

PROOF - Pasture Raised On Open Fields

Certification Rules

2014

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1. Scope

- 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 standard is the ethical treatment of livestock in free range production systems.
- c. The Standards apply to the following products that carry, or are intended to carry, descriptive labelling referring to pastured, free range 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

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 a designated review committee, to determine whether activities comply with planned objectives and requirements of relevant Standards. This may include unscheduled audits and gap audits. This is also referred to as an inspection.

Auditor: A person deemed by the certification office to have the expertise and authority to inspect and audit operators in regard to compliance with the PROOF Standard for certification purposes. Auditors must be registered with RABQSA.

Certified: To have been audited and subsequently licensed to use the PROOF Certification Trademark.

Certification Committee: Committee appointed by PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields Pty Ltd that uses audit reports and other means to make decisions regarding certification of operations and properties.

Certification transference: Arrangement between certification bodies regarding recognition of another certification system and certified products as equivalent for handling and marketing of the PROOF Standards.

Compliance: Actions or outcomes that relate to meeting requirements of the PROOF Standard. 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 certification and compliance with the PROOF Standard.

Farm unit: 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.

Gap audit: An audit that assesses areas where the operator may require modification to plans or practices prior to certification or prior to addition of areas or products for certification. Also referred to as a desk audit, such audits may either occur by document review and/or on-site assessment.

Hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP): Management system orientated towards minimising or eliminating hazards posed as part of the production process through means of monitoring and verification. For organic operators, HACCP management implies a system of identification of all significant hazards that may compromise an ability to conform to this Standard for organic production, identifying control points, putting in place management practices that help eliminate or reduce risks associated with those hazards, and then maintaining verification processes to ensure that management practices are effective.

Inspection: See Audit.

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

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

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

Licensee: Operator and/or owner of operations covered under the licence 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 licence agreement.

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

PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields Pty Ltd: This organisation carries out independently accredited auditing, review and certification work, which enables the licensing of the PROOF Certification Trademark.

Standard: In this publication refers to the PROOF Standards and subsequent amendments for pastured, free range production. The Standard defines criteria for assessment for certification.

3. Certification Trade Mark

- a. The PROOF Certification Trademark shall be used by Certified 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 certified to the relevant PROOF Standards.
- c. All uses of the Certification Trade Mark must be in accordance with these Certification 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 Fields Pty Ltd’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 Certified 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. Certified Applicants are authorized to use the PROOF Certification Trademark on company stationary, literature, packaging, labels, marketing materials and advertising in a manner reflecting certification under the PROOF Standards or as may be approved in writing by the Certification Committee. The PROOF Certification Trademark shall only be used in relation to product that has been produced in accordance with the PROOF Standards.

4. Licences

- a. A licence to use the PROOF Standards will be granted to applicants who apply for such a licence and who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of an external auditor appointed by 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 licence fee to be set by PROOF.

5. Obligation of PROOF - Pastured Raised On Open Fields Pty Ltd

- a. The company is responsible for the administration of the Certification Trade Mark and its Licences. The Association 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 certified by the Registered Accreditation Board Quality Society of Australasia and train them in the PROOF Standards.
- b. PROOF shall act upon the recommendations of the appointed auditors 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 licenced to use the Certification Trade Mark.
- d. PROOF shall maintain a register of certified 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.

6. Obligation of Certified Applicant

- a. Each certified farm unit 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 Standard;
 - iv. To advise PROOF of any change in ownership of the Certified Business;
 - v. Not to assign any benefit of certification or licence 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 assist certification audits by providing access to premises and records;

- viii. To advise PROOF in writing of any matter which may be relevant to the certification of the operator or its continuance;
- ix. To allow an Auditor selected by PROOF access to the certified facilities for the purpose of confirming compliance with the PROOF Standards and these Rules.
- x. To only apply the PROOF Certification Trademark in accordance with the instructions and guidelines set out in the PROOF Logo Licensing Agreement and in accordance with any directions that may be issued from time to time by the Certification Committee 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 Free Range Certification Program upon giving the Association at least 30 days' notice in writing.
- b. A licence 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 certification or not to grant a licence 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 Managing Director 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 certification or a licence 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 Managing Director 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 Managing Director 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 Managing Director, 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. Conflict of Interest

- a. Members of the PROOF Executive or any committee appointed to assist in the delivery of this program will be required to abstain themselves of any involvement on behalf of PROOF in disputes and other matters that specifically involve their organisation, either directly or indirectly (e.g. if a contract farm disputes a matter, then the relevant processor will abstain him/herself from any discussions and decisions) and will not be present during the relevant discussions.

10. Governing Law

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

Animal health and welfare, a sustainable free range 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 2015

Version 1.0

Introduction

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:

- 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).

1. Core Values

- 1.1. All animals are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks
- 1.2. All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours
- 1.3. All animals should thrive in their environment and not just cope with it
- 1.4. Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates
- 1.5. All animals will be protected from predation
- 1.6. Illness or injury will be addressed promptly so that no animal will be left to suffer
- 1.7. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted
- 1.8. Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs, as well as production requirements
- 1.9. Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted
- 1.10. The use of growth promoters is prohibited
- 1.11. All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis
- 1.12. Pastured free range should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable

2. Living Conditions

- 2.1. Living conditions must consider the needs of the animal and include;
 - 2.1.1. freedom from stress;
 - 2.1.2. freedom of movement;
 - 2.1.3. the ability to interact socially with the herd or flock;
 - 2.1.4. access to clean drinking water
 - 2.1.5. access to adequate nutrition that includes quality roughage to promote rumination and maintain body health
 - 2.1.6. access to shade and shelter and protection from predators; and
 - 2.1.7. the ability to carry out natural behaviours.
 - 2.1.8. adequate protection from predators
- 2.2. Animals will have permanent access to paddocks and pasture (unless adverse conditions prevail when standard 5.1 will apply).
- 2.3. Social structures must be maintained by ensuring herd or flock animals are not kept in isolation or segregated from other animals of the same species
- 2.4. Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
 - 2.4.1. free of any objects or protrusions that may cause harm or distress; and
 - 2.4.2. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.
- 2.5. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.
- 2.6. Animal races and runs must be managed in way that prevents excess build-up of manures, whilst avoiding pollution of the surrounding environment

3. Stocking Rates

- 3.1. Stocking rates for livestock must be appropriate for the region taking into consideration feed production capacity, health of the pasture, size of paddocks, the species, health and size of the animals, the soil structure, soil erosion, nutrient balance and environmental impact.
- 3.2. A rotational grazing system must be in place.
- 3.3. Stocking rates in rotational grazing systems must be adequate enough to allow animals to escape confrontation and to prevent aggressive behaviour.
- 3.4. 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 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.

- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. 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.
- 3.7. Grazing paddocks shall be spelled for an adequate period that shall enable the recovery of pasture and rebuilding of organic matter in the soil.
- 3.8. The operator shall endeavour to maintain ground cover all year round to prevent soil erosion unless adverse weather condition prevents it

4. Shelter

- 4.1. Shade and shelter will be available at all times that will;
 - 4.1.1. be appropriate to the physiological and behavioural needs of the animals;
 - 4.1.2. provide freedom of movement;
 - 4.1.3. provide protection from the elements;
 - 4.1.4. provide protection from predators
 - 4.1.5. be constructed of materials that will not pose any contamination risk: and
 - 4.1.6. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma.

5. 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.

- 5.1. 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.

- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. Cattle must be provided with adequate alternatives to water logged paddocks.
- 5.4. 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.

6. Animal Husbandry

- 6.1. The following procedures are not permitted:
 - 6.1.1. Tail docking
 - 6.1.2. Dehorning (when the horn is attached to the skull)
 - 6.1.3. Disbudding using caustic chemicals
 - 6.1.4. Spaying of female cattle
 - 6.1.5. Nose ringing
 - 6.1.6. Teeth cutting, grinding
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. Castration after six months must be carried out under anaesthetic
- 6.4. Castration after 12 months must be carried out by or under the scrutiny of a registered veterinarian and under anaesthetic
- 6.5. 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.
- 6.6. Polled cattle are preferred to horned cattle. When horned cattle are part of the herd, only horn trimming may be performed instead of dehorning.
- 6.7. When calves are disbudded, the procedure must be performed prior to the horn bud attaching to the skull and in conjunction with pain relief.
- 6.8. Service testing of bulls that requires the heifer or cow to be restrained is prohibited.

7. Feed and Water

- 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. Feed and water troughs must be sufficient in number to avoid bullying and competition for feed and water.
- 7.4. Water transport equipment and troughs must be regularly monitored and maintained clean and in good repair.
- 7.5. 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.
- 7.6. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to keep it dry and to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 7.7. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

8. Heat Stress

- 8.1. Sufficient shade and windbreaks shall be made available in all production paddocks that occupy cattle. Adequately shaded areas must be available and easily accessible to all cattle at the same time.

Handling and Transport

- 8.2. Cattle must not be consigned to saleyards.
- 8.3. Cattle destined for slaughter are consigned to the nearest available abattoir.
- 8.4. Transport of animals shall comply with the Model Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Animals.
- 8.5. All animals must be fit to travel.
- 8.6. Transport vehicles must be inspected before loading of animals and Transport Declarations completed.
- 8.7. Transporter vehicles must be clean and free of protrusions and other characteristics that may cause injury and trauma to the animal.
- 8.8. Loading and unloading of animals must be carried out with minimal stress to avoid harm and injury to the animals.
- 8.9. Loading ramps must be made of a non slippery surface and free from protrusions that could cause the animal injury .
- 8.10. Unnecessary mixing or separation of cattle must be avoided.
- 8.11. 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.
- 8.12. Transport time shall not exceed 8 hours unless the welfare of the animal is at risk.
- 8.13. Adequate feed and potable quality water must be made available when spelling of livestock is required.
- 8.14. Spelling area must be clean and adequately secure to prevent the straying of animals
- 8.15. The use of electric prods or goads is prohibited.
- 8.16. Management of transport shall be guided by an attitude of responsibility, welfare and care for the animals.
- 8.17. 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

9. Stockpersons

- 9.1. All staff, contractors and any other person involved with the handling and management of the livestock shall;
 - 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 shall be in place and shall detail the method and the frequency of training. All persons involved in the handling and management of livestock shall be adequately and appropriately trained 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.

10. Replacement Stock

- 10.1. Replacement breeder stock may be purchased from a reputable external source. These animals must be permanently identified and recorded.
- 10.2. Store weaners destined to be grown out for slaughter by the certified 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 free range conditions. All operators are encouraged to only purchase animals from certified PROOF producers when available.
- 10.3. Bought in weaners that are destined to be grown out for slaughter, must be accompanied by a Vendor Declaration that can demonstrate compliance with 11.2. of this standard.
- 10.4. Weaners that have been purchased from a non-accredited (PROOF) supplier must reside on the certified operator's property and be raised in compliance with the PROOF standard for beef cattle for a period of not less than 30 days before they can be sold under the PROOF Trademark.
- 10.5. Replacement stock, weaners, and/or breeders, may be purchased at any age from another PROOF certified producer and sold as free range under the PROOF Trademark.
- 10.6. When choosing breeds consideration must be given to the suitability or adaptability of the breed to the local conditions, their vitality, and disease resistance.

11. Record Keeping and Animal Identification

- 11.1. A Farm Diary with dated entries or equivalent record keeping system must be available to the auditor during inspection.
- 11.2. A records system must be in place that demonstrates compliance with each applicable section of this Standard and may include:
 - 11.2.1. Animal Identification
 - 11.2.2. Biosecurity Checklist
 - 11.2.3. Feed records (including purchase invoices and formulations)
 - 11.2.4. Chemical log
 - 11.2.5. Feed and pasture treatment records
 - 11.2.6. Animal treatments (including quarantine)
 - 11.2.7. Stock rotations & stock movements records
 - 11.2.8. Sales and purchases
 - 11.2.9. Animal births and deaths
 - 11.2.10. Animal treatment and quarantine record
 - 11.2.11. MVDs and NLIS
- 11.3. All animals will be effectively identified to ensure full traceability of individual animals.

PROOF – Pasture Raised On Open Fields Pty Ltd

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Animal health and welfare, a sustainable free range 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.



PIG
STANDARD
2014

Version 1.0

Introduction

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).
- National Environmental Guidelines for Outdoor Rotational Piggeries
- National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Pork Production

1. Core Values

- 1.1. All animals are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks**
- 1.2. All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours
- 1.3. All animals should thrive in their environment and not just cope with it
- 1.4. Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates
- 1.5. All animals will be protected from predation
- 1.6. Illness or injury will be addressed promptly so that no animal will be left to suffer
- 1.7. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted
- 1.8. Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements
- 1.9. De-beaking of poultry is not acceptable
- 1.10. Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted
- 1.11. The use of growth promoters is prohibited
- 1.12. All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis
- 1.13. All producers will meet HACCP requirements to ensure safe food production
- 1.14. Pastured free range should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable

2. Living Conditions

- 2.1. Living conditions must consider the needs of the animal and include;
 - 2.1.1. freedom from stress;
 - 2.1.2. freedom of movement;
 - 2.1.3. the ability to interact socially with the herd or flock;
 - 2.1.4. access to clean drinking water and adequate nutrition;
 - 2.1.5. access to shade and shelter and protection from predators; and
 - 2.1.6. the ability to carry out natural behaviours.
- 2.2. Animals will have access to paddocks and pasture for a minimum of 8 hours each day.
- 2.3. Herd or flock animals must not be kept in isolation or segregated from other animals of the same species preventing social structures.
- 2.4. Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
 - 2.4.1. free of any objects or protrusions that may cause harm or distress; and
 - 2.4.2. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.
- 2.5. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.

3. Stocking Rates

- 3.1. Stocking rates for livestock must be appropriate for the region taking into consideration feed production capacity, size of paddocks, the species, health and size of the animals, the soil structure, soil erosion, nutrient balance and environmental impact.
- 3.2. A rotational grazing system must be in place and stocking rates must not exceed the following:
 - 3.2.1. 20 Dry Sows per hectare
 - 3.2.2. 10 Lactating Sows per hectare
 - 3.2.3. 75 Grower pigs per hectare
- 3.3. Stocking rates in rotational grazing systems must be adequate enough to allow pigs to be able escape confrontation and to prevent aggressive behaviour.
- 3.4. 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.

- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. Stocking rates must be calculated according to the size of the paddock, 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.

4. Housing

- 4.1. All pigs will have access to weatherproof housing at all times that will;
 - 4.1.1. be appropriate to the physiological and behavioural needs of the animals;
 - 4.1.2. provide freedom of movement;
 - 4.1.3. allow adequate ventilation and natural light;
 - 4.1.4. provide protection from the elements;
 - 4.1.5. be constructed of materials that will not pose any contamination risk;
 - 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 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 days to protect the sow and piglets from other pigs and predators.
- 4.5. When farrowing sows are contained in housing overnight for protection from predators, the minimum space required is 4.3 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 prevent contamination, disease and harmful micro-organisms.

5. 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.

- 5.1. Vegetative cover of the range areas shall be managed through paddock rotations and shall ensure that all pigs 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 pigs.
- 5.2. Paddock rotations are defined as mobile housing systems that can be relocated to fresh ground whilst resting of the area previously grazed to ensure recovery of forage. Fixed sheds are not encouraged but are acceptable if adequate paddock rotations can be demonstrated. Compacted, bare areas in the vicinity of the shed shall be managed to control muddy conditions and prevent build-up of excess manure and pathogens.
- 5.3. Watering points, feed points and moveable housing shall be relocated on a regular basis to encourage the even spread of manure across the paddock, reduce soil compaction and improve pasture recovery during the non-pig phase.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. Pigs must be provided with adequate alternatives to water logged paddocks.
- 5.6. A Farm Map, representing an accurate picture of the property including boundaries, production paddocks, sizes, numbers, quarantine areas and infrastructure shall be provided to the PROOF auditor.

6. Animal Husbandry

- 6.1. The following procedures are not permitted:
 - 6.1.1. Tail docking
 - 6.1.2. Teeth clipping
 - 6.1.3. Nose ringing
- 6.2. 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.

7. Feed and Water

- 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. 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. The routine use of antibiotics is prohibited. Antibiotics may be used to treat disease only under veterinary supervision.
- 7.6. Feed storage must be covered and sealed sufficiently to reduce risk of contamination by vermin and wild birds.
- 7.7. An emergency or backup water supply must be available.

8. Heat Stress & Sunburn

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. Wallows shall be provided for all pigs unless state regulations prevent their use, in which case, misting or sprinkler systems shall need to be installed to cool the pigs during hot weather.
- 8.3. Wallows shall be frequently emptied and remediated to avoid heavy contamination and to minimize land degradation.

9. Handling and Transport

- 9.1. Transport of animals shall comply with the Model Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Animals.
- 9.2. All animals must be fit to travel.
- 9.3. Transport vehicles must be cleaned before loading of animals.
- 9.4. Loading and unloading of animals must be carried out with minimal stress to avoid harm and injury to the animals.
- 9.5. Mode of transport and all equipment used during transport shall ensure the welfare of the animals and prevent overcrowding during transport.
- 9.6. Transport times should not exceed 8 hours.
- 9.7. The use of electric prods or goads is prohibited.
- 9.8. 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.

10. Stockpersons

- 10.1. All staff, contractors and any other person involved with the handling and management of the livestock shall;
 - 10.1.1. receive a copy of this standard;
 - 10.1.2. demonstrate understanding of this standard; and
 - 10.1.3. comply with this standard.
- 10.2. A suitable training program shall be in place and shall detail the method and the frequency of training. All persons involved in the handling and management of livestock shall be adequately and appropriately trained to ensure compliance to this standard.
- 10.3. Stockpersons should be assessed for competency in the handling of the animals in their care.
- 10.4. Procedures that have the potential to cause suffering should only be performed by a stockperson that can demonstrate competency in that procedure.

11. Replacement Stock

- 11.1. 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 free range.
- 11.2. 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 under free range conditions and without the use of sow stalls and farrowing crates. All operators are encouraged to only purchase animals from certified PROOF producers when available.
- 11.3. 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 11.2. of this standard.
- 11.4. Replacement stock, weaners and/or breeders, may be purchased at any age from another PROOF certified producer and sold as free range under the PROOF Trademark.

12. Record Keeping

- 12.1. A Farm Diary with dated entries or equivalent record keeping system must be available to the auditor during inspection.
- 12.2. A records system must be in place that demonstrates compliance with each applicable section of this Standard and may include:
 - 12.2.1. Biosecurity Checklist
 - 12.2.2. Visitor records
 - 12.2.3. Feed records (including purchase invoices and formulations)
 - 12.2.4. Chemical log
 - 12.2.5. Feed and pasture treatment records
 - 12.2.6. Animal treatments (including quarantine)
 - 12.2.7. Stock rotations & stock movements records
 - 12.2.8. Sales and purchases
 - 12.2.9. Animal births and deaths

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Animal health and welfare, a sustainable free range 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 STANDARD 2014

Version 1.0

Introduction

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).

1. Core Values

- 1.1. All animals are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks**
- 1.2. All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours
- 1.3. All animals should thrive in their environment and not just cope with it
- 1.4. Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates
- 1.5. All animals will be protected from predation
- 1.6. Illness or injury will be addressed promptly so that no animal will be left to suffer
- 1.7. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted
- 1.8. Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements
- 1.9. De-beaking of poultry is not acceptable
- 1.10. Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted
- 1.11. The use of growth promoters is prohibited
- 1.12. All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis
- 1.13. All producers will meet HACCP requirements to ensure safe food production
- 1.14. Pastured free range 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

2. Living Conditions

- 2.1. Living conditions must consider the needs of the animal and include;
 - 2.1.1. freedom from stress;
 - 2.1.2. freedom of movement;
 - 2.1.3. the ability to interact socially with the herd or flock;
 - 2.1.4. access to clean drinking water and adequate nutrition;
 - 2.1.5. access to shade and shelter and protection from predators; and
 - 2.1.6. the ability to carry out natural behaviours.
- 2.2. Animals will have access to paddocks and pasture for a minimum of 8 hours each day.
- 2.3. Herd or flock animals must not be kept in isolation or segregated from other animals of the same species preventing social structures.
- 2.4. Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
 - 2.4.1. free of any objects or protrusions that could cause harm or distress; and
 - 2.4.2. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.
- 2.5. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.

3. Stocking Rates

3.1. Layer Hens

- 3.1.1. Layer hen stocking rates shall not exceed of 1,500 hens per hectare.
- 3.1.2. Flock sizes shall not exceed 2,500 birds in each house.

3.2. Meat Chickens

- 3.2.1. Meat chicken stocking rates shall not exceed 2,500 birds per hectare.

3.3. Ducks

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

3.4. Turkeys

- 3.4.1. Turkey stocking rates shall not exceed 800 birds per hectare.

3.5. Geese

- 3.5.1. Geese stocking rates shall not exceed 600 birds per hectare.

3.6. Guinea Fowl

- 3.6.1. Guinea Fowl stocking rates shall not exceed 2,500 birds 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

** with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered

- 3.7. 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.
- 3.8. 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.

4. Housing

- 4.1. All birds will have access to weatherproof housing at all times that will;
- 4.1.1. be appropriate to the physiological and behavioural needs of the birds;
 - 4.1.2. provide freedom of movement;
 - 4.1.3. allow adequate ventilation and natural light;
 - 4.1.4. provide protection from the elements;
 - 4.1.5. be constructed of materials that will not pose any risk of contamination;
 - 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 roosting birds so that they may all access the perches at the same time: layer hens, turkeys and guinea fowl.*
- 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; and
 - 4.3.5. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma.
- 4.4. Adequate space and bedding will be available for all non-roosting birds: meat chickens, ducks, geese, so that they may all rest comfortably at the same time.*

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** with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered

- 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.*
- 4.8. When birds are contained in housing overnight for protection from predators, maximum stocking densities in the house will apply. Stocking density indoors for layer hens and meat chickens shall not exceed;
 - 4.8.1. 16kg of birds per square metre; and
 - 4.8.2. 25kg per square metre for all other birds.
- 4.9. Housing must be located a sufficient distance apart to ensure adequate free ranging capability by the birds and sunlight between houses.
- 4.10. Housing and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected to prevent contamination, disease and harmful micro-organisms.

5. 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.

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. Regular soil testing will be carried out to assess nutrient loading in the soil and remedial action taken should soil nutrients reach unacceptable levels.

* 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

- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. 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.
- 5.6. 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.
- 5.7. A paddock rotation system and pasture management program must be developed and maintained.
- 5.8. 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.

6. Animal Husbandry

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.

- 6.1. The following procedures are not permitted:
 - 6.1.1. De-beaking;
 - 6.1.2. De-snooding;
 - 6.1.3. Toe clipping.
- 6.2. Induced moulting by the withholding of feed and water is prohibited.

* 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

7. Feed and Water

- 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. Water fowl must have access to watering points deep enough to enable them to fully immerse their bills or beaks.
- 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. Lighting

- 8.1. 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.
- 8.2. Lighting may be used to encourage hens to use nest boxes or discourage floor eggs in dark corners of housing.
- 8.3. Artificial lighting is permitted for the purpose of supplying heat in chick rearing facilities.
- 8.4. All light fittings should be fitted with shatter proof covers to prevent harm to the animals in the event of breakages.

* 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

9. Transport and Handling

- 9.1. Transport of animals shall comply with the Model Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Animals.
- 9.2. All animals must be fit to travel.
- 9.3. Transport vehicles must be cleaned before loading of animals.
- 9.4. Loading and unloading of animals must be carried out with minimal stress to avoid harm and injury to the animals.
- 9.5. Mode of transport and all equipment used during transport will ensure the welfare of the animals and that there is no overcrowding during transport.
- 9.6. Transport times should not exceed 8 hours.
- 9.7. Electric prods or goads are prohibited.
- 9.8. A transport management plan shall be in place to demonstrate that the conditions of this section of the standard are complied with.

10. Stockpersons

- 10.1. All staff, contractors or any person involved with the handling and management of the animals will;
 - 10.1.1. receive a copy of this standard;
 - 10.1.2. demonstrate understanding of this standard; and
 - 10.1.3. comply with this standard.
- 10.2. 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.
- 10.3. Stockpersons should be assessed for competency in the handling of the animals in their care.
- 10.4. Procedures that have the potential to cause suffering should only be performed by a stockperson that can demonstrate competency in that procedure.

* 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

11. Replacement Stock

- 11.1. Day old chicks, ducklings, goslings and poults may be purchased from any reliable source but they must not be de-beaked, de-snooded or have toes clipped.
- 11.2. Meat birds must be raised on farm from chicks.
- 11.3. 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;
 - 11.3.1. hours and intensity of sunlight; and
 - 11.3.2. outdoor temperatures.
- 11.4. Meat chicks must have unrestricted access to the range as soon as they are sufficiently feathered or before 28 days of age.
- 11.5. 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;
 - 11.5.1. hours and intensity of sunlight;
 - 11.5.2. outdoor temperatures; and
 - 11.5.3. perches.
- 11.6. 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. A list of certified suppliers will be made available on the PROOF website.
- 11.7. Purchased point of lay pullets that have not been sourced from a PROOF certified supplier will be excluded from certification for a period of four weeks from delivery on farm. Eggs from these birds cannot be sold under the PROOF certification during this period.
- 11.8. Initially, farms that are converting de-beaked flocks to non-de-beaked flocks may be granted certification if evidence is provided that this transition is already underway. It will be a condition of the Licensing Agreement that no further purchases of de-beaked birds are made and that all future replacements will be of non de-beaked birds.

* 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

12. Record Keeping

- 12.1. A Farm Diary with dated entries or equivalent record keeping system must be available to the auditor during inspection.
- 12.2. A records system must be in place that demonstrates compliance with each applicable section of this Standard and may include:
 - 12.2.1. Biosecurity Checklist
 - 12.2.2. Feed records (including purchase invoices and formulations)
 - 12.2.3. Chemical log
 - 12.2.4. Feed and pasture treatment records
 - 12.2.5. Animal treatments (including quarantine, stock rotations & stock movements)
 - 12.2.6. Sales and purchases
 - 12.2.7. Animal births and deaths

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** with the exception of young birds that are not sufficiently feathered

Animal health and welfare, a sustainable free range 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 2015

Version 1.0

Introduction

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:

- 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).
- This Standard only covers the production of meat sheep and not sheep raised for wool production.

1. Core Values

- 1.1. All animals are able to range freely in open fields or paddocks
- 1.2. All animals are able to interact with their herd or flock and to carry out natural behaviours
- 1.3. All animals should thrive in their environment and not just cope with it
- 1.4. Animals will not be kept in cages, stalls or crates
- 1.5. All animals will be protected from predation
- 1.6. Illness or injury will be addressed promptly so that no animal will be left to suffer
- 1.7. Densely confined production systems and feed lotting are not permitted
- 1.8. Animals will be fed to meet their welfare needs as well as production requirements
- 1.9. De-beaking of poultry is not acceptable
- 1.10. Surgical treatments that inflict unnecessary pain are not permitted
- 1.11. The use of growth promoters is prohibited
- 1.12. All animals will be inspected by the producer on a daily basis
- 1.13. Pastured free range should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable

2. Living Conditions

- 2.1. Living conditions must consider the needs of the animal and include;
 - 2.1.1. freedom from stress;
 - 2.1.2. freedom of movement;
 - 2.1.3. the ability to interact socially with the herd or flock;
 - 2.1.4. access to clean drinking water and adequate nutrition that includes quality roughages to promote rumination;
 - 2.1.5. access to shade and shelter and protection from predators; and
 - 2.1.6. the ability to carry out natural behaviours.
- 2.2. Animals will have permanent access to paddocks and pasture (unless adverse conditions prevail when standard 5.1 will apply).
- 2.3. Herd or flock animals must not be kept in isolation or segregated from other animals of the same species preventing social structures.
- 2.4. Housing, paddocks, range areas, yards and transport must be;
 - 2.4.1. free of any objects or protrusions that may cause harm or distress; and
 - 2.4.2. made from materials that will not be a possible source of contamination.
- 2.5. Fencing must prevent the animals from straying and be designed to exclude feral animals and provide protection from predators.

3. Stocking Rates

- 3.1. Stocking rates for livestock must be appropriate for the region taking into consideration feed production capacity, size of paddocks, the species, health and size of the animals, the soil structure, soil erosion, nutrient balance and environmental impact.
- 3.2. A rotational grazing system must be in place.
- 3.3. Stocking rates in rotational grazing systems must be adequate enough to allow animals to be able escape confrontation and to prevent aggressive behaviour.
- 3.4. 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 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.

- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. 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.

4. Shelter

- 4.1. Shade and shelter will be available at all times that will;
 - 4.1.1. be appropriate to the physiological and behavioural needs of the animals;
 - 4.1.2. provide freedom of movement;
 - 4.1.3. provide protection from the elements;
 - 4.1.4. be constructed of materials that will not pose any contamination risk: and
 - 4.1.5. be free of protrusions that could cause harm and/or trauma.
- 4.2. Windbreaks to reduce the effect of cold must be provided.
- 4.3. Lambing ewes must have access to sheltered paddocks.

5. 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.

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. Sheep must be provided with adequate alternatives to water logged paddocks.

- 5.4. A Farm Map, representing an accurate picture of the property including boundaries, production paddocks, sizes, numbers, quarantine areas and infrastructure shall be provided to the PROOF auditor.

6. Animal Husbandry

- 6.1. The following procedures are not permitted:
 - 6.1.1. Mulesing
 - 6.1.2. Dehorning (when the horn is attached to the skull)
 - 6.1.3. Surgical castration
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. 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.
- 6.4. When horned sheep are part of the herd, only horn trimming may be performed instead of dehorning.
- 6.5. A program must be in place to prevent or control external and internal parasite infestations and blowfly strike.
- 6.6. Lambs must not be weaned before 5 weeks of age.

7. Feed and Water

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

8. Heat Stress

- 8.1. Sufficient shade and windbreaks shall be made available in all production paddocks that occupy sheep. Adequately shaded areas must be available and easily accessible to all sheep at the same time.

9. Handling and Transport

- 9.1. Sheep must not be consigned to saleyards.
- 9.2. Sheep destined for slaughter are consigned to the nearest available abattoir.
- 9.3. Sheep must not be caught or lifted by the fleece.
- 9.4. Transport of animals shall comply with the Model Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Animals.
- 9.5. All animals must be fit to travel.

- 9.6. Transport vehicles must be cleaned before loading of animals.
- 9.7. Loading and unloading of animals must be carried out with minimal stress to avoid harm and injury to the animals.
- 9.8. Unnecessary mixing or separation of sheep must be avoided.
- 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.

10. Stockpersons

- 10.1. All staff, contractors and any other person involved with the handling and management of the livestock shall;
 - 10.1.1. receive a copy of this standard;
 - 10.1.2. demonstrate understanding of this standard; and
 - 10.1.3. comply with this standard.
- 10.2. A suitable training program shall be in place and shall detail the method and the frequency of training. All persons involved in the handling and management of livestock shall be adequately and appropriately trained to ensure compliance to this standard.
- 10.3. Stockpersons should be assessed for competency in the handling of the animals in their care.
- 10.4. Procedures that have the potential to cause suffering should only be performed by a stockperson that can demonstrate competency in that procedure.

11. Replacement Stock

- 11.1. Replacement breeder stock may be purchased from a reputable external source. These animals must be permanently identified and recorded.
- 11.2. Store lambs destined to be grown out for slaughter by the certified 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 under free range conditions and that all animal husbandry practices comply with Section 6 of the Standard. All operators are encouraged to only purchase animals from certified PROOF producers when available.

- 11.3. Bought in sheep that are destined to be grown out for slaughter, must be accompanied by a Vendor Declaration that can demonstrate compliance with 11.2. of this standard.
- 11.4. Stock that have been purchased from a non-accredited (PROOF) supplier must reside on the certified operator's property and be raised in compliance with the PROOF standard for meat sheep for a period of not less than 30 days before they can be sold under the PROOF Trademark.
- 11.5. Replacement stock, store lambs and/or breeders, may be purchased at any age from another PROOF certified producer and sold as free range under the PROOF Trademark.

12. Record Keeping and Animal Identification

- 12.1. A Farm Diary with dated entries or equivalent record keeping system must be available to the auditor during inspection.
- 12.2. A records system must be in place that demonstrates compliance with each applicable section of this Standard and may include:
 - 12.2.1. Animal Identification
 - 12.2.2. Biosecurity Checklist
 - 12.2.3. Feed records (including purchase invoices and formulations)
 - 12.2.4. Chemical log
 - 12.2.5. Feed and pasture treatment records
 - 12.2.6. Animal treatments (including quarantine)
 - 12.2.7. Stock rotations & stock movements records
 - 12.2.8. Sales and purchases
 - 12.2.9. Animal births and deaths
- 12.3. All animals will be effectively identified to ensure full traceability of individual animals.

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