



Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd.
ardystio bwyd Cymreig safonol

Welsh Organic Scheme

STANDARDS FOR SHEEP PRODUCTION

ORIGIN OF STOCK AND CONVERSION		
4.01	Movement records. All sheep 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 3.1, 3.2</i>
4.02	A flock register must be maintained identifying all sheep on the holding, their source and organic status.	(FAWL 1.04 – 1.05) <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.1, 3.2</i>
4.03	The sale or purchase of all breeding sheep and store lambs from registered flocks must be accompanied by a valid organic certificate and a completed FMD.	Feed and medicine declaration. FMD. Record Sheet RS3 <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
4.04	Origin of flock. 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>
4.05	Ewes and ewe lambs intended for breeding must be sourced from registered organic flocks and managed organically thereafter.	<i>COS Annex I B3.2</i>
4.06	Where there is an existing breeding flock on land that is to commence a 24 month conversion period, it may be simultaneously converted with the land, providing the management of the flock 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 flock. <i>COS Annex I B2.3.1</i>
4.07	Not Allocated.	
4.08	Where a flock 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 have not previously had a lamb.	This derogation must receive prior approval by QWFC <i>COS Annex I B3.6</i>
4.09	The annual replacement of culled ewes should preferably be homebred. Where this is not possible and suitable organically reared ewes are not available, up to 20% of the number of breeding ewes in the flock on 1 st January may be obtained from a non organic source providing they have not previously had a lamb.	This derogation must receive prior approval by QWFC. NB Non organic replacements must be mated on the registered holding for their lambs to have organic status. Record Sheet RS9 <i>COS Annex I B3.8</i>
4.10	In flocks of less than five ewes , one non organic replacement per year is permitted, subject to the conditions at 4.09	<i>COS Annex I B3.9</i>

4.11	Where a major extension to the flock 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 ewes.	This must receive prior approval from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B3.10</i>
4.12	Breeding rams may be sourced from non organic flocks provided they are subsequently managed and fed organically.	<i>COS Annex I B3.11</i>
4.13	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. <i>COS Annex I B3.13</i>

CONVERSION PERIODS

4.14	Sheep may only be sold for organic meat if born to ewes that have been managed to organic standards from mating .	<i>COS Annex I B2.2.1</i>
4.15	Lambs born to ewes under simultaneous conversion rules for 24 months may only be sold for organic meat after the land becomes organic.	<i>COS Annex I B2.3.1</i>
4.16	Ewes that are not subject to simultaneous conversion rules must be managed organically once the land attains organic status. The lamb crop following the next mating may be sold for organic meat.	<i>COS Annex I B1.5</i> <i>COS Annex I B2.2.1</i>
4.17	Non organic replacement ewe lambs and yearlings must be mated on the organic holding for their lambs be organic.	See 4.08 & 4.09 <i>COS Annex I B2.2.1, 3.12</i>
4.18	Lambs reared under simultaneous conversion rules may be traded between registered holdings, subject to 4.03. 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>
4.19	Not Allocated.	

FEEDING STANDARDS

4.20	Records. An accurate feeding record for each identifiable group of sheep must be kept. The record of the ration must include the feeding period, the number of sheep, 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. Ewes bearing twins or singles. Store lambs. 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>
4.21	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>
4.22	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>
4.23	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>
4.24	All sheep must be fed a 100% organic diet	A derogation on this standard exists until 31/12/2007. (4.29) <i>COS Annex I B4.2</i>
4.25	At least 50% of dry matter in the sheep 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>

4.26	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>																					
4.27	All sheep 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.	<i>COS Annex I B4.7</i>																					
4.28	Lambs must be fed on natural organic milk for at least 45 days, preferably suckled.	All lambs not meeting these standards must be marked and sold as non organic. <i>COS Annex I B4.5</i>																					
4.29	Where a fully organic diet cannot be provided, up to 25% of the daily 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 feed ingredients see Annex A. NB This derogation expires on 31/12/07.	<u>Non organic limit.(Dry Matter)</u> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Daily</th> <th>Annual.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>40kg.ewe</td> <td>0.28kg.</td> <td>20kg.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50kg.ewe</td> <td>0.35kg.</td> <td>26kg.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60kg.ewe</td> <td>0.40kg.</td> <td>29kg.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70kg.ewe</td> <td>0.45kg.</td> <td>33kg.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30kg.lamb</td> <td>0.18kg.</td> <td>13kg.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40kg.lamb</td> <td>0.23kg.</td> <td>17kg.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <i>COS Annex I B4.8</i>		Daily	Annual.	40kg.ewe	0.28kg.	20kg.	50kg.ewe	0.35kg.	26kg.	60kg.ewe	0.40kg.	29kg.	70kg.ewe	0.45kg.	33kg.	30kg.lamb	0.18kg.	13kg.	40kg.lamb	0.23kg.	17kg.
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4.30	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>																					
4.31	Feed Sources Prohibited feed additives include antibiotics, coccidiostats, medicinal substances and any growth promoter or stimulant.	<i>COS Annex I B4.17</i>																					
4.32	Any feed ingredient that has been produced with the use of genetic modification is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>																					
4.33	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>																					
4.34	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>																					
4.35	The only permitted feed materials of animal origin are milk and milk products.	<i>COS Annex I B4.14</i>																					
4.36	Permitted feed additives of mineral origin are listed in Annex B.	<i>COS Annex I B4.16</i>																					
4.37	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>																					
4.38	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>																					
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DISEASE PREVENTION AND VETERINARY TREATMENTS		
4.42	Flock Health Plan A health plan must be developed for the sheep enterprise, preferably with the assistance of a vet, and reviewed at least annually.	FAWL 7.11 <i>COS Annex I B5.1.2</i>
4.43	A health plan should address all potential flock 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>
4.44	An annual assessment will be made of the health plan, and if approved, will form the basis of the flock 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>
4.45	A 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 COS Annex I B5.6</i>
4.46	Disease prevention must be the overriding policy in an organic sheep 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>
4.47	An animal that becomes sick or injured must receive immediate attention , even if its treatment results in it losing its organic status.	FAWL 2.14 <i>COS Annex I B5.3</i>
4.48	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>
4.49	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>
4.50	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>
4.51	The use of growth promoters is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B5.4a</i>
4.52	The use of hormone treatments in order to synchronise mating is prohibited.	Spongeing of ewes is not permitted. <i>COS Annex I B5.5a</i>
4.53	The compulsory treatment of livestock and buildings to control a specific disease under national or community legislation is authorized.	If organophosphates are used on sheep, the treated animals must be permanently marked and not sold for organic meat. <i>COS Annex I B5.5b</i>
4.54	The use of organophosphates on sheep is not permitted.	Unless subject to (4.53) <i>COS Annex I B5.5c</i>

4.55	Following treatment of a sheep with veterinary medicines, a withdrawal period of at least twice the statutory period before slaughter must be observed. Where no withdrawal period is stated or where the stated period is zero days a minimum of 48 hours is required.	Medicines administered outside their licensed use will require 28 days withdrawal for meat. <i>COS Annex I B5.7</i> FAWL 7.03 <i>COS Annex I B5.7</i>
4.56	A ewe that requires a fourth course of treatment of veterinary medicine or antibiotic within one year must not be sold as organic nor can any of her lambs if still suckling. A lamb that requires a second such treatment in its life must not be sold as organic.	Vaccines, treatments for parasites and compulsory treatments are excluded. A ewe 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>
4.57	The chemical control of external parasites is permitted where justified on the grounds of animal welfare. This must be addressed in the Flock Health Plan.	Chemical treatments must be licensed for the purpose. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
4.58	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. Ewes must not be treated more than twice per year and lambs not more than three times in their life. 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>
4.59	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
4.60	Not Allocated.	
4.61	Not Allocated.	
FLOCK MANAGEMENT, WELFARE AND TRANSPORT		
4.62	Sheep must be reared according to good husbandry and welfare practices.	FAWL 2.01 – 2.14 Sheep (PB5162)
4.63	Reproduction should be based on natural service, however artificial insemination is permitted.	Embryo transfer and sponging is prohibited. <i>COS Annex I B6.1.1.</i>
4.64	The routine practice of tail docking or use of elastic bands on lambs' tails must only be carried out in areas where there is a high risk of flystrike in a normal year.	This practice must be addressed in the Health Plan. <i>COS Annex I B6.1.2</i>
4.65	Physical castration of lambs at the appropriate age is permitted.	This practice must be addressed in the health plan. <i>COS Annex I B6.1.3.</i>
4.66	Staff who carry out veterinary tasks must be competent.	FAWL 2.15 <i>COS Annex I B6.1.2</i>
4.67	When rearing lambs in groups , due consideration must be given to their age and behavioural needs.	<i>COS Annex I B 6.1.8</i>
4.68	The transport of sheep must be done under conditions that minimise stress and the likelihood of injury.	FAWL 8.01, 8.03 – 8.07, 6.11 <i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
4.69	Sheep must be loaded and unloaded with minimum force. Adequate handling facilities must be available.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>

4.70	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>
4.71	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.	FAWL 8.02 <i>COS Annex I B6.2.2</i>
4.72	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.	
4.73	If sheep 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.	
4.74	Not Allocated.	
4.75	Not Allocated.	
PASTURE MANAGEMENT AND SHEEP HOUSING		
4.76	All sheep must have access to registered grazing land whenever weather and ground conditions permit.	Registered land must be provided for sheep away on tack. <i>COS Annex I B8.3.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B1.4</i>
4.77	Sufficient protection must be provided against extremes of weather.	FAWL 2.08 – 2.09 Sheep breed to be taken into account. <i>COS Annex I B8.1.2</i>
4.78	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>
4.79	Ewes may be housed during the winter months, providing there is adequate space to allow freedom of movement and the indoor environment is not harmful to their health. Slatted floors must not cover more than half the area available. Mountain breeds must not be housed for longer than six weeks per year.	See Annex L for minimum housing and outdoor exercise area requirements. FAWL 6.04 <i>COS Annex I B8.2.1</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>
4.80	The lying area must be covered with sufficient dry bedding to ensure the comfort, cleanliness and hygiene of the sheep.	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>
4.81	All livestock buildings and handling facilities must be well maintained to minimise the risk of injury.	
4.82	Store lambs may be fattened indoors for up to 20% of their lifetime.	Lambs slaughtered at 10 months may be fattened indoors for up to 2 months. <i>COS Annex I B8.3.4</i>
4.83	Sheep must be inspected regularly as appropriate.	FAWL 2.02
4.84	Outwintered sheep must be offered supplementary feed in severe conditions.	
4.85	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>