

Overview

This standard covers planning and monitoring the provision of livestock replacements for the enterprise. It covers the options available to obtain replacement stock, including via a breeding programme or buying it in. It also includes estimating replacement quantities and the costs involved.

You will need to prepare plans that meet the required enterprise targets for the livestock replacement programme.

Monitoring of the programme and reviewing performance against targets are an essential part of a successful livestock enterprise.

This standard is suitable for farm advisers, farm managers, enterprise/unit managers or farmers.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify the requirements for livestock replacement to meet enterprise business targets
2. identify and evaluate options for the provision of replacement livestock
3. seek specialist advice where required
4. select preferred options, matching business requirements and constraints, and prepare plans that meet enterprise business targets
5. produce procedures and protocols to manage and monitor the provision of livestock replacements
6. where livestock replacements are to be bought in, determine the specification for the purchase of livestock that meet enterprise requirements,
7. identify sources of livestock for purchase which meet the required specification
8. plan and implement appropriate bio-security measures to receive the new stock as required by the health and welfare plan
9. where livestock replacements are to be reared, determine the chosen rearing system, home or contract reared, and prepare plans that define performance targets
10. communicate the plan for the provision of livestock replacements to those involved with its implementation
11. determine procedures for checking and monitoring the health, well-being and performance of replacement stock and outline any actions that are necessary
12. monitor performance against targets and modify livestock replacement plans as appropriate
13. confirm that working methods maintain health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
14. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation, codes of practice, quality assurance requirements and organisational policies

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to determine the requirements for livestock replacements to meet enterprise business targets
2. how to evaluate the opportunities and constraints when determining a course of action for the provision of livestock replacements
3. how to interpret economic breeding values (EBVs) and what EBVs are right for your livestock and target market or supply chain
4. the different options available when planning the replacement of livestock including breeding your own, buying in (private sale, livestock markets), or using a contract rearer
5. the legislation, regulations and codes of practice affecting the provision of livestock replacements
6. the financial, bio-security, timing and culling plan implications when planning livestock replacements
7. how to identify sources of livestock with the appropriate genetic traits, health status and temperament when considering buying in replacement livestock, including the principles of risk based trading where appropriate
8. the physiology of animal growth and possible effects of rearing on the subsequent performance of the animal
9. the different aspects and policies of animal health, well-being, performance and nutrition and how they interrelate
10. the methods of communicating plans and procedures to those involved in their implementation
11. how to monitor the performance of the plan against enterprise business targets
12. the rationale for reviewing policies and implementing corrective action if necessary
13. the importance of checking and maintaining livestock replacement systems to ensure the profitability of the enterprise
14. your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
15. the requirements for reporting and recording and the length of time for which records should be retained

Glossary

Replacement livestock - Acquiring new animals to replace those taken out

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Developed by	Lantra
Version Number	3
Date Approved	January 2018
Indicative Review Date	January 2023
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANAgM12
Relevant Occupations	Farm Manager; Farmer; Agricultural Technical Advisor; Unit Manager
Suite	Agricultural Management
Keywords	livestock; animal; replacement; rearing; breeding
