

## GOAL

To achieve a principle of food safety, animal welfare and sustainable resource management that is defensible in all countries of the world



## The Programme

A Rural New Zealand Sustainability Specification for Sheep, Beef, Deer and Goat production based on Triple Bottom Line (TBL) reporting.

## Features

- Based on best practice farming that:
  - ⇒ Enhances production
  - ⇒ Addresses sustainability
  - ⇒ Creates market opportunities
- Farmer driven and tested
- Standards relate to NZ farming conditions
- Addresses RMA with practical solutions
- Proactive rather than reactive to market requirements
- Defence of our "Clean Green Image"
- Future proofs the farm business in line with customer expectations and environmental sustainability.

## Principles

A supply capability based on sustainability principles must consider **economic**, **environmental** and **social** aspects of production.

Conditions for supply are based on factual information with a scientific basis wherever practical. However, consumer views and perceptions on acceptable practice are considered and are adopted wherever proven to be important.

Builds on farm assurance for conventional supply, which includes animal welfare and food-safety requirements.

Integrated management between animal livestock species, animal age groups and/or through cropping/pasture rotation is encouraged as an effective means of reducing challenge from pests.

Overall, chemical intervention is minimised by application of the management plan strategies including adherence to a demonstrated need principle.

## Audit system

- Plans are audited independently
- Provides credibility both Nationally and Internationally
- Farmers need to demonstrate progression on issues identified.

## Programme

Revolves round three Plans:

- Animal Management Plan
- Land and Environment Plan
- Social Responsibility Plan



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# Animal Management Plan (AMP)

## Goal

To manage animals in a production system that sustains performance and profit and ensures the care and welfare of animals.



Animals that are well fed and managed are less prone to disease and pest challenge and therefore likely to have a reduced need for medicine intervention.

Treatment of animals with medicines is based on identifying and documenting a demonstrated need.

Sustainable systems that incorporate integrated management and genetic solutions are complementary to animal health and animal performance.

## ANIMAL HEALTH and WELFARE ISSUES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

<i>Animal WELFARE</i>	Feeding
	Shade and Shelter
	Stock Handling
<i>Animal HEALTH</i>	Disease
	Nutrition

The Animal Management Plan is developed in consultation with an approved Veterinarian who has working knowledge of animal health and welfare challenges relevant to this region.

The Plan will reflect the unique mix of animal health challenges and opportunities found on each farm.

Actions developed to address each health or welfare issue will reflect the resources and capabilities available to the producer.

## AMP Conditions

A fully applied and current level of 'Base Farm Assurance' is required as a prerequisite. Qualifying 'Base Farm Assurance' must comprehensively cover industry requirements for food safety and animal welfare.

Pasture only feeding must be practised

A documented feed plan must demonstrate that the animals are well fed for the forthcoming year

### The feed plan must include:

- A plan to cope with possible feed shortages including droughts and/or floods and/or snow storms
- A plan for managing sheep post shearing

### A documented animal health management plan must be prepared and detail -

- All anticipated animal health challenges
- A monitoring programme to address the challenges
- A forecasted schedule of medicine inputs and management inputs
- A management system to demonstrate that all reasonable steps have been taken to address disease and parasite challenge through integrated animal, pasture and crop management
- Evidence that genetic solutions are actively sought to address animal health challenges for the environment in which the animals are being farmed

## AMP Key Points

- Emphasises good animal nutrition as the key weapon against animal health challenges
- Addresses the threat of parasite resistance to chemicals by -
- Monitoring and forecasted treatment schedules
- Integrated management systems between stock classes/species
- Animal breeding solutions
- Less chemical use
- Reduced losses from sub-clinical parasitism
- A sustainable animal system
- A productive and profitable animal system

# Land Management Plan (LMP)

## Goal

To farm landscapes with pride, and to a plan, to ensure the land and environment remains in good heart for the generations to come.



Soils are protected against physical damage, declining organic matter, nutrient depletion and loss by erosion.

- Water quality is principally addressed through erosion control, stream-bank protection and vegetation and animal management.
- Protecting the soil resource through the matching of the enterprise with Land Use Capability units (LUCs), at a paddock scale map level.
- Minimising the use, and increasing the safe use of chemicals, through appropriate application methods underpinned by the principle of demonstrated need.
- Including indigenous flora and fauna management as an enhancement to biodiversity, and also to address social responsibility requirements.

## LAND and ENVIRONMENT ISSUES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

SOIL HEALTH				
Erosion	Chemical Use	Nutrient Balance	Contaminated Sites	Physical condition
WATER QUALITY				
Stream Health	Stock Water Supply	Fertiliser Use	Point Source Contamination	Non Point Source Contamination
SHELTER & SHADE				
Trees & Hedges				
PASTURE				
Pests and Weeds	Legume Content		Trace Elements	
BIODIVERSITY				
Native Bush and Wetlands	Indigenous Wildlife	Vista	Exotic Vegetation and Animals	
BIOSECURITY				
Animal Pests	Plant Pests	Insect Pests	T/B & other Pathogens	
GREENHOUSE GASES				
Gas Budget				

- The LMP is developed in consultation with an approved Land Management Professional who has working knowledge of challenges relevant to the region.

- The Plan will reflect the unique mix of challenges and opportunities found on each farm. Actions developed to address each issue will reflect the resources and capabilities available to the producer.

## LMP Actions

A paddock scale resource map of the farm which includes -

- The identification of the major Land Management Units (LMU) for the farm detailing for each LMU the land area, the contour, major Land Use Capability (LUC) units, soil types and the dominant vegetation.
- A list of the strengths, weaknesses, and conditions of use for each LMU.
- Identification and location of perennial streams and wetlands.
- A list of environmental issues for each farm including their severity, priority and a brief description of the proposed control measures.
- A series of action plans for each of the environmental issues identified for each LMU.

## LMP Key Points

- A comprehensive farm map as a business resource for effective planning e.g. ID soil types and LMU for strategic management decisions.
- Build on the strength of farm resources.
- Focus investment on best return areas e.g. targeted fertiliser application.
- Protect soils from long term damage
- Prevent/minimise contamination of at risk waterways.
- Addresses Resource Management regulations
- Provide a productive environment for animals e.g. tree planting for erosion control, shade and shelter, fodder resource.
- Enhances value of property through demonstrated sustainability and an attractive landscape.

# Social Responsibility Plan (SRP)

## Goal

To maintain a vibrant farming environment and positive future outlook by committing to the care of people in our employment, the local community and our heritage.

Comprehension of the contributors and reasons for the Animal Management and Land and Environment Plans.

- Commitment to sustainable development by actively supporting any initiatives taken to promote the sustainable farming approach, and the resultant supply capability.
- Active participation in local community activities and organisations to maintain a vibrant and desirable social environment in which to live and raise a family.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ISSUES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

STAFF	Training
COMMITMENT <i>To Sustainable Development.</i>	Pledge
COMMUNITY	Community Support and Service Promotion of Sustainable Management
HERITAGE	Sites Of Significance

- Well trained and supported farm staff will work smarter, work safer and be happier. Such attributes will likely add to the farms productivity and act as an incentive for staff recruitment and retention.

- Training of staff in all aspects of farm assurance requirements including sustainability. Sensitivity to cultural and historic sites of significance and heritage issues as appropriate for the farm and/or district.

## Summary

With the positive feed-back from farmers implementing NZ FarmSure on their properties, we are confident this does present us with a workable set of principles to address any future market requirements, while encouraging farmers to plan their business with the issue of sustainability in mind.

Farmers have been involved in setting up the programme from the beginning, which has been very important to ensure the principles do relate to NZ farming conditions and are practical.

The Management Plans implemented appropriately have the ability to enhance production and future-proof the farm business.

How often do we get a set of principles put in front of us that are not just another cost, but in fact can enhance production while addressing market requirements?

Many farmers will already be farming to these principles, but perhaps not be formalising their practices to the level of NZ FarmSure and that required by the market place. So the implementation of the programme will not require a large cost to begin.

Actions are more likely to be taken if written down as part of a plan.

NZ FarmSure is not 'rocket science' but in fact is just a process for formalising best practices.

We need to be proactive in addressing anticipated market requirements relating to sustainable farm production and promoting our 'clean green' image, which should not be taken for granted.

The practice and value of sustainable farming needs to be promoted and reinforced at international level as well as on a national level as urban perceptions of farming are often misinformed or clouded by media coverage of so-called 'dirty farming' practice. Urban views do have the potential to influence the markets we are trying to access.

If we are seen to be addressing sustainability issues ourselves, we can limit any unnecessary compliance and RMA costs being imposed from a National and Regional level.

## GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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