introduced under the Abattoirs Act 1988 (Veterinary Examination) Regulations 1992 and is operated by the DAF. This act extended the grounds under which a veterinary inspector may declare an animal to be unfit for slaughter for human consumption. Under the Clean Livestock Policy, producers must 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* 0157:H7 and other potential pathogens. The Teagasc handbook entitled “Producing Clean Cattle, A Guide For Farmers” contains useful information and is supplied with the Standard.

There are five categories of hide condition specified in the policy and these are detailed in Appendix 6, Clean Cattle.

- a) **Producers must have a copy of the Teagasc clean cattle handbook and/or be conversant with its requirements to demonstrate their commitment to the implementation of the Clean Livestock Policy (Category 1).**

R6: *Adopt management practices that facilitate the production of clean cattle (i.e. category 3 or better).*

3.6

ANIMAL WELFARE AND STOCKMANSHIP

Background Information

Consumers are increasingly conscious of animal health and welfare issues and require greater assurances that best practices are used in the production of beef.

Producers know that good housing and good handling facilities, careful husbandry and herd health planning promote contented healthy animals and are vital ingredients in the production of safe quality beef. Producers also realise the value of having suitable training and experience in animal husbandry, health and welfare.

This includes having a knowledge of what is required:

- To maintain healthy, stress free, and properly nourished animals,
- For animal environmental standards including housing,
- For good animal husbandry and handling,
- For maintaining normal animal behaviour,
- For the proper treatment of sick animals and use of animal medicines.

In particular, castration and de-horning of mature animals can have serious animal welfare implications. Farmers should be aware of the importance of ensuring that these operations are only be done by approved/competent people (e.g. the Vet).

All animals must be treated equally with respect to their rights to the five freedoms.

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain their natural health and vigour.
2. Freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. Freedom from fear of distress: by ensuring conditions and treatments which avoid distress.

The requirements relevant to these freedoms are detailed in the text below.

- a) Producers must be able to demonstrate relevant on-farm experience in beef production or be able to demonstrate that training was received in at least one of the following:
 - i. Agricultural College certificate/diploma or equivalent,
 - ii. Accredited Teagasc or equivalent Young Farmer Training Programmes,
 - iii. Accredited farmer apprentice training (e.g. Farm Apprenticeship Board (FAB) or equivalent).
- b) Producers must be conversant with the Teagasc Animal Welfare Guidelines (supplied with this Standard) to demonstrate their understanding of animal welfare issues.
- c) Producers must have a daily inspection routine for all animals.
- d) Where stock bulls are housed, they must have sight of farm activity.
- e) Holding and handling facilities must be available and maintained in a manner that ensures the safety of both the livestock and the stockperson.
- f) Animals must be treated and handled in a manner that avoids injury and stress.
- g) Animals must be handled without the use of electronic goads.
- h) Calving facilities appropriate to the farming system must be available.
- i) Calving pens must be maintained in a hygienic and safe condition so as to minimise infection and injury during calving.
- j) Where slaughter of an animal is deemed necessary on humane grounds, it must be carried out under direct Veterinary supervision or by a licensed slaughter service. The death must be recorded in the Bovine Herd Register.
- k) Where castration is carried out after 6 months of age, a local anaesthetic must be used in accordance with the current animal remedies legislation relating to anaesthetics.
- l) Where disbudding takes place after 2 weeks of age, or de-horning in older cattle, a local anaesthetic that must be used in accordance with the current animal remedies legislation relating to anaesthetics.

***R7:** Keep all animals in appropriate social groups so as to minimise bullying and competition for resources.*

***R8:** When males are kept entire, graze and pen them separately from females once they reach 7 months of age or, if behaviour dictates, earlier.*

***R9:** Ensure best practice at calving such as colostrum within 60 minutes of birth to promote development of the immunity system, disinfection of the navel, etc.*

***R10:** Select sires to ensure ease of calving where A.I. is used.*

Note: Specific customer requirements may dictate that castration is completed within a shorter time frame.

3.7

ANIMAL HEALTH

Background Information

Producers are very aware that the health of the animals is crucial to food safety and productivity on the farm. Producers have a close relationship with their veterinary surgeon and will be conscious of the need to try to prevent animal health problems.

- a) The herd must be under the routine care of a Veterinary surgeon.
- b) **All animals must be presented for testing in accordance with the DAF disease eradication and control requirements (Critical).**
- c) All Producers must maintain an Animal Health Plan in the Bord Bia Farm Book giving details of proposed preventative or prophylactic treatments (see Appendix 7, Animal Health Plan, which has sample data).
- d) All external farm boundaries must be maintained so as to minimise contact with neighbouring animals.
- e) Sick animals must be segregated from others and treated promptly.

R11: Where possible, carry out preventative treatments (such as parasite control treatments) on a batch basis and record these treatments in the Animal Remedies Record).

R12: The main Zoonoses (diseases carried by animals that can affect humans including the Producer) that are important to Beef Producers are listed in Appendix 8, Zoonoses. Take precautions to prevent the spread of these diseases.

R13: Keep all farm dogs under control and in good health at all times.

R14: Carry out regular worming on all dogs.

3.8

MEDICINES: ADMINISTRATION, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Background Information

Correct storage and disposal of animal medicine and veterinary waste materials (e.g. used POM containers, used needles/syringes, etc.) is an essential part of good farming practice. This involves collecting and storing all hazardous waste in a suitable and clearly labelled container that is kept away from household waste and disposed of in a safe and environmentally friendly manner such as by:

- Disposal at a designated hazardous waste facility provided by the local authority.
- Obtaining the services of a licensed private hazardous waste collection service.

For further information, see Waste Management Act 1996 and 2002; see also Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Waste Catalogue and Hazardous Waste List available on the EPA website (www.epa.ie).

- a) A medicine store must be provided which is secure and lockable (see Appendix 9, Medicine Storage).
- b) Used needles and syringes must be stored in a secure and clearly labelled container and disposed of as above. (Note: it is strongly recommended that needles be single use only in particular where they are used to administer drugs to sick animals.)

- c) All expired animal remedies must be removed from the medicines store and disposed of as above.
- d) All medicines and medical equipment must be stored in isolation from other products such as farm chemicals.
- e) All medical equipment must be maintained in a safe and clean condition.
- f) If, during injection, a hypodermic needle breaks in an animal and cannot be removed, immediately consult your Veterinary surgeon. If the needle cannot then be removed,
 - i. The animal must be clearly identified and a record maintained (e.g. in the Bovine Herd Register in the remarks column),
 - ii. The next purchaser of the animal (e.g. abattoir) must be notified of the presence of the needle and the injection site and evidence of this maintained.

3.9

VISITORS AND ACCESS CONTROL

Background Information

Producers will be conscious of the need to minimise the risk of diseases being brought onto the farm. Providing suitable disinfecting facilities at the farm gate and controlling access to the farm are common practices in this regard.

R15: *Disinfect visitors' vehicles and footwear on arrival at the farm.*

(Note: A list of approved disinfectants is available from Teagasc or DAF.)

3.10

PEST CONTROL

Background Information

It is important to control vermin and rodents in the farmyard to prevent disease spread particularly by contaminating feedstuffs.

- a) Each producer must operate and maintain an effective rodent control programme on the farmyard.
- b) Where baiting is used, a farmyard sketch indicating bait points must be maintained.

3.11

ANIMAL NUTRITION

Background Information

Correct nutrition is vital to good health and optimum performance of the animal. This involves ensuring that the feed regime of all animals is maintained in the event of unplanned absences of the person responsible for this activity and at a minimum, ensuring that the basic requirements are met.

- a) **Animals must have sufficient access to a suitable water supply to meet their normal water intake requirements (Category 1).**
- b) Watering devices must be kept clean and in good working order.
- c) **There must be sufficient feed available at all times (grass, forage, roots, etc.) to maintain the animal's health and welfare status (Category 1).**
- d) All feed must be stored in a clean, dry and uncontaminated area without evidence of pest contamination on the feed.
- e) **Chemicals and oils and other potentially toxic substances (including paints, preservatives, detergents, disinfectants, etc.) must be kept isolated from animal feeding-stuffs to prevent accidental spillage contaminating the feeds (Category 1).**

***R16:** Maintain pastures in good condition and destroy noxious weeds by recommended methods.*

***R17:** Provide clear information regarding the feeding regime of all animals on the farm so that the feeding regime can be maintained in the unplanned absence of the farmer.*

***R18:** Carry out a thorough annual cleaning of the feed store.*

3.12

ANIMAL HOUSING

Background Information

The quality of the housing provided has a significant impact on animal health and performance and so particular attention is required with regard to the space allowances in lying areas, feeding and watering areas and to the overall ventilation requirement.

- a) The house must be designed so as to facilitate effective cleaning and disinfection.
- b) Artificial lighting must be provided to permit full inspection of the animals after dark.
- c) All internal surfaces including floors must be free of sharp edges and maintained to prevent injury and distress.
- d) Buildings must be designed to ensure adequate ventilation while protecting from inclement weather and avoiding heat or cold stress.
- e) Adequate floor space must be available to allow all cattle to lie at the same time without discomfort or injury and must conform to the requirements as detailed in the Teagasc Cattle Housing Guidelines (Appendix 10).
- f) All electrical installations must be protected and inaccessible to cattle.
- g) Housing and facilities must be designed to facilitate emergency exit in the case of fire, flooding or other serious situations.
- h) Feeding space must be such that all animals can feed comfortably at the same time or have a system in place where animals can feed to appetite. At a minimum, these must conform to the requirements as specified in Appendix 10, Cattle Housing Guidelines.
- i) Feed barriers must be designed and positioned so as not to restrict animal feeding behaviour or to cause any injury to the animal.

R19: Provide housing for cattle during the winter months. Cattle can be out-wintered subject to compliance with farm pollution controls and with due regard to animal welfare requirements.

R20: Ensure that housing is of a standard that permits the finishing cattle to be maintained clean and free from excessive contamination of their coats in line with the Clean Livestock Policy requirements.

R21: Provide all housed cattle with access to a clean/dry lying area.

R22: Provide adequate isolation pens to meet the needs of the system.

R23: Clean and disinfect all animal housing as soon as practical after the end of the housing season.

3.13

ANIMAL TRANSPORT

Background Information

Animal transport must be managed in a way that ensures that the animals arrive at their destination safely and without undue 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 unloading. Producers (when transporting their own stock) have similar responsibilities while the animals are in transit.

The key requirements for the Producer's own transport are:

- a) Producers must ensure that the animals are fit to travel and that the transportation is suitable and appropriate. To demonstrate their commitment to this, Producers must be conversant with the contents of the DAF leaflet entitled "Guidelines for Animal Welfare During Transport Within Ireland". (Note: a copy is included with this Standard.)

- b) The key requirements for producer own transport are:
- i. All vehicles must be roadworthy,
 - ii. Floors of all vehicles used to transport cattle must be non-slip,
 - iii. Loading ramps must be designed to prevent the cattle slipping or falling off the ramp,
 - iv. Vehicle design and maintenance must be such as to avoid risk of injuries from sharp projections,
 - v. Vehicles must be designed for ease of cleaning,
 - vi. Lighting must be available for loading/unloading in the dark,
 - vii. Ventilation must be available in transit at all times,
 - viii. A thorough visual assessment of the animals must be possible at any time during a journey.

R24: *A maximum slope of 1:5 is recommended for tailgates/ramps.*

R25: *Make provision to enable covering of vehicles in inclement weather, and to prevent the escape of slurry.*

R26: *Ensure that all transport vehicles entering the farm are clean so as not to compromise farm bio-security or the cleanliness of the cattle (see Section 3.5 and also Appendix 6, Clean Cattle).*

R27: *Provide a wheel dip or wheel wash/disinfection facility at the farm entrance.*

Note: *A list of approved disinfectants is available from Teagasc or DAF.*

R28: *Ensure that stocking densities during transport prevent injury due to overloading or underloading and suit the behavioural needs of the animal. (See also the Teagasc Welfare Guidelines for Cattle Farms.) Transport cattle in appropriate social groupings where possible to minimise stress.*

R29: *Load and unload at the cattles' own pace.*

R30: *Do not transport the following: newborn, freshly calved or about to calve, infirm casualty or fatigued animals unless the move is to sick quarters or to the Vet.*

3.14

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Background Information

In Ireland, beef is typically produced from grass under extensive grazing conditions. This contributes significantly to the overall positive image of Irish Beef. Producers need to be conscious of the need to maintain this image. Accordingly Producers should manage their enterprise in an environmentally friendly manner and maintain biodiversity. The numerous Producers who already participate in the Rural Area Protection Scheme (REPS) or have a DAF approved Nutrient Management Plan in place are demonstrating their commitment to good environmental management practices.

Producers should familiarise themselves with the following codes of practice which provide detailed and relevant practical information and advice:

- Joint publication by Department of Environment and DAF: Code of Good Agricultural Practice to Protect Waters from Pollution by Nitrates, 1996
- Fertiliser Association of Ireland: Code of Good Practice for the Environment and Quality Food Production, 2nd Ed. 1999
- Teagasc: Managing Phosphorous in Farming, Nov. 1997
- Teagasc: Prevent Silage Pollution, Jan. 1994

- a) **Raw sludges and wastes (other than farm produced animal wastes and slurries) must not be spread on the grassland, including silage/hay ground (Category 1).**
- b) **Facilities for collecting and storing slurries and effluents (including silage effluent) must be in place in order to prevent pollution and disease (Category 1).**
- c) All waste plastic sheeting and bags must be collected and controlled pending disposal.

Note: Farmers should be aware that a facility exists for the disposal of farm plastics and the burning of plastics should not take place due to the potential release of toxins into the atmosphere

R31: Carry out soil sampling on a regular basis to monitor levels of major nutrients in the soil and ensure that applications of fertiliser follow a balanced nutrient plan that takes account of soil fertility, contribution from slurry and stocking rates. The target is to balance application of nutrient (slurry and fertiliser) with off-take to avoid unnecessary residues in the soil or pollution from over application.

R32: Protect watercourses by fencing. Where it is not feasible to supply piped water for the animals, drinking points in the watercourses can be provided. Fence such points so as to prevent animal movement up or downstream and prevent animals standing in the water.

R33: Spread slurry onto the silage ground as early as possible in the growing season and in accordance with the Code Of Good Farming Practice.

R34: Withhold cattle for the recommended period from grazing areas where waste disposal has taken place. This is usually a 28-day period unless otherwise advised by the farm advisors.

R35: Store disused farm machinery away from farmyards, in a manner that does not attract vermin or other pests.

R36: Store fuel oil in an accessible location where machines can be readily fuelled without risk of spillage and/or contamination. Lock the fuel hose when not in use.

R37: Collect and dispose of waste oil properly, i.e. in a specially provided Local Authority approved facility.

R38: Ensure that all chemical containers are disposed of in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and/or legislative requirements.

R39: Land spread spent sheep dip as soon as practicable after use (diluted 1 part dip with 3 parts water or slurry) and apply at a rate not exceeding 20m³ per hectare. Exclude farm animals from the disposal area for at least 28 days.

R40: Apply herbicides/pesticides as recommended by the manufacturer. Carry out mixing in a sheltered area well removed from wells and watercourses. Protect field margins and wildlife habitats from contamination either by direct application or from spray drift.

3.15

FARM SAFETY

Background Information

Farmers will be aware of the need to operate in a safe manner. There are many agencies that provide a service to assist with the writing of the Farm Safety Statement. In addition, publications are available from various sources (Health and Safety Authority of Ireland, Teagasc, Farming Organisations, etc.) giving guidance in this area.

- a) A written Farm Safety Statement must be available that identifies hazards on the farm, assesses the risk of injury and specifies how these risks are to be controlled (see Appendix 11, Farm Safety Statement).
- b) The Farm Safety Statement must be available to all people who visit and work on the farm such as Farm Workers, Farm Relief Personnel, Contractors, etc.

R41: All farm chemicals are potentially lethal. Handle and store them in a safe and fitting manner (see illustrative information in Appendix 12, Safe Handling of Chemicals).

4 Appendices

Producer Reference Information

NBAS RELATED LEGISLATION

The National Beef Assurance Scheme was introduced in accordance with the National Beef Assurance Scheme Bill, 1999. This bill contains numerous detailed references to various Acts, Orders, Regulations, EC Regulations, etc. which are listed in the Second Schedule and should be consulted for full details:

- Part 1 (Farmers),
- Part 2 (Dealers or Exporters of Live Animals),
- Part 3 (Manufacturers or Traders of Feedingstuffs),
- Part 4 (Abattoirs),
- Part 5 (Assembly Centres or Marts),
- Part 6 (Meat Plants).

The BQAS attempts to incorporate all the relevant requirements of the legislation that the NBAS references.

SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES BY CATEGORY

Environment:

The Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 and 1990.

Waste Management Act, 1996 and 2002.

Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992.

Identification and Traceability:

European Communities (Supply of Information on the Origin, Identification and Destination of Bovine Animals) Regulations 1999 and other Acts.

Farm Safety:

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989.

Council Directives 91/497/EEC, 91/498/EEC and 92/102/EEC.

Feedstuffs:

European Communities (Approval and Registration of Establishments and Intermediaries operating in the Animal Feed Sector) Regulations, 1999 (S.I. 88 of 1999).

S.I. 335 of 1999, European Communities (Approval and Registration of Establishments and Intermediaries Operating in The Animal Feed Sector) (Amendment).

DAF Publication: Code of Good Farming Practice for farm mixing of ingredients.

S.I. 283 of 1998, European Communities (Feedingstuffs) (Tolerances of Undesirable Substances and Products) Regulations, 1998.

S.I. 390 of 1999, European Communities (Putting into Circulation of Feed Materials) Regulations, 1999 (information regarding feeding meat and bonemeal or fishmeal).

Clean Livestock:

Abattoirs Amendment Act, 1998 as operated by the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Animal Remedies:

The Animal Remedies Act, 1993.

The Animal Remedies Regulations, 1996 (S.I. 179 of 1996).

The Control of Animal Remedies and their Residues Regulations, 1998 (S.I. 507 of 1998).

Diseases of Animals Act, 1966.

Transport:

Diseases of Animals (Protection of Animals during Transport) Orders, 1995 and 1997, (S.I. No. 98 of 1995 and 326 of 1997).

Welfare:

Protection of Animals Acts (1911) and 1965.

Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purpose Act, 1984.

Sewage and Sludge Application:

Statutory Instrument No.148 Waste Management
(Use of Sewage Sludge in Agriculture) Regulations 1998.

USEFUL REFERENCES AND CODES OF PRACTICE

- Joint publication by Department of Environment and DAF: Code of Good Agricultural Practice to Protect Waters from Pollution by Nitrates, 1996.
- Fertiliser Association of Ireland: Code of Good Practice for the Environment and Quality Food Production, 2nd Ed. 1999.
- Teagasc: Managing Phosphorous in Farming, Nov. 1997.
- Teagasc: Prevent Silage Pollution, Jan. 1994.
- EPA: Waste Catalogue and Hazardous Waste List (see the EPA website).

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS PROVIDED IN THE BQAS STANDARD

- DAF: Guidelines for Animal Welfare During Transport Within Ireland.
- Teagasc: Producing Clean Cattle, A Guide For Farmers.
- Teagasc: Animal Welfare Guidelines.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- Department of Agriculture and Food: www.agriculture.ie
- Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.ie
- Food Safety Authority of Ireland: www.fsai.ie
- Health and Safety Authority: www.hsa.ie
- Irish Statute Book: www.irishstatutebook.ie
- Teagasc: www.teagasc.ie
- The Fertiliser Association of Ireland: www.fertilizer-assoc.ie

Producer Declaration Form

*The Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Scheme is a voluntary Scheme.
You will be requested to complete this form in the presence of the farm Auditor during the
farm audit.*

Please complete in block capitals:

Herd Owner Name: _____
(Person in whose name the Herd No. is registered with DAF)

Herd Number: _____

Address : _____

Address for Correspondence: _____
(if different to above)

Tel/Fax/Mob: _____ / _____ / _____

Email: _____

Declaration:

I undertake to abide by the conditions applicable to beef producers as laid down in the Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Standard for Producers.

I acknowledge having received a copy of this Standard and accompanying documentation.

I agree to allow farm inspectors and auditors access to my farm and relevant records at all reasonable times.

I agree to provide full and accurate details of my farming practices that relate to the Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Scheme.

I declare I am in compliance with the relevant statutory requirements with regard to the operation of my farm.

I understand that my participation in the Scheme is a demonstration of my commitment to achieving the highest standards in the production of quality beef and my responsibilities in the food chain.

I agree to permit my name and BQAS Membership Status to be included in the BQAS Register / Database.

Signature: _____ (Person Responsible for Managing the Farm)

Position: _____ (Herd Owner, Manager, Herd Owner's Nominee)

Date: _____

Producer Declaration Form
(For Beef Producers with Pig / Poultry Production)

*The Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Scheme is a voluntary Scheme.
You will be requested to complete this form in the presence of the Auditor during the farm
audit.*

Please complete in block capitals:

Herd Owner Name: _____
(Person in whose name the Herd No. is registered with DAFF)

Herd Number: _____

Address : _____

Address for Correspondence: _____
(if different to above)

Tel/Fax/Mob: _____ / _____ / _____

Email: _____

Declaration:

I declare that beef animals will not be fed non-ruminant feeds and I undertake to maintain my feedstuff storage facilities in a manner that prevents cross-contamination from feedingstuffs intended for non-ruminants including pigs and poultry.

I agree to allow farm inspectors and auditors access to my farm and relevant records at all reasonable times and to take feed samples for test purposes.

I undertake to abide by the conditions applicable to beef producers as laid down in the Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Standard.

I acknowledge having received a copy of this Standard and the accompanying documentation.

I agree to provide full and accurate details of my farming practices that relate to the Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Scheme.

I declare I am in compliance with the relevant statutory requirements with regard to the operation of my farm.

I understand that my participation in the Scheme is a demonstration of my commitment to achieving the highest standards in the production of quality beef and my responsibilities in the food chain.

I agree to permit my name and BQAS Membership Status to be included in the BQAS Register / Database.

Signature: _____ (Person Responsible for Managing the Farm)

Position: _____ (Herd Owner, Manager, Herd Owner's Nominee)

Date: _____

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 two types of authorisation numbers are as follows:

1. **VPA** (Veterinary Product Authorisation) number. The VPA number is given to the product by the Irish Medicines Board when the product is approved for sale and supply.
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 will be replaced by the VPA as the products come up for review in the future.
3. **EMEA** (European Medicines Evaluation Agency). The EMEA assigns a number to the product when the product is approved for sale and supply in Europe. However, a VPA number should also be available for the product when sold in Ireland.

ROUTES OF SUPPLY IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Approved medicines may only be sold in Ireland through the following routes. Various conditions apply to the use of medicines obtained through those routes as follows:

1. **VSO** (Veterinary Surgeon Only). VSO designated products can only be administered by a veterinary surgeon or by a competent person in the direct presence of a veterinary surgeon.
2. **POM** (Prescription Only Medicines). In this situation a prescription must be made available for the animal and the relevant animal remedy can be supplied through a registered veterinary surgeon or a registered pharmacist.
3. **POM(E)** (Prescription Only Medicine (Exempt)). In this situation the product for sale does not require a prescription and can be sold or supplied by a registered pharmacist or a registered veterinary surgeon.
4. **PS** (Pharmacy Sale Only). In this situation the product can be sold or supplied only from a pharmacy under the personal supervision of the pharmacist or by a registered veterinary surgeon.

5. **LM (Licensed Merchant)**. Licensed merchant animal remedy products are products which are not classified as VSO, POM, POM(E) and PS. LM products can be sold and supplied from a premises to which an Animal Remedies Merchant's Licence relates, a registered pharmacy and registered veterinary surgeon.
6. **CAM (Companion Animal Medicine)**. CAM animal remedy products are products which are not classified as VSO, POM, POM(E), PS and LM. CAM products can be sold and supplied from a premises to which a Companion Animal Seller's Licence or an Animal Remedies Merchant's Licence relates, a registered pharmacy and registered veterinary surgeon.
7. **LSB (Licensed Seller B)**. LSB animal remedies (Intramammaries) may be sold and supplied by Licensed Merchants who holds a B licence under the Poisons Regulations. B Licenses may only be issued to co-operatives societies by the local Health Board.

Animal Remedies Purchases Record

Purchase No.	Date of Purchase	Medicine Name	Quantity Purchased	Medicine Batch No. (Optional)	Expiry Date of the Animal Remedy (Use before) (Optional)	Withdrawal Period (Meat)* (Optional)	Supplied By (You must record the full name and address of the supplier the first time you record it)	Tick When Product is All Used Up or has Passed Expiry Date (Optional)	Comments (Optional)
1	20-Nov-01	Ivomec Injection	1 x 500ml	DF21355	Apr-03	42d	The Farm Shop, Bridge St., Newtown, Co. ...	✓	
2	25-Feb-02	Spirovac	100ml	1402305	Nov-02	None	Valley Veterinary, Market St., Newtown, Co. ...	✓	
3	1-May-02	Ivomec Pour-On	2.5l	31288J	Oct-04	28d	Valley Veterinary, Market St., Newtown, Co. ...		
4	1-May-02	Valbazen 10%	1 litre	34788U	Dec-03	14d	Co-Op Stores, Park St., Newtown, Co. ...		
5	20-Jun-02	Baytril Pour-On	2.5 litre	B 9023I V	Jan-04	5d	The Farm Shop		
6	3-Jul-02	Engemycin 10%	1 x 100ml	050	#####	8d	The Farm Shop		
7	1-Aug-02	Bovex Dry Cow Tubes	1 x 500ml	004R	Jan-04	7d	Co-Op Stores, Park St., Newtown, Co. ...		
8	1-Aug-02	Ridect	1 x 20ml	769300JK	Jan-04	7d	Co-Op Stores, Park St., Newtown, Co. ...		
9	1-Sep-02	Rotavac K 99	20ml	004R	Mar-03	None	Valley Veterinary	✓	Brought back all unused and expired animal remedies for disposal along with used needles
10	10-Oct-02	Ivomec Pour-On	500ml	004R	Jul-04	28d	Co-Op Stores		
11	10-Oct-02	Ectopour	500ml	G L S033B	Aug-03	10d	Co-Op Stores		
12	20-Oct-02	Rotavac K 99	20ml	6623C	Jan-04	None	Valley Veterinary	✓	
13	20-Oct-02	Noran Injection	500ml	G A B 032B	Apr-04	42d	Valley Veterinary		Recommended by Vet as cost effective housing treatment
14	20-Oct-02	Trodax	1 litre	R O T1982A	May-04	60d	Valley Veterinary		
15	24-Oct-02	Pen Strep	100ml	8QB 107A	Oct-03	18d	Valley Veterinary	✓	
16									

*Note: Check product for actual withdrawal period.

Animal Remedies Usage Record

Entry No.	Date of Administration	Name and Quantity of Animal Remedy Administered per Animal			Identity of Animal Given the 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)	Comment (Optional)
		Remedy Name	Purchase No. (Optional)*	Quantity					
1	21:Nov:01	I vomec I njection	1	8ml	A ll 25 weanlers born October 2000-J anuary 2001 T ag numbers 161239430189 to 30213	02:J an:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	
2	21:Nov:01	I vomec I njection	1	6ml	A ll 18 weanlers born February 2001 to May 2001 T ag numbers 161239430214 to 30220 and 30222 to 30232	02:J an:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	
3	21:Nov:01	I vomec I njection	1	10ml	A ll 19 stores/replacement heifers T ag numbers 161239430168 to 30186	02:J an:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	
4	15:Dec:01	Marbocyl and B aytril	N/A	2ml marbocyl and 5ml baytril	Caif T ag numbers 161239430237	01:Dec:01	Mr. Farmer	N/A	slow to recover
5	26:Feb:02	Spirovac	2	2ml	A ll 43 cows and 1 bull	None	Mr. Farmer	N/A	
6	15:May:02	I vomec Pour-on	3	25ml	6 heifers T ag number 619430233 to 619430238	12:J un:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	
7	02:J ul:02	I vomec Pour-on	3	30ml	A ll calves born on the farm since October 2001 to A pril 2002	02:J ul:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	
8	02:J ul:02	V ancomycin Pour-on	5	80ml	A ll 22 bought in stores Page 6, 7 and page 16 in the B HR	07:J ul:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	Tick and lice control on bought in stores
9	02:J ul:02	B aytril Pour-on	8	100ml	A ll 55 bought in stores Page 6, 7 and page 16 in the B HR	07:J ul:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	Two doses of 50ml two days apart
10	3rd and 5th July 2002	Engenmycin 10%	8	40ml	15 cows that calved from October 2001 to December 2001 Page 6,7 and 8 in the B HR	15:J ul:02	Mr. V et and Mr. Farmer	N/A	
11	01:A ug:02	B aytril Pour-on	9	1ml	15 cows that calved from October 2001 to December 2001 Page 6,7 and 8 in the B HR	29:A ug:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	Dry cows to out farm
12	01:A ug:02	R ickettsia Vaccine K 99	10	35ml	15 cows that calved from October 2001 to December 2001 Page 6,7 and 8 in the B HR	08:A ug:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	Fly control to prevent summer mastitis
13	02:Sep:02	I vomec Pour-on	13	9ml	15 cows that calved from October 2001 to December 2001 Page 6,7 and 8 in the B HR	None	Mr. Farmer	N/A	Cows back from out farm
14	20:Oct:02	N oramectin injection	13	9ml	A ll 43 weanlers born on the farm since October 2001 to A pril 2002	17:Nov:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	
15	20:Oct:02	N oramectin injection	13	9ml	A ll 32 store cattle and replacement heifers on the farm	01:Dec:02	Mr. Farmer	N/A	
16									

*The Purchase Number (from the Purchase Record) can be used on its own instead of the name of the product.

Feed Purchases Record

					J 4599	
Date of Purchase	Description (Straight, Fodder, Roots, By-Products, Other)	Feed Batch or Invoice (Where available)	Quantity Purchased	Supplied By (You must record the full name and address of the supplier the first time you record it)	Comment (Optional)	
25-Oct-02	Barley	None	8T	Peter Killen, Oak Farm, Newtown, Co. _____	Propcom treated barley collected in own trailer	
28-Oct-02	Distillers G rain	R 1890067	4T	Co-Op Stores, Park St., Newtown, Co. _____	Collected in own trailer	
28-Oct-02	Citrus Pulp	R 1890067	4T	Co-Op Stores	Collected in own trailer	
28-Oct-02	Soya	R 1890067	2T	Co-Op Stores	Delivered in 1/2 ton pallets	
29-Oct-02	Hay	None	100 Str Pallets	Peter Killen, Moyglass, Newtown, Co. _____	Collected in own trailer	
30-Oct-02	Brewers G rain	R 1890067	2T	Irish Distillers, Newtown, Co. _____	Collected in own trailer	

ONLY DATA ONLY
 SAMPLE DATA no responsibility
 Bord Bia accepts no responsibility
 for inaccuracies in this sample data

Note: Use this record only where label information has not been provided.

Clean Cattle

Category Description

Photos of the Clean Cattle Grades

- 1** Dry and clean with no faeces or dirt.



- 2** Dry or damp with light contamination with dirt or faeces.



- 3** Dry or damp, significant contamination with dirt or faeces.



- 4** Dry or damp with heavy daggings or heavy contamination with dirt/faeces.



- 5** Wet, very heavy contamination with dirt/faeces, heavy daggings. Bedding adhering to coat.



Animal Health Plan

Year: 2004

Animal Health Activities		Tick relevant boxes					Tick 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	
**Vaccination Programme: Cows	Leptospirosis		✓								✓			
	Prevalving Scour	✓												✓
**Vaccination Programme: Calves	Calf Scour													
	Respiratory Diseases	✓		✓										✓
**Vaccination Programme: Weanlings	Respiratory Diseases													
**Vaccination Programme: Beef Animals	Respiratory Diseases													
**Other Herd Vaccinations	Check for Grazing													
Other Cow Health Activities	Move to Clean Grass													
Parasite Control: Calves	Stomach Worm Treatment at													
	Stomach Worm/Hoosie Treatment at													
Parasite Control: Weanlings at Housing	**Stomach Worms at Treatment													
	**Fluke													
Parasite Control: Store/Finishers	**Stomach Worm/Hoosie Treatment													
	**Fluke													
	Lice													
Parasite Control: Replacement Heifers	**Stomach Worms/Hoosie Treatment													
	**Fluke													
	Lice													
Comments or Observations of Vet or Farm Advisor		B food sample from heifer showed B D V antibodies. Farm bull and breeding cows should be screened and carriers of the virus should be removed.												
		**Note: these entries may only be necessary in specific situations depending on previous herd health, specific environmental conditions or specific veterinary advice. Note: The blank spaces can be used for additional entries relevant to your farm.												

Zoonoses

Some diseases carried by animals can affect humans. These diseases are known as zoonoses. If you work with animals you may be at risk. Microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi can cause illness by infecting the body when they are breathed in, swallowed 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 BQAS. Hands should be washed and dried before eating, drinking or smoking.

Farmers should request advice from their Veterinary Surgeon in relation to the prevention of zoonoses.

Listed below are some of the most common zoonoses.

Disease	Causative Organism	Principal Animals Involved	Probable Means of Spread to Man
Brucellosis	<i>Brucella spp.</i>	Cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, dogs	Direct contact with tissues, excretions, secretions (including milk) of infected animals
Leptospirosis	<i>Leptospira spp.</i>	Domestic and wild animals, especially rodents	By direct contact with infected animal's urine or tissue (or aborted fetus), or from contaminated soil or water
Salmonellosis	<i>Salmonella spp.</i>	Poultry, pigs, cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, cats, wild mammals and birds	By handling diseased animals or by eating contaminated food
Various Manifestations	<i>E. coli</i> 0157:H7	Cattle, sheep, other animals and birds	Direct or indirect contact or exposure to infected excretions
Tuberculosis	<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>	Cattle	Ingestion, inhalation
Ringworm	<i>Microsporium spp.</i> <i>Trichophyton spp.</i>	Many animals and birds	Direct contact with infected animals, or contaminated surfaces
Toxoplasmosis*	<i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>	Mammals, especially sheep and cats, birds	Ingestion of oocysts shed in faeces of infected cats, and meat that contains cysts
Louping ill	<i>Flavivirus</i>	Sheep; less often cattle, sheepdogs	Ticks, (<i>Ixodes ricinus</i>)

*Note: Toxoplasmosis can have potentially very serious health consequences for pregnant women.

Medicine Storage

Note: This is a recommendation for the safe storage of animal remedies. 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 the 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 made known 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 that contains animal feedingstuff.

All spillages should be removed immediately from the medicine store and disposed of in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.

Cattle Housing Guidelines

RECOMMENDED SPACE ALLOWANCES FOR GROWING/ADULT CATTLE (m² PER ANIMAL)

Housing System	Liveweight Range (kg)/Animal Type							
	200-300	301-400	401-500	501-600	601-700	700+	Dry Suckler Cow	Lactating Suckler Cow
Wholly bedded shed	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
Combination bedded + slatted floor	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
Part bedded + outdoor feeding								
• 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/loafing area	1.0	1.0-1.1	1.1-1.2	1.2-1.2	1.3-1.3	1.4	1.3-1.4	1.3-1.4
Fully slatted sheds	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

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.

Cattle Housing Guidelines

RECOMMENDED SPACE ALLOWANCES FOR YOUNG CALVES (m² PER HEAD)

Dairy Calves <i>*Individual Calf Pen</i>	Dairy Calves <i>*Group Pens</i>	Housed Suckler Calves <i>Calf Creeps</i>
<p>Pen Length: at least equal to 1.1 times actual calf length (1.1 times nose to tail length)</p> <p>Pen Width: at least equal to calf height (to withers)</p> <p>Calves are not to be confined to individual pens after 8 weeks of age (unless for disease control/treatment purposes)</p>	<p><i>Calves < 150 kg</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 1.5m² <p><i>Calves: 151 to 219 kg</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 1.7m² 	<p>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.</p> <p>For Spring born calves, allow 0.9 to 1.1m² creep area.</p> <p>For Autumn born calves: allow from 1.5 m² creep area (depending on calf size/turnout date)</p>

**EU Welfare of Calves Regulations 1995 and 1998.*

RECOMMENDATIONS ON FEED SPACE ALLOWANCES (mm PER HEAD)

	Suckler Cows	Finishing Cattle	Light Store Cattle	Weanlings
Feeding Regime				
• 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

Note: Above recommendations are a guideline, actual requirements may vary depending on animal, feeding system, feed barrier design, etc. Also, where concentrates are fed ad-lib or where complete diet feeding systems are used, space requirements may be significantly lower (check with farm advisors/Teagasc for full information).

Farm Safety Statement: Guidelines

A 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 are affected by the work. The duty of preparing and implementing the Safety Statement lies with the person in control of the farm. **However, a Farm Safety expert should be consulted in preparing it.**

The Safety Statement must be reviewed on a regular basis as farming conditions and activities change, new machines and new hazards are brought onto the farm. The Safety Statement 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 and available from any of their offices throughout the country (website: www.hsa.ie).

Some common issues of concern that could be addressed in the Safety Statement are:

- Slurry agitation should only be done when the building is empty. Stay out of the building for as long as possible after agitation starts, particularly the first hour, to avoid dangers due to slurry gases. It is recommended not to enter empty slurry tanks.
- Electrical installations should be well maintained and protected from water.
- Overhead wires should be sufficiently high to avoid contact with machinery and tipping trailers. Contractors should be made aware of such hazards prior to commencing work.
- Tractor PTOs should be protected with approved guards at all times.
- Safety rails should be erected on top of side walls of open silage pits.
- If children have access to the farmyard area then a safe and secure play area should be designated.
- Where applicable, fire exits should be clearly marked.
- Fire extinguishers should be available and regularly serviced.
- Security fencing should be erected around hazards such as open tanks, lagoons, etc.

Safe Handling of Chemicals

Note: This is a recommendation for the safe handling of chemicals. It is not intended as a definitive guide to the safe handling of chemicals and does not replace any applicable statutory requirement.

1. Purchase only approved chemicals.
2. Store in designated storage facilities, which are labelled and locked, and well away from food.
3. Do not transfer chemicals to other storage containers, especially soft drink bottles or food containers.
4. Maintain only minimum stocks of chemicals (to avoid out-of-date chemicals).
5. Read the label before opening the chemical and observe all safety precautions. Use chemicals in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.
6. Wear the correct personal protection equipment for the chemical and operation involved.
7. Have a supply of clean water for washing off splashes.
8. Wash hands and exposed skin before eating or drinking and shower down after the job is complete.
9. Thoroughly rinse all equipment used, and store safely.
10. Unused chemicals should be disposed of in a safe manner and so as not to harm the environment.

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