

national dairy farm assured scheme

Information for Dairy Farmers 4

The National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme & Your Farm Business

Introduction

The National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme is a scheme which represents dairy farmers and the high production standards on dairy farms. Implementation and compliance with the Scheme standards can therefore be used to demonstrate that farmers are following best practice. As well as following best practice however, there should also be scope for some dairy farmers to improve levels of efficiency through the adoption of the NDFAS standards.

To address the issue of declining profitability in the industry, dairy farmers may need to question convention and focus on management systems rather than merely lifting production levels.

This simple factsheet seeks to outline some of the benefits that the NDFAS standards can offer to your dairy farm business.

The Benefits of NDFAS Accreditation

Improved Dairy Cow Welfare

- Promotes better dairy cow management.
 - Welfare during milking.
 - Housing and provision of water access.
- Facilitates the communication of management information.
 - Mastitis control programmes
 - Dry cow management
- Use of clear and accurate records to identify and review problems with cow nutrition and health.
 - Feed Plan
 - Herd Health Plan
 - Lameness incidence
 - Mastitis incidence
 - Fertility problems



What percentage of your herd suffers from mastitis and when is mastitis most prevalent?

Food Safety and Traceability

- Promotes better milk hygiene practices.
- Enhanced traceability of feedstuffs and medicinal products.
- Documentation and clear records provide dairy farmers with a means of demonstrating due diligence.
 - Purchased Feeds Labels
 - Herd Health Plan
 - Veterinary Medicine Record Book



Are all calves able to see at least one other calf?

Stockmanship

- Promotes the use of suitably trained / experienced stockmen.
- More responsibility and greater knowledge of the Scheme standards promotes better welfare practices, for example, management practices based on the 'Five Freedoms'. Will encourage farmers to endorse current welfare legislation, e.g. restrictions on the movement of casualty stock.

Does your stockman recognise the five freedoms?

Safety

The National Dairy Farm Assured Scheme standards contain a number of measures which seek to prevent accidents on your farm or manage them accordingly if they occur. Examples include:

- Chemical Data Sheets;
- Safe Storage of Veterinary Medicines.
- Contingency Procedures for emergencies such as fire.

Legislation

- The Scheme is based on the requirements of existing statutory legislation as well as Codes of Good Agricultural Practice and welfare standards.
- Inclusion of these codes and legislation within the Scheme is a means of ensuring that dairy farmers are kept up-to-date.

Inquiries to:

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Further information available at:

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

Try taking a tour of the NEW NDFAS virtual farm!

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