



**RED
MEAT
PROFIT
PARTNERSHIP**

**NEW ZEALAND
FARM ASSURANCE
PROGRAMME
(NZFAP)**

**NZFAP
STANDARD**

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New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Standard

Purpose

The New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP) is the foundation upon which the collective red meat industry can deliver an authentic and independently verified best-practice animal raising and production assurance standard to our International consumers. Today's modern meat consumer is asking where has this product come from? How was it raised? Is it safe for my family to eat? Red meat produced under this programme comes with assurances in terms of integrity, origin, traceability, bio-security, environmental sustainability and animal health and welfare, all essential ingredients when it comes to maximising product returns and meeting the expectations of our diverse International consumer audience.

Scope

The NZFAP covers the foundation on-farm audit and certification of sheep, beef and deer production.

With optional questions on the ASD individual meat exporters can still establish additional standards as per their individual business models and customer expectations.

Aspirations

All New Zealand red meat farmers should aspire to achieve and be NZFAP accredited.

All New Zealand meat exporting companies should adopt the foundation standard.

The New Zealand red meat industry will have a single NZFAP that harmonises standards, eliminates duplication and provides New Zealand representatives a stronger negotiating position in regards to OMARs (Overseas Market Access Requirements) and global market access for New Zealand red meat production.

Farmer Handbook

The Farmer Handbook is a document created to be read in conjunction with this standard to assist farmers and their staff with preparation for audit day. It provides key information about the audit purpose and process and also contains a valuable reference section to aid in understanding the necessity for certain on-farm practices.

Definitions

Requirements

Shall – refers to all New Zealand codes or statutes (e.g. animal welfare codes). Indicates a mandatory obligation. Failure to comply with them will result in Corrective Action Requests (CARs) being issued and may result in exclusion from the scheme until CARs have been closed. Be aware that failure to comply with legal requirements such as regulations may also result in penalties such as a fine and/or criminal conviction.

Must – refers to obligations arising from commercial requirements. Failure to comply with them will result in CARs being issued and could result in exclusion from the scheme until CARs have been closed.

Recommendation

Should – refers to a practice which is recommended as a means of complying with a statutory or programme requirement. More than one practice may be recommended. It is up to the farmer to select the practice which best suits the circumstance or even come up with another satisfactory way of meeting the requirements.

Farm

Farm – one or more blocks of land, no more than 20kms apart that are managed as one entity including one set of farm policies and records.

Note: this is different to the NAIT definition.

Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ)

JAS-ANZ is the government-appointed accreditation body for Australia and New Zealand responsible for providing accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the fields of certification and inspection. Accreditation by JAS-ANZ demonstrates the competence and independence of these CABs. The CAB certifies farmers to enable customer access for their products.

Confidentiality

All information and data collected by the auditing body and/or processors will be treated with the strictest confidence. The auditing body/processor will ensure:

- Farmer application forms include a declaration for the disclosure of all audit information to an approved auditing body as agent for NZFAP
- That respect for the privacy and commercial sensitivity of information they may have access to during the audit process is shown at all times
- All farmer files, records and manuals are held securely
- Auditors do not enter farms/offices/homes/sites unaccompanied or look at any files, records or manuals without express permission from the farmer

Getting the Job Done Safely

Steps to assist with the identification and mitigation of risks.

Farmers should consider information about health and safety risks and processes such as:

- Legal obligations and expectations
- The effect of legislative changes
- Requirements for a health and safety induction at a designated safe meeting point
- Requirements for adequate and safe facilities and access to them

The person in charge of the business unit has legal responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act for any workers or contractors on the farm. The induction process ensures that all parties' legal obligations are met and only needs to be completed once, unless circumstances change between visits. A contractor induction form is available, information and resources can be found at www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture

The farmer has a legal obligation to conduct a health and safety induction at a designated, safe meeting point (must be identified on the farm map).

Taste Pure Nature

Taste Pure Nature™ is New Zealand's unique point of difference and is central to its promise of the purest, cleanest, most natural meat taste experience in the world. It has been designed to enhance the positioning of New Zealand beef and lamb and provide a marketing umbrella to underpin New Zealand exporter brand building activities.

To be eligible for Taste Pure Nature™ the following criteria for livestock must be met.

All animals must:

- Come from farms that are accredited under the NZFAP
- Be supplied to meat processing facilities with the following questions on the ASD all answered as 'no'
 - Have any of these animals been fed ruminant protein in their lifetime?
 - Have any of these animals been fed ANYTHING other than milk or pasture in their lifetime?
 - Have any of these animals been treated with a hormonal growth promotant in their lifetime?



Cervena Venison

Cervena® is venison at its purest. From pasture-raised young New Zealand deer, Cervena gives you the freedom to create. The finest grade of New Zealand farm-raised venison is recognised by a common signifier of quality – Cervena®.

The New Zealand deer industry's national audit programme ensures that farmers who meet quality standards of animal welfare, farming practice and environmental management supply deer to the companies that market Cervena. Only venison that meets these quality standards can be called Cervena.

Deer must:

- Be sourced from New Zealand deer herds - *Dama dama* and *Cervus elaphus*
- Come from farms that are compliant with the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme, the DeerQA On-farm Industry Agreed Standards or an approved equivalent scheme
- Be three years and under
- Be pasture-fed as recorded by the Animal Status Declaration
- Not have consumed feeds derived from genetically modified plants from 1 January 2019



1. New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Checklist

It is important that the farmer has a good understanding of the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Standard and the benefits of the scheme in terms of food safety, process improvement and customer access. A clear understanding of the requirement to maintain accurate records is a critical component of the programme.

Prior to a certification audit taking place, the farmer shall have available the following documentation:

- a. Current copy of the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Standard
- b. Origins and traceability records
 - o ASDs (both sold and purchased livestock) – must be current version
 - o NAIT records, must be up-to-date
 - o Residency requirement records
- c. Supplementary feeds – purchase receipts for stock feed – nil ruminant protein to be fed to ruminants
- d. Animal remedy inventory and treatment records
- e. Agrichemical inventory
- f. Staff training records detailing areas of competence
- g. Animal health plan
- h. Register for all agrichemicals used on-farm
- i. Livestock mortality records for weaned animals
- j. A completed pre-audit farm check which should include:
 - o Facilities, yards, sheds, pens, fences, silos – no wire sticking out/no sharp edges/nothing that could cause injury to the livestock or humans
 - o Loading ramps – no holes/lighting if loads go at night/rough edges/protrusions that could cause injury/non-slip surfaces/other damage which may impact animal welfare
 - o Water availability
 - o Dog kennels – shade/shelter/water/feed available
 - o Agrichemical storage areas – locked, sign that states it's an agrichemical store, no expired agrichemicals
 - o Animal remedies – secured, no expired remedies
 - o Hospital pen or paddock available
 - o Shade and shelter on-farm

1.1 Records

Requirements

- 1.1.1 Clear and accurate records must be maintained
- 1.1.2 Records must be maintained in hard copy on individual company forms, on the forms provided by NZFAP or in electronic form (recommended)
- 1.1.3 All records must be kept for a minimum of five years

2. Origin, Traceability and Farm Inputs

The reason for recording the location of livestock and the products used to maintain animal health from birth through to the retail shelves is to assure customers that the livestock has been reared on properties conforming to the programme standards at all times.

There must be systems in place to demonstrate minimum residency requirements are met and all shall be documented.

Accurate record keeping is a critical element of profitable farming and farmers must maintain stock movements and other records to ensure traceability through the supply chain.

2.1 Origins and Traceability

Requirements

- 2.1.1 Livestock covered by the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme scope must not have been imported into New Zealand
- 2.1.2 Animal history – there must be a process in place to enable the identification of animals including:
 - Animals not born on the property must be identified or farmed in a manner to assure traceability and residency requirements
 - Animals must be identified if the farm is a Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) surveillance listed property or under MPI movement control for residues or any other purpose other than TB
 - ASD forms must be retained for a minimum of five years
- 2.1.3 Cattle and deer shall be individually identified and movements recorded in accordance with New Zealand NAIT regulations:
 - The relevant meat company shall be notified of TB suspect cattle being sent to the processing facility. Prior notification shall occur for livestock being consigned from herds with suspended or infected status.
 - Suspect TB animals must have official orange/red tags in their ears
 - Animals under movement control shall have the official white tag in their ear
 - Farmers shall record all cattle and deer movements in NAIT
- 2.1.4 Livestock movement records shall be kept up-to-date for transfers both on and off the property and kept for at least five years. The following details shall be recorded:
 - Date – enter the date the livestock arrived/departed from your property
 - Origin/destination – enter the details of where the stock have come from or is going to
 - Transport company – enter the name of the transport company used to transport the animals
 - Purchases/sales – enter in the stock tally and details, identification details including any special distinguishing tags/marks and other information which may include breed/sex
 - Comments – enter details of any comments you wish to make to assist identification and traceability
- 2.1.5 Livestock purchased from a farm assured (ISO/IEC 17065 Certified) property that is accompanied by a correctly completed ASD and a declaration that the farmer is farm assured, will continue to be farm assured 20 days from time of arrival on that property
 - Livestock purchased from a non-farm assured property that are accompanied by a correctly completed ASD are eligible to be farm assured 60 days from time of arrival on property

Recommendation

A copy of the ASDs for livestock purchases and sales should be attached to the rest of the records for those animals, i.e. purchase or sales advices.

2.2 Farm Inputs

Genetically modified animals are excluded from the programme.

Requirements

- 2.2.1 Ruminant livestock shall not be fed ruminant protein (e.g. blood and bone meal) in any form, composition or ad-mixture. (Biosecurity (Ruminant Protein) Regulations 1999). Note: ruminant protein means protein derived from ruminant tissue, including blood but excluding dairy product. Make sure you carefully read the label of any feedstuff that you suspect may contain any ruminant tissue. In order to assure anybody who enquires about your feeds, retain the labels from any purchased feeds.
- 2.2.2 Any ruminant protein must be stored securely away from livestock
- 2.2.3 Supplementary feed – any additive must be fully registered with the appropriate authority for use in New Zealand
- 2.2.4 Sheep and deer shall not be treated with Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGP)
- 2.2.5 HGP cattle shall be identified with an appropriate mandated HGP ear tag

3. Security and Food Safety

3.1 Farm Biosecurity

It is important for farm management and staff to understand biosecurity risk and ensure there is a process in place to report suspicious and unusual disease symptoms in their livestock to their veterinarian (refer Animal Health Plans)

or

Contact: **MPI Exotic Disease and Pest Emergency Hotline (0800 80 99 66)**

Where a farm is placed under movement control for an infectious disease all MPI biosecurity requirements shall be followed.

Requirements

- 3.1.1 Livestock displaying signs of unusual illness or ill-thrift must be notified to a veterinarian
- 3.1.2 Fences shall be designed, constructed and maintained to safely contain farmed deer. Minimum boundary fence height must be 1.7m and should be 1.9m in regulated/at risk areas. Refer Farmer Handbook **Appendix IV: Deer Fencing** – should designated areas be deemed special risk or at risk for deer, the appropriate DOC fencing standard shall apply as defined in New Zealand Gazette notice 125.

Recommendations

- Visitors should notify the farmer if they have been in contact with diseased animals
- Visitors should not bring on to the farm any material or contaminant that may cause cross contamination to the farm livestock, plants and environment
- The farm should have a biosecurity notice to inform visitors of the above requirements

3.2 Infectious Diseases

Requirements

- 3.2.1 Human sewage shall not contaminate any pasture/crop to be grazed by livestock
- 3.2.2 Farmers must check they have adequate and well maintained sewage disposal facilities
- 3.2.3 Farmers must ensure farm workers are aware of disease threats and encourage them to exercise good on-farm hygiene practices
- 3.2.4 Any disease instances and appropriate corrective actions must be recorded

Recommendation

If farm staff or a family member is showing signs of being infected with tapeworms and/or any suspicious disease symptoms, they should be advised to seek medical treatment.

3.3 Physical Hazards

Requirement

- 3.3.1 Livestock that are suspected of having foreign material embedded in the meat such as injection needles, fencing wire and other foreign bodies must be clearly identified immediately. These can only be presented for slaughter after consultation with the processor and a separate ASD should accompany the animal clearly identifying the issue.

3.4 Animal Remedy Inventory and Storage

The reasons for recording animal remedies is to provide assurance that:

- Only registered remedies are used (food safety and welfare)
- They are not past their use-by date (food safety and animal welfare)
- Containers have been suitably disposed of when they are empty (environmental sustainability)
- Unused or expired treatments are disposed of appropriately (refer Farmer Handbook)

Requirements

3.4.1 All animal remedy products must be recorded

3.4.2 An inventory record must be maintained and shall include:

- Species
- Product – enter the commercial name of the product
- Volume – enter the volume purchased
- Date purchased
- Source – enter the name of the firm from which you purchased the remedy
- Batch number – copy the batch number from the container or invoice
- Expiry date – copy the expiry date from the container label
- Date finished – enter the date for when the container is empty
- Disposal of container – describe the method used when disposing of the container and/or any unused expired product e.g. triple rinsed and Agrecovery/Plasback

3.4.3 Animal remedies must be stored separately to farm chemicals to ensure no risk of cross contamination. They must be secured and stored away from sunlight and as recommended on the container label.

3.4.4 Should you have unused or expired remedies they must be disposed of appropriately (refer Farmer Handbook)

3.4.5 A veterinarian's letter is not acceptable to extend the shelf life of expired remedies

3.5 Animal Health Treatments

The reasons for recording animal health treatments is to assure customers that:

- Any off-label use is in accordance with MPI criteria
- Only registered animal treatments are used (food safety and animal welfare)
- The correct dose rates have been used (food safety and animal welfare)
- The withholding periods have been adhered to (food safety)
- Product is not past its expiry date (food safety and animal welfare)
- The person treating the animals is suitably trained or experienced (animal welfare, health and safety)

Requirements

3.5.1 All treatments of animals must be recorded either on a mob/group basis or for individual animals

3.5.2 The treatment record must include the following details:

- Species
- Date – enter the date on which the animals were treated
- Number of animals treated
- Class of animal/mob/how identified – enter the mob name and how it can be distinguished from other lines of animals

- Product/treatment used – enter the commercial name of the product/treatment used (including for uses such as disbudding and dehorning)
- Batch number – copy the batch number from the container or invoice
- Dose rate for each animal
- Withholding period – enter details in days
- Earliest slaughter date (safe date) – calculate and enter the earliest date on which the animals can legally be sent for slaughter
- Person treating animals – enter the name(s) of the people administering the treatments
- Notes – include any notes such as faecal egg counts for mobs etc

3.5.3 Any off-label medication use is to be in accordance with MPI criteria

Recommendations

When treating livestock with an animal remedy the animal handler(s) should:

- Check and calibrate the applicator
- Treat to the weight of the heaviest animal
- Weigh a sample of the mob/line to determine the correct dose rate

3.6 Agrichemical Register, Agrichemical and Fertiliser Storage Requirements

The reasons for recording agrichemical products is to assure customers that:

- Storage area has been labelled with no smoking sign and a HAZCHEM sign plus other signs as required by Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) regulations
- Only registered agrichemicals are used (if applicable)
- Fertiliser storage areas are constructed and maintained to meet regulatory standards (environmental sustainability)
- Containers have been suitably disposed of or recycled when they are empty or where appropriate when required for reuse on-farm, they must be cleaned to a safe standard i.e. triple rinse (environmental sustainability)

Requirements

- 3.6.1 All farm agrichemical products must be recorded on the agrichemical inventory
- 3.6.2 Agrichemicals and pasture/crop treatments must be stored in a locked facility which meets the requirements of HSNO regulations and must be stored away from sunlight and as recommended on the container label
- 3.6.3 If agrichemicals have been decanted, product name and expiry date must be transferred from the original label
- 3.6.4 Fertiliser storage areas are constructed and maintained to meet regulatory standards – prevent leachate (environmental sustainability)
- 3.6.5 Expired agrichemicals including but not limited to animal remedies and veterinary medicines must be disposed of (refer Farmer Handbook)

Recommendations

An inventory should include for each hazardous substance:

- The substance's name and UN number (if available)
- Date purchased
- Expiry date – copy the expiry date from the container label or secure detail from the contractor
- Any specific storage and segregation requirements
- A current safety data sheet or a condensed version of the key information from the safety data sheet and any hazardous waste

3.7 Agrichemical and Fertiliser Applications

The reasons for recording agrichemicals and pasture/crop applications is to assure customers that:

- The correct application rates have been used (food safety)
- Agrichemicals and fertiliser have been used as per the manufacturer's instructions
- Agrichemical and fertiliser withholding periods have been adhered to where applicable (food safety)
- The person or company applying the agrichemicals or fertiliser is suitably trained or experienced (food safety and health and safety)

Requirements

- 3.7.1 All agrichemical and fertiliser applications to land, to be grazed by livestock, must be recorded by paddock or other land identification system
- 3.7.2 The application record must include the following details:
- Date – enter the date on which the agrichemicals were administered
 - Location of application – paddock/land ID or name
 - Product/agrichemical/fertiliser used – enter the commercial name of the product/agrichemical/fertiliser used
 - Application rates – record application rate by paddock/land identifier
 - Withholding period – if there is a withholding period, enter details in days
 - Person/company applying agrichemicals – enter the name(s) of the people/company applying agrichemicals
 - Earliest grazing/slaughter date (safe date) – calculate and enter the earliest date on which the animals can legally be grazed
 - Earliest slaughter date (safe date) – calculate and enter earliest date on which the animals can legally be sent for slaughter
- 3.7.3 Disposal of container – describe the method used when disposing of the container and/or any unused expired product, e.g. triple rinsed and Agrecovery/Plasback

3.8 Supplements/Feed

The reason for recording this information is to assure customers that:

- Livestock has not been given access to any feed containing ruminant protein

Note: this requirement applies to 'hard feeds' (manufactured or compounded feeds) only, i.e. you do not have to fill in details for such feeds as hay, silage or brassicas.

Requirements

- 3.8.1 All supplementary feed ('hard feeds' only) fed to livestock must be recorded
- 3.8.2 Evidence shall be available to indicate that no ruminant protein has been used
- 3.8.3 Records must include:
- Type of supplement – enter both the commercial name and a more general name for the product. It is recommended that you keep the label from the feed.
 - Purchase date
 - Source – enter the name of the company from which you purchased the feed
 - Expiry date – copy the expiry date of the supplement if applicable
 - Class of animal, animals fed (number and ID) – enter the number of animals fed and the way in which you can identify those animals from other mobs/groups
 - Total quantity fed – enter the total quantity of the supplement fed

- Period of feeding – enter the start and end dates
- Reason for supplementation – enter the reason why you fed the supplement e.g. drought

Recommendation

A certificate of feed status including Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) status should be obtained from the vendor for any processed feedstuff purchased. Labels/documentation should also be retained. These should be retained for five years for auditing purposes.

3.9 Vermin Control

The reasons for vermin control include:

- Control of vermin that may transmit diseases, e.g. rats transmit leptospirosis
- Prevention of spoilage of stored feed
- Reduce grazing competition from rabbits

Vermin control is routinely performed using traps or poisons. Poisons used to control animal pests are called vertebrate toxic agents. The main agents used in New Zealand are brodifacoum (anticoagulant), cyanide and 1080.

Requirements

- 3.9.1 Placement of poisons and stock management must ensure that all livestock are prevented from accessing poisons used for vermin control
- 3.9.2 Traps holding live vermin shall be checked within 12 hours of sunrise
- 3.9.3 When killed wild animals are supplied from your property for primary processing, the supplier must be certified to ensure MPI procurement requirements in relation to poison use are met. For example when anticoagulant poisons such as brodifacoum are used, wild deer within a 2km buffer zone of the poison area may not be harvested for commercial consumption (human and animal) for three years.
- 3.9.4 Requirements for records and storage apply to any poisons or chemicals used (refer to 3.6.1 to 3.6.4)

Recommendations

- Bait stations which prevent access to all animals other than the target species should be used
- Bait stations should be checked regularly to measure vermin activity and when increased activity is noted additional bait stations or more frequent bait changes may be appropriate
- A bait station location map is a useful vermin programme management tool

If you have any questions about livestock access to poisons you can contact MPI directly at: info@mpi.govt.nz

4. Animal Health and Welfare

Animal welfare is encompassed by the 'five freedoms' and the recognition that animal welfare outcomes include sentience. Sentience is the ability to perceive or feel things and as a consequence have a life worth living. Sentience is now officially recognised in the Animal Welfare Act.

The five freedoms are:

- Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease
- Freedom from distress
- Freedom to express normal behaviour

The statutes and principles pertaining to these provisions are detailed in the following:

- Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018
- Animal Welfare (Sheep and Beef Cattle) Code of Welfare
- Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare
- Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare
- Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare
- Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare
- Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare

Guidance on the regulations can be accessed at: www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/guide-to-the-animal-welfare-care-and-procedures-regulations

Current versions can be accessed at:

www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1999/0142/latest/DLM49664.html

www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2018/0050/latest/whole.html

www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare

It is very important that every farmer and all farm employees read these regulations and codes of welfare. There are many statutory requirements which are obligatory. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in a criminal conviction and/or fine. Only the most relevant have been listed in this section.

Note: for deer specific standards please refer to section 6 of this standard. For transport specific standards please refer to section 7 of this standard.

4.1 Stockmanship and Animal Husbandry

Requirements

- 4.1.1 Livestock shall be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel who collectively possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with the relevant animal welfare regulations and codes of welfare
- 4.1.2 All livestock on the farm shall be regularly monitored based on the following:
 - Stock type
 - Farming system
 - Seasonality and weather events
- 4.1.3 All animal handlers shall have either the relevant knowledge or training, or appropriate supervision to ensure animals' health and welfare needs are recognised and met and the handler's safety is ensured. Records of training must be maintained.

- 4.1.4 All facilities including fences, yards, loadout races, sheds and housing, shall be constructed, maintained and operated in a manner that minimises the likelihood of distress or injury to animals and humans
- 4.1.5 When moving animals across or along public roadways the welfare of animals and the safety of road users shall be maintained. Appropriately placed gates or similar must be used to prevent stock escape.
- 4.1.6 Livestock shall be farmed at all times in such a way as to minimise the risk of pain, injury or distress to the animals. The practice of mulesing is prohibited.
- 4.1.7 Electric prodders, sticks or goads shall not be used on sheep, deer or calves. Electric prodders shall only be used on the muscled hind or forequarters of cattle over 150kg. Goads shall not be used to strike or prod an animal in the most sensitive areas including the udder, eyes, nose, anus, vulva or testicles. Animals must have room to move forward before being prodded.

All livestock shall be managed appropriately in mobs which are compatible. Mobs of different age groups and sexes must be kept separate where there is a risk to animal welfare. All lambs must be managed in sexed mobs before ram/cryptorchid become sexually active to reduce chance of unwanted pregnancy in ewe lambs and making shearing easier.

Recommendations

- All lambs should be managed in sexed mobs once they have had a chance to settle post weaning
- Farmers should be aware of their responsibilities and liabilities with respect to stock on public roads and also be aware of any specific regional requirements of the Resource Management Act and regional council

4.2 Shearing

Requirements

- 4.2.1 All sheep must be shorn at least once annually and more often if necessary to ensure good health and welfare except in naturally shedding sheep where at least 80% of the fleece sheds naturally
- 4.2.2 Cuts and wounds incurred at shearing must be treated immediately. Topical antiseptic must be available.
- 4.2.3 Severe shearing injuries must be reported to the person in charge of animals and recorded
- 4.2.4 In cold weather conditions shearing of sheep must only be performed with a cover comb
- 4.2.5 All shorn sheep must be able to access quality feed and adequate shelter
- 4.2.6 Only experienced shearers should shear pregnant ewes in their last month of gestation and must not occur within the last two weeks of pregnancy

Recommendations

- Pregnant ewes are not shorn in their last month of gestation
- Only well-trained, skilled personnel should shear sheep
- Sheep should be emptied out in preparation for shearing in accordance with New Zealand shearing guidelines

Refer to section 4.11 of the Farmer Handbook for guidelines.

www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/working-with-animals/working-with-sheep/safe-sheep-shearing-gpg

4.3 Animal Health

Requirements

- 4.3.1 A documented preventative animal health plan must be prepared and reviewed annually by the farmer for all livestock and dogs on-farm
- 4.3.2 Signs of ill health or injury shall result in timely, appropriate preventative or remedial action
- 4.3.3 Over-the-counter (not restricted) animal remedies shall only be used in accordance with registration conditions and manufacturer's instructions or written professional advice
- 4.3.4 Restricted veterinary medicines (RVM) shall only be obtained from a New Zealand registered veterinarian on the basis of an annual consultation (authorisation) or prescription. Specific requirements apply for RVM used for deer velvetting.

- 4.3.5 RVM shall be used in accordance with the veterinarian's instructions
- 4.3.6 In addition to the records required 3.5.1 – 3.5.3 RVM records require the reason for the use to be recorded e.g. hoof abscess

Recommendation

The animal health plan should be reviewed annually in consultation with a veterinarian or animal health advisor

4.4 Nutrition and Water

Requirements

- 4.4.1 All livestock shall receive sufficient quantities of food and nutrients to enable them to:
- Maintain good health
 - Meet their physiological requirements and minimise metabolic and nutritional disorders
- 4.4.2 All livestock shall have access to water which is sufficient for their daily needs and that is not harmful to their health
- 4.4.3 Water shall be available to all livestock awaiting trucking

Recommendations

- Live weight gain should be monitored through periodic weighing of stock
- Refer to www.deernz.org/deerhub/feeding
- Optimum nutritional management includes the provision of adequate minerals, vitamins, water, pasture and browse species, quantity and quality of crops and supplementary feeds

4.5 Comfort and Shelter

Requirement

- 4.5.1 All livestock shall have access to shelter to reduce the risk to their health and welfare caused by extremes of weather
- Livestock must be provided with shelter to minimise the effects of heat/cold stress

4.6 Mortality Records

Requirements

- 4.6.1 Once accounted for in farm records from time of weaning in lambs/time of marking for calves, any animals that die on-farm must be recorded along with the cause of death. Where appropriate, corrective action is to be taken and must be recorded.
- 4.6.2 Mortality records
- Date – enter the date animal(s) dies (or found dead)
 - Class – enter the mob/group name and how it can be distinguished from other lines
 - ID – this can either be by stating what their breed and sex was that distinguished them from any other livestock or by stating what tag or other distinguishing identification had been applied
 - Cause of death (if known) – enter details of what caused the animals death. If multiple deaths and unknown cause, a veterinarian should be consulted
 - Action taken – enter details of what action was taken following the death(s)
 - Slaughter record for animals slaughtered for home kill or dog food
- 4.6.3 Cattle/deer NAIT records shall be updated

4.7 Emergency and other Slaughter of Livestock

Requirements

- 4.7.1 Persons undertaking emergency or other slaughter of livestock shall be competent in the handling and humane killing of sheep, deer and/or cattle
- 4.7.2 Cattle/deer shall be rendered insensible by a shot to the head. These animals shall never be slaughtered with just a cut to the throat unless it is an emergency slaughter situation with no immediate access to a rifle.
- 4.7.3 Animals shall be humanely slaughtered as per relevant regulations or codes
- 4.7.4 Animals rendered insensible by a shot (captive bolt or small firearm) to the brain shall be bled out immediately to ensure death occurs before recovery from stunning
- 4.7.5 The spinal cord shall not be severed or neck broken in any animal until after death
Devices for slaughtering animals must be in good condition (e.g. knives should be sharp) and appropriate for the animal type (e.g. captive bolt device cartridge strength or firearm calibre)

Recommendations

- Captive bolt firearms of a suitable design and calibre should be used to render animals insensible
- Free-bullet firearms should never be used at point blank range

4.8 Castration

Requirements

Castration – sheep

- 4.8.1 Castration shall be carried out in such a way as to minimise the acute pain and chronic consequences and shall be performed when the animal is as young as possible. When rubber rings are used, they shall be placed above the testes and below the teats, and the rings shall be of a tension and a size to ensure that blood supply to the testes and scrotum is stopped immediately.
- 4.8.2 Castration of lambs must not be performed within the first 24 hours of life (as this can interfere with adequate colostrum intake) and must be completed within 70 days of age
- 4.8.3 Shortening of the scrotum (cryptorchid) shall be carried out in such a way as to minimise acute pain and chronic consequences and shall be performed when the lamb is young as possible. When rubber rings are used they shall be placed below the testes and they shall be of a tension and a size to ensure that blood supply to the scrotum is stopped immediately.

Castration - Cattle

- 4.8.4 Castration of calves must not be performed within the first 24 hours of life (as this can interfere with adequate colostrum intake)
- 4.8.5 Castration shall be carried out in such a way as to minimise acute pain and chronic consequences and shall be performed when the animal is as young as possible. When rubber rings are used they shall be placed above the testes and below the teats and the rings shall be of a tension and a size to ensure that blood supply to the testes and scrotum is stopped immediately.
- 4.8.6 Castration of calves must be undertaken within 120 days of age

Recommendations

- Equipment used and the operator's hands should be clean during castration or scrotum shortening to avoid infection
- Precautions such as vaccination should be taken to minimise the risk of clostridial infections at the time of castration
- The preferred method of castration or scrotum shortening of lambs is with a conventional rubber ring using an elastrator before the lamb is four weeks of age. Surgical castration of lambs is not recommended because it causes greater and more acute pain compared to other methods.
- The preferred method of castration of calves is with a conventional rubber ring using an elastrator or by surgery with pain relief

4.9 Tail Docking

Requirements

- 4.9.1 For sheep a docked tail (excluding wool) must be of sufficient length to cover the vulva in female lambs and of equivalent length for male lambs
- 4.9.2 Cattle shall not have their tails docked or shortened except where deemed necessary for animal health or welfare reasons by a veterinarian. Such a procedure shall only be carried out by a veterinarian.

Recommendations

- Tail docking should be undertaken before six weeks of age for lambs
- Conventional rubber rings or hot searing-irons are the preferred methods of docking/tailing lambs. Both cause similar levels of pain and distress (but considerably less than surgical removal).
- Hot searing-irons should be operated so as to avoid repeated applications (too cold) or unnecessary tissue damage (too hot)
- The recommended docked tail length for lambs is 5-7cm. The tail should not be any longer than this or it will result in extra work and cost in dagging, crutching and shearing. A simple guideline to judging where to remove the tail is by feeling for the third palpable joint in the tail and ringing below this joint or at the tip of the vulva in female lambs. This is typically below where the caudal folds on either side of the tail and the bare skin under the tail end.
- Tail docking of sheep should occur at the same time as castration of sheep if castration occurs

4.10 Disbudding and Dehorning

Requirements

- 4.10.1 Animals with intact or 'tipped' horns shall be managed to minimise the risk of injury to other animals
- 4.10.2 Disbudding – when disbudding is performed the following shall apply:
- The method shall be chosen and undertaken as to minimise pain and distress and other negative health consequences (e.g. infection) for the animal; and
 - If used, thermal cauterising equipment shall be used in such a way as to minimise the risk of thermal injury to tissues other than the horn bud and adjacent skin; and
 - If used, caustic or chemical techniques of disbudding shall only be used by personnel skilled with the procedure and only used when the injury to the animal beyond the horn bud or other animals is minimised
- 4.10.3 Dehorning – when dehorning is performed the following shall apply:
- The method shall be chosen and undertaken as to minimise pain and distress and other negative health consequences (e.g. infection) for the animal
 - Dehorning without pain relief shall be performed when the animals are as young as possible and not greater than nine months of age; and
 - When dehorning any animal over the age of nine months pain relief shall be used
- 4.10.4 As from the 1 October 2019 no animal shall be disbudded or dehorned irrespective of age without the use of a local anaesthetic

4.11 Dog Welfare and Ovis Management

Requirements

Quality shelter from climatic conditions (heat, cold, moisture) with a dry lying area shall be available for dogs. Dogs shall have enough room to stand up, turn around and lie down.

- 4.11.1 Dogs shall be able to urinate and defecate away from their sleeping area
- 4.11.2 Dogs shall receive adequate quantities of nutritious food. Clean, fresh water shall be freely available to dogs within their shelter.
- 4.11.3 If home slaughtering, slaughtering and cutting up of sheep meat shall be carried out in a secure, dog-proof area
- 4.11.4 Raw offal from livestock shall not be accessible by dogs. Offal and dead stock shall be disposed of in areas/pits fenced and/or covered to make them dog-proof.
- 4.11.5 If freezing sheep meat for dog food meat must be frozen at -10°C for at least 10 days. If cooking sheep meat or offal for dog food, both meat and offal must be boiled for at least thirty minutes to cook through until brown throughout.
- 4.11.6 Dogs must be on an appropriate Ovis Management programme
- 4.11.7 All dogs on-farm including domestic dogs must be dosed at four weekly intervals with a product suitable for control of tapeworm to prevent the spread of sheep measles (C. Ovis). Note: no exceptions – rationale – Ovis detection in New Zealand currently runs at 15% – a low incidence detection rate does not mean a farm is clear. The worm eggs can be transported up to 10km by blowflies which are the primary vector. This must cover all dogs. Every third dose should be an 'All Wormer' treatment as a dog health and sheep measles treatment.

5. Environment and Sustainability

To maintain New Zealand's reputation of a clean green environment farmers must pursue farming practices that will assure sustainability of the environment. Customers are increasingly demanding that farming systems in which livestock are reared are sustainable.

Not only should your farming systems follow the best practices appropriate but you should have a farm management plan (or LEP1) demonstrating commitment to continuous improvement.

5.1 Resource Care and Planning

Requirements

- 5.1.1 The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA 1991) stipulates that everyone has a duty to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects their activities may have on the environment. Each regional or territorial environmental authority then passes by-laws applying to farming systems to implement the RMA provisions. Each farmer must comply with those by-laws.
- 5.1.2 Each farm must have a map showing the approximate farm shape with the following environmental/hazard points recorded:
- Fuel storage
 - Chemical storage
 - Fertiliser storage
 - Dead stock disposal
 - Waste or rubbish disposal sites
 - Stockyards
 - Shearing sheds
 - Silage/feed storage areas/pits
 - Houses
 - Safe entry points
- 5.1.3 Control of noxious plants shall be carried out in accordance with local by-laws

Recommendations

- An environmental management plan should be written to cover current practices and for continuous improvement
- Sustainable land management practices should be followed e.g.
 - Erosion control
 - Avoidance of excessive pugging
 - Maintenance of soil fertility
 - Best practice fertiliser use in accordance with industry recommended Codes of Practice such as Fertmark and Spreadmark
- Regular soil testing should be carried out to ensure optimal use of fertiliser and to monitor soil health
- Water quality and care of waterways should be maintained e.g. management of nitrate, phosphorus, sediment, faecal bacteria loadings. Also ensure:
 - Minimisation of fertiliser runoff into waterways
 - Minimisation of damage to stream banks from livestock
 - Livestock exclusion from waterways
- Establishing, maintaining and supporting biodiversity and native flora should be encouraged

5.2 Waste Management and Minimisation

Requirements

- 5.2.1 All waste including effluent, waste water, offal, chemicals, oils and their containers shall be disposed of as appropriate (refer Farmer Handbook)
- 5.2.2 Disposal of packaging and other waste products must be appropriate (refer Farmer Handbook)
- 5.2.3 Chemical containers must be triple rinsed before disposal e.g. Agrecovery, Plasback
- 5.2.4 Recycling or where appropriate re-use must be undertaken where possible e.g. bale wrap, drench containers and other packaging
- 5.2.5 If burying dead stock is acceptable, at a minimum the site must be fenced and/or covered to ensure the exclusion of children, dogs and livestock and must be located away from any waterways
- 5.2.6 Injection needles and other sharps shall be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner i.e. stored in a sealed, safe and labelled container as a minimum
Note: your veterinarian may be able of assist with disposal of damaged/used needles
- 5.2.7 Silage/baleage storage – steps must be taken to ensure there is no leakage of leachate

Recommendation

- Fuel storage – steps should be taken to ensure there are no leaks and that any overflow is contained

6. Deer Specific Standards

6.1 Velvet Removal

Requirement

- 6.1.1 The removal of velvet must be carried out either by a certified velvetter in accordance with the National Velvetting Standards Body (NVSBS) programme or by a veterinarian

6.2 Hard Antler

Requirement

- 6.2.1 All hard antlers shall be removed from stags by 1 March to ensure the safety, welfare and health status of the herd and handlers. Note: this excludes 'trophy' animals.

6.3 Housing/Facilities

Requirements

Enclosure facilities, their management and operation must meet these minimum standards and in addition be adaptable and receptive to changing market attitudes and requirements:

- 6.3.1 Indoor facilities, feed pad or indoor/outdoor facilities
- 6.3.1.1 There are three different systems recognised for on-farm production:
- Indoor enclosure area/feed pads: an area of the farm used specifically during winter to enclose deer where feed is supplied
 - Indoor/outdoor: an indoor/outdoor wintering system is a combination of a housing system and/or wintering pad where deer have access to both areas
 - Housing system: a facility where animals are enclosed seasonally under a roofed area where they are completely dependent on humans for their daily requirements
- 6.3.1.2 To ensure the health and welfare of deer when producing animals for slaughter from indoor facilities, farmers must be aware of industry best practice guidelines and be able to demonstrate compliance with these requirements
- 6.3.2 Enclosure facilities
- 6.3.2.1 Winter enclosure facilities must be designed and constructed to satisfy all health, welfare and hygiene requirements of the deer
- 6.3.2.2 Sufficient floor or pad space must be provided to enable all deer to display normal patterns of behaviour relating to resting, rumination and play and to minimise animal aggression
- 6.3.2.3 Animal cleanliness and hygiene must be maintained to acceptable standards for both animal welfare and presentation of stock
- 6.3.3 Animal behaviour
- Appropriate management procedures must be employed to minimise stress to enclosed deer and prevent the development of abnormal or artificial behavioural patterns

6.4 Cervena

Requirement

To be eligible for Cervena™ all animals must meet the criteria laid down by Cervena Trust Limited.

7. Farm to Processor

7.1 Pre-transport

It is important that livestock are held to empty out before being transported. This will help minimise any potential risk of contamination, animal welfare issues and excessive build-up of effluent on trucks.

Requirements

- 7.1.1 For pre-transport selection and management, the person in charge of the animals shall examine the selected livestock prior to transport to ensure that all animals are fit and healthy for transportation
- 7.1.2 Animals shall be able to stand and be able to bear weight evenly on all four limbs and be fit enough to withstand the journey without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. Such animals are not acceptable for transport unless accompanied by a Fitness of Livestock for Transport Veterinary Declaration and the conditions of that declaration shall be met.
- 7.1.3 Proper care shall be taken when deciding whether it is appropriate to transport young, old, pregnant or otherwise physiologically or behaviourally compromised animals
- 7.1.4 Cattle shall not be less than body condition score 3.0 to be acceptable for transport direct to processing. Cattle scoring less than 3.0 are subject to travel restrictions and must have a veterinarian's certificate.
- 7.1.5 Animals shall not be transported if they are likely to give birth during the journey or within 24 hours of arrival at slaughter premises or sale yards or if they are likely to be affected by metabolic complications of late pregnancy as a result of the journey
- 7.1.6 Animals shall be at least 14 days old except for bobby calves which must be at least four days old
- 7.1.7 Cattle with horns of a length that may cause injury or be damaged (spanning greater than 550mm) shall not be transported
- 7.1.8 Animals shall not be transported with an ingrown horn, injured horn/antler, an injured or diseased udder, advanced eye cancer within 21 days of being disbudded, dehorned or within seven days of being castrated or tail docked
- 7.1.9 Deer with hard antler growth greater than 110mm measured from the centre of the skull between the pedicles must not be presented for transport to slaughter
- 7.1.10 Pregnant hinds must not be transported after 1 October
- 7.1.11 All livestock shall have access to clean drinking water for a minimum of four hours prior to loading

Recommendations

- Livestock for sale should be drafted and prepared at least the day before transport
- Scales should be used as an aid for drafting livestock
- All holding yards and pens should have a base of shingle or other material that avoids excessive dust, mud or contamination of livestock
- All livestock should be held off pasture, with water and an appropriate alternative feed source provided for a minimum of four hours (but no more than 12 hours) prior to loading

7.2 Preparation of Dairy Cows for Transport

Lactating dairy cows have a high risk of experiencing acute metabolic crises associated with the stresses of feed withdrawal, transport and lairage. These risks can be minimised if cows selected for transport to slaughter are adequately prepared prior to transport and travel time from farm to the meat processor or sale yard is as short as possible.

Metabolic crises can occur throughout the year and at all stages of lactation with a greater risk of complications occurring during the spring and autumn.

Requirements

- 7.2.1 Cows that are still lactating must be sufficiently milked out prior to transport so that the udder is not distended when the cow is picked up. Note: this is not usually a problem with cows supplied in autumn.
- 7.2.2 Cows must be given access to feed after the last milking prior to transport. This is to replenish metabolites (calcium, magnesium) removed by milking. Or supplement cows with magnesium and calcium on the day of transport.

Recommendations

- Cows should be adequately dried off before transport. Identifying those cows that are to be transported at least one week prior to transport provides the opportunity to dry off these cows. It is acknowledged that it may not always be possible to effectively and completely dry these cows off.
- Dairy cattle shall not be less than body condition score 3.0 to be acceptable for transport direct to processing. Cattle scoring less than 3.0 are subject to travel restrictions and must have a veterinarians certificate.

7.3 Livestock Transport

Requirements

- 7.3.1 The owner of the livestock or an authorised representative shall be present at all times during loading
- 7.3.2 There must be all-weather truck access to loading ramps
- 7.3.3 The following documentation shall be provided to the driver:
 - Fully completed and signed Animal Status Declaration (ASD) (eASD may be sent directly to processor) with correct tallies, descriptions and time of loading
 - Fitness of Livestock for Transport Veterinary Declaration for any livestock where there is doubt about fitness for transport and slaughter
- 7.3.4 Farmers have the right to refuse to load livestock where they consider the crate is unclean or unsafe

7.4 Farmer/Owner – Livestock Transport

All farmers/owners with livestock crates who have the intention of transporting their own stock to a slaughter processor must be adequately trained in the Transport within New Zealand Code of Welfare. Driver Training and livestock crate standards will be randomly checked at the processing sites.

Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare

Requirements

- 7.4.1 The livestock crate must meet the above code of welfare and be available for inspection during the farm audit
- 7.4.2 Driver training – meet company livestock transportation standards

New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Certification Scheme

Non-conformance Structure

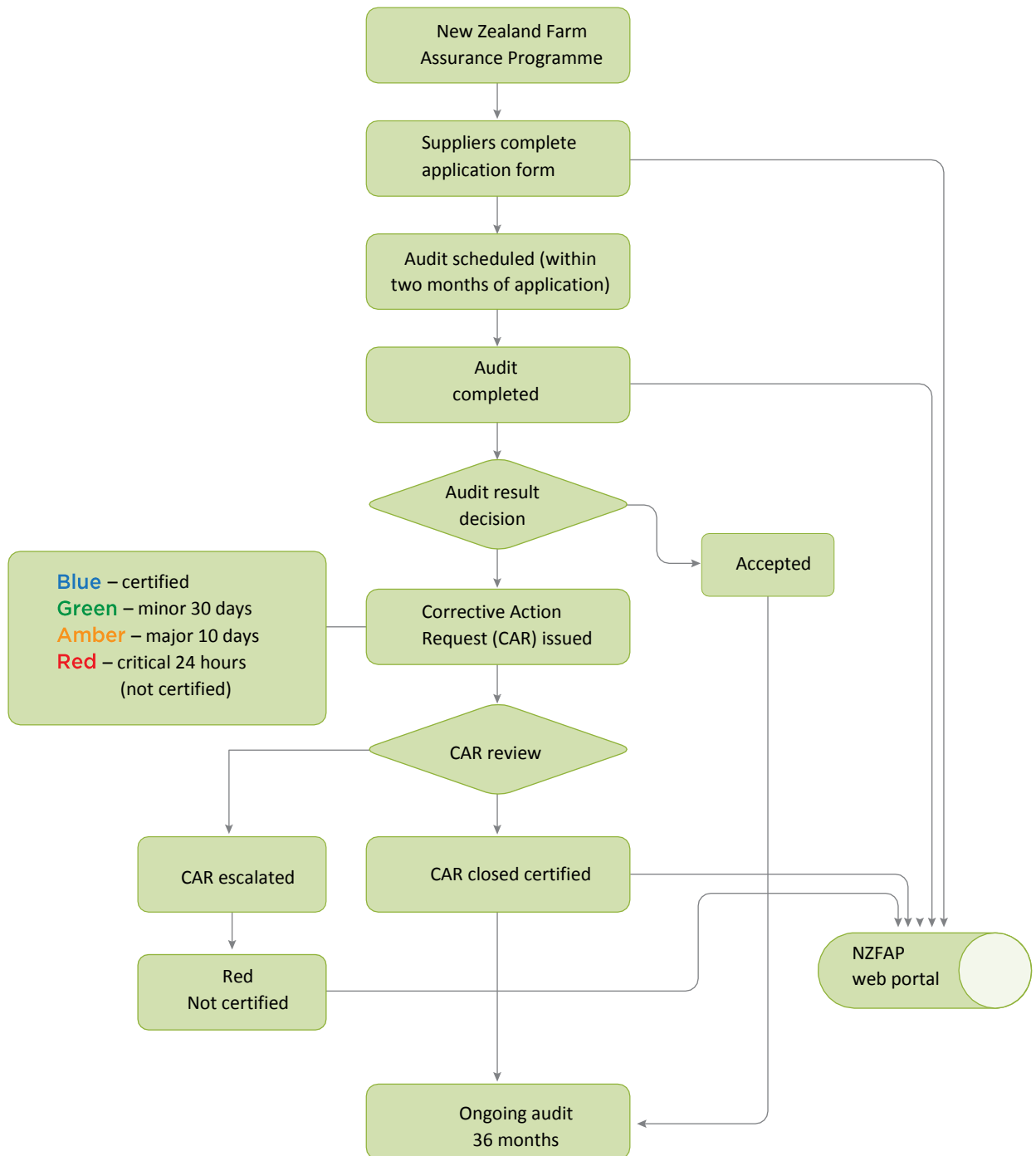
Farmer status	Non-conformance	Description	Target date
Blue – Pass/certified	Score = 0	Requirements have met or exceeded the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme standard.	0 days
Green – Pass/certified	Minor CAR Score = 1	CARs identified where there is no risk to programme conformance. CARs issued with 30 days to rectify or sooner by agreement with the auditor.	30 days
Amber – Pass/certified	Major CAR Score = 3	CARs identified where there is a possible risk to programme conformance. CARs issued with 10 days to rectify or sooner by agreement with the auditor.	10 days
Red – Suspended/not certified	Critical CAR Score = 5	CARs identified where there is an immediate risk to programme conformance. Corrective action required within 24 hours. If not rectified within 24 hours, Certified Status is revoked immediately and checked by re-audit. Relevant meat companies notified.	24 hours

Appendix 1

Glossary of Terms

ASD	Animal Status Declaration
Audit	A systematic and independent examination to determine whether quality activities comply with the stated objectives being audited e.g. documented procedures in a program/standard
Audit scope	Extent and boundaries of an audit
Auditee	A person or enterprise being audited
Auditor	A person who has the qualifications to perform quality audits
CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
CAR	Corrective Action Request
Corrective action	Measures taken to rectify conditions adverse to quality
GMO	A GMO or genetically modified organism is a plant, animal, micro-organism or other organism whose genetic makeup has been modified using recombinant DNA methods (also called gene splicing), gene modification or transgenic technology. This relatively new science creates unstable combinations of plant, animal, bacterial and viral genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods.
HAZCHEM	Hazardous chemicals
HGP	Hormonal Growth Promotants
LEP1	Land and Environment Plan Level 1
NZFAP	New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme
RVM	Restricted Veterinary Medicines
Withholding Periods (WHP)	The time that must pass between the final administration of a medicine or veterinary chemical product to an animal before it or its product may be used for food production. The WHP is stated on the label of any registered veterinary chemical product or medicine. For example, the WHP of a tick dressing may be stated as seven days. This means that if the tick dressing is applied on Monday the animal must not be slaughtered until Tuesday the following week. Many products will have two WHPs listed: one for milk production and one for meat.

New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Audit Process Flowchart



Notes



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