



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Why should I join the programme?

- The NZ Farm Assurance Programme (NZFAP) is the foundation upon which the collective red meat and wool industry can deliver an authentic and independently verified best-practice animal raising and production assurance standard to our customers and consumers.

2. Who owns and manages the NZFAP?

- The NZFAP is owned and managed by the New Zealand Farm Assurance Incorporated. This is a New Zealand registered society and all aspects of the business are undertaken and managed under NZ's society rules through a Management Committee.

3. What are the benefits to farmers?

- Nearly every NZ meat and wool processing company uses this programme to deliver their customer expectations regarding integrity, traceability, bio-security, environmental sustainability and animal health and welfare.
- If you supply stock to several meat or wool processors, instead of having multiple audits, you will simply have to complete one which will mean less time required and less stress.

4. How many farms are involved in NZFAP?

- There are circa 8000, which is a huge representation of the total beef, sheep, and deer farms in NZ.
- Of course, the aspiration is that one day, all commercial farms in NZ will become certified under the NZFAP.

5. How does NZ rate internationally in terms of on-farm assurance?

- The NZFAP is recognised by JAS-ANZ, a group set up by the NZ and Australian governments to oversee international standards. NZFAP is sitting beside the best programmes in the world in terms of scope, extent and coverage.

6. How much will each audit cost a farmer?

- It will not cost farmers anything to become NZFAP certified. All associated costs will be covered by participating meat and wool processors.

7. Why are some meat and wool processors not participating?

- We cannot speak for others, but in our opinion the few companies that have not yet joined tend to supply the commodity market that is less discerning. Conversely, we believe our members seek out the premium markets that are more discerning and require robust food safety assurances.

8. How can I find out more about the certification process and audit requirements?

- All NZFAP requirements are laid out in the NZFAP Standard, and the NZFAP Farmer Handbook provides valuable guidance on how to meet these requirements and where to find further information. There is also a detailed section on the audit process and how to deal with corrective action requests (CARs).

9. Is it mandatory?

- No, the NZFAP is not mandatory although most processors have NZFAP certification as a requirement in their terms and conditions of supply.

10. What happens if I fail an audit?

- The NZFAP Standard contains the full list of requirements which your farm will be measured against during your audit. Should your farm not meet all these requirements you will receive a Corrective Action Request (CAR) form. This will detail any corrective actions that must be carried out and will give you a timeline to complete these actions. Should you not complete the actions within the specified timeframe your farm will be suspended from the programme until all CARs are actioned.

11. Are there penalties?

- If you were issued corrective actions and they have not been closed within the specified timeframe, your farm will be suspended from NZFAP. This will mean your stock or wool cannot be sold as farm assured. As soon as the CARs are all closed your farm can be reinstated and farm assured status regained.

12. How often will I need an audit?

- The NZFAP requirement is to complete a full NZFAP audit every 3 years. However, your processor may require more frequent audits to meet their specific customer programmes.

13. Who will conduct the audit?

- NZFAI appoint certifying audit bodies (CABs) to undertake the audits and currently this is AsureQuality.

14. What paperwork or documentation do I need?

- All farmers must have a copy of the NZFAP Standard and Farmer Handbook so that they can familiarise themselves with the audit requirements. Refer to the Pre-Audit Checklist on page 6 of your NZFAP Farmer Handbook. This details all the documentation you should have ready prior to your audit. Further documentation may be requested during the course of your audit.

15. Does the NZFAP cover any environmental considerations?

- Yes, Section 5 of the NZFAP Standard details requirements around the Resource Management Act (RMA) and waste management. It additionally provides recommendations for a Farm Environment Plan (FEP).

The Beef & Lamb New Zealand (B&LNZ) website includes a comprehensive FEP process for sheep and beef farmers. The NZFAP sits alongside the FEP process, but it must be noted it does not replace a FEP.

NB: A FEP is a tool that guides farmers through a recorded assessment of their farm's environmental risks as well as land management opportunities. It involves a stock-take of land, soil and water resources, and results in the development of a personalised written plan identifying potential actions to be undertaken, where they might be targeted, and when they will be implemented.
