

FARM ASSURANCE



FARM ASSURANCE – FOR SHEEP ONLY

1) ANIMAL TREATMENTS

The aim is to ensure that consumers of products produced at Blue Sky Meats have no risk as a result of animal health treatments on farms supplying stock to the Company.

A second aim is to ensure that in the rare case where there may be a suspicion of risks, records allow a rapid trace to confirm the risk status.

Attached are forms that require the recording of:

- a) Sheep Drug Treatments*
- b) Livestock Movements On and Off Property*
- c) Supplementary Feed Purchased*
- d) Dog Treatments*

In addition all animal status declaration forms relating to stock movements on and off the property should be kept with these records.

2) ANIMAL WELFARE

The aim is to ensure a minimum standard of husbandry, which covers feeding (including water), freedom from distress as well as prevention of and treatment for injury, disease and parasitic infestation.

The standard applies to New Zealand farming conditions and is based on the Animal Welfare Act (1999). The code of welfare issued under the Act specifies the following legal obligations of Owners and Persons in Charge of Animals.

Legal Obligations of Owners and Persons in Charge of Animals

The owner or person in charge of animals has overall responsibility for the welfare of the animals held on a property or in a facility. The legal obligations set out below are not an exhaustive list of the obligations in the act.

- 1) The owner or person in charge of an animal must:**
 - a) Ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animals are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge;
 - b) Ensure that an animal that is ill or injured receives treatment that will alleviate any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal or that is killed humanely.
- 2) The owner or person in charge of an animal must not without reasonable excuse:**
 - a) Keep an animal alive when it is in such a condition that it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
 - b) Sell, attempt to sell, or offer for sale, otherwise than for the express purpose of it being killed, an animal, when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;

- c) Desert an animal in circumstances in which no provision is made to meet its physical, health and behavioural needs.

3) No person may:

- a) Ill-treat an animal;
- b) Release an animal that has been kept in captivity, in circumstances which the animal is likely to suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
- c) Perform any significant surgical procedure on an animal unless that person is a veterinarian or a veterinarian student under veterinarian supervision or a person approved by a veterinarian;
- d) Perform on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure (as defined by the act) in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
- e) Brand any animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

In addition, the Code has some minimum standards that are either related to specific procedures or are general.

The general standards are:

1) Justification for Painful Procedures.

Painful husbandry procedures must only be performed where there are no other practical, economically viable, effective, less noxious alternatives to the procedure; and they

- i. result in an overall enhancement of the animals welfare through reduced susceptibility to ill-health, injury or compromised welfare; or
- ii. facilitate advantageous farm management systems; or
- iii. result in an enhanced annual product; or
- iv. results in reduced safety risk to humans

2) Minimising Harmful Consequences.

- i. Painful husbandry procedures must not be performed on newborn animals less than 12 hours old, where handling, pain and post operative complications are likely to compromise survival through impairing maternal bonding and/or colostrums intake.
- ii. If painful husbandry procedures that have animal health and welfare benefits are not used, care must be taken to manage any consequential risks to animal health and welfare of not using them.

3) PRODUCTIVITY AND MANAGEMENT

The Blue Sky Meats Farm Assurance Programme also acknowledges that good animal welfare, health and nutrition practices lead to high animal productivity.

The following management practices are normal in the Southland-Otago catchment where Blue Sky Meats purchase their livestock:

1) LAMBING.

Normally late August to mid-October.

On flat, intensive properties with less natural shelter, ewes are intensively shepherded.

On higher, rolling country with natural shelter, there is less shepherding.

QUESTION: Where lambing is carried out on your property, is it:

- a) intensive with low natural shelter
- b) less intensive with natural shelter

2) DOCKING.

Under the Code of Welfare, the minimum standard for the sheep is as follows:

- i. The tail docking of sheep must only be undertaken where there is a significant risk of faecal and urine contamination, and/or fly strike, that leads to poor hygiene, health and welfare and/or failing to do so adds a significant cost to the farm system.
- ii. While complying with Minimum Standard 2 i), tail docking without pain relief must be performed when the sheep are as young as possible, and not greater than six months of age.
- iii. When tail docking a sheep over the age of six months, pain relief must be used.

QUESTION: Do you ever tail dock an animal that is older than six months of age?

- a) Yes
- b) No

3) CASTRATION.

Under the Code of welfare, the minimum standard for Castration and shortening of the Scrotum (Cryptorchid) is as follows:

- a) The method of castration, or shortening of the scrotum, must be chosen, and applied, so as to minimise the acute as well as chronic consequences for the health and welfare of the animal.
- b) While complying with Minimum Standard 2 (a), castration, or shortening of the scrotum, without pain relief must be performed when the animals are as young as possible, but not greater than six months of age.
- c) When castrating or shortening the scrotum of any animal over the age of six months, pain relief must be used.
- d) When using rubber rings to castrate, they must be placed above the testes and below the teats, and must be of a tension and size appropriate to the animal in order to ensure that blood supply to the testes and scrotum is stopped immediately.

- e) When shortening the scrotum with rubber rings, they must be placed below the testes taking care not to include the testes within the ring, and they must be of a tension and size appropriate to the animal in order to ensure that blood supply to the testes and scrotum is stopped immediately.
- f) If high tension bands are used to castrate an animal:
 - i. Local anaesthetic must be used (at any stage) to provide pain relief and
 - ii. The band must be positioned on the scrotal neck as close to the testes and as far from the abdomen as possible.

QUESTION: Are male animals on your farm:

- a) Left entire
- b) Castrated
- c) Made into Cryptorchids

If b) or c) is the animal treatment ever done with high tension bands (as opposed to rubber rings) or done to animals older than six months of age?

- a) Yes
- b) No

4) WEANING.

Normally occurs from November to January.

QUESTION: Are lambs ever weaned less than 8 weeks of age?

- a) Yes
- b) No

5) DRENCHING.

Throughout the spring, summer and autumn lambs (and sometimes ewes) may be drenched at regular intervals for treatment of internal parasites.

QUESTION: When drenching stock do you ever go outside the manufacturers' recommendation regarding dosage or interval between treatments?

- a) Yes
- b) No

6) VACCINATION.

At various times during the year animals may be vaccinated against disease or possible infection.

QUESTION: When vaccinating, do you always follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding dose rates and withholding intervals before slaughter?

- a) Yes
- b) No

7) SHEARING.

This normally happens with various age groups of sheep in the spring, summer or autumn.

QUESTION: In the first 10 days following shearing, are you always able to provide adequate shelter in adverse weather conditions?

- a) Yes
- b) No

8) SHEARING SHED AND HANDLING FACILITIES.

Procedures 4-7 inclusive are done in shearing shed and yard facilities (that are often attached to the shed).

QUESTION: Are all shed and yard facilities constructed and maintained for the safe and humane handling of livestock?

- a) Yes
- b) No

9) SUPPLEMENTARY FEED.

On most farms, specialist feed for the winter is conserved during the summer (usually hay or silage) or grown as a forage crops (usually Brassicas). On some farms, feed may be purchased from other farms or in the form of manufactured feed.

QUESTION: Where stock feed for sheep is purchased off-farm, do you always ensure that it does not contain any ruminant protein or fat?

- a) Yes
- b) No

10) FENCES/GATES.

Most farms are divided into 40 or more paddocks to ensure good livestock management.

QUESTION: Are all fences and gates constructed and maintained to ensure safe and humane management and movement of livestock?

- a) Yes
- b) No

11) WATER.

It is normal practice that all paddocks would be supplied with natural water or a delivered water system.

QUESTION: Does every paddock on your farm have access to water supply?

- a) Yes
- b) No

12) DEAD AND ILL ANIMALS.

Normally a small percentage of the sheep population will die of natural or disease causes each year.

QUESTION: Have you an appropriate fenced off disposal pit, meeting all appropriate local authority requirements, for the disposal of carcasses?

- a) Yes
- b) No

13) ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Farms in the Blue Sky Meats catchment do not have as many natural disasters (such as draught or floods) as some other parts of New Zealand. However, they can occur.

QUESTION: Do you consider that you always have sufficient feed, high ground and shelter on your property to insure against the natural disasters that can occur in your region?

- a) Yes
- b) No

14) STAFF TRAINING.

A proportion of the farms in the Blue Sky Meats catchment will employ full-time staff.

QUESTION: Do you have sufficient knowledge and time to always ensure that your staff are trained in all aspects of stockman ship and animal handling procedures?

- a) Yes
- b) No

15) CHEMICAL STORAGE.

All chemicals should be stored in an area where they cannot be accessed by children or livestock.

QUESTION: Do you have a safe and secure storage area for chemicals?

- a) Yes
- b) No

16) DOGS.

It is normal practice to have farm dogs that assist with stock movement.

QUESTION: Are dogs housed appropriately and fed, wormed and vaccinated to ensure that they are fit and healthy?

- a) Yes
- b) No

17) SLAUGHTER.

a) Emptying Out.

Before transport to slaughter, animals must be emptied to ensure minimal cross-contamination from faecal matter.

QUESTION: Have you adequate facilities for both emptying sheep and keep them clean prior to transport for slaughter?

- a) Yes
- b) No

b) Preparation

Sheep must be presented with all faecal matter removed.

QUESTION: Do your facilities allow removal of faecal matter (and other pre-slaughter preparation if necessary) at a time that is close to slaughter and in a manner that consider animal welfare?

- a) Yes
- b) No

18) TRANSPORT.

All farms have their own loading and unloading facilities.

QUESTION: Is your loading ramp designed for easy access for stock and for relatively swift movement of stock on and off trucks?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Please list the transport that you normally use for sheep cartage:

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PRINT NAME

SIGNED DATE

BlueSkyMeats

New Zealand farmed, Southern fresh

