

FARM SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

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**Food & Feed,
Herd & Flock Health
& Biosecurity**

UNDERPINNING REQUIREMENTS

Sustainable Agriculture Programme



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**



Introduction

The aim of this standard is to protect public and animal health and to increase productivity, and support agri-food producers by minimising the risk from animal diseases.

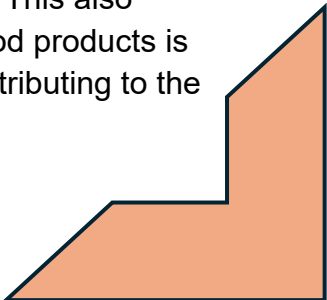
All requirements for this standard are set out in applicable legislation and Codes of Practice. Adhering to these regulations will provide farmers with a robust framework that will safeguard the health of their livestock and ensure they produce high-quality food products suitable for human consumption, thereby enhancing overall productivity and sustainability in the agricultural sector.

This standard includes biosecurity measures, disease detection, control, and eradication practices, all of which are fundamental to preventing the introduction and spread of diseases. It also includes measures to ensure the correct use of veterinary medicinal products.

Biosecurity is a set of practices and protocols designed to protect the health and wellbeing of livestock by preventing the entry and transmission of pathogens. This includes measures such as controlling movement of animals restricted for disease reasons, isolation of diseased animals or animals suspected of having a disease, and the maintenance of stock proof boundaries at the establishment perimeter. Adoption of stringent biosecurity measures will result in animals with a high health status, leading to improved animal welfare and productivity, and a reduction in medical costs associated with disease, all of which have a positive financial impact on farm businesses.

Disease detection, control and eradication protocols will reduce the cost of a disease outbreak on farm. This requires timely testing for diseases like TB and BVD, and reporting of suspect cases of less common, but economically impactful, diseases like Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) such as BSE, and epizootic diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease or Brucellosis. The isolation of animals, the correct removal of diseased or fallen animals, the adherence to outlined feed requirements, and requirements for the use of digestate and compost are also important measures to control disease.

Adherence to regulations on the use of veterinary medicinal products will underpin the production of food safe for human consumption. Correct usage of only those veterinary medicines approved for use in Northern Ireland will protect human health by ensuring that no food products contaminated with excess residue levels of authorised medicines or unauthorised medicines enter the food chain. This also ensures unnecessary waste associated with the disposal of unsafe food products is avoided, minimising any financial losses to a farm business, while contributing to the reduction of the industry's carbon footprint.



Food & Feed, Herd & Flock Health, and Biosecurity

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- Comply with disease detection, control and eradication measures
- Produce food safe for human consumption

Requirements	Farmers must	Farmers must not	Exceptions	Inspections and Checks	Contact info/links (e.g. relevant webpage)
Farmers must prevent the purchase and sale of diseased animals, and comply with notices preventing the movement of animals restricted for disease control reasons		Move animals under individual restriction for TB disease control reasons (BT21 notice)	Except under a DAERA issued licence as required	Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Specific advice may be obtained from restriction notices and your local DAERA Direct Office. General information may be found at this link. Tuberculosis (TB) Portal Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
		Move any animal under a TSE disease control restriction notice	Except under a DAERA issued licence	Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural ...

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		Move any animal under epizootic disease control restrictions	Except under a DAERA issued licence	Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Animal diseases Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Farmers must prevent the purchase and sale of diseased animals, and comply with notices preventing movement of animals, products and fomites (equipment or other physical materials which can be contaminated with		Move animals from a TB restricted herd – both for herds restricted for overdue tests and herds restricted for diseases reasons	Except permitted moves to slaughter or under licence	Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Specific advice may be obtained from restriction notices and your local DAERA Direct Office. General information may be found at this link. Tuberculosis (TB) Portal Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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Requirements	Farmers must	Farmers must not	Exceptions	Inspections and Checks	Contact info/links (e.g. relevant webpage)
disease organisms) into or out of restricted holdings		Move animals into a TB restricted herd in breach of a BT25b or BT25c notice preventing movement into a herd where a test is overdue by more than 30 days, or which is under restriction for a severe breakdown	Except under DAERA issued licence	Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Specific advice may be obtained from restriction notices and your local DAERA Direct Office. General information may be found at this link. Tuberculosis (TB) Portal Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
		Move animals into or out of BVD restricted herds	Except moves to slaughter	Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff.	Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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		Move animals, products and fomites (equipment or other physical materials which can be contaminated with disease organisms) in or out of holdings under epizootic disease restrictions	Except under DAERA issued licence	Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Animal diseases Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Compliance with notices requiring isolation of animals for disease control reasons	Isolate TB reactors, TB Inconclusive animals, TB Negative In Contact animals, and IFNG positive animals. These animals must be isolated from the rest of the herd	Keep these animals where they can have direct or indirect contact with other susceptible animals, or where they share an airspace with other animals		Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Specific advice may be obtained from your local DAERA Direct Office

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Requirements	Farmers must	Farmers must not	Exceptions	Inspections and Checks	Contact info/links (e.g. relevant webpage)
	Isolate aborted animals and animals restricted for BR control purposes			Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Brucellosis Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
	Isolate BVD positive animals in housing and in a separate airspace from other cattle			Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Further information on the isolation of BVD positive animals can be found on Page 8 of the BVD Code of Good Practice on the DAERA website Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Department of Agriculture,

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					Environment and Rural Affairs
	Maintain stockproof boundaries on their holding	Keep livestock on land where the boundaries are not effective to prevent straying		On the spot check	General guidance can be found in the Biosecurity Code for Northern Ireland Farms Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Compliance with mandatory TB testing requirements	Complete TB tests when due, including skin testing and mandatory IFNG blood testing when required			Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Specific information may be obtained from your local Direct Office. General information may be found at this link. Tuberculosis

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					(TB) Portal Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Compliance with mandatory BVD testing	Send a tissue sample to a DAERA approved laboratory for BVD virus testing before calves are 30 days of age. Untested animals which have been purchased (including imported animals) must have a tissue or blood sample taken and sent to a DAERA approved			Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	This is a requirement of The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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	laboratory within 30 days of purchase.				
Reduce further BVD losses in BVD infected herds	Remove all BVD positive animals within 28 days of receiving a positive test result			Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Compliance with requirements of ABP and TSE regulations	Report all suspect cases of BSE and Scrapie to DAERA			On the spot check	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural ...
	Dispose of fallen stock, including			Administrative checks of records	Fallen stock guidance

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	poultry carcasses, within two days following receipt of an animal by-product (ABP) notice			held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
	Notify all over 48 month old fallen cattle to the approved TSE sampling site within 24 hours of death			Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out in office by DAERA staff	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural ...
		Use feed that contains prohibited proteins or restricted proteins in stock which should not be		Administrative checks of records held on DAERA databases, such as NIFAIS, carried out	BSE feed controls Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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		fed restricted proteins		in office by DAERA staff	
	Register with DAERA before using digestate and/or compost from VSAHG approved plants			On the spot check	Animal by-products specific guidance Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Correct use of veterinary medicinal products	Only use veterinary medicinal products authorised for use in NI		Can be used with granted exception / licence from DAERA (For products not authorised in NI or UK wide, a Special Import Certificate from the VMD is required under the cascade protocol)	Reports from business as usual on-farm residue inspections	Product Information Database - Home

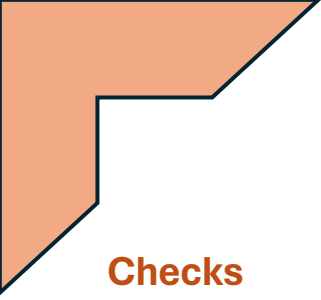
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Requirements	Farmers must	Farmers must not	Exceptions	Inspections and Checks	Contact info/links (e.g. relevant webpage)
Production of food that does not contain residues of veterinary medicinal products that are higher than the permitted maximum residue limit (MRL)		Present animals for slaughter that contain residues of veterinary medicinal products higher than the permitted maximum residue limit (MRL)		Reports following positive results of samples at slaughter	
Maintenance of an up-to-date register recording all required details relating to the use of veterinary medicinal products	Maintain a full record of all medicines bought and used on food-producing animals, including in-feed products, and retain records for at least 5 years from the date of the administration of the drug			Results from business as usual on-farm residue inspections	Veterinary medicine records Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



Checks

Checks in respect of this standard will mainly consist of administrative checks by DAERA staff.

These are carried out as checks on DAERA databases such as the Northern Ireland Food Animal Information System (NIFAIS), and the checking and processing of non-compliances that were found during business-as-usual inspections, such as isolation checks on animals restricted for TB or BVD, or findings of carcasses containing residue levels of veterinary medicinal products above permitted levels.

One requirement will be checked on-farm as part of any full FSS inspection completed on selected businesses - observations of stock-proof boundaries. The perimeter of any holding or part of the holding where livestock are kept must be maintained to a standard which prevents straying. Boundaries must be effective to contain the species and type of livestock being kept.

