



## Guidance note – Livestock Management & Animal Health Plan

These guidance notes have been designed to indicate the type of information you need to provide on an animal health plan in case you have not yet got a written one or for if you are introducing an animal enterprise on your farm or holding. However, there is no set format and for some farms not all the categories detailed below will be relevant. See BDA Organic Production Standards- 15.4.3 Livestock Management and Animal Health Plan.

Before any livestock enterprises can be added to your license, we need to have a livestock conversion/management plan on file. This helps us to check that your plans will comply with the standards. The plan should be made available to, and preferably drawn up in conjunction with your stock person and/or vet.

**You need to submit the “Livestock Management & Animal Health Plan” at the start of the conversion period, or when you start up any new livestock enterprise.**

This needs to be updated each year and will be checked at your inspection each year, so you should keep an up to date copy on file. New enterprises also need to be inspected before they can be added to your licence.

**You can use the following headings to produce your Livestock Management & Animal Health Plan.**

### Introduction

- Farm size, enterprises, current and planned future livestock numbers and breeds.
- Conversion timetable. Please include land conversion dates.

### Housing

- Housing dimensions and stocking density in each building. A plan view diagram of the housing, including dimensions and stocking densities is a simple format to show this information.
- Type of bedding, details of ventilation and access to water.
- Length of normal housing period.
- For poultry enterprises, please also include perch space and nest boxes per bird, outside stocking density, land resting periods and ranging distances.

### Feeding and Grazing practice

Please include details of the proposed rations that you will feed to each group of livestock (e.g. milking cows, dry cows, heifers, (including agricultural pets on the holding etc.) both during the conversion period and once the stock are being fed to full organic standards.

- The proportions of organic/conversion/non organic feed that will make up the ration.
- The proportion of forage to concentrate.
- Details of any brought in, compound or blended feeds. Please include the name of the feed, source, GMO status and whether it is approved or unapproved.
- Details of 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 (i.e. by your vet, forage/tissue analysis or details of historical problems).
- Outline grazing practice

## Animal health plan

The animal health plan is fundamental to your organic management. It must identify all potential problems and put in place a framework to ensure that flock/herd health is maintained/improved and the reliance on any routine veterinary products is reduced over time.

It is advisable to develop this plan in consultation with your vet and it should be reviewed on an annual basis to assess where any improvements can be made.

The following information must be provided for all groups of livestock:

- 1) Identify any persistent health problems that occur on the farm, for example, mineral deficiencies, internal parasites, Johnes disease and how lameness is managed
- 2) Identify what preventative husbandry techniques will be employed to reduce the incidence of these problems, for example:
  - Clean grazing strategy
  - Stocking rates
  - Hygiene
  - Breeding programs
  - Nutrition
  - Homeopathy / herbal treatments /additives
  - Improved housing - ventilation
  - Other management practices to prevent or minimise disease
- 3) Identify how you will treat disease and parasites; all veterinary treatments that you are likely to use on a routine/regular basis both during conversion and once the stock are being managed to full organic standards. Please include details of any vaccination that you intend to use and/or have a derogation for.
- 4) Quarantine measures taken for any sick/bought-in livestock.
- 5) Young stock management; weaning age, feeds offered, type of housing, medication. Please also include any management practices employed to develop immunity. For example: weaning age, grazing practices, selection for breeding, etc.

## 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 5 and appendix 14 of the BDA Demeter and Organic Production Standards, including records of bought in feeds, livestock movements and veterinary treatments and withdrawal periods applied 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 request.

**If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on 01453 766296 or email at:**  
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