



NEW ZEALAND FARM ASSURANCE PROGRAMME PLUS (NZFAP PLUS)

STANDARD

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Introduction

Customer and consumer expectations along with Government regulations are consistently evolving and changing. As this is a live and evolving standard, New Zealand Farm Assurance Incorporated (NZFAI) endeavours to continually capture, embrace and adopt these changes into their New Zealand Farm Assurance Programmes.

Purpose

The purpose of the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme “Plus” (NZFAP Plus) standard is to:

- Create more sustainable and prosperous farming businesses through understanding resources and continuous improvement through adoption of appropriate practices.
- Provide authentic and independently verified sustainable farm-assurance standards to our global customers.
- Demonstrate to the New Zealand and International communities that the New Zealand red meat and wool sectors are farming sustainably and ethically.
- Provide confidence to meet red meat customers and consumers expectations of our products.
- Verify meaningful standards and good practice, to support the value and integrity of farm products and claims.

A key function of NZFAP Plus is to develop a culture of continuous improvement within the red meat and wool sector, which is driven by farmer knowledge and understanding, rather than compliance and regulation. The outcomes will be farm businesses that:

- Match the farm system and management with the underlying resources to deliver sustainable outcomes for air, water, soil, indigenous biodiversity, animals, people, and communities; and
- Are attractive and preferred workplaces;
- Meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by adopting practices that protect and enhance capital (farm and natural resources) and support thriving communities.

Scope

NZFAP Plus is a voluntary assurance programme for sheep and wool, beef, and deer farms. It aims to enhance the farm, natural resources, and contribute to communities, while managing the effects of on-farm practices. The on-farm practices include the management of:

- People;
- Farm and natural resources;
- Biosecurity.

Application

NZFAP Plus builds on NZFAP which covers the foundation assurance, audit and certification of sheep, beef, deer, and wool production with respect to:

- Food safety;
- Animal health, welfare, and production; and
- Traceability.

To be eligible to apply for NZFAP Plus certification, a farmer must already have completed NZFAP certification.

The NZFAP Plus has two tiers, silver and gold. Compliance to NZFAP Plus will be assessed by audit against the silver and gold requirements in this standard and the outcome of the compliance audit will be determined as outlined in the NZFAP Plus Farmer Handbook.

The NZFAP Plus Standard must be read in conjunction with the NZFAP Standard (available at www.nzfap.com).

NZFAP Plus is part of the broader New Zealand Farm Assurance System which is outlined in Figure 1 on page 5.

Tiers

NZFAP Plus is a tiered programme and is made up of silver and gold requirements.

Silver requirements are about getting on the journey, identifying your key resources on farm, and putting the foundational steps in place toward developing and implementing your Farm and Natural Resources Plan. Whereas gold requirements are about implementing the plan and ongoing monitoring or include requirements that are more aspirational and positioning to meet customer demands in the future.

Silver

All NZFAP Plus silver requirements must be met to be NZFAP Plus silver certified. NZFAP Plus silver requirements that are not met at audit will be issued with a corrective action and a timeframe set to complete and provide evidence by to become certified. Certification will only be issued when the corrective actions are met.

Gold

Where a farmer is striving to achieve NZFAP Plus gold certification, all silver and gold requirements must be met at audit. If there are silver requirements that aren't met a corrective action will be issued and a timeframe set to complete the action by. For gold requirements that aren't met at audit a recommendation will be made, however no timeframe will be set. Should there be less than two recommendations made, and evidence that the recommendations have been met is provided within six months (and approved) by the certification body NZFAP Plus Gold certification will be issued (subject to meeting all silver requirements). If evidence for the gold recommendations is not provided within six months NZFAP Plus silver certification (subject to meeting all silver requirements) will be issued.

Audits will occur on a three yearly cycle; and on a case-by-case basis every effort will be made to align NZFAP; NZFAP Plus and individual clip-on audits.

On becoming a NZFAP Plus Member an audit must be completed within 36 months.

Auditing

The assurance programme will be audited independently by a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB).

Certification procedure:

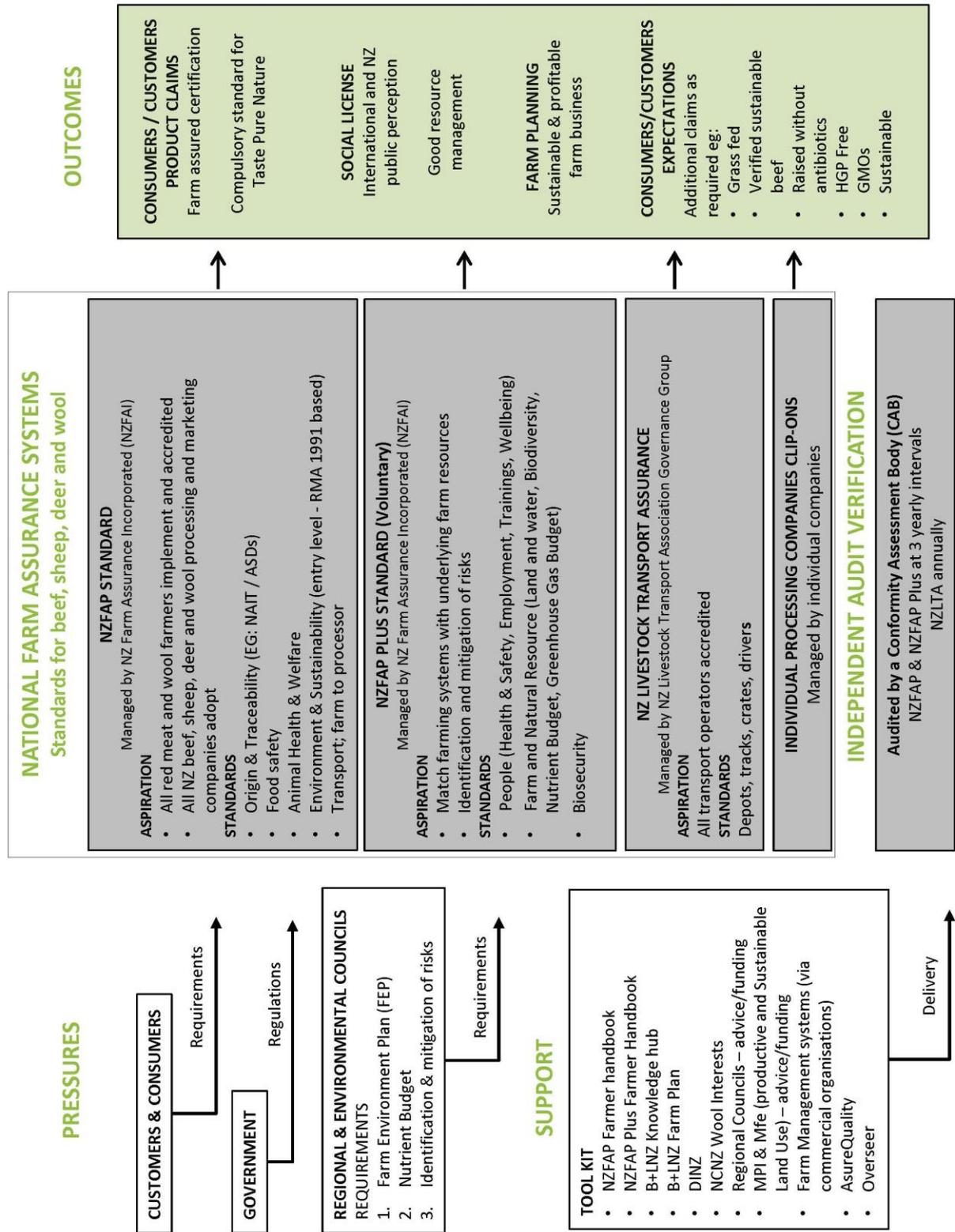
1. By completing an application and acceptance form, farmers apply to join the NZFAP Plus Programme.
2. Applications are reviewed by the CAB and a link to a self-assessment checklist provided to the farmer to complete.
3. Farmers have up to 60 days to complete and submit the self-assessment checklist. If this is not done within 60 days the application will be suspended.
4. On receipt of the completed self-assessment checklist the farmer will be advised that their application has been accepted and that they have become a NZFAP Plus Member.
5. Farmers engage with the Programme and implement the requirements as per the standard.
6. Farmers will be provided with a link to complete an annual self-assessment checklist on the 12 month anniversary of becoming a NZFAP Plus Member. The self-assessment checklist must be completed within 60 days. If this is not done within 60 days the farmer will be suspended as a NZFAP Plus Member.
7. Farmer applies for a 'NZFAP Plus Certification' audit which must be within 36 months of becoming an approved 'NZFAP Plus Member.' As a minimum silver requirements must be met to be NZFAP Plus certified (silver).
8. On passing the audit the farm becomes either 'NZFAP Plus silver or gold certified'.

During an audit, evidence must be provided that all silver and/or gold requirements of the assurance programme are met including:

- The documentation of plans.
- The actions identified within documented plans have been put in practice and in accordance with the timeframes documented. If there are deviations from the plan, document the reasons for the deviation(s), and update the plan.
- Actions must be documented and available at audit. For example, time stamped photographs of native vegetation, wintering systems before, during and after, are useful measures to document requirements.

Audits will occur on a three-yearly cycle; and on a case-by-case basis every effort will be made to align NZFAP, NZFAP Plus and individual clip-on audits on farm at the same time subject to efficiencies and cost effectiveness.

Figure 1: Overview of the New Zealand Farm Assurance System



Confidentiality

All information and data collected by the auditing body, NZFAI and/or meat/fibre company/s will be treated with the strictest confidence. All these organisations will ensure:

- Farmer application forms include a declaration for the disclosure of all audit information to an approved auditing body as agent for NZFAI.
- That respect for the privacy and commercial sensitivity of information they may have access to during the audit process is always shown.
- All farmer files, records and manuals are held securely.
- Auditors do not enter farms/offices/homes/sites unaccompanied or look at any files, records, or manuals without express permission from the farmer.

All your actual audit data will remain confidential to you, the CAB and your nominated meat/fibre company/s and will not be released without your permission, while your actual audit status will be identified to NZFAI and other meat/fibre companies, other parties and publicly.

Getting the Job Done Safely

Steps to assist with the identification and mitigation of risks.

Farmers should consider information about health and safety risks and processes such as:

- Legal obligations and expectations
- The effect of legislative changes
- Requirements for a health and safety induction at a designated safe meeting point
- Requirements for adequate and safe facilities and access to them.

The person in charge of the business unit has legal responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act for any workers or contractors on the farm. The induction process ensures that all parties' legal obligations are met and only needs to be completed once, unless circumstances change between visits. A contractor induction form is available, information and resources can be found at www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture

The farmer has a legal obligation to conduct a health and safety induction at a designated, safe meeting point (must be identified on the farm map).

All auditors must feel safe in the environment and free from unacceptable behaviour.

Standard Definitions

Requirements

Shall – refers to all New Zealand codes or statutes (e.g. animal welfare codes). Indicates a mandatory obligation. Failure to comply with them will result in Corrective Action Requests (CARs) being issued and will result in exclusion from the scheme until CARs have been closed. Be aware that failure to comply with legal requirements such as regulations may also result in penalties such as a fine and/or criminal conviction.

Must – refers to obligations arising from commercial requirements. Failure to comply with them will result in CARs being issued and will result in exclusion from the scheme until CARs have been closed.

Recommendation

Should – refers to a practice which is recommended as a means of complying with a statutory or programme requirement. More than one practice may be recommended. It is up to the farmer to select the practice which best suits the circumstance or even come up with another satisfactory way of meeting the requirements.

Farm

Farm – one or more blocks of land, no more than 20kms radius apart that are managed as one entity including one set of farm policies and records.

Note: this is different to the NAIT definition.

1. Farm Plans and Records

Requirements

- 1.1.1 All plans and records must be retained for a minimum of five years and have a rolling five-year horizon or a new plan every five years.
- 1.1.2 At least annually, plans should be reviewed, updates and any revisions made should be recorded that are relevant to managing the business in a sustainable manner and to demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement.

2. People

2.1 Policies and Documentation

Requirements

- 2.1.1 The business shall comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act (2015), the Employment Relations Act (2000), Minimum Wage Act (1983), Immigration Act (2009) and Holidays Act (2003), including any amendments.
- 2.1.2 People management documentation for the farm business must include.
 - a. Employment relations (section 2.2)
 - b. Health and safety (section 2.3)
 - c. Wellbeing (section 2.5)
- 2.1.3 People management documentation for the farm business must include:
 - a. Training and development (section 2.4)

2.2 Employment Relations

Requirements

- 2.2.1 All employers will hold an employment agreement for all employees that.
 - a. Complies with all aspects of New Zealand employment and New Zealand immigration law;
 - b. Sets out hours/days of work, holidays, rest periods and or rosters;
 - c. Includes all details of the remuneration package, benefits in kind and KiwiSaver contributions.

Recommendation

- Employers should maintain an external, independent employment advisor service that is communicated to all workers. e.g. www.ruralemployeesupport.co.nz / MBIE helpline 0800 453369.

2.3 Health and Safety

Requirements

- 2.3.1 The farm business shall have a health and safety management system that complies with New Zealand law that is accessible to all people working or visiting the property. It shall include:
 - a. Risk Register and how these are identified, assessed, and managed.
 - b. Roles and responsibilities.
 - c. When all necessary safety clothing, devices, equipment, and material shall be used.

- d. The location of emergency equipment including a hazardous substance inventory/map, and hazardous substance emergency procedures.
 - e. List of emergency contacts which shall be available in farm buildings and where practical in farm vehicles.
- 2.3.2 All people working in the business shall receive training relevant to their job and this training shall be clearly documented.
- 2.3.3 All people working in the business shall be provided with and use personal protective equipment ((PPE), e.g., clothing, footwear, gloves, hearing protection, eye protection, dust masks) that is appropriate for the work they do.
- 2.3.4 No deductions shall be made from wages for PPE.
- 2.3.5 All accidents and incidents (including near misses) shall be recorded in a formal accident/incident register.
- 2.3.6 Material safety data sheets (MSDS) must be printed and be immediately available.
- 2.3.7 Complete a risk assessment for each chemical used.

Recommendation

- Maintain a contact list of trusted advisors and contractors including roles and contact details, which is accessible to the farm team for use in emergencies, breakdowns or when support is required.

2.4 Training and Development

Requirements

- 2.4.1 Competency, training, and development of all staff must be assessed annually, and in advance of undertaking any new tasks on their own for the first time.
- 2.4.2 Record the training that is undertaken and document the training which is planned for all people working in the business.
- a. Detail the training planned for all people working in the business in the next 12 months
 - b. Record all training undertaken for all people working in the business at the time it is completed.

2.5 Wellbeing

Requirements

- 2.5.1 A list of wellbeing resources and support is available e.g., Rural Support Trust, Farmstrong.
- 2.5.2 All people working in the business are given the opportunity to pursue interests outside the farm.

Recommendations

- Record community involvement activities people from within the farm business are involved with off the farm.
- Farm business managers/owners should take time away from the farm to relax and recharge.
- At least one person working in the farm business has the opportunity to attend a Good Yarns workshop or equivalent and share learnings with others in the farm business.

3. Farm and Natural Resources

3.1 Planning and Documentation

Recommendations

- That the farmer work with appropriate outside resources to assist with the Farm and Natural resource requirements.
- Certification and/or experience of the advisors and their preparedness to involve the farmer in the process be checked before commissioning work.

3.2 Farm Infrastructure Map

Requirement

- 3.2.1 In addition to the NZFAP requirements, the Farm Infrastructure Map must identify and show the following land features and resources:
- a. Fencing infrastructure (e.g., paddocks, raceways, riparian)
 - b. Water takes and irrigation infrastructure
 - c. Mapped irrigated areas
 - d. Tracks and races
 - e. Stock crossing structures (e.g., bridges and consented culverts)
 - f. Sewage disposal systems
 - g. Effluent storage
 - h. Effluent application areas
 - i. Drainage
 - j. Feed pads and feed lots
 - k. Contaminated sites (e.g., old sheep dips or farm dumps)
 - l. Sediment traps and bunds, debris dams, soil conservation flumes and other built structures for resource protection
 - m. Hazardous substance storage location
 - n. Hazardous waste disposal site(s).

3.3 Natural Resources Information and Map

Requirement

- 3.3.1 The farm must have information presented as a clear map (or maps) of the underlying Natural Resources on the farm at a scale appropriate for farm management (farm scale maps are typically at 1:10,000 or 1:15,000, and for more intensive land use, the scale should be higher e.g., 1:5,000) and include the following:
- a. Soil type
 - b. Slope
 - c. Aspect
 - d. Elevation
 - e. Land Management Units (LMU)
 - f. Waterways and monitoring points

- g. Waterbodies (wetlands, lakes, dams)
- h. Vegetation cover:
 - Sites of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous species
 - Exotic forestry plantations and woodlots, shelterbelts
 - Soil conservation plantings on slopes and in gullies
 - Other woody vegetation
 - Other forages
- i. Critical source areas (CSA)
- j. Erosion prone areas, including river and stream banks if appropriate.

Recommendation

- Include Land Use Capability (LUC) where known of, mapped at a scale relevant to the farm natural resources and information map.

3.4 Land and Freshwater Management Plan

Requirements

- 3.4.1 Develop a Land and Freshwater Management Plan:
- a. Step 1: Using the Natural Resource Information and Map conduct a strengths and opportunities, analysis for the farm.
 - b. Step 2: Use the strengths and opportunities analysis of the farm's natural resources to create a Land and Freshwater Management Plan. This plan must set out actions to improve management over time and to address issues identified in sections 3.6 (Management of Crops and Winter Grazing) 3.7 (Nutrient Management) 3.8 (Indigenous Biodiversity) 3.9 (Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change).
- 3.4.2 The Land and Water Management Plan, based on the farm map and the natural resource information and map, must include actions and timeframes that ensure:
- a. Direct discharge of pathogens, nutrients or sediment from built infrastructure, stock camps or CSAs into waterways/bodies is prevented or mitigated.
 - b. Assess and identify erosion prone areas, to develop an erosion management plan e.g. poll plantings.
 - c. Vegetative cover is maintained on permanent pasture/ forage to enhance and protect soil health.
 - d. Irrigation systems are designed, calibrated, and operated to minimise the amount of water used and minimise the risks of leaching and/or run-off.
 - e. Irrigation application or other water takes of more than 5L/second must be recorded, including reasons for water take and metered volume of the water take.
- 3.4.3 Undertake an assessment of soil health using the visual soil assessment method, at least once every three years and whenever land use is changed (e.g., establishing a crop or pasture renewal) for each soil type or LMU. Changes in soil health status must be used to guide land management planning.
- 3.4.4 Be familiar with local council freshwater monitoring in area.
- 3.4.5 Where waterways are present, assess regularly and at least annually, the waterway ecosystem health at identified monitoring point/s, to ensure water health is used to guide land management planning. These monitoring points must be consistent, representative of the farm and type of waterway or water body and marked on the Natural Resources Map. The waterway ecosystem health assessments must include the following:
- a. Periphyton cover
 - b. Suspended sediment (visual clarity/turbidity)
 - c. Deposited sediment
 - d. Temperature

- e. Macroinvertebrate health
- f. Fish presence and abundance
- g. Riparian habitat (shade and shelter)
- h. Physical form (pools, runs, riffles).

Number of waterways	Monitoring Sites
1-3	1
4-6	2
7-10	3
11-14	4
15+	5

- 3.4.6 The Land and Freshwater Management Plan (3.4.1.b.) must include actions to improve management over time and to address issues identified in section 3.5 Stock Exclusion.
- 3.4.7 Implementation of the Land and Freshwater Management Plan must be demonstrated through appropriate records such as photographs and maps.
- 3.4.8 The Land and Water Management Plan, based on the farm map and the natural resource information and map, must include actions and timeframes that:
 - a. Incorporate an erosion management plan (3.4.2.b.) that includes a rolling ten year works programme to protect land and soil including erosion risk prone areas.
- 3.4.9 Where waterways are present, use water health to guide land management planning by assessing, at least annually, the main flowing water source using an eDNA Sampling Kit. Annual eDNA sample results are recorded and used to identify and monitor change.

Recommendation

- Where waterways are present, assess regularly and at least annually, the waterway ecosystem health at identified monitoring points for:
 - E. coli
 - Nitrogen (Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN))
 - Phosphorous (Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus (DRP)).
- Ask a stream health expert or ecologist to undertake a Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) for your waterways.

3.5 Stock Exclusion

The farm shall comply with all requirements under the New Zealand Stock Exclusion Regulations as summarized below.

Requirements

- 3.5.1 Exclude cattle, deer and pigs from waterways and waterbodies where required to minimise the risk of streambank/bed erosion and contamination with the following as a minimum requirement:
- Cattle, deer, and pigs are excluded or there is a plan in place to exclude from lakes and waterways wider than one metre where the land is used for fodder crops, break feeding or is irrigated pasture by 1 July 2023.
 - Cattle, deer, and pigs are excluded or there is a plan in place to exclude from wetlands that are identified in a regional or district plan (as of 3 September 2020) by 1 July 2023.
 - Cattle must not cross any waterway wider than one metre more than twice per month (unless expressly permitted) and these cattle must be under direct management control while crossing the waterway.
- 3.5.2 Exclude cattle, deer and pigs from waterways and waterbodies where required to minimise the risk of streambank/bed erosion and contamination with the following as a minimum requirement:
- Dairy support cattle must be excluded from lakes and waterways wider than one metre on all land (including during grazing on sheep and beef farms) by 1 July 2025.
 - Cattle, deer, and pigs need to be excluded from lakes and waterways wider than one metre where land is mapped as being low slope by 1 July 2025.
 - Cattle, deer, and pigs must be excluded from wetlands that are:
 - Larger than 500m² on land that is mapped as low slope by 1 July 2025; or
 - Supporting a population of threatened species by 1 July 2025.

3.6 Management of Crops and Winter Grazing

Requirements

- 3.6.1 For land or a paddock that is to be cropped, soil type, slope and erosion risk must be identified and a plan developed covering actions to reduce risk during:
- Pre-crop establishment;
 - Cultivation techniques (if cultivated);
 - Grazing management; and
 - Post-crop management
- 3.6.2 Management of any land being grazed during the winter months must meet the following:
- Where and when soil structure damage (e.g., pugging) is a risk, grazing management mitigation options must be identified in the cropping/winter grazing plan.
 - Sacrifice paddocks and feedlots must be more than 50 metres from a waterway or waterbody.
- 3.6.3 Management of any land being cropped during the winter months must meet the following:
- An un-grazed buffer zone of vegetation must be left from waterways and wetlands. The setback distance of the buffer zone should be dependent on slope, soil, activity, and manage the risk of losses of sediment, nutrients, and pathogens to the waterbody.
 - Any crop must be set back at least 5m from a waterway or waterbody.
 - Critical Source Areas (CSA) must not be cropped, must have permanent vegetative cover at all times; and must not be cultivated mechanically. If grazed an identified CSA may only be grazed outside of 1 May to 30 September period.
 - When winter forage cropping on a slope, grazing management must protect waterways and waterbodies, e.g., start grazing from the top of a hill or from the part of the paddock furthest from any waterways/bodies.

- e. Land that is used for winter forage crop grazing must be replanted or have vegetative cover as soon as practicable after livestock have grazed the crop.
 - f. Supplementary feed must be fed out away from any waterways/bodies or CSAs.
- 3.6.4 Management of all grazed land during winter months must be documented with photographs (pre, during and post) and or records.
- 3.6.5 Feedlots and other stock holding areas (excluding those noted in the definitions section) where livestock are fed in confinement in situ, regardless of what feed is being fed must have a resource consent where 90% of cattle held within the area are 120kg or greater in live weight or four months of age or older.
- 3.6.6 Management of any land being grazed during the winter months must meet the following:
- a. Grazing winter crops in situ to bare soil must demonstrate mitigation of surface runoff and/or leaching where carried out on:
 - gravel or peat soils;
 - areas with sub-soil drainage; or
 - areas over shallow aquifers.
 - b. Continuous fodder cropping (i.e., annual crop establishment for more than 5 years) must not occur on slopes greater than 15°.

Recommendations

- Where resource consents are required, records should be kept demonstrating the consent conditions and compliance with them.
- Feeding troughs/holders should be shifted regularly to prevent pugging and nutrient build up.
- Pugging should be minimised at all times of the year.
- Join a water catchment management group.

3.7 Nutrient Management

Requirements

- 3.7.1 The application of N fertiliser must comply with regional standards or the national N application cap (190kg N/ha/year), whichever is lower, unless specifically consented.
- 3.7.2 The leaching of nitrogen from the rootzone, as modelled by OverseerFM® or another model approved by the Regional Council, shall comply with regional limits where they exist.
- 3.7.3 Undertake macronutrient soil tests at least once every three years and whenever land use is changed (e.g., establishing a crop or pasture renewal) to assist nutrient management and to ensure adequate nutrients are available for plant and animal production.
- 3.7.4 Have annual records to provide evidence of nutrient application consistent with soil tests and plant/animal requirements and any nutrient budget constraints.
- 3.7.5 Complete a nutrient budget at least once every three years or when a substantive farm system change is made.
- 3.7.6 From the nutrient budget and in accordance with the natural resource's information map, ensure that the Land and Freshwater Management Plan includes identification of areas at risk to surface and ground water from nutrient loss.
- 3.7.7 Undertake a soil cadmium test at least once every six years. If cadmium levels exceed 1 ppm within the top 150mm, fertilisers containing high cadmium must not be used on that area of land.

Recommendations

- Soil nutrient status should be maintained at optimum agronomic levels specific to the soil types present.
- The soil testing transect should be recorded by GPS and used for each successive soil test.

3.8 Indigenous Biodiversity

Requirements

- 3.8.1 The Natural Resources Information and Map must identify/map habitat that would support;
 - a. Indigenous terrestrial biodiversity e.g., native plants, birds, reptiles, mammals, and insects; and
 - b. Indigenous aquatic biodiversity e.g., native fish and insects.
- 3.8.2 For those sites/habitats that support nationally threatened species, an ecological assessment must be completed.
- 3.8.3 The farm and natural resources plan must have a section relating to indigenous biodiversity that identifies opportunities and actions to protect or enhance indigenous biodiversity including any nationally threatened species or habitats on the farm.
- 3.8.4 The Plan shall establish biodiversity monitoring.
- 3.8.5 Records and evidence shall be made available to demonstrate those plans have been implemented and/or progress made.

Recommendations

- Join a coordinated programme for predator or notified pest plant control.
- Join a coordinated programme for the protection of at-risk species or to support habitat restoration.

3.9 Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change

Requirements

- 3.9.1 Complete a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory that includes methane, nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions from on farm livestock production systems, and fertiliser applied, using an approved calculation tool.
- 3.9.2 Estimate GHG sequestration by any mapped woody vegetation (3.3.1(i)) occurring on the farm, using an approved calculation tool.
- 3.9.3 Complete a written plan which shows how GHG emissions will be measured and managed using an approved plan.

Recommendations

- Understand the risks and opportunities of climate change on your farm and natural resources and develop a plan to manage or adapt your farm system or infrastructure to manage these risks and opportunities.

4. Biosecurity

4.1 Planning and Documentation

Requirements

- 4.1.1 Identify the key biosecurity risks and risk vectors for the farm. Risks must be assessed based on the likelihood of occurrence, and impact on the business. A risk vector may include animals, people (family, workers, recreational users, contractors), vehicles and machinery, and brought in feed.
- 4.1.2 The farm must have a biosecurity plan which includes the processes to manage or minimise existing and introduced risks to your farm associated with:
 - a. Pests
 - b. Weeds
 - c. Diseases

5. New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Plus Certification Scheme

Corrective Action Requirement (CAR) Structure

The CAR Structure below relates to NZFAP Plus silver requirements.

Farmer status	Corrective Action	Description	Target date
Blue – Pass/certified		Requirements have met or exceeded the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Plus standard.	0 days
Green – Not certified, corrective action required	Minor CAR	CARs identified where there is no risk to programme conformance. CARs issued with 60 days to rectify or sooner by agreement with the auditor.	60 days
Amber – Not certified, corrective action required	Major CAR	CARs identified where there is a possible risk to programme conformance. CARs issued with 30 days to rectify or sooner by agreement with the auditor.	30 days
Red – Not certified, urgent corrective action required	Critical CAR	CARs identified where there is an immediate risk to programme conformance. Corrective action required within 7 days. If not rectified within 7 days or sooner, Certified Status is revoked immediately and checked by re-audit. Relevant meat companies notified.	7 days

6. Definitions (Natural Resource Management)

Bare soil

A soil surface devoid of any plant material.

Critical Source Area (CSA)

A landscape feature like a gully, swale or a depression that accumulates runoff from adjacent flats and slopes and delivers it to waterways such as streams, rivers and open drains and waterbodies such as lakes and wetlands, or field tiles and other sub-soil drainage systems.

Employee

A person, including family members, who has agreed to be employed to work for some form of payment under a contract of service. Employees include:

- permanent employees (full-time and part-time),
- fixed-term employees (full-time and part-time),
- casual employees, and
- seasonal employees.

Erosion

The process of eroding or being eroded by wind, water, frost, or another natural agent.

Feedlot

Area where livestock are confined in pasture-free areas and provided (mechanically or by hand) with feed, for more than 80 days in a six-month period. This includes both covered and uncovered areas.

Feed pad

Area where livestock are confined in pasture-free areas and provided with feed for more than 30 days in a year or for more than ten consecutive days.

Intensive winter grazing

Grazing livestock on an annual forage crop at any time in the period that begins on 1 May and ends with the close of 30 September of the same year.

Land and Freshwater Management Plan

A risk assessment of the strength and opportunities associated with all land management units and waterways/waterbodies on the farm and includes actions that will be done on farm including where and when.

Land Management Unit (LMU)

Areas of land that can be farmed or managed in a similar way because of underlying physical similarities such as slope, soil type, aspect, vegetation. They represent how land could be used if all physical limitations and opportunities were recognised and managed.

Land Use Capability (LUC)

A system used in New Zealand to help achieve sustainable land development and management on individual farms, in whole catchments, and at the district, region, and the national level. The LUC system has two key components. Firstly, Land Resource Inventory (LRI) is compiled as an assessment of physical factors considered to be critical for long-term land use and management. Secondly, the inventory is used for LUC Classification, whereby land is categorised into eight classes according to its long-term capability to sustain one or more productive uses.

Monitoring point

A point in a stream, river, or other significant waterway at which regular monitoring of stream health is undertaken.
People working in the business – Any employee, contractor, manager/owner, or any other person working in the business.

Pugging

The penetration of soil by hooves of grazing livestock

Remote verification

Verification of records and activities without physically visiting the farm business.

Sacrifice paddock

An area on which (a) cattle are repeatedly, but temporarily, contained (typically during extended periods of wet weather); and (b) the resulting damage caused to the soil by pugging is so severe as to require re-sowing with pasture species.

Soil testing transect

A mapped (often by GPS) path used for routinely sampling and monitoring soil fertility.

Stockholding area

An area for holding cattle at a density that means pasture or other vegetative ground cover cannot be maintained (for example, feed pads, winter pads, standoff pads, and loafing pads); but does not include an area used for pastoral purposes that is in the nature of a stockyard, milking shed, wintering barn, or sacrifice paddock.

Sustainable

Being able to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Visual Soil Assessment (VSA)

A visual assessment of the key soil state and plant performance indicators of soil quality. By looking at both soil and plant indicators, VSA links the natural resource (soil) with plant performance and subsequently farm profitability.

Waterbody

Any waterbody that continually contains surface water such as lakes, wetlands, estuaries, harbours, or dams.

Waterway

Any waterway that continually contains flowing water such as rivers, streams, or open drains.

Winter forage crop

An annual forage plant which is sown for the purposes of grazing livestock during the winter.

The New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Plus (NZFAP Plus) is a national farm assurance programme originally developed under the Red Meat Profit Partnership (RMPP), a joint Primary Growth Partnership initiative between the New Zealand red meat sector and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries.

**The Programme is now owned and managed by
New Zealand Farm Assurance Incorporated (NZFAI).**

Participating Red Meat Members

AFFCO
Alliance Group
ANZCO Foods
Blue Sky Meats
BX Foods
Duncan New Zealand Venison
Firstlight Foods
Greenlea Premier Meats
Mountain River Venison
Ovation
Progressive Meats
Silver Fern Farms
Spring Sheep Milk Co
Taylor Preston
Te Kuiti Meat Processors
Wilson Hellaby

Associate Members

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New Zealand Farm Assurance Incorporated

www.nzfap.com | info@nzfap.com