



Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd.
ardystio bwyd Cymreig safonol

Welsh Organic Scheme

STANDARDS FOR BEEF PRODUCTION

ORIGIN OF STOCK AND CONVERSION

3.01	Movement records. All cattle movements onto and off the holding must be recorded as required by law.	(FAWL 1.01 – 1.02) <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
3.02	A herd register must be maintained identifying all cattle on the holding, their source and organic status.	(FAWL 1.04 – 1.05) <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.1</i>
3.03	The sale or purchase of all breeding and store cattle from registered herds must be accompanied by a valid organic certificate and a completed FMD.	Feed and medicine declaration. FM (Record Sheet RS3) <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
3.04	Origin of herd. The choice of breed must take into account the climate, type of pasture and the proposed production system. Preference should be given to native breeds.	<i>COS Annex I B3.1</i>
3.05	Cows and heifers intended for breeding must be sourced from registered organic herds and managed organically thereafter.	<i>COS Annex I B3.2</i>
3.06	Where there is an existing breeding herd on land that is to commence a 24 month conversion period, it may be simultaneously converted with the land, providing the management of the herd is fully compliant with the standards from the start of conversion.	The area of land under conversion must be capable of providing adequate forage in a normal year for the size of the herd. <i>COS Annex I B2.3.1</i>
3.07	Not Allocated	
3.08	Where a herd has been severely depleted due to disease or other involuntary cause, and sufficient organically reared replacements are not available, its reconstitution may be approved from a conventional source.	This derogation must receive prior approval from QWFC and subject to conditions in 3.09. <i>COS Annex I B3.6</i>
3.09	The annual replacement of culled cows should preferably be homebred. Where this is not possible and suitable organically reared cows are not available, up to 10% of the number of breeding cows in the herd on 1 st January may be obtained from a non organic source providing they have not previously had a calf.	This derogation must receive prior approval from QWFC. Non organic replacements must be managed organically on the holding for 12 weeks prior to calving for the calves to have organic status. (3.16) <i>Record Sheet RS9 COS Annex I B3.8</i>
3.10	In herds of less than ten cows , one non organic replacement per year is permitted, subject to the conditions at 3.09	<i>COS Annex I B3.9</i>

3.11	Where a major extension to the herd or a breed change is planned, or when a new livestock specialisation is developed a maximum of 40% may be sourced as non organic. If a rare breed is involved, the replacements may be breeding cows.	This must receive prior approval from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B3.10</i>
3.12	Breeding bulls may be sourced from non organic herds, providing they are subsequently managed and fed organically.	<i>COS Annex I B3.11</i>
3.13	Where non organic breeding stock are sourced, a health assessment must be made and a period of quarantine applied if deemed necessary.	QWFC may require quarantine in certain circumstances.
3.14	All cows in a herd under conversion and all non organic replacements must be assessed for links with known BSE cases before they can produce organic calves. All cows born after 1/8/1996 with a compulsory cattle passport are deemed to be not at risk of BSE.	No cow that is a direct descendant of a positive BSE case or of a cow that was culled under the cohort scheme may remain in the herd.

CONVERSION PERIODS

3.15	Calves may only be sold as organic beef if born to cows that have been managed to organic standards for at least 12 weeks prior to calving.	<i>COS Annex I B2.2.1</i>
3.16	Calves born to cows during the 24 month simultaneous conversion period may only be sold for organic beef after the land becomes organic and only if born at least 12 weeks after conversion began.	<i>COS Annex I B2.3.1</i>
3.17	Cows that are not subject to simultaneous conversion rules must be managed organically once the land attains organic status. Calves born at least 12 weeks later may be sold as organic beef.	<i>COS Annex I B2.3.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B1.5</i>
3.18	Non organic replacement heifers must be more than 12 weeks from calving when brought in.	See 3.08 & 3.09 <i>COS Annex I B2.2.1, 3.12</i>
3.19	Cattle reared under simultaneous conversion rules may be traded between registered holdings, subject to 3.03. They may only be sold as organic once both their holding of birth and destination holding have attained organic status.	<i>COS Annex I B2.3.1c</i>

FEEDING STANDARDS

3.20	Records. An accurate feeding record for each identifiable group of cattle must be kept. The record of the ration must include the feeding period, the number of cattle, the ingredients and their organic status, the quantity fed daily or over the period and an estimate of the average liveweight in the group.	Feeding groups:- eg. Suckler cows, weaned calves 250-350kg., yearlings 350-450kg., or fatteners 450-600kg. When grazing only it is sufficient to record the periods of access. A 'QWFC approved' record format must be used. Record Sheets RS5&6 <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
3.21	A record of all purchased feeds must be kept, together with their product labels and organic status.	A list of all purchases. All delivery notes. <i>COS Annex III 6.1</i>

3.22	Declarations must be obtained from feed suppliers that products are from non genetically modified sources.	A statement on the label is sufficient. <i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>																					
3.23	Feeding Principle. Feeding for quality production rather than quantity must be the aim. Nutritional requirements must be met.	FAWL 2.01 <i>COS Annex I B4.1</i>																					
3.24	All cattle must be fed a 100% organic diet	A derogation on this standard exists until 31/12/2007. (3.30) <i>COS Annex I B4.2</i>																					
3.25	At least 50% of dry matter in the cattle ration should be home produced or from a linked unit.	This is calculated over a calendar year. (January 1 st – December 31 st) <i>COS Annex I B4.3</i>																					
3.26	Where in-conversion feeds are fed, they may be included at up to 60% of the annual dry matter if home produced or 30% if sourced elsewhere.	In-conversion feeds:- see 1.09 & 1.12 The ration must have a minimum 40% organic content. <i>COS Annex I B4.4</i>																					
3.27	All cattle diets must make maximum use of pasturage. At least 60% of the dry matter in the daily ration must consist of grazed or conserved forage.	Eg. 500kg steer must not be fed more than 4kg.DM/day of concentrate. <i>COS Annex I B4.7</i>																					
3.28	At least 50% of the forage intake during the normal grazing season must be grazed. Keeping cattle in conditions and on a diet that encourages anaemia is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B1.4, 6.1.8</i>																					
3.29	Calves must be fed on natural organic milk for at least 3 months, preferably suckled.	All calves not meeting these standards must be recorded and sold as non organic. <i>COS Annex I B4.5</i>																					
3.30	Where a fully organic diet cannot be provided, up to 25% of the daily dry matter intake (DDMI) of a feeding group may be sourced from an approved non organic supply, providing the annual non organic consumption of the feeding group does not exceed 5% of total dry matter intake. For permitted feed ingredients see Annex A. NB This derogation expires on 31/12/07.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Non Organic Limit:-</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Daily</th> <th>Annual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Suckler cows DDMI = 14kg</td> <td>3.5kg</td> <td>250kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>200 – 300 kg DDMI = 6kg</td> <td>1.5kg</td> <td>100kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>300 – 400 kg DDMI = 7kg</td> <td>1.75kg</td> <td>125kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>400 – 500 kg DDMI = 9kg</td> <td>2.25kg</td> <td>150kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500 – 600 kg DDMI = 11kg</td> <td>2.75kg</td> <td>200kg</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>As a beef animal will grow from one weight class to the next during the year, the annual limit (above) must be apportioned according to the number of months spent in each weight class. <i>COS Annex I B4.8</i></p>	Non Organic Limit:-				Daily	Annual	Suckler cows DDMI = 14kg	3.5kg	250kg	200 – 300 kg DDMI = 6kg	1.5kg	100kg	300 – 400 kg DDMI = 7kg	1.75kg	125kg	400 – 500 kg DDMI = 9kg	2.25kg	150kg	500 – 600 kg DDMI = 11kg	2.75kg	200kg
Non Organic Limit:-																							
	Daily	Annual																					
Suckler cows DDMI = 14kg	3.5kg	250kg																					
200 – 300 kg DDMI = 6kg	1.5kg	100kg																					
300 – 400 kg DDMI = 7kg	1.75kg	125kg																					
400 – 500 kg DDMI = 9kg	2.25kg	150kg																					
500 – 600 kg DDMI = 11kg	2.75kg	200kg																					

3.31	In exceptional circumstances a producer may apply for permission to exceed the non organic allowance.	Eg. Fire, weather or disease. Application to QWFC. Approval only by Defra <i>COS Annex I B4.9</i>
FEED SOURCES		
3.32	Prohibited feed additives include antibiotics, coccidiostats, medicinal substances and any growth promoter or stimulant.	<i>COS Annex I B4.17</i>
3.33	Any feed ingredient that has been produced with the use of genetic modification is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>
3.34	Non organic feed materials of agricultural origin can only be used if listed in Annex A.	Expelled oilseeds, not extracted. <i>COS Annex I B4.13</i>
3.35	Where a compound or blended feed is used, it must be sourced from an organic certified mill and labeled as an approved product by an organic certification body.	<i>COS Provision 5 12 to 18</i>
3.36	The only permitted feed materials of animal origin are milk and milk products.	<i>COS Annex I B4.14</i>
3.37	Permitted feed additives of mineral origin are listed in Annex B.	<i>COS Annex I B4.16</i>
3.38	Vitamins derived from natural feedstuffs may be used as feed additives. Synthetic vitamins may only be fed by derogation from QWFC where it can be justified as necessary for the health of the cattle.	This must be on the advice of a vet and addressed in the Health Plan.(2.42) <i>COS Annex I B4.16, Annex II D1.2</i>
3.39	Permitted binders, preservatives and processing aids are listed in Annex C.	Lactic, formic, acetic and propionic acids may be used to preserve crimped grain and silage only with prior permission from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B4.12</i>
3.40	Not Allocated	
3.41	Not Allocated	
DISEASE PREVENTION AND VETERINARY TREATMENTS		
3.42	Herd Health Plan A health plan must be developed for the cattle enterprise, preferably with the assistance of a vet, and reviewed at least annually.	FAWL 7.11 <i>COS Annex I B5.1.2</i>
3.43	A health plan should address all potential herd health issues, its emphasis always on prevention rather than cure and its ultimate aim to fully dispense with the need to administer veterinary drugs.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.2</i>
3.44	An annual assessment will be made of the health plan, and if approved, will form the basis of the herd health management for the following year.	Any subsequent treatments that have not been previously assessed will require prior approval by QWFC. <i>COS Annex III 5.1</i>
3.45	The statutory record of all veterinary purchases and all treatments must be kept.	FAWL 7.06 Diagnosis must also be recorded and both the statutory and organic withdrawal periods. <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i> <i>COS Annex I B5.6</i>

3.46	<p>Disease prevention must be the overriding policy in an organic beef enterprise. This must be achieved by a combination of :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate breed selection. Encouragement of strong disease resistance. Use of high quality feed and regular exercise. Avoidance of overstocking. Biosecurity and quarantine measures. 	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.3, 5.2</i>
3.47	<p>An animal that becomes sick or injured must receive immediate attention, even if its treatment results in it losing its organic status.</p>	FAWL 2.14 <i>COS Annex I B5.3</i>
3.48	<p>In selecting a veterinary product, an organic farmer should first consider with the vet the efficacy of herbal or homeopathic products and trace elements for treatment of a condition. As a last resort, and to prevent suffering or distress to the animal, a veterinary medicine or antibiotic may be used.</p>	This priority should be reflected in the health plan. <i>COS Annex I B5.4a,b,d</i>
3.49	<p>The use of veterinary medicines or antibiotics for routine disease prevention is prohibited. Only where preventative husbandry measures have failed can this be justified and then only if part of an approved health plan.</p>	<i>COS Annex I B5.4c,d</i>
3.50	<p>Vaccination to counter an <u>identified</u> disease risk is permitted. Vaccines should be specific to the disease identified.</p>	Multiple vaccines should not be used unless multiple cover is necessary. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
3.51	<p>The use of growth promoters is prohibited.</p>	<i>COS Annex I B5.5a</i>
3.52	<p>The use of hormone treatments in order to synchronise mating is prohibited.</p>	Can be used in individual cases when a cow fails to conceive naturally. Must address in health plan. <i>COS Annex I B5.5a</i>
3.53	<p>The compulsory treatment of livestock and buildings to control a specific disease under national or community legislation is authorized.</p>	If organophosphates are used the treated animals must not be sold for organic meat. <i>COS Annex I B5.5b</i>
3.54	<p>The use of organophosphates is not permitted.</p>	Unless subject to (3.53) <i>COS Annex I B5.5c</i>
3.55	<p>Following treatment of an animal with veterinary medicines, a withdrawal period of at least twice the statutory period before slaughter for organic beef must be observed. Where no withdrawal period is stated or where the stated period is zero days a minimum of 48 hours is required.</p>	Eg. Before using Lincospectin or Masprep outside their licensed use, a veterinary prescription must be obtained and the issue addressed in the health plan. A 28 day withdrawal period must then be observed before slaughter. FAWL 7.03 <i>COS Annex I B5.7</i>

3.56	A beef animal that is given a fourth course of treatment of veterinary medicine or antibiotic within a calendar year must lose its organic status. A calf suckling a cow that is given a fourth such treatment in one year must either be weaned immediately or lose its organic status.	Vaccines, treatments for parasites and compulsory treatments are excluded. A cow may be reconverted subject to agreement with QWFC. A course of treatment means 'all necessary measures to restore an animal to health following a particular disease episode' <i>COS Annex I B5.8</i>
3.57	The chemical control of external parasites is permitted where justified on the grounds of animal welfare. This must be addressed in the Herd Health Plan.	Chemical treatments must be licensed for the purpose. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
3.58	The control of internal parasites should be maintained by husbandry practices as far as possible. Oral wormers and flukicides may be used where justified following diagnosis. This must be addressed in the Health Plan. Pour-on treatments and ivermectin products should be avoided if possible.	Safe and clean pasture practice achieved by rotational and alternate species grazing is preferred. Faecal worm egg counts should be made before <u>any</u> anthelmintic treatment. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
3.59	The administering of veterinary medicines should be done by a trained and competent person. There should be correct procedure for the use and storage of medicines and the safe storage and disposal of needles.	FAWL 7.07 – 7.10
3.60	Not Allocated	
3.61	Not Allocated	
HERD MANAGEMENT, WELFARE AND TRANSPORT		
3.62	Cattle must be reared according to good husbandry and welfare practices.	FAWL 2.01 – 2.14 Cattle (PB0074)
3.63	Reproduction should be based on natural service, however artificial insemination is permitted.	Embryo transfer is prohibited <i>COS Annex I B6.1.1.</i>
3.64	The routine practice of disbudding calves on the grounds of safety and animal welfare must only be carried out at the appropriate age and by a qualified person.	This practice must be addressed in the Health Plan. <i>COS Annex I B6.1.2</i> FAWL 2.15, 2.16. Farm Animal Welfare PB2531
3.65	Physical castration of calves at the appropriate age and by a qualified person is permitted.	This must be addressed in the Health Plan. <i>COS Annex I B6.1.3.</i>
3.66	Staff who carry out veterinary tasks must be competent.	FAWL 2.15 <i>COS Annex I B6.1.2.</i>
3.67	Keeping cattle tethered is forbidden.	<i>COS Annex I B6.1.4</i>
3.68	When rearing cattle in groups , due consideration must be given to their age and behavioural needs.	<i>COS Annex I B 6.1.8</i>
3.69	The transport of cattle must be done under conditions that minimize stress and the likelihood of injury.	FAWL 8.01, 8.03 – 8.07, 6.11 <i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
3.70	Loading and unloading cattle must be done using minimum force. Electric goads and tranquillisers are forbidden. Adequate handling facilities must be available.	FAWL 2.03 <i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
3.71	Transit time should be kept to a minimum. A schedule for the journey should be established before loading and agreed with the haulier and consignee. The nearest appropriate approved abattoir should be used.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.2</i>

3.72	Only fit and healthy animals may be transported and must be presented in a clean and rested condition. Different social groups must be kept separate during transit.	FAWL 8.02 <i>COS Annex I B6.2.2</i>
3.73	Vehicles for live transport of animals must be well maintained, have adequate ventilation and must be driven with care. Vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected after use.	
3.74	If cattle require feeding during transit or during a holding period at lairage, the producer must ensure that any feed given is in accordance with these standards.	
3.75	Not Allocated	
PASTURE MANAGEMENT AND CATTLE HOUSING		
3.76	All cattle must have access to registered grazing land whenever weather and ground conditions permit.	This includes breeding bulls. <i>COS Annex I B8.3.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B1.4</i>
3.77	Sufficient protection must be provided against extremes of weather .	FAWL 2.08 – 2.09 Cattle breed to be taken into account. <i>COS Annex I B8.1.2</i>
3.78	The outdoor stocking density must be low enough to avoid soil poaching and overgrazing of vegetation.	FAWL 2.11 – 2.12 <i>COS Annex I B8.2.4</i>
3.79	Cattle should be housed during the winter months unless the local climate and the breed enable outdoor wintering. The housed period should be the minimum that each winter permits.	(Subject to 3.76 & 3.77) <i>COS Annex I B8.2.1</i>
3.80	Winter housing and outdoor exercise area for cattle must provide adequate space to allow freedom of movement and the indoor environment must not be harmful to their health. Slatted floors must not cover more than half the area available. Cubicles must be well designed, in good repair and kept clean and dry.	See Annex H for minimum housing and exercise areas. FAWL 6.04 <i>COS Annex I B8.1.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B8.2.2</i> <i>COS Annex I B8.2.3</i> <i>COS Annex I B8.3.5</i>
3.81	The lying area must be covered with sufficient dry bedding to ensure the comfort, cleanliness and hygiene of the cattle.	Any suitable natural material may be used. It may be improved with any approved mineral fertilisers.(Annex F) <i>COS Annex I B8.3.6</i>
3.82	The housing of calves in individual boxes is forbidden after 7 days old. Dairy bred beef calves should be grouped as soon as possible.	<i>COS Annex I B8.3.7</i>
3.83	All livestock buildings and handling facilities must be well maintained to minimise the risk of injury.	
3.84	Store cattle may be fattened indoors for a maximum of 3 months during the normal grazing season of the locality.	ie. A delayed turnout till end of June, or early housing in August. <i>COS Annex I B8.3.4</i>
3.85	All cattle must be inspected at least daily.	FAWL 2.02
3.86	Outwintered cattle must be offered supplementary feed in severe conditions.	
3.87	All housing and related equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after use.	Authorised disinfectant products are listed in Annex D. <i>COS Annex I B8.2.5</i>