

PROOF - Pasture Raised On Open Fields

Certification Rules

July 2017



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1. Scope

- a. The PROOF Standards outline the minimum requirements for on farm practices relating to production of livestock including, pigs, poultry, sheep and cattle, and the use of the PROOF Pasture Raised On Open Fields (PROOF) Trademark.
- b. The main focus of the PROOF standards is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted daytime access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.
- c. The Standards apply to the following products that carry, or are intended to carry, descriptive labelling referring to pastured production and the PROOF Certification Trademark:
 - i. unprocessed products from animals; and
 - ii. processed products derived mainly from (i) above.
- d. Requirements in the PROOF Standards are complementary and additional to other health, agricultural, environmental, food and production related regulatory requirements at federal, state, territory and other relevant levels.
- e. With prior approval of the ACCC, PROOF reserves the right to amend the Standards at any time in order to remain compliant with such requirements.

2. Definitions

Applicant: Means a person or a body of persons, who has applied for a License to use the PROOF Certification Trademark and who is engaged in the rearing of sheep, cattle, pigs or poultry, or a combination of these animals, or is a processor, and has appropriate resources to meet the requirements of the PROOF Standards and Rules.

Audit: A systematic and functionally independent examination, and reporting to determine whether activities comply with planned objectives and requirements of relevant Standards. This may include unscheduled audits. This is also referred to as an inspection. Also see Internal Audit.

Auditor: A person deemed by these Rules to have the expertise and authority to inspect and audit operators in regard to compliance with the PROOF Standards for licensing purposes. These Rules set out the required qualifications for an auditor.

Certification: The action or process of providing someone or something with an official document attesting to a status, or for the purpose of these Rules, the issuing of a License Agreement.

Certified: The operator has in place a License Agreement for use of the PROOF Certification Trademark.

Compliance: Actions or outcomes that relate to meeting requirements of the PROOF Standards. Non-compliance is where such actions or outcomes do not meet specifications of the PROOF Standards.

Corrective action request (CAR): Action required by an operator following a non-compliance or systems deviation to ensure ongoing licensing and compliance with the PROOF Standards.

Desk Audit: An examination of documents, records and other supplied evidence by an auditor, to assess compliance to the PROOF Standards. This assessment is done away from the Licensee's farm or operation.

Farm: Sections of land fully under the management and control of one party or person. There may be more than one farm unit owned and managed by a single party or operator.

Independent Third Party Auditor: 'Independent' means that the auditor has no ownership of the farm or any of its facilities, and was not involved or contracted to contribute to the design, planning or construction of the farm or any of its facilities.

Internal Audit: A systematic examination, self-assessment and reporting by the applicant or Licensee pertaining to the Licensed operation or farm that is submitted to PROOF, to determine whether activities comply with planned objectives and requirements of relevant Standards.

Inspection: See Audit.

Labelling: Any words, particulars, trademarks, brand names, names of certifying organizations, pictorial matter or symbols appearing on any packaging, document, notice, label or collar accompanying or referring to a licensed PROOF product.

Land unit: Section or portion of land as compared with entire farm unit, made up of all land units within the farm.

License agreement: Legally binding contract between PROOF and the operator pertaining to licensing and the use of the PROOF Certification Trademark.

Licensee: Operator and/or owner of operations covered under the license for the PROOF Certification Trademark.

Marketing: Holding or displaying for sale, offering for sale, selling or placing on the market.

Operator: Licensee of PROOF Certification Trademark and responsible for management or for delegation of management for the production unit or units and products listed in the license agreement.

Pastured: All livestock are raised outdoors with continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks that are suitable for grazing and are provided with shade and shelter. All animals must use the paddocks each day unless; they choose to shelter because of inclement weather, short term confinement for veterinary treatment or when giving birth. Feed supplements are available to ensure all their nutritional needs are met. Animals are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in an actively managed rotational grazing system. Exception; young birds that are not yet fully feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

Food Processor: Is a food service establishment preparing or packaging food for consumption from meat supplied by or purchased from a licensed PROOF producer. A food processor is not an abattoir.

PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields: This organization carries out independently accredited auditing, review and consultation, which enables the licensing of the PROOF Certification Trademark.

Standards: The PROOF Standards and subsequent amendments for pastured production. The Standards defines criteria for assessment for licensing.

3. Certification Trade Mark

- a. The PROOF Certification Trademark shall be used by Licensed Applicants for the purpose and objectives of the PROOF Standards.
- b. The PROOF Certification Trademark shall be used to identify livestock, including poultry, pigs, sheep and cattle that have been produced on farms that are licensed to the relevant PROOF Standards.
- c. All uses of the Certification Trade Mark must be in accordance with these Rules and the License Agreement and must be approved by PROOF.
- d. Certified Applicants shall not engage in any conduct which is likely to adversely affect PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Field’s ownership or rights in and to the protection of the PROOF Certification Trademark.
- e. Licenses granted for the use of the PROOF Certification Trademark shall, for the term of the License, confer upon the Licensed Applicant the right to use the PROOF Certification Trademark in the manner set out in these Rules, but only so long as such License is in full force and effect.
- f. Licensed Applicants are authorized to use the PROOF Certification Trademark on company stationery, literature, packaging, labels, marketing materials and advertising in a manner reflecting the PROOF Standards or as may be approved in writing by PROOF. The PROOF Certification Trademark shall only be used in relation to product that has been produced in accordance with the PROOF Standards.

4. Licenses

- a. A license to use the PROOF Certification Trademark will be granted to applicants who apply for such a license and who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of PROOF that systems are in place to ensure that only product that has been produced according to the

PROOF Standards will be labelled, marketed, promoted or otherwise identified using the PROOF Certification Trademark. A licensee will be required to pay an annual license fee to be set by PROOF.

- b. Reference to PROOF certification and use of the PROOF logo requires audit, licensing and conformance to the PROOF Standard and these Rules.
- c. Legal or other means shall be pursued where incorrect or unauthorised use of the logo or the name PROOF is found to be occurring.
- d. Operators wishing to utilize the PROOF logo are required to undertake the steps outlined next.

PROOF Licensing Process

- e. Prior to certification with PROOF, the operator must:
 - i. apply for and enter into to a PROOF Licensing Agreement;
 - ii. complete a self-assessment and declaration questionnaire;
 - iii. participate in an on farm audit conducted by an inspector appointed by PROOF;
 - iv. satisfy PROOF that the applicant will comply with the PROOF standards.
- f. Onus is on the operator and their employees/contractors to ensure at all times that they are fully aware of all relevant aspects of the PROOF Standard relating to their operation. It is also the responsibility of the operator to be aware of extra regulatory or market requirements that are in addition to the PROOF standard.
- g. An application for PROOF certification, including payment, shall be made to PROOF. As part of the application process, the applicant must complete a declaration questionnaire in relation to their understanding of the PROOF Core Values and Standards. Applicants will be required to give details about their business structure and the livestock or systems they wish to certify. Application shall be made online.
- h. Upon receipt of payment, the applicant is sent all relevant documentation to enable them to complete any required documentation in preparation for a farm inspection.
- i. The application will only proceed once all requested documentation has been received.
- j. A PROOF auditor or qualified staff member, may request further documentation or evidence to assist in the assessment of the application.
- k. Following initial assessment and successful on farm audit, approval for a License may be granted pursuant to any special conditions applicable.
- l. The operator must be able to verify adherence to the relevant PROOF Standards and any special conditions set out by PROOF in the license agreement.
- m. Upon approval, a Licensing Agreement is offered to the operator. Certification is not finalized until the Licensing Agreement has been signed by all parties.
- n. PROOF certification applies to the operator who owns, leases or has legally recognized and enforceable management control of such an operation or facility. PROOF certification therefore is not transferable but applies to both the operator and the farm or facilities.

Random Audits

- o. At a minimum, PROOF will carry out an on farm audit of 20% of all licensed operators in each calendar year. These audits shall be in addition to initial audits for new applicants

and also additional to the annual internal audit carried out by the operator. Such Licensees will be selected at random.

- p. Random audits may be carried out whenever an opportunity arises. PROOF will give at least 7 days written notice of such audit.
- q. Unscheduled audits will be carried out without notice if concerns arise about the compliance status of any licensee that may be the result a bona fide complaint or referral by a reliable third party.
- r. PROOF may employ satellite, aerial or drone photography services to monitor a Licensee's farm remotely.
- s. PROOF may make it a condition of a License Agreement that more regular audits, at the cost of the Licensee, be carried out for individual Licensees if deemed necessary by PROOF.

Internal Audit (Self-assessment)

- t. An internal audit is to be ongoing, self-appraisal of the Licensee's operation. During an internal audit, internal auditors (the Licensee or their representative) will evaluate and monitor the licensee's management, reporting, and conformance to the PROOF Standard and make suggestions for improvement.
- u. The Licensee will be notified 28 days prior to the expiration date of their License Agreement to undertake an annual internal audit and submit it to PROOF.
- v. The Licensee must submit an annual internal audit to PROOF prior to renewal of the License Agreement.
- w. The internal audit will be assessed by an appointed auditor for compliance to the PROOF Standards. The auditor may request further information, photographic evidence or a live video tour of the operation from the Licensee to aid in the assessment.
- x. The internal audit must be reported in the format supplied by PROOF and made available on the PROOF website. This audit report is a standardized form that shall be submitted to PROOF upon completion and by the required due date.
- y. The internal audit will directly reference each area of the PROOF Standard applicable to the Licensee's operation.
- z. The internal audit forms are sent to the Licensee with the renewal notice and are also available online.

Ongoing Compliance

- aa. To maintain certification, the operator shall, at a minimum, commit and allow all resources and personnel to achieve the following:
 - i. For Licensees that are Food Processors, an annual audit is required that will be undertaken by an auditor appointed by PROOF with the appropriate scope.
 - ii. Perform and submit to PROOF an annual internal audit (self-assessment) unless the Licensee is a Food Processor, in which case, section 4.aa.i will apply, or, if a Licensee Agreement contains a condition for more frequent on farm audits;
 - iii. Provide any assistance reasonably required by a PROOF auditor to perform an audit or assessment of an internal audit;

- iv. Produce to the PROOF auditor all information, records or documents (in hardcopy or softcopy) requested to facilitate an audit or assessment of an internal audit;
- v. Random or special unscheduled audits;
- vi. The operator acknowledges that it will be responsible for the payment of all fees, costs and expenses associated with additional audits for non-conformances;
- vii. An annual license fee is paid to PROOF;
- viii. Upkeep of the relevant records as required as well as maps and related information, to be made available at the time of auditing and to PROOF as requested;
- ix. Ensure compliance with this Standard, or immediate written notification to PROOF of deviation from the Standard;
- x. Ensure compliance with special conditions or directives as specified in license agreements or stemming from correspondence with PROOF;
- xi. Keep updated and familiar with the Standard, especially pertaining to modifications or updates as they occur;
- xii. Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, including but not limited to biosecurity, animal welfare and health requirements for food quality and safety.

5. Obligation of PROOF - Pastured Raised On Open Fields

- a. PROOF is responsible for the administration of the Certification Trade Mark and its Licenses. PROOF shall maintain the Certification Trade Mark and associated Rules current, make the required Standards freely and readily available via a dedicated website, appoint one or several auditors and train them in the PROOF Standards.
- b. PROOF shall act upon the advice of the appointed auditor for the purpose of issuing a license for the PROOF Certification Trademark.
- c. PROOF shall maintain and publish on the dedicated website the names of those producers who are licensed to use the Certification Trade Mark.
- d. PROOF shall maintain a register of licensed producers.
- e. PROOF shall not alter or amend the Rules without prior approval of the ACCC.
- f. PROOF shall advise all licensees of any alteration, amendment, addition or deletion to or from these Rules approved by ACCC and keep the information on the dedicated web site current at all times.
- g. Auditor requirements**
 - i. All Auditors must be approved by PROOF and must meet the qualifications set out in this paragraph g.
 - ii. An auditor will be an independent third party and may be an individual engaged by PROOF or, a person authorized to act on behalf of PROOF.

- iii. Each Auditor must provide evidence of qualifications as a Lead Auditor of Quality Management or Food Safety systems.
- h. An auditor must also satisfactorily demonstrate:
 - i. A practical understanding of the livestock industry or systems they will be auditing;
 - ii. A practical working knowledge of the PROOF Standards and any other standards relating to livestock or systems to be audited;
 - iii. Capable of carrying out the obligations of an Auditor under the PROOF program;
 - iv. Be registered as an auditor with Exemplar Global or an Authorized Authority.

6. Obligation of Certified Applicant

- a. Each Licensee has the following obligations:
 - i. To ensure that their operation complies with the minimum requirements set out in the PROOF Standards and to maintain these Standards at all times;
 - ii. To agree with and ensure compliance with these Rules;
 - iii. To comply promptly with any reasonable direction of PROOF relating to the PROOF Standards;
 - iv. To advise PROOF of any change in ownership of the Licensed Business;
 - v. Not to assign any benefit of licensing or license without written consent of PROOF;
 - vi. To pay promptly, or when due, all fees arising under these Rules as specified from time to time by PROOF;
 - vii. To provide to PROOF an annual internal audit of the licensee's operations;
 - viii. To assist the auditing process by providing access to premises and records;
 - ix. To advise PROOF in writing of any matter which may be relevant to the licensing of the operator or its continuance;
 - x. To allow an Auditor appointed by PROOF access to the licensed facilities for the purpose of confirming compliance with the PROOF Standards and these Rules.
 - xi. To only apply the PROOF Certification Trademark in accordance with the instructions and standards set out in the PROOF Logo Licensing Agreement and in accordance with any directions that may be issued from time to time by PROOF in the interest of the integrity of the PROOF Standards and/or the protection and preservation of the PROOF Certification Trademark.

7. Termination

- a. A certified farm unit or a licensee may at any time withdraw from the PROOF Pastured Licensing Program upon giving the association at least 30 days' notice in writing.
- b. A license provided under these Rules may be terminated or suspended if there is a breach which, once notified, is not rectified within 30 days.

8. Appeal

- a. A decision not to grant a license shall be reviewed by PROOF if requested in writing indicating the grounds of dissatisfaction. In a case where the decision is based on an audit report and where PROOF believes that reasonable grounds for a review exist, PROOF shall seek the advice of the Auditor who conducted the Audit and issued the Audit Report and thereafter may seek further advice of a more senior third party auditor and act on that advice when reviewing the decision.
- b. The above process will be managed by the Chief Executive Officer or his/her nominee with input from the PROOF Executive and/or a committee appointed by the PROOF Executive for that purpose. However, any decision will have to be in line with the auditors' final recommendation.
- c. In the event that PROOF maintains the decision to refuse a license to use the Certification Trade Mark, the aggrieved party may apply for a review to be conducted by an arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement or by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.
- d. In case of a dispute relating to any other issue, that is not specifically related to a recommendation made by an auditor, the Chief Executive Officer of PROOF will seek to resolve such a dispute within 30 days from being informed in writing that a dispute exists. If a resolution cannot be reached, the CEO will present the issues to the PROOF Executive or a committee appointed by the PROOF Executive for that purpose, to seek resolution of the dispute. If the dispute remains unresolved after 60 days from the time when it was notified in writing to the CEO, the aggrieved party may apply for a review to be conducted by an arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement or by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

9. Governing Law

- a. Matters arising in relation to the Rules shall be governed and determined in accordance with the laws of the State of Queensland.

The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.

CATTLE STANDARD 2017

Version: 1.4

Introduction

The PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields certification program was developed to certify farms that adhere to these standards. The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.

This Standard covers the on farm management of **cattle**.

Onus is on the operator and their employees/contractors to ensure at all times that they are fully aware of all relevant aspects of the PROOF Standard relating to their operation. It is also the responsibility of the operator to be aware of extra regulatory or market requirements that are in addition to the PROOF standard. These may include but are not limited to:

- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Cattle or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists.
- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock.
- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments (or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists).

Compliance with all such regulatory and code of practice requirements is outside the scope of these standards.

Pastured Definition

All cattle are born and raised outdoors with continuous and unrestricted access to paddocks that are suitable for grazing and are provided with shade and shelter. All cattle must use the paddocks each day unless; they choose to shelter because of inclement weather, short term confinement for veterinary treatment or giving birth. Feed supplements are available to ensure all their nutritional needs are met. Cattle are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in an actively managed rotational grazing system.

Core Values

1. **All cattle are able to range in open fields or paddocks**
2. **All cattle are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing**
3. **All cattle are able to interact with the herd and to carry out natural behaviours**
4. **Cattle will not be kept in crates or stalls**
5. **Densely confined production systems and feedlotting are not permitted**
6. **All cattle will be protected from predation**
7. **All cattle will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements**

Guide to using the PROOF Cattle Standard

- The broad objectives of the standard are described at the beginning of each section.
- Each requirement of the standard is numbered and must be complied with.
- A guide to records that must be kept to demonstrate compliance with the standard will be indicated at the end of each section.

1. All cattle are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks

Range Management

Objective: This standard requires that all cattle have continuous and unrestricted access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is monitored to ensure that forage is always available for the animals in an actively managed rotational grazing system. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards.

- 1.1. A farm map will be provided to PROOF. The map may be hand drawn or a satellite image.
The map must include the following:
 - 1.1.1. The Lot number and Deposited Plan number for the property being certified;
 - 1.1.2. The Property Identification Code (PIC);
 - 1.1.3. Paddock layout and size of each paddock;
 - 1.1.4. Location of shade and shelter within paddocks; and
 - 1.1.5. The location of buildings on the land.
- 1.2. Paddocks must be actively managed to:
 - 1.2.1. Prevent heavily degraded, muddy and excessively barren ground;
 - 1.2.2. Minimize the build-up of manure;
 - 1.2.3. Encourage the cattle to make use of the range area with:
 - 1.2.3.1. Well drained, shaded areas that are distributed around the range area for cattle to rest outdoors without having to crowd together;
 - 1.2.3.2. Easy access to feed and water.
 - 1.2.4. Maintain groundcover in the range area so that it does not fall below 40%.
- 1.3. Cattle will have access to edible forage at all times except in circumstances of extreme weather conditions and extended dry periods that are beyond the control of the operator. At such times, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided. Any occasion

or time period that forage is unavailable, and it is necessary to supply supplemental fodder, will be recorded in the Farm Diary.

- 1.4. The paddocks must be rotated periodically to allow the range area to recover from use.
- 1.5. A written Paddock Management Plan must be in place that identifies how paddocks will be rotated and what remedial action will be taken to correct bare areas of ground, recovery of vegetation and manure build-up. This plan will include:
 - 1.5.1. Paddock rotations;
 - 1.5.2. Pasture restoration;
 - 1.5.3. Manure management;
 - 1.5.4. Management of muddy and overused areas.
- 1.6. Paddock rotations are defined as the relocation of cattle to fresh ground and the resting, or renovation, of the area previously grazed to ensure recovery of forage to the area.

Records to be kept

- Paddock Management Plan
- Farm Map
- Farm Diary

2. All cattle are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing

Objective: That cattle always have access to pasture and/or forage in an environment that encourages them to make purposeful use of the range area. Stocking densities will play an important role in managing and maintaining pasture availability.

Stocking Rates

- 2.1 Stocking rates must be determined by the carrying capacity of the land. Long-term carrying capacity is the average number of animals that a grazing area can be expected to support over a set period.
- 2.2 The Licensee will provide their assessment of the carrying capacity of the land cattle will graze to the PROOF auditor.
- 2.3 To assess long-term carrying capacity, the following must be taken into consideration:
 - 2.3.1 land types on the property;
 - 2.3.2 climate;
 - 2.3.3 evenness of grazing (including preference of land type, plant species, and distance to water);
 - 2.3.4 tree densities;
 - 2.3.5 goals for animal production;
 - 2.3.6 and land condition.

2.4 Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock or area designated for occupation and class of cattle. The calculation must take into consideration only the designated enclosure or paddocks and not to the total land area of the property. The producer must be able to demonstrate that cattle do graze the allocated areas.

The Herd

Replacement Stock

- 2.5. Cattle that have been purchased from a non-licensed (PROOF) supplier must reside on the licensed operator's property and be raised in compliance with the PROOF standards for cattle for a period of not less than 60 days before they can be sold under the PROOF Trademark License.
- 2.6. Purchased stock must be accompanied by a vendor declaration that states:
 - 2.6.1. the source of the animals;
 - 2.6.2. age of the animals; and
 - 2.6.3. A statement of compliance with section 2.4 of this standard (Surgical Procedures).
- 2.7. Stock may be purchased from another PROOF licensed producer and sold under the PROOF Trademark License.

Surgical Procedures

- 2.8. The following procedures are not permitted:
 - 2.8.1. Tail docking;
 - 2.8.2. Spaying of female cattle;
 - 2.8.3. Nose ringing.
- 2.9. When calves are disbudded, the procedure must be performed prior to the horn bud attaching to the skull. Disbudding using caustic chemicals is prohibited.
- 2.10. When horned cattle are part of the herd, only horn trimming may be performed instead of dehorning.

Records to be kept

- Sales and purchases of cattle
- Vendor declarations
- Animal treatment records
- Farm Diary

3. All cattle are able to interact with their herd and to carry out natural behaviours

3.1 No animal shall be kept or confined on its own unless necessary for short term medical treatment.

4. Cattle will not be kept in stalls or crates

Objective: That cattle are free to forage and explore in pastured paddocks without the restraint of tethers, feed lot yards or pens.

Shelter

- 4.5. All cattle will have access to shade and shelter in open paddocks that will provide protection from the sun.

5. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted

Objective: That all cattle have continuous and unrestricted access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is managed to ensure that forage is always available for the cattle.

- 5.5. Keeping of cattle in yards or pens, that enclose the animals preventing free access to paddocks, is not permitted.

6. All cattle will be protected from predation

Objective: To offer as much protection from predators as practicable.

- 6.5. Baiting programs must be considered when wild dogs or other predators are known to be a problem.

7. Cattle will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements

Objective: That cattle receive a balanced diet to meet their nutritional needs.

- 7.5. Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:

- 7.5.1. from an uncontaminated source; and
- 7.5.2. from a source that is managed to prevent contamination.

- 7.6. Cattle shall be provided with continuous access to pasture as their primary source of feed. Where conditions mandate, fodder and good quality hay may be provided. Grain supplementation in the paddock is permitted when pasture availability is poor but must not be a primary source of feed and may only be provided to make up nutritional deficits when pasture is inadequate. Available feed must satisfy cattle nutritional requirements and shall be:

- 7.6.1. supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the cattle in good body condition and health;

- 7.6.2. free from banned substances or contaminants.
- 7.7. Feeders and waterers must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.
- 7.8. Feeders and waterers, as well as any equipment used to transport feed and water, must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 7.9. Controls must be in place to minimize access to poisonous plants.
- 7.10. The routine use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics may be used to treat disease only under veterinary supervision.
- 7.11. Growth promoters are not permitted.
- 7.12. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 7.13. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary
- Feed records
- Animal treatment records

8. Understanding the Standards | Record Keeping

- 9.1. All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the cattle will;
 - 9.1.1. receive a copy of this standard;
 - 9.1.2. demonstrate understanding of this standard; and
 - 9.1.3. comply with this standard.
- 9.2. A suitable training program will be in place for all staff and anyone involved in the handling and management of the cattle to ensure compliance to this standard.
 - 9.2.1. In house training programs must be documented.
 - 9.2.2. Producers and staff have the option to undertake training modules available through PROOF. Records of completion will be provided.

Record Keeping

- 9.3. The Licensee must maintain and make available to PROOF or an inspector, production and management records. These records must be dated and include:

- 9.3.1. A Farm Diary or equivalent record keeping system. The diary can include the following if separate records are not kept:
 - 9.3.1.1. Routine activities;
 - 9.3.1.2. Maintenance;
 - 9.3.1.3. Paddock rotations;
 - 9.3.1.4. Harvest of crops or hay
- 9.3.2. Feed records (including feed purchase invoices, feed analysis, feed bag tags/feed formulas)
- 9.3.3. Animal treatments
- 9.3.4. Sales and purchases
- 9.3.5. Mortalities
- 9.3.6. Paddock Management Plan

PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields

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The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted daytime access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.

PIGS
STANDARD
2017

Version: 1.5

Introduction

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This Standard covers the on farm management of **pigs**.

Onus is on the operator and their employees/contractors to ensure at all times that they are fully aware of all relevant aspects of the PROOF Standard relating to their operation. It is also the responsibility of the operator to be aware of extra regulatory or market requirements that are in addition to the PROOF standard. These may include but are not limited to:

- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Pigs or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists.
- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock.
- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments (or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists).
- National Farm Biosecurity Manual Pork Production.

Compliance with all such regulatory and code of practice requirements is outside the scope of these standards however, an * will indicate when a particular standard aligns with one that is set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs.

Pastured Definition

All pigs are born and raised outdoors with continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks that are suitable for grazing and are provided with shade and shelter. All pigs must use the paddocks each day unless; they choose to shelter because of inclement weather, short term confinement for veterinary treatment or giving birth. Feed supplements are available to ensure all their nutritional needs are met. Pigs are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in an actively managed rotational grazing system.

Core Values

1. **All pigs are able to range in open fields or paddocks**
2. **All pigs are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing**
3. **All pigs are able to interact with the herd and to carry out natural behaviours**
4. **Pigs will not be kept in cages, crates or stalls**
5. **Densely confined production systems and feedlotting are not permitted**
6. **All pigs will be protected from predation**
7. **All pigs will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements**
8. **All pigs are inspected daily**

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Pigs

Guide to using the PROOF Poultry Standard

- The broad objectives of the standard are described at the beginning of each section.
- Each requirement of the standard is numbered and must be complied with.
- Where information is presented inside a textbox, its purpose is to provide additional explanatory information.
- A guide to records that must be kept to demonstrate compliance with the standard will be indicated at the end of each section.

1. All pigs are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks

Range Management

Objective: This standard requires that all pigs have continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is monitored to ensure that forage is always available for the animals in an actively managed rotational grazing system. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards.

- 1.1. A farm map will be provided to PROOF. The map may be hand drawn or a satellite image.
The map must include the following:
 - 1.1.1. The Lot number and Deposited Plan number for the property being certified;
 - 1.1.2. The Property Identification Code (PIC);
 - 1.1.3. Paddock layout and size of each paddock; and
 - 1.1.4. The location of building on the land.
- 1.2. Paddocks must be actively managed to:
 - 1.2.1. Prevent heavily degraded, muddy and excessively barren ground;
 - 1.2.2. Minimize the build-up of manure;
 - 1.2.3. Encourage the pigs to make use of the range area with:
 - 1.2.3.1. Well drained, shade and shelter areas that are distributed around the range area for pigs to rest outdoors without having to crowd together;
 - 1.2.3.2. Easy access to feed and water.
 - 1.2.4. Maintain groundcover in the range area so that it does not fall below 40%.
- 1.3. Pigs will have access to edible forage at all times except in circumstances of extreme weather conditions and extended dry periods that are beyond the control of the operator. At such times, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided. Any occasion

or time period that forage is unavailable, and it is necessary to supply supplemental fodder, will be recorded in the Farm Diary.

- 1.4. The paddocks must be rotated periodically to allow the range area to recover from use.
- 1.5. The area immediately surrounding the outside of pig housing must be kept clean and tidy and not offer shelter to vermin or wild birds.
- 1.6. Wallows shall be provided for all pigs unless state regulations prevent their use, in which case, misting or sprinkler systems need to be installed to cool the pigs during hot weather.
- 1.7. Wallows shall be frequently emptied and remediated to avoid heavy contamination and to minimize land degradation.
- 1.8. A written Paddock Management Plan must be in place that identifies how paddocks will be rotated and what remedial action will be taken to correct bare areas of ground, recovery of vegetation and manure build-up. This plan will include:
 - 1.8.1. Paddock rotations;
 - 1.8.2. Pasture restoration;
 - 1.8.3. Movement of mobile housing;
 - 1.8.4. Manure management;
 - 1.8.5. Management of muddy and overused areas.
- 1.9. Paddock rotations are defined as mobile housing systems that are relocated to fresh ground and the resting, or renovation, of the area previously grazed to ensure recovery of forage to the area. Fixed sheds are not encouraged but are acceptable if adequate paddock rotations can be demonstrated and compacted, bare areas in the immediate vicinity of the shed are managed to ensure that muddy conditions and build up of manure does not occur.

Records to be kept

- Paddock Management Plan
- Farm Map
- Farm Diary

2. All pigs are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing

Objective: That pigs always have access to pasture and/or forage in an environment that encourages them to make purposeful use of the range area. Stocking densities will play an important role in managing and maintaining pasture availability.

Stocking Rates

2.1 Stocking rates for the breeder herd must not exceed the following in the area designated for occupation by each class of pig:

2.1.1 20 Dry Sows per hectare*

2.1.2 10 Lactating Sows per hectare*

2.2 Stocking rates for grower pigs must not exceed 80 pigs per hectare and shall be calculated over the production cycle of the pigs.

2.3 Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock or area designated for occupation and class of pig. The calculation must take into consideration only the designated enclosure or paddocks and not to the total land area of the property. The producer must be able to demonstrate that pigs do graze the allocated areas.

Production cycle means: from weaning or delivery on farm until slaughter.

Grower pigs will include all classes of growing pigs (weaner, porker, baconer).

Breeder herd will include all sows, boars and replacement gilts.

The Herd

Replacement Stock

- 2.1. Purchased replacement breeder stock must be accompanied by a vendor declaration that states the source of the pigs, age of the pigs and vaccination history.
- 2.2. All breeding stock sourced off farm shall be quarantined for a period of at least 30 days and appropriately vaccinated and treated before introduction to the herd. These animals must be permanently identified, recorded and shall not be sold under the PROOF License.
- 2.3. Weaner pigs destined to be grown out for slaughter by the certified operator may be purchased up to a maximum age of 10 weeks. Where the supplier of the weaner pigs is not a PROOF Licensee, the supplier must be able to supply a vendor declaration stating;
 - 2.3.1. the weaners were born and raised in outdoor conditions;
 - 2.3.2. that the weaners were born to sows that were not restrained in sow stalls or farrowing crates; and
 - 2.3.3. compliance with 2.3 and 2.6 of this standard.
- 2.4. Replacement stock, weaners and/or breeders, may be purchased at any age from another PROOF licensed producer and sold under the PROOF Trademark License.

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Pigs

Surgical Procedures

- 2.5. The following procedures are not permitted:
 - 2.5.1. Tail docking;
 - 2.5.2. Teeth clipping;
 - 2.5.3. Nose ringing.
- 2.6. Alternatives to surgical castration are encouraged such as immuno castration, separation by sex, exclusion from contact with the breeder herd and rapid growth to market weight. If castration is to be performed, it must be carried out before the age of 21 days*.

Records to be kept

- Sales and purchases of pigs
- Vendor declarations
- Animal treatment records
- Farm Diary

3. All pigs are able to interact with their herd and to carry out natural behaviours

- 3.1 No pig shall be kept or confined on its own unless necessary for short term medical treatment.
- 3.2. The range area must provide conditions that allow the following behaviours to be performed;
 - 3.1. Foraging;
 - 3.2. Rooting;
 - 3.3. Wallowing. (refer to Standard 1.6)

4. Pigs will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates

Objective: That pigs are free to forage and explore in pastured paddocks without the restraint of cages, sows stalls, farrowing crates or pens. Housing will provide easy access to the range by all pigs and shall also provide protection from the sun, wind and inclement weather.

Housing

- 4.1. All pigs will have access to weatherproof housing at all times that will;
 - 4.1.1. provide freedom of movement;
 - 4.1.2. allow adequate ventilation and natural light;
 - 4.1.3. provide protection from the elements;
 - 4.1.4. be constructed of materials that will not pose any risk of contamination;
 - 4.1.5. provide loose substrate/litter for bedding;
 - 4.1.6. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma; and
 - 4.1.7. have non-slip floors.

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Pigs

- 4.2. Sufficient exits from housing shall enable ease of access by the pigs to the range area. Exits shall not have barriers or structures that prevent or deter pigs from exiting the housing.
- 4.3. Farrowing sows must be provided with individual accommodation.
- 4.4. Farrowing sows may be confined to their farrowing hutch overnight for a period of not more than three nights to protect the sow and piglets from other pigs and predators.
- 4.5. When farrowing sows are contained in housing overnight for protection, the minimum space required is 5 sq. metres per individual hutch / house.
- 4.6. Water and feed must be provided to farrowing hutches if the sows are to be confined as per section 4.4 of this standard.
- 4.7. Farrowing sows must be protected against predators either by guard animals, mechanical deterrents or exclusion fencing.
- 4.8. Housing and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected to minimize contamination, disease and harmful micro-organisms.
- 4.9. Housing records must be kept to enable the producer and/or the PROOF inspector to verify indoor space requirements at any time. These records will include:
 - 4.9.1. The floor area of each house.
- 4.10. Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
 - 4.11. free of any objects or protrusions that could cause harm or distress; and
 - 4.12. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary
- Housing records

5. Densely confine production systems and feed lotting are not permitted

Objective: That all pigs have continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is managed to ensure that forage is always available for the pigs.

- 5.1. 'Pig tractors' or mobile pens, that enclose the pigs preventing free access to paddocks, are not permitted.

6. All pigs will be protected from predation

Objective: To offer as much protection from all predators as practicable to all pigs especially farrowing sows and their newborn.

- 6.1. Fencing must be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.
- 6.2. Guard animals or mechanical deterrents are encouraged.
- 6.3. Farrowing sows may be housed for their protection at night when indoor housing complies with section 4.5 and 4.6 of this standard.

7. Pigs will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements

Objective: That pigs receive a balanced diet from a range of feed ingredients to meet their nutritional needs. Pasture alone will not sustain productive pigs therefore it is necessary to supply feed supplements to support appropriate growth and body function.

- 7.1. Pigs will not be fed on pasture alone. Suitable supplementary nutrition will form a part of the daily ration.
- 7.2. Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:
 - 7.2.1. from an uncontaminated source; and
 - 7.2.2. from a source that is managed to prevent contamination.
- 7.3. Fresh feed that is appropriate to the nutritional needs of the pigs shall be:
 - 7.3.1. supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the pigs in good body condition and health;
 - 7.3.2. free from banned substances or contaminants.
- 7.4. Feeders and waterers must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.*
- 7.5. Feeders and waterers, as well as any equipment used to transport feed and water, must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 7.6. Swill will not be fed to pigs.
- 7.7. The routine use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics may be used to treat disease only under veterinary supervision.
- 7.8. Growth promoters are not permitted.
- 7.9. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 7.10. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

Swill: is the traditional name for the feeding of food scraps to pigs. This practice has caused foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreaks overseas, including the catastrophic epidemic in the United Kingdom in 2001. Some food substances have been categorised as prohibited pig feed ('swill') and it is illegal to feed them to pigs in Australia. Refer to your state Department of Agriculture.

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Pigs

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary
- Feed records
- Animal treatment records

8. All pigs will be inspected daily

8.1. All pigs will be inspected each day.*

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary

9. Understanding the Standards | Record Keeping

9.1. All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the pigs will;

9.1.1. receive a copy of this standard;

9.1.2. demonstrate understanding of this standard; and

9.1.3. comply with this standard.

9.2. A suitable training program will be in place for all staff and anyone involved in the handling and management of the pigs to ensure compliance to this standard.

9.2.1. In house training programs must be documented.

9.2.2. Producers and staff have the option to undertake training modules available through PROOF. Records of completion will be provided.

Record Keeping

9.3. The Licensee must maintain and make available to PROOF or an inspector, production and management records. These records must be dated and include:

9.3.1. A Farm Diary or equivalent record keeping system. The diary can include the following if separate records are not kept:

9.3.1.1. Routine activities;

9.3.1.2. Cleaning;

9.3.1.3. Maintenance;

9.3.1.4. Movement of housing;

9.3.1.5. Paddock rotations;

9.3.1.6. Harvest of crops or hay

- 9.3.2. Feed records (including feed purchase invoices, feed analysis, feed bag tags/feed formulas)
- 9.3.3. Animal treatments
- 9.3.4. Sales and purchases
- 9.3.5. Mortalities
- 9.3.6. Paddock Management Plan
- 9.3.7. Housing records (refer to standard 4.9)

PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields

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The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted daytime access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.

POULTRY STANDARDS 2017

Version 1.7

Introduction

The PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields certification program was developed to certify farms that adhere to these standards. The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted daytime access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.

This Standard covers the on farm management of **layer hens, meat chicken, ducks and turkeys**.

Onus is on the operator and their employees/contractors to ensure at all times that they are fully aware of all relevant aspects of the PROOF Standard relating to their operation. It is also the responsibility of the operator to be aware of extra regulatory or market requirements that are in addition to the PROOF standard. These may include but are not limited to:

- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Domestic Poultry or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists).
- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock.
- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments (or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists).
- Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code - Standard 4.2.5 – Primary Production and Processing Standard for Eggs and Egg Product.
- National Farm Biosecurity Manual Poultry Production.

Compliance with all such regulatory requirements is outside the scope of these standards however, when a particular standard aligns with one that is set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Poultry, an * will be applied to that standard.

Pastured Definition

All poultry, once sufficiently feathered, are raised outdoors with continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks that are suitable for grazing and are provided with shade and shelter. All birds must use the paddocks each day unless; they choose to shelter because of inclement weather or short term confinement for veterinary treatment. Feed supplements are available to ensure all their nutritional needs are met. Birds are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in an actively managed rotational grazing system.

Core Values

1. **All poultry are able to range in open fields or paddocks**
2. **All poultry are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing**
3. **All poultry are able to interact with their flock and to carry out natural behaviours**
4. **Poultry will not be kept in cages**
5. **Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted**
6. **All poultry will be protected from predation**
7. **All poultry will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements**
8. **All poultry will be inspected daily**

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Poultry

Guide to using the PROOF Poultry Standard

- The broad objectives of the standard are described at the beginning of each section.
- Each requirement of the standard is numbered and must be complied with.
- Where information is presented inside a textbox, its purpose is to provide additional explanatory information.
- A guide to records that must be kept to demonstrate compliance with the standard will be indicated at the end of each section.

1. All birds are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks

Range Management

Objective: This standard requires that all poultry have continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is monitored to ensure that forage is always available for the birds in an actively managed rotational grazing system. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards.

- 1.1. A farm map will be provided to PROOF. The map may be hand drawn or a satellite image.
The map must include the following:
 - 1.1.1. The Lot number and Deposited Plan number for the property being certified;
 - 1.1.2. The Property Identification Code (PIC);
 - 1.1.3. Paddock layout and size of each paddock; and
 - 1.1.4. The location of building on the land.
- 1.2. Paddocks must be actively managed to:
 - 1.2.1. Prevent heavily degraded, muddy and excessively barren ground;
 - 1.2.2. Minimize the build-up of manure;
 - 1.2.3. Encourage the birds to make use of the range area with:
 - 1.2.3.1. Well drained, shade and shelter areas that are distributed around the range area for birds to rest outdoors without having to crowd together;
 - 1.2.3.2. Protection from predators;
 - 1.2.3.3. Easy access to feed and water in covered feeding/watering stations or in sheds to minimize access by wild water fowl.
 - 1.2.4. Maintain groundcover in the range area so that it does not fall below 40%.
- 1.3. Birds will have access to edible forage at all times except in circumstances of extreme weather conditions and extended dry periods that are beyond the control of the operator.

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Poultry

At such times, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided. Any occasion or time period that forage is unavailable, and it is necessary to supply supplemental fodder, will be recorded in the Farm Diary.

- 1.4. The paddocks must be rotated periodically to allow the range area to recover from use.
- 1.5. The area immediately surrounding the outside of bird housing must be kept clean and tidy and not offer shelter to vermin or wild birds.
- 1.6. A written Paddock Management Plan must be in place that identifies how paddocks will be rotated and what remedial action will be taken to correct bare areas of ground, recovery of vegetation and manure build-up. This plan will include:
 - 1.6.1. Paddock rotations;
 - 1.6.2. Pasture restoration;
 - 1.6.3. Movement of mobile housing;
 - 1.6.4. Manure management; and
 - 1.6.5. Management of muddy and overused areas.
- 1.7. Paddock rotations are defined as mobile housing systems that are relocated to fresh ground and the resting, or renovation, of the area previously grazed to ensure recovery of forage to the area. Fixed sheds are not encouraged but are acceptable if adequate paddock rotations can be demonstrated and compacted, bare areas in the immediate vicinity of the shed are managed to ensure that muddy conditions and build up of manure does not occur.

Records to be kept

- Paddock Management Plan
- Farm Map

2. All birds are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing

Objective: That poultry always have access to pasture and/or forage in an environment that encourages them to make purposeful use of the range area. Stocking densities will play an important role in managing and maintaining pasture availability.

Stocking Rates

2.1. Layer Hens

- 2.1.1. Layer hen stocking rates shall not exceed of 1,500 hens per hectare.

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Poultry

2.1.2. Flock sizes shall not exceed 2,500 birds in each house.

2.2. Meat Chickens

2.2.1. Meat chicken stocking rates shall not exceed 3,500 birds per hectare.

2.3. Ducks

2.3.1. Duck stocking rates shall not exceed 2,500 birds per hectare.

2.4. Turkeys

2.4.1. Turkeys stocking rates shall not exceed 2,500 birds per hectare.

2.5. Stocking densities shall be calculated over the laying cycle of hens or ducks kept for egg production, or the production cycle of birds produced for meat.

2.6. Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddocks, species of the bird and be applied to a designated enclosure or paddock and not to the total land area of the property. The producer must be able to demonstrate that birds do graze the allocated areas.

Laying cycle means: the period during which a group of hens are kept and managed together, from commencement of egg laying to end of laying life.

Production cycle means: from delivery on farm as chicks, poults or ducklings until slaughter.

The Flock

Replacement Stock

2.7. Meat birds, ducks and turkeys must be raised on farm from hatchlings (day olds).

2.8. Meat chicks, ducklings and poults must have unrestricted access to the range as soon as they are sufficiently feathered or before 28 days of age. The Licensee must be able to demonstrate that meat birds have spent the majority of their lives in an outdoor environment.

2.9. Chicks, ducklings, poults and point of lay pullets may be purchased from a reliable source and must be accompanied by a vendor declaration that states the source of the birds, age of the birds and vaccination history.

2.10. Purchased point of lay pullets, layer hens or ducks that have not been sourced from a PROOF certified supplier will be excluded from the PROOF license for a period of four weeks from delivery on farm. Eggs from these birds cannot be sold under the PROOF license during this period.

2.11. Replacement pullets must have access to perches from arrival on farm to introduce them to the laying environment.

- 2.12. Layer chicks raised on farm must have access to perches from at least 16 weeks of age. Access to perches from an earlier age is highly recommended to help with bone and muscle development and to introduce the birds to perching in the laying environment.

Surgical Procedures

- 2.13. The following procedures are not permitted:
- 2.14. De-snooding;
- 2.15. Toe trimming;
- 2.16. Secondary beak cutting/trimming.

Infra-red beak tipping is permitted. This is a one time trim of the tip of the top beak in the first few days of life that is carried out at the hatchery. No further trimming or cutting is permitted. This standard may change in the future to exclude all beak trimming as untreated birds become more readily available.

Records to be kept

- Sales and purchases of birds
- Vendor declarations
- Farm Diary
- Farm Map
- Housing records (refer to standard 4.10)

3. All birds are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours

- 3.1. No animal shall be kept or confined on its own unless necessary for short term medical treatment.
- 3.2. The range area must provide conditions that allow the following behaviours to be performed;
- 3.2.1. Dustbathing;
 - 3.2.2. Foraging;
 - 3.2.3. Roosting;
 - 3.2.4. Scratching.
- 3.3. The paddock will include an area of loose substrate suitable for dust bathing.

4. Birds will not be kept in cages

Objective: That birds are free to forage and explore in pastured paddocks without the restraint of cages. Housing will provide easy access to the range by all birds and shall also provide protection from the sun, wind and inclement weather.

Housing

- 4.1. All birds will have access to weatherproof housing at all times that will;
 - 4.1.1. provide freedom of movement;
 - 4.1.2. allow adequate ventilation and natural light;
 - 4.1.3. provide protection from the elements;
 - 4.1.4. be constructed of materials that will not pose any risk of contamination;
 - 4.1.5. provide loose substrate/litter for all non-roosting birds;
 - 4.1.6. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma; and
 - 4.1.7. have non-slip floors.
- 4.2. Sufficient perches will be available to enable roosting behaviour for all layer hens so that they may all access the perches at the same time.*
- 4.3. Perches must;
 - 4.3.1. allow at least 15cm of space per bird;*
 - 4.3.2. have at least 30cm between the perches;*
 - 4.3.3. be non-slip;
 - 4.3.4. be constructed of materials that will not pose any risk of contamination;
 - 4.3.5. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma; and
 - 4.3.6. Be constructed of materials that will not cause discomfort during cold weather.
- 4.4. Adequate space and bedding in bird housing will be available for all non-roosting birds: meat chickens, and ducks, so that they may all rest comfortably at the same time.*
- 4.5. Sufficient drinkers and feeders will be available within the housing if birds are contained in housing overnight, to permit easy access without crowding of the birds.*
- 4.6. Enough clean, dry nesting boxes or colony boxes will be provided to allow no less than 20% of the laying hen flock access at any one time.*
- 4.7. Sufficient exits from housing will enable ease of access for the birds to the range area. Exits will not contain barriers or structures that prevent or deter birds from exiting the housing.*
 - 4.7.1. Exits will not be of a height that prevents or deter birds from exiting the housing.
 - 4.7.2. All exits will allow for the passage of more than one bird at a time.
- 4.8. Birds may be housed overnight for protection from predators.
- 4.9. When birds are contained in housing overnight for protection from predators, maximum stocking densities in the house will apply. Stocking density indoors shall not exceed;
 - 4.9.1. 8 birds per square metre for layer hens and ducks;
 - 4.9.2. 10 birds per square metre for meat chickens; and
 - 4.9.3. 4 birds per square metre for turkeys.

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Poultry

- 4.10. Records must be kept to enable the producer and/or the inspector to verify indoor space requirements at any time. These records will include:
- 4.10.1. The floor area (not including nest boxes and perches) of each house;
 - 4.10.2. Dimensions of nestboxes;
 - 4.10.3. Length of perches and construction materials;
 - 4.10.4. The number of birds permitted in each house;
 - 4.10.5. The current number of birds in each house;
 - 4.10.6. Lighting programs;
 - 4.10.7. Weekly mortality rates; and
 - 4.10.8. Number of birds culled.
- 4.11. Housing must be located a sufficient distance apart to ensure adequate ranging capability by the birds and sunlight between houses.
- 4.12. Housing and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected to prevent contamination, disease and harmful micro-organisms.
- 4.13. Birds will have access to paddocks and pasture for a minimum of 8 hours each day.
- 4.14. Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
- 4.14.1. free of any objects or protrusions that could cause harm or distress; and
 - 4.14.2. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.

Lighting

- 4.15. When artificial lighting is used, the combination of artificial light and daylight hours must not exceed a total of 16 hours in any one 24 hour period.
- 4.16. Lighting may be used to encourage hens to use nest boxes or discourage floor eggs in dark corners of housing.
- 4.17. Artificial lighting is permitted for the purpose of supplying heat in chick rearing facilities.
- 4.18. Whenever artificial lighting is used, the lighting patterns must be recorded as per standard 4.10.6.
- 4.19. All light fittings should be fitted with shatter proof covers to prevent harm to the birds in the event of breakages.

Records to be kept

- Housing records as per standard 4.10
- Farm Diary
- Paddock Management Plan

5. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted

Objective: That all poultry have continuous and unrestricted daytime access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is managed to ensure that forage is always available for the birds from the beginning of their productive life.

- 5.1. ‘Chicken tractors’ or mobile pens, that enclose the birds preventing free access to paddocks, are not permitted.
- 5.2. When electric netting is used to fence range areas, stocking rates set out in Standards 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4 must be applied.

6. All birds will be protected from predation

Objective: To offer as much protection from predators as practicable for all birds.

- 6.1. Fencing must be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.
- 6.2. Guard animals or mechanical deterrents are encouraged.
- 6.3. Birds may be housed for their protection at night when indoor stocking rates comply with clause 4.9 of this standard.

7. Birds will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements

Objective: That poultry receive a balanced diet from a range of feed ingredients to meet their nutritional needs. Pasture alone will not sustain productive birds therefore it is necessary to supply feed supplements to support appropriate growth and body function.

- 7.1. Poultry will not be fed on pasture alone. Suitable supplementary nutrition will be available at all times.
- 7.2. Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:
 - 7.2.1. from an uncontaminated source; and
 - 7.2.2. from a source that is managed to prevent contamination.
- 7.3. Fresh feed that is appropriate to the nutritional needs of the birds shall be:
 - 7.3.1. supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the bird in good body condition and health;
 - 7.3.2. free from banned substances or contaminants.
- 7.4. Feeders and waterers must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.*

* Denotes that minimum requirements for this element are also set out in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Domestic Poultry

- 7.5. Feeders and waterers, as well as any equipment used to transport feed and water, must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 7.6. Force feeding is prohibited.
- 7.7. The routine use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics may be used to treat disease only under veterinary supervision.
- 7.8. Shell grit or another source of insoluble grit, will be made available at all times to layer hens and meat chickens to aid in digestion of pasture and other vegetation.
- 7.9. Ducks must have access to watering points deep enough to enable them to fully immerse their bills.
- 7.10. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 7.11. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary
- Feed records
- Animal treatment records

8. All birds will be inspected daily

- 8.1. All birds will be inspected each day.

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary

9. Understanding the Standards

- 9.1. All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the birds will;
 - 9.1.1. receive a copy of this standard;
 - 9.1.2. demonstrate understanding of this standard; and
 - 9.1.3. comply with this standard.
- 9.2. A suitable training program will be in place for all staff and anyone involved in the handling and management of the birds to ensure compliance to this standard.
 - 9.2.1. In house training programs must be documented.
 - 9.2.2. Producers and staff have the option to undertake training modules available through PROOF. Records of completion will be provided.

Record Keeping

- 9.3. The Licensee must maintain and make available to PROOF or an inspector, production and management records. These records must be dated and include:
- 9.3.1. A Farm Diary or equivalent record keeping system. The diary can include the following if separate records are not kept:
- 9.3.1.1. Routine activities;
 - 9.3.1.2. Cleaning;
 - 9.3.1.3. Maintenance;
 - 9.3.1.4. Movement of housing;
 - 9.3.1.5. Paddock rotations;
 - 9.3.1.6. Harvest of crops or hay
- 9.3.2. Egg Production
- 9.3.3. Feed records (including feed purchase invoices, feed analysis, feed bag tags/feed formulas)
- 9.3.4. Animal treatments
- 9.3.5. Sales and purchases
- 9.3.6. Bird mortalities and culls
- 9.3.7. Paddock Management Plan
- 9.3.8. Housing records (refer to standard 4.10)

PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields

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The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.

SHEEP STANDARD 2017

Version: 1.4

Introduction

The PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields certification program was developed to certify farms that adhere to these standards. The focus of PROOF certification is the on farm management of livestock in a farming system that provides unrestricted access to actively managed, pastured range areas in an environment that encourages purposeful use of those areas.

This Standard covers the on farm management of **sheep**.

Onus is on the operator and their employees/contractors to ensure at all times that they are fully aware of all relevant aspects of the PROOF Standard relating to their operation. It is also the responsibility of the operator to be aware of extra regulatory or market requirements that are in addition to the PROOF standard. These may include but are not limited to:

- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Sheep or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists.
- Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock.
- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments (or equivalent Australian Standard or State code where one exists).

Compliance with all such regulatory and code of practice requirements is outside the scope of these standards.

Pastured Definition

All sheep are born and raised outdoors with continuous and unrestricted access to paddocks that are suitable for grazing and are provided with shade and shelter. All sheep must use the paddocks each day unless; they choose to shelter because of inclement weather, short term confinement for veterinary treatment or giving birth. Feed supplements are available to ensure all their nutritional needs are met. Sheep are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in an actively managed rotational grazing system.

Core Values

1. **All sheep are able to range in open fields or paddocks**
2. **All sheep are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing**
3. **All sheep are able to interact with the flock and to carry out natural behaviours**
4. **Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted**
5. **All sheep will be protected from predation**
6. **All sheep will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements**

Guide to using the PROOF Sheep Standard

- The broad objectives of the standard are described at the beginning of each section.
- Each requirement of the standard is numbered and must be complied with.
- A guide to records that must be kept to demonstrate compliance with the standard will be indicated at the end of each section.

1. All sheep are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks

Range Management

Objective: This standard requires that all sheep have continuous and unrestricted access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is monitored to ensure that forage is always available for the animals in an actively managed rotational grazing system. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve compliance with these standards.

- 1.1. A farm map will be provided to PROOF. The map may be hand drawn or a satellite image.
The map must include the following:
 - 1.1.1. The Lot number and Deposited Plan number for the property being certified;
 - 1.1.2. The Property Identification Code (PIC);
 - 1.1.3. Paddock layout and size of each paddock;
 - 1.1.4. Location of shade and shelter within the paddocks; and
 - 1.1.5. The location of buildings on the land.
- 1.2. Paddocks must be actively managed to:
 - 1.2.1. Prevent heavily degraded, muddy and excessively barren ground;
 - 1.2.2. Minimize the build-up of manure;
 - 1.2.3. Encourage the sheep to make use of the range area with:
 - 1.2.3.1. Well drained, shaded areas that are distributed around the range area for sheep to rest outdoors without having to crowd together;
 - 1.2.3.2. Easy access to feed and water.
 - 1.2.4. Maintain groundcover in the range area so that it does not fall below 40%.
- 1.3. Sheep will have access to edible forage at all times except in circumstances of extreme weather conditions and extended dry periods that are beyond the control of the operator. At such times, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided. Any occasion

or time period that forage is unavailable, and it is necessary to supply supplemental fodder, will be recorded in the Farm Diary.

- 1.4. The paddocks must be rotated periodically to allow the range area to recover from use.
- 1.5. A written Paddock Management Plan must be in place that identifies how paddocks will be rotated and what remedial action will be taken to correct bare areas of ground, recovery of vegetation and manure build-up. This plan will include:
 - 1.5.1. Paddock rotations;
 - 1.5.2. Pasture restoration;
 - 1.5.3. Manure management;
 - 1.5.4. Management of muddy and overused areas.
- 1.6. Paddock rotations are defined as the relocation of sheep to fresh ground and the resting, or renovation, of the area previously grazed to ensure recovery of forage to the area.

Records to be kept

- Paddock Management Plan
- Farm Map
- Farm Diary

2. All sheep are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing

Objective: That sheep always have access to pasture and/or forage in an environment that encourages them to make purposeful use of the range area. Stocking densities will play an important role in managing and maintaining pasture availability.

Stocking Rates

- 2.1 Stocking rates must be determined by the carrying capacity of the land. Long-term carrying capacity is the average number of animals that a grazing area can be expected to support over a set period.
- 2.2 The Licensee will provide their assessment of the carrying capacity of the land sheep will graze to the PROOF auditor.
- 2.3 To assess long-term carrying capacity, the following must be taken into consideration:
 - 2.3.1 areas of land types on the property;
 - 2.3.2 climate;
 - 2.3.3 evenness of grazing (including preference of land type, plant species, and distance to water);
 - 2.3.4 tree densities;
 - 2.3.5 goals for animal production;
 - 2.3.6 and land condition.

2.4 Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock or area designated for occupation and class of sheep. The calculation must take into consideration only the designated enclosure or paddocks and not to the total land area of the property. The producer must be able to demonstrate that sheep do graze the allocated areas.

The Flock

Replacement Stock

- 2.1. Sheep that have been purchased from a non-licensed (PROOF) supplier must reside on the licensed operator's property and be raised in compliance with the PROOF standards for sheep for a period of not less than 60 days before they can be sold under the PROOF Trademark License.
- 2.2. Purchased stock must be accompanied by a vendor declaration that states:
 - 2.2.1. the source of the animals;
 - 2.2.2. age of the animals; and
 - 2.2.3. A statement of compliance with section 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7 of this standard (Surgical Procedures).
- 2.3. Stock may be purchased from another PROOF licensed producer and sold under the PROOF Trademark.

Surgical Procedures

- 2.4. Mulesing is not permitted.
- 2.5. Castration using the rubber ring method may be performed before the age of 12 weeks and must ensure the correct positioning to block arterial blood flow.
- 2.6. When horned sheep are part of the flock, only horn trimming may be performed instead of dehorning.
- 2.7. Short tail docking is not permitted. If tail docking is necessary to reduce the incidence of blowfly strike, the tail must be docked at the third palpable joint before the age of 12 weeks.
- 2.8. A program must be in place to prevent or control external and internal parasite infestations and blowfly strike.

Shelter

- 2.9. Windbreaks to reduce the effect of cold must be provided.
- 2.10. Lambing ewes must have access to sheltered paddocks.
- 2.11. Shade must be available to all sheep.

Records to be kept

- Sales and purchases of sheep
- Vendor declarations
- Animal treatment records
- Farm Diary
- Farm Map

3. All sheep are able to interact with their flock and to carry out natural behaviours

3.1 No animal shall be kept or confined on its own unless necessary for short term medical treatment.

4. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting is not permitted

Objective: That all sheep have continuous and unrestricted access to paddocks and that stocking intensity is managed to ensure that forage is always available for the sheep.

4.1. Keeping of sheep in yards or pens, that enclose the animals preventing free access to paddocks, is not permitted.

5. All sheep will be protected from predation

Objective: To offer as much protection from predators as practicable specially to lambing ewes and their newborn.

Predators may be managed using the following:

- 5.1. Exclusion fencing;
- 5.2. Guard dogs;
- 5.3. Mechanical deterrents;
- 5.4. Trapping of individual animals using live traps with relocation or, where there is no alternative, humane destruction;
- 5.5. Poisons for control of rodents or feral animals in the field.
- 5.6. Extra protection from predators for lambing ewes and new born lambs must be provided.
 - 5.6.1. The use of mechanical deterrents and guard animals is encouraged.
 - 5.6.2. Baiting programs must be considered when wild dogs or other predators are known to be a problem.

6. Sheep will be fed to meet their nutritional needs as well as production requirements

Objective: That sheep receive a balanced diet to meet their nutritional needs.

- 6.1. Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:
 - 6.1.1. from an uncontaminated source; and
 - 6.1.2. from a source that is managed to prevent contamination.
- 6.2. Sheep shall be provided with continuous access to pasture as their primary source of feed. Where conditions mandate, fodder and good quality hay may be provided. Grain supplementation in the paddock is permitted when pasture availability is poor but must not be a primary source of feed and may only be provided to make up nutritional deficits when pasture is inadequate. Available feed must satisfy sheep nutritional requirements and shall be:
 - 6.2.1. supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the sheep in good body condition and health;
 - 6.2.2. free from banned substances or contaminants.
- 6.3. Feeders and waterers must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.
- 6.4. Feeders and waterers, as well as any equipment used to transport feed and water, must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 6.5. Controls must be in place to minimize access to poisonous plants.
- 6.6. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 6.7. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

Records to be kept

- Farm Diary
- Feed records
- Animal treatment records

7. Understanding the Standards | Record Keeping

- 9.1. All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the sheep will;
 - 9.1.1. receive a copy of this standard;
 - 9.1.2. demonstrate understanding of this standard; and

9.1.3. comply with this standard.

9.2. A suitable training program will be in place for all staff and anyone involved in the handling and management of the sheep to ensure compliance to this standard.

9.2.1. In house training programs must be documented.

9.2.2. Producers and staff have the option to undertake training modules available through PROOF. Records of completion will be provided.

Record Keeping

9.3. The Licensee must maintain and make available to PROOF or an inspector, production and management records. These records must be dated and include:

9.3.1. A Farm Diary or equivalent record keeping system. The diary can include the following if separate records are not kept:

9.3.1.1. Routine activities;

9.3.1.2. Maintenance;

9.3.1.3. Paddock rotations;

9.3.1.4. Harvest of crops or hay.

9.3.2. Feed records (including feed purchase invoices, feed analysis, feed bag tags/feed formulas)

9.3.3. Animal treatments

9.3.4. Sales and purchases

9.3.5. Mortalities

9.3.6. Paddock Management Plan

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