

# 100% MADE OF NEW ZEALAND

## FARM ASSURANCE PROGRAMME

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OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SHEEP, CATTLE, GOATS AND DEER



**SILVER  
FERN<sup>®</sup>  
FARMS**

This manual has been prepared by Silver Fern Farms to provide the operating procedures for a quality assurance programme that meets international and customer requirements for producing and handling livestock on the farm.

It originates with the customer and translates into on-farm practices that provide assurance the meat and meat products have been derived from animals reared and handled in a well cared for and healthy environment.

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SUPPLIER NO.

## PREFACE



Farm assurance is the starting point for an integrated quality assurance programme that links plate to pasture.

Silver Fern Farms' business strategy is based on building partnerships. These partnerships bring customer, exporter, processor and farmer together in a supply chain to ensure that product of the highest quality is delivered, from our farmers, to our discerning customers.

The concept of partnerships is especially important, as Silver Fern Farms is but one link in the supply chain. We are dependent on others to achieve the high level of performance, product quality and service that world markets demand. At the same time, Silver Fern Farms plays a major role in coordinating these partnerships and delivering the quality outcomes.

Farm Assurance is about meeting the needs and wants of the modern consumer. It will ensure that our international customers can be confident that "due diligence" has been applied to animal health, welfare and food safety issues during the rearing and farming of animals destined for human food.

The operating procedures in this manual describe the minimum requirements to achieve Farm Assured status for supply of slaughter animals to Silver Fern Farms' meat processing plants.

The programme is built on best practices enumerated in many other programmes, both nationally and internationally. The Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance programme is accredited to ISO Guide 65, an international product standard.

The requirements set down in this manual are essentially those activities carried out on any well run and managed farm and should be already familiar to suppliers to Silver Fern Farms.

This is a valuable document and should be stored in a secure place. It should be available at all times and remain confidential to Silver Fern Farms' Farm Assured Suppliers.

# INTRODUCTION



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

### Five basic freedoms of animal health and welfare

Globally, consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about the welfare conditions of animals raised for human food.

Already Veterinary Health Certificates to the EU carry an animal welfare clause based on the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Practice – these codes are available at [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/stds/codes](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/stds/codes).

The NAWAC codes explain your obligations under the Animal Welfare Act. Already some supermarket chains in the UK are adding animal welfare assurances to their purchase contracts.

The guiding principles for the health and welfare of livestock are based on the five basic freedoms:

1. freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
2. the provision of appropriate comfort and shelter
3. the prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment of injury, disease or infection
4. freedom from distress
5. the ability to display normal patterns of behaviour.

Participants in the Silver Fern Farms' Farm Assurance programme are expected to apply these principles to all Farm Assured livestock.

Farm assurance programmes are an important means for providing high-quality animal welfare and food safety in the meat processing industry.

The Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance Programme promotes the attitude of continuous improvement and provides the means for verification that consumer requirements are being met. Sustainable farming practice is an integral part of meeting the needs of consumers.

The Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance Programme covers sheep, cattle, deer and goats so that Silver Fern Farms has the ability to service all markets requiring farm assured product. By following the operating requirements set down in this programme Silver Fern Farms' suppliers will meet best practice farm assurance, specifically tailored to New Zealand farming conditions.

Each specific requirement is set down in bold typeface. A commentary follows each requirement to explain its intent and to provide guidance on its application.

A Silver Fern Farms' supplier who can meet all the requirements of this programme will qualify for the benefits that come with the programme.

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### **1.1 AIM**

To provide customers with the confidence that products supplied under the Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance Programme meet currently accepted practices of animal health and welfare and that their requirements for due diligence are achieved.

### **1.2 METHOD**

By tracing livestock from supplier to the marketplace.

By verifying:

- Stock movements
- Management systems
- Animal health treatments
- Feeding regimes
- Animal welfare standards.

### **1.3 REFERENCES**

This manual is prepared with reference to:

- Customer Codes of Practice
- The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) Codes of Animal Welfare
- Animal Welfare Act 1999
- The DINZ farm quality assurance programme
- ISO Guide 65.

For relevant legislation and animal welfare codes refer to Appendix Two.

## ASSURED LIVESTOCK SUPPLIERS



A Farm Assured supplier is a supplier of livestock to Silver Fern Farms who:

- Has agreed to meet the Farm Assurance Programme and has implemented the specific requirements set down in that Programme
- Has undergone an audit by an independent farm assurance auditor to confirm that the requirements of the Programme have been met.

Any Farmed Assured property may submit both Farm Assured and Non-Farm Assured stock for slaughter.

Non-Farm Assured stock are those which:

- Do not meet the requirements of the Farm Assurance Programme e.g. – Purchased stock (with no animal treatment information), which are subsequently sold for slaughter within 91 days of the purchase date
- Have not met all the farm retention requirements on the last property prior to slaughter. *Refer to section 3.1, Requirement 2, Stock Retention*
- Have been farmed on a property which has not been audited and accredited as outlined by the Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance Programme.

An additional option to supply organically produced livestock is available under the programme and the general operating requirements for the organic programme can be obtained by contacting your local Silver Fern Farms' Livestock Representative in the first instance. To qualify as an organic supplier official organic registration must be held by the supplier.

## 2.1 SUPPLIER REQUIREMENTS

All suppliers must adhere to the requirements of the Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance Programme, and must first undergo an on-farm assessment followed by an audit. Assessments are undertaken on an annual basis (the interval between assessments must not exceed 18 months) and audits will be undertaken according to a formal sampling plan.

Suppliers may supply copies of computer based/electronic records (or equivalent) if they choose not to record farm details in the diary or other documents supplied by Silver Fern Farms.

Prior to the farm audit, suppliers will be subject to a preliminary assessment by a Silver Fern Farms' Livestock Representative. Suppliers must produce at least the previous three months of records before an independent third party farm auditor can audit the property.

No livestock qualifies as Farm Assured until a farm has successfully passed a farm audit. In the case of minor non-compliances, as long as the corrective action is completed within the agreed time frame, the Farm Assurance status is maintained while these non-compliances are resolved.

## 2.2 AUDIT PROCESS

All Silver Fern Farms' assessors undergo training to maintain their status as Farm Assured assessors.

The Manager (the person with primary responsibility for the farming and livestock operation on the farm) should contact their Silver Fern Farms' Livestock Representative if they wish to become part of the Farm Assured Programme.

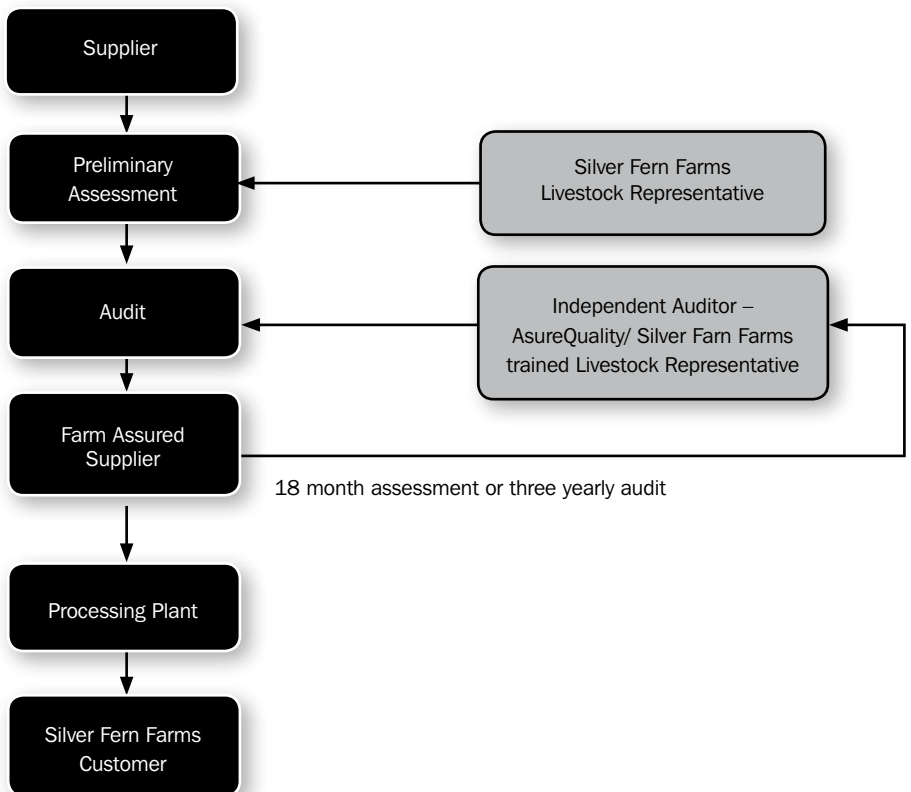
1. A Silver Fern Farms' Livestock Representative will visit the farm and make a preliminary assessment. All records required under the programme should be up to date and available for viewing at this stage.
2. If the requirements are met at this assessment, arrangements will be made for a formal approval audit. This audit can be undertaken by a trained Silver Fern Farms Livestock Representative or an independent ISO 65 accredited Farm Auditor.
3. The audit will cover the entire production system and concentrate on:
  - Stock movements
  - Animal health
  - Animal husbandry and welfare
  - Animal nutrition
  - Facilities
  - Environment.

All records must be available, accurate and complete upon inspection.

4. A successful audit outcome will result in the farm becoming accredited to the Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance Programme.
5. Subsequent independent audits will be at a frequency determined by Silver Fern Farms, however a Livestock Representative will assess the property and records at a frequency not exceeding 18 months.
6. Assured farms, including all relevant facilities and records, may be subject to audit by Silver Fern Farms' customers and/or their designated auditors.

The diagram below outlines the audit flow from a Livestock Supplier to the Customer.

**Figure 1. Audit Flow**





## OPERATING REQUIREMENTS



The operating requirements set down in this document are the basic elements that must be met to achieve accreditation to the Farm Assurance Programme. Many, if not all, of these requirements will already be in place in the farming enterprise but may not be documented to the extent required for full verification and audit.

If records already exist in a documented form a simple cross-reference to this programme should be sufficient. If not, the Silver Fern Farms' diary/record book should be used.

Contact Silver Fern Farms for a copy of the Diary/Record Book if required on 0800 362 362.

### 3.1 STOCK MOVEMENTS

#### Requirement 1: Inward Stock

Suppliers must secure and retain Animal Status Declarations (ASDs) from the vendor for all purchased stock. When purchased stock are transferred onto the property the supplier must retain their ASD for at least one year.

Three months (91 days) of animal health treatment information is required from the vendor. However if incoming stock without the appropriate animal health records remain on the farm assured property for greater than 91 days and the appropriate records are maintained in the interim, the animals may automatically be deemed Farm Assured after this time.

#### Requirement 2: Stock Retention

Where the Supplier has purchased non-Farm Assured animals from another party and the animal remedy withholding status of the animals is known, the stock retention time is a minimum of 60 days prior to slaughter to qualify as Farm Assured.

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**Comment:** *Farm Assured animals maintain continuous Farm Assured status when they pass from one Silver Fern Farms Farm Assured operation directly to another.*

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**Please Note:** Where the supplier has purchased Silver Fern Farms Farm Assured livestock the livestock must have resided on the final farm for a minimum of 20 days.

#### Requirement 3: Outward Stock

All stock sale details must be recorded. ASD forms and kill sheets from stock sent for slaughter must be kept for one year and be made available to the auditor on request.

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**Comment:** *ASD forms must be completed for all stock movements, including calves bought and sold for rearing and store sales in order to provide traceability and to meet regulatory requirements. Silver Fern Farms supplies ASD forms or alternatively they may be downloaded from the Ministry for Primary Industries website ([www.foodsafety.govt.nz](http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz)) or the OSPRI New Zealand website ([www.ospri.org.nz](http://www.ospri.org.nz)).*

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Regulations require suppliers to keep all ASDs and supporting information to be kept for a minimum of one year. If animals are received onto the property, then the ASD accompanying those animals must be kept for the period that the animals are kept and then for an additional year.

**Please Note:** *Animals with farm of origin traceability may have a higher value than animals which do not have full traceability.*

## 3.2 ANIMAL HEALTH

### Requirement 1: Health Management

The property must demonstrate a preventative animal health programme. Livestock inspections should be carried out at suitable frequency to identify ill or distressed animals, gauge livestock performance, monitor birthing and ensure the general overall health and nutrition of the livestock is maintained. All farm stock should be reared according to good husbandry and welfare practices as set down in the current Code of Animal Welfare.

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**Comment:** *There is increasing expectation from customers for a documented animal health programme. Good farming practices are an essential element in ensuring healthy animals and maximum product yields. At the time of despatch for slaughter, clean and healthy animals are a pre-requisite for the hygienic production of a safe food supply.*

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#### **Recommendation:**

Where humane slaughter is required of sick, injured or dying animals, then the procedure must only be undertaken by people competent in the handling and slaughter of the relevant species of animal.

### Requirement 2: Disease And Control

A record of disease incidence and the corrective actions that were taken must be recorded. Deaths are to be recorded. Dead stock shall be protected from vermin, birds or other animals and promptly disposed of according to the rules of the governing local body. Offal pits should be covered and appropriately fenced to exclude entry by stock and children.

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**Comment:** *Having a disease incident record will help to alert Silver Fern Farms to any food safety issues, which may arise from supplied stock. Stock which have been vaccinated for Johne's Disease must be notified to the Silver Fern Farms' Livestock Representative prior to booking livestock for slaughter as they require special procedures in the slaughter process.*

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### Requirement 3: Animal Remedies

Animal remedies shall be administered according to the manufacturer's instructions. Suppliers must record details of animal health treatments including the date of application, stock class, product, application rate, expiry date, batch number, withholding period and "safe date" or date available for slaughter.

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**Comment:** *Correct administration of animal remedies produces maximum effect for least cost and ensures optimum animal health and welfare.*

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#### **Recommendation:**

Treatment application: e.g. Drench guns should be checked to ensure correct dosage is administered. Suppliers should maintain an inventory of animal medicines. Animal remedies that are past their expiry date can only be used if an extension is granted by a veterinarian. Used medicine containers should be disposed of in a suitable manner to prevent subsequent misuse.

#### Requirement 4: Storage

Animal treatments must be locked away, and where appropriate stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Farm chemicals and animal treatments must be stored in order to prevent any cross contamination and all containers must be clearly labelled. Empty containers shall be handled and disposed of in a way which ensures there is no impact on the environment.

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**Comment:** *Farm chemicals not in current use that are not a risk to humans, animals or the environment may be satisfactorily stored in their purchased containers. If secondary containers are used they must be accurately labelled.*

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#### **Recommendation:**

Consideration must always be given to the safe disposal of empty animal remedy containers. Where local body disposal systems are available they should be used.

#### Requirement 5: Injection Needles

Administration of medicines by injection shall be carried out using accepted veterinary practices. If a needle breakage occurs the animal should be clearly identified and be sent for slaughter with a separate ASD and transport consignment note.

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**Comment:** *The correct injection site is important for effective treatment and product yields.*

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The presence of veterinary needles in the food chain, either in the live animal or post-slaughter carcase, is unacceptable and has serious welfare and food safety implications.

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**Comment:** *If needle breakages are common, a review of the injection procedure should be undertaken to prevent recurrence of the problem. When required, needles should be stored and disposed of in a safe manner.*

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#### Requirement 6: Withholding Periods

Withholding times for administered animal remedies must be met before animals are sold for slaughter. Withholding periods and the date available for slaughter ("safe date") must be recorded at the time of application of the animal remedy.

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**Comment:** *The maximum residue levels set down for red meats must not be exceeded and this is controlled by rigid adherence to the stated manufacturer withholding periods between medication and slaughter. Withholding periods are shown on the animal remedy label. This requirement applies equally to oral, pour-on and injected products.*

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### Requirement 7: Antibiotics

Silver Fern Farms has markets for antibiotic free lamb. Where a supplier has committed to supply antibiotic free animals the following requirements must be adhered to:

- Where any lambs are administered with antibiotics, they are to be tagged with two red tags (one in each ear).
- Treated lambs must be separated from the antibiotic free lambs prior to sending to the processing plant.
- A Silver Fern Farms' antibiotic and HGP declaration must be signed and be renewed annually prior to the start of the lamb processing season. Or alternatively
- A Silver Fern Farms' antibiotic and HGP declaration must be signed and held by Silver Fern Farms prior to antibiotic free lambs being supplied.
- Antibiotic free lambs must be born on the property or may be sourced from another Silver Fern Farms' antibiotic free supplier under the terms and conditions given in the Silver Fern Farms' Antibiotic and HGP Free Lamb Programme. **Note:** Suppliers wishing to source lambs from another supplier must first get approval from their Silver Fern Farms' Livestock Representative and obtain an ABF declaration as well as the ASD from the source supplier.

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**Comment:** *Breeding stock (rams and ewes) can be treated with antibiotics without compromising the antibiotic free status of the property. This includes the treatment of both in-lamb ewes and those suckling lambs.*

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## 3.3 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND WELFARE

### Requirement 1: Welfare Management

All farm stock should be reared according to good husbandry and welfare practices as set down in the current Code of Animal Welfare. All operations must be carried out by competent trained operators or veterinary surgeons (where appropriate). Records of livestock operations must be kept e.g. shearing, weaning, de-budding, castration, dehorning, docking, velveting, etc.

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**Comment:** *High standards of animal welfare are important in a legal sense but also have direct economic benefits in ensuring international market access. There is increased focus on painful husbandry practices like tail docking of lambs as an example.*

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#### **Recommendation:**

The New Zealand Codes of Animal Welfare outline that tails form a number of functions including the tail base anchoring certain muscles that regulate the proper function of the rectum, further a raised tail can assist with directing faeces away from the body. This has resulted in the New Zealand Codes of Animal Welfare recommending that when sheep are tail docked their tails should be left long enough to cover the vulva in females, and at a similar length for males.

Please see Appendix One for tail photos of required tail length on page 16.

Animal welfare is based on 5 basic premises:

- freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- the provision of appropriate comfort and shelter
- the prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment of injury, disease or infection
- freedom from distress
- the ability to display normal patterns of behaviour.

It is important to eliminate stress in livestock since this elevates the meat pH levels, which can lead to meat quality problems.

**Recommendation:**

Farm owners or managers should maintain a copy on site of the Codes of Animal Welfare relevant to their livestock farming. They should be fully familiar with the contents and apply the principles embodied in the Codes.

These Codes can be downloaded from the MPI website:

[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/stds/codes](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/stds/codes) or obtained by contacting a Silver Fern Farms' Livestock Representative.

**Requirement 2: Shade, Shelter and Water**

Suppliers should enhance the natural environment with sufficient shade and shelter to minimise stress. Suppliers should guarantee a reliable, clean source of water for all stock.

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***Comment:** These elements are essential to animal welfare and good livestock production performance. Suppliers need to be aware that the Codes of Animal Welfare do provide guidance on the expectation with regards to shade, shelter, and water.*

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**Recommendation:**

Clean water is to be provided when animals are held prior to transportation.

**Requirement 3: Dog Management**

Working dogs must be adequately trained so as not to cause injury or excess stress to stock.

Farm dogs must be maintained in a healthy state for welfare reasons and to prevent transfer of parasitic diseases to livestock. The date of any medical treatments (e.g. worming) must be recorded.

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***Comment:** Well-trained dogs are an integral part of the farm operation and the health and wellbeing of farm dogs is equally as important as farm livestock.*

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**Recommendation:**

Ensure the training of dogs is not excessively stressful to livestock. Keep dogs under control and adequately housed and fed.

### 3.4 ANIMAL NUTRITION

#### Requirement 1: Feeding

Animals should be provided with food of sufficient nutrition and water content to maintain health and vigour as set down in the Codes of Animal Welfare. All bought in feeds and made up diets must exclude: animal and poultry products, antibiotics, hormone or steroids and ruminant protein. All manufactured supplementary feed bought in for stock must be certified free of genetically modified material. Farmers must receive confirmation of this fact.

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**Comment:** *Diets shall not contain any added substances that promote artificial growth or carcase quality enhancement nor shall they contain any genetically modified ingredients. Labels of bought feedstuffs shall be kept by the farmer as evidence of feed origin and ingredient composition.*

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### 3.5 FACILITIES

#### Requirement 1: Provision and Use

Sheds and yards must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise risk to animals and humans, and should take advantage of behavioural characteristics to ensure free movement of livestock. Water must be available to stock if yarded for an extended period.

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**Comment:** *The provision of access to shelter, design of yards, access ways and ramps for safe and humane confinement and maintenance of clean and hygienic facilities is an essential component in preventing contamination, injury and stress in livestock. Control of these aspects is essential for hygienic processing and satisfactory meat quality.*

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### 3.6 ENVIRONMENT

#### Requirement 1: Land Based Operations

Land based operations must be included in the farm records. The records must contain cultivation, spraying, fertiliser application and pasture conservation activities (including the date and details of operation).

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**Comment:** *Sustainable farming practices are essential to the long-term health of New Zealand's farming industry. Many customer nations have standards for land based operations and are requiring imported food products to meet similar standards of production. International food retailers in particular are looking to have the same product specifications for each food product type, regardless of whether it is home grown or imported.*

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#### Recommendation:

As part of your land based operations we recommend becoming a member of Agrecovery and start recycling your silage wrap and chemical containers through the depot closest to you. For more information on Agrecovery please go to [www.agrecovery.co.nz](http://www.agrecovery.co.nz) or freephone 0800 AGRECOVERY (247 326).

### 3.7 LIVESTOCK PRESENTATION STANDARDS FOR SLAUGHTER

#### Requirement 1: Presentation Standards

Suppliers should be aware of the Silver Fern Farms' stock presentation standards and the requirement to meet certain levels of presentation to maintain accreditation. See Appendix One for specific presentation standards.

Acceptable stock presentation is essential to:

- Reduce the need for excessive pre-processing preparation (stress/animal welfare issues)
- Reduce the risk of carcass contamination (food safety issue)
- Retain Farm Assurance Accreditation.

In order to be eligible for the premium chilled markets animals must be processed without undue stress. Dirty animals are likely to be unduly stressed if repeated washing is required prior to slaughter. Stressed animals are unsuitable for chilled markets as their meat is excessively dark and has a reduced shelf life.

### 3.8 HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION

#### Requirement 1: Humane Handling

Livestock must be handled in a skilful, safe and humane manner at all times with due consideration for the animal's welfare by adopting the procedures set down in the Codes of Animal Welfare.

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**Comment:** *Careful animal handling reduces stress and ensures optimum meat quality.*

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#### **Recommendation:**

Ensure that the specific requirements for livestock set down in the Code of Welfare for Animals Transported in New Zealand are followed, particularly in relation to stockyard facilities, loading ramps, cleanliness, loading densities and time off feed.

Some markets have time frame restrictions from loading of livestock onto trucks to delivery at plants. In order to demonstrate compliance with any time frames pick up times must be recorded. Suppliers should ensure that assigned transport operators are completing relevant documentation.

Record the time of loading and time of receipt at the slaughtering plant. These times should be entered on the Advice Note in the commercial section of the ASD.



## TRAINING



### 4.1 TRAINING AND FARMING COMPETENCE

#### Requirement 1: Farm Management

Farm management personnel must be familiar with the relevant New Zealand legislation that applies to their operations with respect to animal health and welfare, documentation requirements (ASDs), health and safety and environmental issues. The supplier must ensure that all employees are trained and competent, to ensure the welfare of the stock in their care.

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**Comment:** *It is expected that Silver Fern Farms Farm Assured Suppliers meet all legal requirements.*

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#### Requirement 2: Programme Details

Suppliers participating in the Farm Assurance Programme are required to be familiar with the programme details together with the appropriate NAWAC Animal Welfare Codes.

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**Comment:** *The Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance Programme does not repeat all the specific legal requirements set down in Regulation and Codes of Welfare. These documents are referred to within the programme and listed in the References, Appendix Two. These codes are available on the MPI website:*

***[www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/stds/codes](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/stds/codes)***

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#### Recommendation:

The Silver Fern Farms Farm Assurance Diary is a suitable method of recording the necessary information or alternatively use an existing farm record system that provides the equivalent information.

## APPENDIX ONE : PRESENTATION CRITERIA

The quality of livestock presented for slaughter impacts on the quality, value and saleability of the end product. Prior to slaughter the presentation standard of animals is assessed.

The objectives are:

- To assess the pre-slaughter cleanliness of animals and, where necessary, commence a process to cater for non-complying animals
- To assess the health and welfare status of animals in order to cater for any that are suffering due to injury, sickness or inhumane treatment
- To improve the quality of future consignments of animals by providing feedback to suppliers on the presentation standard of animals consigned for slaughter.

### REQUIREMENTS ON TAIL LENGTH

The New Zealand Codes of Welfare for animals outlines that tails form a number of functions, including the tail base anchoring certain muscles that regulate the proper function of the rectum, further a raised tail can assist with directing faeces away from the body. This has resulted in the New Zealand Codes of Welfare recommending that when sheep are tail docked their tails should be left long enough to cover the vulva in females and at a similar length for males.



#### 1. UNACCEPTABLE

Animals with absolutely no tail (caudal tail flaps have been removed).



#### 2. UNACCEPTABLE

Animals with some tail but tail does not cover the whole of the vulva.



#### 3. ACCEPTABLE

Animals with a tail that fully covers the vulva (or comparable length on ram lambs).

Tail length performance against these guidelines will be monitored by plant yard staff and reported on your kill sheets.

## SHEEP LIVESTOCK PRESENTATION CRITERIA FOR SLAUGHTER



\*The belly crutch should not be overly wide

\*Please note the relatively low top line of the crutch.

**Acceptable presentation**



Leg Dags

Mud

Stain

**Unacceptable presentation**

### A – Quality Stock

**Clean, well-presented stock requiring minimal preparation**

To produce A-quality stock:

- Hold stock off feed and in a clean dry area, for a minimum of six hours before loading
- Remove:
  - All dags
  - Anal dags
  - Leg dags
  - Scrotal dags.
- Check belly wool is clean (preferably under 25mm wool)
- Check stock truck crates are clean and well maintained.

### B – Quality Stock: Minor Faults

**Must be rectified by the processing plant prior to slaughter.**

These faults can be easily rectified by standard washing/handling procedures and there are no significant welfare issues.

### C – Quality Stock: Major Faults

**Requires extensive work to correct (rewashing, dagging etc.)**

Fault Categories:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Dirt         | From a variety of sources (wool, grease, grit, etc.)                                 |
| Dust         | Fine wind-blown particles from dry conditions  |
| Stain        | Faecal stain, especially truck stain from being loaded with full gut                 |
| Mud          | Caked mud particularly on bellies/leg flanks   |
| Scour        | Fresh and dry scour mainly around anal area  |
| Dags         | Anal, leg and scrotum (Note: leg and scrotum dags are the most frequent dag problem) |
| Pumice /Sand | Embedded particles that remain attached after normal correction.                     |

## VENISON LIVESTOCK PRESENTATION CRITERIA FOR SLAUGHTER



Clean, healthy stock presented for slaughter

**Acceptable presentation**



Stock contaminated with mud, scour and dags

**Unacceptable presentation**

### Venison Assessment Classification (A, B, C, D)

The standard of livestock presented for slaughter is assessed according to A, B, C or D classification. The standard A,B,C,D classifications for venison are:

**A = NO FAULTS:** There are no presentation faults or animal welfare issues in any of the 'assessment categories'.

**B = MINOR FAULTS:** There are MINOR faults in an 'assessment category'. The faults will be easily rectified by standard washing/handling procedures and there are no significant animal welfare issues.

**C = MAJOR FAULTS:** There are MAJOR faults in an 'assessment category' which to rectify require intensive work by stockyard staff and/or there is an animal health or welfare issue.

C grade deer compromise hygiene standards during processing and are not eligible for chilled markets during the chilled processing season.

**D = CRITICAL FAULTS:** There are CRITICAL faults in an 'assessment category' which make the animal(s) unfit for slaughter and/or there are significant animal health or welfare issues that require notification to, or consultation with, the plant veterinarian.

## Venison Assessment Categories (6)

The presentation standard is assessed over six 'assessment categories' with each 'assessment category' being subject to A, B, C or D classification. The six 'assessment categories' are:

**1 = INJURED:** All animals are to be checked for injury as soon as possible after arrival. Where any serious injury is observed, the animal(s) concerned is separated and the plant veterinarian immediately notified. The disposition of the animal is to be decided by the plant veterinarian.

**2 = MUD, DIRT:** This category covers deer contaminated with mud (as opposed to mud dags) or dirt on the brisket, bellies or legs. The assessment classification will be relevant to the degree of contamination and the effort required to prepare the animals for slaughter. Some mud and dirt faults, especially caked on, do not respond sufficiently to extensive washing to enable slaughter.

**3 = MUD/PEAT DAGS:** Deer may be contaminated with mud, peat or 'silage pad' dags on the brisket, bellies or legs, or may have significant faecal dags on the hindquarters. The assessment classification will be relevant to the degree of contamination and the effort required to prepare the animals for slaughter. Some dag faults do not respond sufficiently to extensive washing to enable slaughter.

**4 = WILD/STRESSED:** Animals in this category may be wild, flighty, aggressive, agitated and in most circumstances will be difficult to handle. There is a risk these animals will cause injury to themselves, other animals or compromise the safety of stockyard staff. Additionally wild or flighty deer are likely to be stressed affecting the pH level and colour of meat.

**5 = EMACIATED/WEAK:** Animals in this category are in very poor condition and appear to be suffering from malnutrition or poor health. Emaciated/weak animals must be handled with extreme care in order that they are put under minimal stress.

**6 = ANTLERS DON'T COMPLY:** Deer with non-complying antlers are undesirable due to the potential to injure themselves or other animals or because of the danger they can present to our stockyards staff.

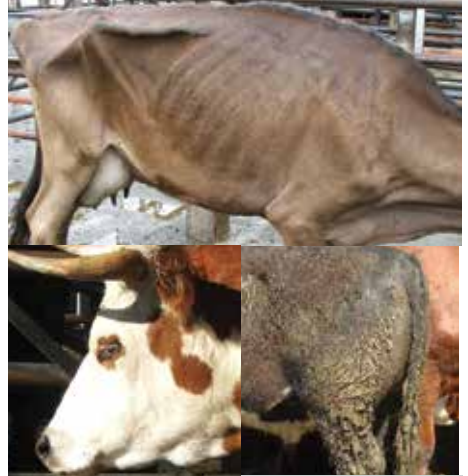
By way of example a line assessed as 'C6' would be one with MAJOR antler faults.

## CATTLE LIVESTOCK PRESENTATION CRITERIA FOR SLAUGHTER



Clean, healthy stock presented for slaughter

**Acceptable presentation**



Stock emaciated, with horns and contaminated with mud and scour

**Unacceptable presentation**

### Cattle Assessment Classification (A, B, C, D)

The standard of livestock presented for slaughter is assessed according to A, B, C or D classification.

**A = NO FAULTS:** There are no presentation faults or animal welfare issues in any of the 'assessment categories'.

**B = MINOR FAULTS:** There are MINOR faults in an 'assessment category'. The faults will be easily rectified by standard washing/handling procedures and there are no significant animal welfare issues.

**C = MAJOR FAULTS:** There are MAJOR faults in an 'assessment category' which to rectify require intensive work by stockyard staff and/or there is an animal health or welfare issue.

**D = CRITICAL FAULTS:** There are CRITICAL faults in an 'assessment category' which make the animal(s) unfit for slaughter and/or there are significant animal health or welfare issues that require notification to, or consultation with, the plant veterinarian.

## Cattle Assessment Categories (6)

The presentation standard is over six 'assessment categories' with each 'assessment category' being subject to B, C or D classification.

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**1 = HORNS:** Undesirable due to the potential of injury to other animals and inability to fit some head restraining mechanisms, which are essential for the operation of humane stunning apparatus. Horns, measured from tip to tip are not to exceed 500 mm. As a guide the horns should fit inside the width of the ears.

**2 = DAGS/MUD DAGS:** Cattle should be in a clean state with no dags or mud dags present. Any cattle with dags that cannot be removed to an acceptable standard with washing, or where the washing required will result in undue stress on an animal, will not be accepted for slaughter.

**3 = DOWNER:** Downer animals are those who sit/lie down and cannot walk to the stun box. These animals are usually condemned for market access reasons.

**4 = WILD/STRESSED:** Flighty, aggressive and agitated stock are difficult to handle. There is a risk that they may cause injury to other animals or compromise the safety of the stockyard staff. Animals with high stress levels generally produce poor quality meat. Animals that are clearly aggressive and are considered dangerous will not be accepted for slaughter.

**5 = INJURED:** Where any serious injury is observed, the animal(s) concerned is separated and the plant veterinarian is notified. The disposition of the animal is to be decided by the plant veterinarian.

**6 = EMACIATED/WEAK:** Emaciated and weak animals in very poor condition or which appear to be suffering from malnutrition or poor health will not be accepted for slaughter.

# **APPENDIX TWO: RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES**

## **ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION**

Animal Welfare Act 1999

Animals Protection (Docking of Tails) Regulations 1972

Dog Control Act 1996

## **ANIMAL WELFARE CODES**

Available at the MPI website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/animal-welfare/stds/codes>

Code of Animal Welfare No. 15, NAWAC, June 1996

Code of Animal Welfare 2010

Code of Animal Welfare (Deer) 18 May 2007

Animal Welfare (Sheep and Beef Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010

Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005

Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2011

Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010

## **OTHER**

Animal Status Declarations (ASDs): <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/industry/sectors/meat-ostrich-emu-game/asd/>

## **REGISTERED VETERINARY MEDICINES**

Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act 1997

<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/>



**NOTES:**

## NOTES:

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