

Maintain the health and well-being of livestock

Overview

This standard covers the maintenance of the health and well-being of livestock. The term "well-being" refers to the broader welfare of the livestock, including minimising stress and the potential for injury as well as disease, disability, disorders and pest infestations.

You must monitor and check the condition of the livestock, in accordance with production requirements. Specific measures may be required to maintain the health and well-being of the livestock, such as making adjustments to the environmental conditions or changing feed or water provision. You must be able to recognise signs of poor health in the livestock and take the appropriate action.

When working with livestock or machinery you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

When carrying out your work you must consider the impact it will have on the environment.

This standard is suitable for those who maintain the health and well-being of livestock.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the required activity
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. monitor the physical condition, behaviour and general well-being of the livestock at regular intervals, in accordance with **instructions**
4. handle livestock in a manner that complies with relevant legislation, minimises the likelihood of stress or injury, and maintains the health and well-being of the livestock
5. provide livestock with sufficient and effective opportunities to move and maintain physical functioning
6. provide livestock with access to suitable feed and water, in accordance with dietary, veterinary and production requirements
7. provide livestock with a suitable environment to maintain their health and well-being
8. provide and maintain the appropriate health and welfare standards for different livestock species, in accordance with relevant legislation and codes of practice
9. seek advice from the **appropriate person** where you are unsure about the behaviour or condition of the livestock
10. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
11. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
12. process waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
13. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
14. complete records as required by relevant legislation and the business

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. how often livestock should be monitored, what to check for when monitoring, and how to assess their health and well-being
4. the appearance, posture and movement, behaviour and bodily functioning of healthy livestock
5. the signs that indicate **potential problems with the health and well-being of livestock** and the appropriate action to take in this case
6. how to maintain the health and well-being of livestock and minimise their stress or injury
7. why livestock need access to feed and water and how the type and amount varies at different times in the production process
8. why livestock require movement and how the type and amount of this varies at different times in the production process
9. how the environment may be adjusted to maintain the health and well-being of the livestock
10. the circumstances when livestock would need to be euthanised/culled and the different methods of euthanasia/culling
11. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
12. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
13. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
14. your responsibilities for the welfare of livestock under relevant animal health and welfare legislation, codes of practice and business policy
15. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, codes of practice and business policies
16. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

Glossary

The **appropriate person** could be the Farm Manager, Farmer, Unit Manager.

Instructions may be verbal or written.

Problems with the health and well-being of livestock include:

- disease
- disability
- disorders
- pest infestations
- trauma

Links to other NOS

LANLP18 Deliver treatments to livestock

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