|  |
| --- |
| Soil Association Certification – Livestock management plan template for Dairy (cows, goats and sheep)  |
| Before any livestock enterprises can be added to your licence, it is a requirement that you produce a livestock management plan as per standard 1.4.1 and 3.4.1 which must be approved by your certification officer. This plan must be made available to, and preferably drawn up in conjunction with your stock person and vet. It is a requirement for this plan to be available at your inspection, so you should keep an up to date copy on file. The plan must be dynamic and always reflective of the current management of your livestock, as such your plan should be regularly reviewed and updated as your management changes, in addition Soil Association may request revisions to address specific issues. You may complete this template or produce your own document covering the points below. For farms certified under additional assurance/ certification schemes you may submit your animal health plan or equivalent as a supporting document.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Plan completed by  |       |
| Date reviewed  |       |
| Farm name |       |
| License Number  |       |
| Veterinary practice and contact details  |       |
|  |  |

 |
| Introduction  |
| Farm size  |  |
| Enterprises for example milk, dairy heifers, calves, goat milk, ect. |       |
| Current livestock numbers  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cows  | Quantity | Milking Goats | Quantity | Milking Ewes  | Quantity |
| Dairy cows after first calf  |       | Milking goats after first kid  |       | Milking ewes after first lambing  |       |
| Bulls for breeding  |       | Bucks for breeding  |       | Rams for breeding  |       |

 |
| Planned future livestock numbers | I intend to maintain current livestock numbers [ ] Or Date of achieving planned future livestock numbers below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cows  | Quantity | Milking Goats | Quantity | Milking Ewes  | Quantity |
| Dairy cows after first calf  |       | Milking goats after first kid  |       | Milking ewes after first lambing  |       |
| Bulls for breeding  |       | Bucks for breeding  |       | Rams for breeding  |       |

 |
| Stockperson responsible for livestock.  |       |
| Time of calving/ lambing/ kidding.  |       |
| Daily stockperson routines  |       |
| Before you market or sell any products as organic you must have an organic certificate and accompanying trading schedule which lists the enterprise as organic. New enterprises must be inspected before they can be added to your licence. For more information please contact your certification officer.  |
| If land does not yet have organic status answer the two questions below: |
| When will the land utilised by your livestock reach 2nd year in-conversion and organic status? |       |
| When do you plan to start the conversion of the livestock? |       |
| Indicate the date you intend to start selling each product produced by your livestock as organic (organic milk/ breeding stock/ finished stock). |       |
| Have you applied for simultaneous conversion  | Yes/no  |
| Housing  |
| *You do not have to provide housing for your livestock if the climate, soil type and shelter provision on your holding is suitable for animals to live outdoors. However, if your livestock are housed for any period please answer this section.*  |
| Detail the dimensions of all buildings that will be used for housing your livestock, the groups that will be housed within them and the maximum number of animals in each building. This could be done with a diagram of the buildings which should also show feeding (include length of feed face available) and water facilities within each building. Identify key elements of livestock flow where possible e.g. escape routes for subordinate cows, access to water. | I have submitted a diagram of housing: [ ]       |
| *Guidance on the minimum space requirements for different categories of livestock can be found in* [*section 3.8.7.*](https://www.soilassociation.org/media/15931/farming-and-growing-standards.pdf) *of the Soil Association Standards* |
| Detail the type of bedding that is used and how it is managed.  |       |
| How are the buildings ventilated? |       |
| Give details of the reasons for housing livestock and the length of a normal housing period. |       |
| *You may only use the products listed in 1.12.2 for the cleaning and disinfection of livestock buildings and equipment.* |
| List all products you use to clean livestock housing, including the brand name and active ingredient of each product. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Brand Name**  | **Active Ingredient**  |
|       |       |
|       |       |
|       |       |
|       |       |

 |
| What is your routine for cleaning housing and equipment used by your livestock? Include detail on the frequency, timing and method. |       |
| **Biosecurity** |
| Detail the biosecurity measures that you have in place for livestock brought in from other units. This should include isolation for an appropriate quarantine period, testing, purchase strategy, veterinary treatment. |       |
| Detail additional biosecurity measures in place on your farm. This is likely to include measures such as double fencing, boot dips and controlling movement.  |       |
| *As part of a wider TB eradication strategy, Defra have put together a 5 point plan which you can you use as guidance.**The five points are as follows:*1. *Restrict contact between badgers and cattle.*
2. *Manage cattle feed and water.*
3. *Stop infected cattle entering the herd.*
4. *Reduce risk from neighbouring herds.*
5. *Minimise infection from cattle manure.*

*You can find out more at* [*www.tbhub.co.uk*](http://www.tbhub.co.uk)*They also offer a free TB advisory service (TBAS) with the option of having a face to face consultation visit to your farm.* |
| Provide additional details of your biosecurity in relation to TB specifically e.g. strategies to minimise badger contact and manure management. \*Only required to be completed for dairy cows.  |       |
| For more information on suitable biosecurity measures refer to the [government website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/controlling-disease-in-farm-animals). |
|  |
|  |
| **Breed Selection**  |
| Detail the breed(s) you have on farm. |       |
| Describe how the breed(s) that you have selected are appropriate for management within an organic system and meet the following criteria:* Suitable to local conditions.
* Avoids the requirement for mutilations.
* Have vitality and resistance to disease or disorder (e.g. dystocia).
* Can maintain condition at peak lactation.
* Sustainable yield on organic diet
 |       |
| **Feeding**  |
| *Answer below with details of the proposed rations that you will feed for each group of livestock (including youngstock) that is fed differently. If applicable, distinguish between feed fed during the conversion period and once the stock are being fed to full organic standards.* |
| Type of feed (include types of forage, straights or bought in complete rations) and whether organic/in-conversion or non-organic.  |       |
| Concentrates fed (to include the type of concentrates fed and maximum quantities fed per head/day). |       |
| How do you monitor and maintain a diet appropriate to your livestocks needs throughout the year? |       |
| *You should have a plan in place to provide an organic source of colostrum to youngstock. In an emergency you may feed non-organic milk replacer/ powder for up to 72 hours, however, if you feed them non-organic milk replacer/ powder for any longer, they will lose their organic status.* |
| How will you feed youngstock which cannot access maternal colostrum and/ or milk? Provide details of type and quantity of milk provided, how it is fed and how often |       |
|  |  |
|  |
| Detail in the table below any mineral/trace element supplements that you intend to use. Please note that once the livestock are being fed to full organic standards the use of these supplements must be justified (e.g. by forage or soil analysis showing that your home-grown feeds are deficient, or with blood or tissue analysis, or details of previously identified deficiencies in your stock.) You may only use the products and substances listed in 3.10.14.For products containing non-organic herbs, spices or molasses please state the quantity in the product, number of days they it will be utilised and the estimated daily intake per animal. Any other agricultural ingredient within a mineral or feed supplement must be organic.If you are unsure if a feed supplement is permissible for use in organics, please contact your Certification Officer. |
|

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Product Name**  | **Ingredients and their organic status.** | **Livestock group**  | **Justification for use**  |
| *(Example) Garlic bucket.*  | *Non-organic garlic 3%**Non-organic molasses 10%**Organic Maize*  | *Heifers* | *Bucket will be utilised for 90 days of the year and available for all Heifers. This bucket acts as a fly replant.* |
|       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |

 |
| **Animal Health Plan**  |
| *The animal health plan is fundamental to your organic management. It must identify all potential risks and problems and put in place a framework to ensure that livestock health is maintained/improved, and the use of veterinary medicines is minimised. It is highly advisable to develop this plan in consultation with your vet. This plan should be reviewed on an annual basis to assess where any improvements can be made.* |
| Identify any preventative husbandry techniques that will be employed to reduce the incidence of the common health problems listed below. Preventative methods may include the following, clean grazing strategy, stocking rates, hygiene, optimising nutrition… etc. *(note that mastitis will be addressed in a latter section of this plan)* |
| Endoparasites (internal worms, liver fluke etc) |       |
| Ectoparasites (flies, mange, lice etc) |       |
| Lameness (e.g. regularity of mobility scoring, associated diseases and treatments, foot trimming, provision of rubber matting, foot hygiene etc) |       |
| Fertility/reproductive disorders  |       |
| Johnes (include detail on sanitation management (calving pens, calf housing)* Calf milk feeding programme (colostrum management, pasteurisation, milk replacer)
* Testing for Johnes programme
* Breeding Strategy

\*Only required to be completed for dairy cattle |       |
| Calf Health – pneumonia\*Only required to be completed for dairy cattle |       |
| Scour |       |
| Mineral deficiencies  |       |
| Detail any additional persistent health problems or causes of mortality which occur on your farm.  |       |
|  |  |
| **Mastitis Control** As part of your overall health plan for your dairy livestock, you must detail the strategies you will use to control mastitis within your dairy livestock. |
| Details of known mastitis causing bacteria present on farm and the most appropriate treatments for them. |       |
| How you monitor and record cell count information. |       |
| How you monitor treatment success. |       |
| Your parlour routine (e.g. fore-milking, pre & post dipping & wiping/spraying, cluster cleaning, grouping of animals) |       |
| How you manage sub-clinical/clinical mastitis in lactation:* Detection (filters, visual signs, CMT)
* How you manage livestock being treated with antibiotics/anti-inflammatories/complimentary therapy
* And the trigger levels for those treatments (SCC, raised temperature detection or otherwise)
 |       |
| Maintenance of the parlour and milking equipment (i.e. liner changes, vacuum checks, other general) |       |
| Details of bedding/housing management to combat mastitis. |       |
| Your drying off management (targeted individual animals based on persistently high SCC or previous cases of mastitis in lactation, and relevant treatments & bacteriology testing) & drying off routine (milking frequency & cleanliness, teat sealant used, approach to dry cow therapy). |       |
| Your breeding strategy for replacements with respect to mastitis. |       |
| Identify all veterinary treatments that you are likely to use on a routine/regular basis. Please include details of any vaccination, phytotherapeutic and homeopathic products. Please note any chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics must be used under the responsibility of your vet [standard 3.4.3.](https://www.soilassociation.org/media/15931/farming-and-growing-standards.pdf) **You must not use chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicines or antibiotics for preventative treatment in the absence of illness or surgical intervention.** |
|

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Veterinary Medicine Product**  | **Livestock Group**  | **Disease**  | **How incidence disease is monitored**  | **Threshold for use** |
| *(Example) Ubrolexin* | *Milking cows* | *Mastitis* | *SCC and physical symptoms, vet intervention* | *Elevated SCC or clots/other symptoms* |
|       |       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |       |

 |
| For any treatments that are used against endo and ecto parasites such as worms and fluke. Please detail what measures are taken to prevent resistance to the treatments (e.g. rotation of products). Provide details of any efficacy testing conducted on farm (e.g. post dosing FEC’s). |       |
| Detail how welfare of the livestock is assessed and how often stock are visually checked.  |       |
| What quarantine measures are taken for any sick livestock. |       |
| Outline your strategy for youngstock management including; colostrum management, weaning age, type of housing/group size, health management, method and age of castration, tail docking and disbudding(if applicable) and pain relief administered.Please also include any management practices employed to develop youngstock immunity. For example: weaning age, grazing practices, selection for breeding, etc. |       |
|  |  |
| **Transport and slaughter**  |
| Please detail the maximum duration you will transport livestock when entering and leaving your site.  |       |
| Detail the site of slaughter of your livestock.  |       |
| Detail the method of euthanasia for young stock and adult stock. Name the person(s) who will carry it out.  |       |
| **Record Keeping**Record keeping is essential to effective management and forms a critical part of your organic registration. You will be expected to keep the records detailed in [section 1.7](https://www.soilassociation.org/media/15931/farming-and-growing-standards.pdf) of the standards. This includes records of bought in feeds, livestock movements, mortality records (planned/ unplanned culls, scanning percentage and rearing percentage) and veterinary treatments (including withdrawal periods) along with your field and crop records. The relevant invoices must also be kept.You will also need to demonstrate through your records that individual livestock rations have complied with the standards both on a daily and annual basis.Records can be kept in your own format (either computerised or on paper) as long as all the information required is provided. Example record keeping sheets are available on the [Soil Association website.](https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/farming/licensee-resources/producer-record-keeping-sheets/) |
|  |
| **Useful Resources** * Farm Health Online: <https://www.farmhealthonline.com/>
* SCOPS (Sustainable control of parasites): <https://www.scops.org.uk/>
* AssureWel: <http://www.assurewel.org/index.html>
* Government Website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/controlling-disease-in-farm-animals>
* AHDB Dairy: <https://dairy.ahdb.org.uk/>
* Soil Association technical guides: <https://www.soilassociation.org/farmers-growers/technicalinformation/>
* Noah Compendium: <http://www.noahcompendium.co.uk/>
* Withdrawal factsheet: <https://www.soilassociation.org/media/18493/organic-withdrawal-factsheet-2019.pdf>

Thank you for taking the time to complete this plan, please return this to the producer certification team at cert@soilassoication.org or post it to Soil Association Certification Limited, Spear house, 51 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AD.**Additional Notes:**       |