



Certification Standards for Ruminant Livestock

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Contents

1 PASTURE FOR LIFE – A DISTINCT LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEM	5
1.1 Scope of the Certification Standards	5
1.2 Pasture for Life	6
1.3 Distinct quality	6
1.4 Environmental benefits	7
1.5 Animal welfare benefits	7
1.6 Extensive production	7
2 UNDERSTANDING THE CERTIFICATION MARK AND PRODUCTION STANDARDS	8
2.1 Understanding the Certification Standards	8
2.2 Overarching objectives and expectations	8
2.3 The Pasture for Life Certification Mark	9
2.4 Certified Enterprises and Businesses	9
2.5 The application process	9
2.6 The application and conversion planning process for dairy cow herds	10
2.7 The inspection process and its objectives	11
2.8 Records and record keeping	12
2.9 Inspection fees and levies	13
3 LIVESTOCK AND FEED	14
3.1 Source of livestock and identification – all species	14
3.2 Source of livestock and identification – meat animals only	15
3.3 Source of livestock and identification – dairy animals only	15
3.4 Overall feed and nutrition	16
3.5 Grazing	17
3.6 Grazing brassica and root crops	18
3.7 Arable silage and wholecrop	19
4 ADDITIONAL STANDARDS FOR LAMB AND SHEEP PRODUCTION	20
4.1 Planning production cycles for sheep	20

4.2 Provision for transitional supplementary feeding of ewes at lambing	20
5 ANIMAL WELFARE	22
5.1 Stock-people	22
5.2 Health – All species	22
5.3 Health - dairy animals only	24
5.4 Living Environment	24
5.5 Welfare outcome assessments	25
5.6 Husbandry operations	26
5.7 Young animal management	27
5.8 Culled animals	28
5.9 Handling and transport	28
5.10 Slaughter	29
6 SUSTAINABLE PASTURE MANAGEMENT	30
6.1 Pasture management	30
6.2 Diversity within pasture	31
7 BIODIVERSITY AND THE WIDER ENVIRONMENT	33
7.1 Management for wildlife and biodiversity	33
7.2 Field margins and strips	34
7.3 Hay and silage making	34
7.4 Nesting habitat	35
7.5 Wetland and riparian areas	35
8 CERTIFIED BUSINESSES BEYOND THE FARM GATE	36
8.1 Separation of Certified and non-Certified produce	36
8.2 Statutory requirements	36
8.3 Traceability and record keeping	36
8.4 Meat hanging requirements	37
8.5 Point of sale requirements	37
9 USE OF THE CERTIFICATION MARK - CONDITIONS AND GUIDELINES	38

9.1 Ownership	38
9.2 Permitted users	38
9.3 Application of the Certification Mark	39
9.4 Supervision of the Certification Mark	40
9.5 Suspension and termination of certification	41
9.6 The appeals process	42
10 APPENDIX 1: STOCKING DENSITY	43
10.1 Stocking density in housing	43
10.2 Stocking density in transport	44
11 APPENDIX 2: MEMBERSHIP FEES	45
11.1 Membership fees	45
11.2 Inspection fees	45
11.3 Sales levy	45
11.4 Animal transfers	45
12 APPENDIX 3: DEFINITION OF TERMS	46

1 Pasture for Life – a distinct livestock production system

The natural diet for ruminant livestock is grazed plants; principally grass and the accompanying herbs and legumes found in diverse pastures. However, the majority of livestock production in today's farming is based upon the inclusion of grains and other forms of concentrate feed (such as Soya) to boost production.

The inclusion of concentrate feed in a ruminant animal's diet brings a number of costs in terms of the quality of the produce, the environmental impact and also the standard of animal welfare.

Pasture for Life represents a distinct method of farming where the raising of ruminant livestock is based exclusively upon pasture. The produce from this system of farming is also distinct and is typically associated with particular health and other benefits. The Pasture for Life Certification Mark (referred to as the Certification Mark) provides a trusted means of clearly identifying this produce and its integrity at the point of sale.

The details of this particular form of livestock production are set out in the Pasture for Life Certification Standards for Ruminant Livestock (hereafter referred to as the Certification Standards), and these are published both online and in printed form by the Pasture-Fed Livestock Association c.i.c. (PFLA). The standards are reviewed regularly to ensure they deliver the overarching objectives of pasture-based livestock production and the PFLA.

1.1 Scope of the Certification Standards

At farm level these Certification Standards cover all ruminant livestock. This includes but is not limited to cattle, sheep, goats, bison, water buffalo and farmed (domesticated) deer.

Products that can be certified are:

- Meat
- Dairy
- Leather, shearling and other skins
- Fibre, including but not limited to wool and mohair

Producers may choose to certify all their ruminant enterprises or individual enterprises. As the Certification Standards are not a whole farm standard, each individual ruminant enterprise that is audited as meeting the standards is designated as a Certified Enterprise.

Beyond the farm gate the Certification Standards cover any subsequent stages of processing up to the point where the product is either sold to the consumer or packaged for retail. These stages include:

- Butchers
- Creameries
- Wholesalers
- Retailers

See section 2.4 for further information on each of these categories.

Certified Butchers, Creameries, Wholesalers and Retailers are hereafter collectively described as “Certified Businesses” i.e. businesses that hold Certification for at least part, if not all of their business activities.

1.2 Pasture for Life

These standards define Pasture for Life (Pfl) production. In developing these standards PFLA have considered the practicalities of ruminant farming as well as the expectations of consumers who wish to purchase Pasture for Life products.

Overarching objectives:

1. These standards cover the life of the animals that produce certified products. There are limited circumstances where an animal that was not born and raised as part of a Certified Enterprise can produce certified meat or milk. See section 3.1 for further information.
2. The term “pasture” encompasses a range of different grasses, flowers, herbs and forbs that are grown in diverse mixes. These standards define what is and is not considered pasture. See section 3.4 for further information
3. The PFLA was founded by producers seeking to define and recognise sustainable ruminant production systems. These standards therefore cover land as well as animal management to ensure that farms with Certified Enterprises deliver environmental goods rather than just avoiding environmental harm. See section 1.4 for further information
4. Good animal welfare is fundamental to Pasture for Life production. The principle of a Pasture for Life system is that animals are outside grazing in their natural environment. However, the standards also include other animal management to ensure the five domains of welfare are delivered by Certified Enterprises. See sections 1.5 and 5 for further information
5. Aside from being more sustainable, meat and milk from 100% pasture-fed and grain-free animals has been shown to have beneficial nutritional outcomes. These standards aim to ensure that certified meat and dairy products are of high quality, with good flavour and deliver these nutritional advantages. See section 1.3 for further information.

1.3 Distinct quality

The following are amongst the benefits that have been identified by independent, peer-reviewed and published research papers as being associated with produce derived from livestock raised solely upon a pasture-based diet:

- Higher in total omega-3 fatty acids (good fats)
- A healthier ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 fatty acids
- Higher in conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), a potential cancer fighter
- Higher in vaccenic acid (which can be turned into CLA)
- Higher in vitamin E
- Higher in B vitamins
- Higher in beta-carotene
- Higher in the minerals calcium, magnesium and potassium
- Meat is lower in total fat

See the PFLA website for more information: <https://www.pastureforlife.org>

1.4 Environmental benefits

The Certification Standards encourage the use of legumes such as white and red clover to enhance production and provide important sources of protein in livestock diets and in doing so significantly reduce the use of chemical fertilisers. Clovers and other legume crops such as vetches and trefoil, together with herbs such as chicory, also provide important sources of feed for insects and other animals, whilst also avoiding the use of finite resources used in the production of synthetic fertilisers.

Grazing animals return nutrients and organic matter back to the ground as they pass by and deposit their dung. This natural process ensures the soil remains healthy and fertile.

On a complete life-cycle analysis, the carbon footprint of pasture farms is characteristically lower than that of farms where cereal crops are grown to feed the animals. Pasture plays an important role in carbon capture and storage through both photosynthesis and by building organic matter throughout the soil profile.

The Certification Standards specifically prohibit the use of Soya, the production of which is often associated with deforestation and the resulting environmental damage.

1.5 Animal welfare benefits

The Certification Standards place important conditions that ensure livestock are free to graze naturally at all times when soil and climatic conditions allow. The pasture-based diet effectively determines the stocking rates, allowing animals to follow a natural pattern of grazing behaviour. The combination of these mean that livestock that are part of Certified Enterprises often experience significantly less stress and associated health problems, than their counterparts raised within more intensive production systems. Further requirements on animal welfare can be found in section 5.

1.6 Extensive production

The productivity of grassland and the ability of soils to carry livestock varies throughout the country. However, on all farms with Certified Enterprises, factors such as the productivity of the grass and the measures taken to deliver the wider environmental benefits, mean that the numbers of cows or goats in a herd or sheep in a flock reflect traditional, mixed farming practice as distinct from specialist, intensive production.

Specialist management techniques such as “holistic planned grazing”, which mimic the natural pattern of herds moving from one area of fresh pasture to another are often practiced within Certified Enterprises. This provides benefits both in terms of the productivity of the pasture, the biodiversity and the resilience of the leys. Further detail on the importance of grazing management and biodiversity is covered within the standards.

Whatever grazing system and stocking density is used, the overarching objective is to ensure there is sufficient area for animals to graze freely and for the farm to be self-sufficient in forage throughout the different seasons.

2 Understanding the Certification Mark and Production Standards

2.1 Understanding the Certification Standards

In certain key areas, specific attention has been drawn to make a distinction between the standards that are required and those that are recommended.

Required standards say that something “must” or “must not” be done or that something is prohibited. The requirements of these standards must be met before approval to use the Certification Mark can be granted

Recommended Standards say that something “should” be done. These standards are a reflection of good practice that the PFLA wishes to encourage, but are not mandatory in order for approval to use the Certification Mark.

In many cases, these recommended standards may become “required” in future iterations of the standards as the Pasture for Life market develops and both producers and other businesses receive the necessary support to adopt these practices.

Sections 1, 2, 9 and the Appendices in sections 11 and 12 apply to all those wishing to gain Certification under these Standards.

Sections 3 to 7 and the Appendix in section 10 apply to Certified Enterprises at farm level only. Unless otherwise stated, all standards in these sections apply to all species and all types of production. Standards specific to meat or dairy or to a specific species are denoted as such.

Section 8 applies to other Certified Businesses only.

2.2 Overarching objectives and expectations

Text boxes are included in some sections of the standards. These explain the overarching objectives that lie behind the Certification Standard or section within the Standards, and are provided in order to avoid the risk of any misinterpretation and help to explain why a particular Standard is considered to be important.

The PFLA requires all farms with Certified Enterprises and Certified Businesses who use the Certification Mark, to abide by both the letter and spirit of the Standards. Reference to the overarching objectives will help ensure the integrity of certified pasture-based systems and should also provide an answer for any particular details that may not be specifically addressed within the Standards.

Certification may be withdrawn by the PFLA approved Certification Body where there is deemed to be a clear conflict in objectives between enterprises that are covered by Certification and related business activities which are not. Cases where such a right may be exercised are likely to include instances of animal cruelty, fraudulent practice, or deception.

The PFLA expects all farms with Certified Enterprises and Certified Businesses to meet applicable legislation.

2.3 The Pasture for Life Certification Mark

The Certification Mark is a trusted symbol that represents the complete range of benefits of pasture-based livestock production, both in terms of the method of farming and the quality of the produce. The Certification Mark is a registered trademark and must only be used by those who are certified.

2.4 Certified Enterprises and Businesses

Livestock and produce can only carry the Certification Mark if there is an unbroken chain of certified, compliant practice from the field to the point of production of the finished product, ready for sale.

A Certified Enterprise relates to the farm level production of meat, milk and/or fibre. Each Certified Enterprise must be linked to a named person or business that is responsible for all aspects of rearing an animal and any associated production.

Butchers are defined as those who break down a carcass for wholesale or retail sale as well as those that carry out further processing, for example to make broths, pies, ready meals and other similar products where Certified meat may be combined with other ingredients.

Creameries are defined as those who bottle milk and/or manufacture cheese, ice cream, butter, yoghurt and other similar dairy products for wholesale or retail sale, as well as products where Certified dairy may be combined with other ingredients.

Wholesalers are defined as those who supply certified products to retailers or other outlets, but not direct to the end consumer.

Retailers are defined as those who sell products to the end consumer. Retailers that break down, pack, re-pack, re-label or otherwise process certified products out of sight of the final customer must be certified under these standards. If they do not carry out any of these activities certification is optional.

Anyone who wishes to use or apply to use the Certification Mark must be a member of the PFLA. Membership is open to anyone, but is governed by conditions that are published on the PFLA website (www.pastureforlife.org). These are also available upon request.

All stages in the chain from the farm to the customer are subject to the same standards governing the use of the Certification Mark.

2.5 The application process

The application process to become a farm with Certified Enterprise(s), Certified Butcher, Certified Creamery, Certified Wholesaler and/or Certified Retailer is available online through the PFLA website.

It is important to ensure that the details recorded by the potential certified producer or business in the 'Business Profile' section are accurate and an honest reflection of the business

Applicants are encouraged to read the Certification Standards carefully and consider any potential changes they need to make to their existing business before proceeding with the application process.

Before any certification can be granted or renewed, the applicant must complete and return any requested agreements concerning actions that are to be taken to comply with the Certification Standards, along with any other information requested, to the satisfaction of the PFLA approved Certification Body.

2.6 The application and conversion planning process for dairy cow herds

Within the cattle meat sector and the sheep and goat meat and sheep and goat dairy sectors, the change from mainstream production methods to a Pasture for Life system generally involves modest change with few significant challenges: In mainstream farming practice, prohibited feeds such as cereals and concentrates tend to be used in low volume and only at some stages of the animal's lives and the impact of removing these from the diet are often less than many producers might anticipate. With due attention given to the composition of leys, the conservation of crops for winter feed and selection of suitable breeds, the transition process should present few significant challenges.

In contrast, the transition from mainstream dairy cattle practice to Pasture for Life dairy cow production can represent a far more significant challenge. A typical modern herd averaging 8500L per cow per year will depend upon the bulk of that production being derived from concentrate feed. As such, even relatively minor changes will have an immediate impact upon both milk quantity and quality. Furthermore, many modern breeds of cow will continue to produce milk at the expense of her own health and body condition if the diet is not carefully matched to the demands of milk production.

It is also important that Pasture for Life Dairy and Pasture for Life Meat are entirely compatible systems and that the two enterprises offer an integrated path for non-dairy replacement stock to be used efficiently.

Single-purpose dairy cattle breeds can produce animals that are not particularly well suited to beef production, and this can mean that calves that are not kept as dairy replacements are destroyed soon after birth. This is a practice that is unacceptable in a certified cattle dairy system and for this reason certified dairy cattle herds should either be based upon dual purpose breeds or provide for the compassionate use of non-dairy calves.

2.6.1 Due to the potential impacts that the conversion to a certified cattle dairy system could involve, the application process for certified cattle dairies farms is more complex than for beef, sheep or goat production.

A proportional approach is used, whereby the degree of planning required before an application is accepted by the Certification Body reflects the degree of change in livestock management that is required. Factors that are taken into consideration include:

- Current average milk production
- Breed(s) used
- Current use of concentrate feed (Kg/head/year)
- Current stocking rate
- Grassland management practice

2.6.2 The PFLA may be able to offer support for those wishing to transition to certified dairy cattle production. This will typically include a farm visit by a PFLA specialist to ensure that all the practical aspects have been fully understood and to offer further advice where needed. Interested applicants should contact the PFLA office.

- 2.6.3 The application process to become a certified dairy cattle herd will also involve the preparation of a detailed conversion plan. This plan must be reviewed as part of the certification renewal process and also when there are any significant changes in the herd management. The conversion plan must include the following details:
- A feed plan for each group of animals (e.g. youngstock, dry cows, early lactation etc.)
 - Livestock Management Plan
 - Breeding plan
 - Grassland management
 - Stocking rates
 - Production profiles and market requirements
 - The sale or management of calves that are not required as replacement stock
 - The sale or management of culled milking animals
- 2.6.4 The conversion plan, which will cover the transition period and beyond, must be agreed with the PFLA approved Certification Body and be in place before the initial certification process can be completed.

2.7 The inspection process and its objectives

- 2.7.1 The audit and inspection process takes a risk-based approach. It begins with a self-assessment application made by the prospective producer or Certified Business, in which they are able to declare compliance or otherwise with the Certification Standards.
- 2.7.2 The next step is the on-site inspection. The purpose of the inspection process is to provide an independent third-party verification that the actual practice at the Certified Enterprise, Butchery, Creamery, Wholesaler or Retailer meets the Standards. This gives due recognition to those producers and businesses who take a conscientious and responsible approach to their business.
- 2.7.3 The Certification Mark is underpinned by an audited Certification Scheme, which is inspected by a PFLA approved Certification Body. Certification covers a 12-month period from the point of approval and is thereafter renewed on an annual basis. A list of farms with Certified Enterprises is published on the PFLA website. The website also contains a list of other Certified Businesses.
- 2.7.4 The independent inspection of farms with Certified Enterprises, and other Certified Businesses is necessary to maintain the integrity of the Certification Mark and to provide the necessary reassurances to customers who support it through the purchase of produce. The audit process also provides an opportunity for the PFLA to monitor the effectiveness of the Certification Standards in delivering the desired objectives.
- 2.7.5 Those seeking to become a farm with Certified Enterprise(s), Butcher, Creamery, Wholesaler or Retailer agree to a minimum of one visit a year from a PFLA approved Certification Body, with the possibility of additional visits if deemed necessary.
- 2.7.6 The PFLA approved Certification Body may require additional inspections when:
- There is a significant change in the enterprise(s) covered by certification
 - The farm with Certified Enterprise(s) or the Certified Business moves to new premises

- A complaint is received regarding the farm with Certified Enterprise(s) or the Certified Business
- The farm with Certified Enterprise(s) or the Certified Business is selected as part of the spot-inspection programme
- Re-inspection is required to make sure the farm with Certified Enterprise(s) or the Certified Business has corrected any non-compliances
- The risk assessment of the farm with Certified Enterprise(s) or the Certified Business suggests the need for further inspection

2.7.7 The PFLA approved Certification Body will arrange to visit and audit the applicant's enterprise(s) or business. Wherever possible, inspections will be combined with existing inspections, such as those for farm assurance e.g. Red Tractor, RSPCA Assured or Organic certification.

2.7.8 The PFLA approved Certification Body reserves the right to carry out unannounced inspections where it is deemed to be necessary and appropriate.

Note: The PFLA approved Certification Body has the right to recoup any expenses incurred in conducting additional inspections.

2.7.9 In cases of minor non-compliance, any previously granted certification may remain valid provided all compliance issues are resolved with the PFLA approved Certification Body within an agreed time span.

2.7.10 In cases of major non-compliance or manifest infringement there will be an immediate suspension of the certification and use of the Certification Mark on any produce. Manifest infringement includes but is not limited to:

- Animal welfare abuses
- Fraudulently marketing animals or products under the Certification Mark
- Serious environmental pollution incidents

Note: In England, Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland this would be defined as incidents caused by the Certified Enterprise or Business that are classified as category 1 or 2 by the Environment Agency, Environment Agency Wales, Northern Ireland Environmental Agency or Scottish Environment Protection Agency. In Ireland this would be defined as incidents caused by the Certified Enterprise or Business that are classified as serious, very serious or catastrophic.

2.7.11 Certified Enterprises and Businesses will be contacted by the PFLA approved Certification Body before the expiry of their certificate so the renewal process can ensure continued certification.

2.8 Records and record keeping

Certified Enterprises and Businesses must maintain accurate records to demonstrate that the Standards are being adhered to.

2.8.1 As detailed within these Certification Standards, producers must have management procedures covering record-keeping, health plans and contingency measures.

- 2.8.2 The Certification Standards seek to avoid duplication of good management practice covered by existing farm assurance and animal welfare schemes that producers may already have in place. Plans and records produced for other certification programs may also be used for Pasture for Life certification

Overarching Objective

A coordinated inspection process aims to minimise any overlap or duplication between Pasture for Life Certification and any other existing farm certification or environmental stewardship schemes.

Information required for audit purposes should also be used, wherever possible, to add to the value of produce bearing the Certification Mark

2.9 Inspection fees and levies

- 2.10.1 Inspection fees and annual membership fees are set by the PFLA approved Certification Body and cover the cost of the audit process and any costs associated with maintaining the certification process as a whole.
- 2.10.2 The PFLA reserves the right to apply a levy fee on the sale of any livestock or produce that is traded under the Certification mark.
- 2.10.3 The levy fee, where applied, is published by the PFLA and will be clearly stated at the initial application stage of the Certification process and thereafter at the renewal stage.
- 2.10.4 This levy contributes towards the promotion and marketing of Pasture for Life produce and will allow future growth of the network of producers and retailers. Depending upon the volume of sales, levy fees may be collected annually in arrears or more frequently where appropriate.

A list of the current fee structure is published on the PFLA website:

www.pastureforlife.org

Overarching Objective

The Inspection process should represent a worthwhile investment in terms of underpinning the integrity of certified produce at the point of sale, confidence in the methods of production and transparency throughout the food chain.

3 Livestock and Feed

The Certification Standards should be seen by producers as a framework that defines an efficient, productive and sustainable system of farming rather than a series of constraints.

The Certification Standards relating to production have been developed by producers who have successfully refined their own pasture-based farming systems. As such they reflect practical measures based upon principles of good farming husbandry, as well as an efficient use of natural resources.

Prospective certified producers may find that becoming a farm with Certified Enterprise(s) will require a degree of change in their farming and livestock production methods. It is important to remember that certification is a voluntary decision that should only be taken when the producer is confident in their ability to manage any such change.

3.1 Source of livestock and identification – all species

- 3.1.1 All animals in the herd or flock relating to the Certified Enterprise on the farm must be managed to the Certification Standards.

Note: Animals that are prepared for shows, demonstrations or competitions cannot be treated as an exception and must be managed to the same Certification Standards.

- 3.1.2 Certification for a herd or flock kept on an individual holding must cover all animals of that species.

Note: The Certification Standards do not permit 'parallel production' whereby Certified and non-Certified animals within the same farming enterprise are raised under different management regimes.

Additional note for Dairy: Pasture for Life Dairy and Pasture for Life Meat are regarded as two completely separate enterprises and although they may comprise animals of the same species, it is possible for one to be certified and the other not, provided there is an appropriate distinction between the two enterprises and in the produce being sold. See also standard 5.7.11

- 3.1.3 Breeding stock must be of suitable type to fit 100% Pasture for Life systems and the farm environment.
- 3.1.4 Records of purchase and sale of certified animals must be kept.
- 3.1.5 All animals must be identified in accordance with current legislation (e.g. ear tags) to enable complete traceability and integrity of the Certification Mark.
- 3.1.6 When livestock is temporarily removed from the main farm site, but remain in the ownership of the producer who is responsible for the Certified Enterprise, they must be kept in accordance to the Certification Standards.

Note: Examples of acceptable reasons for temporary removal of livestock from the main farm site associated with the Certified Enterprise(s) may include:

- Shows and demonstrations
- Movement for breeding
- Movement for seasonal grazing

3.1.7 **Recommended**
Closed herds and flocks are recommended.

3.1.8 **Recommended**
When replacement breeding stock must be brought-in, they should be sourced from Certified Enterprises whenever possible.

Note: When non-certified breeding stock are brought onto the Certified Enterprise they must be managed to these standards from the day they arrive.

3.1.9 Replacement breeding stock purchased from non-certified sources must not be sold as Pasture for Life meat.

3.2 Source of livestock and identification – meat animals only

3.2.1 Livestock that are marketed for meat under the Certification Mark must be certified as being managed to these Standards from birth to the point of final processing.

Note: The only exception to this standard is at initial certification. Farms that can demonstrate that past management met Pasture for Life standards may be permitted to include animals on farm as part of their certified herds and flocks.

3.2.2 Any purchased store animals or youngstock that are to be raised for meat production must be sourced from other Certified Enterprises.

Note: The only exception to this standard is at initial certification. Farms that can demonstrate that animals that were purchased as stores came from farms that even if uncertified had management that met Pasture for Life standards may be permitted to include these animals as part of their certified herds and flocks.

3.3 Source of livestock and identification – dairy animals only

3.3.1 Livestock that are to produce milk under the Certification Mark must be managed to these standards for at least three months before they can produce certified milk.

Note: Once certified the entire dairy herd must be managed to meet the Pasture for Life standards, however replacement breeding animals from non-certified herds must meet the requirement above. The only exception to this standard is at initial certification. Farms that can demonstrate that past management met Pasture for Life standards may be permitted to market certified milk from the date of first certification.

There are different requirements for animals that produce Pasture for Life meat and those that produce Pasture for Life dairy as the impact of switching to 100% pasture diets on the nutritional content of milk occurs more quickly than the changes in the nutritional content of meat.

Note that if farms with Certified Dairy Enterprises wish to market dairy animals as beef or veal they must additionally certify as a Certified Meat Enterprise and meet standard 3.2.1.

3.3.2 Once certified, dairy animals must be kept to Pasture for Life standards throughout their lactation and any dry periods.

- 3.3.3 The practice of using “flying” dairy herds is prohibited. This term is used to describe systems where replacements are made on a total-herd-basis and/or where replacement heifers are routinely raised as part of non-Certified Enterprises.

3.4 Overall feed and nutrition

- 3.4.1 Animals must be provided with pasture and forage that provide suitable nutrition for their age and stage of production.
- 3.4.2 Animals must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times.
- 3.4.3 Pasture and forage must be the only feed source consumed for the lifetime of the animal, with the exception of milk consumed by youngstock prior to weaning. Animals must not be fed grain or any other form of feed concentrate.

Note: Pasture and forage includes grass (annual and perennial), legumes (e.g. clover, trefoil, vetches), brassicas (see section 3.6) and herbs within pasture leys. Also permitted are forbs, browsing of shrubby growth, and arable silage or wholecrop, harvested in the vegetative (pre-grain) state (see section 3.7). All of the above may be provided for grazing or as conserved products (e.g. hay and silage).

- 3.4.4 The following sources of feed are specifically prohibited under the Certification Standards and any animal that consumes them will lose certified status:

- Grains
- Dry harvested grain legumes (e.g. peas, beans, lupins)
- Maize and maize silage
- Soya
- Sunflower and safflower grains and meals
- Oilseed and expeller products
- Grain residue or by-products including brewer’s grains
- Any harvested root crops and root crop products including sugar beet, fodder 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
- Urea

Note: The feeds listed above must not be used as feeds, feed additives or feed supplements. A lack of a specific prohibition for any feed or supplement within the Certification Standards does not imply that their use is permitted. It should be assumed that any non-forage supplements or feedstuffs are prohibited unless otherwise specifically stated within the Certification Standards. The PFLA approved Certification Body should be consulted if there is any doubt whether a particular ingredient is permitted.

- 3.4.5 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or derivatives of GMO are specifically prohibited.
- 3.4.6 Molasses must only be used as a binding agent for mineral and/or vitamin supplements. It cannot be used as a feed in its own right nor as a binder for grass nuts or similar feeds.
- 3.4.7 A list of ingredients or specification for any feed or supplement made available to a group of certified animals must be retained and be made available at inspection.

- 3.4.8 Animals that are sick, ill or otherwise in poor condition must not have prohibited feeds withheld if these are necessary to maintain animal health and welfare.

Note: Such animals cannot be marketed under the Certification Mark.

- 3.4.9 If inadvertent exposure to non-forage foodstuffs occurs, the incident must be recorded and reported to the approved Certification Body within seven days.

- 3.4.10 Records must be maintained with ear tag numbers, or other forms of animal identification for any animals that consume non-forage supplements. These must not be sold under the Certification Mark or otherwise implied that they are covered by the Certification Mark.

3.4.11 **Recommended**

Producers should take steps to reduce reliance on any bought-in dried forage feeds with a high external resource footprint such as lucerne and grass nuts.

Note: Grass and lucerne pellets are permitted as a supplementary feed source. However, these are costly to buy and also use significant resources during harvest, transportation, drying and processing. Home-grown feeds represent a more efficient and profitable alternative.

Additional note for dairy producers: There are few permitted forms of concentrate feed that are suitable for in-parlour feeding. However many successful Pasture for Life Dairy systems do not use any form of feed while cows are being milked. Dried forage such as Lucerne pellets may be used, but this is not always a cost-effective solution and the environmental footprint of this sort of feed should be carefully considered.

3.5 Grazing

Overarching Objective

The number of livestock should be properly matched to the capacity of the pasture and the soil conditions. The PFLA recognises that in practice, the sustainable stocking rate is as diverse as the pasture. Both understocking and overstocking can have an adverse effect on species diversity, which is important in helping to maintain animal health. It is well recognised that legumes and particularly herbs and forbs contain significantly higher levels of minerals, including trace minerals, than grass.

Farms must be able to demonstrate that the number of livestock on their holding does not compromise the soil condition, the productivity of the pasture or the welfare of the animals. See also Section 6.

- 3.5.1 All livestock operations must be based upon providing access to pasture or other forage areas where animals can graze. A zero-grazing system, where fresh forage is harvested during the growing season and fed to confined animals, is prohibited.

- 3.5.2 At all times when conditions allow, Certified Animals must be maintained on rotational pastures, permanent pasture, fields of forage crops or on unbroken ground.

Note: See Standard 5.4.2 for conditions under which Certified Animals can be removed from pasture.

- 3.5.3 **Recommended**
Certified Enterprises should produce the pasture and forage for their Certified Animals from their own farms or land under their own management.
- 3.5.4 Certified Animals may be supplemented with hay, haylage, baleage, silage, crop residue (straw) without grain, and other natural sources of roughage while on pasture, but during the growing season these must not be the main source of nutrition.

3.6 Grazing brassica and root crops

Overarching Objective

Brassica and root crops can play an important role in sustainable, rotational livestock farming systems. Towards the end of summer, a brassica crop such as stubble turnips or kale sown into post-harvest stubble fields can provide useful supplementary fodder at a time when the nutritional value of grass declines. Livestock will spread manure onto these fields as they graze, adding valuable fertility to the following crop planted.

However, brassicas and root crops have a different nutritional composition to grasses, herbs and forbs, and in addition feeding a predominantly brassica based diet can lead to taint. Brassicas must therefore only be fed to certified animals as a grazed, mixed crop when the animals have access to the green leafy tops of the plant as well as any root.

The cultivation and grazing of brassica crops must also be managed with the protection of soil health and soil structure in mind.

- 3.6.1 Brassicas and root crops must be grazed. Harvested brassicas and root crops must not be fed to certified livestock.
- 3.6.2 Brassicas and root crops must be planted in a mix that includes at least one other species that is not another brassica or root crop.

Note: Pasture for Life Standards do not permit the use of monocultures. Certified animals must always have access to multiple plants species as part of their daily diet.

- 3.6.3 **Recommended**
Deep rooting plants other than brassicas or grass species should be included as part of the species mix.

Note: Diverse brassica mixes that include clover, grass, cereal crops, plantain, chicory, vetches and other species along with root crops and forage brassicas are increasingly available commercially.

- 3.6.4 **Recommended**
Animals should be introduced onto a brassica or root crop slowly to allow the rumen microflora to adapt to the change of diet.

Note: This process may take seven to ten days. Initially, access should be restricted to one or two hours per day.

- 3.6.5 Animals fed brassicas must have access to additional high-fibre forage to counter the low fibre content of brassica crops.

- 3.6.6 Animals grazed on brassicas must have access to a place to lie down that is not muddy, or waterlogged.

3.7 Arable silage and wholecrop

Overarching Objective

Cereal crops such as wheat and barley are part of the same family of plants as grasses, but over millennia they have been selected to produce grain as their main output rather than the leafy vegetation of other grasses. In the early stages of growth however, cereal crops are very similar to grass and when grown as a mix of species and grazed or harvested before grain is present, can be used as part of the diet of certified animals.

Integrating livestock with arable systems can lead to better use of natural resources. Manure from livestock can be used to build fertility rather than relying on artificial inputs and mixing livestock and crop enterprises helps break weed, pest and disease cycles. PFLA encourages arable producers to integrate livestock into their farm systems for these and other benefits.

Mixed farms, with both livestock and arable enterprises, where pasture is grown in rotation with other crops, may use cereals as a “nurse crop” to protect newly sown pastures. The faster growing nurse crop helps to reduce weeds, prevents erosion and provides shelter for the pasture. The nurse crop is then harvested leaving well established pasture. Cereal crops may also be used as cover crops to protect soil from erosion between harvest and the establishment of the next crop. For the best use of resources these crops can be managed to meet the standards below and can then be utilised as feed for certified animals.

The terms arable silage and wholecrop are used in the agricultural sector to designate crops that have been harvested before they produce a dry grain. There is often confusion over the precise definition of each term. For clarity, these standards instead set a maximum growth stage of the harvested plant to define whether it is suitable for pasture for life animals.

- 3.7.1 Arable silage or wholecrop for certified animals must be planted in a mix that includes at least one other non-cereal species

Note: Pasture for Life Standards do not permit the use of monocultures. Certified animals must always have access to multiple plants species as part of their daily diet. Common options for suitable arable mixes include barley or rye with peas or vetch, but there are many other combinations that may be used.

- 3.7.2 Arable silage or wholecrop must be grazed or harvested prior to the cereal species reaching growth stage 59 (ear emergence).

- 3.7.3 To ensure that the requirements of standard 3.7.1 and 3.7.2 are met, arable silage or wholecrop must be grown under the management of a farm with Certified Enterprise(s).

Note: In most instances the farm with a Certified Enterprise will grow arable silage or wholecrop for their own use, but this standard permits the purchase of arable silage or wholecrop from other farms with Certified Enterprises.

4 Additional Standards for Lamb and Sheep Production

Overarching Objective

Whilst the Certification Standards for all ruminant livestock share the same overarching objectives, the PFLA recognises that each sector has specific characteristics that require their own requirements and guidance.

This section of the Standards deals with particular considerations for sheep and lamb production. The following Standards are structured around a clear distinction between breeding stock and production stock:

- Breeding Stock includes ewes and ewe lambs (female lambs destined to be used for future breeding stock)
- Production Stock refers to Lamb, Hogget and other sheep managed to the Certification Standards and destined for meat production

4.1 Planning production cycles for sheep

Successful production systems will be based upon careful selection of breeds to match the system, and a production cycle that is matched to the growing conditions and availability of fodder.

4.1.1 Recommended

Lambing times should be planned to ensure that ewes and lambs can be introduced to high quality pastures and kept on them up to the point of weaning.

4.1.2 Recommended

Lamb for meat production should have at least four months of grazing pasture before being sent for slaughter.

4.2 Provision for transitional supplementary feeding of ewes at lambing

Overarching Objective

The objective of Certified Production is that all Certified Animals derive their feed solely from pasture and forage. However, the PFLA recognises the potential welfare challenges presented by this for some breeding animals.

In the later stages of pregnancy the rumen capacity of a ewe is reduced as the developing lambs grow in size. This is a particular problem when ewes are carrying triplets. Even when good pasture is provided ewes may struggle to get enough nutrition from grazing alone. If the pregnant ewe does not get sufficient nutrition from her diet she can suffer from pregnancy toxemia, which if not treated quickly can lead to death. Other effects from an insufficient diet can include lack of milk once lambs are born and/or underweight lambs – both of which can lead to an increase in lamb mortality.

Managing sheep and pasture to deliver the optimum number of lambs per ewe and provide the right nutrition for the ewe throughout pregnancy may require producers to change timing of lambing and other management practices. To ensure the welfare of ewes and newborn lambs is protected during this period there is a transitional allowance, outlined in the standards below, to provide ewes with

feed that would otherwise be prohibited. The ewes offered this feed can never be marketed under the Certification Mark, but their lambs could be.

Farms with Certified Enterprises are encouraged to select breeds, time lambing and manage grazing to eliminate the need for supplementary feeding using prohibited feeds over time. The experience and innovations shared between producers and other PFLA Members can help towards this.

- 4.2.1 Supplementary feeding with grain or other prohibited feeds is only permitted for pregnant breeding sheep for a transitional period for a maximum of three years from first certification.

Note: It is expected that producers use this transition period to make adaptations to breed, timing of lambing and/or grazing management, so that supplementary feeding with prohibited feeds becomes unnecessary to maintain ewe health and welfare.

Farms that are already certified for sheep production, and which are using this allowance for breeding ewes have three years from the implementation of these standards to complete their transition.

- 4.2.2 Supplementary feeding using prohibited feeds must only take place when the welfare of pregnant breeding sheep would otherwise be at risk.

Note: This could include ewes carrying multiple lambs, or in-lamb ewes in poor body condition. In the case of poor body condition, the certifier would expect to see pro-active measures in place to ensure such cases were isolated and were not a consequence of the overall management system.

- 4.2.3 Ewes must be scanned to confirm multiple births before supplementary feeding with prohibited feeds is made available for groups of ewes.

Note: Individual animals can be provided with supplementary feeding on the basis of a visual assessment.

4.2.4 **Recommended**

Any supplementary feeding using prohibited feeds should be from home-produced feed.

- 4.2.5 Supplementary feeding using prohibited feeds must not exceed 40% of the ewe's daily intake on a dry matter basis.

- 4.2.6 Supplementary feeding using prohibited feeds must not commence before six weeks prior to expected lambing date.

Note: If a group of pregnant ewes are being fed the timing can be six weeks prior to first expected lambing date.

- 4.2.7 Supplementary feeding using prohibited feeds must be withdrawn as soon as possible after lambing, and in any case before lambs are three days old.

- 4.2.8 Supplementary feeding using prohibited feeds must not be used at any other point in the breeding cycle (e.g. for flushing prior to conception).

- 4.2.9 Produce such as mutton and milk from ewes given prohibited feeds as a supplementary part of the diet, must not be sold under the Certification Mark.

- 4.2.10 Breeding stock that has been given prohibited feeds as a supplementary part of the diet must be clearly identified within the flock and must not be sold under the Certification Mark.

5 Animal Welfare

Overarching Objective

Pasture for Life certification standards represent sustainable farming practice and they also reflect the associated high customer expectations in terms of animal welfare and ethics.

Certified animals must be maintained in a state of good welfare with respect to the Five Domains. The Five Freedoms are well known, but in recent years there has been a shift away from avoiding negative welfare to promoting positive welfare. The Five Domains (listed below) encapsulate this approach with the first four “physical” domains together affecting the fifth “mental” domain and all five together providing the state of animal welfare.

- Nutrition and hydration
- Environment
- Health Status
- Behaviour
- Mental State

5.1 Stock-people

5.1.1 All stock-people must be trained and competent in animal husbandry and welfare.

Note: This applies to contract stock workers – for example contract shearers – as well as full and part time employees and family members who work with certified animals.

5.2 Health – All species

5.2.1 There must be a written animal health plan that emphasises prevention of illness or injury and promotion of positive health to limit the need for treatment. It must address:

- Avoidance of physical, nutritional or environmental stress
- Nutrition
- Vaccinations and other methods to cope with prevailing disease challenges
- Pasture management to prevent potential animal health problems
- Emergency euthanasia
- Biosecurity and quarantine measures
- Emergencies with actions to be taken to mitigate these (e.g. fire, flood, drought)
- Lameness and foot/h hoof care
- Mastitis
- Internal and external parasites
- Strategies for controlling disease such as BVD and Johne’s disease in cattle and/or scab and flystrike in sheep if these are a risk on farm

5.2.2 **Recommended**

The health plan should be prepared in consultation with the farm’s vet or other expert advisor.

- 5.2.3 Records must be kept of the administration of veterinary medical products. The information must include:
- Date of purchase
 - Name of product
 - Batch number and expiry date of product
 - Quantity purchased
 - Identity and number of animals treated
 - Quantity administered per animal or per group
 - Reason why animals were treated
 - Date when treatment started and finished
 - Withdrawal times and date when meat or milk may be marketed

5.2.4 Any sick or injured animal must receive treatment as soon as the illness or injury is discovered.

5.2.5 Any animal that is sick or injured without hope of recovery, must be promptly and humanely euthanised.

5.2.6 Prophylactic or sub-therapeutic use of antibiotics is prohibited.

Note: The routine use of dry cow treatment represents prophylactic use of antibiotics and is prohibited. Inert teat sealants such as Orbeseal are permitted.

5.2.7 When antibiotic treatment is required for individual animals, third- and fourth-generation cephalosporin antibiotics must not be used unless the farm's vet states that they are the only suitable option.

Note: These antibiotics are important in human medicine and should be used sparingly in animal treatments.

5.2.8 Stocking rates, the use of 'clean' and 'mixed' grazing and pasture management must be the first approach towards controlling and avoiding internal parasites.

5.2.9 **Recommended**

Faecal egg counts should be used to monitor parasite burden and guide the need for treatment.

5.2.10 When treatment against parasites is required, Avermectin compounds must be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

Note: Avermectin compounds have a negative impact on soil flora and fauna. Their use may be necessary where there is resistance to other wormers or when a vet advises their use.

5.2.11 **Recommended**

Long-lasting parasite treatments in the form of boluses should not be used.

5.2.12 In common with UK regulations, the use of hormone treatments such as rBST to boost production is prohibited.

Note: Hormone treatments may be used to address fertility or other similar therapeutic issues provided there is clear veterinary advice to do so.

5.2.13 Organo-phosphate and organo-chlorine compounds must not be used in any form.

5.2.14 Breeding management must ensure good welfare for the mother and her offspring.

Note: Breeding management includes factors such as choice of sire, age at first breeding and nutrition during pregnancy so that mothers give birth unassisted to healthy offspring.

5.3 Health - dairy animals only

Overarching Objective

Certified dairy systems will typically have output levels that are matched to the animal's natural levels of production and as such, the use of antibiotic treatments is considered to be rare. Nevertheless, in common with sustainable and organic principles and human medicine, the provision for treatment with antibiotics on a case-by-case basis, remains a crucial resource in maintaining high standards of animal welfare.

5.3.1 **Recommended**

The health plan required at Standard 5.1.1 should include provision for the identification and appropriate action taken for any dairy cows, ewes or does that are susceptible to repeated cases of mastitis.

Note: Management options may include transfer from a dairy herd to a meat/suckler herd or flock or disposal of the animal, but should reflect a compassionate approach towards balancing animal welfare with minimising the use of antibiotics.

5.4 Living Environment

See also section 3.5 Grazing which requires Certified Enterprises to be based on access to grazing.

5.4.1 Animals must always have access to shade and or shelter as appropriate to ensure they can maintain thermal comfort.

5.4.2 Certified Animals may only be removed from pasture and housed under the following circumstances:

- Over-wintering periods when grazed crops are not growing
- Conditions likely to lead to soil damage
- Conditions that lead to a clear risk to animal welfare
- Community or National requirements relating to specific animal biosecurity measures.

5.4.3 **Recommended**

When Certified Animals are housed for an over-wintering period, they should be given access to pasture whenever conditions allow.

5.4.4 When Certified Animals are off pasture the stocking density in housing must meet the requirements in Appendix 1.

5.4.5 There must be no competition for feed or water when animals are housed.

5.4.6 All areas where animals are pastured, housed and handled must be designed and maintained to avoid causing injury.

5.4.7 All animals must have a dry and comfortable bedded lying area.

5.4.8 Manure, uneaten fodder and other wastes must be removed as often as necessary to maintain good air quality.

5.4.9 Housed animals must have access to natural light and ventilation.

5.4.10 Where artificial light is used, it must not extend the daylength beyond 16 hours.

5.4.11 **Recommended**

Housed animals should be provided with enrichments.

Note: This requirement does not apply to animals held temporarily overnight e.g. prior to transport or shearing. It also does not apply to animals that are housed for calving, lambing or kidding.

Suitable enrichments for housed sheep and goats include raised platforms such as hay or straw bales or stacked and secured wooden pallets. Suitable enrichments for cattle include cow brushes either purpose built, or a broom head attached to a wall or post at a suitable height. Enrichments are suggested at one for every 50 animals.

5.4.12 Tethering or close confinement of any animal is prohibited.

Note: Animals may be restrained for the purposes of delivering veterinary treatments, completing management tasks or similar, but must be held for the shortest time possible to complete such actions.

5.4.13 Water buffalos must have access to a wallow.

5.5 Welfare outcome assessments

Overarching Objective

Welfare outcome assessments are a useful way to ensure that the measures put into practice are delivering the desired beneficial outcomes for animals. It is not necessary to have written records of scoring, but producers should be aware of the benefits of monitoring the outcomes below. The PFLA approved Certification Body may carry out any of assessments listed below as part of the farm audit. For further information on welfare outcome assessments and tools to carry out these assessments see www.assurewel.org

5.5.1 Body Condition Scoring (BCS) must be carried out at key times in the production cycle, for example breeding, weaning and for dairy herds during early lactation.

5.5.2 Lameness must be monitored at least every six months with greater frequency of assessments where there is a higher risk.

Note: Some beef herds have little or no problem with lameness, but in dairy cattle herds and sheep flocks this can be a much bigger issue.

5.5.3 Mortality rates must be monitored and if they exceed expected or typical benchmark levels, action including veterinary advice, must be taken.

5.5.4 The percentage of assisted births must be monitored and if it exceeds 10% of the number of animals that give birth in any one cycle, action must be taken.

Note: For the purposes of this standard, assistance is defined as a situation where the animal could not give birth naturally without human intervention. If a large proportion of animals must be assisted it suggests that either breed choice or nutrition need adjustment.

- 5.5.5 Animal cleanliness must be monitored regardless of whether animals are on pasture or housed. If animals cannot keep themselves clean they must be moved to new pastures and/or bedding must be replenished.

5.6 Husbandry operations

- 5.6.1 The need to carry out operations such as castration, disbudding and tail docking must be justified in the animal health plan required in Standard 5.1.1
- 5.6.2 Castration of calves must only be carried out using rubber rings, burdizzo or scalpel.
- 5.6.3 Castration of lambs and kids must only be carried out using rubber rings or burdizzo.
- 5.6.4 Castration of deer is prohibited.
- 5.6.5 Castration using rubber rings must be carried out within the first seven days of life.
- 5.6.6 Castration of calves using burdizzo or scalpel must be carried out before the animal is two months old.
- 5.6.7 Castration of lambs and kids using burdizzo must be carried out before the animal is six weeks old
- 5.6.8 Tail docking lambs must only be carried out using rubber rings, burdizzo or cautery iron.
- 5.6.9 Tail docking using rubber rings must be carried out within the first seven days of life
- 5.6.10 Tail docking using burdizzo or cautery iron must be carried out before the animal is six weeks old.
- 5.6.11 **Recommended**
Pain relief should be provided when animals are castrated or tail docked.
- 5.6.12 Dehorning is prohibited for all ruminants.

Note: Dehorning is the removal of the horn once it has attached to the skull and started to grow. Disbudding (see below) is removal of the horn bud before it begins to develop. This standard includes a prohibition on the removal of antlers for deer.

- 5.6.13 Disbudding is prohibited for all ruminants except for beef and dairy cattle.
- 5.6.14 Disbudding for beef and dairy cattle must take place before the calf is two months old.
- 5.6.15 Local anaesthetic must be used when beef and dairy calves are disbudded
- 5.6.16 **Recommended**
Analgesic and sedation should additionally be used when beef and dairy calves are disbudded.

5.7 Young animal management

Overarching Objective

Unweaned calves, lambs, kids and fawns are described as young animals in the standards below. All young animals from Certified Enterprises that produce meat must be managed to these standards. Young animals from Certified Pasture for Life dairy herds or flocks that are not going to be reared as Pasture for Life Meat, or as replacements for the Certified Dairy Enterprise must be reared to these standards at least until weaning.

Most herds or flocks producing animals for meat allow young animals to be raised by their mothers until weaning. In contrast, most dairy enterprises remove young animals from their mothers shortly after birth, and rear them artificially. Pasture for Life encourages dairy farmers to investigate systems where young dairy animals stay with and are reared by their mothers or foster mothers.

5.7.1 **Recommended**

Prior to weaning all young animals should be raised by their mother or be adopted onto a surrogate.

5.7.2 **Recommended**

Prior to weaning young animals should be fed on whole milk.

5.7.3 Newborn animals must be given good quality colostrum by the time they are 12 hours old.

Note: In newborn ruminants, intestinal closure starts at around six hours and by 12 hours there is relatively little absorption of antibodies. Therefore newborns must be given colostrum before 12 hours and it is recommended that the first feeding should be completed before six hours.

5.7.4 Calves and fawns must not be weaned before they are 12 weeks of age.

5.7.5 **Recommended**

Calves and fawns should not be weaned before they are 8 months of age.

5.7.6 Lambs and kids must not be weaned before they are at least 45 days old.

5.7.7 **Recommended**

Lambs and kids should not be weaned before they are 3 months of age.

5.7.8 Young animals must not be sold through auction markets before the weaning ages specified in standards 5.7.4 and 5.7.6.

5.7.9 Young animals must not be euthanised for any reason other than non-recoverable illness or injury.

5.7.10 Young animals must not be sold for live export.

- 5.7.11 Farms with Certified Dairy Enterprises must manage young animals to meet these standards until at least the weaning ages specified in standards 5.7.4 and 5.7.6.

Note: Farms with Certified Meat Enterprises must rear all animals within the herd or flock to the Pasture for Life standards for their entire lives. Farms with Certified Dairy Enterprises are encouraged to do the same, but may choose to transfer young animals that are not required as dairy replacements to non-certified meat enterprises at weaning.

- 5.7.12 Farms with Certified Dairy Enterprises must have in place a management plan that identifies suitable market(s) for all male young animals and any female young animals that are not reared as breeding replacements.

Note: The PFLA promotes a compassionate approach to the issue of male animals from dairy herds or flocks. Male animals, and any females that are unsuitable as breeding replacements, do not have to be raised beyond weaning as Pasture for Life meat, but a suitable outlet for these animals should be found.

5.8 Culled animals

Overarching Objective

The PFLA promotes a compassionate approach to the issue of animals at the end of their productive lives. Even fit and healthy older animals may not be as robust as younger stock. Selling them through auction markets automatically requires at least one additional journey before they reach their final destination, and that final destination is unknown at the point they leave the Certified Enterprise. It is therefore recommended that animals that have finished their productive lives within the Certified Enterprise are transferred direct to slaughter or, if they have the potential to continue to be productive in another setting, to another farm.

5.8.1 **Recommended**

The sale of non-productive cows, ewes or does through auction markets should be avoided wherever possible.

- 5.8.2 Body condition must be maintained in non-productive cows, ewes or does up to the point of sale or slaughter.

- 5.8.3 Transportation of cull animals must avoid stress.

5.9 Handling and transport

- 5.9.1 Animals must always be handled calmly in a way that minimises stress and avoids injury.

- 5.9.2 The use of electric prods is prohibited.

- 5.9.3 There must be a written plan to ensure that animal welfare is maintained during transport both around the farm and off the farm. The plan should, where applicable, also include actions to be taken in the event of an accident or vehicle breakdown.

- 5.9.4 Animals must be fit for transport. Sick or injured animals must only be moved under the direction of a vet.

- 5.9.5 Water must be available up to the point of transport.

- 5.9.6 Transport duration must be as short as possible and must not exceed eight hours.
- 5.9.7 Stocking density in transport must meet the requirements in Appendix 1.
- 5.9.8 **Recommended**
Transport of single animals should be avoided.
- 5.9.9 Animals must not be loaded and transported unless the destination is aware of and ready for their arrival.

5.10 Slaughter

- 5.10.1 Animals to be marketed as Certified Pasture for Life meat must only be slaughtered at abattoirs that are recommended by PFLA.

Note: PFLA will review existing certifications, FSA reports and other information to ensure that abattoirs handle, lairage, stun and kill animals to meet best practice animal welfare requirements.

- 5.10.2 All animals to be marketed as Certified Pasture for Life meat must be stunned prior to slaughter.

6 Sustainable Pasture Management

Overarching Objective

Livestock play an essential role in maintaining many important habitats, such as species-rich meadows and pasture, wetlands and marshes and wood pasture. However, it is important that appropriate stocking rates and suitable breeds of animal are used to achieve the most beneficial outcomes.

Inputs applied to the land have an impact. Application of artificial fertilisers and herbicide sprays can have a detrimental effect upon the value of pasture. For instance, synthetic fertilisers can adversely affect soil flora and fauna, reduce earthworm populations, leading to the acidification of soils and causing the oxidation of organic matter. Herbicide sprays are often broad spectrum, killing many more plants than the targeted species, so their use must be carefully controlled.

Semi-natural and species-rich pastures have evolved as a result of decades or even centuries of low-intensity farming, and comprise of native strains of grasses and flowers. These plant communities have a very high conservation value, because they have become incredibly rare and fragmented across the UK, with a decline of at least 95% since 1940. These pastures are important for rare plants, fungi, and a host of associated insects and other fauna. These standards prohibit the use of monocultures and promote diverse and species rich pastures.

6.1 Pasture management

6.1.1 All farms must have a pasture management plan that is put into action to include the following:

- Stocking rates
- Ley composition
- Re-seeding/over-seeding targets
- Nutrient management including fertiliser/manure application targets
- Weeds and their control
- Actions to eliminate soil erosion and other damage to soil structure
- Actions to maintain and build soil nutrients, soil organic matter and soil microbiological activity

6.1.2 **Recommended**

Farm level soil health monitoring should be carried out.

Note: This could include carrying out earthworm counts, slake testing, soil organic matter tests, digging soil pits and similar activities.

6.1.3 **Recommended**

Regular forage testing should be carried out.

6.1.4 Semi-natural pastures, unimproved pastures and species-rich meadows that are of benefit as wildlife habitats must be managed to maintain or enhance their biodiversity.

Note: The use of manures and artificial fertilisers, re-seeding, drainage and cultivations can all cause damage to semi-natural, unimproved and species-rich pastures.

6.1.5 Stocking density must take account of soil type, climate and forage availability. Animals must not be stocked so high that poaching, overgrazing or other problems occur.

- 6.1.6 Artificial fertilisers must only be used when nutrient management planning (as required in Standard 6.1.1) indicates a need that cannot be met by composts, manures, or green manures.

Note: The successful establishment of clover within grass leys can significantly reduce the need for artificial fertilisers. Every 10% of clover within a sward is equivalent to applying 50kg/ha of Nitrogen. A grass ley containing 40% clover will eliminate the need for other sources of nitrogen. Apart from considerable cost savings, the elimination of artificial sources of nitrogen will reduce harmful emissions of nitrogen oxide gases and the quantity of leached nitrates entering water supplies.

- 6.1.7 Non-chemical control of weeds must be the primary method of management.

Note: Herbicide sprays can have a detrimental effect on diversity within pasture and diminish the mineral availability and nutritional value of the grazing.

6.1.8 **Recommended**

Chemical weed control should only be used in the form of spot spraying.

- 6.1.9 Glyphosate is prohibited on land used by the Certified Enterprise(s).

Note: There is limited independent research relating to some of the wider, non-target effects of glyphosate and its effect on soil health. Some studies have shown negative effects on earthworms, soil fungi, soil microbiology and the impaired uptake of important mineral nutrients. There are also concerns about glyphosate residues in water and its potential impact on human health. Since alternative management options exist within Pasture for Life systems, this precautionary approach to the use of glyphosate is the most responsible one until further independent research becomes available.

For the purposes of this standard, land used by the Certified Enterprise is defined as land which is grazed or used to make forage to feed Certified animals, and glyphosate must therefore not be used prior to sowing or harvesting a forage crop for Certified animals. We recognise that at other times, particularly within rotational farming systems, the management of that land may not be part of the Certified Enterprise and as such falls outside of the scope of these standards.

- 6.1.10 Straw from crops desiccated or destroyed by glyphosate must not be fed to certified animals.

- 6.1.11 When Certified Animals are given supplementary feed or forage on pasture, feeding sites must be moved frequently enough to prevent poaching.

Note: Feeding sites include ring feeders, hay racks or areas where hay or other forages are spread on the ground. This requirement does not apply to feeding sites that form part of an overwinter feeding pad, where straw, woodchip or other material forms a dry area for livestock to lie and prevents poaching.

- 6.1.12 When Certified Animals are given supplementary feed or forage on pasture, feeding areas must not be sited where rare or otherwise locally important species of plant are growing.

6.2 Diversity within pasture

Overarching Objective

The diversity of plant species within pasture is one of the most important elements of pasture-fed production and has been shown to improve soil health. Leguminous plants, particularly clover,

significantly reduce the environmental footprint of livestock production and contribute towards raising the levels of protein available within the animal's diet.

Herbs and other native plants such as Chicory, Burnet, Yarrow, Sanfoin and Ribgrass provide a source of vital trace elements, offering the opportunity for self-medication by livestock. Some plants can also significantly reduce methane emissions in ruminant animals.

- 6.2.1 Pasture management must encourage biodiversity and reflect the importance of herbs and other native species within grass swards (see also section 7). Monoculture crops for grazing or conservation are prohibited.

Note: Pasture management to encourage biodiversity includes maintaining or restoring diverse leys with a range of grass, herb and wildflower species.

6.2.2 **Recommended**

Grazing management should allow a variety of vegetation structure to develop – short to tall, sparse to tussocky.

Note: A variety of vegetation structure benefits a much wider range of wildlife than short swards or those of consistent height.

6.2.3 **Recommended**

Diverse mixes of plants such as grasses, legumes and herbs should be established and/or maintained in pastures.

7 Biodiversity and the Wider Environment

Overarching Objective

Pasture plays a vital part in UK agriculture. Grasses and other forages have been a major resource for UK producers for hundreds, if not thousands of years and both farmed animals and native wildlife have adapted to utilise them.

Many UK wildlife species have suffered a massive decline in numbers in the past 50 years. Sustainable livestock production as defined by the Certification Standards includes the principle of ensuring that wildlife habitats are not further destroyed or damaged. Many important and threatened species of native wildlife depend on grazing, so their conservation can be supported through appropriate pasture management

7.1 Management for wildlife and biodiversity

7.1.1 There must be a farm map that identifies the following habitats across all of the land owned or managed by the farm with Certified Enterprises

- Woodland
- Hedges
- Rivers, ponds and streams
- Wetlands
- Areas of natural or semi-natural permanent pasture
- Statutory protected sites of importance to wildlife such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserves and Local Nature Reserves
- Non-statutory protected sites of important to wildlife such as Local Wildlife Sites
- Areas under Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship management

Note: Farm Environment Maps prepared for Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship may be used to meet this requirement.

7.1.2 The certified enterprise must demonstrate that they are maintaining and managing areas of wildlife habitat.

7.1.3 River banks must be managed to keep erosion and soil run-off to a minimum.

7.1.4 Ridge and furrow fields must not be levelled.

7.1.5 Fields containing ancient monuments must not be cultivated.

7.1.6 The Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations 1996 must be followed when making and storing silage.

7.1.7 Effluent from silage clamps, bags and big bales must not pollute water courses or groundwater. Effluent collection tanks must:

- have enough storage for unusually wet silage
- prevent water entering which may cause an overflow

7.2 Field margins and strips

Strips that can be left ungrazed and uncut provide the tussocky grass margins required by nesting birds such as yellowhammers, voles that provide food for barn owls and nest sites for harvest mice. It is important to avoid applying fertiliser to these strips to encourage a greater variety of plants. Where possible the strips should be managed to provide a diversity of sward height, maturity and density to increase the benefits for birds and insects

7.2.1 **Recommended**

The environmental value of field boundaries should be maximised.

Note: Hedges, ditches and walls are important features for wildlife. Making the most of these features is one of the simplest ways to help wildlife on farmland, with no impact on the farming business.

7.2.2 **Recommended**

Hedge trimming and ditch management should be carried out on a two to three year rotation.

Note: Managing hedges and ditches on a two to three year rotation rather than annually, boosts flowers, fruit and refuges for wildlife. This is most suited to thorn-dominated hedges and ditches where rotational management will not compromise field drainage.

7.2.3 **Recommended**

Hedgerows should be fenced off far enough away from the centre of the hedge to allow a dense hedge base to develop.

Note: Rather than tightly following the curves of the hedge, producers should consider fencing longer straight runs, requiring less posts and stays, so that some rough grass can develop where the fence is further from the hedge.

7.2.4 **Recommended**

Where appropriate a wide range of new hedgerow trees should be established to maintain or restore former numbers within the landscape.

7.2.5 **Recommended**

Rough grass at the edges and corners of fields should be created and/or maintained.

Note: Areas of rough grass can help slow down run-off from fields, buffer important features and provide habitat for small mammals and beneficial insects. This is particularly important for farms that do not have unimproved or semi-natural pasture.

7.3 Hay and silage making

The switch from hay to silage has been one of the most significant changes in grassland management over the last century. While helping to ensure the availability of good quality winter forage for livestock, it has allowed changes in pasture management that have reduced wildlife interest. Although traditional hay meadows have the greatest wildlife value, modifications in the management of agriculturally improved meadows can benefit wildlife. Meadows can provide nesting habitat for a number of birds. Ground-nesting birds that require cover, such as the curlew, skylark, yellow wagtail, whinchat and corn bunting, can nest in meadows.

7.3.1 **Recommended**

At least some fields to be cut for a crop of hay or silage should not be cut before mid-July.

7.3.2 **Recommended**

Where fields are cut for hay or silage awkward field corners or whole margins should be left uncut.

Note: When grasses and flowers have the chance to flower and seed, they provide many benefits to wildlife.

7.4 Nesting habitat

Ground-nesting birds that require cover are attracted to fields shut up for hay or silage. They then need a certain period to complete incubation and for their chicks to be able to be moved out of the field before mowing. The length of time birds require from stock removal to mowing will vary between species and how quickly birds start nesting. For example, skylarks are likely to require at least seven weeks between stock removal and mowing.

7.4.1 **Recommended**

Where fields have ground-nesting birds, pasture management practices such as harrowing, rolling and topping have the potential to be destructive. Avoid such practices when birds are nesting or have small young yet to fledge.

7.4.2 **Recommended**

In mown meadows where waders (snipe, lapwings, redshanks, curlews) breed, leave damp hollows/corners uncut as unfledged chicks are most likely to use these areas.

7.5 Wetland and riparian areas

7.5.1 **Recommended**

Where required, rushes should be cut between September and November, ideally followed by aftermath cattle grazing.

7.5.2 Wetland areas must not be drained.

7.5.3 **Recommended**

Waterside management should preserve the structure of any banks, protect habitat and maintain aquatic diversity.

8 Certified Businesses beyond the farm gate

The preceding sections have dealt with the management of certified animals and careful stewardship of the farmland on which they are raised. For the efforts of the producer to be reflected at the point of sale, it is important that the rest of the supply chain reflects the same standards of integrity.

In many cases, the quality of certified produce will be complemented by artisan methods of processing. The standards provide the flexibility to support such methods.

8.1 Separation of Certified and non-Certified produce

- 8.1.1 Certified Businesses must have clear protocols in place to ensure that both Certified and non-certified produce are clearly identified and that there are no means by which any non-certified produce can be inadvertently processed and labelled as being Certified.
- 8.1.2 These protocols must cover each stage of processing under their control and also include any sub-contracted services.

8.2 Statutory requirements

- 8.2.1 Certified Businesses must be registered with the local Trading Standards and their Environmental Health Authority as appropriate for their activities.

8.3 Traceability and record keeping

- 8.3.1 Certified Businesses must have a traceability system that meets the Pasture for Life TRACKS requirements by including:
- Produce that is supplied to them is covered by a current, valid certificate
 - There is a unique reference number that allows produce to be traced from certified enterprise(s) through all stages of processing
 - Volume, date and origin of certified product entering the business is recorded
 - Details of processing and addition of ingredients to certified products is recorded (e.g. manufacture of sausages, ice cream etc.)
 - Volume of certified product transferred or sold from the business is recorded

Note: The traceability system must provide a means of easily tracing both the identity and quantity of produce from point of sale back to the producer and production batch.

- 8.3.2 **Recommended**
Certified Businesses should use the online Pasture for Life TRACKS system

Note: The online TRACKS system gives an up-to-date check on certification and generates a unique batch number which relates in the case of beef to the individual animal, in lamb to a batch of animals and in the case of milk, to a daily delivery being processed.

- 8.3.3 **Recommended**
Individual cuts of meat or joints should be traceable to the individual animal that produced it.

8.3.4 **Recommended**

Produce that is likely to have come from more than one animal (e.g. mince or dairy produce) should be traceable to a single farm.

8.3.5 Sample labels showing use of the Pasture for Life symbol and methods of batch identification must be available at audit.

Note: Use of the TRACKS ID number and / or QR code, fulfils this requirement.

8.3.6 Records of Local Environmental Health Authority registration and visits must be kept and made available at audit on request.

8.4 Meat hanging requirements

8.4.1 Pasture for Life Beef hindquarters must be hung or otherwise dry-aged for a minimum of two weeks prior to sale. The hanging of forequarters is left to the discretion of the butcher to achieve the best quality of meat.

8.4.2 Pasture for Life Lamb must be hung or otherwise dry-aged for a minimum of one week prior to sale.

8.5 Point of sale requirements

8.5.1 The Pasture for Life Certification Mark relates solely to ruminant livestock production. It is important to ensure that it is not implied, either intentionally or otherwise, that any associated monogastric livestock (e.g. pigs or poultry) systems fall within the scope of Pasture for Life production.

9 Use of the Certification Mark - Conditions and Guidelines

9.1 Ownership

- 9.1.1 The Pasture for Life identity is a registered Certification Mark and belongs to the PFLA.
- 9.1.2 Use of the Certification Mark is subject to a fee, an agreement to comply with the Certification Standards and the terms and conditions set out in these guidelines.

9.2 Permitted users

- 9.2.1 The Certification Mark must only be used to identify or promote produce that fully complies with the Certification Standards. Those applying the Certification Mark must be certified by the PFLA approved Certification Body as a Certified Enterprise or other Certified Business, or alternatively do so with the permission of the PFLA as part of a complete supply chain that is fully compliant with PFLA Standards.
- 9.2.2 When applied to either certified products or live animals the Certification Mark must be used in conjunction with traceability records that demonstrate certified status.
- 9.2.2 **Recommended**
When applied to either produce or live animals, the mark should be used in conjunction with the PFLA TRACKS system, which is a fully traceable system of Identity Preservation.
- 9.2.3 In addition, the Certification Mark may be used by Certified Businesses on their website, stationery and promotional items, including leaflets and point-of-sale materials. Retailers may use the logo on their own-branded products and promotional materials when sourcing from a Certified Butcher or Creamery, provided the integrity of the produce can be guaranteed.
- 9.2.4 Other persons or organisations (such as the media) may use the logo, if the use supports the aims of the scheme and where written permission is given by the PFLA. Such use must also strictly adhere to these guidelines.

9.3 Application of the Certification Mark

The Pasture for Life Certification Mark must always appear as illustrated and described:

9.3.1 Font and Colours

Font: Bliss Bold & Bliss Extra
Bold
Colour : Plum
Pantone: 234
CMYK: 35c, 100m, 35y, 5k
RGB: 165r, 31g, 103b



Colour

Colour : Light green
Pantone: 366
CMYK: 30c, 0m, 70y, 0k
RGB: 182r, 221g, 122b



Black and White

Colour : Dark Green
Pantone: 361
CMYK: 80c, 5m, 100y, 0k
RGB: 62r, 175g, 73b



Tattoo

If it is not possible to reproduce the Certification Mark in colour, it may be used as illustrated (right, above) in black and white format:

9.3.2 Tattoo format

The Certification Mark may be used in tattoo format when used directly on products such as meat, as an aid to identity preservation through the processing stages prior to packaging and labelling. This may be used in black and white, as illustrated (right), or alternatively, other single colours may be used by prior agreement.

9.3.3 Size

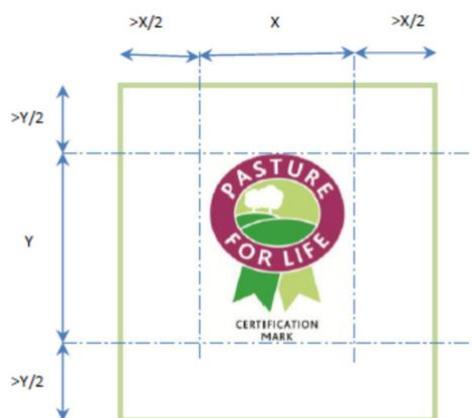
The Certification Mark must be at least 10mm in height, or 15mm where space permits.

9.3.4 Background (keyline)

When printed on a coloured or photographic background, the Certification Mark must appear with a white keyline (outline).

9.3.5 Positioning

The separation of the Certification Mark must be at least half its profile size (for example 8mm in the case of a 15mm wide mark), from any other trade name or mark, unrelated image or text, or the edge (trim-line) of the artwork.



9.3.6. Certification Mark

The words CERTIFICATION MARK should appear beneath the design device, as illustrated, at least once on all communications. On black or dark backgrounds, the wording should be clear and for this purpose a white font may be used.

9.4 Supervision of the Certification Mark

The audit process for Certified Enterprises and other Certified Businesses is necessary to underpin the integrity of the system of farming, and to provide the necessary reassurances to customers who support it through the purchase of produce bearing the Pasture for Life Certification Mark.

The producer group structure that is encouraged within the network of farms with Certified Enterprises, and other Certified Businesses supports the development of short, transparent food chains.

9.4.1 Certification bodies

The PFLA is responsible for approving a Certification Body to carry out audit and certification functions. Any Certification Body approved by the PFLA must be accredited to the relevant current ISO/IEC standards (currently 17065:2012.)

9.4.2 Inspection intervals

Please refer to Standard 2.7.3

9.4.3 Unannounced inspections

Please refer to Standard 2.7.8

9.4.4 Non-Compliance measures

In cases of minor non-compliance, any previously granted Certification remains valid provided all compliance issues are fully resolved with the approved Certification Body within an agreed time span. See also Standard 2.7.9

9.4.5 In cases of major non-compliance or manifest infringement there will be an immediate suspension of the Certification and use of the Certification Mark on any produce. See also Standard 2.7.10

9.4.6 Pasture for Life TRACKS product ID

TRACKS is the name given to any system of traceability that meets Pasture for Life requirements as outlined in standard 8.3.1. Traceability covers animals and produce being supplied by farms with Certified Enterprises and other Certified Businesses. The most

efficient version of TRACKS is an online database, which is accessible only by farms with Certified Enterprises and Certified Businesses that hold a current, valid certificate. It is recommended that Certified Businesses utilise this system (see also standard 8.3.2).

- 9.4.7 Alternative systems to the PFLA's online TRACKS that are assessed by the PFLA approved Certification Body as meeting the requirements of Standard 8.3.1 may be used if these prove to be more convenient, particularly for those processors with existing, proven systems in place.
- 9.4.8 In order for produce to be labelled with the Certification Mark:
- Livestock must be in an unbroken chain of certification throughout their life
 - Slaughter must be carried out at approved abattoirs
 - Any processing (e.g. butchery, cheese making etc.) must be carried out at Certified Businesses
 - Responsibility for accurate labelling and the integrity of produce sold under the Certification Mark rests with the Certified Business
- 9.4.9 All produce carrying the Certification Mark must also carry a batch reference number. If the online TRACKS system is used, a unique ID number will be generated as part of the record keeping process. A further option on labels, is the inclusion of a 'QR' code (2- dimensional barcode) which may be used to directly link to the PFLA website and thereby to details of the producer, the butcher and to the animal (or batch of animals) from which it was derived.

9.5 Suspension and termination of certification

9.5.1 Grounds for suspension or termination

The PFLA approved Certification Body has the authority to suspend a Certified Enterprise or Certified Business or terminate their certification in instances that may include the following:

- As a result of any act or omission, the Certified Enterprise or Business fails to comply with the Certification Standards
- The Certified Enterprise or Business refuses to allow an inspection by PFLA or approved Certification Body
- The Certified Enterprise or Business does not pay their levies and/or inspection fees
- The person responsible for the Certified Enterprise or Business is absent on the agreed day of inspection or cancels an inspection without reasonable cause
- The person responsible for the Certified Enterprise or Business fails to demonstrate competence in business and/or livestock management
- Any document, application or any information supplied to or inspected by PFLA or their approved Certification Body is found to be inaccurate, incomplete or otherwise misleading
- The Certified Enterprise or Business brings, or may bring the PFLA into disrepute or threatens to undermine the integrity of the Certification Mark

The decision whether to suspend or terminate Certification will be taken by the PFLA approved Certification Body and will depend on the severity of the issue.

9.6 The appeals process

If a Certified Enterprise or Business disagrees with the result of an inspection, or any decision reached by the Certification Committee or approved Certification Body concerning the use of the Certification Mark, they can submit an appeal to the Appeals Panel, which will be formed to hear the appeal.

The scope of the appeal will be restricted to how the Certification Standards or the processes are being put into practice, and not the substance of the Standard itself. By joining as a farm with Certified Enterprise(s), or Certified Business the applicant agrees to conform to the Certification Standards as they are published.

The Appeals Panel shall provide sufficient balance within the representation for the process to be seen as independent and transparent, and that both the interests of the PFLA and the appellant are fully represented.

9.6.1 Composition of the Appeals Panel

- At least one PFLA director not involved in the initial decision
- A recognised expert in the relevant sector who is not a PFLA member
- A certification officer, or otherwise suitably qualified person conversant with the inspection process, who is nominated by the independent inspection body
- The panel will be chaired by a suitably qualified person who is not a member of the PFLA

9.6.2 The appeals process

- The appellant will submit an Appeal Form to the PFLA office
- The appeal must be arranged within 30 days of receipt of the Appeals Form
- The appeal may be conducted in person, in written form or via phone or video call.
- The appellant may provide at their own cost witnesses or experts, or submit reports or other evidence from witnesses or experts to make representations or appear in person

A copy of all relevant correspondence and evidence will be recorded by the Appeals Panel, and this will be made available to anyone upon request. The outcome of the appeals process, together with a recommended course of action will be submitted to the Certification Committee, which along with the PFLA approved Certification Body has responsibility for implementing them.

10 Appendix 1: Stocking density

10.1 Stocking density in housing

10.1.1 Cattle raised for meat must be provided with at least the following space requirements in housing:

Note: The following requirements are equivalent to those required by organic certification.

Live weight (kg)	Lying area (must be under cover and bedded) m ² per head	Additional space (may be indoors or outdoors) m ² per head	Total m ² per head
<100	1.5	1.1	2.6
101- 200	2.5	1.9	4.4
201- 350	4.0	3.0	7.0
351 – 500	5.0	3.7	8.7
>500	1.0m ² /100kg	0.75m ² /100kg	1.75m ² /100kg

10.1.2 Dairy cattle must be provided with least the following space requirements in housing

Note: The following requirements are equivalent to those required by organic certification.

Live weight (kg)	Lying area (must be under cover) m ² per head*	Additional space (may be indoors or outdoors) m ² per head	Total m ² per head
<600	6.0	4.5	10.5
>600	1.0m ² /100kg	4.5	As calculated

*This figure is the total indoor area for cubicle housing

10.1.3 Cubicles must be suitable for the size of the animals in the Certified Enterprise.

10.1.4 **Recommended**

Cubicle width should be at least 1.8 x hip width (measured as the distance between the pin bones).

10.1.5 **Recommended**

Cubicle length should meet AHDB best practice recommendations as shown below:

Weight of cow (kg)	Total length of bed (m)		
	Open front	Closed front	Head to head
550	2.1	2.40	4.2
700	2.3	2.55	4.6
800	2.4	2.70	4.8

10.1.6 There must be at least one cubicle for each cow.

10.1.7 Sheep and goats must be provided with least the following space requirements in housing

Note: The following requirements are equivalent to those required by organic certification.

Type of animal	Lying area (must be under cover and bedded) m ² per head	Additional space (may be indoors or outdoors) m ² per head	Total m ² per head
Sheep/goat	1.5	2.5	4.0
Lamb/kid	0.35	0.5	0.85

10.1.8 Deer must be provided with at least 5m² lying area for every 100kg liveweight.

10.2 Stocking density in transport

Note: The following requirements are the legal requirements for stocking density in transport.

10.2.1 Cattle must have the following space allowances in transport.

Type of animal	Approximate weight of animal (kg)	Minimum area per animal (m ²)
Small calves	55	0.30 - 0.40
Medium sized calves	110	0.40 – 0.70
Heavy calves	200	0.70 – 0.95
Medium sized cattle	325	0.95 – 1.30
Heavy cattle	550	1.30 – 1.60
Very heavy cattle	>700	>1.60

10.2.2 Sheep and goats must have the following space allowances in transport.

Type of animal	Approximate weight of animal (kg)	Minimum area per animal (m ²)
Shorn animals and lambs/kids 26kg and over	<55	0.20 - 0.30
	>55	>0.30
Unshorn animals	<55	0.30 – 0.40
	>55	>0.40
Heavily pregnant ewes/does	<55	0.40 – 0.50
	>55	>0.50

10.2.3 Deer in transport must be provided with at least 0.6m² for every 100kg liveweight.

11 Appendix 2: Membership Fees

11.1 Membership fees

Use of the Certification Mark is restricted to producers with Certified Enterprises and Certified Businesses. These suppliers must also concurrently be a Full Member of the PFLA.

A list of current membership fees is available on the PFLA website

11.2 Inspection fees

Farms with Certified Enterprises and Certified Businesses are also liable to inspection fees. The level of these fees can vary depending upon whether the inspection is combined with an audit for farm assurance, organic certification or similar assurance schemes.

Farms with Certified Enterprises and Certified Businesses are notified of the inspection fees as an integral part of the application process. A full list of inspection fees is also available upon request from the PFLA approved Certification Body and is also published to members through the PFLA website.

11.3 Sales levy

In addition, a sales levy will be administered on the sale of all produce bearing the Certification Mark. This levy is payable by Certified Businesses at a point which is defined as the final point in the processing chain where the raw ingredients are packaged and labelled.

Certified Businesses are notified of any relevant levy fees as an integral part of the application process.

11.4 Animal transfers

No levy is applied to the sale or transfer of live animals at any point in the chain.

12 Appendix 3: Definition of terms

Avermectin: A type of wormer or other anti-parasiticide from a particular chemical class or group of products.

Baled Silage and Haylage: A practice that involves cutting the forage crop with conventional hay harvesting equipment, allowing the forage to wilt to between 30 and 60 percent dry matter, then baling it into tight bales and wrapping them immediately. Bales are wrapped mechanically using equipment that tightly stretches layers of plastic around the crop to exclude oxygen and allow the nutrients to be conserved through the ensiling process.

Boot Stage: The flag leaf is fully expanded, but the awns and grain head are not visible. The grain head can be felt in the flag leaf sheath.

Brassica: A family of annual forage vegetables used for fertility-building and nutrient retention transition within crop rotations, or as a supplementary feed source for extending the grazing season when other forages are less productive. The most commonly used in this family of plants includes rape and kale.

Browse: Leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines (e.g. Ivy), trees, and other non-herbaceous vegetation available for animal consumption. Hence the term “to browse”, which is the consumption of browse in situ by animals.

Clean grazing: Managing livestock and pastures to avoid/reduce parasite burdens. For example putting animals most susceptible to parasites such as lambs onto pastures that have not been used by sheep in the previous year.

Concentrate: All feed, low in fibre and high in total digestible nutrients, that supplies primary nutrients (protein, carbohydrate, and fat); for example, grains, Soya, wheat bran and food by-products.

Crop Residue: The portion of plants remaining after the seed has been harvested. In animal diets, this largely refers to straw from barley, wheat, oats, peas or beans.

Diet: The feed regularly offered to or consumed by an animal.

Dough Stage: The seed kernel is filled with starch and is well formed. There is no milky fluid, only a rubbery, dough-like substance.

Fawn: A young deer.

Feedstuff: Any of the constituent nutrients of an animal ration.

Flushing: Increasing nutrition in the run up to breeding to increase the rate of ovulation.

Forb: Any herbaceous broadleaf plant that is not a grass and is not grass-like.

Grain by-products: Feedstuff products derived from grains, including corn gluten pellets, distillers' grains, the residues from corn dressing etc.

Growing season: The period from the last frost to the first frost each calendar year.

Hay: Forage crops stored in the dry form for animal feeding.

Haylage: Haylage is the feed produced by storing in an airtight silo or wrapped bale a forage crop which has been dried to a moisture level of about 45-55%.

Herbage: The biomass of herbaceous plants, other than separated grain, generally above ground but including edible roots and tubers. Green plants especially when used or fit for grazing.

Legumes: members of the Fabaceae plant family (formerly known as the Leguminosae family). Legumes are dicots (produce two seed leaves), produce seed in a pod, have netted leaf venation, and usually have a taproot type of root system. Most legumes have the ability to interact with bacteria of the genus *Rhizobium* to fix nitrogen in nodules on their roots.

Ley: mixture comprising of grasses with the possible addition of legumes (e.g. clover) and herbs to provide pasture for grazing and conservation.

Meadow: Area covered with grasses and/or legumes, often native to the area.

Pasture: Grasses, legumes, forbs, herbs and other plants as included as permissible under these standards.

Ration: the total amount of feed (diet) allotted to one animal for a 24-hour period.

Residue: that which remains of any particular substance.

Roughage: Any feed high (over about 20%) in crude fibre and low (under about 60%) in total digestible nutrients, on an air-dry basis.

Silage: The feed resulting from the storage and fermentation of green or wet crops under anaerobic conditions.

Stubble: The basal portion of the stems of herbaceous plants left standing after harvest.

Supplement: A nutritional additive (salt, minerals, vitamins, etc.) intended to improve the nutritional balance and remedy deficiencies of the diet.

Supplementary feeding: The practice of supplying feedstuffs to correct nutritional deficiencies in an animal's "natural" diet.

Sward: term used to describe grass growing, usually in a descriptive sense (e.g., a dense sward, a low sward, tussocky sward etc.)

Vegetative: Non-reproductive plant parts, (leaf and stem) in contrast to reproductive plant parts (flower and seed) in developmental stages of plant growth. The non-reproductive stage in plant development.

Vegetative State: Stage prior to the appearance of fruiting structures.

Young animals: Calves, lambs, kids or fawns prior to weaning.