
Overview

This standard covers planning and monitoring the dietary requirements of production livestock, including ruminant and mono-gastric animals. The process involves recognising the role of nutrition in livestock health and performance and planning, implementing and monitoring rationing systems.

Feed represents the largest cost component of any livestock production system and has a big influence on animal health and performance. Rations should match industry-recognised standards for dietary components, such as energy, protein, minerals and vitamins.

Managers and others responsible for preparing diets and feeding livestock need to react quickly if problems occur. This standard recognises the importance of monitoring the animals' physical and financial performance and taking swift action when required.

The importance of complying with relevant legislation, codes of practice and organisation requirements for food safety are also included.

This standard is suitable for those involved in the planning and monitoring of dietary requirements of production livestock, for example, livestock farm managers, farmers, agricultural technical advisers, vets and people working in the feed supply industry.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify and evaluate the range of feedstuffs available and select those suitable for the livestock production system, consistent with quality assurance requirements and organisational policies
2. evaluate the role of feed supplements in the health and performance of production livestock and their cost benefit analysis
3. seek specialist advice where required
4. produce plans for the dietary requirements of production livestock that meet the intended purpose of the diet and promote health, well-being and productivity
5. formulate diets by manual techniques or utilising computer software for a range of livestock situations
6. identify and confirm availability of the resources required to implement the plans for the dietary requirements of production livestock
7. communicate the plans to those involved with their implementation
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. monitor the preparation of diets for production livestock
12. confirm that relevant legislation, codes of practice and food safety requirements are adhered to when preparing and delivering rations
13. monitor the health and well-being of livestock as regards their nutrition and take corrective actions as necessary
14. monitor and evaluate the short- and long-term physical and financial outcomes of delivered diets and benchmark the data
15. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation, quality assurance requirements and organisational policies

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the digestive process of the relevant production livestock and the effect nutrition has on the health, well-being and performance of the animals
2. the nutritional requirements, including water, for relevant production livestock for varying performance levels, pregnancy and growth
3. the benefits of improved nutrition on livestock health, well-being and productivity
4. the practices that can lead to nutritional problems in livestock
5. how to evaluate, in terms of their value and quality, available feedstuffs for use in rations, including purchased feedstuffs
6. the specific action of minerals, vitamins and other supplements on the health, well-being and performance of production livestock and their cost benefit
7. the influence of new knowledge and ideas on ration preparation and how to source new technology
8. the sources of information and specialist advice on the preparation of nutrition plans
9. how to produce nutrition plans that promote the health, well-being and performance of production livestock, and meet the intended purpose of the diet
10. how to formulate concentrated feedstuffs to a set specification, taking into account cost and nutritional factors, and using least cost methodology
11. how to formulate diets manually or using computer software
12. how to monitor the effect of diet on animal health and well-being, including the influence of the environment and the feeding method
13. the key performance indicators and how to calculate and benchmark the results
14. the actions that can be taken to resolve identified dietary problems
15. the methods of communicating with others involved in the livestock production system, such as veterinary surgeons and farm staff
16. the methods of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the reasons why these are important
17. the relevant legal and organisational requirements for the

handling, transport, storage, recycling and disposal of waste and by-products

18. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety and food hygiene legislation, codes of practice and organisational requirements
19. the requirements for reporting and recording and the length of time that records should be retained

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