



# Standard and Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme

**APRIL 2022**



Northern Ireland

## **Beef & Lamb**

**Farm Quality Assurance Scheme**

**The Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS) [the ‘Scheme’] and its Product Standard are owned by the Northern Ireland Beef and Sheep industries with ownership held on their behalf by the Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland (LMC) [the ‘Scheme Owners’]. The commercial management of the Scheme is the responsibility of the Scheme Industry Board, hosted by LMC.**

LMC is an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body, which was established by Statute (The Livestock Marketing Commission Act [Northern Ireland] 1967) to assist the development of the livestock and livestock products industries. The Scheme is an ISO/IEC 17065 accredited Certification Scheme as long as certification is provided by an ISO/IEC 17065 accredited Product Certification Body which holds scope for the Scheme.

LMC, on behalf of the Industry Board, will contract a Certification Body [the ‘Certification Body’] that is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). The scheme operates under the ISO/IEC 17065 Conformity Assessment Standard for product certification. The Certification Body is independent from and separate to LMC and the Scheme Industry Board.

The Product Standard has been developed by the Scheme Standard Setting Committee. Copyright of the Product Standard is held by LMC.

The Operating Procedures and Scheme Rules for Product Certification [the ‘Scheme Rules’] have been developed by LMC in conjunction with the Certification Body.

Northern Ireland Food Chain Certification (NIFCC) [the current ‘Certification Body’] is an independent company owned by a range of organisations in Northern Ireland, committed to the Agri-Food Industry. NIFCC have been contracted by LMC to provide Certification Services against the Product Standard of the Northern Ireland Beef & Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS).

NIFCC is a UKAS accredited Product Certification Body No. 156.

This document may be made available in a range of alternative formats such as braille, other languages etc... If you have any individual requirements, please let us know and we will do our best to assist you.

## © The Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland

### Disclaimer

LMC does not guarantee the accuracy and completeness of any third party information provided in or included with this publication. LMC hereby disclaims any responsibility for error, omission or inaccuracy in the information, misinterpretation or any other loss, disappointment, negligence or damage caused by reliance on third party information.





# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>04</b>
---------------------	-----------

---

<b>Scheme Rules for Participants</b>	<b>05</b>
--------------------------------------	-----------

---

<b>Procedures for Participants – Summary</b>	<b>16</b>
--	-----------

---

### **Product Standard**

S.K Key to Layout	<b>17</b>
S.1 Husbandry – Stockmanship and Welfare	<b>19</b>
S.2 Animal Health	<b>22</b>
S.3 Animal Nutrition	<b>28</b>
S.4 Animal Traceability – Identification, Sourcing and Records	<b>34</b>
S.5 Housing and Handling	<b>36</b>
S.6 Transport	<b>39</b>
S.7 Environmental Care	<b>43</b>
S.8 Farm Procedures	<b>47</b>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Introduction

- N.1** The Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (NIBL FQAS) operates under the ISO/IEC 17065 Conformity Assessment Standard for product certification. This manual provides information on the Product Standard with which a participant must conform in order to gain certification as an Approved Producer.
- N.2** NIBL FQAS is a scheme concerned with giving assurances to customers (abattoirs, wholesalers, retailers and consumers) about the production standards of farms on which Northern Ireland quality assured beef and lamb is produced, and thereby assurances regarding the safety, wholesomeness and integrity of the product. The Scheme has been designed to provide assurances that Northern Ireland farm quality assured beef and lamb is produced in accordance with a specified Product Standard which goes beyond the relevant legislation and demands best commercial practice and is focussed on three key pillars; food safety, animal welfare and care for the environment.
- N.3** Cattle and sheep born and reared on farms in Northern Ireland, which are certified against the NIBL FQAS Product Standard, and which pass through an assured supply chain are eligible to carry the Red Tractor logo. The Red Tractor Logo is licensed for use by Assured Food Standards and is in increasing demand from retailers, food companies and food service businesses across the UK. The Red Tractor is used to give assurance to customers that products and ingredients carrying the logo are independently verified as maintaining high standards of food safety and hygiene, animal welfare and environmental protection. Cattle and sheep born in the Republic of Ireland (ROI), or another EU member state, may achieve Farm Quality Assured status, provided that they meet residency requirements and are compliant with the NIBL FQAS Product Standard. Cattle and sheep from ROI or another EU member state can achieve NIBL FQAS but cannot achieve Red Tractor approved status, as the Red Tractor requirement is that animals must be born, reared and slaughtered in the UK.
- N.4** NIBL FQAS is a voluntary scheme and participation is open to all beef and lamb producers in Northern Ireland. Applications from farms in any EU Member State will also be considered.
- N.5** Certification will only be granted to producers who conform to the Product Standard and follow the Scheme Rules. Participation is conditional on an initial inspection together with routine surveillance and spot checks to ensure continual conformance with the standard.
- N.6** Participation must be renewed annually. In the event of any changes to the Product Standard or Scheme Rules, participants must conform to the new requirements from the effective date of introduction of the changes. Participants will be given advanced notice of any changes.
- N.7** The registration, inspection and certification of participants in NIBL FQAS are administered under contract by an ISO/IEC 17065 accredited Certification Body.
- N.8** Before making an application to join the Scheme, potential participants should study in full this Product Standard and Scheme Rules, to satisfy themselves that they can meet the requirements.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Scheme Rules

### Rules for participants in the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme

#### Application

1. Producers who wish to be certified against the NIBL FQAS Standard shall carefully read the Product Standard, Scheme Rules and other information in associated scheme publications before completing and submitting an application on the official form to the contracted Certification Body.
2. Application forms must be completed in full giving details of all locations where stock are held. If there is insufficient space on the form, information should be given on a separate sheet and attached to the form.
3. The owner of the business must sign the application form. Alternatively, a senior representative authorised to sign on behalf of the business may sign the form. In signing the form, the applicant subscribes to a number of declarations which constitute the relationship with the Scheme, and in so doing agrees to comply with the Product Standard and Scheme Rules. Producers who wish to have a third party act on their behalf must inform the Certification Body at their earliest convenience either in writing or at time of inspection.
4. Participation categories are either for Beef only, Lamb only or Beef and Lamb together. Participants who are in either the Beef or Lamb only category may apply at a later date to add the other category to their certification scope. Extension of certification scope will be subject to a satisfactory farm inspection.
5. A separate application is required for each farm business. For the purposes of this Scheme a farm business is defined as:
  - (a) An identifiable “stand alone” unit operating under a single management system with its own individual DAERA business ID.
  - or
  - (b) A unit owned by a partnership of immediate family members (parent/child/children) or siblings with its own individual DAERA business ID.
  - or
  - (c) A husband/wife who may or may not have separate holdings all operating under the same single DAERA business ID.
  - or
  - (d) A holding operated under contract or leasing arrangements by or for others with its own individual DAERA business ID.

If a farm business has more than one unit under the same operational control and under the same DAERA business ID, it will be treated as one application. However, the contracted Certification Body will ensure that enough of the business premises are inspected to make a considered judgement of conformance with the Product Standard. This may require a longer inspection which will incur an additional fee.

If a farm business is made up of more than one unit under separate operational control and responsibilities and separate DAERA business ID numbers, then a separate application is required for each unit.

Participation is not transferable from person to person if and when farms and/or herds/ flocks transfer between persons except insofar as defined in Rule 5 (b).

6. The application fee is payable upon submission of the application form. If the applicant withdraws their application before the initial inspection, the fee may be refundable. Withdrawals of applications must be made in writing to the contracted Certification Body's office. If the withdrawal is received at least three working days before an agreed inspection appointment the fee will be refunded less an administrative charge. If the withdrawal is received less than three working days before an agreed inspection appointment then no refund will be given. Fees cannot be refunded following an inspection. If a re-inspection is required to verify rectification of non-conformances a re-inspection fee will be payable in advance of the re-inspection taking place.
7. The application form and fee shall be posted to the address on the form (the fee can be paid online at [www.lmnci.com](http://www.lmnci.com)). Applicants shall receive a VAT receipt within 7-10 days of sending a properly completed application form and correct fee.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Pre-Acceptance Checks

8. On receipt of an application form and fee from a producer, the contracted Certification Body will conduct a number of pre-acceptance checks on the applicant with the appropriate authorities. These may include but are not limited to: address, business ID, herd/flock number, herd and animal health status, records lodged against the applicant for the use of illegal substances, drug residues, animal identification misrepresentations, contravention of legislation regarding subsidy schemes, failure to comply with herd/ flock health testing, animal welfare offences and any warnings or prosecutions which breach the Product Standard or Scheme Rules.
9. The results of the pre-acceptance checks will determine if the application can be progressed. If the checks are not satisfactory the applicant will be informed and the application fee will be refunded less an administrative charge on receipt of a written request.

## Inspection

10. If the pre-acceptance checks are satisfactory, applicants will be contacted by an inspector to make an appointment for a farm inspection normally within 28 days of an application being received. If an applicant cannot agree a suitable appointment date for inspection the contracted Certification Body will write to the applicant indicating that the onus is on the applicant to contact the contracted Certification Body when they are ready for the inspection. The applicant must contact the contracted Certification Body within 3 months of this notice; otherwise their application will be withdrawn. This only applies to new applicants. Once certified, Approved Producers must make themselves available for inspection promptly (see Surveillance).
11. The inspector will make contact with the applicant and will normally send an appointment card which will confirm the date and approximate time of the inspection and outline the scope of the inspection. If an inspection appointment is cancelled at short notice (less than 3 clear working days) a cancellation fee will be required prior to the inspection appointment being re-scheduled.
12. Farm inspections will cover all aspects of the Product Standard.
13. The purpose of the inspection is to check that applicants conform to all the requirements of the Product Standard. The person responsible for the day-to-day stock management must be available to accompany the inspector and to show records and answer questions so that he/she can be assured that conformance can be maintained between inspections. If the application is for both beef and lamb certification then the inspector must see both species during the inspection.

In exceptional circumstances participants may not be able to facilitate an outdoor on farm inspection, therefore an alternative inspection method -a Remote Assessment may be provided to allow participants to be certified. For further information contact the Certification Body. If any of these requirements are not possible on the day of the inspection applicants must contact the contracted Certification Body in advance to explain the situation.

If the inspector cannot complete the inspection in full on the day of the appointment the application cannot be progressed and an additional inspection fee will be payable for the inspector to return. If at any point upon arriving at the premises the inspector feels a threat to their personal safety they can stop the inspection. A record of this incident will be kept on file and any recurrence or similar incident will result in immediate refusal/suspension from the Scheme. Re-application/re-admission will not normally be considered for 12 months from date of suspension.

14. If the inspector identifies any areas that do not conform to the Product Standard, the applicant will be informed of these at the time. At the end of the inspection, the inspector will list these areas of non-conformance on a report which will be left with the applicant. The applicant will be asked to acknowledge that they have received this report and agree to its contents by signing it. The Certification Body may also seek to obtain a signature for the purposes of operating Supplementary Services.
15. The Scheme Owners and the contracted Certification Body are interested in receiving feedback from scheme participants. Following an inspection, producers may receive a questionnaire asking for their comments.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Certification

- 16.** Following an inspection, the inspector will submit a report to the contracted Certification Body's office. The contracted Certification Body will determine the eligibility of the applicant for certification as an Approved Producer. Applicants with no non-conformances will normally receive a letter confirming approval and certificate within 14 days of the inspection. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) will also be requested to add FQ status to the producer's herd/flock on the Animal and Public Health Information System/Northern Ireland Food Animal Information System (APHIS/NIFAIS). This will automatically trigger correct labelling of carcasses at abattoirs. Approved Producers certified for lamb will be sent FQAS verification dockets which must accompany consignments sent to marts and abattoirs.
- 17.** If the inspector reports that an applicant does not conform to all requirements of the Standard, the contracted Certification Body will (at its sole discretion in accordance with its UKAS accreditation) make a decision as to certification based on the degree of non-conformance. Each applicant will be notified in writing of the decision in relation to their application for certification normally within 14 days of the initial inspection. Documentary evidence or a re-inspection will be required to verify that non-conformances have been rectified. Certification will only be granted when remedial action has been taken to rectify non-conformances within a specified timescale. The Certification Body will communicate in writing the specific timescales required to rectify non-conformances in line with agreed internal procedures. If re-inspection is necessary a fee will be incurred and the cost of this recovered in full from the applicant. The definitions of major/minor non-conformance are as follows:

Major Non-Conformance – The absence of, or a significant failure to implement and/ or maintain conformance to the requirements of the applicable Standard (e.g. a complete disregard for the Standard such as: no medicine records, trailer not available at inspection).

Minor Non-Conformance – A weakness or indication that some effort/attempt has been made to comply with the requirement of the Standard (e.g. medicine records in place but some records missing, trailer available at inspection but requires floor repair).

In certain circumstances, depending on the quantity and nature of the non-conformances raised, the Certification Body will notify applicants in writing of the need to complete a re-inspection and/or submit additional evidence to verify that non-conformances have been rectified.
- 18.** If an application is deferred the reason(s) will be given in writing. This letter will detail the non-conformances which were identified during the farm inspection. The applicant must either rectify these non-conformances within the timescale permitted or appeal to the contracted Certification Body in writing against the non-conformances, explaining the reasons for the Appeal (see Appeals Section). In exceptional circumstances an extension to the permitted timescales may be granted by the Certification Body upon receipt of a valid request in writing.
- 19.** An applicant whose application for participation has been refused has the right of appeal against this decision. The contracted Certification Body shall, by written notice, advise the applicant of the reason(s) for the refusal, their right of appeal and provide details of the Appeal Procedure (see Appeals Section). If a producer wishes to be reconsidered following refusal a new application is required.
- 20.** The final decision relating to certification rests with the contracted Certification Body's Certification Committee.
- 21.** Approved Producers must inform the contracted Certification Body of any material change in their circumstances e.g. change of herd/flock number/keeper, which may affect their conformance to the Product Standard. These would include significant changes to facilities or management. The contracted Certification Body will assess whether re-inspection is necessary to ensure continued suitability for certification.
- 22.** All pre-acceptance checks and inspection reports will be confidential to the contracted Certification Body and Scheme Owners. However, information additional to that required for certification, which may be used for the operation of the Scheme and/or marketing purposes, may be disclosed to another named party as per the declaration on the application form, or as stated on the Privacy Policy. Applicants/Approved Producers must agree to provide the information required for the completion of Greenhouse Gas/Grass Fed Beef calculations.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

23. Certificates are non-transferable and remain the property of the contracted Certification Body. Only Approved Producers can use scheme certificates, and strictly only in relation to the scope of their certification. Approved Producers must not make any claim that certification applies to product, farm locations or activities that are not included in the scope of their certification. Only Approved Producers can use NIBL FQAS marks or logos and only in accordance with the Conditions of Use. Approved Producers may use the NIBL FQAS logo on farm vehicles, buildings, documents and letterheads. Conditions for logo use can be obtained from NIBL FQAS (Owners).

## Obligations of Applicants and Approved Producers

24. Applicants must agree to and Approved Producers must continue to comply with the Product Standard and Scheme Rules, and with the declarations detailed on the application form. Applicants/Approved Producers must sign the declaration inside the NIBL FQAS Record Book (referred hereafter as FQAS Record Book) to indicate that the Applicant/Approved Producer has read and understood them, and to indicate the agreement of the Applicant/Approved Producer to abide by and be bound by them. The Product Standard and Scheme Rules are additional to any statutory requirements and nothing in the Product Standard or Scheme Rules shall be deemed as providing exemption from current legislation.
25. Applicants and Approved Producers must notify the contracted Certification Body if they are subject to any legal action with regard to legislation concerned with: food safety (including medicine residues or the use of unlicensed/illegal substances), animal welfare, animal health, animal identification and movement records, veterinary medicines records, subsidy schemes, or environmental pollution. Producers must obtain the consent of the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners to use certification against the NIBL FQAS standard as a due diligence defence. Prior to giving this consent, the contracted Certification Body reserves the right to undertake a farm inspection to confirm continued conformance to the Product Standard and Scheme Rules.
26. Applicants and Approved Producers undertake to indemnify the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners against all actions, claims, proceedings, costs and damages and all legal costs and other expenses arising out of any failure on the part of Approved Producers to observe any of the obligations imposed upon them under these rules.

## Sampling

27. Applicants and Approved Producers must agree to samples being taken from animals on farm/at slaughter/post slaughter from any body tissues as deemed necessary by the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners. All samples taken will be at the owner's risk and the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners will bear no responsibility for loss or damage incurred during sampling. The results of tests authorised by the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners will be final.
28. The contracted Certification Body or an independent body acting on behalf of the scheme may undertake on-farm sampling and/or post slaughter sampling on at least 5% of Applicants/Approved Producers' farms/livestock/carcase annually. Any samples taken must be analysed at an accredited laboratory in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025.

## Refusal/Suspension

29. Any Applicant/Approved Producer who has had a **conviction** for contravention of legislation, considered by the Certification Body/Scheme Owners as being relevant to the Scheme, with regard to any **UK government or EU grant or subsidy scheme** in the past 3 years, or in any longer period which corresponds with any sentence imposed by a Court, will be refused/suspended from participation in the Scheme. Re-application/ re-admission will not normally be considered for 3 years from the date of conviction and will be subject to a comprehensive investigation.
30. a) Any Applicant/Approved Producer who has had a **conviction** for the use of an **unlicensed or illegal substance** in any animal, or has been found to have an unlicensed/illegal substance on his/her premises or has had any animal (tissue, fluid) or feedstuff with a positive residue test, either under the Scheme or as a result of residue sampling made under the EU Residue Directive 96/23/EC in the past 3 years, or in any longer period which corresponds with any sentence imposed by a Court, will be refused/ suspended from participation in the Scheme. Re-application/ re-admission will not normally be considered for 3 years from the date of conviction and will be subject to a comprehensive investigation.
- b) Any Applicant/Approved Producer who **has been notified** to the Scheme for the use of an **unlicensed/illegal substance** in any animal (tissue, fluid) either under the Scheme or as a result of residue sampling made under the EU Residue Directive 96/23/EC shall be notified of the intention to refuse/suspend their participation in the Scheme. The contracted Certification Body shall by written notice advise the Applicant/ Approved Producer of the right of appeal and provide details of the Appeal Procedure. Refusal/suspension will be imposed for a timescale determined by the Certification Body/Scheme Owners.





# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

Certification Body/Scheme Owners reserve the right to conduct a spot check inspection at the Applicant/Approved Producer's expense (inspection will be on a full cost recovery basis) to ensure full compliance with the Scheme Product Standard and Rules.

31. a) Any Applicant/Approved Producer who has had a **conviction** for exceeding the **Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)** for a licensed substance in any animal (tissue, fluid) either under the Scheme or as a result of residue sampling made under the EU Residue Directive 96/23/EC in the past 3 years, or in any longer period which corresponds with any sentence imposed by a Court, will be refused/suspended from participation in the Scheme. Re-application/ re-admission will not normally be considered for 3 years from the date of conviction and will be subject to a comprehensive investigation.
- b) Any Applicant/Approved Producer who **has been notified** to the Scheme for exceeding the **Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)** for a licensed substance in any animal (tissue, fluid) either under the Scheme or as a result of residue sampling made under the EU Residue Directive 96/23/EC will receive a warning letter from the Certification Body/Scheme Owners. If further evidence becomes available during/ following an official DAERA Veterinary Investigation the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners reserve the right to refuse/suspend participation in the Scheme. The contracted Certification Body/ Scheme Owners will act as follows:
- Where there is conclusive evidence that the substance was not deliberately administered in excess of dosage instructions, or the withdrawal period was not deliberately ignored, by the Applicant/Approved Producer, the refusal/ suspension will be lifted with a warning given that due care must be exercised in the future.
  - Where the results of the veterinary investigation are inconclusive the refusal/suspension will be lifted, however, the Applicant/Approved Producer will be required to undergo a surveillance regime of residue testing on a monthly basis for up to 6 months plus an annual random test during each of the following 3 years at his/her own expense.
  - Where there is conclusive evidence that the substance was deliberately administered in excess of dosage instructions, or the withdrawal period was deliberately ignored, by the Applicant/Approved Producer, refusal/suspension will be imposed for a time period of 3 years from date of notification from DAERA.
- c) Any Applicant/Approved Producer who **has been notified** to the Scheme for repeatedly exceeding the **Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)** (on more than one occasion within 18 months) for a licensed/unlicensed/illegal substance in any animal (tissue, fluid) either under the scheme or as a result of residue sampling made under the EU Residue Directive 96/23/EC will receive a warning letter and will be subject to a spot check inspection at the Applicant/Approved Producer's expense (inspection will be on a full cost recovery basis). On farm samples may also be taken. Failure to partake in spot check inspection or failure to pay the inspection fee will result in refusal/suspension from the Scheme. If further evidence becomes available during/ following an official DAERA Veterinary Investigation the contracted Certification Body/ Scheme Owners reserve the right to refuse/suspend participation in the Scheme. The contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners will act as follows:
- Where there is conclusive evidence that the substance was not deliberately administered in excess of dosage instructions, or the withdrawal period was not deliberately ignored, by the Applicant/Approved Producer, the refusal/ suspension will be lifted with a warning given that due care must be exercised in the future.
  - Where the results of the veterinary investigation are inconclusive the refusal/suspension will be lifted, however, the Applicant/Approved Producer will be required to undergo a surveillance regime of residue testing on a monthly basis for up to 12 months plus an annual random test during each of the following 3 years at his/her own expense.
  - Where there is conclusive evidence that the substance was deliberately administered in excess of dosage instructions, or the withdrawal period was deliberately ignored, by the Applicant/Approved Producer, refusal/suspension will be imposed for a time period of 3 years from date of notification from DAERA.
- d) Any Applicant/Approved Producer who **has been notified** to the Scheme for exceeding the **Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)** for a **High Priority Critically Important Antibiotic (HP-CIA)** (as defined by the European Medicines Agency (EMA)) in any animal (tissue, fluid) either under the Scheme or as a result of residue sampling made under the EU Residue Directive 96/23/EC will receive a warning letter and will be required to complete the 'Responsible Use of Antimicrobials on Beef and Sheep Farms' training course. If the Applicant/Approved Producer has already completed this course as part of Standard 2.3, they will be required to complete it again.
32. Any Applicant/Approved Producer who has had a **conviction** by a statutory body (e.g. DAERA, NIEA, Loughs Agency) with regard to a farm source **environmental pollution incident** in the past 3 years or in any longer period which corresponds with any sentence imposed by a Court will be refused/suspended from participation in the Scheme. Re-application/re-admission will not normally be considered for 3 years from the date of conviction and will be subject to a comprehensive investigation.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

33. Any Applicant/Approved Producer who has had a **conviction** for an **animal welfare** offence, in the past 3 years or in any longer period which corresponds with any sentence imposed by a Court, will be refused/suspended from participation in the Scheme. Re-application/ re-admission will not normally be considered for 3 years from the date of conviction and will be subject to a comprehensive investigation.
34. Any Applicant/Approved Producer who has had a **conviction** for contravention of legislation with regard to **an animal identification procedure, an animal movement record, an animal medicine record**, or for any other contravention of **animal health legislation**, in the past 3 years or in any longer period which corresponds with any sentence imposed by a Court, will be refused/suspended from participation in the Scheme. Re-application/re-admission will not normally be considered for 3 years from the date of conviction and will be subject to a comprehensive investigation. If DAERA assign a Date of Birth 11/11/1111 to a bovine animal it's FQ status will be removed from APHIS/NIFAIS. If subsequently the correct Date of Birth of this bovine animal is established by DAERA, FQ/FQP status should be (re)applied immediately and existing rules on FQ statuses apply.
35. Any Applicant/Approved Producer who has had a **conviction** for contravention of **food safety legislation** in the past 3 years or in any longer period which corresponds with any sentence imposed by a Court will be refused/suspended from participation in the Scheme. Re-application/re-admission will not normally be considered for 3 years from the date of conviction and will be subject to a comprehensive investigation.
36. The contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners reserves the right to temporarily refuse/suspend from participation in the scheme any Applicant/Approved Producer at its sole discretion should the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners be satisfied that not to do so would prejudicially effect the reputation or operation of the scheme.
37. Any Applicant/ Approved Producer in the possession of a bovine for which a positive test result for the presence of BVDV (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus) has been obtained from an approved laboratory will have FQ attained status removed from the herd if the BVD status of the bovine in question is not resolved, either through evidence that a BVD negative test result has been obtained for the animal or through evidence that the animal has been culled, in accordance with timescales determined by the Scheme Owners.
38. Suspended producers must return their Certificates of Conformity and must not make any further claims under the Scheme. DAERA will be instructed to remove FQ Status from suspended producers' herds/flocks on the APHIS/NIFAIS database.
39. In all cases of refusal/suspension of participation, there is no entitlement to any refund of fees.
40. Any Applicant/Approved Producer who is refused/suspended from participation in the Scheme has the right of appeal against this decision. The contracted Certification Body shall by written notice advise the Applicant/Approved Producer of the right of appeal and provide details of the Appeal Procedure (see Appeals Section).
41. Any Approved Producer who is in breach of any provisions of the Product Standard and Scheme Rules may have his/her participation in the Scheme suspended with immediate effect by written notice from the contracted Certification Body. This notice will inform the Approved Producer of the reasons for suspension and will also provide details of the Appeal Procedure (see Appeals Section).
42. The contracted Certification Body shall investigate any matter which gives cause for concern and give consideration to any representations made by Approved Producers or their appointed representatives.

## Withdrawal of participation

43. An Approved Producer may voluntarily withdraw from participation in the Scheme by notification of such in writing to the contracted Certification Body. In all cases of withdrawal of participation, there is no entitlement to any refund of fees. The producer must return their Certificate of Conformity and must not make any further claims under the Scheme. DAERA will be instructed to remove FQ Status from the producer's herd/flock on the APHIS/NIFAIS database.

## Renewal of membership

44. Certification lasts for 12 months and expires at the end of the month in which the anniversary of initial approval took place. Approved Producers will receive a renewal notice approximately one month before expiry. The renewal form must be completed and returned with the appropriate fee. Certification will then be renewed for the next 12 months, subject to a satisfactory inspection.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

45. The renewal fee is payable on or before the due date. Renewal fees cannot be refunded. The responsibility for setting the level of fees rests with the NIBL FQAS Industry Board.
46. If the contracted Certification Body does not receive a renewal remittance within 14 days after the due date then participation will be suspended. The producer must return his/ her Certificate of Conformity and must not make any further claims under the Scheme. DAERA will be instructed to remove FQ Status from the producer's herd/flock on the APHIS/ NIFAIS database.
47. If a suspended producer does not pay the renewal fee to the contracted Certification Body office within a further 14 days (28 days after the due date), his/her registration and certification will be revoked. A fresh application will then be needed if the producer wishes to re-join the scheme.

## Surveillance and Spot Check Inspections

48. The contracted Certification Body will carry out routine surveillance and spot check inspections to ensure that Approved Producers continue to comply with the Product Standard. Both surveillance and spot checks will involve a full inspection against all the requirements of the Product Standard. It is a condition of the scheme that Approved Producers make themselves available for these inspections. The annual participation fee covers the cost of routine surveillance inspections and spot checks but does not cover the cost of re-inspection following an unsatisfactory routine surveillance or spot check inspection.
49. Routine surveillance inspections will take place at approximately 18 month intervals. This inspection interval ensures that the farm is inspected during different seasons in the year. The contracted Certification Body inspectors will contact the Approved Producer in advance and the inspection will follow the same format as described in Rules 10-14. The inspector must see a representative sample of livestock otherwise the inspection cannot be completed.
50. It is not acceptable for Approved Producers to delay surveillance visits. The visit must take place within three weeks of the date that an inspector contacts the Approved Producer. If not, scheme participation may be suspended. If the Approved Producer has difficulties in agreeing an appointment with the inspector, then he/she must contact the contracted Certification Body to explain the position.
51. The contracted Certification Body will spot check up to 10% of Approved Producers every year. Spot check inspections may be random or targeted for risk management purposes. Spot check inspections will also follow the same format as described in Rules 10-14 with the exception that the contracted Certification Body reserves the right to conduct spot checks with or without prior notice.
52. Inspection reports from both surveillance and spot checks will be reviewed by the contracted Certification Body to ensure that the Approved Producer continues to conform to the Product Standard. If he/she does conform, the Approved Producer will be sent a letter confirming continuation of certification normally within 28 days.
53. If the inspector reports that an Approved Producer no longer conforms to the Product Standard, the producer will receive a letter normally within 28 days detailing the non-conformances identified during the inspection. The Approved Producer must either rectify these non-conformances within the timescale permitted or appeal to the contracted Certification Body in writing against the non-conformances, explaining the reasons for the Appeal (see Appeals Section). The Certification Body will communicate in writing the specific timescales required to rectify non-conformances in line with agreed internal procedures. In certain circumstances, depending on the quantity and nature of the non-conformances raised, the Certification Body will notify applicants in writing of the need to complete a re-inspection and/or submit additional evidence to verify that non-conformances have been rectified. If the non-conformances are not rectified within the permitted timescale, the Approved Producer will receive a final reminder letter. If the non-conformances are still not rectified after this final warning, the Approved Producer will be suspended and DAERA will be instructed to remove FQ status from the producer's herd/flock on the APHIS/NIFAIS database. This suspension will be lifted if the producer notifies the contracted Certification Body office within 14 days that the non-conformances are rectified, by providing satisfactory documentary evidence, or for certain non-conformances subject to a satisfactory re-inspection, to verify conformance (an additional fee will be charged for a re-inspection). If a suspended non-conforming producer does not make contact with the contracted Certification Body's office within the 14 days his/her registration and certification may be revoked. A fresh application will then be needed if the producer wishes to re-join the scheme.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

54. If a participant does not have any stock when a surveillance inspection or annual renewal fee is due, 'FQ attained' status will be temporarily removed from the herd/flock on APHIS/NIFAIS. It is the responsibility of the participant to inform the Scheme Owners or the contracted Certification Body when they acquire stock. A satisfactory inspection is required to reinstate the producer's 'FQ attained' status on APHIS/NIFAIS.
55. If a participant is approved for both beef and lamb, but only one species is available for inspection, they can make a dormant claim for the other species. This allows the producer to remain approved for this species provided the conditions of the inspection allow and, if applicable, relevant non-conformances are rectified within the timescale permitted. Two successive dormant claims for the same species is prohibited. If the same species are not present for two successive surveillance inspections, the participant's scope of certification will be amended to remove that species. The participant's scope of certification can be extended to re-instate this species at a later date (see Rule 4).

## Movements when Herd/Flock is Suspended

56. If a herd/flock becomes suspended, FQ attained status is temporarily removed from APHIS/NIFAIS. Irrespective of their destination, if livestock are permitted out of the herd/ flock during this period of suspension and subsequently return, the full residency period (Cattle: 90days, Sheep: 60 days) must be completed in order to achieve FQ attained status.

## Movements through Markets and Collection Centres

57. If livestock with FQ attained status are moved through a livestock market or collection centre, the market/collection centre must be approved by the Red Tractor Assurance Livestock Market and Collection Centre Scheme. If the market or collection centre is not approved, then assured livestock will lose their FQ attained status and will be required to complete the full residency period (Cattle: 90 days, Sheep: 60 days) upon returning to an assured farm or farms in order to regain FQ attained status. A list of fully approved markets in Northern Ireland is available on the Red Tractor website.

## Appeals

58. If an Applicant or Approved Producer wishes to appeal against any decision under these rules which carries a right of appeal they must write to the contracted Certification Body giving reasons why they believe the decision is wrong, and must also provide any relevant supporting evidence.
59. This appeal, including the bond fee (see Rule 62), must be received in the contracted Certification Body's office within 14 days of the Applicant/Approved Producer receiving notification of the relevant decision.
60. The contracted Certification Body will usually contact the Applicant/Approved Producer to clarify the basis for appeal. This may lead to the issue being resolved. Contact shall be made at the sole discretion of the contracted Certification Body.
61. If this does not resolve the issue, an Appeal Panel will be appointed to consider the appeal, normally within 30 days (see rule 63).
62. An appellant is required to submit a bond (see fees sheet) as a contribution towards the time and expenses of the Appeal Panel. In the event of a successful appeal, this bond will be refunded in full.
63. The Appeal Panel will consist of individuals appointed by the owners of NIBL FQAS and its Product Standard for the time being in force from the following groupings who will not have previously been involved in the decision making process:  
(a) An Independent Chairman  
(b) Panel members with appropriate expertise chosen by Scheme Owners in consultation with the Independent Chairman.
64. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be sent to the appellant, normally within 30 days of the Appeal Panel meeting to consider the appeal and will be final and binding on both the appellant and the contracted Certification Body.

## Complaints

65. Where a complaint is made to the contracted Certification Body, the complainant will be asked to make the complaint in writing.
66. All complaints whether about participants, Certification Body staff or the Scheme Owners will be properly investigated and necessary action taken.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Leaving the Scheme

67. Participants who, voluntarily withdraw from the scheme, choose not to renew participation, or who are suspended or revoked, must not make any further claims under the Scheme, whether explicit or implied, that they are certified by the contracted Certification Body against the NIBL FQAS Standard. Withdrawal requests must be made in writing to the contracted Certification Body.

## False and misleading statements

68. Any false or misleading statements on an application form, during inspection or in any other communication may at the sole discretion of the contracted Certification Body lead to suspension or revocation of participation in the Scheme.

## Scheme administration

69. The Rules for participation in NIBL FQAS will be determined by the Scheme Owners, who reserve the right, after consultation with industry organisations, to amend these Rules by way of addition, deletion, substitution or otherwise, where it considers that such is necessary or appropriate in the interests of the integrity of the Scheme or of the beef and sheepmeat industries in Northern Ireland.
70. The contracted Certification Body undertake to administer the registration, inspection and certification processes effectively and efficiently at all times.
71. The decision of the contracted Certification Body in all matters relating to the operation of the registration, inspection and certification processes is final.
72. Approved Producers will be notified of any amendment to the Product Standard or Scheme Rules.

## Change of details

73. All participants shall notify the contracted Certification Body in writing of an address for the service of notices. In writing can include electronic means e.g. e-mail, text message.
74. On any change to the farm business details e.g. change of name, address, herd/flock number, a Participant/Appointed Representative must serve notice of the change to the contracted Certification Body in writing (in writing can include electronic means e.g. e-mail, text message). Failure to do this may result in FQ status being lost on the relevant herd/flock.

## Limitation of Liability

- 75.1. The Scheme Owner has obtained insurance cover in respect of its own legal liability for individual claims not exceeding £10,000,000.00 per claim. The limits and exclusions in this clause reflect the insurance cover the Scheme Owner has been able to arrange and the Applicant or Approved Producer is responsible for making its own arrangements for the insurance of any excess loss.
- 75.2. The contracted Certification Body has obtained insurance cover in respect of its own legal liability for individual claims not exceeding £5,000,000.00 per claim. The limits and exclusions in this clause reflect the insurance cover the contracted Certification Body has been able to arrange and the Applicant or Approved Producer is responsible for making its own arrangements for the insurance of any excess loss.
- 75.3. References to liability in this agreement include every kind of liability arising under or in connection with this agreement including but not limited to liability in contract, tort (including negligence), misrepresentation, restitution or otherwise.
- 75.4. Neither party may benefit from the limitations and exclusions set out in this clause in respect of any liability arising from its deliberate default.
- 75.5. Nothing in this this agreement shall limit the Applicant's or Approved Producer's payment obligations under this agreement.
- 75.6. Nothing in this agreement limits any liability which cannot legally be limited, including but not limited to liability for:
- death or personal injury caused by negligence;
  - fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation; and
  - breach of the terms implied by section 2 of the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982 (title and quiet possession).



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

- 75.7.** Subject to clause 75.4 (no limitations in respect of deliberate default) and clause 75.6 (liabilities which cannot legally be limited), the Scheme Owner's total liability to the Applicant's or Approved Producer's:
- (a) for damage to property caused by the negligence of its employees and agents in connection with this agreement shall not exceed £10,000,000.00 for any one event or series of connected events;
  - (b) for loss arising from the Scheme Owner's failure to comply with its data processing obligations shall not exceed £10,000,000.00; and
  - (c) for all other loss or damage which does not fall within subclause (a) or (b) shall not exceed £10,000,000.00.
- 75.8.** Subject to clause 75.4 (no limitations in respect of deliberate default) and clause 75.6 (liabilities which cannot legally be limited), the contracted Certification Body's total liability to the Applicant's or Approved Producer's :
- (a) for damage to property caused by the negligence of its employees and agents in connection with this agreement shall not exceed £5,000,000.00 for any one event or series of connected events;
  - (b) for loss arising from the contracted Certification Body's failure to comply with its data processing obligations shall not exceed £5,000,000.00; and
  - (c) for all other loss or damage which does not fall within subclause (a) or (b) shall not exceed £5,000,000.00.
- 75.9.** Subject to clause 75.4 (No limitations in respect of deliberate default), clause 75.5 (No limitation on the Applicant or Approved Producer's payment obligations) and clause 75.6 (Liabilities which cannot legally be limited), this clause 75.9 specifies the types of losses that are excluded:
- (a) loss of profits;
  - (b) loss of sales or business;
  - (c) loss of agreements or contracts;
  - (d) loss of anticipated savings;
  - (e) loss of use or corruption of software, data or information;
  - (f) loss of or damage to goodwill; and
  - (g) indirect or consequential loss.
- 75.10** Unless the Applicant or Approved Producer notifies the Scheme Owner or contracted Certification Body that it intends to make a claim in respect of an event within the notice period, the Scheme Owner or contracted Certification Body shall have no liability for that event. The notice period for an event shall start on the day on which the Applicant or Approved Producer became, or ought reasonably to have become, aware of the event having occurred and shall expire 36 months from that date. The notice must be in writing and must identify the event and the grounds for the claim in reasonable detail.

## Service of notice (Liabilities)

- 76.** Service of any notice or communication from the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners to any participant shall be valid if addressed to the participant at the last address so notified to the contracted Certification Body.
- 77.** Any notice or communication from the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners shall be valid if issued under the hand or authority of any appointed representative of the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners.
- 78.** Any notice or other communication given to a party under or in connection with this agreement shall be in writing and shall be:
- delivered by hand or by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service at registered office of the contracted Certification Body or non-first-class post; or
  - sent by fax to its main fax number or sent by email to the following email address:
    - o In the case of serving notice on the Scheme Owner – [fqas@lmcni.com](mailto:fqas@lmcni.com)
    - o In the case of serving notice on the contracted Certification Body – [info@nifcc.co.uk](mailto:info@nifcc.co.uk)

Any notice shall be deemed to have been received:

- if delivered by hand, at the time the notice is left at the proper address;
- if sent by pre-paid first-class post or other next working day delivery service, at 9.00 am on the second Business Day after posting; or
- if not sent by first class post or other next working day delivery service, 72 hours after the time of posting; or
- if sent by fax or email, at the time of transmission, or, if this time falls outside business hours in the place of receipt, when business hours resume. Business hours means 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday on a day that is not a public holiday in the place of receipt.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Time limits

- 79.** The Scheme Owners shall use all of its reasonable endeavours to carry out its functions as per the time limits set out in the Scheme Rules. However, in the event that the Scheme Owners do not adhere to the prescribed time periods or any agreed extension to same, the Scheme Owners' liability, for any loss or damage that may be caused to any Applicant/ Approved Producer, shall not exceed £10,000,000.00 or any such greater amount, agreed by insurers, under the policy of insurance taken out by the Scheme Owners in respect of such liability.
- 80.** The contracted Certification Body shall use all of its reasonable endeavours to carry out its functions as per the time limits set out in the Scheme Rules. However, in the event that the contracted Certification Body does not adhere to the prescribed time periods or any agreed extension to same, the contracted Certification Body's liability, for any loss or damage that may be caused to any Applicant/ Approved Producer, shall not exceed £5,000,000.00 or any such greater amount, agreed by insurers, under the policy of insurance taken out by the contracted Certification Body in respect of such liability.
- 81.** For the avoidance of doubt, the contracted Certification Body's and the Scheme Owners' liability is on a several liability basis.
- 82.** The contracted Certification Body and the Scheme Owners reserve the right to extend any time period set out in the Scheme Rules where it considers that such is necessary.
- 83.** Communications/correspondence sent by post shall be deemed to have been served 72 hours after the time of posting to the last address of the participant registered with the contracted Certification Body.
- 84.** Communications/correspondence sent by post shall be deemed to have been served 72 hours after the time of posting to the address of the contracted Certification Body or Scheme Owners.
- 85.** Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 No term of the Scheme Rules are enforceable pursuant to the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 by any person other than the contracted Certification Body/Scheme Owners or an Applicant/ Approved Producer.

## Data Protection

- 86.** The FQAS Standard and Rules (together with the application form, registration renewal form, privacy policy and any other documents referred to in it) sets out the basis for the processing of any personal data we collect from you or you provide to us. Applicants/ Approved Producers must read these documents carefully to understand our practices regarding your personal data and will be asked to confirm this by signing the FQAS Record Book.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Procedures for Participants – Summary

- P.1** Before making your application to join the NIBL FQAS, you should study the Product Standard and Scheme Rules which detail the codes of practice and operating procedures which must be followed.
- P.2** You should complete the application form and return it with your payment to the address shown on the application form or pay online at [www.lmcni.com](http://www.lmcni.com).
- P.3** The application process will begin with a number of pre-entry checks. If your application passes these, a Certification Body inspector will contact you to arrange the initial farm inspection. This will normally be carried out within 28 days of receipt of your application.
- P.4** The farm inspector will submit a farm inspection report to the Certification Body's office, where it will be reviewed by a Certification Officer. If successful, you will receive your Certificate of Conformity. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) will be notified to add the Farm Quality Assured Status Indicators "FQ Attained" to your herd/flock and "FQ" to all your eligible cattle, on the APHIS/NIFAIS system. Certification always remains subject to confirmation by the Certification Committee of the Certification Body.
- P.5** If non-conformances are identified during your farm inspection, you will be required to rectify these within a given timescale prior to approval.
- P.6** You must renew your participation in the Scheme every year. You will receive a renewal notice approximately one month before your certification period expires.
- P.7** You should complete the renewal form and return it with the renewal fee to the address shown or pay the fee online at [www.lmcni.com](http://www.lmcni.com).
- P.8** You must continue to conform to the Scheme's Product Standard. The Certification Body will therefore conduct routine surveillance inspections at intervals no greater than 18 months. In addition you may be chosen for a spot check inspection. In the case of routine surveillance inspections, an inspector will contact you to arrange an appointment. Spot checks, however, may be unannounced.
- P.9** If at these inspections the Certification Body finds that you no longer conform to the Product Standard, certification may be suspended depending on the seriousness of the issues reported. You will be informed of the non-conformances which must be rectified within a given timescale. You must not continue to claim that you are Farm Quality Assured during suspension. DAERA will also be notified to change the FQ indicator on your herd/flock on APHIS/NIFAIS.
- P.10** Following suspension, revocation from the scheme will arise if sufficient documentary evidence to rectify non-conformances is not submitted to the Certification Body within a given timescale. DAERA will be notified to remove "FQ" from all the cattle/sheep in your herd/flock on APHIS/NIFAIS.
- P.11** It is important to note that while this standard is written in similar words to other UK Beef and Lamb assurance schemes eligible to carry the Red Tractor Logo, it has been adapted to suit the regional identity of Northern Ireland. Producers should also note that this standard is not all inclusive and that all legislation must be strictly observed.





# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## The Product Standard S.K Key to Layout

At the start of each section of the NIBL FQAS Standard there is a summary paragraph giving a brief overview of the section and its importance in terms of ensuring Farm Quality Assured products are of the highest standard.

The individual Codes of the Standard can be found in the left hand column of the table and have been clearly numbered.

New codes, i.e. those with a new requirement, and amendments to existing codes which are likely to have an impact have been clearly identified.

### S.1 HUSBANDRY: STOCKMANSHIP AND WELFARE

**Summary of section:** Animals must be well managed by competent stockpersons to good standards of husbandry and welfare in accordance with current EU, UK and regional legislation and the DAERA Welfare Codes. Consumers are becoming increasingly conscious of animal welfare issues and require greater assurance that livestock are cared for appropriately on farms and during handling and transport.

1.1	Animals must be reared and managed in accordance with the DAERA Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock: Beef Cattle and/or Sheep (Welfare Codes) and in accordance with current EU, UK and regional legislation.	Stockpersons must have access to the relevant codes relating to the animals under their care to indicate that they have been read and understood.  Electronic copies are available from <a href="http://www.lmcni.com">www.lmcni.com</a>  <i>The farm inspector will ask to see your welfare codes or ask to see an electronic copy of the codes at the time of inspection.</i>
1.2	The five basic needs of an animal (i.e. the five freedoms) must be provided.	The five freedoms are: 1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition. 2. Freedom from discomfort and lack of shelter. 3. Freedom from injury, disease and infestation. 4. Freedom from fear. 5. Freedom to display most normal patterns of behaviour.  Further information regarding the 5 freedoms can be found in <b>Appendix A.1a</b> in FQAS Record Book.  <i>The inspector will check enough livestock on each individual farm to satisfy himself/herself that they are healthy and thriving.</i>
1.3 Amended	Farm Personnel must be competent in performing tasks they are required to undertake in animal husbandry, stockmanship, animal welfare, disease control practices and common veterinary operations which are permitted to be undertaken by laypersons. Details of experience and/or training must be maintained.  Farm personnel must ensure that contractors are deemed competent to carry out the activities they are required to do.	<i>The inspector will ask to see details of relevant experience and/or training (if applicable) that has been undertaken by you or a stockperson. Complete Appendix A1.b in FQAS Record Book.</i>  <i>The inspector will assess Farm Personnel and Contractor competence via observation of on-farm outputs.</i>

Each code that requires a scheme participant to keep a record is clearly marked with a symbol.

The appendices are numbered to correspond with the numbering of the sections of the Standard. Any code which has a relevant appendix is clearly shown in the producer guidance column.

Each section of the Product Standard has a unique reference and title. There are 8 different sections in the Product Standard.

The rationale behind each code and any relevant producer guidance is outlined in the corresponding right hand column. Also included in italics in the right hand column is objective evidence of conformance with the code that will be sought by the farm inspector during the inspection.



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## Record Keeping

Records stored on a computer are acceptable as long as they contain all the information required and that they are stored in a similar format to the paper documentation provided. The computer or printed copies of records must be available to inspectors who will need to check their content.

To help participants with all the record keeping requirements of the Standard, NIBL FQAS has produced a FQAS Record Book which can be used. Each code of practice which has a relevant record template has been clearly highlighted and numbered with the appropriate appendix.

NIBL FQAS recognises that producers have access to many required publications electronically and as long as the participant can demonstrate that they can access these documents it is not necessary to have them available in their paper format. If publications have to be made available to other relevant personnel then the producer must either provide a printed copy of it or ensure that they have access to it electronically. Access to the required publications is available electronically from the Farm Quality Assurance section of the LMC website [www.lmcni.com](http://www.lmcni.com).

### Key to Icons

Participants should familiarise themselves with the three different icons which appear in the NIBL FQAS Standard and Rules. These appear on the left of a code which requires an action which is detailed opposite.



This symbol indicates that the participant is required to keep a record or a log in a NIBL FQAS publication or another relevant record. Examples include NIBL FQAS Veterinary Medicine Record book, NIBL FQAS Feed Record book, Herd/ Flock Book, Animal Health Plan, etc.



This symbol indicates that the inspector requires proof or physical evidence for aspects of the inspection as detailed in the particular code to which it applies. Evidence sought may be in the form of an acceptable warranty declaration, a certificate of competency, an approved haulier docket, etc.



This symbol indicates that a signature is required. This normally will apply to page 58 in the FQAS Record Book.




# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## S.1 HUSBANDRY: STOCKMANSHIP AND WELFARE


**Summary of section:** Animals must be well managed by competent stockpersons to good standards of husbandry and welfare in accordance with current EU, UK and regional legislation and the DAERA Welfare Codes. Consumers are becoming increasingly conscious of animal welfare issues and require greater assurance that livestock are cared for appropriately on farms and during handling and transport.

<p>1.1</p>	<p><b>Animals must be reared and managed in accordance with the DAERA Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock: Beef Cattle and/or Sheep (Welfare Codes) and in accordance with current EU, UK and regional legislation.</b></p>	<p>Stockpersons must have access to the relevant codes relating to the animals under their care to indicate that they have been read and understood.</p> <p>Electronic copies are available from <a href="http://www.lmchni.com">www.lmchni.com</a>.</p> <p><i>The farm inspector will ask to see your Welfare Codes or ask to see an electronic copy of the codes at the time of inspection.</i></p>
<p>1.2</p>	<p><b>The five basic needs of an animal (i.e. the five freedoms) must be provided.</b></p>	<p>The five freedoms are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition.</li> <li>2. Freedom from discomfort and lack of shelter.</li> <li>3. Freedom from injury, disease and infestation.</li> <li>4. Freedom from fear.</li> <li>5. Freedom to display most normal patterns of behaviour.</li> </ol> <p>Further information regarding the 5 freedoms can be found in <b>Appendix A.1a</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check enough livestock on each individual farm to satisfy himself/herself that they are healthy and thriving.</i></p>
<p>1.3</p> <p>Amended</p> 	<p><b>Farm Personnel must be competent in performing tasks they are required to undertake in animal husbandry, stockmanship, animal welfare, disease control practices and common veterinary operations which are permitted to be undertaken by laypersons. Details of experience and/or training must be maintained.</b></p> <p><b>Farm personnel must ensure that contractors are deemed competent to carry out the activities they are required to do.</b></p>	<p><i>The inspector will ask to see details of relevant experience and/or training (if applicable) that has been undertaken by you or a stockperson. Complete <b>Appendix A.1b</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</i></p> <p><i>The inspector will assess Farm Personnel and Contractor competence via observation of on-farm outputs.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules


The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<p><b>1.4</b> <b>New</b></p>	<p><b>The rearing of calves and lambs must be carried out in a manner that ensures their welfare and needs are met in accordance with the DAERA Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock: Beef Cattle and/or Sheep (Welfare Codes).</b></p>	<p>Stockpersons must ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calves/lambs must have visual and tactile contact with others (where there are two or more).</li> <li>• Calves shall not be confined in an individual stall or pen after the age of eight weeks unless a veterinary surgeon certifies that its health or behaviour requires it to be isolated in order to receive treatment.</li> <li>• Calves are not tethered except for group housed feeding and then only for a maximum of 1 hour.</li> <li>• Calves are not muzzled.</li> <li>• Housed calves must be inspected by the farmer/ stockperson at least twice a day.</li> <li>• Newborn calves and lambs must receive adequate intake of colostrum within 6 hours and 3 hours of birth respectively whether from their dam or another source.</li> <li>• Youngstock must be fed in accordance with milk replacer manufacturers' guidelines.</li> <li>• All calves should receive liquid food every day during their first four weeks of life and, in any case, until they are eating enough solid food.</li> </ul> <p><i>The inspector will check that any calves/lambs reared on the farm meet the requirements of the DAERA Welfare Codes as described above.</i></p>
<p><b>1.5</b> <b>Amended</b></p> 	<p><b>Common Veterinary Operations must be performed in such a way that suffering is minimised and in accordance with the DAERA Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock: Beef Cattle and/or Sheep (Welfare Codes).</b></p> <p><b>Anaesthetic and analgesics must be used in accordance with Appendix A.1c.</b></p>	<p><b>Appendix A.1c</b> in the FQAS Record Book provides a Summary of Requirements for Common Veterinary Operations.</p> <p>It is strongly recommended that all calves be disbudded as early as possible by trained and competent stock keepers. Dehorning should not be a routine procedure and should only be done if necessary for the herd's welfare. Dehorning involves the cutting or sawing of horn and other sensitive tissues under local anaesthetic.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you who performs these common veterinary operations and the procedures used. If an anaesthetic and/or analgesic is required the inspector will look for evidence of purchase and use in the Veterinary Medicine Record.</i></p>
<p><b>1.6</b></p>	<p><b>All animals must at all times be treated, handled, loaded and unloaded calmly in such a way as to avoid injury and minimise pain and stress. The use of electric goads is not permitted.</b></p>	<p>Sticks may only be used to guide stock or a crook may be used with discretion to catch sheep.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you about your procedures for moving and handling stock to ensure that such are carried out with due attention to animal welfare.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

1.7	<b>Animals must be grouped in appropriate social groups.</b>	<p>When loose housed, animals should be grouped according to size, sex and age, except in the case of dam and offspring or where breeding is planned. Fractious or horned cattle must not be mixed with other cattle in loose housing if there is a danger of injury or bullying to the other cattle.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask to see a representative number of stock to ensure they are managed in appropriate social groups.</i></p>
 1.8	<b>Farm dogs (and cats where possible) must be kept under control at all times and regularly treated in accordance with veterinary advice and the treatment recorded.</b>	<p>Farm dogs must be controlled so they do not cause injury or distress to livestock. Regular vaccination/worming of farm dogs is essential to reduce the risk of the spread of disease. Where possible farm cats should be wormed to reduce the risk of tapeworm and it is advisable that sheep are vaccinated against toxoplasmosis which can be spread via farm cats.</p> <p><i>The inspector will look for evidence of veterinary treatment of farm dogs and/or cats e.g. in Veterinary Medicine Record.</i></p>






# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## S.2 ANIMAL HEALTH

**Summary of section:** All animals must be maintained in good health. Medicines and treatments must be administered in an appropriate manner and all relevant records kept. All cattle and/or sheep must undergo routine disease testing/monitoring as required by the relevant competent authority. Only healthy animals will be eligible for NIBL FQAS certification. Consumers expect livestock to be maintained in healthy condition to ensure that the highest welfare standards are met and that the meat they produce is safe to eat.

<p>2.1</p>	<p><b>Regular checks of livestock must be carried out by farmer/ stockperson at a frequency appropriate to the class of livestock.</b></p>	<p>This is to check for signs of illness, injury or stress and to ensure all animals are maintained in good health. The frequency at which different categories of livestock should be inspected is outlined in the relevant Welfare Codes.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask how often you or your stockpersons inspect different categories of livestock (e.g. calves, housed cattle, hill sheep etc.).</i></p>
<p>2.2</p> <p>Amended</p> 	<p><b>The herd or flock must be under the routine care of a named veterinary practice(s) or surgeon(s).</b></p>	<p>The name, address and telephone number of the assigned veterinary practice(s) must be recorded in the Animal Health Plan and made available to the inspector if requested. Animal Health Plan template is available at <b>Appendix A.2a</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will require written documentary evidence of a veterinary surgeon visit within the last year (e.g. invoice, TB test appointment, signature and date on Animal Health Plan).</i></p>
<p>2.3</p>  	<p><b>All persons involved in the administration of animal medication must be competent based on experience and/or training to perform the tasks they are required to undertake.</b></p> <p><b>At least one person responsible for administering animal medicines must be formally trained in the responsible use of antimicrobials.</b></p>	<p>Records of experience and any formal training must be maintained, including for sheep dipping.</p> <p><b>Appendix A.1b</b> in the FQAS Record Book outlines a sample experience and training record form.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask to see a certificate from a recognised responsible use of antimicrobials course (the list of approved courses can be found on <a href="http://www.lmcsi.com">www.lmcsi.com</a>).</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

2.4

Amended



**A written herd/flock health plan, which includes a farm bio-security policy, must be established, implemented and reviewed at least annually or more frequently in the event of any substantial changes to husbandry practices.**

**A Health, Performance & Antibiotic Usage Review must be completed in consultation with the farm vet.**

**Farmers must consult with their vet before using Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIA's) (3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, polymyxins (colistin)).**

**The farm bio-security policy must identify the risks of disease being introduced onto the farm relating to animals, vehicles and personnel moving on and off the farm, and detail the procedures that are in place for minimising the risk.**

**As a minimum, farms must have cleaning and washing facilities and a DAERA approved disinfectant available for personnel, vehicles or machinery coming from or going to other livestock farms or premises. The DAERA approved disinfectant must be effective against Foot and Mouth Disease, TB and General Orders.**

A written Animal Health Plan and a Health, Performance & Antibiotic Usage Review allows participants to demonstrate their commitment to planned animal health and preventative medicine regimes and provides useful templates for what the producer proposes to administer, or do, throughout the annual production cycle to ensure the optimum health of stock. **Appendix A.2a** in the FQAS Record Book outlines a sample Animal Health Plan. It shall include as a minimum: the farm bio-security policy, vaccination programme and timing, control of external and internal parasites etc... Producers should monitor and review the health plan in light of any advice given by a vet during a farm visit, and in conjunction with meat inspection results that are available from DAERA (APHIS/NIFAIS). **Appendix A.2a** in the FQAS Record Book outlines a Health, Performance & Antibiotic Usage Review template.

It will be acceptable for the DAERA approved disinfectant to be approved at the time of purchase, as opposed to approved at time of inspection. This will be checked against the DAERA approved list at that time. DAERA approved list available from DAERA/LMC website.


*The inspector will ask to see your Animal Health Plan and will check that it has been completed and signed to say it has been reviewed within the last year. The Health, Performance & Antibiotic Usage Review will be checked to ensure that it has been completed and signed by the herd/flock keeper and vet and reviewed within the last 18 months. The implementation of the Animal Health Plan will also be checked through cross referencing the planned treatments with the animal medicine records and checking the provision of facilities for bio-security.*

*The inspector will ask to see a receipt from the purchase of a DAERA disinfectant (if not currently approved for Foot & Mouth Disease, TB and General Orders).*



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)



<p><b>2.5</b> <b>Amended</b></p>	<p><b>Animals suffering ill health or injury must receive immediate attention, including the attendance of a veterinary surgeon if necessary. Facilities must be provided when necessary for appropriate segregation/ isolation of sick or injured animals.</b></p> <p><b>Isolation facilities for livestock suffering from an infectious condition must be available for use within 3 hours. The facility must be capable of being cleansed and disinfected and does not allow direct contact with any other animal.</b></p>	<p>Segregation/isolation facilities can be temporary penning and/or building use, and do not necessarily have to be permanent fixtures. When isolating an animal from others it is recommended that they are kept in a separate air space to the rest of the herd/flock.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you about your procedures for dealing with sick or injured animals to ensure they are in compliance with the Welfare Codes.</i></p>
<p><b>2.6</b> <b>Amended</b></p>	<p><b>Special care and consideration must be given to casualty animals and every effort must be made to prevent them from suffering by following the regulations. If on farm-humane slaughter is necessary, this must be carried out promptly and by a competent person.</b></p>	<p>Refer to 'Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014'.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you about your current practice for dealing with casualty animals to ensure that they are in accordance with current legislation.</i></p>
<p><b>2.7</b></p>	<p><b>Medicine and veterinary treatments must be stored in accordance with current legislation and the manufacturers' instructions and used before their expiry date. Secure and locked storage must be available for all veterinary medicines.</b></p>	<p>Medicines must be stored in a manner which ensures they are easily identifiable and the risk of cross contamination with other substances is minimised.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask to see the medicine store to check that it is locked when not in use and that only medicines that are within their use by date, are available for use on the farm.</i></p>
<p><b>2.8</b> <b>Amended</b></p> 	<p><b>Veterinary medicines must have a UK product licence. Prescription only medicines (POM) must be obtained from a veterinary surgeon, a record of which must be retained for a period of five years from the date of commencement. Unapproved medicines or unlicensed substances must NOT be used unless prescribed and signed off by a veterinary surgeon in the Veterinary Medicine Record.</b></p>	<p>Veterinary medicines must only be purchased from veterinary surgeons and other approved distributors. See <b>Appendix A.2b</b> in the FQAS Record Book for animal medicine legal classifications.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check the Veterinary Medicines Record and retained prescriptions to ensure that only licensed and/ or approved veterinary treatments are used and sourced legally. The inspector will check that any prescribing vets have visited the farm within 12 months of the date of the prescription.</i></p>





# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<p>2.9</p>	<p><b>Anabolic agents, including hormones, must not be used for growth promotion under any circumstances.</b></p>	<p>The use of hormonal growth promoters is illegal. The Scheme Rules require that Applicants/Approved Producers have not had a conviction for the use of an illegal/ unlicensed substance within the previous three years.</p> <p><i>Inspectors may take random meal and/or urine samples for further testing. Residue testing and/or monitoring may also involve liaison with DAERA Veterinary Public Health Unit.</i></p>
<p>2.10</p> 	<p><b>The farm must have a written policy outlining the action that would be taken in the event of, or suspicion of, a needle or part of a needle being left in an animal.</b></p>	<p>Stockpersons must be familiar with the procedure for action to be taken when needle breakage occurs. <b>Appendix A.2c</b> in the FQAS Record Book provides an example of an acceptable Broken Needle Policy. Although a rare occurrence it is important that procedures are in place to prevent the potential for any broken needle remaining in meat purchased by consumers.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask to see the signed broken needle policy. (See page 58 of the FQAS Record Book).</i></p>
<p>2.11</p>	<p><b>A clearly identified secure container must be available for the safe storage of items such as empty medicine containers, out of date medicines, used needles and sharp instruments. These items must be disposed of in accordance with instructions from the supplier.</b></p>	<p>Stockpersons must be familiar with the procedure for the collection and disposal of needles, syringes and waste medicines (<b>Appendix A.2d</b> in the FQAS Record Book). A secure container is any rigid container appropriate for storing farm medical waste. Disposal of medicines down the sink/drain or in the domestic rubbish is not acceptable. This is to ensure that no such materials can enter the food chain e.g. broken needles, or cause suffering to an animal e.g. becoming lodged in animals' feet.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask to see your secure container for safe storage of these items.</i></p>
<p>2.12</p> 	<p><b>The prescribed meat withdrawal periods must be strictly observed for all medicinal products.</b></p> <p><b>Food Chain Information must be provided for animals being presented for slaughter, either directly or through a livestock market (this is a legal requirement).</b></p>	<p>This is to ensure that medicinal residue levels do not compromise food safety. If a participant presents, either direct or through a mart, an animal for slaughter which exceeds the Maximum Residue Limit for an unlicensed/ licensed substance, rules 30/31 will be applied. If for any reason an animal still within the withdrawal period is presented at a market for sale to another farm, the market must be informed.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check the Veterinary Medicine Record and herd/flock books to ensure that withdrawal periods have been recorded and observed.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

2.13



**Complete records must be kept of the purchase, use and disposal (if applicable) of all veterinary medicines. All treatments including vaccinations, worming, anaesthetic, analgesic, antibiotics and anti-parasite control must be recorded for all animals/groups of animals.**

It is a legal requirement to keep Veterinary Medicines Records for farm animals used in food production. The Veterinary Medicine Record must include as a minimum:

Purchase	Use	Disposal
Name of medicine	Name of medicine	(if applicable)
Date purchased	Batch numbers	Date of disposal
Quantity purchased	Identity of animal/group treated	Quantity of product involved
Batch number	Total quantity of medicine used	How and where it was disposed
Expiry date	Date of use	
Details of the supplier	Date treatment finished if different to date used	
	Meat withdrawal period (number of days and date withdrawal ends)	
	Name of person who administered medicine	
	Reason for treatment	


It is good practice to review antibiotic purchases regularly.

*All medicines must be recorded if used either by a stockperson or veterinary surgeon. The inspector will check that the Veterinary Medicines Records are kept in the format given in the Veterinary Medicines Record book (available from the Scheme). The records must be retained for a minimum of five years.*



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<p>2.14</p>	<p><b>All cattle and/or sheep must undergo routine disease testing/ monitoring as required by DAERA including the requirements of The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Eradication (BVD) Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 2016.</b></p> <p><b>It is a requirement that PI cattle are culled as soon as possible after being identified and in accordance with Scheme Rule 37.</b></p>	<p>This is a legal requirement in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Regarding control of BVD, while apparently normal at birth, Persistently Infected (PI) calves usually become ill-thrifty and die before reaching slaughter weight. During this time they remain a source of infection for other cattle. It is a requirement that PI cattle are culled and in accordance with Scheme Rule 37.</p> <p><i>Evidence from DAERA will be taken into account when determining the Farm Quality assured status of animals under movement restriction for disease purposes. If a PI is present in the herd at the time of an inspection the inspector will ask to see that it has been isolated in accordance with legislation.</i></p>
<p>2.15</p> 	<p><b>If horses are present on farm, suitable controls have been put in place to control the potential risks of cross-contamination of Phenylbutazone (Bute) to cattle/sheep.</b></p>	<p><b>Appendix A.2e</b> in the FQAS Record Book – (AFBI Guidance – Use of Phenylbutazone if horses are present on farm) provides information on how to control the risk of cross-contamination if both horses and cattle/sheep are on the farm.</p> <p>Phenylbutazone (Bute) is an unauthorised substance in cattle/sheep.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you to sign page 58 in the FQAS Record Book to indicate that <b>Appendix A.2e</b> has been read, understood and the risks of cross-contamination from Phenylbutazone have been acknowledged. If horses are present on farm and are treated with Phenylbutazone this must be recorded within the Veterinary Medicine Record.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## S.3 ANIMAL NUTRITION



**Summary of section:** All animals must be fed to a standard which ensures good health and well-being. All feedstuffs must comply with relevant, current EU, UK and regional legislation and be stored in good conditions. Consumers are extremely aware of the relationship between animal feed and the meat, particularly beef, they consume. They expect animals to be fed appropriately to ensure they are healthy and the meat is safe. The general principle is that all feeds fed to animals should be from an assured source.

<p><b>3.1</b></p>	<p><b>All stock must receive a daily diet sufficient to maintain full health and vigour, and which is appropriate for their body condition and production status.</b></p>	<p>Grazing should be appropriately managed during the summer months and the adequacy of grazing monitored closely with regards to stocking density. Where possible animals should be naturally grazed for the summer months of the year and fed conserved forage when housed during winter. However, non-grazed production systems (e.g. grass silage beef/barley beef) are also permissible.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check the availability of feed supplies and ask to see a representative number of stock to ensure they are thriving and in good health.</i></p>
<p><b>3.2</b></p>	<p><b>All animals must have access to fresh, clean water at all times.</b></p>	<p>This is especially important at critical times of the year such as periods of lactation and during warm weather.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check water troughs and bowls to ensure that they are well maintained, free from contamination and livestock have a sufficient supply of fresh water.</i></p>
<p><b>3.3</b></p>	<p><b>When grass supplies are low, or when animals are housed, conserved forage or an alternative forage crop should be fed and, according to its quality, appropriately supplemented with other feedstuffs to provide a nutritionally balanced diet.</b></p>	<p>Examples of alternative forage crops are green leaf forage crops and forage root crops. Conserved forage examples are grass silage, maize silage, whole crop silage, hay and haylage.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check the availability of feed supplies and ask to see a representative number of stock to ensure they are thriving and in good health.</i></p>
<p><b>3.4</b></p>	<p><b>When animals are kept on forage crops (green leaf forage crops and forage root crops), they must have access to a suitable run-back area (if ground conditions not suitable).</b></p>	<p>A suitable run back area will help limit the build-up of dung/mud on the fleece or hide of the animal. This is also an animal welfare and hygiene requirement. A suitable run back area may be onto grass, into a woodchip corral or onto a strawed area.</p> <p><i>If animals are kept on forage crops the inspector will check that a suitable run back area or straw has been provided.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules



The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<p>3.5</p> 	<p><b>Diets must contain only products which are permitted by UK and EU law to be fed to livestock. Unlicensed substances must NOT be used. The use of any approved licensed feed additive/medicine must be in accordance with the relevant EU and UK regulation.</b></p>	<p>Diets must not contain any animal products or by products (mammalian, avian or fish) with the exception of fish oils and milk products as required by law. Processed bakery and confectionary products are only permitted if they comply with the following Animal By-Product and TSE Regulations, Commission Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, Commission Regulation (EU) 142/2011 and Regulation (EC) 999/2001. It is illegal to feed rejected human food that contains meat (e.g. sausage rolls), or has been in contact with meat. For a complete list of substances disallowed by the FQAS consult <b>Appendix A.3a</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check your feed records for details of your suppliers of all animal feed materials and will ask to see assurance scheme numbers/ warranty declarations where appropriate.</i></p>
<p>3.6</p> <p>New</p>	<p><b>Adequate feeding space must be available for all livestock.</b></p>	<p>For information on space allowances see <b>Appendix A.5</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will assess livestock to ensure that space allowances are being adhered to.</i></p>
<p>3.7</p>	<p><b>Feedstuffs must not be given to non-target species.</b></p>	<p>For example beef finishing rations, which have a high copper content, can be harmful to sheep.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check to ensure that feedstuffs are only given to target species.</i></p>
<p>3.8</p> 	<p><b>All home mixers of feeding stuffs must be registered with/approved by the relevant authority as required by legislation.</b></p>	<p>This is a legal requirement. Feed mixed on farm must be safe, wholesome and of high quality. All feed must be produced from hygienic, high quality raw materials free from contamination.</p> <p>Registered Home Mixer: Any farmer mixing feed on farm with additives and premixtures (not contained in compound feed) will need to register with DAERA as a category R10 home mixer.</p> <p>Approved Home Mixer: If a farmer intends to use compound feed/feed ration containing pro-vitamins, salts, amino acid enhancers, trace elements, veterinary medicine products etc. they must be approved by DAERA to do so.</p> <p><i>If you mix feedstuffs on farm the inspector will ask you to provide confirmation that you are registered/approved with DAERA.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<p>3.9</p> 	<p><b>All feedstuffs, must be fed in accordance with the Industry Code of Practice for On-Farm Feeding or a Code of Practice which has an agreed equivalent standard, a copy of which must be available to all relevant staff.</b></p> <p><b>Home Mixers-</b> It is a requirement of the Industry Code that home mixers retain a sample of all raw materials used and of the mixed feed every time there is a significant change in formulation. These samples must be retained for four weeks after last use.</p> <p><b>When mobile milling and mixing contractors are used, operatives must be members of the National Association of Agricultural Contractors (NAAC), Assured Land Based Contractor (Mobile Mixing and Processing) Scheme or an agreed equivalent.</b></p>	<p>The Industry Code of Practice is provided in <b>Appendix A.3b</b> in the FQAS Record Book. It is important that all stockpersons are familiar with the guidance in the code on maintaining high safety and quality standards for animal feed. Further information can be obtained from: <a href="https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/farmers-producing-animal-feed">https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/farmers-producing-animal-feed</a>.</p> <p>This applies to the individual feed materials used for home mixing and the mixed feedstuff produced on the farm. It does not apply to moist feed (e.g. brewer's grain, silage, liquid, molasses, fruit and vegetable waste etc.).</p> <p><i>The inspector will check that you comply with the Industry Code with regards to mixing equipment and feed records. (See page 58 of the FQAS Record Book).</i></p> <p><i>If you are a home mixer the inspector will check that you have retained samples.</i></p>
<p>3.10</p> 	<p><b>Home-grown and farm-purchased feed grain or pulses must be certified under the Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured Cereals Scheme or a cereals scheme which has an equivalent Standard.</b></p> <p><b>When feed grain is purchased from another farm, a record must be kept of the assured cereals scheme membership number of the farm from which it was purchased.</b></p> <p><b>When cereal crops are intended for use as conserved forage, assured cereals scheme membership is not required.</b></p>	<p><i>The inspector will check that any home grown or farm purchased feed grain or pulses are from an assured source, and that the assured cereals scheme membership number has been recorded where appropriate.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

3.11



All externally sourced feed materials and crop products/by-products must be sourced from an assured source i.e. from suppliers certified by the AIC Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS), the Feed Materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS), any other scheme which has an agreed equivalent standard, or another assured farm. An exception to the above is in the cases of forage crops and alternative forage crops which must either be sourced from an assured farm or be accompanied by an acceptable warranty declaration if they are sourced from a non-assured farm. Forage crops and alternative forage crops are deemed to be assured if they have been produced on a farm participating in a recognised assurance scheme. Examples of forage crops are grass, grass silage, whole crop silage, forage maize, haylage, and hay. Examples of alternative forage crops are green leaf forage crops and forage root crops.

A warranty declaration is not required for straw.

If crops and crop by-products other than forage crops and alternative forage crops are used as an animal feedstuff in the beef/sheep enterprise (e.g. vegetables from which there may be vegetable waste), the farm from which the feedstuff is sourced must be participating in a recognised assurance scheme.

All other alternative feed materials such as co-products from the biofuels industry e.g. distillers dried grains and solubles (DDGS), rapeseed meal, liquid/moist feeds etc. must come from an assured source.

A list of members of the UFAS Compounder, UFAS Merchant/Distributor and FEMAS schemes can be found on [www.agindustries.org.uk](http://www.agindustries.org.uk).

An acceptable warranty declaration is one that states that the supplier has taken every reasonable precaution to keep the feed material free from contamination and fit for use as an animal feedstuff (see **Appendix A.3c** in the FQAS Record Book for a sample warranty declaration form).

Food by-products from human food/drink manufacturers (e.g. bread, cereal, confectionary, brewers/distillers grains etc.) are permissible for feeding to livestock providing such food material complies with the following Animal By-Product and TSE Regulations, Commission Regulation (EC) 1069/2009, Commission Regulation (EU) 142/2011 and Regulation (EC) 999/2001 and is from an assured source.

Bought In/Home Grown Feedstuff	Sourced From
Compound Feeds	UFAS/FEMAS Approved Source
Food by-products from human food/drink manufacturers	UFAS/FEMAS Approved Source
Distillers grains, Rapeseed, Liquid moist feedstuffs etc.	UFAS/FEMAS Approved Source
Vitamin/Mineral In-Feed Premixes	UFAS/FEMAS Approved Source
Cereals	UFAS/FEMAS Approved Source or Approved Cereals Assurance Scheme Member
Forage crops/alternative forage crops	Approved Assurance Scheme Member* or with an acceptable Warranty Declaration
Straw	No documentation required
Vegetables/vegetable waste	Approved Assurance Scheme Member*



\*A record must be kept of the assurance scheme membership number/s of any assured farm from which feed material is sourced. Examples of recognised assurance schemes are: NIBL FQAS, QMS, FAWL, Red Tractor Farm Assurance, NIFQACS, Soil Association Farm Assurance, and Quality British Turkey.

*The inspector will check your feed records for details of your suppliers of all animal feed materials and will ask to see assurance scheme numbers/ warranty declarations where appropriate.*



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)





<p><b>3.12</b></p> <p><b>Amended</b></p> 	<p><b>All externally sourced manufactured feedstuffs must be sourced from an assured manufacturer and/or merchant.</b></p> <p><b>The manufacturer must be certified under an AIC Universal Feed Assurance (Compounders) Scheme and adhere to the Queen's University of Belfast's Global Institute of Food Security best practice guidelines as outlined in the Food Fortress Scheme or a scheme that has an agreed equivalent standard.</b></p> <p><b>The merchant must be certified under an AIC Universal Feed Assurance (Merchants) Scheme or a scheme that has an agreed equivalent standard.</b></p>	<p>Minerals, blocks, vitamin supplements, liquid supplements, milk replacers may be purchased from hardware stores or agricultural pharmacists who are not certified UFAS Merchants, however the product must be manufactured by a UFAS approved compounder.</p> <p>An up-to-date list of members of the UFAS schemes can be found on the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) website: <a href="http://www.agindustries.org.uk">www.agindustries.org.uk</a> or alternatively individual company membership can be checked with the Scheme Office.</p> <p>More information on the Food Fortress Scheme can be found on the Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association's website: <a href="http://www.nigta.co.uk">www.nigta.co.uk</a>.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check your feed records for details of the manufacturer and product name for each purchased compound feed used.</i></p>
<p><b>3.13</b></p> 	<p><b>Written or documentary records of all feedstuffs purchased must be maintained, kept up to date and retained for three years.</b></p> <p><b>A written declaration that the feed records represent the totality of all externally sourced feedstuffs must be provided.</b></p>	<p>Records may be kept in the form of a Feed Records Book. Should you require a Feed Records Book, one is available from the scheme. The feed records must include date of delivery, the name of the feedstuff, the manufacturer and supplier, the batch or invoice number and the quantity delivered. Where invoices or delivery notes form part of the feed records these must be retained for inspection. Feed records may be kept in the prescribed paper format or on a personal computer, in which case the layout must be the same as the paper format and have a suitable back-up system in place.</p> <p><i>These records must be available for inspection. The inspector will check that you have signed a declaration that all externally sourced feedstuffs have been recorded. See page 58 of the FQAS Record Book for signing.</i></p>





# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<p>3.14</p> 	<p><b>All feed must be handled in accordance with best commercial practice. Machinery used for home mixing, mechanised feeding equipment and lorries/trailers/feed boxes used for transporting feed must be suitable for purpose, be in good working order and maintained in a clean and serviceable condition.</b></p> <p><b>A pest control policy must be implemented to control vermin in areas where livestock and animal feed are kept.</b></p> <p><b>All feed in store must be easily identifiable with all receptacles and bins marked accordingly.</b></p>	<p><i>The inspector will check that machinery and equipment is in clean serviceable condition.</i></p> <p>This refers to contamination by soil, pests, rodents, birds, insects, cats, other domestic animals, other unwanted material and moisture. The pest control policy is necessary to prevent the spread of pest borne diseases. Guidance on pest control within and around feed storage areas is given in <b>Appendix A.3d</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check that all feed is stored in a manner which prevents it being contaminated by soil, pests, rodents, birds, insects, cats, other domestic animals, other unwanted material and moisture.</i></p> <p>Easy identification of feeds is a necessity to avoid cross contamination with other products, and to ensure that the correct feed is fed to stock. This should be demonstrated through clear labelling of feedstuffs and/or feed storage areas.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check bag labels and/or feed storage to ensure that feedstuffs are identified.</i></p>
<p>3.15</p>   	<p><b>Rodent Control and use of Rodenticides must be in line with CRRU guidelines.</b></p>	<p>The Campaign for Responsible Use of Rodenticides (CRRU) has established guidelines on the safe and responsible use of rodenticides. When choosing methods of control of rodents a risk hierarchy should be considered and methods that have the least adverse impact should be employed in the first instance. The risk hierarchy in <b>Appendix A.3d</b> in the FQAS Record Book must be considered before using rodenticides as part of a pest control policy. Detail on ways to avoid rodent infestation can be found at: <a href="https://www.thinkwildlife.org/crru-uk/">https://www.thinkwildlife.org/crru-uk/</a>.</p> <p>Following consideration of the risk hierarchy use of rodenticides may be the appropriate method of rodent control. Prior to using rodenticides the following should be completed. <b>Appendix A.3d</b> in the FQAS Record Book provides details on how to complete each section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Site Survey</li><li>• Environmental Risk Assessment</li><li>• Bait Plan</li><li>• COSHH Assessment (Only applicable if farm business has 5 or more employees, see <b>Appendix A.3d</b> for more detail)</li></ul> <p>Long term baiting with anti-coagulant rodenticides should not be carried out unless there is a high risk of re-infestation and it has been justified in the environmental risk assessment. Every effort should be made to retrieve rodenticide at the end of the treatment.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you to confirm that the relevant surveys, assessments and plans have been completed as part of a vermin control programme and that you have signed page 58 of the FQAS Record Book.</i></p>





# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## S.4 ANIMAL TRACEABILITY- IDENTIFICATION, SOURCING AND RECORDS

**Summary of section:** Systems must be in place to identify animals and record animal movements as required by current EU, UK and regional legislation. Consumers expect all food-producing animals to be fully traceable. Identification and traceability of stock lies at the very heart of the NIBL FQAS. The recognised authority in Northern Ireland is DAERA, which operates the computerised APHIS/ NIFAIS (Animal and Public Health Information System/Northern Ireland Food Animal Information System) traceability system. It is recommended that the sires of calves are recorded in the herd book to allow complete genetic traceability.

<p>4.1</p> <p>Amended</p> 	<p><b>Cattle and sheep must be identified, in accordance with current EU, UK and regional legislation.</b></p>	<p>Refer to DAERA guidance on tagging requirements for cattle and sheep.</p> <p>Double-tag with DAERA-approved ear-tags within the following timescales: All calves born on your holding – within 20 days of birth or before the animal leaves your holding, whichever is earlier (one of the tags being enabled for BVD sampling). Dairy calves - first tag within 36 hours of birth.</p> <p>Lambs must be identified with an EID tag set (EID device and conventional tag) before they reach 9 months of age (or 6 months if normally housed overnight) or before they are moved off the holding, whichever is the earlier.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check a representative number of stock to ensure that they are properly identified and recorded in the herd/flock record as noted in Code 4.2.</i></p>
<p>4.2</p> <p>Amended</p> 	<p><b>Cattle and sheep births, deaths and movements must be notified to the recognised authority and details kept in herd and flock records maintained on-farm, in accordance with current EU, UK and regional legislation. If cattle and sheep are imported they must have lifetime traceability records.</b></p> <p><b>Farm Quality Assured cattle and sheep must be fully traceable. If they are not traceable, then they are not eligible to be farm quality assured in accordance with Rule 34.</b></p>	<p>On-farm movement records must be kept up to date, available for inspection and must be reconcilable with the APHIS/ NIFAIS Herd List/Flock Inventory and the relevant animals ‘on the farm’. Herd and/or flock records may be kept in the prescribed paper format (written herd/flock book), a DAERA approved computer software package, on a personal computer; in which case the layout must be the same as the paper format and have a suitable back-up system in place or via an e-herd register (APHIS/NIFAIS Online).</p> <p><i>Herd and flock records must be made available to the farm inspector who will check that these records are fully completed and up to date.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<b>4.3</b>	<b>Purchased stock (breeding stock, store cattle, calves, store lambs, foster lambs) must be obtained from other assured farms registered in NIBL FQAS, or from farms registered in another recognised Beef and Lamb Farm Assurance Scheme, or ALTERNATIVELY to be eligible for 'FQ' attained status animals must have been resident on an assured farm or farms for the following continuous periods immediately prior to slaughter: for CATTLE 90 days; for SHEEP 60 days.</b>	<p>Other recognised assurance schemes are: Red Tractor Beef and Lamb Farm Assurance Scheme, Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL), Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) and Soil Association Farm Assurance (SAFA).</p> <p>The residency periods can be the cumulative total on more than one quality assured farm. The Farm Quality Assured status of cattle will be verified at point of sale/slaughter on the DAERA APHIS/NIFAIS system. The APHIS/NIFAIS FQ indicator is the only indicator of FQ status that is recognised. APHIS/NIFAIS is programmed to update statuses daily according to information submitted by the Certification Body. Breeding sheep and lambs must be accompanied by producer declarations which confirm Farm Quality Assured status.</p> <p><i>The Farm Quality Assured status of cattle will be verified at point of sale/ slaughter on the DAERA APHIS/NIFAIS system. Breeding sheep and lambs must be accompanied by producer declarations which confirm Farm Quality Assured Status.</i></p>
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Calves less than seven days old, or with an unhealed navel, and orphaned lambs with an unhealed navel, must not be sold at a market. Calves and lambs must also not be sold through a market more than once in any 28-day period up to 56 days of age.</b>	<p><i>The inspector will check your procedure to ensure that these time periods are adhered to.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## S.5 HOUSING AND HANDLING

**Summary of section:** Facilities must be sufficient to provide comfortable and clean housing and be adequate to allow for the safe handling of stock. Consumers expect livestock to be kept in conditions that ensure good health and welfare.

<p><b>5.1</b> <b>Amended</b></p>	<p><b>Animal housing must be constructed in accordance with the DAERA Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock: Beef Cattle and/ or Sheep (Welfare Codes) with regard to space requirements, lying areas, floor surfaces, ventilation, feed and water facilities, animal comfort, and maintained in a good state of repair.</b></p> <p><b>Tethered housing systems are not permitted.</b></p>	<p>Housing must be checked regularly to ensure it is safe and does not have the potential to inflict damage or pain to livestock. Where separate housing for bulls is provided, it must be suitable for its purpose and be situated in an appropriate area to allow social contact. Gates must be secure and windows adequately protected to prevent direct contact by livestock.</p> <p>Definition of tethered housing: a housing practice used throughout the housed period whereby the stock is fed, watered and sleeps within the area defined by the reach of its restraining method.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check livestock housing to ensure it is maintained in accordance with the Welfare Codes.</i></p>
<p><b>5.2</b></p>	<p><b>Materials used for the construction of housing and equipment which animals may come into contact with must be safe to animals, free of sharp objects or protrusions.</b></p>	<p>Accommodation and fittings e.g. feed barriers, doors, troughs, cubicles etc. should be constructed and maintained so that they do not cause injury to livestock.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check that livestock housing is free from sharp objects or protrusions that may cause injury to livestock.</i></p>
<p><b>5.3</b></p>	<p><b>Housing must be of sufficient size to allow appropriate group sizes and stocking densities, which must be determined with regard to age, size and type of stock (e.g. suckler cows, finishing cattle, store cattle, calves).</b></p>	<p>For information on space allowances see <b>Appendix A.5</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will assess housed livestock to ensure that the space allowances and group sizes are being adhered to. Where there is an indication of over stocking, the inspector will measure pen dimensions to determine the space allowance.</i></p>
<p><b>5.4</b></p>	<p><b>A dry lying area must be available for all housed livestock. Floors must be adequately drained, otherwise suitable bedding material must be provided.</b></p>	<p>The use of straw or other suitable bedding material is strongly recommended.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check housed livestock to ensure that they have access to a dry lying area.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

5.5	<p>All floors must be designed, constructed and maintained so as to avoid discomfort, stress or injury to stock. The use of slatted floors must be in accordance with the DAERA Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock: Beef Cattle and/or Sheep (Welfare Codes).</p>	<p><i>The inspector will check floors to ensure they are constructed and maintained to avoid discomfort, stress or injury.</i></p>
5.6 Amended	<p>Solid-floored bedded yards/pens must be available for use at calving/lambing time. Where lactating dairy cows or calving cows are kept in a building, they shall have access at all times to a well-drained and bedded lying area.</p>	<p>Where cows and their calves are group housed, calves should have a separate solid floor and bedded area which the cows are unable to access.</p> <p>Newborn and young lambs should not be put onto totally slatted floors unless suitable bedding is provided.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you about your procedures for indoor calving and lambing to ensure that they are in accordance with the Welfare Codes.</i></p>
5.7	<p>Effective ventilation of buildings must be provided to avoid high humidity, condensation, draughts and dust.</p>	<p>Properly designed ventilation will permit the free circulation of air above stock height and avoid draughts at stock level. It will also avoid levels of air circulation, dust, temperature, humidity and gas concentrations that are harmful to stock. Effective ventilation will also minimise the incidence of respiratory disease.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check that livestock housing is free from condensation, odour and excessive dust levels which are indicators of inadequate ventilation.</i></p>
5.8 Amended	<p>Housing must be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, maintained in a clean condition and must be cleaned between batches.</p>	<p>This applies to all housing including isolation boxes/pens, calving pens and lambing sheds. The level of cleanliness in livestock buildings can have a significant impact on both disease and the cleanliness of housed stock, and therefore on food safety.</p> <p>Cleaning down buildings must take place as soon as is practicable after de-stocking, and before re-stocking with the next batch of animals. In addition, management of the bedding, stocking density, and attention to edges, corners and other muck traps during the time animals are housed is important in maintaining a suitably clean environment. The cleanliness of finished cattle and sheep is particularly important with respect to their acceptability for slaughter for human consumption. The "Clean Livestock Policy" <a href="https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/cleaner-cattle-and-sheep">https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/cleaner-cattle-and-sheep</a> should be followed. Stock must be presented for slaughter in cleanliness categories 1 and 2.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check livestock housing to ensure that it is maintained in a clean condition.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

5.9	<p><b>All units must have access to a suitable well-maintained handling facility for the handling and loading of animals, appropriate for the class of stock being handled and loaded, in order to minimise stress and risk of injury to livestock and staff.</b></p>	<p>Animals should be handled in a quiet but firm, humane and compassionate way at all times. Suitable handling facilities must be fit for the purpose of providing effective restraint with minimum stress and risk of injury to livestock and staff e.g. for cattle a well maintained crush. This will contribute to the avoidance of carcass damage (e.g. bruising).</p> <p><i>The inspector will check stock handling facilities and the cattle crush to ensure that they are well maintained and free from sharp edges that may cause injury to livestock.</i></p>
5.10	<p><b>All electrical installations at mains voltage must be inaccessible to stock and protected.</b></p>	<p>It is recommended that electrical installations in new buildings are installed in accordance with current IEE/IET wiring regulations.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check electricity wires and fittings to ensure that they are well maintained and inaccessible to livestock.</i></p>
5.11	<p><b>All stock buildings must have adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable to ensure that stock can be thoroughly inspected at any time, night or day.</b></p>	<p><i>The inspector will check livestock housing to ensure that adequate lighting is available.</i></p>
5.12	<p><b>Animal waste must be stored and handled in a manner to avoid the spread of disease to animals and humans and allow livestock to be kept clean.</b></p>	<p><i>The inspector will check that slurry/farmyard manure is stored adequately to prevent direct contact with livestock e.g. field middens in a field with grazing animals must be fenced off to avoid animals having direct contact.</i></p>
5.13	<p><b>Only authorised materials may be used as animal bedding. Specifically, the use of treated waste wood products and gypsum are not permitted to be used as animal bedding.</b></p>	<p>The authorisation of bedding materials will be in line with the NIEA Regulatory Position Statement relating to the Environmental Regulation of Wood.</p> <p>The use of waste gypsum, waste plasterboard or recycled gypsum material as animal bedding without a waste authorisation is an offence. NIEA will not authorise the use of these materials until there is clear scientific evidence to demonstrate that they do not pose a risk to animals, humans or the environment from hydrogen sulphide generation.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you to confirm that you do not use these materials in this way.</i></p>






# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## S.6 TRANSPORT

**Summary of section:** Animals must be transported safely and compassionately in accordance with current legislation, and precautions must be taken to minimise animals contaminating each other during transport. Drivers must be aware that under current legislation they are responsible for the welfare of any animal that they transport and as such should respect this. Consumers expect animals to be transported so they do not suffer undue stress and arrive safely.

<p>6.1</p>  	<p><b>All animals must be transported according to current Welfare of Animals During Transport legislation and be accompanied by movement or delivery documentation e.g. MC2 or MS2.</b></p> <p><b>Anyone transporting animals on journeys of over 65km (approx. 40 miles) must hold a valid transporter authorisation and be in possession of a valid Certificate of Competence.</b></p>	<p>This is a legal requirement. Participants must be aware of the requirements of the European Union Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport. Guidance notes on the Welfare of Animals During Transport Regulation are provided in <b>Appendix A.6a</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check that the person involved in transporting livestock has signed and dated the guidance notes (see page 58 in the FQAS Record Book) to indicate that they have read and understood them.</i></p> <p><i>The inspector will also ask to see MC2 and/or MS2 forms and a valid Transporter Authorisation and Certificate of Competence if applicable.</i></p>
<p>6.2</p> 	<p><b>Livestock hauliers contracted by the producer must be approved participants in the Red Tractor Assurance Livestock Transport Scheme or an agreed equivalent.</b></p>	<p>A list of approved participants in the Red Tractor Assurance Livestock Transport Scheme is available on the Red Tractor website.</p> <p>It will be acceptable for a FQAS participant to haul his/her own livestock and the livestock of neighbouring farmers, provided the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The FQAS participant must only transport livestock for other FQAS farmers provided that the named FQAS member haulier has had a trailer/ lorry inspected and approved at their own FQAS inspection. The user of this haulier must be able to provide written confirmation from the FQAS participant they are using.</li> <li>- The livestock must be accompanied by a movement declaration (MC2 or MS2).</li> </ul> <p>If the above conditions are not met, the FQAS participant will require participation in the Red Tractor Assurance Livestock Transport Scheme. If using a Red Tractor Assurance Livestock Transport Scheme haulier, a Red Tractor Assurance Livestock Transport Scheme docket/certificate or evidence of use must be shown at inspection.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you to provide written confirmation in the form of a note/ docket or a transport declaration from your livestock haulier (if applicable). See <b>Appendix A.6b</b> in the FQAS Record Book for a livestock transport declaration template.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

6.3	Farm vehicles used for transporting livestock must be suitable for the species being carried, constructed in accordance with current legislation, and maintained in good, serviceable condition.	<p>This legislation is designed to ensure the safety of animals during loading, transport and unloading and to minimise the risk of injury to personnel. Vehicles used for the transport of animals must have adequate headroom for the animals to stand in a natural position.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask to see your livestock trailer (if applicable) to ensure that it is constructed and maintained in accordance with current legislation.</i></p>
6.4	A roof or waterproof cover which provides protection from the weather must be fitted over the entire area of the livestock compartment.	<p><i>The inspector will check that the roof is waterproof, properly secured to the vehicle and adequately supported to prevent sagging.</i></p>
6.5 Amended	Non-slip flooring, which is free from projections or other hazards likely to cause injury, must be fitted.	<p>The floor of the vehicle must be covered in a suitable bedding material where necessary for example: when transporting calves/lambs.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check the flooring to ensure that it is non slip and free from projections and other hazards likely to cause injury.</i></p>
6.6	Apertures to facilitate inspection during transport must be provided.	<p><i>The inspector will check apertures and footholds to ensure that all areas within the livestock compartment can be inspected from outside the vehicle.</i></p>
6.7	Where ramps are used to facilitate the loading of livestock they must be constructed and maintained in a way to prevent animals slipping and have secure side guards which are free from projections or other hazards likely to cause injury. Ramp angles must not exceed the legal requirements.	<p>The maximum ramp angles for cattle and sheep are given in <b>Appendix A.6a</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check that any ramps used are properly maintained and do not exceed the maximum permitted angles.</i></p>





# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<p>6.8</p>	<p><b>Partitions must be available to allow segregation of unfamiliar groups of animals and/or animals of differing age, size and type. Partition dimensions and pen size must be in accordance with DAERA guidance on the current legislation. Partitions must be available in larger vehicles or trailers to ensure that pen sizes do not exceed 3.7m in length.</b></p>	<p>Horned cattle, different sized animals and animals of different species/ gender must be separated according to the legal requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005. Special care must be taken when transporting young bulls, in order to minimise stress when being transported for slaughter. Partitions should be of sufficient height, depth and strength and should be used as necessary to separate individual or groups of animals.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check partitions to ensure that they are properly maintained and are constructed in accordance with current legislation.</i></p>
<p>6.9</p>	<p><b>Vehicles must comply with the legal minimum ventilation requirements.</b></p>	<p>Ventilation is usually achieved through apertures in the side of the livestock compartments. Sufficient ventilation must be provided for the type, number and size of animals to be transported whether the vehicle is stationary or in motion.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check that ventilation apertures are properly maintained and can be adjusted to account for climatic conditions and the type and number of animals to be transported.</i></p>
<p>6.10</p>	<p><b>Animals must be transported at the stocking densities for animals in transit that are laid down in current legislation. Space allowances must be adjusted according to weather conditions, type of vehicle, the size and category of stock, and the distance intended to be travelled.</b></p>	<p>For details of space allowances see <b>Appendix A.6a</b> in the FQAS Record Book.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you to provide details of the maximum number of stock transported to ensure that stocking densities are adhered to.</i></p>
<p>6.11</p>	<p><b>Vehicles used to transport animals must be cleaned and disinfected (using a DAERA approved disinfectant) regularly and in accordance with current legislation.</b></p>	<p>This is a legal requirement.</p> <p><i>If not in use, on-farm trailers/vehicles must be clean at the time of inspection.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

6.12



**The carriage of a casualty animal must be in accordance with current legislation and is prohibited if disease, abnormality or illness is likely to result in unnecessary suffering during transit. Animals becoming unfit during transit must be delivered as soon as possible to a suitable place for unloading or slaughter. Producers who transport their own stock must be aware of the regulations on the welfare of animals during transport referred to in code 6.1 above.**

EU regulations require that an animal must be fit for the intended journey before the journey starts and must remain sufficiently fit throughout the journey. Animals that are injured, unwell or likely to give birth during the journey should not be transported. Useful guidance can be found at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/welfare-animals-during-transport>.

*The inspector will check that the person involved in transporting livestock has signed and dated the guidance notes to indicate that they have read and understood them. (See page 58 in the FQAS Record Book for signing).*




# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## S.7 ENVIRONMENTAL CARE




**Summary of section:** The producer must adopt a positive attitude towards the countryside by complying with all current environmental legislation and by having systems in place to prevent pollution of the environment and for taking immediate remedial action to resolve any accidental pollution problems that occur. Consumers are increasingly aware of the environment and expect producers, as guardians of the countryside, to ensure that it is cared for in a sustainable way.

<p>7.1</p> 	<p><b>The producer must adopt a positive attitude towards the countryside by complying with current environmental legislation and codes of practice. Producers must be aware of the potential implications their farming practices can have on pollution of water, air and soil. The farm must be kept neat and tidy.</b></p>	<p>One of the core requirements of participants in farm assurance schemes is to demonstrate responsibility for the environment. Producers must adopt practices which include but are not limited to: ensuring hedges are cut at the appropriate times of year, disposing of plastics appropriately, where possible keeping ground free from poaching and controlling noxious weeds. Farm tidiness specifically relates to areas of the farm appearance where it impacts on food safety, animal welfare or environmental protection. Disused machinery/equipment and other hazardous materials must be stored away from stock and ideally away from the farm.</p> <p><i>The farm will be scored by the inspector using the guidelines in General Housekeeping Scores (see <b>Appendix A.7a</b> in the FQAS Record Book). The scoring method will be interpreted only in relation to the potential impacts of untidiness on food safety, animal welfare and environmental pollution. The inspector will also ask that the practices highlighted above are adopted.</i></p>
<p>7.2</p> <p><b>Amended</b></p>	<p><b>The storage and use of animal manure, farm effluents and conserved forage must be in line with current legislation to prevent environmental pollution and ensure human and animal safety.</b></p>	<p>Pollution includes pollution of water, soil, air and wildlife habitats. Slurry pits/lagoons must be adequately protected for human and animal safety. (Refer to LMC guidance “Slurry Storage – Importance of Properly Maintained Slurry Storage Facilities” found at <a href="http://www.lmcni.com">www.lmcni.com</a> and HSE guidance on “Mixing Slurry Safely” <a href="https://www.hseni.gov.uk/publications/slurry-gas-mixing-slurry-safely">https://www.hseni.gov.uk/publications/slurry-gas-mixing-slurry-safely</a>.)</p> <p>The Nutrients Action Programme (NAP) Regulations must be followed: <a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk">www.daera-ni.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check that storage facilities for conserved forage, farm wastes and effluents do not pose any risk to humans, animals or the environment e.g. slurry, farmyard manure, dirty yard water and silage effluent storage.</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

<p>7.3</p> 	<p><b>The producer must obtain authorisation from the appropriate authority to dispose of used sheep dip on land.</b></p> <p><b>The sheep dipping facility must be securely covered in the interest of human and animal safety.</b></p>	<p>Authorisation is available from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) as required by the Groundwater Regulation. Care must be taken to avoid contamination of watercourses. The proper disposal of sheep dip is a legal requirement. The person with primary responsibility for sheep dipping must hold a Certificate of Competence in the safe use and disposal of sheep dips (see also code 2.3). Records of use must be kept (this can be done using the Veterinary Medicines Record).</p> <p>If sheep dipping facilities are on farm they should be in a good state of repair and must be fitted with a sufficiently load bearing cover. Refer to HSE guidance on Sheep Dip: <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais41.pdf">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais41.pdf</a>.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you to explain your procedures for the handling and disposal of used sheep dip. If land spreading of used sheep dip is practiced, the inspector will ask you to provide confirmation of authority from the NI Environment Agency (NIEA). The inspector will also check sheep dipping facilities to ensure they are in good repair and adequately covered.</i></p>
<p>7.4</p> <p>Amended</p> 	<p><b>When fertiliser or farm manures are applied to land, this must be done in accordance with current legislation, and any applications must be in ways which prevent the pollution of waterways, air, soil, and wildlife habitats. Phosphorus fertiliser must only be used where soil analysis shows a crop requirement.</b></p>	<p>Farm manures in this context are those which can be applied to land and include slurry, solid manure, silage effluent, dirty water and other organic wastes.</p> <p>It is recommended that all farms prepare and follow an Application Plan for slurry, manure and farm effluents. The Nutrient Action Programme (NAP) Regulations must be followed.</p> <p>The usage of fertiliser will be closely monitored on all NIBL FQAS farms to ensure avoidance of excessive and indiscriminate use in relation to farm stocking density.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask to see evidence of soil testing if using Phosphorus fertiliser.</i></p>
<p>7.5</p> 	<p><b>The use of human sewage sludge and waste abattoir material (with the exception of manure) is not permitted on grassland and forage crops. An exception to this general prohibition is when materials such as paunch content and Category 3 material have been passed through an anaerobic digester and a safe quality digestate has been produced in compliance with the Quality Protocol for digestate.</b></p> <p><b>The use of composted domestic waste containing meat is not permitted to be used for land spreading or as animal bedding.</b></p>	<p>This is a specific requirement of NIBL FQAS. Sewage sludge and waste abattoir material may be applied to cultivated land. In these cases the spreading of sewage and septic tank sludge on agricultural land is controlled by the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990 and is enforced by NIEA. This legislation applies only to the application of sewage sludge and septic tank sludge to commercial food crops, including those for stock rearing purposes. More information on the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations can be obtained from the NIEA Agricultural Relations Team.</p> <p>Please be aware that pasture land cannot be used for livestock grazing, or harvested for forage, within three weeks of applying digestate or compost that is derived from animal by-products.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you to sign a declaration stating that you do not use these materials in the disallowed way. (See page 58 in the FQAS Record Book for signing).</i></p>



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

7.6



**Agrochemicals must be stored, applied and disposed of in a manner that prevents contamination and pollution.**

**Application of PPP's must only be undertaken by competent operators. Operators must hold the relevant Certificate of Competence. Application must be made in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.**

**Application records of PPP's must be kept for a minimum of 3 years.**

Agrochemicals include but are not limited to: Plant Protection Products (PPP's), inorganic fertilisers, sheep dip, agricultural fuel oil, empty containers, disinfectants, rodenticides and other chemicals.

Producers must use approved PPP's. PPP's include: pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, molluscicides.

If agrochemicals are to be stored they must be done so in a safe and secure manner to prevent contamination or unauthorised use. Fuel tanks will be banded in line with SSAFO regulations and are sited 10m from a watercourse. Emergency facilities must be in place for dealing with spillages e.g. sand/ absorbent granules.

*The inspector will check that the agrochemicals store is maintained and fit for purpose. The inspector will check that PPP's are kept in their original packaging, or if packaging is broken they are transferred to a suitable container with a fitted lid/ cap and display original label information.*

Agrochemicals must be disposed of via manufacturers' recommendations/ licenced waste carrier/licenced waste disposal site.

From 26th November 2015 all operators who apply PPP's must be in possession of an accredited certificate of competence. "Grandfather Rights" are no longer valid. Operators includes any staff applying PPP's or contractors.

*The inspector will ask to see Certificate of Competence for the operator.*

See **Appendix A.7b** in the FQAS Record Book for PPP spraying record template. Records must be maintained for all spraying whether applied by producer or contractor. Records must include as a minimum:


- Date of Application
- Name of Operator
- Site of Application
- Crop Treated
- Reason for Treatment
- Product Used
- Application Rate/Quantity Used
- Weather Conditions
- Start & Finish Times (Optional)
- Other Information e.g. periods when crops should not be harvested (Optional)

*The inspector will ask to see PPP spraying records.*



# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

	<p><b>All PPP application equipment, except for knapsack and handheld sprayers must have been tested before they can be used or within 5 years of purchase.</b></p>	<p>Testing certificates/records must be retained from the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS). Subsequent testing requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Every 5 years from 26 November 2016 and every 3 years from 26 November 2020 for boom sprayers, air assisted broadcast sprayers and sprayers attached to aircraft.</li><li>• Every 6 years from 26 November 2016 for boom sprayers less than 3m wide, foggers, misters, batch dippers and applications for granular.</li></ul> <p><i>The inspector will ask the age of the sprayer and the evidence of a test certificate (if required).</i></p> <p>PPP's must be used in accordance with the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products.</p>
<p>7.7</p> <p>Amended</p> 	<p><b>Fallen stock must be disposed of in accordance with current legislation and promptly removed. Records of deaths and disposals must be kept.</b></p>	<p>Records must include the identity of deceased animals, the dates of death and disposal and the method of disposal.</p> <p><i>The inspector will check your herd and flock record books to see if deaths and disposals are recorded.</i></p>






# Standard & Rules

The Product Standard and Rules of the Northern Ireland  
Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (APRIL 2022)

## S.8 FARM PROCEDURES

**Summary of section:** Consumers expect producers to take a responsible approach towards safety and security on the farm. The farm must have procedures in place to ensure that correct action is taken in the event of an emergency and following the receipt of written complaints.

<p>8.1</p> 	<p><b>The person(s) with primary responsibility for the daily running of the farm must ensure that all farm staff are familiar with the appropriate emergency action for dealing with emergencies such as fire, flood and disruption of supplies.</b></p>	<p>The provision of emergency contingency plans is incorporated in the Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Livestock. A sample Emergency Plan can be found in <b>Appendix A.8a</b> in the FQAS Record Book and it is recommended that it is displayed in one or more locations around farm as appropriate e.g. in workshop, beside medicine cabinet, in cattle house etc.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you about your procedures for dealing with emergencies (written plan) to ensure that they are in accordance with the Welfare Codes.</i></p>
<p>8.2</p> 	<p><b>A record of any written complaints received by the farm relating to the beef and sheep enterprise must be kept together with details of actions taken to resolve the problem and prevent reoccurrence.</b></p>	<p>Relevant complaints are those that express dissatisfaction in writing on a subject that is within the scope of these beef and lamb standards e.g. a complaint from an abattoir about the dirtiness of stock. Records need to be maintained in an easily accessible manner and in a manner that demonstrates evidence of any remedial action that has been taken to address the complaint.</p> <p><i>A means of recording complaints should be in place even if no complaints have been made. See <b>Appendix A.8b</b> in the FQAS Record Book for an example complaints record form.</i></p>
<p>8.3</p> 	<p><b>The producer will understand the need to ensure that all avoidable hazards (for both livestock and humans) are eliminated.</b></p>	<p><b>Appendix A.8c</b> in the FQAS Record Book outlines the areas within the FQAS Standard that consider these Farm Safety elements.</p> <p><i>The inspector will ask you to sign <b>Appendix A.8c</b> to indicate that it has been read, understood and that Farm Safety has been considered.</i></p>



**c/o Livestock & Meat Commission for Northern Ireland**

Lissue Industrial Estate (East)  
1A Lissue Walk  
Lisburn  
BT28 2LU

**T:** 028 9263 3000 / 9263 3024

**F:** 028 9263 3001

**E:** [fqas@lmcni.com](mailto:fqas@lmcni.com)

**W:** [www.lmcni.com](http://www.lmcni.com)