



# NEW ZEALAND FARM ASSURANCE PROGRAMME (NZFAP)

## FARMER HANDBOOK



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# New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Farmer Handbook

## Purpose

Developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP) is the foundation upon which the collective red meat and wool industries can deliver an authentic and independently verified best-practice animal raising and production assurance standard to our international consumers. Today's modern meat consumer is asking where has this product come from? How was it raised? Is it safe for my family to eat? Red meat produced under this programme comes with assurances in terms of integrity, origin, traceability, biosecurity, environmental sustainability and animal health and welfare, all essential ingredients when it comes to maximising product returns and meeting the expectations of our diverse International consumer audience.

## Explanation – why is farm certification so important?

Consumers are becoming increasingly interested in the provenance and traceability of the food they buy and having confidence that the way it is produced meets their expectations. Recent events, such as the horsemeat scandal in the United Kingdom in 2013, and the highlighting of animal welfare issues in the press worldwide, have all led to an increased call for products which have been ethically produced as well as being safe to eat. This demand from consumers is answered by buyers who now demand that their suppliers meet specific minimum standards when it comes to production. The New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme is being initiated to assure customers that farms in New Zealand all have a baseline quality standard.

## Assurance Process

**Existing suppliers** – if you are a supplier to an existing Farm Assurance Certification Programme, you will be contacted by your processor when your property is due for a re-audit. At this time if your processor has elected to adopt the NZFAP you will be supplied a NZFAP application form which must be completed before the audit can be scheduled.

**New suppliers** – application to be NZFAP certified should ideally be made to a processor or if necessary directly to AsureQuality. This application needs to be made by way of an NZFAP application form and your first audit will be scheduled within two months of receipt of your application. This will be notified to you in an acknowledgement letter.

**All NZFAP suppliers** – will receive a copy of the NZFAP Standard and this explanatory Farmer Handbook.

## Prior to your Audit

It is important to ensure you have all relevant documentation prepared and to hand before audit day. These documents are listed in the checklist on page four, along with a suggested pre-audit farm check which will help to ensure you have covered all areas needing attention. It is essential that you familiarise yourself with the NZFAP Standard which lists all the standards you will be measured against on-farm.

In the main body of this handbook we have included a guide to on-farm practices which includes tips and training on some of the areas which may come up during your on-farm audit. You may find it useful to distribute this amongst your staff to ensure they are all prepared on the day and aware of basic requirements.

## New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme – Pre-audit Checklist

Tick	Requirement
	Current copy of the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Standard
	All ASDs for both sold and purchased livestock
	Up-to-date NAIT records
	Residency requirement records
	Supplementary feeds – purchase receipts for stock feed – nil ruminant protein to be fed to ruminants
	Animal remedy inventory and animal treatment records
	Staff training records detailing areas of competence
	Animal health plan
	Register for all agrichemicals and fertiliser used on-farm
	Agrichemical inventory
	Livestock mortality records for weaned animals
	<p>Have completed pre-audit farm check, which should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities, yards, sheds, pens, fences, silos – no wire sticking out/no sharp edges/nothing that could cause injury to the livestock or humans</li> <li>• Loading ramps – no holes/lighting if loads go at night/no rough edges/no protrusions that could cause injury/non-slip surfaces/other damage which may impact animal welfare</li> <li>• Water availability</li> <li>• Dog kennels – shade/shelter/water/feed available</li> <li>• Agrichemical storage areas – locked, sign that states it's an agrichemical store, no expired agrichemicals</li> <li>• Animal remedies – securely stored and separated from agrichemicals so as to avoid cross contamination, no expired treatments</li> <li>• Hospital pen or paddock available</li> <li>• Shade and shelter on-farm.</li> </ul>

## Audit Day

AsureQuality auditors are all highly qualified, a list of requirements for auditors can be found in **Appendix I**. Audits generally take one-two hours depending on the size of your farm and the availability of required documentation. Your initial NZFAP audit may take longer at up to three hours as we assess your records and farm facilities for the first time against the new standard. The better prepared you are, the quicker the process will be. Your auditor will be looking for evidence in a variety of forms to verify that your farm and farming practices meet the programme standards.

## Post Audit

The auditor will leave you with an Audit Summary Report which details the outcome of the audit and any Corrective Actions which have to be completed, along with target dates for completion. See the chart below for full non-conformance structure and how this affects your farms status. A full audit report will be forwarded by email within 48 hours of audit completion.

Supplier status	Non-conformance	Description	Target date
Blue – Pass/certified	Score = 0	Requirements have met or exceeded the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme standard.	0 days
Green – Pass/certified	Minor CAR Score = 1	CARs identified where there is no risk to programme conformance. CARs issued with 30 days to rectify or sooner by agreement with the auditor.	30 days
Amber – Pass/certified	Major CAR Score = 3	CARs identified where there is a possible risk to programme conformance. CARs issued with 10 days to rectify or sooner by agreement with the auditor.	10 days
Red – Suspended/not certified	Critical CAR Score = 5	CARs identified where there is an immediate risk to programme conformance. Corrective action required within 24 hours. If not rectified within 24 hours, Certified Status is revoked immediately and checked by re-audit. Relevant meat companies notified.	24 hours

## Confidentiality

Information obtained from farmers either verbal or documented will not be disclosed to any other party except where it would conflict with New Zealand legislation, or with the express written permission of the farmer. This requirement applies to all aspects of a farmer's operation including proprietary rights.

# 1. On-farm Guide and Resources

## 1.1 Records

Clear and accurate records must be maintained in hard copy or electronic forms and should be retained for a minimum of five years.

# 2. Origin, Traceability and Farm Inputs

## 2.1 Origins and Traceability

### Animal Status Declaration (ASD or eASD)

#### Purpose of the Animal Status Declaration

Practices on the farm impact on the suitability of animals for processing and on animal products' eligibility for trade. The purpose of the Animal Status Declaration (ASD) is to transfer key information about an animal, or group of animals, to the next person in charge, or the processor. For the processor, the information on the ASD is vital for guiding ante-mortem and post-mortem examination and for determining export eligibility and certification. The ASD also incorporates the TB questions required by the Animal Health Board under the Biosecurity (National Bovine Tuberculosis Pest Management Plan) Order 1998.

#### Who is to complete and sign the Animal Status Declaration?

The ASD is to be completed by a person in charge of the animals who has the knowledge and authority to answer all the applicable questions. The person in charge of the animals could be the owner, farm manager or saleyard operator, but does NOT include transport operators. However, transport operators are required to transfer the ASD accompanying the animals being moved.

#### Guidelines for completing the Animal Status Declaration

The ASD SHALL be completed for all consignments of cattle (except bobby calves going to slaughter), deer, sheep and lambs sent for processing.

In addition, the ASD SHALL be completed for all:

- Movements of sheep, lambs, goats, ostriches and emus sent from one property or saleyard to another property or saleyard where there is a different person in charge of the animals; and
- Movements of cattle (including calves) and deer.

[www.mpi.govt.nz/processing/meat-and-game](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/processing/meat-and-game)

### NAIT

NAIT requirements for cattle and deer are the same for every farmer. Main requirements are explained below.

#### Tagging your animals

##### Cattle

Tag newborn cattle with a white NAIT approved ear tag before they are six months old or before they move off-farm – whichever is soonest.

Exemptions to the tagging requirement include:

- Calves less than 30 days old going direct to a meat processor (bobby calves) with a direct to slaughter tag issued by the meat processor do not need a NAIT tag
- Cattle which are considered too dangerous to tag do not need a NAIT tag if they are going directly to a meat processor and already have an AHB bar-coded primary tag (a levy of \$13 per head excluding GST applies to these animals).

You still need a NAIT number even if a tagging exemption applies to your animals.

## Deer

Tag newborn deer with an orange NAIT approved ear tag before they are six months old or before they move off-farm – whichever is soonest.

You do not need to tag:

- Trophy stags that are going to a game estate, safari park or zoo
- Fallow deer, or
- Deer which are considered too dangerous to tag if they are going directly to a meat processor and already have an AHB bar-coded primary tag (a levy of \$13 per head excluding GST applies to these animals).

If you have trophy stags or fallow deer, you must still be registered with NAIT, tell NAIT how many of these animals are on your property and update this number annually.

## Register your animals (cattle and deer)

Register your animals in the NAIT system within one week of being tagged or before they move off-farm – whichever is sooner. Registration links individual animals to tags in the NAIT system so they can be traced.

## Record and confirm animal movements

When you move animals off-farm or receive them on to your farm, you need to either record the sending movement or confirm you have received the animals in the NAIT system. This includes movements for private sales, grazing stock and service bulls.

If you send animals to a NAIT accredited saleyard or meat processor, they will record the sending movement for you. You don't need to record this yourself. However, if you receive animals from a NAIT accredited saleyard, you must confirm you have received them.

If you need help understanding or meeting your NAIT requirements visit [www.ospri.co.nz](http://www.ospri.co.nz)

## When does an animal become farm assured (FA)? (retention requirements)

Retention requirements refer to the length of time animals must reside on your property before they are eligible to be labelled farm assured.

- Animals purchased from a farm assured (ISO/IEC 17065 Certified) property which are accompanied by a correctly completed ASD are eligible to be farm assured 20 days from the time of arrival
- Animals purchased from a non-farm assured property which are accompanied by a correctly completed ASD are eligible to be farm assured 60 days from the time of arrival.

## 2.2 Farm Inputs

### Ruminant protein

The **Biosecurity (Ruminant Protein) Regulations 1999** ban the feeding of ruminant protein in any form to ruminant animals to protect **New Zealand's BSE free status**.

Examples of ruminant animals are cattle, sheep, goats, and deer. Ruminant protein includes meat and bone meal, meat meal, bone meal, blood meal and blood and bone meal. It does not include milk and milk products.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, is a brain disease of cattle that results in the loss of control of the legs, trembling, wide-eyed staring, swaying of the head and erratic behaviour – hence the term '**mad cow disease**', which is BSE's common name. This disease is spread by the consumption of feed ingredients derived from BSE-infected cattle. The brain of a single BSE-infected cow can potentially spread the disease to 5,000 other cows.

BSE would have significant impact on New Zealand's economy because of market restrictions that other countries would likely impose on our animal product exports. Even though we are free from BSE, excluding ruminant protein in the feed of ruminant animals is an important requirement for exporting our meat products.

**The regulations require that:**

**You do not** feed ruminant protein to cattle, sheep, goats, deer or any other ruminant animals. All feed sold will display the following label if it contains or may contain ruminant protein:

**NOTICE: DO NOT FEED TO SHEEP, CATTLE, DEER OR OTHER RUMINANT ANIMALS. THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS RUMINANT PROTEIN**

For further information visit [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/processing/pet-food-inedibles-animal-feed-and-supplements/animal-feed-and-disease-prevention/ruminant-feed-regulations](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/processing/pet-food-inedibles-animal-feed-and-supplements/animal-feed-and-disease-prevention/ruminant-feed-regulations)

## Supplementary feeding

Pasture fed means that animals have been raised under normal New Zealand farming conditions with year round access to grass (e.g. hay, silage, lucerne, feed crops or other grazed or conserved forages) and other supplementary feeds (including manufacturing feeds, provided that you have a statement from the manufacturer that the feed does not contain animal protein or animal fat, other than dairy). You must keep the manufacturers' declaration. Where animals have been fed on a feed pad or feedlot other than for short-term periods (e.g. only as supplementary feed immediately prior to slaughter) then they would not be 'pasture fed' because of not having year-round access to grass.

## Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGPs)

A Hormonal Growth Promotant or HGP is any veterinary medicine containing either natural or synthetic hormones sold for the purpose of increasing muscle tone, growth rate, weight gain or feed efficiency of animals. HGPs are sometimes used to enhance meat production (growth) in livestock. The use of HGPs is strictly controlled to protect the New Zealand international meat trade. In many markets, such as the USA and Australia, HGPs are considered safe and are used extensively. However, in the European Union (EU) and other countries, HGPs are perceived as unnatural 'additives' and are banned. HGP use needs to be controlled and tracked so that meat from implanted animals cannot be exported to European or other markets where HGP is banned.

[www.mpi.govt.nz/processing/meat-and-game](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/processing/meat-and-game)

# 3. Security and Food Safety

## 3.1 Farm Biosecurity

On-farm biosecurity is a set of measures designed to protect a property from the entry and spread of pests (plants or animals) and diseases. Pests and diseases can damage New Zealand's agricultural production industries. They can decrease productivity, reduce property values and can result in major changes to your farming practices. Pests are also a threat to our natural environment. They can out compete native and desirable species and result in a loss of biodiversity.

Biosecurity starts at your farm gate. It is your responsibility and that of every person visiting or working on your property.

Go to [www.beeflambnz.com/compliance/biosecurity](http://www.beeflambnz.com/compliance/biosecurity) for information on biosecurity and its importance to New Zealand farming.

Where a farm is placed under movement control for an infectious disease, all MPI biosecurity requirements shall be followed.

### What is 'ill-thrift'

Ill-thrift is a term used to describe when stock grow at a slower growth rate than expected given their feed allocation. Traditionally farmers identify if their flock is affected by ill-thrift by:

- Comparing performance from one year to the next e.g. hogget weight gain in January was 25% behind last year
- You visually notice stock aren't 'doing well'
- Use specific tests e.g. faecal egg count (FEC) test to identify parasite burden in stock.

### Theileria

*Theileria orientalis* is a parasite transmitted by ticks when they feed on the animal's blood. It destroys red blood cells and causes anaemia. Cattle are at risk of infection if they are in a tick-infected area, or if they are moved to areas where infected ticks are present. If an infected animal is transported, it can spread infection to ticks in the new location, spreading disease to uninfected animals. The disease is not spread by direct animal-to-animal contact, but by infected ticks when they feed on cattle. There are no human health or food safety risks associated with theileria.



### What to look out for:

- The signs of anaemia in cattle include lethargy, pale rather than pink vulva and lips when you lift the tail and check and increased respiratory and heart rates
- You may notice animals lagging behind the rest of the mob when being shifted or lying down in the paddock
- There are a number of causes of anaemia and its signs can be similar to those of other diseases.

If you suspect you have animals with anaemia, contact your vet for advice.

[www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/information-farmers-anaemia-theileriosis-cattle](http://www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/information-farmers-anaemia-theileriosis-cattle)

### Deer fencing

Well planned and properly constructed deer fencing has a huge impact on the efficiency of deer handling. The long-term benefits of ease of managements from good fencing is realised with a reduction in time taken on fence maintenance, as well as reduced personnel time chasing deer around due to inadequate fencing. Deer fencing is inherently expensive to construct due to the quantity of materials that are used. Deer can be extremely hard on fences and often cause damage to posts, gates and netting. This is mainly due to deer behaviours such as pacing, fighting, rubbing of antlers/buttons and attempted escape. If short-cuts are taken during initial construction then the on-going maintenance of substandard fencing can be substantial. The Noxious Animals in Captivity Regulations 1969 are still in force, so fences must be strong and they must be secure.

The normal height of deer fences is 1.9m to 2.0m for both internal fences and boundary fences.

### Regulatory requirements for fencing

All deer farms located in regulated areas of New Zealand e.g. northern and upper-western parts of the North Island require a permit or authorisation from the Department of Conservation (DOC) to farm deer. These regulations are enforced in these areas because there are minimal numbers of wild deer located here. For further detailed information on deer fencing requirements visit: [www.deernz.org.nz/deer-hub/handling-and-welfare/handling/fencing](http://www.deernz.org.nz/deer-hub/handling-and-welfare/handling/fencing)

Please refer to Appendix IV for proposed boundary fencing specifications for regulated/at risk areas.

## 3.2 Infectious Diseases

A range of diseases can afflict sheep, cattle and deer. Some have the potential to kill large numbers and cripple the industry. Farmers have to continually look out for signs of ill health in their livestock, and know how to control these problems. Because New Zealand is isolated and has strict laws controlling animal imports, it does not have many of the serious animal diseases found elsewhere. The biggest potential threat to the industry is foot-and-mouth disease – if there was an outbreak of this contagious virus, exports of all meat would stop.

Knowledge of the appearance and behaviour of healthy animals, and an awareness of the common diseases affecting sheep and/or beef cattle are essential skills for farm workers in being able to recognise signs of illness, disease or injury. Injury and disease can contribute to poor animal welfare by causing discomfort, distress and/or pain. Injury and disease can also affect growth, reproduction and production.

Preventative measures include good facilities, an animal health plan, selection of stock with disease resistance traits (or culling of susceptible animals), good feeding (including avoiding trace element deficiencies), good stock management and an understanding of the animal's needs. Animal health plans need to include disease prevention strategies. Regular surveillance and early identification of ill-health in livestock is crucial for successful diagnosis and treatment.

Livestock diseases such as bovine tuberculosis (TB) and salmonella which can be passed on to humans are called **zoonotic diseases**.

**Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)** – is a dangerous illness, controlling TB is vital to the beef and venison industries as well as the health of farmers and their staff.

**Salmonella (Salmonellosis)** – is a gastro-intestinal infection associated with eating food contaminated with infected faeces. There are more than 2,200 types of salmonella, some of which cause disease in calves and mature cattle, though many animals may carry salmonella and show no signs. Salmonella can multiply in many food products kept at room temperature. Therefore salmonellosis is often a food-transmitted disease in many animals, including humans.

**Leptospirosis or 'lepto'** – is the most well-known zoonosis in New Zealand agriculture and one of the most widespread occupationally acquired zoonoses in the world. New Zealand has one of the highest rates of developed countries and, despite years of vaccination in cattle, there are still around 100 cases of lepto (60% of which require hospitalisation) reported each year. Farmers account for around 70% of human cases and veterinarians are high on the risk scale too.

**Cystercerus bovis** – cattle become infested when ingesting food or water contaminated with eggs or gravid segments of taenia saginata. Contamination of cattle feed can occur through undue defecation of humans in the pastures or stables, but also indirectly through irrigation with contaminated human sewage. The eggs can remain infective for more than six months. Once ingested by cattle the young larvae hatch out of the eggs in the gut, go through the intestinal wall, reach the blood stream and migrate to a muscle, where they encyst. The cysts need 10 to 12 weeks to complete development. The cysts may remain infective for humans for up to one year. Humans become infected when eating insufficiently cooked meat contaminated with cysts. Once in the human gut, the cysts release the young tapeworm, which attach to the gut's wall and start producing segments. Within 5 to 12 weeks the tapeworms mature and start shedding eggs (prepatent period).

**Toxoplasmosis** – is an important cause of death in unborn lambs. The disease is caused by toxoplasma gondii, a single-celled organism which lives and multiplies inside the lamb's own cells. Toxoplasma infects all warm-blooded animals but an essential stage of its lifecycle occurs only in cats. If ewes contract toxoplasmosis while pregnant, abortions will occur. Ewes which abort due to this disease do not generally abort due to the same disease in subsequent seasons. Toxoplasmosis gondii can infect humans and sheep abortion material should be handled carefully.

For further information on these and other livestock diseases: [www.teara.govt.nz/en/diseases-of-sheep-cattle-and-deer](http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/diseases-of-sheep-cattle-and-deer)

## Good hygiene practices

Zoonotic diseases are diseases which can be transmitted from animals to humans. Avoid catching diseases from animals through good health and hygiene practices.

- Run vaccination and parasite control programmes (especially for leptospirosis – refer to Guidelines for the Control of Occupationally Acquired Leptospirosis for more information)
- Tell everyone working with animals about health and hygiene
- When working with animals and in animal areas make sure workers have a clean place to wash and dry their hands. It should include running water, liquid soap and a way to dry their hands, like paper towels. Buckets or troughs of water that are used by several people are not suitable. Use waterless alcohol-based hand rubs to sanitise visibly clean hands.
- Tell people working with animals to wash their hands:
  - After touching animals
  - After removing personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - When leaving animal areas
  - Before eating and drinking
  - After accidental contamination with an animals blood or body fluids.

## 3.3 Physical Hazards

It is not uncommon for injection needles to break whilst administering treatments to livestock. Should you find that an animal has foreign material embedded such as this, the animal must be clearly identified immediately. Such animals can only be presented for slaughter once the processor has been notified of the issue. If the processor will accept the animal it must be accompanied by a separate ASD clearly identifying the nature of the contamination.

## 3.4 Animal Remedy Inventory and Storage and Animal Health Treatments

### Withholding periods

A withholding period (WHP) is the minimum amount of time that has to pass between application of a veterinary medicine or compound (e.g. internal or external parasite treatment, antibiotic, vaccine, anaesthetic drug or chemical) and harvest or slaughter. All veterinary medicines or compounds that are registered for use in or on animals must have the withholding period printed on the label and people using these medicines or compounds must comply with them or face severe penalties. The withholding period is set for each veterinary medicine/compound to ensure that by the time the animal is killed, or product harvested, the amount of residual drug or chemical remaining in the product is so low that it is very unlikely to pose any health risks from consumption of treated product.

### What are 'default' withholding periods?

If a veterinary medicine or drug is used in an animal species for which it has not been registered then a default WHP must be used. In the case of deer, the default WHP is 91 days. The exception to a default WHP of 91 days is if there is specific approval for a lesser time. For example parasite treatment Cydectin injection is not licensed for use in deer. However, veterinarians can prescribe off-label use of Cydectin injection which allows for deer to be slaughtered 49 days after treatment. This exception only applies to drugs obtained from a vet with a vet prescription, so if you are contemplating administering a product with a 91 day WHP for deer fewer than 91 days before the intended slaughter date, you must obtain the product under veterinary prescription.

[www.deernz.org/deerhub/deer-information/health/veterinary-medicine/withholding-periods](http://www.deernz.org/deerhub/deer-information/health/veterinary-medicine/withholding-periods)

### Off-label medication use

Any use of a veterinary medicine that has not been specifically approved by MPI is considered to be an off-label use. Unless specifically prohibited on the label, off-label use is not illegal for veterinary medicines with unrestricted access status classification. For further information on off-label medication use refer the MPI document *Labelling Veterinary Medicines*.

### Disposal of unused and expired treatments/remedies

Unused product and expired product should be returned to the veterinary clinic or supplier from which it was obtained or otherwise disposed of in such a way that it cannot be accessed by humans or other animals.

The following methods of disposal are suggested by the Veterinary Council of New Zealand:

- i. Small amounts remaining in syringes, bottles or ampules are placed in a sealed, tamper proof sharps container and destroyed by a company specialising in destruction of bio-medical products
- ii. Tablets or full ampules should be crushed if feasible and then disposed of into a sharps container (and destroyed by a company specialising in destruction of bio-medical products)
- iii. Full or incomplete bottles (depending on volume) can either be disposed of into a sharps container and (destroyed by a company specialising in destruction of bio-medical products) or be emptied into the sewerage system
- iv. Delivery to a pharmacist who has agreed to accept them for disposal.

## 3.5 Agrichemical Register, Agrichemical and Fertiliser Storage Requirements and Agrichemical Applications and Fertiliser

The Resource Management Act 1991 makes it illegal to discharge any contaminants into water either directly or through land contamination without a resource consent (unless this is permitted by a rule in a regional plan). Therefore any spills or leaks from your agrichemical store that get into soil or water could cause an offence under the RMA and could result in heavy fines.

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 puts in place controls on storage of hazardous substances including requirements for:

- Emergency management
- Tracking of hazardous substances
- Test certification for stores with hazardous substances
- 'Approved handler' qualifications for people dealing with hazardous substances. The controls that need to be applied depend on the hazard classification for each substance (e.g. is it flammable or toxic).

Most of the agrichemicals used on your farm will be hazardous substances so you will need to become familiar with Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 requirements.

## Chemical inventory

For each hazardous substance your inventory must include:

- The substance's name and UN number (if available)
- The maximum amount likely to be at the workplace and its location
- Any specific storage and segregation requirements
- A current safety data sheet or a condensed version of the key information from the safety data sheet and any hazardous waste.

Worksafe have an online inventory calculator tool which can be accessed here:  
[www.hazardoussubstances.govt.nz/calculator](http://www.hazardoussubstances.govt.nz/calculator)

Or a workbook which can be printed for hardcopies:  
[www.hazardoussubstances.govt.nz/media/1060/wsnz\\_2268\\_hazard-workbook-a4-v11-0-fa-lr.pdf](http://www.hazardoussubstances.govt.nz/media/1060/wsnz_2268_hazard-workbook-a4-v11-0-fa-lr.pdf)

## Chemical disposal

Agrecovery provides a free collection service for unused or expired agrichemicals.  
[www.agrecovery.co.nz/programmes/chemical-disposal](http://www.agrecovery.co.nz/programmes/chemical-disposal)

ChemWaste provides waste management services for hazardous and non-hazardous solids and liquids.  
[www.chemwaste.co.nz](http://www.chemwaste.co.nz)

## Container disposal

Agrecovery provides free recycling for plastic containers from over 3,000 of the most common ag-chem, animal health and dairy hygiene products sold into the New Zealand market. Containers should be free from chemical residue, triple rinsing is recommended, lid must be removed. Please ensure rinsing is conducted in a safe area away from waterways, and livestock drinking water. [www.agrecovery.co.nz/programmes/container-recycling](http://www.agrecovery.co.nz/programmes/container-recycling)

Plasback collects a whole range of used farm plastics for recycling including bale wrap, silage sheeting, pit covers, feed bags, shrink wrap, pallet covers, feed/seed/fertiliser bags and used containers. [www.plasback.co.nz](http://www.plasback.co.nz)

## 3.6 Supplements/Feed

**Hard feeds** are manufactured or compounded feeds.

**Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)** – a GMO or genetically modified organism is a plant, animal, microorganism or other organism whose genetic makeup has been modified using recombinant DNA methods (also called gene splicing), gene modification or transgenic technology. This relatively new science creates unstable combinations of plant, animal, bacterial and viral genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods.

# 4. Animal Health, Welfare and Production Management

## 4.1 Stockmanship and Animal Husbandry

### Stockmanship

The care of animals requires competence, experience and the observance of high standards of animal husbandry. The importance of good stockmanship cannot be over-emphasised. It is based on empathy with and proper care of the animals in the particular husbandry system along with knowledge of the constraints and opportunities provided by the local physical and climatic environment.

Individuals' knowledge and experience of livestock and their needs, local climates and weather patterns, topography and shelter, as well as management practices remain one of the prime means of ensuring that the welfare of sheep, cattle and deer is maintained and enhanced.

Knowledge of the normal appearance and behaviour of sheep, beef cattle and deer is crucial. It is essential to be able to recognise early signs of distress or ill-health so that prompt remedial action is taken or advice sought.

More formal education-based training is a useful complement to practical experience. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority lists a number of training qualifications for stock handlers. Information on animal handling standards and accredited training providers is available from the NZQA website: [www.nzqa.govt.nz/nzqf](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/nzqf)

Note: there have been a number of animal welfare regulation changes, you must be aware of how they may affect you. [www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2018/0050/latest/whole.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2018/0050/latest/whole.html)

**Please refer to Appendix II for a list of key On-farm Staff Training Competencies and Appendix III for an On-farm Staff Induction and Training Template**

### Electric prod use

Only use electric prodders as a last resort and only on adult cattle weighing more than 150kg. Do not use the prod on an animal that has no room to move forward. Do not use the prod on an animal for more than one second at a time and for no more than five times in a row. Give every animal an adequate break after each time you use the prod. Do not use an electric prod on sensitive areas, including the udder, eyes, nose, anus, vulva or testicles. Electric prodders must never be used on deer or sheep.

### Mulesing

The process of removing folds of skin from the tail area of a sheep intended to reduce fly strike. The practice of mulesing is prohibited for animals in the New Zealand Farmer Assurance Programme and also an offence under animal welfare regulations.

## 4.2 Shearing

### Sheep preparation and post-shearing management

Sheep are best fasted before shearing as sheep with a full rumen may suffer distress while being shorn. The time off feed should not be for more than a few hours in pregnant ewes.

Newly shorn sheep are especially vulnerable to adverse weather conditions and require more feed than normal for three weeks or more after shearing to sustain body temperature and maintain body condition. Maintenance requirements are usually increased for six to eight weeks after shearing. These effects are more prevalent in winter when shearing increases a sheep's energy requirements by 50-70% compared to 20-30% in summer and autumn.

	Minimum number of hours without feed	Maximum number of hours without feed	Minimum number of hours without water	Maximum number of hours without water	Special considerations
<b>Ewes (and adult male sheep)</b>					
<b>Non-pregnant, non-lactating</b>	20	32	12	24	Exceeding these maximums may induce metabolic problems and/or precipitate clinical diseases
<b>Early – mid pregnancy</b>	18	30	12	24	Exceeding these maximums may induce metabolic problems and/or precipitate clinical diseases
<b>Late pregnancy and lactation</b>	12	24	8	20	Where practical, un-weaned lambs should remain with their mothers until ewes enter the woolshed
<b>Hoggets</b>					
<b>Non-pregnant, non-lactating</b>	18	30	12	24	Use special care when handling pregnant hoggets. Exceeding these maximums may induce metabolic problems and/or precipitate clinical diseases. Where practical, un-weaned lambs should remain with their mothers until hoggets enter the woolshed
<b>Pregnancy and lactation</b>	12	24	8	20	
<b>Lambs</b>					
<b>Pre-weaning</b>	6	24	6	20	Exceeding these maximums may induce metabolic problems and/or precipitate clinical diseases
<b>Weaned</b>	12	24	8	20	

### Wool clip preparation

It is recommended that the preparation and presentation of wool should be carried out in accordance with industry best practice guidelines as prescribed by the New Zealand Wool Classers Association (NZWCA). For further information see the NZWCA website:

[www.woolclassers.org.nz/images/resources/NZWCA\\_\\_2016\\_Clip\\_preparation\\_\\_document.pdf](http://www.woolclassers.org.nz/images/resources/NZWCA__2016_Clip_preparation__document.pdf)

## 4.3 Animal Health

### Animal health plan

A documented animal health plan should be in place identifying the likely animal health challenges on a property along with a programme for addressing them. This should include a monitoring programme with regular inspections which allows early identification of disease and assessment of treatment success. Veterinarians are good sources of information when developing animal health plans.

## 4.4 Nutrition and Water

### Body condition scoring (BCS)

Body condition scoring is a quick but effective method for assessing the health, well-being and nutritional status of an animal. It is a visual and often hands-on assessment of the amount of muscle and fat over the rump and torso of individual animals.

Livestock class	Key recording time	Recommended BCS range	Comment
<b>Adult cattle</b>	Mating	3-4	
	Calving (heifer)	3.5-4	Maximum of four recommended to minimise calving and metabolic problems
	Calving (cow)	3-4	
	Weaning	3-4	
<b>Sheep</b>	Scanning	3-4	
	Lambing	3-4	To minimise lambing and metabolic problems
	Weaning	3-4	
<b>Deer – hinds</b>	Weaning/pre-mating	3-4	
	Pre-calving	3-4	
<b>Deer – stags</b>	Pre-winter	3-4	
	Post-winter	3-4	

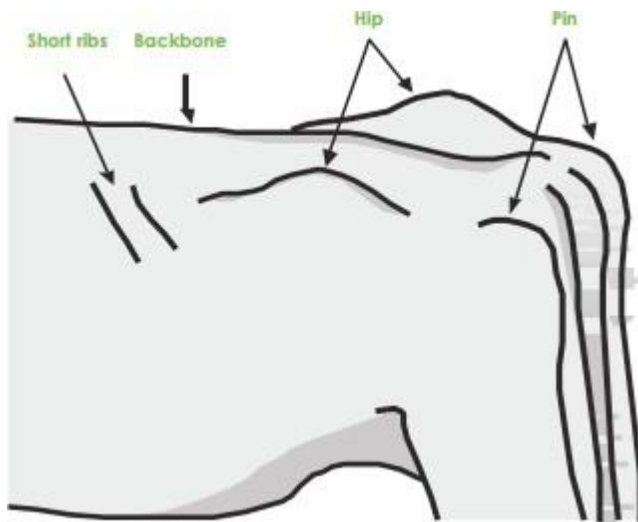
- Body condition scoring should be undertaken by an appropriately trained person
- Liveweight gains (individual animals) should be monitored through periodic weighing of growing animals and record and undertake actions to address issues
- Optimum nutritional management includes the provision of adequate minerals, vitamins, water, pasture and browse species, quantity and quality of crops and supplementary feed.

## Beef cows

The five occasions when it may be beneficial to condition score beef cows are:

- Weaning time – this ensures young cows (heifers) are given priority if they are in poor condition
- 30-45 days after weaning – to see how feeding is going and adjust accordingly
- 60-90 days prior to calving – last opportunity to get things correct prior to calving
- Calving – separate the thin cows and priority feed these
- Mating – gives an indication of next year's production levels.

Areas to observe when body condition scoring (BCS, or just CS) beef cows. Note: the focus on observing the rear half of the animal.





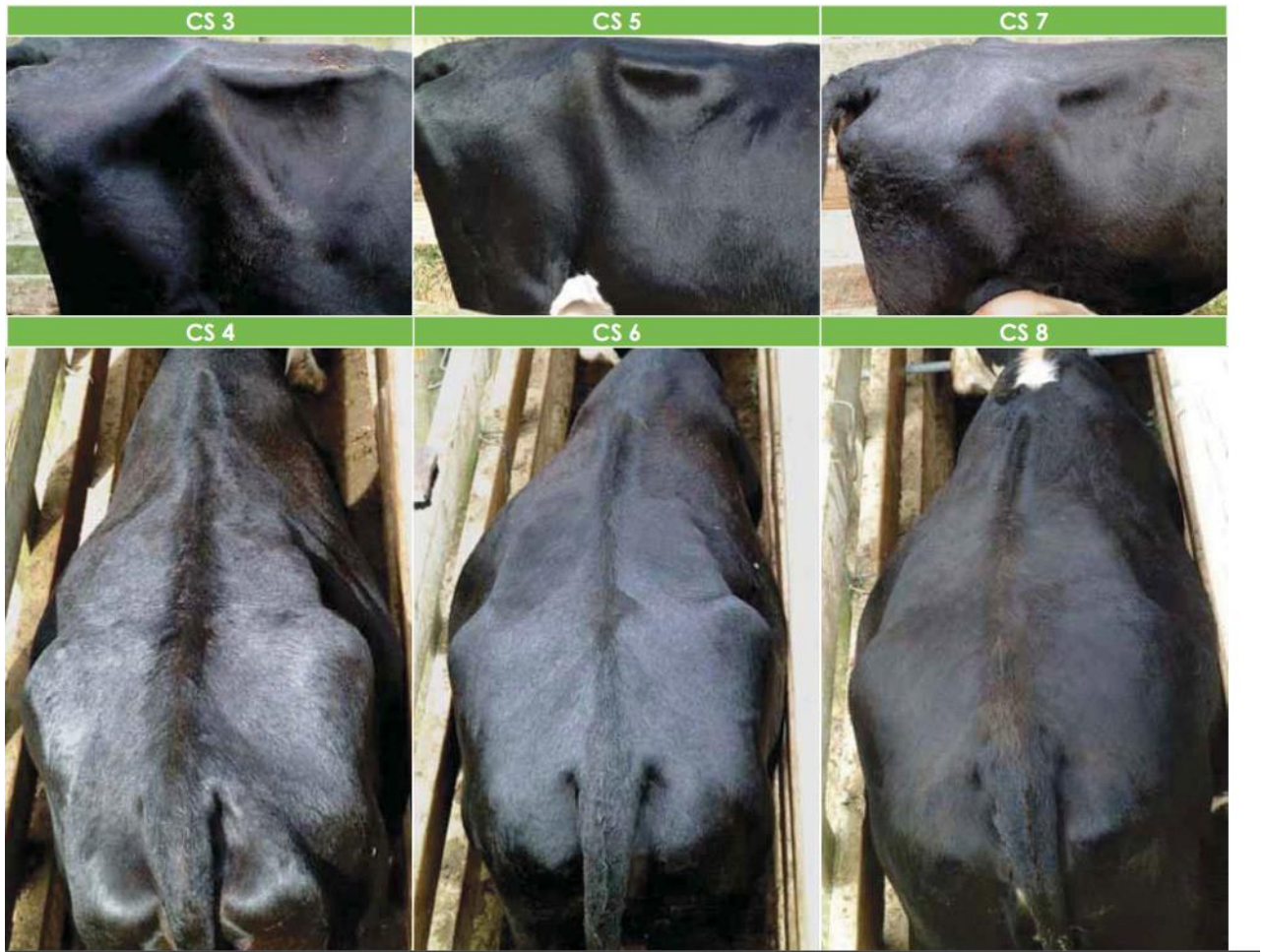
### Description of different body condition scores (BCS) on a 1-5 scale

	BCS	Description
	<b>0</b>	Extremely emaciated and on the point of death.
	<b>0.5</b>	Very emaciated with no fat detectable over spine, hips or ribs. Tailhead and ribs project prominently. Serious welfare issues.
Thin condition	<b>1.0</b>	Emaciated, emaciation with no fat detectable over spine, hips or ribs. Tailhead and ribs project prominently. Serious welfare issues.
	<b>1.5</b>	Poor, still emaciated but tailhead and ribs are less prominent. Spine still sharp but there is some tissue over the spine. Welfare issues.
	<b>2.0</b>	Thin, ribs still identifiable but not as sharp to the touch. Some fat along the spine and over the tailhead. Efforts should be made to improve condition.
Borderline condition	<b>2.5</b>	Borderline, individual ribs no longer obvious. The spine is still prominent but feels round rather than sharp. There is some fat cover over the ribs and hip bones.
Good condition	<b>3.0</b>	Moderate, good overall appearance. Fat cover over the ribs feels spongy and areas on either side of the tailhead have fat cover.
	<b>3.5</b>	Moderate plus, firm pressure must be applied to feel the spine. A high amount of fat is present over the ribs and around the tailhead.
	<b>4.0</b>	Good, cow appears fleshy and carries some fat. Spongy fat cover over the ribs and around the tailhead. Fat patches are becoming obvious.
Fat condition	<b>4.5</b>	Fat, fleshy and over conditioned. Spine almost impossible to palpate. Large fat deposits over the ribs, around tailhead and below vulva. Patchy fat.
	<b>5.0</b>	Extremely fat. Tailhead and hips buried in fat. Bone structure no longer visible. Animal's mobility possibly impaired, welfare issues.

### Description of different body condition scores (CS) on a 1-10 scale (refer photos on following page)

CS	Description
<b>1</b>	Short ribs prominent and sharp, absolutely no fatty tissue over spine, hips or ribs, tailhead and ribs project prominently, severe welfare issues.
<b>2</b>	No fat felt, welfare issues.
<b>3</b>	Short ribs are sharp to touch and easily distinguished, animal is very thin.
<b>4</b>	Some fat on the pins, the backbone is bumpy, i.e. you can see the individual backbone notches.
<b>5</b>	Can identify short ribs individually, feel rounded, hips and pins are rounded, backbone is flat not bumpy.
<b>6</b>	Can only feel the short ribs with firm pressure. Fat cover is easily felt on tail. If cannot feel short ribs and the loin is rounded go above CS 6, if not go below CS 6.
<b>7</b>	Backbone can only be felt by pressing down firmly – back is flat across loin.
<b>8</b>	Short ribs cannot be felt, even with firm pressure. Light rounds of fat on tail, soft to touch.
<b>9</b>	Short ribs completely covered in fat, tailhead buried in fatty tissue, obese.
<b>10</b>	Heavy and lumpy covering of fat over the hips, pins, backbone and ribs, very obese.

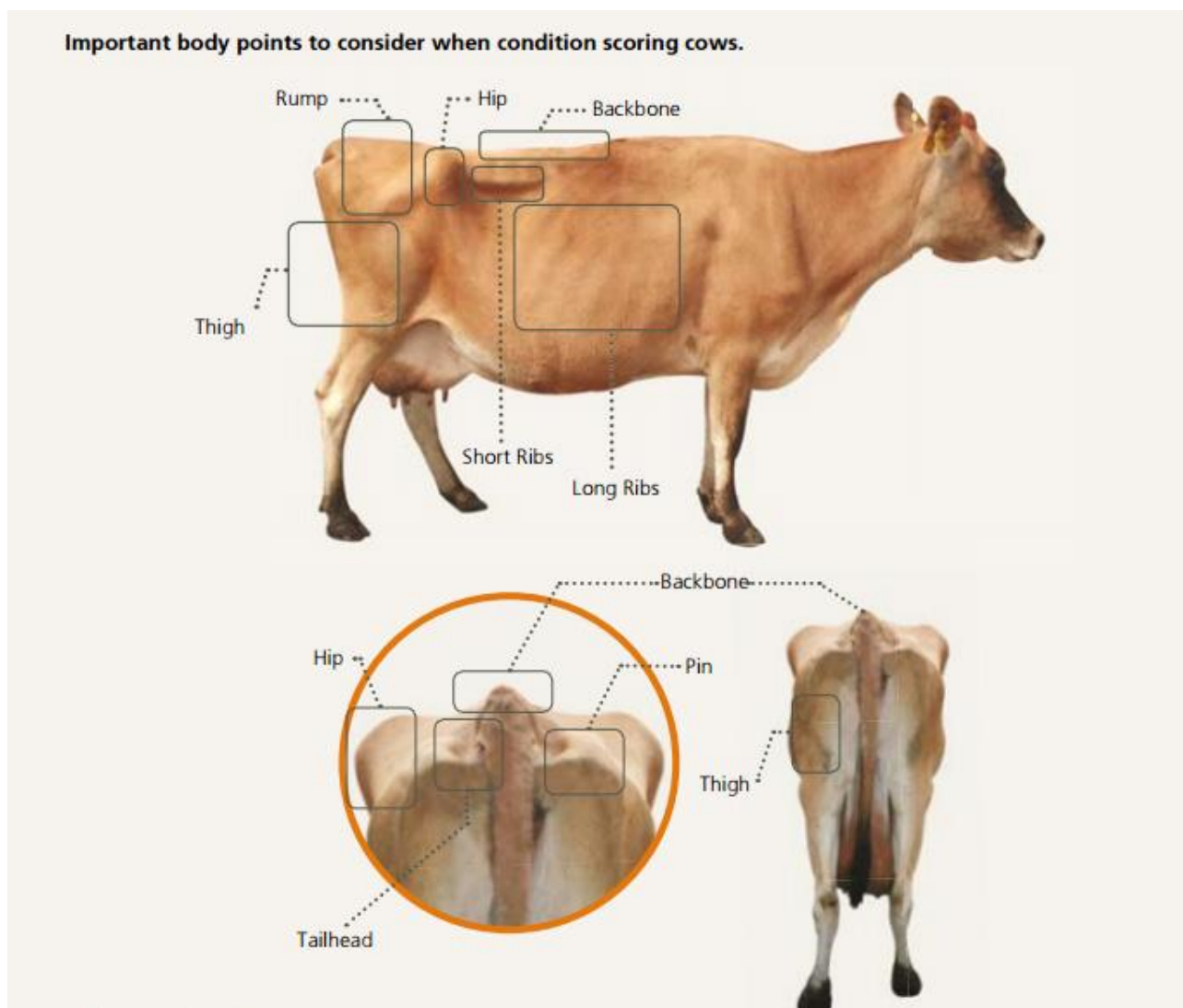
CONDITION SCORING FOR HERFORD X FRIESIAN BEEF COWS



CONDITION SCORING FOR SIMMENTAL BEEF COWS



## Dairy cows



**Backbone** – is it flat or is there a ridge? Can you see or easily feel notches?

**Long ribs** – can you see or easily feel the ribs? If visible how many can you see?

**Short ribs** – can you see the short ribs? What do they feel like? Are the rib ends sharp or rounded?

**Hip bones** – are the hip bones rounded or angular?

**Rump** – is the area between the pins and hip bones, flat, sunken or hollow?

**Pin bones** – are they pointed, 'tap' like or rounded?

**Tailhead** – is there a hollow between the tailhead and pin bones? Is it a deep 'V' or shallow 'U' shape?

**Thigh** – is the area indented, flat or rounded? Is the muscle structure defined?

BCS	3.0	4.0	5.0	6.0
<b>Backbone</b>				
- Rear view				
- Side profile				
<b>Long Ribs</b>				
<b>Short Ribs</b>				
<b>Hips</b>				
<b>Pins</b>				
<b>Tailhead</b>				
<b>Rump</b>				
<b>Thigh</b>				

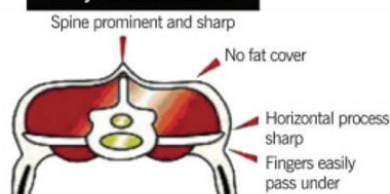
<b>BCS</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Backbone</b>	Prominent ridge 'roofing-iron' corrugations	Ridge raised Ridgeline, uneven and bumpy to touch	Ridge easily visible but rounded and smooth	Ridge forms a bump Starting to round across the short ribs
<b>Long ribs</b>	Four to five ribs easily seen	Two to three ribs visible but rounded Ribs easily felt	Not visible but rounded to the touch	Well-rounded with fat cover felt
<b>Short ribs</b>	Prominent with edges sharp to the touch	Individual ribs can be seen Rounded at the ends	Rounded, individual ribs not visible but can be felt	Rounded with fat cover felt
<b>Hips</b>	Angular, sharp edges Depressions on sides appearing	No sharp edges (smooth) Flattened top	Rounded, curved in profile	Rounded with fat cover starting to appear
<b>Pins</b>	Tap-like appearance Sharp edges	Tap-like appearance Rounded edges	Rounded	Well-rounded Fat cover starting to appear
<b>Tailhead</b>	Deep 'V' shape depression Tailhead prominent, bumpy profile	Shallow 'U' shape Tail smooth Base around tailhead is sunken	Tail rounded Depression under tail filled Even, no sharp edges	Fat cover starting to bulge
<b>Rump</b>	Deeply dished	Slightly depressed Dished	Flat, even cover	Starting to round
<b>Thigh</b>	Indented No visible fat Muscle structure defined	Slight depression	Smooth and flat	Starting to round

## Ewes

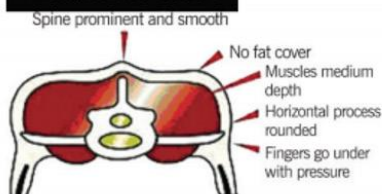
Locate the last rib (the 13th) using the balls of the fingers and thumb, try to feel the backbone with the thumb and the end of the short ribs with the finger tips immediately behind the last rib.



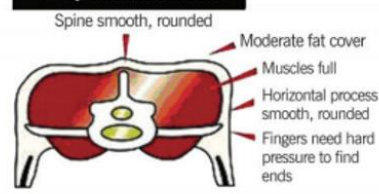
### Body condition score 1



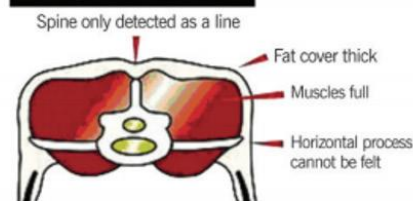
### Body condition score 2



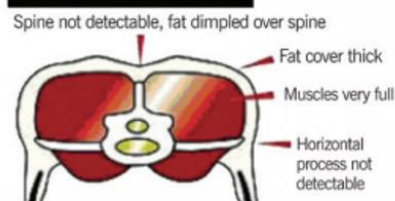
### Body condition score 3



### Body condition score 4



### Body condition score 5



BODY CONDITION SCORE - FEELING ACROSS AND UNDER SHORT RIBS		DESCRIPTION - HOW IT FEELS - COMPARED TO AN 'AVERAGE' HAND
1.0		The ends of the short ribs feel like the ends of your fingertips. When you push your fingers under the short ribs, there is no muscle underneath, just skin. Spine is prominent. There is virtually no muscle on the back and it feels concave.
2.0		Muscle depth under short ribs equivalent to distance from first knuckle to finger tip. Can feel spine. Back muscle is slightly concave and not rounded.
2.5		Muscle depth under short ribs about equivalent to distance from second knuckle, to first knuckle when fingers are flexed. Need some pressure to feel short ribs. Some cover on spine, back muscle flat.
3.0		Muscle depth under short ribs about equivalent to distance from 3rd knuckle to 2nd knuckle, when fingers are flexed. Need moderate to strong pressure to feel short ribs. Back muscle rounded.
4.0		'Prime'. Can only feel short ribs with really strong pressure. Back is rounded with plenty of fat cover. Muscle under short ribs deep - nearly the distance from first knuckles to the beginning of your wrist joint.
5.0		Obese. Fat rolls either side of spine. Spine is in a dimple. Impossible to feel short ribs - fat either side of tail head. Almost never see in a commercial flock.

# Body Condition Score Chart For Deer

Visual assessment of the body condition of live deer is difficult. A thick coat can disguise actual body condition.

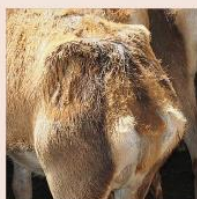
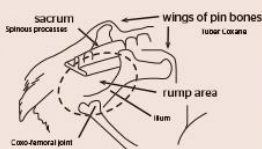
The only reliable method of assessing a live animal's body condition is by hands-on palpation. Ideally, deer should be standing straight and quiet.

Landmarks used for body conditioning scoring are:

- **Wings of pelvis/ pin bone:** estimation of depth of tissue over the tuber coxae (pin bone).
- **Sacrum:** appraisal of the sharpness of spinous process on top of the sacrum.
- **Rump areas:** appraisal of muscle mass and fat cover beside the sacrum.
- **Spine:** muscle along the spine (L. dors) becomes concave in poor condition deer.

If deer bend their back legs under palpation pressure, the assessment of the wings of the pelvis should be ignored. Scores range from 1 to 5 as described below with half unit increments.

If the body condition score of any deer falls below 2 immediate action must be taken to prevent further deterioration and any risk to animal health and welfare. Farmers must comply with this requirement of the Deer Code of Welfare.



### Score 1: Very Poor Condition (Cachexia)

Wings of pin bones are extremely prominent and sharp. Sacral spinous processes are very sharp. There is little muscle in the rump and no fat cover, the rump areas are very concave at palpation.



### Score 2: Poor Condition (Leanness)

Wings of pin bones are prominent and very easily felt by palpation without finger pressure. Sacral spinous processes are also prominent. The rump areas are slightly concave.



### Score 3: Moderate Condition

Wings of pin bones are prominent, but rounded and can be easily felt by palpation with slight finger pressure. Sacral spinous processes are slightly enveloped and not prominent. The rump areas are flat.



### Score 4: Good Condition

Wings of pin bones are rounded and can be felt by palpation under a thin layer of fat. Sacral spinous processes are enveloped and are felt by palpation only with firm finger pressure. The rump areas are slightly rounded.



### Score 5: Very Good Condition (Fat)

Wings of pin bones are concealed under a thick layer of fat and cannot be felt by palpation with firm finger pressure. Sacral spinous processes are well developed and not felt at palpation. The rump areas are rounded.

## 4.5 Comfort and Shelter

The relationship between an animal and its environment is crucial to its welfare. Most sheep, deer and beef cattle are required to cope with regularly changing climatic conditions and occasionally with more severe and extreme events. Persons in charge of animals have a fundamental obligation to ensure that animals in their care have adequate shelter or protection commensurate with their species, environment and circumstances.

New Zealand's temperate climate generally provides good conditions for sheep, beef cattle and deer. However, extremes such as droughts, storms, floods, heavy rain and snow, strong winds and even abnormal seasonal and daily changes in winter and summer have implications for animal welfare.

Adverse events can affect the welfare of fit and normal livestock but have a greater impact on those more vulnerable because of their age (e.g. newborn lambs and calves) or condition (e.g. newly-shorn sheep, animals suffering illness or disease). Severe or prolonged adverse weather conditions can also affect animal health, production and reproduction as well as result in increased mortality.

A useful resource covering shelter and shade for sheep and cattle: [www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/FS174-shelter](http://www.beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/PDF/FS174-shelter)

## 4.6 Mortality Records and Management

Under a New Zealand farm assurance programme you are expected to record certain key information. Any animals that became sick, were treated or died and the reason why (if you know). By keeping regular records you can identify any suspected problems or changes in animal performance or animal welfare and hopefully quickly identify any underlying reasons.

It is all about risk management – should suspect animal deaths occur what actions were taken? Did you seek veterinarian advice or was a veterinary visit required and what was the outcome? The earlier you discover a potential problem the easier it usually is to do something about it. Records can also help you to learn from your mistakes or from your innovation.

Record keeping required under NZFAP should not add greatly to your day's work. And with a little more effort the records you keep could help with future decision-making.

## 4.7 On-farm Euthanasia – Emergency and other Slaughter of Livestock

### Humane slaughter

The humane slaughter of sheep, beef cattle and deer may occasionally be required because of injury, disease and emergency or for other reasons. Humane killing depends on rapidly inducing insensibility. This can be achieved by causing sufficient brain damage to render the animal insensible and then cutting the major blood vessels of the neck to cause heart failure and death. The overriding consideration during killing is to prevent the animal from suffering further pain or distress.

Humane killing requires that brain activity ceases as rapidly and as painlessly as possible and that death ensues as soon as possible. This is usually undertaken either by directly damaging the brain (a blow or shot to the head, with a firearm or captive bolt) or stopping the blood supply to the brain (cutting both carotid arteries in the throat or sticking the major blood vessels in the chest and the heart).

The blood supply to the brain in cattle is markedly different from other livestock and this difference can result in prolonged consciousness when only the carotid arteries and jugular veins are severed (the throat cut). Killing any beef cattle by cutting the throat may not produce rapid death and therefore is not humane, unless the animal has first been rendered insensible. **Both cattle and deer shall never be slaughtered with just a cut to the throat.**

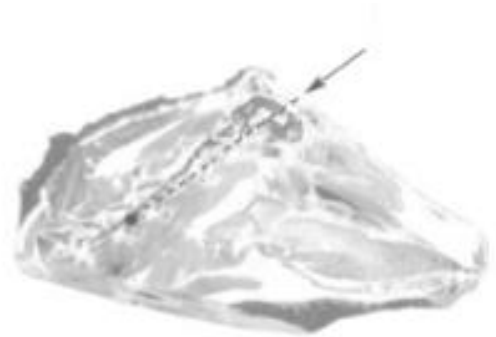
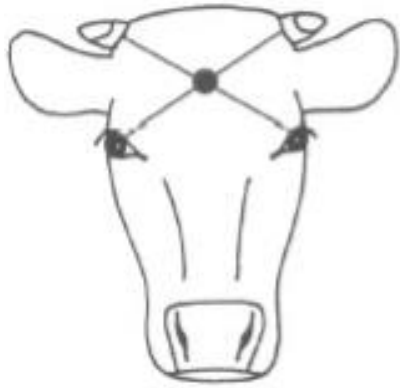
Bleeding an animal should be carried out using a sharp knife with the incision cutting both carotid arteries and jugular veins in one swift stroke. Breaking the neck or severing the spinal cord immediately after cutting the throat only produces paralysis, does not affect the time it takes for the animal to become unconscious and adds to the potential pain and distress of the procedure. **Therefore the spinal cord shall not be severed or the neck broken in any animal until after death.**

Whenever a firearm is used, it is very important that the operator is competent to use the gun and takes care to ensure their safety and that of other animals. There are two types of captive bolt firearm – penetrating and non-penetrating. A penetrating captive bolt enters the skull and comes into contact with brain tissue; a non-penetrative captive bolt employs a 'mushroom' percussive head. Both methods provide a concussive blow to the skull, resulting in insensibility because of brain tissue damage, although the damage caused by the penetrating captive bolt will result in less chance of the animal regaining sensibility. The captive bolt firearm must be applied directly against the head of the animal at the position shown in the following diagrams.

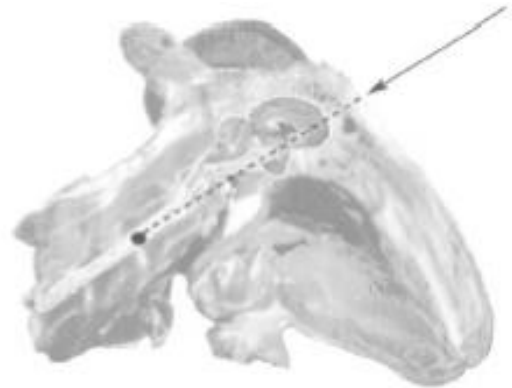


**Correct position is critical for the humane and effective slaughter of animals.**

The optimum position for **beef cattle** is at the intersection of two imaginary lines drawn from the rear of the eyes to the opposite horn buds (both free bullet and captive bolt).



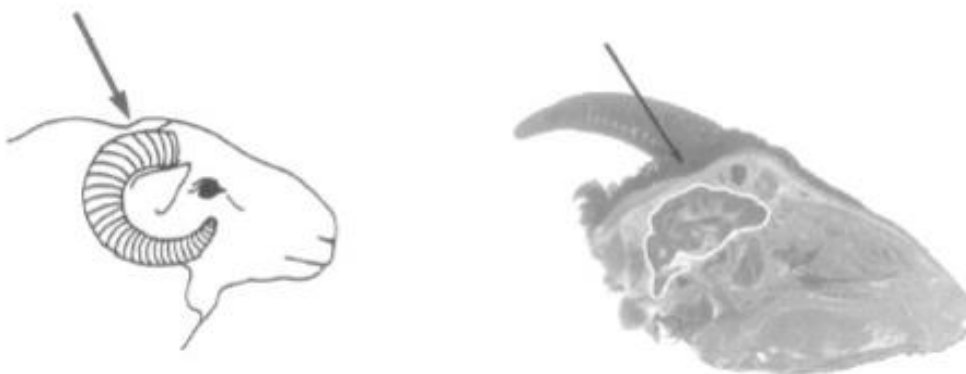
The optimum free-bullet firearm position for **hornless sheep** is on the midline.



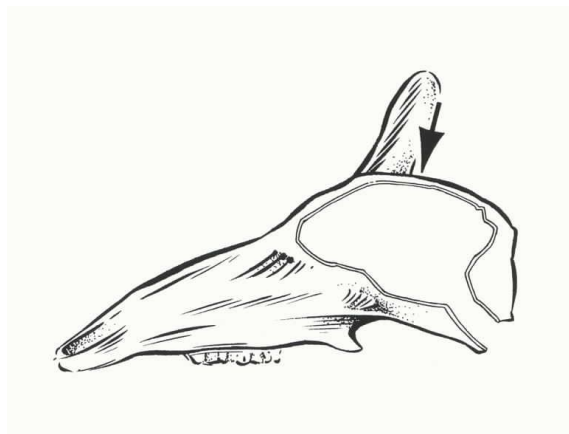
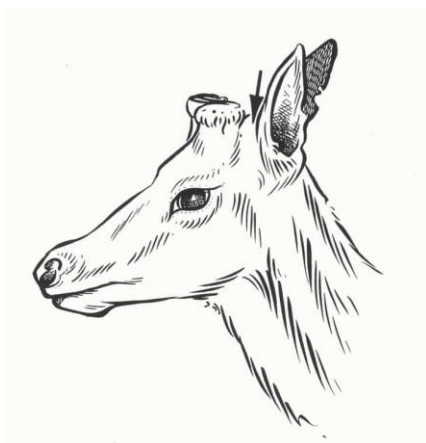
The optimum position for captive bolt stunning of **hornless sheep** is on the highest point of the head and on the midline, aiming straight down.



The optimum position for **heavily horned sheep** is behind the poll, aiming towards the angle of the jaw (both free bullet and captive bolt).



Stunning diagrams for **deer**



For further information on emergency humane destruction see *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock*. Handlers who are inexperienced with the procedure should consult a veterinarian.

[www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare)

## 4.8 Castration

### **Castration and shortening of the scrotum (cryptorchid)**

Some farm animals are castrated or their testes altered to reduce aggression and facilitate management or to restrict breeding and also to achieve desirable meat and carcass quality attributes.

There are several techniques. The most common involves the application of a rubber ring to either cause atrophy of the testes and scrotum, or to hold the testes against the abdomen where the increase in testicular temperature makes most animals infertile (known as shortening the scrotum or cryptorchid). Two other methods involve the surgical opening of the scrotum followed by removal of the testes or crushing of the spermatic cords through the skin of the scrotum with a bloodless castrator or clamp.

The testes and scrotum are richly supplied with nerves and any modification to them is likely to cause immediate pain that may last for several hours. Castration, or shortening of the scrotum, should only be considered when there are significant advantages for farm management and/or carcass quality.

**See guides on pages 28 and 29**

## 4.9 Tail Docking

Docking of tails is carried out for a variety of animal health and management reasons. Sheep are the most commonly docked animals where the procedure is undertaken to help prevent faecal soiling and dag formation and risk of flystrike, and to make dagging, crutching and shearing easier and safer to perform.

It is now an offence to dock the tail of a cattle beast.

Tails have a number of functions in different animals. The behavioural functions include deterring insects from the rear region of the animal. The structural functions include the base of the tail being an anchor for some muscles regulating the proper function of the rectum. Tails are richly supplied with nerves and blood vessels so that their removal is significant for the animal. It is therefore important that the reasons for, and necessity to, perform the operation are carefully considered. The common techniques of tail removal include the use of a conventional rubber ring or a hot searing iron for sheep.

**See guide on page 29**

## 4.10 Disbudding and Dehorning

Horns when used as weapons can pose a significant risk to the health and welfare of other animals and humans. They also contribute to carcass downgrading through bruising and hide damage. While the use of hornless or polled breeds is to be preferred, there are many horned breeds.

Horns grow from free-floating tissue or horn buds which appear in the skin above the skull at or soon after birth. As the animal grows older, the horn bud attaches to the skull and the horn starts growing as a bony extension of the skull. Horns are removed either at the horn bud stage (disbudding) or by amputation in the older animal (dehorning). Dehorning also exposes the frontal sinuses as they become continuous with the growing horn.

Animals should be disbudded in preference to being dehorned. Pain relief should be provided when animals are disbudded or dehorned.















Disbudding techniques include thermal cautery (the use of heat to destroy the tissues nourishing the horn bud), caustic chemicals (also to destroy the horn bud) and surgical procedures (removing the horn buds with a sharp knife or scoop disbudder).

Dehorning involves amputating the whole horn with guillotine shears, a butcher's saw, embryotomy wire or scoop dehorners (interlocking semi-circular blades). When dehorning any animal over the age of nine months pain relief must be used.
















Tipping, the removal of the insensitive end of the horn, is sometimes used to reduce the risk of injury to other animals.

**See guide on page 28**

## Animal welfare obligations for painful husbandry procedures in cattle

CASTRATION		DISBUDDING OR DEHORNING	
<h3>MINIMUM STANDARDS</h3> <p>NO PAINFUL PROCEDURES TO BE PERFORMED ON ANIMALS UNDER 12 HOURS OLD</p>			
			
<p><b>Pain relief <b>MUST</b> be used if animals are over six months old</b></p>	<p><b>Use correct size of rubber ring</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ring above testes and below teats</li> <li>- If using high tension band then anaesthetic must be used (any age)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Disbudding</b></p> <p>Thermal cauterising or chemical techniques must not damage animal tissue beyond the bud</p>	<p><b>Dehorning</b></p> <p>Method must minimise pain, distress and risk of infection</p> <p>If animal over nine months old then pain relief <b>MUST</b> be used</p>
<h3>RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Always use pain relief for any age</li> <li> If using surgery, work hygienically</li> <li> Seek veterinary advice on best methods</li> </ul>		<h3>RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Animals should be disbudded in preference to being dehorned</li> <li> Use pain relief for any age when disbudding or dehorning</li> <li> Use wound dressings to prevent blood loss when dehorning</li> </ul>	
<h3>GENERAL INFORMATION</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Apply rubber rings to neck of scrotum between 1-4 weeks of age</li> <li> No rubber rings after four months of age</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Inspect animals during healing period after dehorning and treat infected wounds</li> <li> If in doubt, seek veterinary advice on best methods</li> </ul>	

## Animal welfare obligations for painful husbandry procedures in sheep

CASTRATION AND SCROTUM SHORTENING	DOCKING			
<h3>MINIMUM STANDARDS</h3> <p>NO PAINFUL PROCEDURES TO BE PERFORMED ON ANIMALS UNDER 12 HOURS OLD</p>				
				
<p><b>Pain relief MUST be used if animals are over six months old.</b></p>	<p><b>CASTRATION</b> Use correct size of rubber ring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ring ABOVE testes and below teats</li> <li>- If using high tension band then anaesthetic must be used (any age)</li> </ul>	<p><b>SCROTUM SHORTENING (CRYPTORCHID)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ring below testes</li> <li>- Testes pushed up into cavity or held against abdomen</li> </ul>	<p><b>When docking animals over six months pain relief MUST be used</b></p>	<p><b>Must ONLY be undertaken if necessary</b></p>
<h3>RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE</h3>		<h3>RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE</h3>		
	<p>Always use pain relief for any age</p>		<p>Dock lambs within six weeks of birth</p>	
	<p>Work Hygienically</p>		<p>Leave tails long enough to cover vulva in females and a similar length in males</p>	
	<p>Seek veterinary advice on best methods</p>		<p>Use pain relief</p>	
<h3>GENERAL INFORMATION</h3>		<h3>GENERAL INFORMATION</h3>		
	<p>Use rubber rings and avoid surgery</p>		<p>If in doubt, seek veterinary advice on best methods</p>	
	<p>Treat animals when a few weeks old</p>		<p>Use conventional rubber rings or searing irons instead of cutting techniques or high tension bands (using a bander)</p>	

For more detailed information on minimum standards and best practice guidelines please refer to Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare: [www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare)

## 4.11 Dog Welfare and Ovis Management

### Dog welfare

Dogs on-farm shall be provided with quality shelter to protect them from climatic conditions, they must also be able to urinate and defecate away from the area in which they sleep. Dogs shall be provided with adequate quantities of food and clean water to ensure optimal health and nutrition.

### Sheep measles (C. Ovis)

Although sheep measles (Taenia ovis) is not infectious to humans, it is unsightly in sheep meat and makes it unsaleable. Sheep found with five or more cysts at slaughter are condemned.

Of all the control measures for prevention of sheep measles, regular dog treatment is the most reliable, and probably the cheapest measure to implement. Dog treatments and dosing are the basis of any on-farm control programme. All dogs resident on-farm, including domestic dogs, should be treated on a regular basis with cestocidal drugs containing the ingredient Praziquantel which is highly effective drug for killing tapeworms. Praziquantel drugs come in two forms:

- Straight Praziquantel tablets which target tapeworms
- 'All Wormer' tablets which target roundworm, hookworms, whipworms (dog health treatment).

### Why monthly dosing is recommended

- 'All Wormer' treatment three monthly = 90 days
- Prepatent period of T. ovis = 35 days

This leaves a 55 day window where dogs could be shedding eggs

55 days by four times a year = 220 infected PA multiplied by number of dogs

Number of dogs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Unprotected days	220	440	660	880	1100	1320	1540	1760	1980	2200
Protected days	145	290	435	580	725	870	1015	1160	1305	1450

Combination of 'All Wormer' and straight Praziquantel tablets provides maximum protection

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	AW	P	P	AW	P	P	AW	P	P	AW	P	P

AW = 'All Wormer'

P = Praziquantel

For the best advice on tapeworm (cestocidal) treatments it is recommended that you consult your veterinarian or animal health advisor.

For further information on sheep measles see the Ovis Management Limited website: [www.sheepmeasles.co.nz](http://www.sheepmeasles.co.nz)

## 5. Environment and Sustainability

New Zealanders pride themselves on being guardians of the land, investing in improvements for generations to come. Fertile land, clean available water and fresh air are the foundations on which New Zealand's successful farming businesses have been built, so what is good for the environment is also good for farmers. Building sustainability through good environmental management and profitable farming go hand-in-hand.

### Land and Environment Plan (LEP)

A Land and Environment Plan is a tool that guides farmers through a recorded assessment of a farm's land and environmental issues, and helps farmers to develop a written plan outlining how those issues will be managed. It involves a stock-take of land, soil and water resources, an assessment of production opportunities and environmental risks, and development of a plan showing what actions are going to be undertaken, where they are being targeted, and when they will be implemented.

For more information and to download the toolkit visit: [www.beeflambnz.com/compliance/environment](http://www.beeflambnz.com/compliance/environment)

### 5.1 Resource Care and Planning

The Resource Management Act 1991 can be viewed here:  
[www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/whole.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/whole.html)

### 5.2 Waste Management and Minimisation

If you require information on how to dispose, recycle or manage a particular waste type, the best place to start is your local council. Disposal and recycling options vary between districts, so your council is best placed to advise you on your local options.

Information on waste in New Zealand and the tools available for waste management under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 can be found at: [www.mfe.govt.nz/waste](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/waste)

Agrecovery provides free recycling for plastic containers from over 3,000 of the most common ag-chem, animal health and dairy hygiene products sold into the New Zealand market. Containers should be free from chemical residue, triple rinsing is recommended, lid must be removed. Please ensure rinsing is conducted in a safe area away from waterways and livestock drinking water. For further information: [www.agrecovery.co.nz/programmes/container-recycling](http://www.agrecovery.co.nz/programmes/container-recycling)

Plasback collects a whole range of used farm plastics for recycling including bale wrap, silage sheeting, pit covers, feed bags, shrink wrap, pallet covers, feed/seed/fertiliser bags and used containers. For further information: [www.plasback.co.nz](http://www.plasback.co.nz)

**Sharps disposal** – needles and syringes should not be burned, buried or put in domestic rubbish. The correct disposal method is to collect them in a puncture-proof container and when it is full, seal it and secure it with duct tape. It should also be labelled as a biohazard waste container. Ideally, the container should be taken to a vet or other service provider who accepts waste sharps and can dispose of them correctly. Vet clinics may be able to provide a specialised sharps container to keep on-farm and return when full.

## 6. Deer Specific Standards

### 6.1 Velvet Removal and 6.2 Hard Antler

The removal of velvet without veterinary supervision or anaesthesia is a contravention of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and is accordingly a prosecutable criminal offence.

Deer antler velvet is a live, vascular and innervated tissue. Deer velvet removal may only be performed by:

- A veterinarian
- A supervised veterinarian undergraduate
- A certified velvetter in accordance with the National Velvetting Standards Body programme.

For further information: [www.deernz.org/deerhub/deer-information/antlers/velvet/removal](http://www.deernz.org/deerhub/deer-information/antlers/velvet/removal)

The National Velvetting Standards Body (NVSB) is a committee comprising two farmer representatives nominated by deer industry levy payers and approved by the New Zealand Deer Farmers Association Council and two veterinarians nominated by the New Zealand Veterinary Association. The mission of the NVSB is to implement the Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Deer During the Removal of Antlers.

[www.deernz.org/deerhub/deer-information/antlers/velvet/nvsb](http://www.deernz.org/deerhub/deer-information/antlers/velvet/nvsb)

[www.deernz.org/sites/dinz/files/Velvet%20regs%20handout-August%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.deernz.org/sites/dinz/files/Velvet%20regs%20handout-August%20(1).pdf)

### 6.3 Housing/Facilities

Information can be found here: [www.deernz.org.nz/deerhub](http://www.deernz.org.nz/deerhub)

### 6.4 Cervena

To be eligible for Cervena™ all animals must meet the criteria laid down by Cervena Trust Limited.

#### Deer

- Sourced from New Zealand deer herds Dama dama and Cervus elaphus
- Come from farms that are compliant with the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme, the DeerQA On-farm Industry Agreed Standards or an approved equivalent scheme
- The deer must be three years and under (September 30th year) i.e. under 45 months.

#### Natural

- No steroids or hormones are used in the production of Cervena natural tender venison
- Pasture fed – only deer that have been pasture fed as recorded by the Animal Status Declaration are eligible for Cervena
- Cervena deer must not have consumed feeds derived from genetically modified plants from 1 January 2019.

Cervena deer must only be transported by an operator who is approved by the New Zealand Game Industry Board QA Transport Programme and are sent only to processing plants which are audited and accredited to industry agreed standards.

[www.cervena.com](http://www.cervena.com)



## 7. Farm to Processor

### 7.1 Pre-transport

Owners or their agents have a responsibility to select, prepare and present for loading only those animals fit for the intended journey. Transport operators have a responsibility to accept for transport only those animals that appear fit for the intended journey. Specific requirements for some species are also found in relevant codes of welfare (e.g. dairy cattle, deer, sheep and beef cattle).

The preparation of animals for transport can include consideration of special feed, water and rest requirements and training or acclimation to transport and can involve procedures immediately prior to transport such as the provision of compounds or medicines to assist animals to cope with transport. In some cases physical processes may be required.

Appropriate preparation means preparation that is of a type and duration appropriate for the species, the condition of the animals, anticipated weather or other travel conditions, the mode of transport and the history of the animals.

Examples of preparation include resting after assembly and prior to loading, familiarisation with particular types or sources of food or water, familiarisation with handling or presence of handlers, emptying out (standing off green feed), treatment to minimise metabolic complications, or husbandry procedures such as shoe removal, covering with a rug or other cover, or placing protective devices on horn tips.

Special requirements are provided in species-specific codes of welfare where these have been developed or information is available from industry organisations. Requirements for standing livestock off green feed to limit effluent production during travel are given in the Industry Code of Practice for the Minimisation of Stock Effluent Spillage from Trucks on Roads (by the National Stock Effluent Working Group) which can be found here:

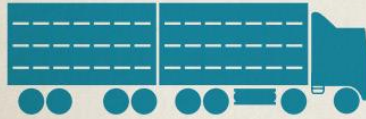
[www.rcaforum.org.nz/working-groups/stock-effluent](http://www.rcaforum.org.nz/working-groups/stock-effluent)

Removal of food from animals for extended periods of time (normally more than 24 hours) activates their fat reserves. Animals in poor condition prior to transport (such as cull animals) have lower fat reserves and are less able to withstand food withdrawal prior to transport.

For further information on Fitness of Livestock for Transport including **Veterinary Declaration** visit: [www.nzva.org.nz](http://www.nzva.org.nz)

## Transporting animals

Transporting animals requires proper management at all stages of the journey, starting with the correct selection and preparation of the animals. Without proper management, transport can cause significant distress to your livestock.



## Options for unfit animals

Animals that are not fit for transport should be:

- treated on farm by farm staff or a veterinarian; or
- humanely slaughtered on farm.

Approved pet food operators can humanely slaughter animals on farm, and remove the carcass.

## Standing off

Ruminants should be stood off green feed, with water provided, and an appropriate alternative feed source (e.g. hay), for a minimum of four hours but for no more than 12 hours before transport. Standing off on a grazed out paddock or wood chip pad, rather than on concrete is recommended.

## Check list for transport

- Transport company booked and confirmed
- Only animals fit for transport are selected - is a veterinary certificate required?
- Ruminants stood off green feed for 4-12 hours, with water and roughage provided e.g. hay
- Animal Status Declaration completed
- Movement of **cattle and deer** recorded in NAIT (processing premises and some saleyards will do this for you)

## Further information

This leaflet should be read in conjunction with the Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2011. Copies of the code are available from the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Website [mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-animal-welfare](http://mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-animal-welfare)  
Phone 0800 00 83 33 Email [animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz)

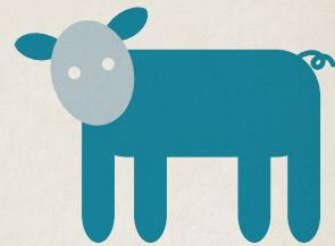
For species specific information on fitness for transport, contact your relevant industry body.



Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



## ARE YOUR ANIMALS FIT FOR TRANSPORT?



New Zealand Government

## Legal responsibilities

Owners and people in charge of animals must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 as well as those in the Transport within New Zealand Code of Welfare 2011. The code contains specific standards for selection and preparation of animals, and for the journey itself.

**It is an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 for animal handlers to present animals that are unfit for the journey, and for transport operators to load unfit stock.**

Every person involved either directly or indirectly must take all reasonable steps to ensure that no animal suffers unnecessary pain or distress. This includes farm staff, stock agents, meat company staff, transport operators, pet food operators and veterinarians.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has the responsibility to monitor the health and welfare of animals at processing premises. A database of incidents is maintained and may be used to prioritise the activities of MPI animal welfare inspectors.

**Animals are your  
livelihood.  
Their welfare is your  
responsibility.**

## Selection and preparation

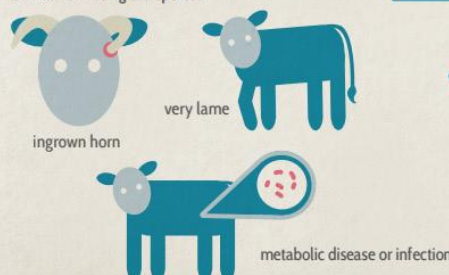
Owners or their agents have a responsibility to select, prepare and present for loading only those animals fit for the intended journey.

**Animals must not be transported unless they are fit enough to withstand the entire journey without suffering unnecessary or unreasonable pain or distress.**

Proper care must be taken when deciding whether it is appropriate to transport an animal. Ask your stock agent or meat company which processing premises your animals are being transported to.

Newborn animals are even more vulnerable and care is needed when preparing and selecting **bobby calves** for transport. Calves must be strong and healthy, fed no more than 2 hours prior to transport, and should be at least four days old. For best practice guidelines for transporting calves see [dairynz.co.nz/animalwelfare](http://dairynz.co.nz/animalwelfare)

These are some of the conditions that may prevent your animal from being transported:



## Fit for transport

Animals are fit for transport when there are no signs of injury, sickness or poor health - this means:

- Free from signs of disease - normal faeces, normal nose discharges, not slobbering, no active mastitis.
- Any injuries, wounds or other skin lesions should be healed and free from any discharges.
- Bearing weight evenly on all legs.
- No over length antlers or horns, unless they can be transported separately.
- Eyes free from pink eye and discharges, and cancer eye lesions confined to the eye.
- Animals are bright and alert, and moving normally.
- Animals are in good body condition.
- Animals are not likely to give birth during the journey, or be affected by metabolic conditions associated with late pregnancy.

Consult your veterinarian if you are unsure about the suitability of sick or injured animals for transport. Veterinarians can issue certificates for transport.

## Bobby calves



Bobby calf welfare is important and farmers, transport operators and processors all have a role to play. These guidelines will help you meet the welfare needs of animals in your care and to comply with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and the industry agreed standards detailed in the animal welfare codes.

### On the farm

Bobby calves must be given the same degree of care as every other calf on the farm:

- Colostrum – bobby calves must be fed colostrum (two-four litres/calf) within the first 24 hours of life, preferably within six hours. To aid local immunity, colostrum should be fed to them twice daily for the first four days of life.
- Handling – handle calves gently and with care at all times
- Weather protection – bobby calves must be protected from extremes of weather, especially wind, rain, cold and heat. They should be moved to a sheltered, draught-free calf shed as soon as practicable after birth.
- Housing – a comfortable lying area that is well-drained, covered with comfortable material and free from unpleasant odour should be provided for calves. Exposed concrete and bare earth are not acceptable. There should be no hazards likely to cause injury to the animals e.g. sharp objects, slippery floors.
- Water – calves must have free access to clean drinking water at all times
- Age at presentation – calves must be a minimum of four days old before being transported off-farm.

## 7.2 Preparation of Dairy Cows for Transport

### Lactating dairy cows preparation

- Supplement with magnesium three-four days either side of transport
- If using supplementary feed, introduce it gradually over several days prior to journey
- Milk prior to being loaded
- Apply sufficient disinfectant spray to fully cover all teats
- If going to slaughter send to the closest processing facility
- Must be fed after last milking and prior to transport.

For further information on the preparation and transportation of dairy cows visit:

[www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/transporting-stock](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/transporting-stock)

## 7.3 Livestock Transport

### New Zealand Livestock Transport Assurance (NZLTA)

The aim of the NZLTA programme is to ensure all livestock are transported in a safe and efficient manner meeting the minimum requirements of the Transport within New Zealand Code of Welfare. Transportation of livestock from source to slaughter premises is a key part of the supply chain and the programme member companies must use approved carriers when transporting all classes of livestock.

For further information on the New Zealand Livestock Transportation Assurance programme visit:

[www.asurequality.com/our-industries/livestock/topstock/transport-assurance](http://www.asurequality.com/our-industries/livestock/topstock/transport-assurance)

For further information on the DeerQA Transport Quality Assurance programme visit:

[www.deernz.org.nz/dinz-activity/quality-assurance/transport-qa](http://www.deernz.org.nz/dinz-activity/quality-assurance/transport-qa)

To view the latest version of the Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare and associated resources on livestock transportation visit [www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare)

## 7.4 Farmer/Owner – Livestock Transport

All farmers/owners with livestock crates who have the intention of transporting their own stock to a slaughter processor must be adequately trained in the Transport within New Zealand Code of Welfare (refer above). Driver training and livestock crate standards will be randomly checked at the processing sites.

Farmers transporting their own stock to NZLTA member slaughter premises are required to adhere to the same standards as other transportation companies. If vehicles do not comply farmers risk refusal of livestock when they reach the premises.

# Appendices

## Appendix I: Auditor Quality/Qualifications

Minimum criteria will include:

- Suitable academic background, auditing unit standards qualifications
- Suitable work experience including appropriate experience in the field for which the person will be (predominantly) employed – technical advisors may be engaged by the audit team to fulfil this requirement in particular circumstances
- Familiarity with relevant legal requirements within the field for which they will be (predominantly) employed
- Knowledge of process/service methods and procedures (this is not applicable to technical advisors as they will be under the supervision of an approved person)
- The ability to formulate a judgement as to the competence of customers to supply their product or service covered in the scope of work
- Effective written and oral communication and technology skills.

## Appendix II: On-farm Staff Training Competencies

### Details:

Name

Start date

Induction date

### Competencies (including but not limited to):

Animal welfare

Infectious diseases

Animal remedies and their administration

Chemical handling

Biosecurity/sustainability

Emergency slaughter

Farm hazards

Workplace hygiene

Livestock handling

Shearing

Castration

Tail docking

Disbudding and dehorning

Handling and disposal of dead stock

Fencing



## Appendix IV: Deer Fencing

TYPE	SPECIFICATIONS
Notification DOC	Required
Species	All deer
Min fence height above ground	1.9m
Line wires	13 – all line wires fastened to inside of posts with exception of angle posts
Wire spacings	Min of 8 wires up to 1.2m high, max of 150mm apart Min of 5 wires above 1.2m high, max of 250mm apart
Height above ground to first wire	No greater than 75mm
Batten and stay wire spacings	<b>Netting</b> max 300mm up to 1.2m high; above 1.2m max 800mm. No hinge joint netting with stay wire spacings greater than 200mm to be used for up to 1.2m in fence height. <b>Battens</b> max 600mm apart (fallow); max 800mm apart (other deer species)
Wire gauge	2.5mm gauge high tensile or wire equal to or of greater tensile strength
Post spacings	Max 5m
Post sizes	Rounds min 100mm SED; half rounds 175mm min face width; quarter rounds 100mm smallest fast width. Or posts of similar or greater strength. Min post length of 2.7m.
Strainer posts	Min of 175mm SED; half rounds 175mm min face width; quarter rounds 100mm smallest face width. Or post length of 2.7m.
Strainer distances	Max of 400m
Stays	Min of 120mm SEC and min length of 2.7m. Tie backs and internal angle stays are acceptable.
Footings	Responsibility of person erecting the fence to use suitable footings according to soil types, soil acidity and soil conditions.
Top-up fences	Base fence must be in a sound condition, contain min of eight line wires up to 1.2m with max wire spacings no greater than that listed above.
Gates	<b>Timber</b> min height of 1.9m rails min 100mm x 25mm. Three uprights (or centred) and two diagonal stays on each side of gate. Min of MS bolts to be used. Rail spacings to 1.2m high max 100mm apart. Above 1.2m max 150mm apart. <b>Steel</b> min height over frame of 1.9m wall thickness of 3mm min. Internal dia. 25mm. Gate covered with chain link of max aperture of 75mm and min wire gauge of 3.15mm. Mesh should be laced with min 2mm gauged wire. Hard-fill under all external gates.
Gate hinges	Hinges and gudgeons to be a min of 20mm dia. One hinge reversed or otherwise constructed to prevent the gate from being lifted off.
Gate locks	Must comprise a sturdy chain and padlock
Hanging gates	Hung gates must butt against the full inside surface of the latching post and open inwards
Flood gates	As approved (should not allow light through)
Staples	<b>Post</b> min of 50mm in length and min gauge of 4.0mm <b>Batten</b> softwood min of 30mm in length and min gauge of 3.15mm hardwood min of 27mm x 2.8mm Steel fasteners for concrete posts can be used
Netting	No hinge joint netting with greater than 200mm. Stay wire spacings shall be used below 1.2m in height above ground level.
Natural barriers	As approved

\* *Regulated/at-risk area is defined in New Zealand Gazette notice 125*





## **Participating members**

**AFFCO**

**Alliance Group**

**ANZCO Foods**

**Blue Sky Meats**

**BX Foods**

**Duncan New Zealand Venison**

**Escorial Group**

**Firstlight Foods**

**Greenlea Premier Meats**

**Landcorp Farming**

**Mountain River Venison**

**Ovation**

**Progressive Meats**

**Silver Fern Farms**

**Taylor Preston**

**Te Kuiti Meat Processors**

**Wilson Hellaby**



[www.nzfap.com](http://www.nzfap.com) | [nzfap@asurequality.co.nz](mailto:nzfap@asurequality.co.nz)