

Simple guide to the standards for Pasture for Life Dairying

- ❖ Developed by farmers successfully running pastoral farming systems, based on best practice.
- ❖ A distinct farming system raising cattle & sheep from pasture only, without using grains
- ❖ Proven health benefits for the animal, the consumer and the environment.
- ❖ Certified farms and processors are expected to abide by both the letter and the spirit of the standards, keep required records and undergo regular independent inspection.
- ❖ Certified farms must be able to demonstrate high standards of animal welfare, for example by being members of RSPCA Assured, Animal Welfare Approved or Certified Organic.
- ❖ Antibiotics may be used in exceptional circumstances but they must not be used routinely nor as prophylactics.
- ❖ All animals in the herd or flock on one holding must be managed to the certification standards all year round. They should be outside on pasture whenever weather & soil conditions allow.
- ❖ Farms must respect and encourage biodiversity through land and pasture management and appropriate stocking rates.
- ❖ Dairy calves must not be weaned off milk before 12 weeks old. Calves must not be destroyed for any reason other than irrecoverable illness or injury. They must not be sold at auction before 12 weeks old and must not be sold for live export.
- ❖ The Pasture for Life label is a registered Certification Mark and may only be used to identify or promote produce that fully complies with the Certification Standards throughout the supply chain from farm to consumer.
- ❖ Milk processors must ensure that certified and non-certified produce are clearly identified and kept separate. They must maintain records to prove this as well as all statutory required record-keeping.
- ❖ GM feeds are prohibited.

Ruminant animals on certified farms **MUST** be fed from pasture alone, which includes:

- Grasses
- Legumes (e.g. clover)
- Herbs from mixed pastures
- Green leafy growths such as browsing trees and shrubs
- Brassicas including roots such as stubble turnips as long as these are grown on the farm
- Forage (e.g. hay)
- Wholecrop – which means mixed cereal and non-cereal plants harvested while their seeds are immature and dried as forage – may be fed if grown on the farm but its use is not recommended under these standards as the land may be better used to grow human foodstuffs and is likely to be phased out.

Ruminant animals on certified farms **MUST NOT** be fed:

- Grains
- Grain left in the field after harvesting
- Dry-harvested grain legumes (e.g. peas, beans, lupins)
- Maize and maize silage
- Soya
- Sunflower and safflower
- Oilseed and expeller products
- Grain residue or by-products including brewers' grains
- Any bought-in root-crop products including sugar beet and derived products
- Any by-products from food processing or animal-feed processing industries
- Stock feed potatoes, vegetables or fruit
- Waste food products such as bread