

national dairy farm assured scheme

Information for Dairy Farmers 2

Standards, Assessment & Auditing

Introduction

In 1997 the Steering Committee was established for the National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme. It consisted of representatives from the National Farmers Union; the Federation of Milk Groups; the Dairy Industry Federation, and the British Cattle Veterinary Association.

Standards

The farm assessments cover the following seven sections:

➔ **1. Hygiene & Food Safety**

To provide reassurance for customers in terms of the safety and high quality of the milk produced.

➔ **2. Housing & Facilities**

Farmers should be aware of the suitability and condition of the cattle housing systems to ensure that there is a comfortable environment and sufficient space for free movement without undue risk of injury.

➔ **3. Plant & Equipment**

It is important that all mechanical and electrical installations on the farm are adequately serviced to ensure that milk quality, milk hygiene, and cow health and welfare problems do not arise.

➔ **4. Feedingstuffs & Water**

All feed and water provided for dairy cattle must be of an appropriate quality for a properly balanced diet and be available to all animals.



Are all dairy cattle fed in accordance with a documented feed plan?

➔ **5. Herd Health**

To provide assurances about the health and welfare of dairy cattle on the farm and to encourage farmers and veterinary surgeons to work together.

➔ **6. Stockmanship & Training**

To ensure that the person in overall charge of the dairy herd can demonstrate best stockmanship practises in the areas of animal health and welfare, food safety, and the environment.

➔ **7. Contingency Procedures**

To have documented procedures in place to deal with emergency situations that may harm the animal, human life or the environment.

Farm Assessments

All farm assessment personnel are trained by a single, Lantra registered, national training team. By employing assessors who have undertaken the Lantra-approved training course, a consistent standard is achieved across the whole industry. All certificated assessors, and the assessments that they undertake, are co-ordinated by an independent certification body.

Auditing of the Scheme Standards to Maintain Credibility

The Scheme entails several points of audit to ensure consistent application of the standards. The audit points are as follows:

- Company Audits.
- Assessor Audit.
- Random Farm Audits

Company audits

The NDFAS carries out checks to confirm the following:

- Records are maintained of assured status for all farms.
- Systems are in place for adhering to the 90-day rule.
- NDFAS approved milk is stored separately where required.

Assessor auditing & training

The routine auditing of assessors is the first step to ensure that assessment personnel demonstrate a consistent approach during all farm assessments.

Random auditing

As a further measure for ensuring consistent standards, members of the assessor training team conduct random farm audits on farms that are National Dairy Farm Assured.

Inquiries to:

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Further information available at:

See the NDFAS website at www.ndfas.org.uk

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