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# **AWARE**

## **Organic Inspector Trainings for Animal Welfare**

### **Welfare assessment protocols**

**May 2017**

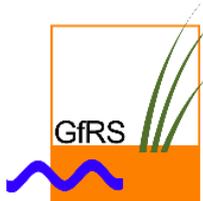
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## A: Cattle

### General remarks

- To be complete in all inspections, at a minimum of once a year.
- Where non-compliance related to animal welfare have been issued, follow up inspection by a welfare/ cattle specialist inspector is required within appropriate time scale.
- Inspections can be announced or unannounced. If non-compliances have been issued at previous inspections, then unannounced inspections should be favoured.
- Inspectors must complete one checklist for each species; if there are differences in the protocol for one species (e.g. cows and calves) a checklist must be filled out for each group separately.
- Inspectors should provide detailed comments and photos to provide evidence of the condition of the animals assessed. This is particularly crucial if non-compliances have been issued against welfare standards.
- Inspectors are encouraged to provide further detailed comments regarding the welfare state of the animals assessed. These comments can include positive remarks about good care, husbandry and health.
- If animals are not in good health or maintenance but are being treated, this should be written down but is not a non - compliance.
- For inspector health and safety regards bulls should be considered, assessment should be at a safe distance. This may be from outside the pen if required.

### Biosecurity and hygiene measures for inspector

Ensure clean boots and clothing (wear overalls and shoe cover where needed).

If boots become soiled during inspection ensure not to walk on and contaminate feed.

Assess youngest animals first, then in order of age or health risk.

Wash hands after the visit.



**Overall animal observations (after a short period to allow the animals to settle (c. 3 minutes))**

Assess the response of the animals to the stockman.

Look for animals in corners that may be sick or hiding or calving.

Listen to the overall demeanour of the herd (coughing, vocalising).

**Overall assessment of housing, feed and water provision**

Check if there are sufficient feed spaces for all animals to feed together.

Check if there are sufficient lying spaces for all animals to lie down together.

Check if there is sufficient, clean bedding.

Check if there is sufficient loafing area/ access passages that allow good cow flow with no dead ends. The layout needs to allow animals to move freely and permit access to feed/water/lying area.

Check if there are sufficient water troughs.

Check if water troughs are clean and functioning with sufficient flow to ensure continuous supply.

Check the quality of the feed by touch and smell to ensure it is fresh and palatable (not rancid or mouldy).

Assess the shed/stable interior for sharp edges, broken gates/cubicles/fencing that could cause injury.

Ensure that light levels are sufficient (allowing animals to be easily assessed). If light levels are insufficient the inspector should use a torch/headlamp to ensure a full inspection can be carried out.

Assess the air quality for ammonia and dust levels.



## Assessment protocol - Cattle

Step 1. Assessment - all cattle on farm	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lameness</li> <li>2. Body condition score</li> <li>3. Cleanliness</li> <li>4. Hair loss, lesions, swelling and injury e.g. broken tails</li> <li>5. Mastitis</li> <li>6. Cattle needing further care (e.g. respiratory disease)</li> <li>7. Cattle needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed across <b>all groups on farm</b>, including cows, calves, fattening animals, bulls, the hospital pen and animals, due to leave the farm.</li> <li>• From observations record if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 2. Assessment – sub group	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lameness</li> <li>2. Body condition score</li> <li>3. Cleanliness</li> <li>4. Hair loss, lesions, swelling and injury e.g. broken tails</li> <li>5. Mastitis</li> <li>6. Cattle needing further care (e.g. respiratory disease)</li> <li>7. Cattle needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a sub group based on level of concern. If no group is of concern select the largest, easily accessible group.</li> <li>• Assess a sample of randomly selected animals. A minimum sample of 20 cows or if less than 20 animals in the group, all animals should be assessed. When possible or if there is concern about the welfare status of the herd/subgroup a larger sample should be assessed based on sample table below*. (<i>sample size selection to be further agreed by control bodies</i>)</li> <li>• Based on that sample report if               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Records measures	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.a. Somatic Cell Count</li> <li>8. Mortality</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From records.</li> </ul>

**\*Best practice sample size for individual assessment of sample group (taken from Welfare Quality© cattle protocol minimum sample size)**

Herd size	Sample size to score	Herd size	Sample size to score	Herd size	Sample size to score
30	30	120	43	210	51
40	30	130	45	220	52
50	30	140	46	230	52
60	32	150	47	240	53
70	35	160	48	250	53
80	37	170	48	260	54
90	39	180	49	270	54
100	40	190	50	280	54
110	42	200	51	≥ 290	55

### 1. Lameness

Observe cattle, ideally on a hard (i.e. concrete) non-slip surface. Where possible observe the animals moving, either to feed, to or from milking. Where possible watch the cow from the side and the rear. If required ask farmer to encourage lying animals to rise.

**Scoring:**

**0 = Good/Imperfect mobility**

Walks with even weight bearing and rhythm on all four feet, with a flat back; long fluid strides possible; or steps uneven (rhythm or weight bearing) or strides shortened; affected limb/s not immediately identifiable



**1 = Lamé**

Uneven weight bearing on a **limb that is immediately identifiable** and/or obviously shortened stride (usually with an arch to the centre of the back)



**2 = Severely lame**

Unable to walk at fast as a brisk human pace (cannot keep up with the healthy herd) and signs of impaired mobility (as above). Animal is likely to require further care.



Images kindly supplied by DairyCo

### 2. Body condition

Visually assess the tail head and loin area of cattle, viewing the animal from behind and from the side.

**Scoring:**

**0 = Moderate/Good (BCS 2-3)**

## 1 = Thin (BCS < 2)

Tail head: Deep cavity with no fatty tissue under skin or shallow cavity with some fat under skin but pin bones prominent. Skin supple/fairly supple and coat condition may be rough.

Loin: Spine prominent. Vertebra may be identified individually, horizontal processes can be identified individually with either sharp or rounded ends.

The following list should assist in making a confident decision for thin cows:

- Horizontal processes give a prominent shelf-like appearance to the loin
- Outline of the hook bone is prominent with no or only some fat padding
- Outline of the pin bone is prominent with no or only some fat padding
- There are folds of skin in the depression between the tail head and pin bone
- Thurl is sunken and curved in.



Images kindly supplied by NADIS

Images kindly supplied by AssureWel

## 2 = Fat (BCS 4-5)

Tail head: Completely filled and folds and patches of fat evident or almost buried in fatty tissue.

Loin: Cannot see horizontal processes and the loin area, has a completely rounded appearance.

The following list should assist in making a confident decision with cows in BCS 4/5:

- Back is solid and straight
- Hook bones are rounded with obvious fat padding or bones are/may not be visible because they are buried in fat
- Pin bones are rounded with obvious fat padding or bones are/may not be visible because they are buried in fat
- Ribs are covered with a thick layer of fat
- Thurl is filled in.



Images kindly supplied by NADIS

Images kindly supplied by AssureWel

### 3. Cleanliness

Visually assess one randomly selected side of the animal and behind, only including the hind quarters to coronary band, udder and belly:

**Scoring:**

**0 = Clean**

No dirt or only minor splashing present

**1 = Dirty**

An area of dirtiness (i.e. layer or plaques of dirt) amounting to at least forearm length (40cm) in any dimension.



#### 4. Hair loss, lesions, swelling and injury e.g. broken tails

Visually assess from a distance not exceeding 2 m.

##### Scoring:

- 0 = No hair loss or lesion or swelling**  
No lesions, hairless patches or swelling  $\geq 2$ cm diameter
- 1 = Hairless, lesion, Swelling**  
Hairless patches  $\geq 2$ cm diameter or  
Lesions  $\geq 2$ cm diameter or  
Swellings  $\geq 2$ cm in diameter
- 2 = Hairless, lesion, swelling and injury**  
Hairless patches  $\geq 5$ cm diameter or  
Lesions  $\geq 5$ cm diameter or  
Swellings  $\geq 5$ cm in diameter  
Additional injury including broken tails, torn ears etc.



Images kindly supplied by AssureWel

#### 5. Mastitis

Visually assess animals, identify any with signs of mastitis. Swollen red udders.

##### 5.a. Somatic cell count

Record the rolling average somatic cell count for the last 3 months.  
Record if herd average for the last 3 months is greater than 300,000

#### 6. Cattle needing further care

Assess the whole herd. Record and comment on the number animals that would benefit from further assessment and intervention. Further interventions could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved/alterd housing/feeding or level of attention and care. E.g. animals with respiratory symptoms; signs of diarrhoea, overall ill health.

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**



## 7. Cattle needing immediate care

Assess the whole herd. Record and comment on the number of any sick or injured animals that would benefit from further immediate intervention. Further interventions could include immediate further treatment, hospitalisation (i.e. removal from the main herd) or culling., e.g. severely lame cows

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

## 8. Mortality

Record the number of losses for the previous 12 months for the following categories:

- a. 0 – 48 hours – all calves including still born (before registration)
- b. 48 hours – 90 days – all calves
- c. Older than 90 days

This record should include all unplanned culls, animals found dead and animals euthanized on farm

If the inspector has anything else to remark about animal welfare in the herd he may note it here by “other matters”:



## Explanation of indicators

### Lameness

Lame cows are not only in considerable discomfort and pain, but are predisposed to further disease challenges (e.g. mastitis, swollen hocks), reduced fertility, lowered milk yield and decreased appetite. They lie most of the time, walk less often to the feeding place and water troughs and do less ruminate. They have a high risk to fall back in the herds rank order, so they may not use the most comfortable cubicles, are frequently dirty and they are edged off the feeding place. Often lame cows are thin as well. Primarily all these factors significantly affect the welfare of the cow, but in addition they have hefty financial implications both in the short and long term. Early recognition, investigation and treatment of any lame animal are essential to limit pain, aid recovery and minimise any additional complications. Therefore, regular on farm mobility assessment is an important step in resolving lameness issues. Lameness caused by foot lesions can be both infectious (digital dermatitis, foul) and non-infectious (sole haemorrhages, sole ulcers and white line disease) and it is important for farmers to identify the types of lesions present in order that likely causes can be addressed.

### Body condition

Body condition scoring is a technique for assessing the condition of livestock at regular intervals. The purpose of condition scoring is to achieve a balance between economic feeding, good production and welfare. Body condition will vary during a healthy cow's lactation. She will most likely be at her thinnest around peak milk yield and at her fattest around drying off. However, despite this variation her condition should not fall outside of acceptable limits. Depending on the breed some cows are skinny and other thicker.

A cow with a body condition score which indicates that she is thin is not meeting the nutritional demands of her body. This may be as a result of feed quality or quantity, access to feed or disease. Thin animals may suffer from chronic hunger, discomfort (especially in hard cubicles with few straw), are predisposed to health issues (metabolic, infectious and physical) and are more likely to have reduced fertility. Often under conditioned cows are lame and dirty as well.

A cow with a body condition score that indicates that she is 'fat' is overweight. Fat cows are at risk of dystocia (difficulty calving), more likely to develop metabolic diseases such as ketosis, fatty liver disease and milk fever and are prone to mastitis, lameness and infertility.

### Cleanliness

Areas of dirt (faeces/mud) within different regions of the cow's body are as a result of different causes and can affect welfare in different ways. In general, if given the choice, cows will choose to lie in clean dry areas. Dirtiness on the coat can irritate the skin, provide optimal conditions for ectoparasites, increase cold



stress, indicate dirty lying areas or lack of grooming facilities (brushes, trees etc.), increase the risk of disease and cause hygiene issues at or prior to slaughter.

The lower legs: A high level of dirtiness in this region is associated with increased risk of lameness, digital dermatitis, interdigital dermatitis, slurry heel and mastitis. It can also obscure skin damage and foot lesions preventing early detection, treatment and increasing recovery times. It can be caused by poor slurry systems, lack of bedding, overstocking, or poached paddocks.

The hind quarters: Dirtiness in this region may be as a result of incorrect feeding, change in feeding, lush grass, endoparasites, infectious disease or dirty environments (lack of bedding, poor cubicle maintenance, overstocking etc.).

The udder and teats: Dirtiness in this region can be caused by anything listed above. Dirt on the udder is strongly associated with the development of mastitis, increases the pre-milking cleaning (which adds time to the milking routine) and increases the risk of poor milk quality.

Cattle like to brush and scrub themselves, a brush should be available whenever it is possible; it helps a lot to keep them clean.

### **Hair loss, lesions swellings and injury e.g. broken tails**

Hair loss, lesions and swellings all demonstrate some form of damage to the skin and in some cases the underlying tissues. Occasional small areas of skin damage or swelling may be inevitable amongst a herd of cattle but areas larger than 2cm may give reason for concern.

Hairless patches indicate repeated rubbing or irritation, ectoparasite presence or previous injuries (scars). Lesions indicate skin damage and can be as a result of poor management, poor building and or cubicle design and maintenance, damaged gates or fences or cow interactions like horn thrusts. Swellings can be as a result of similar poor cubicle design or maintenance, feed trough or barrier design, abscesses, cysts or injection sites. The location of lesions, hair loss and swellings is important in determining the likely causes of them.

Hocks with any lesion, hair loss or swelling are strongly indicative that the lying area is not comfortable with abrasive surfaces, insufficient bedding and or hard lying surfaces. Hocks damaged in this way cause pain and discomfort, are strongly linked to lameness, can become secondarily infected and may lead to reduced lying times. Similarly, knees (carpus) with swellings, hair loss or lesions are also suggestive that lying areas are not comfortable and have similar causes and associated problems. The resultant effect of a strong presence of either is one of reduced welfare, productivity and profitability.

Neck swellings and hair loss or lesions tend to indicate either a problem with the feed barrier, feed trough or cubicle neck rails. If the feed space is not designed appropriately then cattle will repeatedly rub their necks causing damage, pain and a possible reduction in feed intake. Feed barriers and neck rails need to be placed at the correct height and create the right angle for the type of feed trough. Where feed is fed without a trough it must be regularly pushed up in order to prevent over reaching and continual pressure on the necks.



Presence of lesions or swellings over other parts of the body may indicate that there are injurious environments (lying area, feeding place, parlour, automatic scraper), the cows are repeatedly bumping.

Tails can get broken, damaged or shortened through mechanical damage (from scrapers, doors, parlour), inappropriate handling or other individual reasons. Tail injury is painful to the cow particularly given the constant activity of the tail and therefore compromises the cow's welfare. Broken tails strongly suggest a problem within the system. However, it must be remembered that evidence of a broken tail will remain for the lifetime of the cow and therefore the presence of broken tails within a herd may demonstrate a historical problem and not necessarily a present one.

## **Mastitis**

Mastitis is a common problem across the dairy industry. It is caused by pathogens that can be either found environmentally or passed from cow to cow. It is a painful condition that can vary in severity from being a fairly mild easily curable case to a severe life threatening toxic case. Mastitis has considerable financial implications through costs of treatments, veterinary advice, milk withdrawal periods, reduction in milk yields, increased labour and reduced fertility. Hygiene in the milking parlour, pre-milking routine, cow flow, bedding materials, slurry systems, housing design, cow groups, management of cows throughout stages of lactation amongst others can all affect mastitis levels.

## **Somatic cell count**

The Somatic cell count (SCC) is a main indicator of milk quality. The majority of somatic cells are leukocytes (white blood cells) - which become present in increasing numbers in milk usually as an immune response to a mastitis-causing pathogen - and a small number of epithelial cells, which are milk-producing cells shed from inside of the udder when an infection occurs. Cell counts tend to reflect a response to contagious mastitis pathogens

The SCC is quantified as the number of cells per ml of milk. In general terms:

An individual cow SCC of 100,000 or less indicates an 'uninfected' cow, where there are no significant production losses due to subclinical mastitis.

A threshold SCC of 200,000 would determine whether a cow is infected with mastitis. Cows with a result of greater than 200,000 are highly likely to be infected on at least one quarter.

Cows infected with significant pathogens have an SCC of 300,000 or greater.

The SCC in the milk increases after calving when colostrum is produced before the cow settles into lactation, and tends to rise towards the end of lactation, most likely due to the concentrating effect of lower amounts of milk being produced. SCCs vary, however, due to many factors, including seasonal and management effects.

Milk with an SCC of more than 400,000 is deemed unfit for human consumption by the European Union.

Essentially, a lower SCC indicates better animal health, as somatic cells originate only from inside the animal's udder. SCC monitoring is important because as the number of somatic cells increases, milk yield is



likely to fall, primarily due to the damage to milk-producing tissue in the udder caused by mastitis pathogens and the toxins they produce, particularly when epithelial cells are lost.

### **Cattle needing further care**

Further care could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved or altered housing or feeding or level of attention and care. Animals in this category may be showing signs of respiratory illness (coughing), discharges from the eyes or nose, diarrhoea, poor coat condition, animals that don not feed or ruminate or show other abnormal behaviour.

### **Cattle needing immediate care**

Any animal that is clearly sick or injured must be provided immediately with the necessary treatment and care, regardless of whether it is a cull animal or not. Animals that are sick or injured and not receiving adequate attention are suffering pain, discomfort and distress. This not only compromises their welfare but also reduces their likelihood and speed of recovery, increases the risk of disease spreading and reduces the productivity. Especially for sick calves, it is important not to lose time. 'Treatments' may not always constituent drugs or homeopathic remedies, but will depend upon the cause of the illness or injury. Management changes such as separation from the herd, provision of soft bedding, easy access to feed and water, application of a claw block etc. may be included. If sick or injured animals are already separated and treated that is not a non-compliance.

### **Mortality**

Common reasons for mortality include infectious diseases (particularly scour and pneumonia), congenital abnormalities, injuries, parasite burdens, difficult calvings and metabolic imbalances. All these have the potential to negatively affect welfare and result in significant financial costs through treatment, reduced growth rates, labour and losses. Lower mortality rates can be achieved by avoiding ill health, through good stockmanship, suitable housing and bedding, adequate nutrition, biosecurity and appropriate vaccination protocols. Sufficient colostrum intake, navel dipping and close observation are all key in avoiding calf losses whilst parasite control, good stock handling, good nutrition and appropriate selection of service bulls is important in ensuring heifers go on to become part of the dairy herd. Young calves can die very fast by infections but the older they become the scarcer cases of death should be. High rates of dead animals may be an indicator of failings in management as sick animals are not identified and treated in time. If reasons of death are known, they should be recorded.



## **B: Small ruminants: goats**

### **General remarks**

- To be complete in all inspections, at a minimum of once a year.
- Where non-compliance related to animal welfare have been issued, follow up inspection by a welfare/ small ruminant specialist inspector is required within appropriate time scale.
- Inspections can be announced or unannounced. If non-compliances have been issued at previous inspections then unannounced inspections should be favoured.
- Inspectors must complete one checklist for each species; if there are differences in the protocol for one species (e.g. adults and kids) a checklist must be filled out for each group separately.
- Inspectors should provide detailed comments and photos to provide evidence of the condition of the animals assessed. This is particularly crucial if non-compliances have been issued against welfare standards.
- Inspectors are encouraged to provide further detailed comment regards the welfare state of the animals assessed. These comments can include positive remarks about good care, husbandry and health.
- If animals are not in good health or maintenance but are being treated, this should be written down but is not a non – compliance.
- For inspector health and safety regards bucks/billies should be considered, assessment should be at a safe distance. This may be from outside the pen if required.

### **Biosecurity and hygiene measures for inspector**

Ensure clean boots and clothing (wear overalls and shoe cover where needed).

If boots become soiled during inspection ensure not to walk on and contaminate feed.

Assess youngest animals first, then in order of age or health risk.

Wash hands after the visit.



### **Overall animal observations (after a short period to allow the animals to setting (c. 3 minutes)**

Assess the response of the animals to the stockman.

Look for animals in corners that may be sick or hiding or kidding.

Listen to the overall demeanour of the herd (coughing, vocalising).

### **Overall assessment of housing, feed and water provision**

Check if there are sufficient feed spaces for all animals to feed together.

Check if there are sufficient lying spaces for all animals to lie down together.

Check if there is sufficient, clean bedding.

Check if there is a sufficient loafing area/access passages that allows good animal flow with no dead ends. The layout needs to allow animals to move freely and permit access to feed/water/lying area.

Check if there are sufficient water troughs.

Check if water troughs are clean and functioning with sufficient flow to ensure continuous supply.

Check the quality of the feed by touch and smell to ensure it is fresh and palatable (not rancid or mouldy).

Assess the shed/stable interior for sharp edges, broken gates/fencing that could cause injury.

Ensure that light levels are sufficient (allowing animals to be easily assessed). If light levels are insufficient the inspector should use a torch/headlamp to ensure a full inspection can be carried out.

Assess the air quality for ammonia and dust levels.



## Assessment protocol - Goats

Step 1. Assessment - all goats on farm	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lameness</li> <li>2. Body condition score</li> <li>3. Cleanliness</li> <li>4. Hair loss/coat condition</li> <li>5. Abscess, lesions and swellings</li> <li>6. Udder condition (including mastitis)</li> <li>7. Goats needing further care (e.g. nasal discharge, respiratory problems)</li> <li>8. Goats needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed across <b>all groups on farm</b>, including breeding animals, followers, kids and bucks/billy goats, also animals, due to leave the farm.</li> <li>• From observations record if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 1. Assessment in addition for all pre-weaned kids on farm	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Overall health</li> <li>10. Diarrhoea</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed across <b>all groups of pre-weaned kids on farm</b></li> <li>• From observations record if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 2. Assessment – sub group	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lameness</li> <li>2. Body condition score</li> <li>3. Cleanliness</li> <li>4. Hair loss/coat quality</li> <li>5. Abscess, lesions and swellings</li> <li>6. Udder condition (including mastitis)</li> <li>7. Goats needing further care (e.g. nasal discharge, respiratory problems)</li> <li>8. Goats needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a sub group based on level of concern. If no group is of concern select the largest, easily accessible group.</li> <li>• Assess a sample of randomly selected animals. A minimum sample of 20 goats or if less than 20 animals in the group, all animals should be assessed. When possible or if there is concern about the welfare status of the herd/subgroup a larger sample should be assessed based on sample table below*. (<i>sample size selection to be further agreed by control bodies</i>)</li> <li>• Based on that sample report if               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Records measures	
11. Mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From records.</li> </ul>

**\*Best practice sample size for individual assessment of sample group (taken from AWIN 2015 Goat protocol, minimum sample size)**

Farm size – number of lactating goats	Sample size to score	Farm size – number of lactating goats	Sample size to score
<15	13	225-249	53
15-19	16	250-299	54
20-24	19	300-349	56
25-29	21	350-399	57
30-34	24	400-449	57
35-39	26	450-499	58
40-49	28	500-599	59
50-59	29	600-699	60
60-69	32	700-799	61
70-79	35	800-899	62
80-89	37	900-999	63
90-99	39	1000-1099	63
100-124	41	1100-1299	64
125-149	44	1300-1499	65
150-174	47	1500-1699	65
175-199	49	1700-1799	66
200-224	51	>1800	66

## 1. Lameness

Assess the individual goat by watching them walk.

### Scoring:

**0 = Good/Imperfect mobility**

Regular or slight to irregular gait. Inexistent or slight head nodding and arched rump.

**1 = Lamé**

Lame goats will have a clearly identified irregular gait. Moderate head nodding and arched rump. One or more limbs may be only partially weight bearing and or rested when standing. They may be reluctant to stand and graze whilst on their “knees” (carpus).

**Severely Lamé - NO weight bearing on one or more limbs**

**2 =** A goat should be considered severely lame if they have and extremely irregular gait, with one or more limbs to be bearing no weight and or rested when standing. Additionally, they may have:

- pronounced “goose” walking (limbs stretched);
- moving on “knees” (carpus) (kneeling);
- severe head nodding;
- accentuated arched rump

## 2. Body condition score

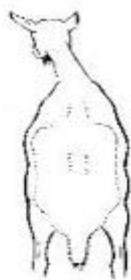
Visually assess the tail head and loin area of cattle, viewing the animal from behind and from the side.

### Scoring:

**0 = Normal (0)**

General condition: Backbone not prominent but still visible and ribs difficult to assess visually.

Rump region: Hip and pin bones still visible, but not prominent. The line that connects the hip bone and the thurl assumes a slightly concave or straight shape. It is possible to see some muscle and/or fat between the skin and bone structures.



Images kindly supplied by AWIN

**1 = Thin (-1)**

General condition: Raw or slightly raw-boned goat, with backbone and some ribs visible.

Rump region: Hip and pin bones are prominent. The line that connects the hip bone and the thurl assumes a markedly concave shape. There is little muscle and/or fat between the skin and bone structures.

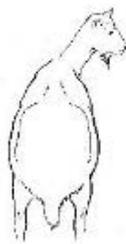


Images kindly supplied by AWIN

**2 = Fat (1)**

General condition: Backbone and ribs not visible. Goat has a rounded appearance, sometimes with abdominal fat deposits visible.

Rump region: Hip and pin bones are difficult to identify. The line that connects the hip bone and the thurl assumes a slightly or markedly convex shape. The entire rump region is coated by muscle and fat, contributing to the rounded appearance of the goat.



Images kindly supplied by AWIN

### 3. Cleanliness

Assess the whole herd for goats seen with a dirty coat. Visual assessment of one side and behind.

**Scoring:**

**0 = Clean**

No dirt or only minor splashing present.

**1 = Dirty**

An area of dirtiness (fresh and old mud or slurry) larger than hand size (10 x 15cm) and or diffuse soiling

**2 = Very Dirty**

An area of dirtiness (fresh and old mud or slurry) larger than forearm length (40cm) in any dimension and or diffuse soiling



#### 4. Hair loss/coat condition

Assess the whole herd for goats seen with hair loss or suffering from poor coat condition (matted, rough, scurfy and uneven). Visual assessment of one side and behind.

**Scoring:**

- 0 = No hair loss/good coat quality**
- 1 = One or more bald areas larger than 5cm in any dimension on the body**  
Additionally, including rough coat with some matting and scurf
- 2 = Severe hair loss/very poor coat condition**  
One or more larger (>10cm) areas of hair loss  
Additionally, including very rough, matted coat, potentially signs of ectoparasites

#### 5. Abscess, lesions and swellings

Assess the whole herd for goats with abscesses, lesions and swellings  $\geq 2$ cm.  
Visually assess from a distance not exceeding 2 m.

**Scoring:**

- 0 = No abscess, lesion or swelling**  
No sign of abscess or lesion or swelling  $\geq 2$ cm diameter.
- 1 = Abscess, lesion or swelling**  
Any abscess  
Lesions  $\geq 2$ cm diameter or  
Swellings  $\geq 2$ cm in diameter

#### 6. Udder condition (including mastitis)

Assess the whole herd for goats with signs of injury, inflammation (mastitis) or asymmetry of the udder.

Asymmetric udders are those in which one half is at least 25% longer than the other (excluding teats).

- 0 = Udder normal**
- 1 = Udder is asymmetrical or is inflamed (mastitis) or injured**



### 7. Goats needing further care

Assess the whole herd. Record and comment on the number animals that would benefit from further assessment and intervention. Further interventions could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved/alterred housing/feeding or level of attention and care.

E.g. animals with overgrown claws, respiratory symptoms, including nasal or ocular discharge; signs of diarrhoea, overall ill health.

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

### 8. Goats needing immediate care

Assess the whole herd. Record and comment on the number of any sick or injured animals that would benefit from further immediate intervention. Further interventions could include immediate further treatment, hospitalisation (i.e. removal from the main herd) or culling.

E.g. severely lame goats, severe lesions or abscess.

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

### 9. Kids – overall health

Assess un weaned kids for overall health and level of hydration

- 0 = Healthy (well hydrated)**
- 1 = Dehydrated**
- 2 = Needing further treatment or euthanasia**

### 10. Kids - diarrhoea

Assess un-weaned kids for signs of diarrhoea

- 0 = No signs of diarrhoea**
- 1 = Kid with diarrhoea**



## 11. Mortality

Record the number of losses for the previous 12 months for the following categories:

- a. 0 – 48 hours – all kids including still born (before registration)
- b. 48 hours – 90 days – all kids
- c. Older than 90 days

This record should include all unplanned culls, animals found dead and animals euthanized on farm.

If the inspector has anything else to remark about animal welfare in the herd he may note it here by “other matters”:



## Explanation of indicators

### Lameness

Lameness is an indicator of pain characterised by abnormal locomotion. The degree of lameness may range from slight to severe. However, due to husbandry constraints and diversity of management and resources at dairy goat farms, it is impossible to follow a standard protocol to identify slight and moderate cases of lameness. Therefore, the identification of only the most severe cases of lameness is suggested. Anyway, lame goats must be treated by the farmer. Lame goats are predisposed to further disease challenges (e.g. mastitis, swollen hocks), reduced fertility, lowered milk yield and decreased appetite. They lie most of the time, walk less often to the feeding place and water troughs and do less ruminate. They have a high risk to fall back in the herds rank order, so they may not use the most comfortable lying places or are edged off the feeding place.

### Body condition

Body condition score is performed to help to assess the nutritional and health status of goats. Only extreme conditions (very thin and very fat goats) are assessed, as these can be related to welfare problems. A goat with a body condition score which indicates that she is thin is not meeting the nutritional demands of her body. This may be as a result of feed quality or quantity, access to feed or disease. Thin animals may suffer from chronic hunger, discomfort (especially in hard cubicles with few straw), are predisposed to health issues (metabolic, infectious and physical) and are more likely to have reduced fertility.

A goat with a body condition score that indicates that she is 'fat' is overweight. Fat goats are at risk of dystocia (difficulty calving), more likely to develop metabolic diseases such as ketosis, fatty liver disease and milk fever and are prone to mastitis, lameness and infertility.

### Cleanliness

In general goats, given the choice, will choose to lie in clean dry areas. Dirtiness (faeces/mud) on the coat can provide optimal conditions for ectoparasites (particularly blow fly), increase the risk of disease and cause issues at or prior to slaughter. Areas of dirt on different regions of the goat's body are as a result of different causes and can affect welfare in different ways. Dirtiness around the hind quarter is most likely to be caused by loose faeces which can result from dietary change, parasites, illness or nutritional imbalances. Dirtiness on the belly or legs maybe more linked with environmental issues, such as wet ground, poached areas, dirty bedding (if housed).

### Hair loss/coat condition

Hair and coat condition should not be assessed during the moulting season.

Coat condition is usually associated with health or nutritional problems or the presence of parasites. Goats with poor coats and hair are generally thin (low BCS) and may be suffering from chronic diseases such as pneumonia or with mineral imbalances.



Hairless patches indicate repeated rubbing or irritation, ectoparasite presence or previous injuries (scars). Neck hair loss or lesions tend to indicate either a problem with the feed barrier or feed trough. If the feed space is not designed appropriately then goats will repeatedly rub their necks causing damage, pain and a possible reduction in feed intake. Feed barriers need to be placed at the correct height and create the right angle for the type of feed trough. Where feed is fed without a trough it must be regularly pushed up in order to prevent over reaching and continual pressure on the necks.

### **Abscess, lesions or swellings**

The presence of abscesses is most often associated with chronic contagious diseases called caseous lymphadenitis. These abscesses usually coincide with superficial lymph nodes. Other less common causes in goats are infected wounds or injection sites.

Lesions indicate skin damage and in some cases of the underlying tissues. Small areas of skin damage and swelling may be inevitable but areas with lesions or swellings larger than 2 cm may give reason for concern.

Lesions and swellings can be as a result of lack of bedding material, similar poor building design and maintenance, feed trough or barrier design, damaged gates or fences or goat interactions like horn thrusts.

Swelling of the carpus and hocks is often a symptom of CAE (caprine arthritis encephalitis) a chronic incurable disease.

The location of abscesses, lesions and swellings is important in determining the likely causes of them. Neck swellings and hair loss or lesions tend to indicate either a problem with the feed barrier or feed trough. If the feed space is not designed appropriately then goats will repeatedly rub their necks causing damage, pain and a possible reduction in feed intake. Feed barriers need to be placed at the correct height and create the right angle for the type of feed trough. Where feed is fed without a trough it must be regularly pushed up in order to prevent over reaching and continual pressure on the necks.

### **Udder conditions including mastitis**

Asymmetry is the most prevalent udder problem in goats and it relates to infection and inflammation of the mammary gland. It is associated with pain and discomfort. It can vary in severity from being a fairly mild easily curable case to a severe life threatening toxic case.

### **Goats needing further care**

Further care could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved or altered housing or feeding or level of attention and care. Animals in this category may be showing signs of respiratory illness (coughing), poor coat condition, discharges from the eyes or nose, signs of diarrhoea, etc.

### **Goats needing immediate care**

Any animal that is clearly sick or injured must be provided immediately with the necessary treatment and care, regardless of whether it is a cull animal or not. Goats that are sick or injured and not receiving



adequate attention are suffering pain, discomfort and distress. This not only compromises their welfare but also reduces their likelihood and speed of recovery, increases the risk of disease spreading and reduces the productivity. Goats falling into this category are likely to be severely lame or suffering from severe lesions or abscesses.

### **Kids – overall health**

Un-weaned kids can suffer from a range of infections which can lead to rapid dehydration, loss of vigour, recumbency and death. Animals that are not able to feed for any reason also show similar symptoms.

### **Kids – diarrhoea**

Signs include watery or sticky faeces which contaminate and soil the hair. Causes can include a range of infections and parasites (internal worms). Accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment – including rehydration – are important to prevent suffering and death.

### **Mortality**

Every farmer has to record the number of born kids and the number of dead animals.

Common reasons for mortality include infectious diseases (particularly scour and pneumonia), congenital abnormalities, injuries, parasite burdens, difficult birth and metabolic imbalances. All these have the potential to negatively affect welfare and result in significant financial costs through treatment, reduced growth rates, labour and losses. Lower mortality rates can be achieved by avoiding ill health, through good stockmanship, suitable housing and bedding, adequate nutrition, biosecurity and appropriate vaccination protocols. Sufficient colostrum intake, navel dipping and close observation are all key in avoiding losses whilst parasite control, good stock handling, good nutrition and avoidance of extremes of body condition are all important. Young kids can die very fast by infections but the older they become the more rare cases of death should be. High rates of dead animals may be an indicator of failings in management as sick animals are not identified and treated in time. If reasons of death are known, they should be recorded



## C: Small ruminants: sheep

### General remarks

- To be complete in all inspections, at a minimum of once a year.
- Where non-compliance related to animal welfare have been issued, follow up inspection by a welfare/ small ruminant specialist inspector is required within appropriate time scale.
- Inspections can be announced or unannounced. If non-compliances have been issued at previous inspection then unannounced inspection should be favoured.
- Inspectors must complete one checklist for each species; if there are differences in the protocol for one species (e.g. adults and lambs) a checklist must be filled out for each group separately.
- Inspectors should provide detailed comments and photos to provide evidence of the condition of the animals assessed. This is particularly crucial if non-compliances have been issued against welfare standards.
- Inspectors are encouraged to provide further detailed comment regards the welfare state of the animals assessed. These comments can include positive remarks about good care, husbandry and health.
- If animals are not in good health or maintenance but are being treated, this should be written down but is not a non – compliance.
- For inspector health and safety regards rams should be considered, assessment should be at a safe distance. This may be from outside the pen if required.

### Biosecurity and hygiene measures for inspector

Ensure clean boots and clothing (wear overalls and shoe cover where needed)

If boots become soiled during inspection ensure not to walk on and contaminate feed

Assess youngest animals first, then in order of age or health risk.

Wash hands after the visit.



### **Overall animal observations (after a short period to allow the animals to setting (c. 3 minutes)**

Assess the response of the animals to the stockman.

Look for animals in corners that may be sick or hiding or lambing.

Listen to the overall demeanour of the flock (coughing, vocalising).

### **Overall assessment of housing, feed and water provision**

Check if there are sufficient feed spaces for all animals to feed together.

Check if there are sufficient lying spaces for all animals to lie down together.

Check if there is sufficient, clean bedding.

Check if there is a sufficient loafing area/access passages that allows good animal flow with no dead ends. The layout needs to allow animals to move freely and permit access to feed/water/lying area.

Check if there are sufficient water troughs.

Check if water troughs are clean and functioning with sufficient flow to ensure continuous supply.

Check the quality of the feed by touch and smell to ensure it is fresh and palatable (not rancid or mouldy).

Assess the shed/stable interior for sharp edges, broken gates/fencing that could cause injury.

Ensure that light levels are sufficient (allowing animals to be easily assessed). If light levels are insufficient the inspector should use a torch/headlamp to ensure a full inspection can be carried out.

Assess the air quality for ammonia and dust levels.



## Assessment protocol - Sheep

Step 1. Assessment - all sheep on farm	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lameness</li> <li>2. Body condition score</li> <li>3. Cleanliness</li> <li>4. Fleece loss/quality</li> <li>5. Abscess, lesions and swellings</li> <li>6. Tail docking (docked short)</li> <li>7. Sheep needing further care (e.g. nasal discharge, respiratory problems)</li> <li>8. Sheep needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed across <b>all groups on farm</b>, including breeding animals, followers, lambs and rams, also animals, due to leave the farm.</li> <li>• From observations record if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 1. Assessment in addition for all pre-weaned lambs on farm	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Overall health</li> <li>10. Diarrhoea</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed across <b>all groups of pre-weaned lambs on farm</b></li> <li>• From observations record if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 2. Assessment – sub group	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lameness</li> <li>2. Body condition score</li> <li>3. Cleanliness</li> <li>4. Fleece loss/quality</li> <li>5. Abscess, lesions and swellings</li> <li>6. Tail docking (docked short)</li> <li>7. Sheep needing further care (e.g. nasal discharge, respiratory problems)</li> <li>8. Sheep needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a sub group based on level of concern. If no group is of concern select the largest, easily accessible group.</li> <li>• Assess a sample of randomly selected animals. A minimum sample of 20 sheep or if less than 20 animals in the group, all animals should be assessed. When possible or if there is concern about the welfare status of the flock/subgroup a larger sample should be assessed based on sample table below*. (<i>sample size selection to be further agreed by control bodies</i>)</li> <li>• Based on that sample report if               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## Records measures

11. Mortality
- From records.

**\*Best practice sample size for individual assessment of sample group (taken from AWIN 2015 Sheep protocol minimum sample size**

Farm size – number adult ewes	Sample size to score	Farm size – number adult ewes	Sample size to score	Farm size – number adult ewes	Sample size to score
<15	All animals	80-81	37	450-499	58
15-19	13	90-99	39	500-599	59
20-24	16	100-124	41	600-699	60
25-29	19	125-149	44	700-799	61
30-34	21	150-174	47	800-899	62
35-39	24	175-199	49	900-1099	63
40-44	26	200-224	51	1100-1299	64
45-49	28	225-249	53	1300-1699	65
50-59	29	250-299	54	>1700	66
60-69	32	300-349	56		
70-79	35	350-449	57		

## 1. Lameness

Assess the individual sheep by watching them walk.

### Scoring:

**0 = Good/Imperfect mobility**

Walks with even weight bearing and rhythm on all four feet, with a flat back; long fluid strides possible; or steps uneven (rhythm or weight bearing) or strides shortened; affected limb/s not immediately identifiable.

**1 = Lamé**

Lamé sheep display an uneven walking rhythm. They may also show shortened strides and obvious head nods when moving. One or more limbs may be only partially weight bearing and or rested when standing. They may be reluctant to stand and graze whilst on their “knees” (carpus).

**2 = Severely lame - NO weight bearing on one or more limbs**

One or more limbs to be bearing no weight and or rested when standing. They may be reluctant to stand and graze whilst on their “knees” (carpus).



## 2. Body condition score

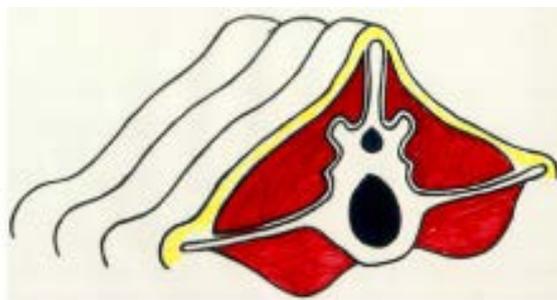
- i. This will only be possible if the sheep are contained and can be easily caught to allow a physical assessment or are recently shorn and a confident visual assessment can be made. If possible feel the spine in the centre of the sheep back, behind its last rib and in front of its hip bone. Feel for the tips of the transverse processes, feel for fullness of muscle and fat cover.
- ii. If flock is fully fleeced record if any obviously thin or fat sheep seen across the whole flock.

### Scoring:

**0 = Moderate/good (BCS 2 – 4)**

**1 = Thin (BCS <2)**

In animals with BCS less than 2, the spinous processes are sharp and prominent. Loin eye muscle has little/no fat cover. Transverse processes are sharp and fingers can pass under ends.



Images kindly supplied by AWIN

**2 = Fat (BCS >4)**

Spinous processes can only be detected with pressure if at all. Transverse processes cannot be felt. Loin eye muscle is full with fat cover. Spine is only detected as a line.



Images kindly supplied by AWIN

### 3. Cleanliness

Assess the whole flock for sheep seen with a dirty fleece. Visual assessment of one side and behind.

**Scoring:**

**0 = Clean**

No dirt or only minor splashing present.

**1 = Dirty**

An area of dirtiness (fresh and old mud or slurry) larger than hand size (10 x 15cm) and or diffuse soiling



Image kindly supplied by AssureWel

**Very Dirty**

**2 =** An area of dirtiness (fresh and old mud or slurry) larger than forearm length (40cm) in any dimension and or diffuse soiling.



#### 4. Fleece loss and quality

Assess the whole flock for sheep seen with fleece loss or suffering from poor fleece condition. Visual assessment of one side and behind.

**Scoring:**

**0 = No fleece loss/good quality**

**1 = Moderate fleece loss/quality**

One or more bald areas larger than hand size (10x15cm) in any dimension on the body  
Additionally, including some lumpy wool and plucked wool



**2 = Severe fleece loss/poor quality**

One or more bald areas larger than a forearm length (40cm) in any dimension on the body  
Additionally, including severe lumpy/thickened wool and obvious irritation/evidence of ectoparasites



Image kindly supplied by AssureWel

#### 5. Abscess, lesion or swelling

Assess the whole flock for sheep with abscesses, lesions and swellings  $\geq 2$ cm  
Visually assess from a distance not exceeding 2 m.

**Scoring:**

**0 = No abscess, lesion or swelling**

No sign of abscess or lesion or swelling  $\geq 2$ cm diameter.



- 1 = Abscess, lesion or swelling**  
Any abscess  
Lesions  $\geq$  2cm diameter or  
Swellings  $\geq$  2cm in diameter

## 6. Tail docking (docked short)

Assess the whole flock for sheep seen where the tail has been docked short, i.e. the tail is over shortened or almost not present (e.g. the vulva and anus is not covered by the remaining tail).



image kindly supplied by AWIN

## 7. Sheep needing further care

Assess the whole flock. Record and comment on the number animals that would benefit from further assessment and intervention. Further interventions could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved/alterred housing/feeding or level of attention and care.

E.g. animals with respiratory symptoms, include nasal or ocular discharge; signs of diarrhoea, overgrown hoofs, overall ill health.

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

## 8. Sheep needing immediate care

Assess the whole flock. Record and comment on the number of any sick or injured animals that would benefit from further immediate intervention. Further interventions could include immediate further treatment, hospitalisation (i.e. removal from the main herd) or culling.

E.g. severely lame sheep, severe lesions or suffering flystrike

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**



## 9. Lambs – overall health

Assess un weaned lambs for overall health and level of hydration

**Scoring:**

- 0 = Healthy (well hydrated)**
- 1 = Dehydrated**
- 2 = Needing further treatment or euthanasia**

## 10. Lambs – diarrhoea

Assess un weaned lambs for signs of diarrhoea

**Scoring:**

- 0 = No signs of diarrhoea**
- 1 = Lamb with diarrhoea**



## 11. Mortality

Record the number of losses for the previous 12 months for the following categories:

- a. 0 – 48 hours – all lambs including still born
- b. 48 hours – 90 days – all lambs
- c. Older than 90 days

This record should include all unplanned culls, animals found dead and animals euthanized on farm

If the inspector has anything else to remark about animal welfare in the herd he may note it here by “other matters”:



## Explanation of indicators

### Lameness

Lameness is one of the greatest welfare challenges currently facing the sheep sector. Whilst there are other non-contagious causes of lameness, a major cause of sheep lameness is infection (footrot, scald or CODD). Lameness is not only in considerable discomfort and pain, but is also predisposed to further disease challenges (e.g. metabolic imbalances, mastitis), reduced fertility, weight loss and are a risk of infection to the rest of the flock. Early recognition, investigation and treatment of any lame animal is essential to limit pain, aid recovery and minimise the spread of disease. It is important for farmers to identify the causes of lameness present in order that appropriate treatment protocols and future prevention strategies can be developed.

### Body condition

Body condition scoring is a technique for assessing the condition of livestock and should be carried out at regular intervals. Its purpose is to achieve a balance between economic feeding, good production and good welfare. Whilst body condition will vary throughout a lambing year, ensuring ewes and rams are at the correct score for the system and the time of year has a positive impact on fertility and health (e.g. reducing metabolic and other disease incidence) and lamb performance. Ewes and rams should be palpated manually in order to body condition score throughout the year so that target scores can be achieved for tupping, lambing, mid lactation and weaning. Visually assessing body condition score (as carried out in the AWARE protocol) is unlikely to reflect as accurate a score (particularly when animals are fully fleeced) when compared to manual palpation. However, body condition is so fundamental to sheep welfare that it needed be included within the protocol despite the limitations of an assessor being unable to manually palpate the sheep during a farm visit. Instead it has been accepted that whilst there may be significant underscoring of this measure it will help identify some very thin animals.

### Cleanliness

In general sheep, given the choice, will choose to lie in clean dry areas. Dirtiness (faeces/mud) on the fleece can provide optimal conditions for ectoparasites (particularly blow fly), increase the risk of disease and cause issues at or prior to slaughter. Areas of dirt on different regions of the sheep's body are as a result of different causes and can affect welfare in different ways. Dirtiness around the hind quarter is most likely to be caused by loose faeces which can result from dietary change, parasites, illness or nutritional imbalances. Dirtiness on the belly or legs maybe more linked with environmental issues, such as wet ground, poached areas, stubble grazing, dirty bedding (if sheep housed) and this can lead to thermo-discomfort and an increased risk of lameness and mastitis.

### Fleece loss and quality

Areas of fleece loss can be the result of several causes. Some breeds of sheep (e.g. Easy-care) naturally shed their fleece as the weather warms and therefore at certain times of year these sheep may show fleece

loss. In other breeds and at other times of year fleece loss can be caused by a period of stress (serious illness, parasite burden, malnutrition etc.) which may cause wool slip, injury, external parasites, skin infections (e.g. lumpy wool), poor handling or be a result of environmental hazards such as gateways, feeders or housing. Whilst fleece loss could potentially have an effect on thermoregulation it is the cause that is likely to compromise sheep welfare. This measure is therefore an indicator for issues.

### **Abscess, lesions or swellings**

Assessment of these conditions in sheep with full fleece can be difficult, but for some breeds and at some times of year assessment is possible. Lesions and swellings all demonstrate some form of damage to the skin and in some cases the underlying tissues. Occasional small areas of skin damage or swelling may be inevitable amongst a flock of sheep but areas larger than 2cm may give reason for concern.

Bald patches indicate repeated rubbing or irritation, ectoparasite presence or previous injuries (scars). Lesions indicate skin damage and can be as a result of poor management, poor building or cubicle design and maintenance, damaged gates or fences or sheep interactions. Swellings can be as a result of similar poor cubicle design or maintenance, feed trough or barrier design, abscesses, cysts or injection sites. The location of lesions, hair loss and swellings is important in determining the likely causes of them.

### **Tail docking (docked short)**

Tails are docked to keep the sheep region of the anus clean. This area being dirty by faeces there is a very high risk of myiasis, that means flies lay their eggs in some wrinkles and the maggots intrude in the sheep's skin. That is very harmful for the sheep, but a tail too short cannot protect anus and vulva.

For tail docking sufficient tail must remain to cover the anus of male sheep and the vulva of female sheep. Many farmers are moving away from both tail docking, realising that they can manage their flocks without the need for this.

### **Sheep needing further care**

Further care could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved or altered housing or feeding or level of attention and care. Animals in this category may be showing signs of respiratory illness (coughing), poor fleece condition, discharges from the eyes or nose, signs of diarrhoea, etc.

### **Sheep needing immediate care**

Any animal that is clearly sick or injured must be provided immediately with the necessary treatment and care regardless of whether it is a cull animal or not. Sheep that are sick or injured and not receiving adequate attention are suffering pain, discomfort and distress. This not only compromises their welfare but also reduces their likelihood and speed of recovery, increases the risk of disease spreading and reduces the productivity. Sheep falling into this category are likely to be severely lame or suffering from flystrike or acute diseases.



### **Lambs – overall health**

Un-weaned lambs can suffer from a range of infections which can lead to rapid dehydration, loss of vigour, recumbency and death. Animals that are not able to feed for any reason also show similar symptoms.

### **Lambs – diarrhoea**

Signs include watery or sticky faeces which contaminate and soil the fleece. Causes can include a range of infections and parasites (internal worms). Accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment – including rehydration – are important to prevent suffering and death.

### **Mortality**

Every farmer has to record the number of born lambs and the number of dead animals.

Common reasons for mortality include infectious diseases (particularly scour and pneumonia), congenital abnormalities, injuries, parasite burdens, difficult lambings and metabolic imbalances. All these have the potential to negatively affect welfare and result in significant financial costs through treatment, reduced growth rates, labour and losses. Lower mortality rates can be achieved by avoiding ill health, through good stockmanship, suitable housing and bedding, adequate nutrition, biosecurity and appropriate vaccination protocols. Sufficient colostrum intake, navel dipping and close observation are all key in avoiding lamb losses (in particular if sheep are lambed indoors) whilst parasite control, good stock handling, good nutrition and appropriate body condition are all important. Young lambs can die very fast by infections but the older they become the scarcer cases of death should be. High rates of dead animals may be an indicator of failings in management as sick animals are not identified and treated in time. If reasons of death are known, they should be recorded



## D: Pigs

### General remarks

- To be complete in all inspections, at a minimum of once a year.
- Where non-compliance related to animal welfare have been issued, follow up inspection by a welfare/ pig specialist inspector is required within appropriate time scale.
- Inspections can be announced or unannounced. If non-compliances have been issued at previous inspection then unannounced inspection should be favoured.
- Inspectors must complete one checklist for each species; if there are differences in the protocol for one species (e.g. sows and fattening pigs) a checklist must be filled out for each group separately.
- Inspectors should provide detailed comments and photos to provide evidence of the condition of the animals assessed. This is particularly crucial if non-compliances have been issued against welfare standards.
- Inspectors are encouraged to provide further detailed comment regards the welfare state of the animals assessed. These comments can include positive remarks about good care, husbandry and health.
- If animals are not in good health or maintenance but are being treated, this should be written down but is not a non – compliance.
- For inspector health and safety regards boars should be considered, assessment should be at a safe distance. This may be from outside the pen if required.

### Biosecurity and hygiene measures for inspector

Ensure clean boots and clothing (wear overalls and shoe cover where needed)

Assess youngest animals first, then in order of age or health risk.

Wash hands after the visit.



### **Overall animal observations (after a short period to allow the animals to setting (c. 3 minutes)**

Assess the response of the animals to the stockman.

Look for animals **not** demonstrating normal behaviour (eating and drinking, rooting, resting and sleeping and social play behaviour) that may be sick or bullied. Look for fighting and excessive mounting behaviour.

Listen to the overall demeanour of the herd (coughing, vocalising).

### **Overall assessment of housing, feed and water provision**

Check if there are sufficient feed spaces for all animals to feed together and that troughs are clean and in good condition (e.g. no sharp edges).

Check the quality of the feed by touch and smell to ensure it is fresh and palatable.

Check if there is sufficient lying space for all animals to lie down together.

Check if there is sufficient, clean bedding.

Check if there are sufficient water troughs.

Check if water troughs are clean and functioning with sufficient flow to ensure continuous supply.

Assess housing (arks/pens) for sharp edges, broken gates/fencing that could cause injury.

Ensure that indoor light levels are sufficient (allowing animals to be easily assessed). If light levels are insufficient the inspector should use a torch/headlamp to ensure that a full inspection can be carried out.

Assess the air quality for ammonia and dust levels in housing.



## Assessment protocol - Pigs

Step 1. Assessment - all pigs on farm	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lameness</li> <li>2. Body condition score</li> <li>3. Injuries</li> <li>4. Skin condition</li> <li>5. Pigs needing further care (e.g. nasal discharge, respiratory problems)</li> <li>6. Pigs needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed across <b>all groups on farm</b>, including breeding animals, followers, piglets and boars, also animals, due to leave the farm.</li> <li>• From observations record if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 2. Assessment – sub group	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lameness</li> <li>2. Body condition score</li> <li>3. Injuries</li> <li>4. Skin condition</li> <li>5. Pigs needing further care (e.g. nasal discharge, respiratory problems)</li> <li>6. Pigs needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a sub group based on level of concern. If no group is of concern select the largest, easily accessible group.</li> <li>• Assess a sample of 20 animals within that group or if less than 20 animals in the group, all animals should be assessed. When possible or if there is concern about the welfare status of the herd/subgroup a larger sample should be assessed (<i>sample size selection to be further agreed by control bodies</i>)</li> <li>• Based on that sample report if               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Records measures	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Mortality</li> <li>8. Slaughter house measures</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From records.</li> </ul>

## 1. Lameness

Assess the individual pigs by watching them walk. Make the individual pigs rise if necessary to observe them up and walking.

### Scoring:

**0 = Not lame**

**1 = Lame**

When identifying lame pigs, include those which are:

- Standing but not bearing full weight on the affected limb and/or appears to be standing on its toes; and / or
- Walking with a shortened stride with minimum weight-bearing on the affected limb and a swagger of the hindquarters (may still be able to trot and gallop); and / or
- Severely lame with no weight-bearing on the affected limb.

*Do not include pigs that are showing only stiffness or uneven gait.*

## 2. Body condition score

Assess all pigs. View the pig from behind and beside the pig and assess the body condition visually only. Look especially at hip, the spine and tuber ischii and assess, if bones are easily visible and prominent.

### Scoring:

**0 = Moderate/good (BCS 3 – 4)**

**1 = Thin (score 1 – 2)**

The animal is visibly thin with prominent hip, tuber ischii and spine with minimal fat cover. In a group of growing/finishing pigs the most obvious indicator is a prominent spine. The sow is visibly thin, with hips and backbone very prominent with no fat cover.

**2 = Fat (score 4 and 5)**

When looking from behind the animal is looking rounded with fat covering the tail head area and down to the thigh. It is impossible to see the tuber ischium and the hip bone (tuber coxae) at all.

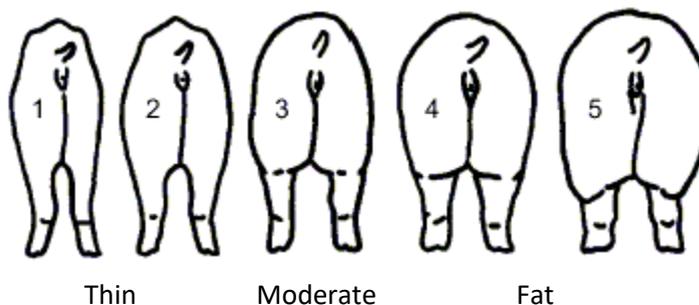


Image kindly supplied by AssureWel

### 3. Injuries

Visually assess **one** side of the animal only and record injury occurring on head, neck, sides, tail, hindquarters and additionally with sow's udder and vulva.

**Scoring:**

**0 = No injury**

**1 = Injury**

Injury includes **lesions, any swellings** (to include inflammation in the udder (mastitis), and **hernia**. Record a linear lesion longer than 10cm; or 3 or more 3cm lesions; or a circular area larger than 1x1 cm is seen. Definition of lesion includes grazed/broken skin, fresh (i.e. bleeding) wounds and healing lesions (scabs). Scar tissue is not included.

Typical fight lesions show parallel lines while lesions from flank biting are generally round.

Lesion on the tails and ears as a result of biting should be carefully looked for. Pig should be assessed from behind. Investigate carefully if the tail is swollen or shorter than normal and for scabs and lesions. Any identified injury to tails should be recorded.



Additionally, carefully check ears or signs of biting wounds. Any identified injury to ears should be recorded.



#### 4. Skin condition

Visually assess **one** side of the animal only and record any occurrence of skin condition:

**Scoring:**

**0 = Good skin condition**

**1 = Poor skin condition**

**sunburn** (such as reddening, oedema, scabs and peeling of the skin) **or signs of mange** (which may include either little red spots all over the body of growing pigs or in sows reddish/brownish scabs behind or in the ear) or other **ectoparasites**.



#### 5. Pigs needing further care

Assess the whole herd. Record and comment on the number of animals that would benefit from further assessment and intervention. Further interventions could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved/alterred housing/feeding or level of attention and care.

E.g. animals with respiratory symptoms, include nasal or ocular discharge; signs of diarrhoea, parasites overall ill health.

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

#### 6. Pigs needing immediate care

Assess the whole flock. Record and comment on the number of any sick or injured animals that would benefit from further immediate intervention. Further interventions could include immediate further treatment,



hospitalisation (i.e. removal from the main herd) or culling.

E.g. severely lame pigs, severe lesions from fighting

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

## 7. Mortality

Check farm records and record the number of losses for the previous 12 months for the following categories:

- a. 0 – 48 hours – all piglets including still born
- b. 48 hours – weaning – all piglets
- c. Post weaning finishers and sows

This record should include all unplanned culls, animals found dead and animals euthanized on farm

## 8. Slaughter house measures

Where available obtain post slaughter records:

- a. Number of condemned carcasses
- b. Number of carcasses identified with liver condition
- c. Number of carcasses identified with lung condition

If the inspector has anything else to remark about animal welfare in the herd he may note it here by “other matters”:



## Explanation of indicators

### Lameness

Lameness is a sign that an animal is in pain and is therefore considered a serious welfare issue. Lameness in pigs can be due to injury or infection in the foot or joint, or to longer term skeletal and joint problems such as osteochondrosis. Osteochondrosis is caused by cartilage damage in the joint and can be due to fast growth. Under foot conditions are a key risk factor for the development of foot lesions. There is an increased risk of abnormal gait in sows housed on slatted floors compared with sows housed on solid concrete floors with straw bedding or sows housed outdoors on soil. There is also an increased risk of callus or bursitis on the hocks as lame pigs spend more time lying increasing the risk of limb lesions developing. Routine monitoring of pigs to identify lame pigs is key to identifying early cases for isolation and treatment, enabling rapid recovery.

### Body condition

Score 1 and 2: The animal is visibly thin with prominent hip, tuber ischii and spine with minimal fat cover. The hip bones and backbone are easily felt without pressure on the palms.

Score 3: It takes firm pressure with the palm to feel the hip bones and backbone.

Score 4: it is impossible to feel the bones at all even with pressure on the palm of the hands.

Score 5: the vertical processes are only detectable as a line the ends of horizontal processes cannot be felt. The loin muscles are full and have a thick covering of fat.

Regular body condition scoring of pigs can identify suboptimal feed, health and environmental management of sows during previous lactation or during pregnancy. Good stockmanship should take into consideration the nutritional needs of every pig as serious weight loss may be difficult to regain, especially in group feeding systems. Sows with poor body condition produce litters with low birth and weaning weights and are likely to have smaller subsequent litters; they are at increased risk of shoulder lesions and may display increased stereotypic behaviour. Fat sows may suffer from leg weakness, increasing the risk of injury and are at increased risk of certain diseases including Mastitis Metritis Agalactia.

Preferably in piglets or fattening pigs a group should be homogenous. Thin animals should be held in a separate group so they are not subdued by fatter ones. Often thin pigs are runts who suffer from endoparasites or diseases.

### Injuries

Occasional small lesions, swellings, injuries or scratches may be inevitable. But **for sows and fattening pigs** one **swelling or** linear lesion longer than 10cm or 3 or more linear lesions of 3 cm length or a circular area larger than 1x1 cm may give reason for concern, for piglets also smaller areas.

Every kind of swelling or injury fresh or healing should be recorded. That can be wounds at the ears, the tail, the flanks, the udder, the vulva, the penis or any other part of the body.

Injuries may cause pain and discomfort. There is a risk they become infectious and by that more painful or cause fever and the pig becomes generally sick.

Besides of that injuries can be an indicator for management problems or behavioural disorders in a group of pigs who for example don't get sufficient enrichment in the pen. Swellings due to an abscess, bursitis, hernia, or by other reasons may also cause pain and discomfort and can be an indicator of management problems like lack of bedding material.

Tail biting is an abnormal behaviour which indicates a reduced opportunity to perform foraging and exploratory behaviour and can also occur when pigs are frustrated. Tail biting is a serious welfare concern as it is painful for the receiver and can lead to internal abscesses and infection. Tail biting may also be stressful for the group, indicating frustration and reduced welfare in the biting pig. Condemnations resulting from tail biting can result in significant financial losses.

Ear and flank biting behaviour has a similar aetiology to that of tail biting, indicating that the environment is insufficient to meet the behavioural and / or physiological needs of the pig, for example a lack of sufficient manipulable substrate or insufficient space. The presence of lesions is likely to be associated with pain and may additionally provide a route to infection.

Body marks are primarily caused by aggressive interactions between pigs, but may also be caused by a poorly designed environment. Aggressive interactions, fear and the wounds associated with fighting are considered detrimental to the welfare of the pig. The location and type of body marks present and any obvious patterns on pigs within a pen can help identify risk factors and appropriate action to reduce these risks in the future. For example: wounds of the head and shoulder are associated with fights for social rank particularly in a restrictive environment that limits effective dispersal and the display of appropriate submissive behaviour; those of the rear with competition for food and lesions on the back may be caused by persistent mounting behaviour. There is a general trend for an increased risk of limb and body lesions in sows housed on slatted floors.

The aggressive interactions associated with body marks result in energy expenditure and therefore poorer feed conversion. Lesions of the ear and shoulder are associated with the greatest reduction in growth and may result in a greater impact on productivity.

Shoulder lesions at sows are likely to be painful, are usually present for a prolonged period and often recur. They are caused when a thin sow is lying for a longer period on hard floor and may be a swelling or an open wound. They indicate that aspects of housing, feeding or management of the sow are suboptimal, that levels of comfort are poor and suggest the presence of a long-term welfare issue.

Vulva lesions are painful and can become infected. Sows bite each other for competition of food, restricted water access, low feed levels and inadequate roughage in the diet.

### **Skin condition**

Pigs with poor skin condition show reddening, oedema, scabs and peeling. Often the skin is itching and pigs have scratches caused by rubbing themselves. Skin diseases in the pig can be broadly divided into two categories, specific infections or conditions that only infect the skin and those that are signs of more



generalised disease. The most common forms of skin conditions are greasy pig disease, mange, necrosis, vesicular diseases and sunburn. The first four diseases have a significant impact on the pig's health and welfare and cause poor growth. Sunburn can be painful and cause irritation of the skin in outdoor pigs that do not have access to adequate shade and wallowing during summer months. Cracked and abraded skin may provide a route for infection. In every case the pigs should be treated.

### **Pigs needing further care**

Further care could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved or altered housing or feeding or level of attention and care. Animals in this category may be showing signs of respiratory illness (coughing), lameness, discharges from the eyes or nose, signs of diarrhoea, parasites, tail biting etc.

### **Pigs needing immediate care**

A sick or injured pig has compromised welfare and best practice is to alleviate suffering when necessary through euthanasia or treatment in a dry, comfortably bedded hospital pen following consultation with a veterinary surgeon. Pigs which may benefit from being in a hospital pen include those who are sick, injured or lame and are unable to compete for resources, those being bullied or tail bitten or that would benefit from access to bedding that is more comfortable than that available in the pen. A high prevalence of pigs that need to be housed in hospital pens may indicate a disease problem.

### **Mortality**

Mortality includes pigs that have died and those that have been culled prematurely on welfare grounds due to chronic injury or disease. Young piglets can die very fast by infections or crushed to death by the sow. The older the pigs become the more scarce cases of death should be.

High levels of mortality and culling rates within a herd may suggest suboptimal management, inadequate environmental conditions or disease challenge, amongst others. In sows, the major contributors to culling include lameness and poor reproductive performance. Good stockmanship, husbandry, housing, nutrition, health and welfare planning and regular monitoring and early detection of pigs in need of further care can minimise the number of pig deaths.

If reasons of death are known, they should be recorded.

### **Slaughter house measures**

Many slaughter houses provide formal feedback on the number of condemned carcasses, liver conditions and lung conditions.

They can give very important information about the health status like pneumonia, pleuritis or endoparasites. This data should be made available at the inspection. If the farm is well managed when a high number of livers are condemned the farmer gives the pigs an endoparasite treatment



## E: Laying hens

### General remarks

- To be complete in all inspections, at a minimum of once a year.
- Where non-compliance related to animal welfare have been issued, follow up inspection by a welfare/ poultry specialist inspector is required within appropriate time scale.
- Inspections can be announced or unannounced. If non-compliances have been issued at previous inspection then unannounced inspection should be favoured.
- Inspectors must complete one checklist for each species; if there are differences in the protocol for one species (e.g. pullets and laying hens) a checklist must be filled out for each group separately.
- Inspectors should provide detailed comments and photos to provide evidence of the condition of the animals assessed. This is particularly crucial if non-compliances have been issued against welfare standards.
- Inspectors are encouraged to provide further detailed comment regards the welfare state of the birds assessed. Further observations could include dirtiness of poultry or presence and number of cockerels for example. Also, the thermal comfort of the birds, is there evidence of birds panting (hot) or huddling (cold)? These comments can include positive remarks about good care, husbandry and health.
- If animals are not in good health or maintenance but are being treated, this should be written down but is not a non – compliance.

### Biosecurity and hygiene measures for inspector

Ensure clean boots and clothing (wear overalls and shoe covers where needed). Additionally, follow any on farm biosecurity requirements and protocols.

Assess youngest flocks first, then in order of age or health risk.

Wash hands after the visit.



### **Overall flock observations (after a short period to allow the animals to settle (c. 3 minutes))**

Assess the response of the birds to the stockman, for example if a flock appears nervous and flighty it may indicate they are not walked regularly.

Listen to the overall demeanour of the flocks (vocalising, this could include content chatter, alarm calling, loud squawks from aggressive pecking or injurious feather pulling).

Record flock details such as size, age, if they are moulting, breed and average production. Additionally, if they have had any disease challenges or issues with feed quality.

Record pullet sourcing details – home bred, bought in (where from, what age, does the farmer visit the raiser before placement and details of placement/transition preparation).

### **Overall assessment of housing, feed and water provision**

Check if there are sufficient feeding places for all birds to have easy access.

Check if feeders are clean and functioning.

Check if there are sufficient drinkers for all birds to have easy access.

Check if drinkers are clean and functioning.

Assess the litter provision. Consider the area, type and condition (friability/capped areas) of litter provided.

Ensure that light levels are sufficient (allowing animals to be easily assessed) and investigate the lighting plan if artificial light provided.

Assess the air quality for ammonia and dust levels in housing.

Assess the perching provision. Consider the provision of aerial perching. Consider length, height, type and position of perches.

Assess housing for sharp edges, broken slats, ramps, equipment that could cause injury or birds to become trapped.

Look for evidence of red mite.

Assess the quality of the range and access to the range. Vegetation cover, overhead shelter (natural and artificial), additional resources (log piles, cover crops, other livestock on the range), number pop-holes and ground conditions around pop-holes).



## Assessment protocol – Laying hens

Step 1. Assessment - all hens on farm	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feather loss</li> <li>2. Birds needing further care (e.g. injuries, pale combs, dirty vent, respiratory problems)</li> <li>3. Birds needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed across <b>all flocks on farm</b></li> <li>• From observations record if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 2. Assessment – sub group	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feather loss</li> <li>2. Birds needing further care (e.g. injuries, pale combs, dirty vent, respiratory problems)</li> <li>3. Birds needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> <li>4. <i>Head conditions</i></li> <li>5. <i>Foot abnormalities</i></li> <li>6. <i>Keel bones</i></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a sub flock based on level of concern. If no flock is of concern select the oldest flock.</li> <li>• <i>Sub group 1:</i> Assess a randomly selected sample of <b>50 birds</b> within that group to <b>visually assess</b> for feather loss and birds needing further or immediate care.</li> <li>• <i>Sub group 2:</i> Select a second sub group of <b>25 birds</b> at random within the house and pen them to assess each bird for head conditions, foot abnormalities and keel bone damage, along with closer assessment of the other measures.</li> <li>• If you pen more than 25 birds then select 25 birds at random for assessment. <b>Birds are required to be picked up to assess for these measures, this should be done by the farmer.</b> If picking up birds is not possible post slaughter data should be reviewed where available for foot abnormalities and keel bone damage.</li> <li>• Based on that sample report if               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Records measures	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Mortality</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From records.</li> </ul>



## 1. Feather loss

Assess birds for feather damage, visually assess the whole hen giving particular attention to head, neck, back and vent areas. If handling the birds for sub group also include assessment of the breast and underside of the bird.

### Scoring:

**0 = No/Minimal feather loss**

No bare skin visible, no or slight wear, only single feathers missing.

**1 = Slight feather loss**

Moderate wear, damaged feathers or 2 or more adjacent feathers missing up to bare skin visible < 5cm maximum dimension.

**2 = Moderate/Severe feather loss**

Bare skin visible  $\geq$  5cm maximum dimension.

## 2. Birds needing further care

Assess the whole flock. Record and comment on the number animals that would benefit from further assessment and intervention. Further interventions could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved/alterd housing/feeding or level of attention and care.

E.g. animals with signs of minor pecking wounds/scabs (no fresh blood) or red/inflamed skin indicating high levels of injurious feather pecking, animals with respiratory symptoms, dirtiness around vents (sign of parasites), pale combs, overall ill health.

**Do not include sick or injured birds already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

## 3. Birds needing immediate care

Assess the whole flock. Record and comment on the number of any sick or injured birds that would benefit from further immediate intervention. Further interventions could include immediate hospitalisation (i.e. removal from the main flock) or culling.

This would include obviously sick birds (with fluffed up feathers and an inactive, unresponsive appearance) and birds with body wounds that have fresh blood that might attract cannibalistic attention from other birds. Include birds in hospital pen that should be culled.

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

#### 4. Head conditions (birds to be picked up)

Birds to be picked up and assessed for head conditions. Conditions would include comb condition, eyes, discharges and beak condition.

**Scoring:**

**0 = Good condition**

Eyes clear, normal breathing, no discharge, no sneezing  
Even red coloured comb, with no scratches

**1 = Head condition**

- Comb abnormalities: very pale, blue or black areas, injuries, comb appears dried out.
- Eye or nose discharge
- Discoloured/inflamed eyes
- Sneezing or breathing difficulties

#### 5. Foot abnormalities (birds to be picked up)

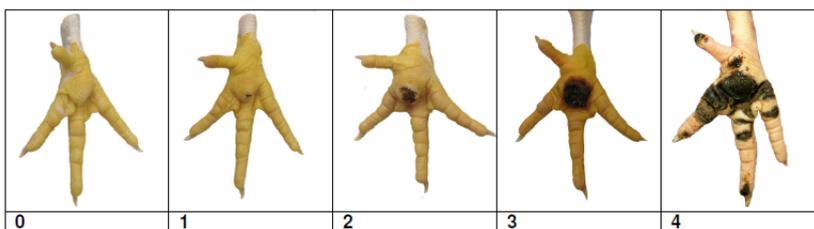
Birds to be picked up and assessed for foot abnormalities. Conditions would include toe damage and footpad dermatitis.

**Scoring:**

**0 = Good condition**

**1 = Foot abnormality**

- Toe damage (wounds, breaks, missing parts)
- Footpad dermatitis (lesions/damage, thickened or inflamed skin and swelling). Record if any sign of lesions, i.e. score 1 and above on this scale.



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*Where available post slaughter data should be reviewed.*



## 6. Keel bones (birds to be picked up)

Birds to be picked up and assessed for keel bone damage. Inspect the keel area visually and palpate the keel bone.

### Scoring:

**0 = No damage**

No deviation, deformation or thickened sections. Keel bone completely straight

**1 = Keel bone damage**

Deviation or deformation of keel bone (including thickened sections)

*Where available post slaughter data should be reviewed.*

## 7. Mortality

Check farm records and record the number of losses for the following categories:

- a. Mortality of previous flock
- b. Mortality to date
- c. Mortality to 40 weeks (where applicable)

Record if possible, the predominant cause of mortality for each of a, b and c.

If the inspector has anything else to remark about animal welfare in the herd he may note it here by “other matters”:



## Explanation of indicators

### Feather loss

Feather loss can be a result of various issues; however, the location of the feather loss on the bird can help to provide an indication of potential cause. Loss of feathers to the back and vent areas usually indicate feather pecking. The causes of feather pecking are multifactorial but can include breed, nutritional imbalance, housing issues, poor range use and rearing conditions. Feather pecking can be very painful and can result in severe injury. If there is evidence of feather pecking in a herd it is very important to take countermeasures. That can be more enrichment of the pen or dimming the light. The hens imitate each other's behaviour so if few hens start feather pecking after some days the others will do it too. If there are wounds and blood marks feather pecking is becoming more intense up to cannibalism and death.

The resulting poor feather cover can lead to thermal discomfort (cold/sunburn) and reduced productivity. It is understood that the birds carrying out feather pecking are in a stressed state leading them to start this behaviour.

Damage to feathers on the head and neck can indicate the occurrence of aggressive pecking, often aimed at the head and with the potential to lead to further injury.

Other causes of feather loss are mechanical damage (equipment wear, usually head/neck areas affected), high levels of egg production and disease.

It is important to record how old the herd is. In young hens, feather loss is less tolerable than in old hens at the end of the laying period.

### Birds needing further care

Further care could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved or altered housing or feeding or level of attention and care. Birds with signs of minor pecking wounds or scabs (no fresh blood) or red or inflamed skin indicating high levels of injurious feather pecking, animals with respiratory symptoms, dirtiness around vents (sign of parasites), pale combs, overall ill health fall into this category.

### Birds needing immediate care

Sick birds require additional attention to ensure any suffering is alleviated as soon as possible. Early recognition, treatment or culling of sick birds is the key to reducing any potential welfare compromise. A high level of birds requiring further care may indicate that flocks are not being inspected regularly enough or have an underlying health issue.

Birds that are obviously very sick (fluffed up feathers and inactive or unresponsive) and birds with body wounds that have fresh blood that might attract cannibalistic attention from other birds.

### Head conditions (birds to be picked up)

This measure is applied only at the sub-group level as it requires close examination of the bird that cannot be achieved from a distance. Any abnormalities are likely to indicate injuries (obvious mechanical damage) or disease. For example, a pale comb may be an indicator for parasites. At different pests of poultry, the birds show symptoms like dark areas of the comb and wattle, closed, dull, inflamed or discoloured eyes, eye or nose discharge may be symptoms too. Hens with infections of the respiratory tract may be sneezing or have breathing difficulties.

### **Foot abnormalities (birds to be picked up)**

This measure is applied only at the sub-group level as it requires close examination of the bird that cannot be achieved from a distance.

Any level of damage should be recorded and the prevalent cause noted. There are several grades of footpad dermatitis beginning with light swelling and hyperkeratosis up to deep necrosis. This is very painful, the birds have problems to walk and to sit on the perch as well, especially if both feet are affected.

Footpad dermatitis is a very important indicator of welfare both in terms of the individual and conditions experienced by the flock.

High prevalence is likely to be related to poor litter condition and management.

Where reliable slaughter house data is available (not always the case for laying hens), then this should be reviewed.

Some hens have an irregular position of the toes which has a genetic origin. These birds have some problems when walking. Also, some hens like pecking at other hens' feet and wounds at the toes can be found. Both items should be recorded as well.

### **Keel bones (birds to be picked up)**

You can feel whether a keel bone is damaged or not. It may be deformed or even fractured by accidents when hens fly against the facilities and perches. The origin can be multifactorial. Young hens didn't learn to fly to the perches, perches are metallic and slippery, lack of vitamin D and calcium, the stable is crowded, the flock is very nervous or flighty, the lighting is insufficient and so on.

The damage is thought to be painful and can have a long-term impact on welfare.

Where reliable slaughter house data is available (not always the case for laying hens), then this should be reviewed.

### **Mortality**

A key welfare measure that can reflect incidence of disease, predation, high levels of injurious feather pecking, or other serious welfare issues. Recording levels and cause of mortality can help establish relationships between potential welfare issues (e.g. injurious feather pecking) and resulting levels of mortality.



## F: Broilers and turkeys

### General remarks

- To be complete in all inspections, at a minimum of once a year.
- Where non-compliance related to animal welfare have been issued, follow up inspection by a welfare/ poultry specialist inspector is required within appropriate time scale.
- Inspections can be announced or unannounced. If non-compliances have been issued at previous inspection then unannounced inspection should be favoured.
- Inspectors must complete one checklist for each species. If there are differences in the protocol for one species (e.g. rearing and fattening) a checklist must be filled out for each group separately.
- Inspectors should provide detailed comments and photos to provide evidence of the condition of the animals assessed. This is particularly crucial if non-compliances have been issued against welfare standards.
- Inspectors are encouraged to provide further detailed comment regards the welfare state of the birds assessed. Further observations could include thermal comfort of the birds, is there evidence of birds panting (hot) or huddling (cold)? These comments can include positive remarks about good care, husbandry and health.
- If animals are not in good health or maintenance but are being treated, this should be written down but is not a non – compliance.

### Biosecurity and hygiene measures for inspector

Ensure clean boots and clothing (wear overalls and shoe covers where needed). Additionally, follow any on farm biosecurity requirements and protocols.

Assess youngest flocks first, then in order of age or health risk.

Wash hands after the visit.



### **Overall flock observations (after a short period to allow the animals to settle (c. 3 minutes))**

Assess the response of the birds to the stockman, for example if a flock appears nervous and flighty it may indicate they are not walked regularly.

Listen to the overall demeanour of the flocks (vocalising, this could include content chatter, alarm calling, loud squawks from aggressive pecking or injurious feather pulling).

Record flock details such as size, age, breed and growth details. Additionally, if they have had any disease challenges, predator problems or issues with feed quality.

### **Overall assessment of housing, feed and water provision**

Check if there are sufficient feed spaces for all birds to have easy access.

Check if feeders are clean and functioning.

Check if there are sufficient drinkers for all birds to have easy access.

Check if drinkers are clean and functioning.

Assess the litter provision. Consider the type and condition (friable/capped) of litter provided.

Ensure that light levels are sufficient (allowing animals to be easily assessed) and investigate the lighting plan if artificial light is provided.

Assess the air quality for ammonia and dust levels in housing

Assess perching provisions (horizontal perches, bales/platforms)

Assess housing for sharp edges, broken equipment that could cause injury or birds to become trapped.

Assess the quality of the range and access to range. Vegetation cover, overhead shelter (natural and artificial), additional resources (log piles, cover crops, other livestock on the range), number pop-holes and ground conditions around pop-holes.



## Assessment protocol - Broilers and turkeys

Step 1. Assessment – all turkeys or broiler chicks on farm	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feather loss (<b>turkeys only</b>)</li> <li>2. Runts and dead birds</li> <li>3. Dirtiness/condition of plumage</li> <li>4. Walking ability</li> <li>5. Birds needing further care (e.g. respiratory problems)</li> <li>6. Birds needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed across <b>all flocks on farm</b></li> <li>• From observations record if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 2. Assessment – sub group	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feather loss (<b>turkeys only</b>)</li> <li>2. Homogeneity of the group (Runts)</li> <li>3. Dirtiness/condition of plumage</li> <li>4. Walking ability</li> <li>5. Birds needing further care (e.g. respiratory problems)</li> <li>6. Birds needing immediate care (e.g. euthanasia/hospitalisation)</li> <li>7. <i>Foot abnormalities</i></li> <li>8. <i>Hock burns</i></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a sub flock based on level of concern. If no flock is of concern select the oldest flock.</li> <li>• <i>Sub group 1:</i> Assess a randomly selected sample of <b>50 birds</b> within that group to <b>visually assess</b> for feather loss (<b>turkeys only</b>), dirtiness/condition of plumage, walking ability and birds needing further or immediate care.</li> <li>• <i>Sub group 2 (only for broilers):</i> Select a second sub group of <b>25 birds</b> at random within the house and pen them to assess each bird for foot abnormalities and hock burns, along with closer assessment of the other measures.</li> <li>• If you pen more than 25 birds then select 25 birds at random for assessment. <b>Birds are required to be picked up to assess for these measures, this should be done by the farmer.</b> If picking up birds is not possible post slaughter data should be reviewed where available.</li> <li>• Based on that sample report if               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no animals affected</li> <li>○ Individual animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than a third of the animals affected</li> <li>○ Less than half of the animals affected</li> <li>○ More than half of the animals affected (predominant across assessed animals)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Records measures	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Breast blister</li> <li>10. Mortality</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From slaughter house records</li> <li>• From records.</li> </ul>



### 1. Feather loss (turkeys only)

Assess birds for feather damage, visually assess the whole bird giving particular attention to head, neck and back.

**Scoring:**

**0 = No/Minimal feather loss**

No bare skin visible, no or slight wear, only single feathers missing.

**1 = Slight feather loss**

Moderate wear, damaged feathers or 2 or more adjacent feathers missing up to bare skin visible < 5cm maximum dimension.

**2 = Moderate/Severe feather loss**

Bare skin visible  $\geq$  5cm maximum dimension.

### 2. Runts and dead birds

Record the number of runts and the number of dead birds found.

### 3. Dirtiness/condition of plumage

Assess birds for dirtiness/condition of plumage.

**Scoring:**

**0 = None/Minor**

plumage is not significantly dirty or only lightly soiled/stained.

**1 = Mild dirtiness**

slightly dirty plumage, medium soiling on at least one part of the bird, but no area  $\geq$ 5cm

**2 = Severe dirtiness**

Large patches of dirty / severely soiled plumage - maximum dimension of  $\geq$ 5cm, one or more areas heavily soiled.

### 4. Walking ability

Watch the birds walk

Record the number of birds with a Gait **score 3** and the number of birds with a Gait score of **4 or 5**.



3. An obvious gait defect that affects the bird's ability to move: the bird may have a limp, jerky or unsteady strut, or splay one leg as it moves, it will prefer to squat, and will not run.
- 4/5. Severe gait defect, capable of walking but only with difficulty and will squat at first opportunity, or the bird is incapable of sustained walking.

*Birds that do not rise should be encouraged to stand and walk so they can be assessed.*

Video guides to help assess walking ability can be found here: [www.assurewel.org/broilers/walkingability](http://www.assurewel.org/broilers/walkingability)

### 5. Birds needing further care

Assess the whole flock. Record and comment on the number animals that would benefit from further assessment and intervention. Further interventions could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved/altered housing/feeding or level of attention and care.

E.g. animals with respiratory symptoms, overall ill health, turkeys with signs of minor pecking wounds/scabs (no fresh blood) or red/inflamed skin indicating high levels of injurious feather pecking

**Do not include sick or injured birds already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

### 6. Birds needing immediate care

Assess the whole flock. Record and comment on the number of any sick or injured birds that would benefit from further immediate intervention. Further intervention will in most cases be culling.

This would include obviously sick birds (with fluffed up feathers and inactive, unresponsive appearance) and birds (especially Turkeys) with body wounds that have fresh blood that might attract cannibalistic attention from other birds

**Do not include sick or injured animals already receiving suitable care in the record. But additional comment should be provided regards the care and state of these animals.**

### 7. Foot abnormalities (birds to be picked up - broilers only)

Birds to be picked up and assessed for foot abnormalities. Conditions would include toe damage and footpad dermatitis. Record the number of birds that fall within each score.

**Scoring:**

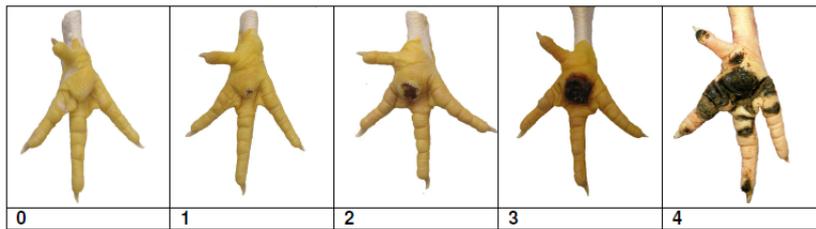
**0 = Good condition**

**1 = Mild foot abnormalities**

- Toe damage (**Mild** - wounds)
- Footpad dermatitis (**Mild** - area affected does not extend over the entire plantar pad, substantial discolouration, dark papillae, superficial lesion, and no ulceration. **(score 1 and 2 on scale below)**)

**2 = Severe foot abnormalities**

- Toe damage (**Severe** – wounds, breaks, missing parts)
- Footpad dermatitis (**Severe** - greater surface of plantar pad usually affected, sometimes with lesions on toes. Deeper lesion/s with ulceration, sometimes haemorrhage, scabs of significant size, severely swollen foot pad **(score 3 and 4 on scale below)**).



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*For both broilers and turkeys where available post slaughter data should be reviewed.*

### 8. Hock burns (birds to be picked up – broilers only)

Birds to be picked up and the hocks assessed. Record the number of birds that fall within each score.

**Scoring:**

**0 = None**

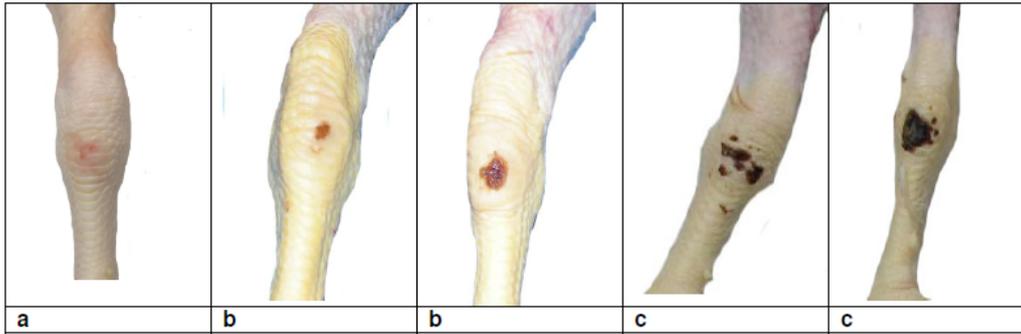
No lesion/s or very small and superficial (<1mm), slight discolouration in a limited area, mild hyperkeratosis (thickening of the skin).

**1 = Mild**

Area affected does not extend over hock, substantial discolouration, dark papillae, superficial lesion, no ulceration **(score b on scale below)**.

**2 = Severe**

Greater surface of hock affected. Deeper lesion/s with ulceration, sometimes haemorrhage, scabs of significant size, severely swollen area **(score c on scale below)**.



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*For both broilers and turkeys where available post slaughter data should be reviewed.*

### 9. Breast blister

Review slaughter house data where available. Percentage of birds recorded with breast blister.

### 10. Mortality

Check farm records and record the number of losses for the following categories:

- First week mortality, including culls (%).
- Mortality to date - dead birds only, i.e. not including culls (%).
- Culls to date, not including leg culls (%).
- Leg culls to date - leg culls only (%).

Also record this information for the previous flock.

If possible, record predominant cause/s of mortality and culls.

If the inspector has anything else to remark about animal welfare in the herd he may note it here by “other matters”:



## Explanation of indicators

### Feather loss (turkeys only)

This measure is not applied to broilers as they are immature for most of their life and therefore do not develop full plumage which makes assessment of feather loss unreliable.

Feather loss to the head, neck and back can be a result of aggressive pecking by other birds. This aggression is in response to stressors including crowding, bright light, dietary deficiencies, insufficient feed or water, lack of space and boredom. If there is evidence of feather pecking in a herd it is very important to take countermeasures. That can be more enrichment of the pen or dimming the light. The birds imitate each other's behaviour so if few turkeys start feather pecking after some days the others will do it too. If there are wounds and blood marks feather pecking is becoming more intense up to cannibalism and death.

### Runts and dead birds

Birds that are abnormally small are unlikely to reach slaughter weight and will be subjected to bullying. Their small size may also be indicative of an underlying health or disease problem. It is generally better if these birds are euthanized.

The presence of dead birds can indicate disease or inadequate management. Broilers and turkeys should be walked regularly and all dead birds removed to prevent disease, cannibalism and attracting vermin and predators.

Dead birds on the range might indicate predator problems which can result in fear and stress for the birds and inhibit their use of the range causing further welfare problems.

### Dirtiness/condition of plumage

Under normal circumstances healthy birds keep themselves clean, they will avoid dirty areas and carry out regular preening. Dirt around the vent can indicate diarrhoea. Dirt on feathers might indicate inadequate litter quality, a wet and muddy outside run and/or poor design of the perching area.

Often birds that show a gait defect have dirty breast plumage. They move less and rest most of the time at one place. If the litter is wet and dirty the feathers become dirty very fast. At these birds frequently you can find breast blisters post mortem.

Birds who suffer with pain or are sick are calm and don't preen their plumage. Broilers and turkey at the end of fattening may not be flexible enough to clean the feathers.

It is a potential source for spreading disease and of relevance for general hygiene and bird wellbeing.



## **Walking ability**

Inability or reluctance to stand or walk and lameness are a sign that an animal is in pain and is therefore considered a serious welfare issue. It can be due to injury or infection in the foot or joint, to skeletal and joint problems because of the fast growth rate. The birds growing too fast can cause leg deformities and lameness.

Reduced walking ability might also result from foot pad dermatitis linked to poor litter management.

Lame birds are predisposed to further disease challenges, decreased appetite and reduced growth. They sit most of the time at one place, walk less often to the feeding place and water.

Anyway, lameness is a painful condition. The reasons should be found and brought to an end when possible.

## **Birds needing further care**

Further care could include veterinary assessment or treatment, improved or altered housing or feeding or level of attention and care.

This would include birds with respiratory symptoms and overall ill health. Turkeys with minor pecking wounds or scabs (no fresh blood) or red and inflamed skin resulting from injurious pecking.

## **Birds needing immediate care**

Sick birds require additional attention to ensure any suffering is alleviated as soon as possible. Early recognition, treatment or culling of sick birds is the key to reducing any potential welfare compromise. A high level of birds requiring further care may indicate that flocks are not being inspected regularly enough or have an underlying health issue. Birds that are obviously very sick (fluffed up feathers and inactive or unresponsive) and birds (especially turkeys) with body wounds that have fresh blood that might attract cannibalistic attention from other birds.

## **Foot abnormalities (birds to be picked up – broilers only)**

This measure is applied only at the sub-group level as it requires close examination of the bird that cannot be achieved from a distance.

Footpad dermatitis is a very important indicator of welfare both in terms of the individual and conditions experienced by the flock.

There are several degrees of footpad dermatitis beginning with light swelling and hyperkeratosis up to deep necrosis. This is very painful, the birds have problems to walk and to sit on the perch as well, especially if both feet are affected.

High prevalence is likely to be related to poor litter condition and management.

Where reliable slaughter house data is available, then this should be reviewed



Some turkeys like pecking at other turkeys' feet and wounds at the toes can be found. This should be recorded as well.

### **Hock burns (birds to be picked up – broilers only)**

This measure is applied only at the sub-group level as it requires close examination of the bird that cannot be achieved from a distance.

Hock burn identified as a welfare concern. It impacts on bird welfare as it is considered to cause pain.

It is associated with poor litter quality and so has other welfare implications in addition to pain e.g. causes discomfort and damage to skin that can result in chronic infection.

Hock burn is an indicator of flock health and if prevalence of hock burn can be reduced flock health may improve.

It is related to poor litter quality and management.

Where reliable slaughter house data is available, then this should be reviewed.

### **Breast blister**

Contact dermatitis affects skin surfaces that have prolonged contact with wet litter or flooring, including the foot pad, hocks and breast. Breast blisters are a form of contact dermatitis. They are painful in their own right and represent serious discomfort, management and could be result of genetic issues. If bacterial infections penetrate skin contact dermatitis can cause secondary infection potentially leading to blood poisoning and chronic infection.

Breast blisters have a negative impact on welfare.

Use slaughter house data only.

### **Mortality**

A key welfare measure that can reflect incidence of disease, predation, high levels of injurious feather pecking, or other serious welfare issues. Recording levels and cause of mortality can help establish relationships between potential welfare issues (e.g. injurious feather pecking) and resulting levels of mortality.



## G: Welfare outcome assessment summary

### Cattle

1. Mobiliy		2. BCS		3. Cleanliness	4. Hair loss, lesions, swelling and injury	
1. Lamé	2. Severely lame	1. Thin	2. Fat	Dirty	1. Mild	2. Severe
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All cattle on farm</b>						
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>						
tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant



### Cattle

5. Mastitis		6. Cattle needing further care	7. Cattle needing immediate care	8. Mortality
Swollen udder	Somatic Cell Count			
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All cattle on farm</b>				
no animals	> 300,000	no animals	no animals	0 – 48 hours
Individual animals	yes	Individual animals	Individual animals	48 hours – 90 days
Less than a third	no	Less than a third	Less than a third	Older than 90 days
Less than half		Less than half	Less than half	
predominant		predominant	predominant	
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>				
tally no. /n		tally no. /n	tally no. /n	
no animals		no animals	no animals	
Individual animals		Individual animals	Individual animals	
Less than a third		Less than a third	Less than a third	
Less than half		Less than half	Less than half	
predominant		predominant	predominant	



## Goats

1. Lameness	2. BCS		3. Cleanliness		4. Hair loss/coat condition		5. Abscess, lesions and swellings
2. Severely lame	1. Thin	2. Fat	1. Dirty	2. Very Dirty	1. Moderate fleece loss/quality	2. Severe hair loss/very poor coat condition	Abscess, lesion or swelling (≥2cm)
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All goats on farm</b>							
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>							
tally no. /20	tally no. /20	tally no. /20	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant



## Goats

6. Udder condition	7. Goats needing further care	8. Goats needing immediate care	9. Kids -overall health		10. Kids - Diarrhoea	11. Mortality
Udder is asymmetrical or is inflamed or injured			1. Dehydrated	2. Needing further treatment or euthanasia	Kids with diarrhoea	0 – 48 hours
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All goats on farm</b>			<b>Step 1. Assessment - All pre weaned kids on farm</b>			48 hours – 90 days
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	Older than 90 days
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	
<b>Step 2. Assessment - Sub group</b>						
tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n				
no animals	no animals	no animals				
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals				
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third				
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half				
predominant	predominant	predominant				



## Sheep

1. Lameness		2. BCS		3. Cleanliness		4. Fleece loss and quality		5. Tail docking (docked short)
1. Lameness	2. Severely lame	1. Thin	2. Fat	1. Dirty	2. Very Dirty	1. Moderate fleece loss/quality	2. Severe fleece loss/poor quality	Docked short
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All sheep on farm</b>								
no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>								
tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n	tally no. /n
no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant



## Sheep

6. Sheep needing further care	7. Sheep needing immediate care	8. Lambs -overall health		9. Lambs - Diarrhoea	8. Mortality
		1. Dehydrated	2. Needing further treatment or euthanasia	lambs with diarrhoea	a) Number of planned culls
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All sheep on farm</b>		<b>Step 1. Assessment - All pre weaned lambs on farm</b>			b) Number of unplanned culls or casualties (died or killed on farm) c) Scanning % d) Rearing % or
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>					0 – 48 hours
tally no. /n	tally no. /n				48 hours – 90 days
no animals	no animals				Older than 90 days
Individual animals	Individual animals				
Less than a third	Less than a third				
Less than half	Less than half				
predominant	predominant				



## Pigs

1. Lameness	2. BCS		3. Injuries	4. Skin condition	5. Pigs needing further care	6. Pigs needing immediate care	7. Mortality	8. Slaughter house measures
1. Lameness	1. Thin	2. Fat	1. Injury	1. Poor skin condition			0 – 48 hours	Condemned carcasses
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All pigs on farm</b>							48 hours – weaning	Liver condition
no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	post weaning (finishers and sows)	Lung condition
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third		
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half		
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant		
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>								
tally no. /50	tally no. /50	tally no. /50	tally no. /50	tally no. /50	tally no. /50	tally no. /50		
no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals	no animals Individual animals		
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third		
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half		
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant		



## Laying hens

1. Feather loss		2. Birds needing further care	3. Birds needing immediate care	4. Head conditions	5. Foot abnormalities	6. Keel bones	7. Mortality
1. Slight	2. Moderate/severe			1. Head condition	1. Foot abnormalities	1. Keel bone damage	a) Mortality of previous flock b) Mortality to date c) Mortality to 40 weeks (where applicable)
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>							
no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant				
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>							
tally no. /25							
no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	no animals Individual animals Less than a third Less than half predominant	



## Broilers and Turkeys

1. Feather loss (Turkeys only)		2. Runts and dead birds	3. Dirtiness/condition of plumage		4. Walking ability	
1. Slight	2. Moderate/severe		1. Mild	2. Severe	Gait score 3	Gait score 4 or 5
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All birds on farm</b>						
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>						
tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant



### Broilers and Turkeys

5. Birds needing further care		6. Birds needing immediate care		7. Foot abnormalities (pick up birds - broilers only)		8. Hock burns (pick up birds - broilers only)		9. Breast blister		7. Mortality	
		1. Mild	2. Severe	1. Mild	2. Severe	review slaughterhouse data		a) Mortality of previous flock b) Mortality to date c) Mortality to 40 weeks (where applicable)			
<b>Step 1. Assessment - All birds on farm</b>											
no animals	no animals										
Individual animals	Individual animals										
Less than a third	Less than a third										
Less than half	Less than half										
predominant	predominant										
<b>Step 2. Assessment – Sub group</b>											
tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25	tally no. /25						
no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals	no animals						
Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals	Individual animals						
Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third	Less than a third						
Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half	Less than half						
predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant	predominant						