

Overview

This standard covers the planning and management of the health and welfare of livestock. Maintaining the health and welfare of all livestock is key to their performance and therefore effective planning and management of these factors are essential if the enterprise is to be successful and profitable.

External support and guidance should be sought in preparing the plan, particularly from your organisation's veterinary surgeon but also from specialist technical consultants and advisers.

The health and welfare plan must be prepared in accordance with relevant animal welfare legislation, codes of practice and guidance from animal welfare organisations.

This standard is suitable for farm managers or herd/unit managers.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. develop a livestock health and welfare plan, which includes clearly defined targets
2. seek specialist advice from your organisation's veterinary surgeon and other specialist technical consultants and advisers, where required
3. evaluate the use of technologies within the livestock health and welfare plan and make decisions about their use and appropriateness to the enterprise
4. identify and confirm availability of the resources required to implement the livestock health and welfare plan
5. put systems in place to manage the implementation of the livestock health and welfare plan
6. communicate the livestock health and welfare plan to those involved in its implementation
7. identify and provide any relevant training for the appropriate people in order to manage the livestock health and welfare plan
8. establish measures to maintain the required levels of hygiene and bio-security and confirm that they have been implemented
9. establish measures for the recycling or disposal of waste and by-products, in accordance with relevant legal and organisational requirements and confirm that they have been implemented
10. confirm that working methods maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
11. confirm that those involved with managing the health and welfare of animals are using appropriate personal protective requirement (PPE)
12. confirm compliance with relevant animal welfare legislation, codes of practice, farm quality assurance, organisational policies and business objectives
13. monitor, review and amend the livestock health and welfare plan on a regular basis
14. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation, quality assurance schemes and organisational policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the importance of the effective planning and management of the health and welfare of livestock and its impact on production and profitability
2. the key elements of livestock health and welfare requirements within different livestock production systems
3. the key components of a livestock health and welfare plan
4. the need to work closely with the organisation's veterinary surgeon and other specialist technical consultants and advisers
5. the current health status of your livestock and how to manage any existing disease, disorder etc. including the requirements for the isolation of livestock
6. the implications of using treatments on livestock including withdrawal periods and resistance to build up
7. how to assess the cost effectiveness of the livestock health and welfare plan
8. how environmental conditions can impact on the health and welfare of livestock
9. how to determine the human, financial, material and capital resources necessary to achieve the plan
10. the methods of communicating plans and procedures to those involved in their implementation
11. the livestock health and welfare management systems that prevent and control the likelihood of diseases, disorders and other animal health and welfare issues
12. the methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why this is important
13. the relevant legal and organisational requirements for the handling, transport, storage, recycling and disposal of waste and by-products
14. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
15. the importance of confirming that the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) is used when managing the health and welfare of animals
16. the need to provide the appropriate facilities, supplies and equipment needed for the implementation of the livestock health

- and welfare plan
17. how to monitor and review livestock health and welfare plans and make necessary adjustments to ensure improved effectiveness
 18. the specific animal health and welfare legislation, codes of practice, farm quality assurance, organisational policies and business objectives
 19. the requirements for reporting and recording and the length of time for which records should be retained

Links to other NOS

More detail on bio-security is contained in standard LANAgM13: Plan, manage and evaluate site hygiene and bio-security.

Plan and manage the health and welfare of livestock

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