



# Red Tractor Assurance

June 2019

At Red Tractor we know that our standards must be kept up to date.

New issues are emerging all the time, not only in the agriculture industry but also in the minds of consumers who buy Red Tractor branded products.

While we have a formal three-year schedule to review our farm standards, in some sectors there is a requirement to review standards more regularly.

Presented here is a set of proposals for changes to Dairy Standards version 4.1 implemented in June 2018. The changes will provide a strengthening of standards in some areas providing positive re-assurance on some key issues.

We invite comments on the proposals until noon on 1 July 2019, we will consider all responses before finalising the standards ready for implementation 1 October 2019.

In reading the document the key is as follows

- Black text signifies the existing standard unchanged
- Red text highlights amendments/new standards
- Green text signifies text that was previously in an appendix but has been brought into the body of the standard.

Feedback is invited before noon 1 July 2019 by clicking the link below

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PHMFKZN>

Regards  
The Red Tractor Team



# Red Tractor Assurance

## PROPOSED REVISION TO STANDARDS - OCTOBER 2019

### CONSULTATION JUNE 2019

#### SECTION 1 – THE HEALTH PLAN

Proactive management of the health and welfare of all livestock through planning and reviewing is a critical on-farm activity. The current standards insist that a Livestock Health Plan (referred to as The Health Plan) must be established and implemented.

The proposals are to strengthen The Health Plan by requiring it to be written in conjunction with a vet. By being independent of the farm, the vet may well be able to identify some emerging issues that those who works with the livestock day-in, day-out might not. It will be an opportunity to talk about how issues could be dealt with should they arise, along with the potential for the member to different strategies may have been successful on other farms.

In addition, to further strengthen the standards around health planning, the proposal is to detail what The Plan includes in the 'how you will be measured' section of the standards document; previously these details were written into the standards appendix. Following this standard change templates to assist farmers with compliance of this standard will be updated on the Red Tractor website.

We also propose to strengthen the appendix relating to key standard AH.a. This is to ensure all aspects of The Health Plan are covered in the farm protocols and procedures.

Red Tractor standards encourage a whole team approach to The Health Plan, in input and by ensuring all who undertake tasks on farm involving livestock are aware of its contents. We are encouraging The Health Plan to be used as an active document on the farm

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AH.a A Livestock Health Plan, written in conjunction with the vet to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The plan is drawn up in consultation with those responsible for livestock and other relevant persons e.g. nutritionist, foot trimmer</li></ul>	Health Plan

<p>proactively manage and improve health and welfare of livestock must be established and implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan is farm specific and available to all <b>who</b> look after livestock</li> <li>• <b>The plan includes elements prescribed in the Appendix:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Biosecurity policy</li> <li>○ Infectious disease and vaccination</li> <li>○ Parasite control</li> <li>○ Foot care <b>and lameness management</b></li> <li>○ Mastitis</li> <li>○ Metabolic disorders</li> <li>○ Management of drying off</li> <li>○ <b>Calving procedures</b></li> <li>○ Young animal management and husbandry procedures</li> <li>○ Identifying treated animals</li> <li>○ Dealing with TB reactors</li> <li>○ Downer cows</li> <li>○ <b>Protocol for use of shackles/hobbles</b></li> <li>○ Euthanasia</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Health plan covers management of beef cattle and where applicable sheep (<b>it is not mandatory that these elements are written in conjunction with the vet</b>)</li> <li>• The plan is updated as and when changes occur</li> </ul>	
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Table A: Herd Health Plan – Mandatory components

Management Topic	What the plan must detail/explain	Examples to consider
<p>a. Biosecurity policy</p>	<p>Actions taken to reduce biosecurity risks to your farm</p> <p><b>Isolation and quarantine procedures for incoming stock</b></p> <p><b>Biosecurity risks from animals in neighbouring fields</b></p>	<p>e.g. managing incoming stock, <b>disease transmission from animal to animal within the holding</b>, equipment, people, vehicles, <b>risks from watercourses</b></p>
<p>b. Infectious disease and vaccination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Johne’s Control Strategy (signed by BCVA accredited vet)</b></li> <li>• <b>BVD eradication plan</b></li> <li>• For disease risks relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Herd status</li> <li>○ Vaccines used and vaccine timings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>e.g. Johne’s, Lepto, BVD, IBR, TB, <b>clostridial disease, neospora</b></p>
<p>c. Parasite control</p>	<p>For parasite risks relevant to the farm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Products used and timing</li> </ul>	<p>e.g. fluke, lungworm, worms, lice, flies</p>

d. Foot care & lameness management	<p><b>Lameness management including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mobility scoring protocol</li> <li>• Foot trimming protocol</li> <li>• Footbathing protocol</li> </ul> <p>For foot problems relevant to the farm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the person responsible for treating</li> <li>• When and how the problem is treated – controls/treatments and products used</li> </ul>	e.g. digital dermatitis, sole ulcers, foul, white line disease
e. Mastitis	<p>For routine prevention measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The measures taken and products used</li> <li>• <b>Milking routine protocol</b></li> </ul> <p>For the treatment of clinical cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures taken, products used and withdrawal periods</li> </ul>	e.g. Mastitis Control Plan, AHDB Dairy Mastitis Pattern Analysis Tool
f. Metabolic disorders	<p>For metabolic disorders relevant to the farm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preventative measures</li> <li>• How clinical cases are treated including products used</li> </ul>	e.g. staggers, milk fever, ketosis, displaced abomasums
g. Management of drying off	<p><b>Dry Cow Therapy protocol</b></p> <p>The drying off procedure – measures taken, products used and withdrawal periods</p>	e.g. Selective Dry Cow Therapy, threshold SCC details for animals on SDCT
h. Calving procedures	<p><b>Protocol for use of calving aids, including cleansing and disinfection</b></p> <p><b>Management of cow/calf separation</b></p> <p><b>Disease control at calving (e.g. Johne's)</b></p>	
i. Young animal management	<p><b>The measures taken to ensure all newborns receive adequate colostrum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person(s) responsible and training received</li> <li>• Quantity, quality and timing of first feed</li> </ul>	
j. Husbandry procedures	<p><b>For husbandry procedures relevant to the farm:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person responsible</li> <li>• Methods and age of animal</li> </ul> <p><b>Anaesthetic/analgesia product used</b></p>	e.g. disbudding, dehorning, castration, removal of supernumerary teats, freeze branding
k. Identifying treated animals	<p>A written policy detailing how livestock are identified to manage withdrawal periods and their treatment</p>	

l. Pain relief procedures	A written policy detailing when pain relief should be provided, the person responsible and the products used	
m. Dealing with TB reactors	A written policy for dealing with TB reactors within the herd and their milk, including actions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolate and identify reactors</li> <li>• Ensure reactor milk doesn't enter the bulk tank and is not fed to calves</li> <li>• Inform milk buyer(s)</li> </ul>	The policy should make reference to information from the TB Advisory Service as appropriate
n. Downer cows	Actions taken with downer cows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When vet should be notified</li> <li>• When euthanasia decision should be made</li> </ul>	
o. Protocol for use of shackles/hobbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When shackles/hobbles are used</li> <li>• How they are used and for how long</li> <li>• When vet should be notified of their use</li> <li>• Details to be recorded – including date applied and reason</li> </ul>	
p. Euthanasia	A written policy outlining how euthanasia is undertaken on-farm, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal type</li> <li>• Methods used</li> <li>• Name of competent person who undertakes it</li> </ul>	

## SECTION 2 – PAIN RELIEF

The delivery of pain relief to livestock is common practice on the majority of farms and is an accepted part of responsible livestock husbandry procedures. This new standard requires the delivery of pain relief when procedures are undertaken and for these to be documented in The Health Plan and recorded within the medicine records.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AM.j Pain relief must be provided to all animals that are likely to be in pain due to a health condition, injury or potentially painful procedure	Pain relief provided when any procedure performed on the animal is likely to inflict pain during and/or after the procedure Pain relief to include administration of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) as recommended by the vet	Pain relief documented in the health plan Pain relief recorded in medicine records

### SECTION 3 - DISEASE CONTROL

It is well documented that an outbreak of disease can be devastating to individual farmer and the whole industry. Consequently, the dairy industry is always working hard to ensure the health of individual herds and in turn, to improve the health of the national herd. When cows are healthy, so is the farm business.

Red Tractor standards must keep up to date with industry initiatives on disease control, particularly in relation to two endemic diseases, Johnes Disease and Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD).

The proposal is to strengthen the animal health and welfare standards by introducing two new standards which will require farmers to show actions which not only determine their herd/animal status but also how the farm is managing the disease risk posed by Johnes and BVD.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
<p>AH.c.2 Johnes disease must be managed through the implementation of the National Johnes Management Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appropriate strategy is identified through a discussion with a BCVA Accredited Johnes Veterinary Advisor taking into account:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current prevalence of Johnes on the farm</li> <li>• Biosecurity risk associated with the farm (eg buying in of stock)</li> <li>• Biocontainment risk associated with the farm (eg risk of spread within the holding)</li> <li>• Resources (capital and human)</li> <li>• Aspiration of the farm (eg desire to eradicate Johnes completely or simply contain the disease at manageable levels)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• National Johnes Management Plan Declaration completed and signed by BCVA Accredited Johnes Veterinary Advisor</li> <li>• National Johnes Management Plan or equivalent scheme implemented as available (NJMP currently operational in Great Britain)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farms operating in Northern Ireland will have until Oct 2020 to comply with this standard, to ensure access to all of the required elements</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Current NJMP Declaration Test results</p>

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

#### SECTION 4 - VET ANTIBIOTIC REVIEW

The use of antibiotics on farmed livestock is a topic regularly featured in the mainstream press. Since penicillin first came into use in the 1930's we have relied on antibiotics in both human and veterinary medicine to treat serious infectious diseases. There is well documented concern that many pathogens are rapidly becoming resistant to antibiotics. Press reports which often blame the entire problem on the use of antimicrobials in farming are clearly misguided, however, farmers do have a part to play in ensuring responsible use.

Red Tractor supports the industry alliance for Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture (RUMA).

The proposal is to strengthen the standard relating to the annual review of antibiotic usage undertaken by the vet. Both additional elements focus on alternative disease prevention strategies which will aim to reduce levels of disease and in turn the use of medicines.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AM.f.2 An annual review of antibiotics used must be undertaken by the vet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vet review to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include review of medicines and antibiotic purchase and use, including antibiotic collation</li> <li>• Includes recommendations for responsible reduction of antibiotic use where possible, in particular in relation to HP-CIAs</li> <li>• Includes review of any cascade or off-label use and make recommendations for alternative disease prevention strategies</li> <li>• Includes review of any antibiotic failures</li> <li>• Review preventative treatment and make recommendations for alternative disease prevention strategies</li> <li>• Review overall use of dry cow therapy and protocols and where appropriate make recommendations for selective antibiotic use</li> <li>• Review can form part of the Vet Health and Performance Review</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Vet antibiotic review

## SECTION 5 - MEDICINE ADMINISTRATION RECORDS

Records of medicine use are a legal requirement; Red Tractors standards aim to deliver safe, secure and responsible management of all medicines.

The proposal is to strengthen the standard to include the recording of teat sealant. With selective dry cow therapy common place on farm it is important to record what each cow has had at drying off.

In addition, and in order to simplify the standard, the proposal is to incorporate the requirement to record dog worming within the farm medicine records into the anti-parasitic control wording.

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

## SECTION 6 - HUSBANDRY PROCEDURES

Good animal husbandry practices are gaining in importance throughout the world. Best practice is an important aspect of running a successful dairy business, not only to meet animal health and welfare standards but also for optimal animal performance. Red Tractor



standards aim to deliver responsible and competent undertaking of husbandry procedures, which are listed in the standards appendix.

These husbandry procedures are continually under review and in order to strengthen the standard the proposal is to include a new measurement with regards to the use of cauterising paste.

For information, the Board and technical advisory committee are looking closely at the use of cauterising paste on farms and the wide implications to animal and worker welfare.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
AM.i Husbandry procedures are carried out by competent persons in accordance with scheme requirements and only when necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Husbandry procedures are carried out in accordance with the Appendix including the specified timeframes for methods and anaesthetic requirements</li> <li>• Dewlap tags are not permitted</li> <li>• <b>Cauterising paste is only used on animals less than 1 week of age and the calf must receive pain relief.</b></li> <li>• <b><i>Use of caustic paste for this procedure will not be allowed on Red Tractor assured farms from Oct 2021</i></b></li> </ul>	Medicine records showing pain relief administered

## SECTION 7 - COLOSTRUM MANAGEMENT

Red Tractor standards relating to youngstock are designed to ensure that the needs of the calves in the system are met. Colostrum and milk-feeding practices are an essential component of successful calf rearing. Feeding calves colostrum allows the calf to gain essential passive immunity against a range of common disease-causing bacteria and viruses.

Colostrum and milk feeding practices are also important in reducing the risk of calves becoming infected with Johnes Disease. The feeding of milk from known Johnes positive cows is a known risk factor in the transfer of the pathogens to the youngstock.

The proposal is to strengthen the standard with a new requirement to ensure farms do not feed milk or colostrum from Johnes positive cows to youngstock which may potentially enter the breeding herd (dairy and beef).

It should be noted that the industry recommendation is not to feed this milk/colostrum to any stock.

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

## SECTION 8 - MEDICINE ADMINISTRATION

Red Tractor standards aim to ensure the responsible and competent use of medicines and veterinary treatments.

The proposal is to strengthen the standard by upgrading the current recommendation that one member of staff responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training to a full standard.

Given the challenges within the industry the proposal seeks to add a timescale to this training requirement. This is to ensure that the competent person is abreast of current industry challenges, particularly in regard to antimicrobial/antibiotic usage.

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

## SECTION 9 - DOCUMENTS

Red Tractor standards aim to ensure that there are plans and procedures in place to ensure safe and legal food production.

Sometimes there are serious incidents and emergency situations which could present a risk to food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection. An example of this could be a situation such as milk not being collected due to inclement weather, loss of assurance status or power failure.

The proposal seeks to strengthen the standard to ensure that the documented plan for effective management of such incidents is clearly available to anyone who may attend the farm.

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

## SECTION 10 - MILK PRODUCTION

It is critically important that milk is produced in a safe and hygienic manner. Keeping the parlour clean and tidy is fundamental in achieving this.

With a change to the Maximum Residue Level (MRL) of Chlorates in milk, it is important to be aware of the risk potential of residues within the parlour plant post cleaning.

Consequently, the proposal is to strengthen the standard to include a detailed parlour plant cleaning protocol to be displayed in all dairies/plant areas.

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

	stages should be detailed along with frequency of checks undertaken.	
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**SECTION 11 - ANTIBIOTIC FAILURES**

In order to assist with the management of antibiotic failures and with the aim of reducing the number of residue failures, the proposal is to strengthen the standard to require **all** failures are reported to the vet.

This is with a view to better management of risks and more timely action.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
DP.c.1 Each antibiotic failure must be reported to the prescribing vet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribing vet involved in investigation, reviews medicine use and makes recommendations to prevent the issue happening again</li> <li>Vet review recorded in the complaints record</li> </ul>	Vet review recorded in the complaints record

**SECTION 12 - STAFF**

Red Tractor standards ensure that all staff are trained and competent to carry out the activities they do. It is important that systems are in place to ensure this standard is maintained.

The proposal seeks to strengthen the standard by merging the current standard and part of the recommendation for an annual documented review. This is to ensure there is an auditable point for the assessment, and, to provide a clear framework for employee/worker review and progression aspirations.

Standard	How you will be measured	Record
SC.b The performance and competence of staff must be regularly reviewed and refresher training implemented as required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have staff they are regularly observed and the output of their work reviewed</li> <li>Refresher training is implemented immediately if issues are found</li> <li>Assessments of skills and competency undertaken and documented</li> </ul>	Review form

**SECTION 13 - REVIEW OF CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

As part of the consultation process there has been an examination of the recommendations detailed within the standards. Subject to the proposed changes being ratified into the standards, and, removing duplication, there is a proposal to take out and/or revise the recommendations below.

Standard	Suggestion
SC.b.1 It is recommended that a formal, documented annual review is undertaken	<b>Remove</b> Added as a point under standard SC.b and review form noted as record, therefore recommendation can be removed from the standards
SC.c.1 It is recommended that <b>at least one person</b> per site is a member of a scheme that records skills/development /training	<b>Revise</b> Wording amending to ensure all businesses are covered by the recommendation not just those who employ staff
MP.g.1 It is recommended that milk storage tanks have a means of informing of milk temperature change	<b>Remove</b> Covered under MP.g which states, under the how measured, tanks are fitted with functioning temperature gauges - therefore remove as a recommendation

MP.m It is recommended that a standby generator is available in the event of a power failure	<b>Remove</b> Covered in contingency plan, in terms of detail re power failure – recommendation to remove from standards
FW.a.1.1 and FW.a.1.2 It is recommended that that colostrum is received within two hours of birth It is recommended that calves are given 10% of body weight or three litres as first feed	<b>Remove</b> Covered in health plan, colostrum policy, recommendations to be removed. Industry message on colostrum policy and calf requirements to be in the appendix and template for health plates/communication round youngstock management
AH.e.1 It is recommended that mobility scoring is conducted on the whole milking herd at least every six months	<b>Remove</b> Covered in foot care element of health plan - recommendation to be removed from standards.