

# PROOF - Pasture Raised On Open Fields

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Certification Rules

April 2017



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## 1. Scope

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- a. The PROOF Standards outline the minimum requirements for 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 ethical treatment of livestock in pastured production systems.
- 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 (a) 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. PROOF reserves the right to amend the Standards at any time in order to remain compliant with such requirements.

## 2. Definitions

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**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.

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 animals are born and raised outdoors with continuous and unconfined access to pasture throughout their life time. They are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in a sustainably managed rotational grazing system. Exception; young birds that are not yet fully feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

Processor: Is a food service establishment preparing or packaging food for consumption from meat supplied by or purchased from a licensed PROOF producer.

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

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- 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

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- 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 (internal) audit and declaration questionnaire;
  - iii. satisfy PROOF that the operator will comply with these 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 an internal audit (self-assessment) and any other documents required for their particular operation.
- i. The application will only proceed once all requested documentation has been received.
- j. Following initial assessment and desk audit, approval for a License may be granted pursuant to any special conditions applicable.
- k. Assessment and desk audit shall be carried out by an approved auditor or a PROOF staff member that fulfils the requirements for an auditor as set out in section 5.g. of these Rules.
- l. A PROOF auditor or qualified staff member, may request further documentation or evidence to assist in the assessment of the application.
- m. 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.
- n. Upon approval, a Licensing Agreement is offered to the operator. Certification is not finalized until the Licensing Agreement has been signed by all parties.
- o. 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.

### **Internal Audit (Self-assessment)**

- p. 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.
- q. 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.
- r. The Licensee must submit an annual internal audit to PROOF prior to granting or renewal of License Agreement.

- s. 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.
- t. 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 completed and by the required due date.
- u. The internal audit will directly reference each area of the PROOF Standard applicable to the Licensee's or applicant's operation.
- v. The internal audit forms are sent to the Licensee during the application or with the renewal notice and are also available online.

### **Unscheduled Audits**

- w. At a minimum, PROOF will carry out an on farm audit of 20% of all licensed operators in each calendar year. These audits will be in addition to the annual internal audit carried out by the operator. Such Licensees will be selected at random.
- x. Unscheduled audits may be carried out whenever an opportunity arises. PROOF will give at least 7 days written notice of such audit.
- y. Unscheduled audits will be carried out 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.
- z. PROOF may make it a condition of a License Agreement that regular audits, at the cost of the Licensee, be carried out for individual Licensees if deemed necessary by PROOF.

### **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 Processors, an annual audit is required that will be undertaken by an auditor appointed by PROOF.
  - ii. Perform and submit to PROOF an annual internal audit (self-assessment) unless the Licensee is a Processor, in which case, section 4.aa.i will apply;
  - 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 animal welfare and health requirements for food quality and safety.

## 5. Obligation of PROOF - Pastured Raised On Open Fields

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- 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. 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

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- 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 selected 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

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- 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

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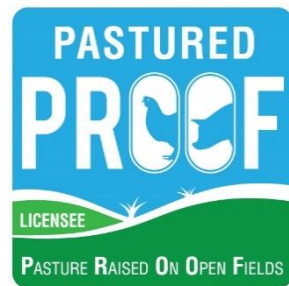
- a. A decision not to grant a license shall be reviewed by PROOF if requested in writing indicating the grounds of dissatisfaction. In a case where the decision is based on an audit report and where PROOF believes that reasonable grounds for a review exist, PROOF shall seek the advice of the Auditor 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

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

Animal health and welfare, a sustainable pastured farming environment and the production of wholesome, healthy food are the cornerstones of this standard. Our Core values lay the foundation for the ethical and sustainable production expected of pastured producers. We have further built on these commitments to bring to the consumer all the proof they need.



# BEEF CATTLE STANDARD 2017

Version 1.3

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## Introduction

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This Standard is complementary and additional to other health, agricultural, environmental, food and production related regulatory requirements at federal, state, territory and other relevant levels. This includes but is 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).

## Core Values

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1. **All animals are able to range in open fields or paddocks**
2. **All animals are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing**
3. **Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted**
4. **All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours**
5. **Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates**
6. **All animals will be protected from predation**
7. **Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements**
8. **Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted**
9. **All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis**
10. **Pastured production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable**

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

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### Range Management

Paddock rotation and pasture management should take into consideration the local environment, seasonal variations in climate and rainfall, soil conservation and nutrient management, production capability, pasture health and existing eco systems. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve good outcomes.

- 1.1. Vegetative cover of the range areas shall be managed through paddock rotations and shall ensure that all cattle have access to edible forage at all times except in circumstances beyond the control of the operator, such as extreme weather conditions and extended dry periods. In such circumstances, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided taking into consideration the nutritional needs of the animals.
- 1.2. Maintenance of groundcover is critical to effectively control erosion and soil degradation. Stocking densities shall be adjusted when necessary to ensure that groundcover is adequate enough to prevent erosion.
- 1.3. Cattle must be provided with adequate alternatives to water logged paddocks.
- 1.4. A Farm Map, representing an accurate picture of the property including boundaries, neighbouring activities, possible contamination sources, production paddocks, sizes, numbers, quarantine areas and infrastructure including hospital/ treatment building and storage of hay/ feed shall be provided to the PROOF auditor.

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

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### Stocking Rates

Stocking rates for livestock must be appropriate for the region taking into consideration feed production capacity, health of the pasture, size of paddocks, the breed, health and size of the animals, the soil structure, soil erosion, nutrient balance and environmental impact.

- 2.1. A rotational grazing system must be in place.
- 2.2. Stocking rates in rotational grazing systems must be adequate enough to allow animals to escape confrontation and to prevent aggressive behaviour.
- 2.3. Stocking rates need to be monitored along the principles of good animal welfare, preventative disease and environmental management in mind. Nutrient loading in the soils grazed by cattle shall be managed through effective paddock and stock rotations.

- 2.4. A rotational grazing system must ensure paddocks are not overgrazed and that grazing activities do not disturb the stability or sustainability of the natural ecosystem.
- 2.5. Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock, size and class of animals. The calculation must take into consideration only the designated enclosure or paddock and not to the total land area of the property. The producer must be able to demonstrate that animals do graze the allocated areas.
- 2.6. Grazing paddocks shall be spelled for an adequate period that shall enable the recovery of pasture.
- 2.7. The operator shall endeavour to maintain ground cover all year round to prevent soil erosion.

### 3. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted

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- 3.1. Living conditions must consider the needs of the animal and include;
  - 3.1.1. freedom from stress;
  - 3.1.2. freedom of movement;
  - 3.1.3. the ability to interact socially with the herd;
  - 3.1.4. access to clean drinking water;
  - 3.1.5. access to adequate nutrition that includes quality roughage to promote rumination and maintain body health;
  - 3.1.6. access to shade and shelter; and
  - 3.1.7. the ability to carry out natural behaviours.
- 3.2. Animals will have permanent access to paddocks and pasture.
- 3.3. Social structures must be maintained by ensuring animals are not kept in isolation or segregated from other animals of the same species.
- 3.4. Shelter, paddocks, range areas and yards must be;
  - 3.4.1. free of any objects or protrusions that may cause harm or distress; and
  - 3.4.2. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.
- 3.5. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying.
- 3.6. Animal races and runs must be managed in way that prevents excess build-up of manures, whilst avoiding pollution of the surrounding environment.

## Replacement Stock

- 3.7. Replacement breeder stock may be purchased from a reputable external source. These animals must be permanently identified and recorded.
- 3.8. Store weaners destined to be grown out for slaughter by the licensed operator, may be purchased from any reputable and reliable source. The supplier must be able to demonstrate that these animals were born and raised under outdoor conditions. All operators are encouraged to only purchase animals from licensed PROOF producers when available.
- 3.9. Bought in weaners that are destined to be grown out for slaughter, must be accompanied by a Vendor Declaration that can demonstrate compliance with clause 3.8 and Section 8 of this standard.
- 3.10. Weaners 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 beef cattle for a period of not less than 60 days before they can be sold under the PROOF Trademark.
- 3.11. Replacement stock, weaners, and/or breeders, may be purchased at any age from another PROOF licensed producer and sold as pastured under the PROOF Trademark.
- 3.12. When choosing breeds consideration must be given to the suitability or adaptability of the breed to the local conditions, their vitality, and disease resistance.

## 4. All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours

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

## 5. Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates

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### Housing

- 5.1. Shade and shelter will be available at all times that will;
  - 5.1.1. be appropriate to the physiological and behavioural needs of the animals;
  - 5.1.2. provide freedom of movement;
  - 5.1.3. provide protection from the elements;
  - 5.1.4. be constructed of materials that will not pose any contamination risk: and
  - 5.1.5. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma.

## 6. All animals will be protected from predation

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- 6.1. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.

## 7. Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements

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- 7.1. Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:
  - 7.1.1. from an uncontaminated source; and
  - 7.1.2. from a source that is managed to prevent contamination
- 7.2. 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:
  - 7.2.1. supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the cattle in good body condition and health;
  - 7.2.2. free from banned substances or contaminants;
  - 7.2.3. of known origin.
- 7.3. If a grain based supplement is fed to cattle, there must be an appropriate introductory feeding period during which time sufficient roughage is also fed.
- 7.4. Cattle must not be held for longer than 24 hours without appropriate nutrition e.g. when yarded.
- 7.5. Sudden changes in the type of quantity of feed provided should be avoided.
- 7.6. Controls must be in place to minimize access to poisonous plants.
- 7.7. Feed and water troughs must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.
- 7.8. Water transport equipment and troughs must be regularly monitored and maintained clean and in good repair.
- 7.9. The routine use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics may be used to treat disease only under veterinary supervision. Verification from a veterinarian must be provided to the PROOF auditor.
- 7.10. Growth promoters are prohibited
- 7.11. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to keep it dry and to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 7.12. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

## 8. Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted

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- 8.1. The following procedures are not permitted:
  - 8.1.1. Tail docking
  - 8.1.2. Dehorning (when the horn is attached to the skull)
  - 8.1.3. Disbudding using caustic chemicals
  - 8.1.4. Spaying of female cattle
  - 8.1.5. Nose ringing
  - 8.1.6. Teeth cutting, grinding
- 8.2. If surgical castration is to be performed, it must be carried out before the age of 6 months and in conjunction with the use of pain relief. This procedure will be carried out in a manner that minimizes pain and distress.
- 8.3. Surgical castration after six months must be carried out in conjunction with anaesthetic.
- 8.4. Castration after 12 months must be carried out by or under the scrutiny of a registered veterinarian and under anaesthetic.
- 8.5. Castration using the rubber ring method must be performed before the age of 2 weeks and must ensure the correct positioning to block arterial blood flow.
- 8.6. Polled cattle are preferred to horned cattle. When horned cattle are part of the herd, only horn trimming may be performed instead of dehorning.
- 8.7. When calves are disbudded, the procedure must be performed prior to the horn bud attaching to the skull and in conjunction with pain relief.
- 8.8. Service testing of bulls that requires the heifer or cow to be restrained is prohibited.

## 9. All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis

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- 9.1. All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the animals 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 animals to ensure compliance to this standard.
- 9.3. Stockpersons should be assessed for competency in the handling of the animals in their care.



- 9.4. Procedures that have the potential to cause suffering should only be performed by a stockperson that can demonstrate competency in that procedure.

## Handling & Transport

- 9.5. Cattle destined for slaughter are consigned to the nearest available abattoir.
- 9.6. Transport of animals shall comply with the Model Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Animals.
- 9.7. All animals must be fit to travel.
- 9.8. Transport vehicles must be inspected before loading of animals and Transport Declarations completed.
- 9.9. Transporter vehicles must be clean and free of protrusions and other characteristics that may cause injury and trauma to the animal.
- 9.10. Loading and unloading of animals must be carried out with minimal stress to avoid harm and injury to the animals.
- 9.11. Loading ramps must be made of a non slippery surface and free from protrusions that could cause the animal injury .
- 9.12. Unnecessary mixing or separation of cattle must be avoided.
- 9.13. Mode of transport and all equipment used during transport shall ensure the welfare of the animals and prevent overcrowding during transport. A responsible person shall be appointed to ensure the welfare of animals during transport.
- 9.14. Transport time shall not exceed 8 hours unless the welfare of the animal is at risk.
- 9.15. Adequate feed and potable quality water must be made available when spelling of livestock is required.
- 9.16. Spelling area must be clean and adequately secure to prevent the straying of animals
- 9.17. Management of transport should be guided by an attitude of responsibility, welfare and care for the animals.
- 9.18. A transport management plan shall be in place and shall demonstrate the operator's commitment to comply with the requirements of this section of the standard and shall include an emergency procedure in the event of an accident, break downs and other unforeseen circumstances

## Record Keeping

- 9.19. A Farm Diary with dated entries or equivalent record keeping system must be available to the auditor during inspection.
- 9.20. A records system must be in place that demonstrates compliance with each applicable section of this Standard and may include:
  - 9.20.1. Animal Identification
  - 9.20.2. Biosecurity Checklist
  - 9.20.3. Feed records (including purchase invoices and formulations)
  - 9.20.4. Chemical log
  - 9.20.5. Feed and pasture treatment records
  - 9.20.6. Animal treatments (including quarantine)
  - 9.20.7. Stock rotations & stock movements records
  - 9.20.8. Sales and purchases
  - 9.20.9. Animal births and deaths
  - 9.20.10. Animal treatment and quarantine record
  - 9.20.11. NVDs and NLIS
- 9.21. All animals will be effectively identified to ensure full traceability of individual animals.

## 10. Pastured production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable

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- 10.1 Each producer will complete an internal audit of their operation prior to approval of license and at annual renewal of license.

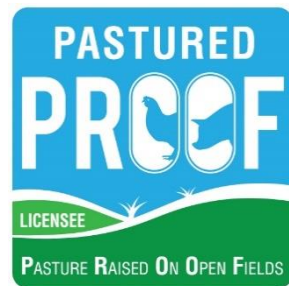
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**PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields**

[www.proof.net.au](http://www.proof.net.au)

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Animal health and welfare, a sustainable pasture raised environment and the production of wholesome, healthy food are the cornerstones of this standard. Our Core values lay the foundation for the ethical and sustainable production expected of pastured producers. We have further built on these commitments to bring to the consumer all the proof they need.



# PIGS STANDARD 2017

Version: 1.4

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## Introduction

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This Standard is complementary and additional to other health, agricultural, environmental, food and production related regulatory requirements at federal, state, territory and other relevant levels. This includes but is 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).

## Pastured Definition

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**All animals are born and raised outdoors with continuous and unconfined access to pasture throughout their life time. They are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in a sustainably managed rotational grazing system.\*\***

## Core Values

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1. **All animals are able to range in open fields or paddocks**
2. **All animals are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing**
3. **Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted**
4. **All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours**
5. **Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates**
6. **All animals will be protected from predation**
7. **Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements**
8. **Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted**
9. **All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis**
10. **Pastured production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable**

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

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

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## Range Management

Paddock rotation and pasture management should take into consideration the local environment, seasonal variations in climate and rainfall, soil conservation and nutrient management and existing eco systems. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve good outcomes.

- 1.1. Pigs shall be encouraged to spend time outdoors with adequate shade and shelter, easy access to water and feed. The planting of trees and shrubs is encouraged for shade and protection for the pigs.
- 1.2. Vegetated cover of the range areas will be managed through paddock rotations and will ensure that all pigs 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 time, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided.
- 1.3. Nutrient loading in the soils grazed by pigs shall be managed through effective paddock and stock rotations and when necessary, the implementation of procedures to remove or prevent the build up of nutrients in the soil to unacceptable levels. A decrease in stocking rates may be necessary to achieve this.
- 1.4. Regular soil testing should be carried out to assess nutrient loading in the soil and remedial action taken should soil nutrients reach unacceptable levels.
- 1.5. When soil testing triggers remedial action, a cut and cart phase, where crop and pasture are grown to use up nutrient in the soils, will be implemented and the resulting crop or hay will be removed from that land.
- 1.6. Maintenance of groundcover is critical to effective erosion control. Stocking densities shall be adjusted when necessary to ensure that groundcover is adequate enough to prevent erosion.
- 1.7. Paddock rotations are defined as mobile housing systems that are relocated to fresh ground and the resting 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 and pathogens does not occur.
- 1.8. A paddock rotation system and pasture management program must be developed and maintained.

- 1.9. Sufficient shade and windbreaks shall be made available in all production paddocks that occupy pigs. Adequately shaded areas must be available and easily accessible to all pigs at the same time.
- 1.10. 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.
- 1.11. Wallows shall be frequently emptied and remediated to avoid heavy contamination and to minimize land degradation.

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

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### Stocking Rates

- 2.1. Stocking rates for livestock must be appropriate for the region taking into consideration feed production capacity, size of paddocks, the breed, health and size of the animals, the soil structure, soil erosion, nutrient balance and environmental impact.
- 2.2. A rotational grazing system must be in place and stocking rates must not exceed the following in the area designated for occupation by each class of pig:
  - 20 Dry Sows per hectare
  - 10 Lactating Sows per hectare
- 2.3 It is recommended that stocking rates for grower pigs should not exceed 40 pigs per hectare in a rotational grazing system. Higher stocking rates will require close monitoring of pasture cover and nutrient management in the soils.
- 2.4 Stocking rates in rotational grazing systems must be adequate enough to allow pigs to be able escape confrontation and to prevent aggressive behaviour.
- 2.5 Stocking rates need to be monitored along the principles of good animal welfare, preventative disease and environmental management in mind. Nutrient loading in the soils grazed by pigs shall be managed through effective paddock and stock rotations and when necessary, the implementation of procedures to remove or prevent the build up of nutrients in the soil to unacceptable levels. A decrease in stocking rates may be necessary to achieve this.
- 2.6 A rotational grazing system must ensure paddocks are not overgrazed and that grazing activities do not disturb the stability or sustainability of the natural ecosystem.
- 2.7 Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock or area designated for occupation, size and class of pig. The calculation must take into consideration only the

designated enclosure or paddock and not to the total land area of the property. The producer must be able to demonstrate that animals do graze the allocated areas.

### 3 Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted

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- 3.1 All animals are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing.
- 3.2 Living conditions must consider the needs of the animal and include;
  - 3.2.1 freedom from stress;
  - 3.2.2 freedom of movement;
  - 3.2.3 the ability to interact socially with the herd;
  - 3.2.4 access to clean drinking water and adequate nutrition;
  - 3.2.5 access to shade and shelter and protection from predators; and
  - 3.2.6 the ability to carry out natural behaviours.
- 3.3 Pigs will have continual access to paddocks and foraging.
- 3.4 Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
  - 3.4.1 free of any objects or protrusions that could cause harm or distress; and
  - 3.4.2 made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.

#### Replacement Stock

- 3.5 Replacement breeder stock may be purchased from a reputable external sources. 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 as pastured for a period of six months from the time of arriving on farm.
- 3.6 Weaner pigs destined to be grown out for slaughter by the certified operator, may be purchased from any reputable and reliable source up to a maximum age of 10 weeks. The supplier must be able to demonstrate that these pigs were born and raised in outdoor conditions and without the use of sow stalls and farrowing crates. All operators are encouraged to only purchase animals from licensed PROOF producers when available.
- 3.7 Bought in weaner pigs that are destined to be grown out for slaughter, must be accompanied by a Vendor Declaration that can demonstrate compliance with 3.6 and Section 8 of this standard.
- 3.8 Replacement stock, weaners and/or breeders, may be purchased at any age from another PROOF licensed producer and sold as pastured under the PROOF Trademark.

## 4 All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours

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

## 5 Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates

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### Housing

5.1 All pigs will have access to weatherproof housing at all times that will;

- 5.1.1 be appropriate to the physiological and behavioural needs of the animals;
- 5.1.2 provide freedom of movement;
- 5.1.3 allow adequate ventilation and natural light;
- 5.1.4 provide protection from the elements;
- 5.1.5 be constructed of materials that will not pose any contamination risk;
- 5.1.6 be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma; and
- 5.1.7 have non-slip floors.

5.2 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.

5.3 Farrowing sows must be provided with individual accommodation.

5.4 Farrowing sows may be confined to their farrowing hutch overnight for a period of not more than three days to protect the sow and piglets from other pigs and predators.

5.5 When farrowing sows are contained in housing overnight for protection from predators, the minimum space required is 5 sq. metres per individual hutch / house.

5.6 Water and feed must be provided to farrowing hutches if the sows are to be confined as per section 5.5 of this standard.

5.7 Farrowing sows must be protected against predators either by guard animals, mechanical deterrents or exclusion fencing.

5.8 Housing and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected to prevent contamination, disease and harmful micro-organisms.

## 6 All animals will be protected from predation

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6.1 Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.

6.2 Guard animals or mechanical deterrents are encouraged.



## 7 Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements

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7.1 Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:

- 7.1.1 from an uncontaminated source; and
- 7.1.2 from a source that is managed to prevent contamination.

7.2 Pigs shall be provided with feed that satisfies their nutritional requirements and shall be:

- 7.2.1 supplied daily, with the exception of weaner pigs that must be fed twice daily;\*
- 7.2.2 supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the pig in good body condition and health;
- 7.2.3 free from banned substances or contaminants;
- 7.2.4 free from same species by-product; and
- 7.2.5 of known origin.

7.3 Swill will not be fed to pigs.

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 The routine use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics may be used to treat disease only under veterinary supervision.

7.7 Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.

7.8 An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

## 8 Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted

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8.1 The following procedures are not permitted:

- 8.1.1 Tail docking
- 8.1.2 Teeth clipping
- 8.1.3 Nose ringing

8.2 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\* and in conjunction with the use of a local anaesthetic.

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

## 9 All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis\*

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- 9.1 All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the animals 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 animals to ensure compliance to this standard.
- 9.3 Stockpersons should be assessed for competency in the handling of the animals in their care.
- 9.4 Procedures that have the potential to cause suffering should only be performed by a stockperson that can demonstrate competency in that procedure.

### Handling & Transport

- 9.5 Transport of animals shall comply with the Model Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Animals.
  - 9.6 All animals must be fit to travel.
  - 9.7 Transport vehicles must be cleaned before loading of animals.
  - 9.8 Loading and unloading of animals must be carried out with minimal stress to avoid harm and injury to the animals.
  - 9.9 Mode of transport and all equipment used during transport shall ensure the welfare of the animals and prevent overcrowding during transport.
  - 9.10 Transport times should not exceed 8 hours.
  - 9.11 The use of electric prods or goads is prohibited.
  - 9.12 A transport management plan shall be in place and shall demonstrate the operator's commitment to comply with the requirements of this section of the standard.

### Record Keeping

- 9.13 A Farm Diary with dated entries or equivalent record keeping system must be available to the auditor during inspection.
- 9.14 A records system must be in place that demonstrates compliance with each applicable section of this Standard and may include:
  - 9.14.1 Biosecurity Checklist
  - 9.14.2 Feed records (including purchase invoices and formulations)
  - 9.14.3 Chemical log
  - 9.14.4 Feed and pasture treatment records
  - 9.14.5 Animal treatments (including quarantine, stock rotations & stock movements)

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

- 9.14.6 Sales and purchases
- 9.14.7 Animal births and deaths

## 10 Pastured production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable

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- 10.1 Each producer will complete an internal audit of their operation prior to approval of license and prior to annual renewal of license.
- 10.2 Each producer will complete a Food Safety Risk Assessment that must be completed for their farm as part of the Licensing and license renewal process.

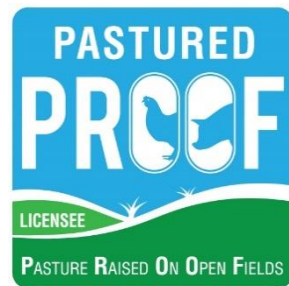
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### PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields

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Animal health and welfare, a sustainable pastured farming environment and the production of wholesome, healthy food are the cornerstones of this standard. Our Core values lay the foundation for the ethical and sustainable production expected of pastured producers. We have further built on these commitments to bring to the consumer all the proof they need.



# POULTRY STANDARDS 2017

Version: 1.6

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## Introduction

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This Standard is complementary and additional to other health, agricultural, environmental, food and production related regulatory requirements at federal, state, territory and other relevant levels. This includes but is not limited to:

- Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals—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).
- National Farm Biosecurity Manual Poultry Production.

## Pastured Definition

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**All animals are born and raised outdoors with continuous and unconfined access to pasture throughout their life time. They are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in a sustainably managed rotational grazing system.\*\***

## Core Values

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- 1. All animals are able to range in open fields or paddocks\*\***
- 2. All animals are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing; in the case of layer hens, shall not exceed 1,500 per hectare**
- 3. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted**
- 4. All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours**
- 5. Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates**
- 6. All animals will be protected from predation**
- 7. Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements**
- 8. Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted**
- 9. All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis**
- 10. Pastured production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable**

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.

## 1. All animals are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks\*\*

### Range Management

Paddock rotation and pasture management should take into consideration the local environment, seasonal variations in climate and rainfall, soil conservation and nutrient management and existing eco systems. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve good outcomes.

- 1.1. Birds shall be encouraged to spend time outdoors with adequate shade and shelter, easy access to water and feed and protection from real or perceived threat of predation. The planting of trees and shrubs is encouraged for shade and protection for the birds.
- 1.2. Vegetated cover of the range areas will be managed through paddock rotations and will ensure that all birds 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 time, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided.
- 1.3. Nutrient loading in the soils grazed by animals and birds shall be managed through effective paddock and stock rotations and when necessary, the implementation of procedures to remove or prevent the build up of nutrients in the soil to unacceptable levels. A decrease in stocking rates may be necessary to achieve this.
- 1.4. Regular soil testing should be carried out to assess nutrient loading in the soil and remedial action taken should soil nutrients reach unacceptable levels.
- 1.5. When soil testing triggers remedial action, a cut and cart phase, where crop and pasture are grown to use up nutrient in the soils, will be implemented and the resulting crop or hay will be removed from that land.
- 1.6. Maintenance of groundcover is critical to effective erosion control. Stocking densities shall be adjusted when necessary to ensure that groundcover is adequate enough to prevent erosion.
- 1.7. Paddock rotations are defined as mobile housing systems that are relocated to fresh ground and the resting 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 and pathogens does not occur.
- 1.8. A paddock rotation system and pasture management program must be developed and maintained.

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.

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

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### Stocking Rates

#### 2.1. Layer Hens

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

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 2,500 birds per hectare.

#### 2.3. Ducks

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

2.4. Stocking rates need to be monitored with the principles of good animal welfare, preventative disease and environmental management in mind. Nutrient loading in the soils grazed by animals and birds shall be managed through effective paddock and stock rotations and when necessary, the implementation of procedures to remove or prevent the build up of nutrients in the soil to unacceptable levels. A decrease in stocking rates may be necessary to achieve this.

2.5. Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock, size of 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 animals do graze the allocated areas.

2.6. When electric netting is used to confine poultry to an area of pasture, the stocking densities set out in this standard will apply.

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.

### 3. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted

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- 3.1. 'Chicken tractors' or mobile pens that do not meet the stocking density requirements of this standard are not permitted.
- 3.2. Living conditions must consider the needs of the animal and include;
  - 3.2.1. freedom from stress;
  - 3.2.2. freedom of movement;
  - 3.2.3. the ability to interact socially with the herd or flock;
  - 3.2.4. access to clean drinking water and adequate nutrition;
  - 3.2.5. access to shade and shelter and protection from predators; and
  - 3.2.6. the ability to carry out natural behaviours.
- 3.3. Animals will have access to paddocks and pasture for a minimum of 8 hours each day.
- 3.4. Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
  - 3.4.1. free of any objects or protrusions that could cause harm or distress; and
  - 3.4.2. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.

#### Replacement Stock

- 3.5. Day old chicks and ducklings may be purchased from any reliable source but they must not be de-beaked or have toes clipped.
- 3.6. Meat birds must be raised on farm from chicks.
- 3.7. Meat chicks shall be reared under conditions designed to develop natural behaviour and accustom the birds to conditions that will be encountered in a free range environment as soon as practicable. Facilities should accustom the birds to;
  - 3.7.1. hours and intensity of sunlight; and
  - 3.7.2. outdoor temperatures.
- 3.8. Meat chicks must have unrestricted access to the range as soon as they are sufficiently feathered or before 28 days of age.
- 3.9. Purchased point of lay pullets or layer chicks raised on farm, shall be reared under conditions designed to develop natural behaviour and accustom the birds to conditions that will be encountered in a free range environment from the age of 8 weeks. Facilities should accustom the birds to;
  - 3.9.1. hours and intensity of sunlight;
  - 3.9.2. outdoor temperatures; and
  - 3.9.3. perches.

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.



- 3.10. Point of lay pullets may be purchased from a reliable source on the condition that they are not de-beaked and that they are accompanied with a vendor declaration that satisfies the requirements of this section of the standard.
- 3.11. Purchased point of lay pullets or layer hens 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.

## 4. All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours

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

## 5. Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates

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### Housing

- 5.1. All birds will have access to weatherproof housing at all times that will;
  - 5.1.1. be appropriate to the physiological and behavioural needs of the birds;
  - 5.1.2. provide freedom of movement;
  - 5.1.3. allow adequate ventilation and natural light;
  - 5.1.4. provide protection from the elements;
  - 5.1.5. be constructed of materials that will not pose any risk of contamination;
  - 5.1.6. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma; and
  - 5.1.7. have non-slip floors.
- 5.2. 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.\*
- 5.3. Perches must;
  - 5.3.1. allow at least 15cm of space per bird;\*
  - 5.3.2. have at least 30cm between the perches;\*
  - 5.3.3. be non-slip;
  - 5.3.4. be constructed of materials that will not pose any risk of contamination; and
  - 5.3.5. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma.

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.

- 5.4. Adequate space and bedding will be available for all non-roosting birds: meat chickens and ducks, so that they may all rest comfortably at the same time.\*
- 5.5. 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.\*
- 5.6. 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.\*
- 5.7. 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.\*
- 5.8. 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;
  - 5.8.1. 8 birds per square metre for layer hens and ducks; and
  - 5.8.2. 10 birds per square metre for meat chickens.
- 5.9. Housing must be located a sufficient distance apart to ensure adequate free ranging capability by the birds and sunlight between houses.
- 5.10. Housing and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected to prevent contamination, disease and harmful micro-organisms.

## Lighting

- 5.11. 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.
- 5.12. Lighting may be used to encourage hens to use nest boxes or discourage floor eggs in dark corners of housing.
- 5.13. Artificial lighting is permitted for the purpose of supplying heat in chick rearing facilities.
- 5.14. All light fittings should be fitted with shatter proof covers to prevent harm to the animals in the event of breakages.

## 6. All animals will be protected from predation

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- 6.1. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and 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 meet clause 5.8 of this standard.

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.

## 7. Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements

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- 7.1. Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:
  - 7.1.1. from an uncontaminated source; and
  - 7.1.2. from a source that is managed to prevent contamination.
- 7.2. Fresh feed that is appropriate to the nutritional needs of the birds shall be:
  - 7.2.1. supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the bird in good body condition and health;
  - 7.2.2. free from banned substances or contaminants;
  - 7.2.3. free from same species by-product; and
  - 7.2.4. of known origin.
- 7.3. Feeders and waterers must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.\*
- 7.4. Feeders and waterers, as well as any equipment used to transport feed and water, must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 7.5. Force feeding is prohibited.
- 7.6. The routine use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics may be used to treat disease only under veterinary supervision.
- 7.7. 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.
- 7.8. Ducks must have access to watering points deep enough to enable them to fully immerse their bills.
- 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.

## 8. Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted

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Animal husbandry should take into consideration the welfare of the animals, health of the animals, social structures within herds or flocks and the prevention of disease through adequate nutrition, stress free animal handling, hygiene and vaccination. Egg producers must endeavour to purchase point of lay pullets that have not had their beaks trimmed.

### 8.1 Illness or injury will be addressed promptly so that no animal will be left to suffer.

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.

8.2 The following procedures are not permitted:

8.2.1 De-beaking;\*\*\*

8.2.2 De-snooding;

8.2.3 Toe clipping.

8.2 Induced moulting by the withholding of feed and water is prohibited.

## 9 All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis

9.1 All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the animals 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 animals to ensure compliance to this standard.

9.3 Stockpersons should be assessed for competency in the handling of the animals in their care.

9.4 Procedures that have the potential to cause suffering should only be performed by a stockperson that can demonstrate competency in that procedure.

### Handling & Transport

9.5 Transport of animals shall comply with the Model Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Animals.

9.6 All animals must be fit to travel.

9.7 Transport vehicles must be cleaned before loading of animals.

9.8 Loading and unloading of animals must be carried out with minimal stress to avoid harm and injury to the animals.

9.9 Mode of transport and all equipment used during transport will ensure the welfare of the animals and that there is no overcrowding during transport.

9.10 Transport times should not exceed 8 hours.

9.11 Electric prods or goads are prohibited.

9.12 A transport management plan shall be in place to demonstrate that the conditions of this section of the standard are complied with.

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.

## Record Keeping

- 9.13 A Farm Diary with dated entries or equivalent record keeping system must be available to the auditor during inspection.
- 9.14 A records system must be in place that demonstrates compliance with each applicable section of this Standard and may include:
  - 9.14.1 Biosecurity Checklist
  - 9.14.2 Feed records (including purchase invoices and formulations)
  - 9.14.3 Chemical log
  - 9.14.4 Feed and pasture treatment records
  - 9.14.5 Animal treatments (including quarantine, stock rotations & stock movements)
  - 9.14.6 Sales and purchases
  - 9.14.7 Animal births and deaths

## 10 Pastured production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable

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- 10.1 Each producer will complete an internal audit of their operation prior to approval of license and prior to annual renewal of license.
  - 10.2 Each producer will complete a Food Safety Risk Assessment that must be completed for their farm as part of the Licensing and license renewal process.
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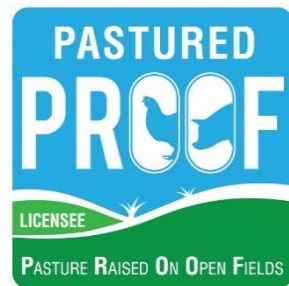
[admin@proof.net.au](mailto:admin@proof.net.au)

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

\*\* with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered and poultry that must be protected from predation at night.

\*\*\*removal of part of the beak and not just the tip, usually the front third of the upper beak, of domestic fowls as a prevention against cannibalism in birds in intensive housing.

Animal health and welfare, a sustainable pastured farming environment and the production of wholesome, healthy food are the cornerstones of this standard. Our Core values lay the foundation for the ethical and sustainable production expected of pastured producers. We have further built on these commitments to bring to the consumer all the proof they need.



# MEAT SHEEP STANDARD 2017

Version 1.3

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## Introduction

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This Standard is complementary and additional to other health, agricultural, environmental, food and production related regulatory requirements at federal, state, territory and other relevant levels. This includes but is 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).

## Pastured Definition

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**All animals are born and raised outdoors with continuous and unconfined access to pasture throughout their life time. They are kept at a stocking intensity that will ensure forage is always available in a sustainably managed rotational grazing system.**

## Core Values

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1. **All animals are able to range in open fields or paddocks**
2. **All animals are kept at stocking densities that will ensure access to forage and grazing**
3. **Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted**
4. **All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours**
5. **Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates**
6. **All animals will be protected from predation**
7. **Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements**
8. **Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted**
9. **All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis**
10. **Pastured production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable**

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

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### Range Management

Paddock rotation and pasture management should take into consideration the local environment, seasonal variations in climate and rainfall, soil conservation and nutrient management, production capability, pasture health and existing eco systems. Stocking densities need to be monitored and adjusted as necessary to achieve good outcomes.

- 1.1. Vegetative cover of the range areas shall be managed through paddock rotations and shall ensure that all sheep have access to edible forage at all times except in circumstances beyond the control of the operator, such as extreme weather conditions and extended dry periods. In such circumstances, good Lucerne hay or other suitable fodder shall be provided taking into consideration the nutritional needs of the animals.
- 1.2. Maintenance of groundcover is critical to effectively control erosion and soil degradation. Stocking densities shall be adjusted when necessary to ensure that groundcover is adequate enough to prevent erosion.
- 1.3. Sheep must be provided with adequate alternatives to water logged paddocks.
- 1.4. A Farm Map, representing an accurate picture of the property including boundaries, neighbouring activities, possible contamination sources, production paddocks, sizes, numbers, quarantine areas and infrastructure including hospital/ treatment building and storage of hay/ feed shall be provided to the PROOF auditor.

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

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### Stocking Rates

Stocking rates for livestock must be appropriate for the region taking into consideration feed production capacity, size of paddocks, the breed, health and size of the animals, the soil structure, soil erosion, nutrient balance and environmental impact.

- 2.1. A rotational grazing system must be in place.
- 2.2. Stocking rates in rotational grazing systems must be adequate enough to allow animals to be able escape confrontation and to prevent aggressive behaviour.
- 2.3. Stocking rates need to be monitored along the principles of good animal welfare, preventative disease and environmental management in mind. Nutrient loading in the soils grazed by sheep shall be managed through effective paddock and stock rotations.



- 2.4. A rotational grazing system must ensure paddocks are not overgrazed and that grazing activities do not disturb the stability or sustainability of the natural ecosystem.
- 2.5. Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock, size and class of animals. The calculation must take into consideration only the designated enclosure or paddock and not to the total land area of the property. The producer must be able to demonstrate that animals do graze the allocated areas.

### 3. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted

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- 3.1. Living conditions must consider the needs of the animal and include;
  - 3.1.1. freedom from stress;
  - 3.1.2. freedom of movement;
  - 3.1.3. the ability to interact socially with the herd or flock;
  - 3.1.4. access to clean drinking water and adequate nutrition that includes quality roughages to promote rumination;
  - 3.1.5. access to shade and shelter;
  - 3.1.6. adequate protection from predators; and
  - 3.1.7. the ability to carry out natural behaviours.
- 3.2. Animals will have permanent access to paddocks and pasture.
- 3.3. Herd animals must not be kept in isolation or segregated from other animals of the same species preventing social structures.
- 3.4. Housing, shearing sheds, paddocks, range areas and yards must be;
  - 3.4.1. free of any objects or protrusions that may cause harm or distress; and
  - 3.4.2. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.
- 3.5. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.

### Replacement Stock

- 3.6. Replacement breeder stock may be purchased from a reputable external source. These animals must be permanently identified and recorded.
- 3.7. Store lambs destined to be grown out for slaughter by the licensed operator, may be purchased before the age of 12 weeks from any reputable and reliable source. The supplier must be able to demonstrate that these animals were born and raised outdoors and that all

animal husbandry practices comply with Section 8 of this Standard. All operators are encouraged to only purchase animals from licensed PROOF producers when available.

- 3.8. Bought in sheep that are destined to be grown out for slaughter, must be accompanied by a Vendor Declaration that can demonstrate compliance with 3.7 of this Standard.
- 3.9. Stock 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 meat sheep for a period of not less than 60 days before they can be sold under the PROOF Trademark.
- 3.10. Replacement stock, store lambs and/or breeders, may be purchased at any age from another PROOF licensed producer and sold as pastured under the PROOF Trademark.

## 4. All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours

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

## 5. Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates

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- 5.1. Shade and shelter will be available at all times that will;
  - 5.1.1. be appropriate to the physiological and behavioural needs of the animals;
  - 5.1.2. provide freedom of movement;
  - 5.1.3. be constructed of materials that will not pose any contamination risk; and
  - 5.1.4. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma.
- 5.2 Windbreaks to reduce the effect of cold must be provided.
- 5.3 Lambing ewes must have access to sheltered paddocks.

## 6. All animals will be protected from predation

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- 6.1. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.
- 6.2. Extra protection from predators for lambing ewes and new born lambs must be provided.

## 7. Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements

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- 7.1. Clean, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times and be:
  - 7.1.1. from an uncontaminated source; and
  - 7.1.2. from a source that is managed to prevent contamination.
- 7.2. 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:
  - 7.2.1. supplied in sufficient quantity to maintain the sheep in good body condition and health;
  - 7.2.2. free from banned substances or contaminants;
  - 7.2.3. of known origin.
- 7.3. If grain based supplements are fed to sheep, there must be an appropriate introductory feeding period during which sufficient roughage is also fed.
- 7.4. Sheep must not be held for longer than 24 hours without appropriate nutrition e.g. at shearing, yarded, when on stubble.
- 7.5. Body condition of pregnant sheep must be monitored continually and any necessary adjustments made to their diet.
- 7.6. Sudden changes in the type or quantity of feed provided should be avoided.
- 7.7. Controls must be in place to minimize access to poisonous plants.
- 7.8. Feeders and waterers must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.
- 7.9. Feeders and waterers, as well as any equipment used to transport feed and water, must be kept clean and in good repair.
- 7.10. Waterers must be of a type and sited to prevent lambs from drowning.
- 7.11. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 7.12. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

## 8. Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted

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- 8.1. The following procedures are not permitted:
  - 8.1.1. Mulesing
  - 8.1.2. Dehorning (when the horn is attached to the skull)
  - 8.1.3. Surgical castration
- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. When horned sheep are part of the herd, only horn trimming may be performed instead of dehorning.
- 8.5. A program must be in place to prevent or control external and internal parasite infestations and blowfly strike.
- 8.6. Lambs must not be weaned before 5 weeks of age.

## 9. All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis

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- 9.1. All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the animals 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 animals to ensure compliance to this standard.
- 9.3. Stockpersons should be assessed for competency in the handling of the animals in their care.
- 9.4. Procedures that have the potential to cause suffering should only be performed by a stockperson that can demonstrate competency in that procedure.

## Handling & Transport

- 9.5. Sheep destined for slaughter are consigned to the nearest available abattoir.
- 9.6. Sheep must not be caught or lifted by the fleece.
- 9.7. Transport of animals shall comply with the Model Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Animals.
- 9.8. All animals must be fit to travel.
- 9.9. Transport vehicles must be cleaned before loading of animals.
- 9.10. Loading and unloading of animals must be carried out with minimal stress to avoid harm and injury to the animals.
- 9.11. Unnecessary mixing or separation of sheep must be avoided.
- 9.12. Mode of transport and all equipment used during transport shall ensure the welfare of the animals and prevent overcrowding during transport.
- 9.13. Transport times should not exceed 8 hours.
- 9.14. The use of electric prods or goads is prohibited.
- 9.15. A transport management plan shall be in place and shall demonstrate the operator's commitment to comply with the requirements of this section of the Standard.

## Record Keeping

- 9.16. A Farm Diary with dated entries or equivalent record keeping system must be available to the auditor during inspection.
- 9.17. A records system must be in place that demonstrates compliance with each applicable section of this Standard and may include:
  - 9.17.1. Animal Identification
  - 9.17.2. Biosecurity Checklist
  - 9.17.3. Feed records (including purchase invoices and formulations)
  - 9.17.4. Chemical log
  - 9.17.5. Feed and pasture treatment records
  - 9.17.6. Animal treatments (including quarantine)
  - 9.17.7. Stock rotations & stock movements records
  - 9.17.8. Sales and purchases
  - 9.17.9. Animal births and deaths
  - 9.17.10. NVD's and NLIS
- 9.18. All animals will be effectively identified to ensure full traceability of individual animals.

## 10. Pastured production should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable

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- 10.1 Each producer will complete an internal audit of their operation prior to approval of license and at annual renewal of license.

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