

Record of Changes

Pasture for Life Certification Standards Version 5.1 April 2025

Following the annual review of Pasture for Life Standards, the changes outlined below have been made in Version 5.1. The amendments are the result of feedback from Certified Producers, Approved Businesses and updating to be aligned with current research knowledge.

Page 8, Section 1.3

The following text has been added to include references to recent research linked to Pfl farms:

“Furthermore, distinct quality is also evident in the environment on Pasture for Life Farms, research is demonstrating that pasture-fed livestock approaches are beneficial for grassland and wider ecosystems, through improved biodiversity and soil quality as evidenced in recent work carried out as part of the SEEGSLIP project, which sought to evidence the practices of Pfl producers using holistic system based approaches. Further details of the environmental benefits are discussed in the next section”

Page 9, Section 1.4

This whole section has been rewritten to better reflect Pasture for Life’s Environmental Benefits:

“Working with nature and nurturing the environment are fundamental principles of Pasture for Life and biodiversity is a key element of this approach. There are multiple

benefits relating to increased biodiversity. Legumes provide important sources of protein for livestock and enhance production without the use of chemical fertilisers, which in turn reduces the farm’s dependence on imported inputs, such as feed and fertilisers, which have significant environmental implications both on and off farm. Increasing the number of different grasses and forbs alongside legumes, within a system, further increases the benefits for both livestock health, and the wider ecosystem – providing food sources and habitats for wildlife, improving soil health and increasing resilience to climatic challenges.

Specialist grazing management systems allow animals to return nutrients and organic matter back to the ground as part of a natural cycle, whilst the rest periods that follow allow the soil to regenerate and function as a healthy ecosystem.

Pasture for Life Certification is the only scheme within the UK which specifically prohibits the use of soya as a feed source for ruminant livestock. Growing soya has significant negative environmental and cultural impacts in areas where it is grown,

deforestation and destruction of local farming systems are key issues, as well as the fossil fuel intensive growing, transporting and processing methods required to deliver the product to farm.

The reduction in use of imported inputs and chemicals such as feeds, fertilisers and anthelmintics reduces the carbon footprint of Pasture for Life farms, when combined with the improved biodiversity, soil health and carbon sequestration in these systems this demonstrates a much smaller environmental footprint than more intensive farming systems."

Page 10, Section 1.6

This sentence has been added to highlight the importance of soil health in Pasture for Life systems:

"Improving and maintaining soil health is also a key objective of sustainable pasture management."

Page 14 Standard 2.7.7

Approved Business are now required to complete the renewal process every two years, rather than annually, to reduce administration for the Approved Business and Pfl.

Page 16, Section 3.2.2

The following Note has been removed from the Standards as it is challenging to provide evidence of how a store animal has been managed before it is under your control. This was only applicable at initial certification and does not affect the purchase of breeding stock, although these should be sourced from certified farms where possible.

"**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."

Page 18, Section 3.4.3

For clarity, Sainfoin has been added in the note as a permissible nut to feed to livestock along with grass, lucerne and meadow nuts.

Page 19, Section 3.4.8 (New)

Following the recent focus on the use of feed additives to reduce methane production in ruminants, we felt it was important to clearly define that this is not permitted within the Pasture for Life Certification Scheme, therefore we have added this standard:

"Feed additives, which are typically non-nutritional substances that enhance feed quality by improving digestibility, supporting immune function or promoting growth are not permitted"

Note: Further information about supplement and feed additives can be found [here](#) or by contacting the certification officer - certification@pastureforlife.org

Page 19, Section 3.4.10 (New)

To provide extra clarity around feeding prohibited feeds to animals when there is a welfare requirement, and the implications this has for their youngstock, the following standard has been added:

"If animals fed prohibited feed, as per Standard 3.4.9, have youngstock at foot, these youngstock will retain their certified status providing they have not had access to prohibited feed at any time.

Note: When prohibited feed is required by

breeding animals, as per Standard 3.4.9, the suitability of the stock for the system must be considered as per standard 3.1.3”

Page 20, Section 3.5.3 (New)

Rotational grazing systems and suitable rest periods are fundamental elements of successful Pasture for Life systems, which has been reflected in this new standard:

“Rotational grazing systems, incorporating rest periods for the pasture, provide multiple benefits for both livestock and soil health and must be implemented wherever possible.”

Page 21, Section 3.6.3

This sentence has been added to the Note to ensure auditors, as well as producers, understand that additional high fibre forage may be provided by a diverse ley rather than additional provision of forage in some cases.

“This requirement may be met by other plants in the mix, if brassicas are planted as part of a diverse ley.”

Page 24, Section 4.2.7

PfL have added the following Note to this standard about parasite control to ensure producers do not feel they are required to do FEC tests to treat obviously infected animals, as this could delay treatment. It has also been acknowledged that some producers may seek parasite control advice from experienced professionals, who are not vets.

“**Note:** When acute cases of parasitic burden are evident a FEC test is not always required, as this may delay treatment.”

Page 24, Section 4.2.8 (New)

This new recommended standard is not essential for certification compliance,

however PfL wished to recognise that many producers are using additional tools to inform parasite control decisions and these all contribute to a sustainable approach to anthelmintic use.

“**Recommended.** Where possible, additional monitoring tools such as measuring growth rates in youngstock and body condition score assessments in adult stock, should be used alongside FEC to inform routine parasite treatments.”

Page 24, Section 4.2.9

To provide further detail about Avermectin compounds, The compounds have now been listed in the Note:

“compounds include ivermectin, abamectin, doramectin, eprinomectin, nemadectin, moxidectin and milbemcycin.”

Page 25, Section 4.3.11 (New)

The following Standard has been added, isolation can be stressful for animals and should be avoided where possible.

“Animals must not be kept in isolation, unless necessary for health or welfare reasons.

Note: If isolation is unavoidable, animals should have sight and sound of other animals, where possible.”

Page 26, Section 4.5.1 & Page 40 Appendix 1 Section 9.2

A table has been added detailing the minimum requirements for husbandry operations for sheep and cattle in Appendix 1 and the following wording has been added to Standard 4.5.1:

“and in a way that minimises stress for the animal.”

Page 26, Section 4.6.2 and Section 4.6.3

Following discussions during the producer feedback session held in March we have added a Note to these standards. Milk powders often contain ingredients that are prohibited under Pfl Certification such as cereals and therefore if these need to be used, then the animal cannot be sold as certified.

“Note: If a young animal must be reared using powdered milk or milk bought in from a non-Pfl certified farm, these animals must not be sold as certified.”

Page 29, Section 5.1.1

“Rotation” has been added to the grazing management plan requirements, as rotation and the following rest periods, are fundamental elements of healthy Pasture for Life systems.

Page 34, Section 8.4.8

Pasture for Life recognises that when producers are selling produce direct to customers they may not have access to a Pfl Approved Butcher for cutting and processing services, therefore this requirement has been removed from this standard. The wording has also been changed in the last sentence to ensure it is clear that responsibility for accurate labelling and integrity of the produce sold under the Certification Mark rests with both Certified Producers and Approved Businesses, depending on who is selling to consumers.



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