



## Beef and Lamb

For each section of the standards there is a summary of the proposed amendments. The rationale for the proposed changes is outlined in the far-right column in the draft standards, however if you would like more information about specific standards and the reason for their inclusion, please contact [consultation@redtractor.org.uk](mailto:consultation@redtractor.org.uk)

- The re-formatting of the standards should improve clarity for both members and assessors, which should ensure consistency at assessment thus helping members and assessors what is required at assessment.
- The beef and lamb standards have been strengthened in terms of health planning to ensure a proactive approach to health management, to give the member an insight into any issues at farm in a timely manner. Total antibiotic use at the farm has been included so meaningful reviews can take place with the vet to reduce antibiotic use where necessary.
- Further consideration has been given to the Health and Safety of animal handlers during handling activities including loading and unloading.

You will be asked if you agree, partially agree or disagree with the proposals. There may be questions which are not applicable to you or your organisation, in which case you can select n/a and move to the next question.

[View the proposals for V5 of the Beef and Lamb Standards](#)

### QUESTIONS

#### **DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES (DP)**

There are few changes proposed to this section with only minor amendments to the standard requiring an emergency action plan.

The requirement for an overall farm map has been removed but there are other standards that require specific elements to be indicated on map(s) such as site drainage.

#### **TRACEABILITY AND ASSURANCE (TI)**

The proposed amendments in this section set out to clarify the standards and move identification and movement records into separate standards for ease of assessment.

Additionally, there is a proposal that the holding register can be paper/computer based or a combination of both but cannot be held in the national database only.

#### **VERMIN CONTROL (VC)**

There are only minor changes proposed to the vermin control standards, primarily they introduce clarity and streamline the requirements.

They suggest that a site survey should be completed at least quarterly.

#### **HOUSING, SHELTER AND HANDLING FACILITIES (HF)**

There are only minor amendments proposed to this section.

The proposed changes to the standard for handling and loading facilities include adding the risk of injury to handlers as well as livestock.

### **FEED AND WATER (FW)**

There are limited changes proposed to this section.

It is proposed that the standard relating to colostrum be revised so that a colostrum policy is included in the health plan and greater clarity has been given to alternative sources of colostrum are available in the event of the dam not being able to produce.

Greater clarity has also been given to acknowledge that water is needed for all grazing livestock including those on root crops.

### **ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE (AH)**

The proposed changes in this section mainly relate to the health plan, health and performance review and livestock handling.

The proposal is that the information required in the written health plan is listed within the standard rather than the appendix for ease of reference. Also, that the plan should be a dated plan and be easily accessible to all persons involved in the care and management of the stock.

The suggestion is that an additional audit point be added which refers to those responsible for livestock e.g., foot trimmer/shearer, to ensure there is oversight of these practices and the people carrying these out.

More emphasis has been placed on maintaining records of the health and performance of livestock throughout the year; as a minimum 6 monthly collation. Additionally, the audit point is more explicit about what health and performance details should be considered.

The proposals are that the annual health and performance review undertaken by the vet has an additional audit point that the health plan will be reviewed and amended as required.

*It is proposed that the requirement around appropriate handling of livestock is strengthened to make it clear what is unacceptable.*

### **YOUNGSTOCK (CR)**

There are no changes proposed to this section.

### **BIOSECURITY AND DISEASE CONTROL (BI)**

There are few changes proposed to this section, just some clarification of audit points that the policy is specific to the farm and details risks to the farm including husbandry contractor's equipment and clothing.

The proposed changes suggest that the policy can form part of the health plan or be a standalone document. If agreed assessors will look for evidence that the biosecurity policy is being implemented, not just that one is present.

### **ANIMAL MEDICINES (AM)**

New standards across all livestock species require improvements in how animal medicines are used and stored to ensure that best practice is always followed to ensure medicines are effective when they are used and present no risk of contamination.

The proposed standards include the following requirements:

- Expired medicines are not used
- Medicines are stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Expired and unusable medicines are stored separately from in-use medicines pending disposal
- Clearer audit point around how used needles and blades are stored

It is proposed that the standard around highest priority critically important antibiotics is revised to consider classification changes and that testing must be done.

The proposals also ask for wider coverage of medicine used in the annual review rather than just antibiotics.

### **HUSBANDRY PROCEDURES (HP)**

The proposal is to separate standards around husbandry procedures into their own section to ensure there is oversight of which procedures are performed. Only husbandry procedures detailed in the health plan should be carried out.

One proposal is that all calf procedures must be carried out with pain relief and there is an additional standard proposed which sets out that cauterising paste is only to be used on animals less than 1 week old.

### **FALLEN STOCK (FS)**

Only minor amendments are proposed to the fallen stock standards. Clarity regarding the storage of fallen stock is proposed.

### **LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT (LT)**

There are limited changes proposed to this section.

The proposal is that audit points are clarified in relation to vehicle condition, ramp angles, bedding and lighting being available. Also, that greater clarity is given to standards which relate to livestock being moved off the farm. It is also proposed that the reference to the veterinary surgeon is removed due to changes within the industry

### **THE MEDICINE HUB - A NEW INDUSTRY INITIATIVE**

Red Tractor recognises the vital importance of responsible antibiotic use on livestock farms and as such we have several standards currently addressing this area along with proposals to strengthen and define others within this consultation.

*We support the industry initiative to launch a Medicine Hub led by AHDB and our Dairy, Beef and Lamb Boards are keen to explore the role of Red Tractor in facilitating collection of industry antibiotic data.*

Such data would provide a valuable evidence base with which to promote the high standards of production employed by our dairy, beef and sheep producers and monitor progress against industry agreed targets ([www.ruma.org.uk](http://www.ruma.org.uk)) for more responsible medicine use.

AHDB are in the process of developing the system and plan for it to be available in early 2021, with a wider roll out during the year however at this stage we are unable to confirm the detail of a future proposed standard.

However, we are keen to understand your views on this topic during this consultation.

**Q. Do you agree that Red Tractor should make it a requirement for the annual collation of antibiotic data to be uploaded to the AHDB Medicine Hub when the system is available and all aspects of how this can be brought into an auditable standard have been defined?**

Additionally, the requirement of the proposed Medicine Hub is to report usage data on a calendar year basis (raw data can be entered throughout the year) to include the data in the annual Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance report produced by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

This would require all data to be uploaded by 30 April the following year to be included in the national data set.

Currently the RT standards require an annual health performance review (AH.3) to be done by the vet and this is normally based on the previous 12 months performance data and is wider than antibiotic medicine use. There is no stipulation as to when in the year this is done.

**Q. Do you have a view on the Medicine Hub requirement for data on a calendar year basis and how this may work practically in relation to the Red Tractor requirement for the annual health performance review, which can be done at any time during the year?**

## **PERSONNEL**

Red Tractor has listened to the recommendations made in a review of the scheme last year, which identified topics underrepresented in the Red Tractor Standards.

As a result our proposals include a greater focus on worker welfare, particularly issues relating to health and safety in farm businesses and the ethical management of employees.

We recognise that this is the area of the standards where we are proposing the most change and therefore, unlike the rest of the consultation where we have asked for feedback against each section of the standards, here we have provided the opportunity for you give feedback against each individual proposed standard. These are detailed below:

- **PL.1 Revised.** The proposal is for only minor changes to ensure training systems are present, communicating key information to personnel before they begin working on farm. This will provide added protection for farms and workers.
- **PL.2 Upgraded and Revised.** The proposal is for a change to ensure recorded performance reviews are completed by person or job role to verify that training systems are effective.
- **PL.4 Revised.** The proposed changes make it clearer that labour providers must be GLAA licensed and that agreements with labour providers are suitably comprehensive
- **PL.5 NEW.** The United Kingdom Labour Market Enforcement Strategy 2019/20 presented to parliament in 2019 identified agriculture as one of the highest-risk sectors for labour exploitation. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced a requirement for large businesses to report annually on efforts to tackle Modern Slavery within their supply chains. In summary, there is a known labour exploitation risk within the agricultural sector and a requirement for integrators, processors and retailers to manage this risk at farm level. The proposals introduce a simple, self-assessment that will introduce farms to ethical trade topics, highlight gaps and link to resources that support in building understanding and protecting workers on farm. Where a farm already has a Sedex site self-assessment in place, farms will not be required to complete the assessment. Our plan is for assessors to check the self-assessment has been completed to the requirements defined in the Standard. They will not seek evidence to support individual answers recorded within the self-assessment.
- **PL.6 NEW.** The proposals introduce a check of any temporary, on site accommodation to confirm it is hygienic, safe, and fit for purpose. This will ensure that - where such accommodation is provided on Red Tractor farms - it is independently inspected and meets a simple checklist of expectations, demonstrating our commitment to treating workers with fairness and respect.
- **PL.7 NEW**

**PL.7.a** - Employers must set out a grievance procedure and share it in writing with all employees.

**PL.7.b** - The proposal creates a new requirement for businesses with more than five employees to inform workers of Modern Slavery reporting options. This will help ensure workers are informed and supported in raising concerns discretely if they become victim of exploitation by third parties.

- **PL.8 NEW.** Health and Safety on farm is a known and significant risk to the industry. By law, all businesses must have a Health and Safety policy, and this must be written down where businesses have more than five employees. The proposals mean a modest advance on the legal baseline, to require all farms with workers to have a written Health and Safety policy. This will ensure that all Red Tractor farms have a simple, clearly defined approach to managing Health and Safety and that this can be independently verified.
- **PL.9 NEW.** The proposal is that all farms with workers identify a named person on site as responsible for Health & Safety. This supports the legal baseline requirement for businesses to identify a competent person to manage Health & Safety on site, while also ensuring a degree of direct accountability.
- **PL.10 NEW.** All employers are responsible by law for assessing and controlling Health and Safety risks within their business. The proposal requires the Health and Safety risk assessment to be documented where a business has five or more employees - in accordance with the baseline legal requirement.
- **PL.11 NEW.** All employers must consult their workers on the subject of Health & Safety. For smaller businesses, this process may be informal. The proposed new standard will require businesses with more than five employees to hold Health and Safety meetings with employees, at least once each year. This will ensure employees have a defined forum for raising concerns and provide objective evidence of this process.
- **PL.12 NEW.** All employers must put basic First Aid provisions in place within the workplace. The proposal is to ensure all employers have basic First Aid provisions in place within the workplace. This will be an assessed requirement. At least one person on each farm must be trained in First Aid.
- **PL.13 NEW.** All employers are required by law to consider additional risks to vulnerable workers. Agriculture is a hazardous industry and workforces may be changeable where temporary or seasonal workers are used. The proposal is that all farms with workers must show documented consideration of any increased risk for high-risk workers to provide objective evidence that vulnerable workers on farm are given added consideration and protection where appropriate.