



Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd.
ardystio bwyd Cymreig safonol

Welsh Organic Scheme

STANDARDS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTION

ORIGIN OF STOCK AND CONVERSION

2.01	Movement records. All cattle movements onto and off the holding must be recorded as required by law.	<i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.1, 3.2</i>
2.02	A herd register must be maintained identifying all cattle on the holding, their source and organic status.	<i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.1, 3.2</i>
2.03	The sale or purchase of all dairy replacements from registered herds must be accompanied by a valid organic certificate and a completed FMD.	Feed & medicine declaration (FMD) Record Sheet RS3 <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
2.04	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>
2.05	Cows and heifers intended for the dairy herd must be sourced from registered organic herds and managed organically thereafter.	<i>COS Annex I B3.2</i>
2.06	Where there is an existing dairy 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>
2.07	Not Allocated.	
2.08	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 non organic source providing they are heifers that have not previously had a calf.	This derogation must receive prior approval from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B3.6</i>
2.09	The annual replacement of culled cows should preferably be homebred. Where this is not possible and suitable organically reared cows or heifers 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. NB Non organic replacements must be managed organically on the holding for 6 months prior to calving for the milk to have organic status. (2.16) <i>Record Sheet RS9 COS Annex I B3.8</i>
2.10	In herds of less than ten cows , one non organic heifer replacement per year is permitted, subject to the conditions at 2.09	<i>COS Annex I B3.9</i>

2.11	Where a major extension to the herd or a breed change is planned, or when a new livestock specialization 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>
2.12	Breeding bulls may be sourced from non organic herds, providing they are subsequently managed and fed organically.	<i>COS Annex I B3.11</i>
2.13	Where non organic breeding stock are sourced, a health assessment must be made and a period of quarantine applied if deemed necessary.	The QWFC may require quarantine in certain circumstances. <i>COS Annex I B3.13</i>
2.14	All cows in a herd under conversion and all non organic replacements must be assessed for links with known BSE cases before milk from the herd can be sold as organic. 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 be milked.

CONVERSION PERIODS

2.15	Milk may only be sold as organic after:- 1. A sufficient area of grazing land has attained organic status. 2. There is sufficient forage area that is either organic or in second year conversion to meet an approved ration plan. 3. The converting cows have undergone a minimum 9 month period of organic management and 6 months of organic feeding. (2.23 – 2.30). 4. Compliance has been confirmed at a spot inspection.	Sufficient grazing area is 0.6ha. per cow. To be assessed at the spot inspection. <i>COS Annex I B2.2.1</i>
2.16	Milk from a herd that is under simultaneous conversion rules may be sold as organic once the land completes its 24 month conversion period.	Spot inspection is required. (2.06) <i>COS Annex I B2.3.1</i>
2.17	The dairy herd and followers must be managed and fed according to the organic standards once the land has attained full organic status.	<i>COS Annex I B1.5</i>
2.18	Non organic replacement heifers must be more than 6 months from calving when brought in.	See 2.08/2.09 for non organic replacement rules. <i>COS Annex I B2.2.1, 3.12</i>
2.19	Not Allocated.	

FEEDING STANDARDS

2.20	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.	A feeding group may be the entire milking herd or divided according to stage of lactation. Youngstock must be included in the records. 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>
2.21	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>

2.22	Declarations must be obtained from feed suppliers that products are from non genetically modified sources.	A statement on the label is sufficient.(1.17) <i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>
2.23	Feeding Principle. Feeding for quality production rather than quantity must be the aim. Nutritional requirements must be met.	<i>COS Annex I B4.1</i>
2.24	All cattle must be fed a 100% organic diet	A derogation on this standard exists until 31/12/2007. (2.30) <i>COS Annex I B4.2</i>
2.25	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. (1 st January – 31 st December) <i>COS Annex I B4.3</i>
2.26	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. The ration must have a minimum 40% organic content.	In-conversion feeds ref:- 1.09 & 1.12 <i>COS Annex I B4.4</i>
2.27	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. A 600kg dairy cow giving 30 litres milk/day should not be given more than 8kg fresh weight of concentrate per day. <i>COS Annex I B4.7</i>
2.28	At least 50% of the forage intake during the normal grazing season must be grazed.	<i>COS Annex I B1.4</i>
2.29	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>
2.30	Where a fully organic diet cannot be provided, up to 25% of the daily dry matter ration 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 non organic feed ingredients see Annex A. NB This derogation expires on 31/12/07.	The Daily Dry Matter Intake (DDMI) for a feeding group of cows should be assessed using the following formula:- Av.Liveweight(kg) x 2.5% plus 10% of the av. daily milk yield(kg). i.e. 600kg cows giving 30 kg milk have a DDMI of 15 + 3=18kg/day. <i>COS Annex I B4.8</i>
2.31	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>
2.32	Feed Sources Prohibited feed additives include antibiotics, coccidiostats, medicinal substances and any growth promoter or stimulant.	<i>COS Annex I B4.17</i>
2.33	Any feed ingredient that has been produced with the use of genetic modification is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>
2.34	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>
2.35	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>
2.36	The only permitted feed materials of animal origin are milk and milk products.	<i>COS Annex I B4.14</i>
2.37	Permitted feed additives of mineral origin are listed in Annex B.	<i>COS Annex I B4.16</i>

2.38	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>
2.39	Permitted binders, preservatives and processing aids are listed in Annex C.	Lactic, formic, acetic and propionic acids may be used to preserve crimped grain but not aerobically stored grain and silage only with prior approval from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B4.12</i>
2.40	Not Allocated.	
2.41	Not Allocated.	
DISEASE PREVENTION AND VETERINARY TREATMENTS		
2.42	Herd Health Plan A health plan must be developed for the dairy enterprise, preferably with the assistance of a vet, and reviewed at least annually.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.2</i>
2.43	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>
2.44	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>
2.45	The statutory record of all veterinary purchases and all treatments must be kept.	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>
2.46	Disease prevention must be the overriding health policy in an organic dairy enterprise. This must be achieved by a combination of :- a. Appropriate breed selection. b. Encouragement of strong disease resistance. c. Use of high quality feed and regular exercise. d. Avoidance of overstocking. e. Biosecurity and quarantine measures.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.3, 5.2</i>
2.47	An animal that becomes sick or injured must receive immediate attention , even if its treatment results in it losing its organic production status.	<i>COS Annex I B5.3</i>
2.48	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.	This priority should be reflected in the health plan. <i>COS Annex I B5.4a,b,d</i>
2.49	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.	<i>COS Annex I B5.4c,d</i>

2.50	Vaccination to counter an <u>identified</u> disease risk is permitted. Vaccines should be specific to the disease identified.	Multiple vaccines should not be used unless multiple cover is necessary. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
2.51	The use of growth promoters is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B5.5a</i>
2.52	The use of hormone treatments in order to synchronise mating is prohibited.	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>
2.53	The compulsory treatment of livestock and buildings to control a specific disease under national or community legislation is authorized.	If organophosphates are used the milk from the treated animals must not be sold as organic. <i>COS Annex I B5.5b</i>
2.54	The use of organophosphates is not permitted.	Unless subject to (2.53) <i>COS Annex I B5.5c</i>
2.55	Following treatment of a cow with veterinary medicines, a withdrawal period of at least twice the statutory period must be observed before the milk may be sold as organic. Where no withdrawal period is stated or where the stated period is zero days a minimum of 48 hours is required.	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 seven day milk withdrawal period must then be observed. <i>COS Annex I B5.7</i>
2.56	The milk from a cow that has been given a fourth course of treatment of veterinary medicine or antibiotic within a single lactation must not be sold as organic.	Vaccines, treatments for parasites and compulsory treatments are excluded. A cow may be reconverted for the subsequent lactation. 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>
2.57	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>
2.58	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>
2.59	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.	
2.60	Not Allocated.	
2.61	Not Allocated.	
HERD MANAGEMENT, WELFARE AND TRANSPORT		
2.62	Cattle must be reared according to good husbandry and welfare practices.	Cattle (PB0074)
2.63	Reproduction should be based on natural service, however artificial insemination is permitted.	Embryo transfer is prohibited. <i>COS Annex I B6.1.1</i>

2.64	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. Farm Animal Welfare PB2531 <i>COS Annex I B6.1.2</i>
2.65	Staff who carry out veterinary tasks must be competent.	<i>COS Annex I B6.1.2</i>
2.66	When rearing heifers in groups , due consideration must be given to their age and behavioural needs.	<i>COS Annex I B 6.1.8</i>
2.67	Keeping cattle tethered is forbidden.	<i>COS Annex I B6.1.4</i>
2.68	The transport of cattle must be done under conditions that minimise stress and the likelihood of injury.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
2.69	Loading and unloading cattle must be done using minimum force. Electric goads and tranquillisers are forbidden. Adequate handling facilities must be available.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
2.70	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>
2.71	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.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.2</i>
2.72	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.	
2.73	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.	
2.74	Not Allocated.	

PASTURE MANAGEMENT AND CATTLE HOUSING

2.75	All cattle must have access to registered grazing land whenever weather and ground conditions permit.	Includes breeding bulls. <i>COS Annex I B8.3.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B1.4</i>
2.76	Sufficient protection must be provided against extremes of weather .	Cattle breed to be taken into account. <i>COS Annex I B8.1.2</i>
2.77	The outdoor stocking density must be low enough to avoid soil poaching and overgrazing of vegetation.	<i>COS Annex I B8.2.4</i>
2.78	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.	<i>COS Annex I B8.2.1</i> (Subject to 2.76 & 2.77)
2.79	Winter housing and outdoor exercise area for cattle must provide adequate space to allow freedom of movement and an indoor environment that is not harmful to their health. Slatted floors must not cover more than half the area available.	See Annex H for minimum housing and exercise areas. <i>COS Annex I B8.2.3</i> <i>COS Annex I B8.1.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B8.2.2</i> <i>COS Annex I B8.3.5</i>
2.80	The lying area must be covered with sufficient dry bedding to ensure the comfort, cleanliness and hygiene of the cows.	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>

2.81	Cubicles must be designed to allow easy and safe access by the cow; they must be well maintained and kept clean and dry.	<i>COS Annex I B8.2.2</i> <i>COS Annex I B8.3.6</i>
2.82	The housing of calves in individual boxes or crates is forbidden after 7 days old. All calves must be grouped as soon as possible after birth.	<i>COS Annex I B8.3.7</i>
2.83	All livestock buildings and handling facilities must be well maintained to minimise the risk of injury.	
2.84	All cattle must be inspected at least daily.	
2.85	Outwintered cattle must be offered supplementary feed in severe conditions.	
2.86	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>