



Red Tractor Assurance

AUGUST 2019

CHANGES TO DAIRY STANDARDS VERSION 4.1 - OCTOBER 2019.

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

What has changed

The standard has been amended to say that the health plan must be written and updated in conjunction with the vet.

definition = ‘written in conjunction with the vet’ the vet signs and dates the health plan to say they are in agreement with the detail contained in document in respect of it being relevant to the farm and they have discussed the various elements with the member.

The elements that the plan must contain has been moved from the appendix into the main text – for ease of having detail in one place, while the detail behind these elements has been expanded in the appendix to give guidance on detail to be covered.

Farm policies/protocols on calving procedures, lameness management, pain relief and use of shackles have been added to the required elements of the health plan.

Timelines – if the annual review has been **completed** and **signed** in the **12 months prior to 1st Oct 2019 (1st Oct 2018 – 30th Sept 2019)** then the requirement to have these additional elements within the health plan would need to be addressed by the next review date.

NEW wording for health plan standard:

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AH.a A Livestock Health Plan, written and updated in conjunction with the vet to proactively manage and improve health and welfare of livestock must be established and implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan makes reference to those responsible for livestock and other relevant persons e.g. nutritionist, foot trimmer • The plan is farm specific and available to all who look after livestock • The plan includes elements prescribed in the Appendix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biosecurity policy ○ Infectious disease and vaccination ○ Parasite control ○ Foot care and lameness management ○ Mastitis ○ Metabolic disorders 	Health Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management of drying off ○ Calving procedures ○ Young animal management ○ Husbandry procedures ○ Identifying treated animals ○ Pain relief procedures ○ Dealing with TB reactors ○ Downer cows ○ Protocol for use of shackles/hobbles ○ Euthanasia ● Health plan covers management of beef cattle and where applicable sheep ● The plan is updated as and when changes occur 	
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NEW wording for health plan appendix:

Management Topic	What the plan must detail/explain	Examples to consider
Biosecurity policy	<p>Actions taken to reduce biosecurity risks to your farm</p> <p>Isolation and quarantine procedures for incoming stock</p> <p>Biosecurity risks from animals in neighbouring fields</p>	e.g. managing incoming stock, disease transmission from animal to animal within the holding, equipment, people, vehicles, risks from watercourses
Infectious disease and vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Johne’s Control Strategy (signed by BCVA accredited vet) ● BVD eradication plan ● For disease risks relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Herd status ○ Vaccines used and vaccine timings 	e.g. Johne’s, Lepto, BVD, IBR, TB, clostridial disease, neospora, Blue Tongue
Parasite control	<p>For parasite risks relevant to the farm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Products used and timing 	e.g. fluke, lungworm, worms, lice, flies
Foot care & lameness management	<p>Lameness management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● mobility scoring protocol ● Foot trimming protocol ● Footbathing protocol <p>For foot problems relevant to the farm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Details of the person responsible for treating ● When and how the problem is treated – controls/treatments and products used 	e.g. digital dermatitis, sole ulcers, foul, white line disease

Mastitis	For routine prevention measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The measures taken and products used Milking routine protocol For the treatment of clinical cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures taken, products used and withdrawal periods 	e.g. Mastitis Control Plan, AHDB Dairy Mastitis Pattern Analysis Tool
Metabolic disorders	For metabolic disorders relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventative measures How clinical cases are treated including products used 	e.g. staggers, milk fever, ketosis, displaced abomasums
Management of drying off	Dry Cow Therapy protocol The drying off procedure – measures taken, products used and withdrawal periods	e.g. Selective Dry Cow Therapy, threshold SCC details for animals on SDCT
Calving procedures	Protocol for use of calving aids, including cleansing and disinfection Management of cow/calf separation Disease control at calving (e.g. Johne’s)	
Young animal management	The measures taken to ensure all newborns receive adequate colostrum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person(s) responsible and training received Quantity, quality and timing of first feed 	
Husbandry procedures	For husbandry procedures relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The person responsible Methods and age of animal Anaesthetic/analgesia product used	e.g. disbudding, dehorning, castration, removal of supernumerary teats, freeze branding
Identifying treated animals	A written policy detailing how livestock are identified to manage withdrawal periods and their treatment	
Pain relief procedures	A written policy detailing when pain relief should be provided, the person responsible and the products used	e.g. difficult calving, disbudding, lameness treatments
Dealing with TB reactors	A written policy for dealing with TB reactors within the herd and their milk, including actions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate and identify reactors Ensure reactor milk doesn’t enter the bulk tank and is not fed to calves Inform milk buyer(s) 	The policy should make reference to information from the TB Advisory Service as appropriate
Downer cows	Actions taken with downer cows	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When vet should be notified • When euthanasia decision should be made 	
Protocol for use of shackles/hobbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When shackles/hobbles are used • How they are used and for how long • When vet should be notified of their use • Details to be recorded – including date applied and reason 	
Euthanasia	<p>A written policy outlining how euthanasia is undertaken on-farm, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal type • Methods used • Name of competent person who undertakes it 	

Additions:

- More detail on biosecurity risks to be considered
- Strategies/engagement in endemic disease control
- Lameness management – such as mobility scoring, trimming and footbathing protocols
- Dry cow protocols – drying off procedure and when selective treatment may be used
- Calving procedures – use of aids and hygiene considerations
- Colostrum policy in the youngstock management
- Pain relief detail for procedures such as disbudding, foot trimmer and assisted calvings
- Downer cow decisions and what detail is needed to aid with these decisions
- Use of shackles/hobbles, when used. where you would record date applied, when the vet should be informed that an animal has them on etc

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AH.c.2 Johne's disease must be managed through the implementation of the National Johne's Management Plan*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appropriate strategy is identified through a discussion with a BCVA Accredited Johne's Veterinary Advisor* taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current prevalence of Johne's on the farm • Biosecurity risk associated with the farm (eg buying in of stock) • Biocontainment risk associated with the farm (eg risk of spread within the holding) • Resources (capital and human) • Aspiration of the farm (eg desire to eradicate Johne's completely or simply contain the disease at manageable levels) 	Current NJMP* Declaration Test results

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Johne's Management Plan Declaration* completed and signed by BCVA Accredited Johne's Veterinary Advisor* National Johne's Management Plan or equivalent scheme implemented as available (NJMP currently operational in Great Britain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farms operating in Northern Ireland will have until Oct 2020 to comply with this standard, to ensure access to all of the required elements <p>* Or devolved scheme which has been recognised as equivalent</p>	
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What needs to be available on farm:

A copy of the annual declaration signed by an accredited vet under the appropriate scheme. Test results/cow status will aid with demonstrating compliance with the other new standard on colostrum/milk from Johnes positive cows.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AH.c.3 BVD must be managed through a BVD eradication programme designed in conjunction with the farm vet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradication programme may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in national scheme (BVDFree England, the Scottish BVD Eradication Scheme, the Welsh BVD Eradication Programme or Northern Ireland BVD Eradication Programme) Membership of CHeCS accredited scheme 	BVD eradication plan recorded in health plan Test results

What needs to be available on farm:

Details with health plan on what the farm's eradication programme is and examples on how this is being achieved, example being test results for individual animals, vaccination records (within medicine records) or member detail for a plan. Those in a devolved national scheme will need to demonstrate that you are working in line with the requirements i.e. status reports for herd/animals.

ANIMAL MEDICINE AND HUSBANDRY PROCEDURES

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AM.f.2 An annual review of antibiotics used must be undertaken by the vet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vet review to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include review of medicines and antibiotic purchase and use, including antibiotic collation Includes recommendations for responsible reduction of antibiotic use where possible, in particular in relation to HP-CIAs 	Vet antibiotic review

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes review of any cascade or off-label use and make recommendations for alternative disease prevention strategies • Includes review of any antibiotic failures • Review preventative treatment and make recommendations for alternative disease prevention strategies • Review overall use of dry cow therapy and protocols and where appropriate make recommendations for selective antibiotic use • Review can form part of the Vet Health and Performance Review 	
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What has changed

The annual review now needs to include review of any cascade/off-label use of medicines along with discussions on any preventative treatments undertaken and if this is the most appropriate action.

Timelines – if the annual review has been **completed** and **signed** in the **12 months prior to 1st Oct 2019 (1st Oct 2018 – 30th Sept 2019)** then the requirement to have these additional elements within the health and performance review would need to be addressed at the next review date.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AM.f Records for all medicines administered must be kept for 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatments including vaccinations, anaesthetic, antibiotics, teat sealant and anti-parasitic control are recorded • Medicine administration records include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity of medicine • Quantity of medicine administered • Batch number(s) or bottle number linked back to purchase records • Identification of the animal or group of animals to which administered • Number of animals treated • Date of administration • Date treatment finished • Length of withdrawal period for meat and milk • Date when animal(s)/milk becomes fit for human consumption • Name of person administering medicine • Reason for treatment 	Medicine administration records

What has changed:

The use of teat sealants must be recorded in the medicine records for the farm.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AM.i Husbandry procedures are carried out by competent persons in accordance with scheme requirements and only when necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husbandry procedures are carried out in accordance with the Appendix including the specified timeframes for methods and anaesthetic requirements • Dewlap tags are not permitted • Cauterising paste is only used on animals less than 1 week of age and the calf must receive pain relief. 	Medicine records showing pain relief administered

What has changed:

There is a requirement that pain relief is used when cauterising paste is the chosen method for disbudding.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AM.b.1 At least one person, who is responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training and holds a certificate of competence/attendance from training undertaken since October 2016	<p>Training courses cover at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine types • Medicine handling • Administration • Medicine storage • Recording requirements • Avoiding residues <p>Training courses include but are not limited to City and Guilds, NOAH/Lantra Antimicrobial Best Practice, MilkSure, veterinary led training courses.</p>	Certificate of competence/attendance

What has changed:

The recommendation has now become a full standard. It is applicable to all whether the site employs staff or not.

The training must have been undertaken (and a certificate be available) dated after **1st Oct 2016**. The elements the course must cover, for any courses undertaken after **1st Oct 2019** are listed in the how you will be measured section of the standards. Red Tractor are working with training providers to ensure the courses they offer cover the required elements.

YOUNGSTOCK

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
CR.b.3 Colostrum or milk from known Johne's positive cows must not be fed to dairy or beef breeding stock	<p>Detail contained within colostrum policy in herd health plan.</p> <p>ID for known Johne's positive animals recorded and available.</p> <p>Alternative provision detailed in health plan e.g. frozen colostrum from clean cows/bagged/powdered colostrum</p>	

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
<p>DP.b</p> <p>A documented plan for the effective management of serious incidents and potential emergency situations that threaten the welfare of livestock, food safety or the environment must be in place and displayed in a position available to all those involved in farm tasks</p>	<p>You have considered the risks to your farm and documented the actions to be taken in the event of, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed and/or water equipment failure • Power cuts, milk cooling/milking equipment failure • Extreme weather (drought, flood, snow) • Disease outbreaks which have potential to affect other farms/the general public • Reporting activist activity (to police, relevant trade body, your certification body, milk buyer) • Pollution incident • Loss of assurance status <p>Plan includes relevant contact details (including out of hours phone numbers) eg vet, electricity supplier, water supplier, milk buyer, Environment Agency (or equivalent)</p> <p>Details must be noted on how situation would be dealt with if person with primary responsibility for stock is unavailable for any period.</p> <p>Plan is accessible and known to all those involved with tasks on the farm</p>	<p>Emergency/Contingency plan</p>

What has changed:

The standard now requires that the plan is displayed in a position available to those involved in farm tasks.

The detail in the plan has been amended to include more potential situations including loss of power, loss of assurance status and situations where the person with primary responsibility is unavailable for any period.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
<p>DP.c.1</p> <p>The prescribing vet must be informed of each antibiotic failure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribing vet informed within 1 week of the farmer being made aware of the failure • Prescribing vet reviews medicine use and makes recommendations to prevent the issue happening again • Vet review recorded in the complaints record 	<p>Failure and vet review recorded in the complaints record</p> <p>Vet review completed</p>

What has changed:

The vet must be informed of each antibiotic failure rather than the previous standard when it was two in a 12-month period.

MILK PRODUCTION

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
MP.i.1 Key Equipment in the parlour must be clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment visually clean: internally and external • Applies to parlour ducts, jars, clusters and pipework • Detailed parlour plant cleaning protocol available and on display, including stages of wash and final rinse, products used, water temperature and checks undertaken (frequency). If auto wash used stages should be detailed along with frequency of checks undertaken. 	Parlour plant cleaning protocol

What has changed:

There is an additional measure under the standard in relation to a detailed parlour plant cleaning protocol being available and on display. This refers to the wash cycle for the interior elements of the parlour not parlour washdown.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Standard	Suggestion
SC.c.1 It is recommended that at least one person per site is a member of a scheme that records skills/development /training	Revise Wording amending all businesses are covered by the recommendation not just those who employ staff

What has changed:

The wording now makes it clear that that this recommendation is relevant to all members not just those who employ staff.

The following recommendations have been removed from the standards:

MP.m It is recommended that a standby generator is available in the event of a power failure
FW.a.1.1 It is recommended that that colostrum is received within two hours of birth
FW.a.1.2 It is recommended that calves are given 10% of body weight or three litres as first feed
AH.e.1 It is recommended that mobility scoring is conducted on the whole milking herd at least every six months
MP.g.1 It is recommended that milk storage tanks have a means of informing of milk temperature change