



# LEAF Marque Standard

Version 14.1

LEAF Marque is an environmental assurance system recognising sustainably farmed products.



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### Version History

| Version Number | Date of Publication | Changes   |
|----------------|---------------------|---|
| v14.0          | 1/10/16             | New style and layout; 6 new control points; textual edits; 2 deletions and 1 upgrade. |
| v14.1          | 22/12/16            | Contents page; minor typographical amendments to text; reversion of 1 control point.  |

Approved by the LEAF Marque Board, on the recommendation of the LEAF Marque Technical Advisory Committee, prior to being issued.

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## Introduction

### LEAF Marque



LEAF Marque is an environmental assurance system recognising sustainably farmed products.

When you see produce and products with the LEAF Marque logo, you can be sure it comes from a farm practising sustainable agriculture and meeting our Standard.

It is based on LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) principles. All LEAF Marque certified businesses are independently inspected.

The LEAF Marque Standard sets out the requirements for LEAF Marque certification.

LEAF Marque certified businesses are intended to use the guidance provided within the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review to support their implementation of IFM and their preparation for LEAF Marque certification.

LEAF Marque is a Full Member of the [ISEAL Alliance](#).

### Scope

LEAF Marque certification covers the whole farm businesses, including sites and fields managed centrally. LEAF Marque certification applies to products from the whole farm businesses and is NOT limited to defined crops or enterprises within the business.

This LEAF Marque Standard is applied to all LEAF Marque inspections regardless of country and enterprise.

LEAF Marque certified businesses are expected to comply with all relevant regulatory requirements, existing national and/or international laws and regulations.

LEAF Marque certification requires the business to fully comply with all the **Essential (E)** control points within the Standard. Inspection and certification is carried out by an authorised inspection and certification body.

Compliance with the **Recommended (R)** control points is preferable. They may become Essential control points in the future.

Some Control Points may be **Non-Applicable (N/A)** as determined within the Standard.

LEAF Marque inspections should take place annually, either at the same time as the baseline/foundation assurance schemes, or as a stand-alone inspection.

The current certification bodies and the countries where they operate can be found on the LEAF Marque website [www.leafmarque.com](http://www.leafmarque.com)



The LEAF Marque Standard is available in several languages which are available on the [LEAF website](#). The English version of the Standard is the definitive version and therefore any issues of interpretation from other translations need to be referred to the English version.

There is no binding additional guidance however significant further guidance and support for LEAF members can be found in the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review.

It should be noted that the LEAF Marque Standard is additional and complementary to other farm assurance schemes (including Red Tractor Assurance for Farms, GLOBALG.A.P. integrated standards, GLOBALG.A.P. Option 2 and GLOBALG.A.P. benchmarked resembling).

### Revising the Standard

Revising the LEAF Marque Standard provides the opportunity to continually improve the Standard based on experience gained, lessons learned, and input provided during the implementation of the previous Standards (v13.0 and earlier). In addition, as a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance, LEAF Marque is committed to revising the Standard taking into account feedback during stakeholder consultation.

The first public consultation for v14.0 was in March/April 2016. The second public consultation was in June/July 2016.

LEAF Marque is very grateful to all those involved in the continual development of the LEAF Marque Standard. In particular, we would like to thank the LEAF Marque Technical Advisory Committee.

If you would like to make a proposal for revisions of the LEAF Marque Standard, please contact [info@leafmarque.com](mailto:info@leafmarque.com). The next version (v15.0) of the LEAF Marque Standard is planned to be issued no sooner than 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

### ISEAL Alliance

LEAF Marque is a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance.

ISEAL<sup>1</sup> is a non-governmental organisation whose mission is to strengthen sustainability standards systems for the benefit of people and the environment. Members are multi-stakeholder sustainability standards and accreditation bodies that demonstrate their ability to meet the ISEAL Codes of Practice and accompanying requirements, and commit to learning and improving.

ISEAL membership involves progressive compliance with ISEAL's Standard-Setting, Impacts and Assurance Codes, verified through independent evaluation and peer review, as well as a commitment to continuous learning. ISEAL members form a network of standards organisation that collaborate, innovate and drive the sustainability standards movement forward.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL) Alliance is a formal collaboration of leading international standard-setting and conformity assessment organizations focused on social and environmental issues. The ISEAL Alliance supports credible standards and conformity assessment by developing capacity building tools to strengthen members' activities and by promoting credible voluntary social and environmental certification as a legitimate policy instrument in global trade and development.



## LEAF



LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is the leading global organisation delivering more sustainable food and farming. We work with farmers, the food industry, scientists and consumers to inspire and enable sustainable farming practices that are prosperous, enrich the environment and engage with local communities. We do this through Integrated Farm Management, a whole farm business approach that delivers sustainable food and farming.

### LEAF's Vision

A world that is farming, eating and living sustainably.

### LEAF's Mission

To inspire and enable sustainable farming that is prosperous, enriches the environment and engages local communities.

**"Sustainable Farming** delivers a site-specific farming system supporting the integration of the environment, society and farm economic viability over the long term." LEAF, 2012

LEAF's mission is realised through our three core pillars of work namely:

1. Facilitating sustainable farming knowledge generation and exchange;
2. Developing market opportunities;
3. Engaging the public in sustainable food and farming.

LEAF has developed as a credible 'go-to' organisation in the delivery of more sustainable farming practices with a very well respected and regarded network of demonstration farms and innovation centres, building management tools and guidance, developing communication skills and channels between farmers and consumers, such as through our successful public outreach programme – Open Farm Sunday and in the market place with LEAF Marque.

LEAF has members across the world who produce a wide range of crops and livestock.

LEAF was established in 1991 and continues to work with the objectives of encouraging the uptake of more sustainable farming and to build public trust and understanding in food, farming and nature.

[www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org)

## LEAF's Integrated Farm Management

LEAF's Integrated Farm Management (IFM) is **a whole farm business approach that delivers more sustainable food and farming.**

It uses the best of modern technology and traditional methods to deliver prosperous farming that enriches the environment and engages local communities.

A farm business managed to IFM principles will demonstrate site-specific and continuous improvement across the whole farm including:

- Organisation and Planning
- Soil Management and Fertility
- Crop Health and Protection
- Pollution Control and By-Product Management
- Animal Husbandry
- Energy Efficiency
- Water Management
- Landscape and Nature Conservation
- Community Engagement



## LEAF Sustainable Farming Review

The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review is a self-assessment, online management tool for LEAF members to support business implementation of IFM. It enables businesses to monitor their performance, identify strengths and weaknesses as well as set actions across the whole farm business.

## LEAF Resources

LEAF provides a range of technical tools and resources for LEAF members in addition to the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review. These include:

- [LEAF IFM Guide](#)
- [LEAF Information Centre](#)
- LEAF IFM Bulletin
- Simply Sustainable Series: [Soils](#), [Water](#), [Biodiversity](#)



## LEAF Network

LEAF Demonstration Farms are commercial farms which show the beneficial practices of IFM to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. They communicate an understanding of IFM in order to encourage uptake by farmers, support from the industry and political awareness of sustainable food and farming. LEAF's network of Demonstration Farms includes a range of farm businesses across the UK. They work alongside LEAF Innovation Centres.

LEAF Innovation Centres are research organisations whose work supports the research, evidence, development and promotion of IFM. They investigate and communicate practices which underpin the continual improvement of IFM to help deliver more sustainable food and farming. The network of LEAF Innovation Centres includes a range of organisations across the UK. They work alongside LEAF Demonstration Farms and are key to the development of LEAF. Through hosting visits, doing talks, writing articles and contributing to LEAF's technical resources, they play a critical role in one of LEAF's core activities: facilitating sustainable farming knowledge generation and exchange.

## Open Farm Sunday



LEAF manages Open Farm Sunday, the single, most effective and supported day in the UK farming calendar. It is a day for farmers 'open their gates' and welcome people onto farms to discover the story behind their food and the vital role farmers have in caring for the countryside. LEAF also manages Open Farm School Days which encourages school children out onto farms to learn more about where their food comes from and how it is produced.

[www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org)






## Changes for v14.0

The style and layout of the LEAF Marque Standard has undergone extensive changes for v14.0. This includes some changes to the wording of the control points, however the meaning has not been changed other than where indicated in **orange**.

An example of this is shown below:

An example of this is shown below:

| CONTROL POINT   | VERIFICATION  |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>3.7</b><br><b>Steps are taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species.</b><br><b>E</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crop <b>Health and</b> Protection Policy includes evidence of steps taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species including pollinators</li><li>• Evidence could include use of selective plant protection products, evidence of predators, buffer zones, minimal cultivation and use of Environmental Information Sheets (EIS)</li></ul> |   <br><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.11</a> |

*Control Point Reference*

*Icons - for explanation see below*








*Classification of Control Point*

*LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Reference – hyperlinks directly to LEAF Sustainable Farming Review*

The previous classification of 'Critical Failure Points (CFPs)' has been changed to 'Essential' (E) control points. Other classifications remain unchanged (i.e. Recommended (R) control points and Non-Applicable (N/A)).







New icons have been developed to represent these classifications.

Where there has been a change in the classification of a control point, this will be represented in **orange**.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  |  | <b>Essential</b> Control Point<br>All certified businesses must comply with these control points.<br>Where the icon is <b>orange</b> , the control point was not Essential in the previous version of the Standard                  |
|  |  | <b>Recommended</b> Control Point<br>Compliance with these control points is preferable.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , the control point was not Recommended in the previous version of the Standard                         |
|  |  | <b>Non-Applicable</b> Control Point<br>Applies to situations as determined within the Standard.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , the situations for Non-Applicable have been changed from the previous version of the Standard |
|   |  | <b>New</b> Control Point<br>Control points which are new to the Standard.   |

Evidence is now referred to as **Verification**.

New icons have been developed to represent the types of verification method used by inspectors. Where there has been a change in the type of verification of a control point, this will be represented in **orange**.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  |  | <b>Verbal</b><br>e.g. interview with business staff and/or management and/or contractors.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard |
|  |  | <b>Observe</b><br>e.g. observation of activities, practices and environment.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard              |
|  |  | <b>Record</b><br>e.g. a printed or electronic copy of a record or document.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard               |

The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review reference (e.g. OP.OQ.01) is now hyperlinked directly to the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review where further information and guidance can be found. (This can only be accessed by LEAF Members.)

For each of the nine area of Integrated Farm Management, there is an introduction included. This summarises the rationale for each area as well as providing some guidance links.

Edits to LEAF Marque Standard v13.0 have been made to the following control points:

- 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.11, 1.12, 1.14, 1.15, 1.16, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 1.21
- 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.13
- 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19, 3.20
- 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7
- 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9
- 6.4
- 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5
- 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11, 8.12, 8.14, 8.17, 8.19, 8.20, 8.21, 8.24, 8.26
- 9.1, 9.2, 9.3














## Changes for v14.1

During the post publication period (1<sup>st</sup> October 2016) it was noticed that there were a few edits that justified a version change to 14.1.

Edits to LEAF Marque Standard v14.0 have been made to the following control points:

- Minor typographical edits
- 4.7 – Reversion of control point to Recommended

## Key

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|    |    | <b>Essential</b> Control Point<br>All certified businesses must comply with these control points.<br>Where the icon is <b>orange</b> , the control point was not Essential in the previous version of the Standard                  |
|    |    | <b>Recommended</b> Control Point<br>Compliance with these control points is preferable.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , the control point was not Recommended in the previous version of the Standard                         |
|    |    | <b>Non-Applicable</b> Control Point<br>Applies to situations as determined within the Standard.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , the situations for Non-Applicable have been changed from the previous version of the Standard |
|    |   | <b>New</b> Control Point<br>Control points which are new to the Standard.   |
|    |    | <b>Verbal</b><br>e.g. interview with business staff and/or management and/or contractors.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard                         |
|  |  | <b>Observe</b><br>e.g. observation of activities, practices and environment.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard                                      |
|  |  | <b>Record</b><br>e.g. a printed or electronic copy of a record or document.<br>Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard                                       |






## Organisation and Planning



**Effective organisation and planning are the foundations to a successful Integrated Farm Management (IFM) approach. Setting objectives and monitoring the results provide the means by which benefits of IFM can be quantified, demonstrated and continuously improved.**






Use of management plans and reviews play an important part in the finance and profitability on the farm. Your family and staff's motivation and involvement, crop performance, livestock performance and welfare, environmental commitment and engagement with local community are also important considerations.






Informed organisation and planning means that record-keeping, staff training and engagement, market development and communication are considered and implemented to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the farm business. In addition, good organisation and planning will reduce business risk, whilst making it more resilient to change. While many of these considerations are obvious, having clear and documented procedures helps avoid mistakes as well as develop contingency plans which are the building blocks of IFM.

- More information on the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review can be found on the [LEAF website](#) or [MyLEAF](#)
- More information on the Membership Certificate can be found on the [LEAF website](#) or downloaded from [MyLEAF](#)
- LEAF's [Farm Environmental Policy and Farm Environmental Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Health and Safety Risk Assessment](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Emergency Information sheet](#) can be used as a template for displaying emergency information
- More information on the Chain of Custody can be found on the [LEAF website](#) or [MyLEAF](#)
- LEAF's [IFM PowerPoint](#) can be used to inform staff about LEAF and IFM















| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION  |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>1.1</b><br><b>The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review has been completed.</b><br><b>E</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of Completion of the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review within the last <b>9 months</b></li> <li>LEAF Producer Groups need to complete the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review for the whole group</li> </ul>  | <br><a href="#">MyLEAF</a>                                 |
| <b>1.2</b><br><b>The business is a certified full member of an appropriate assurance system for each enterprise.</b><br><b>E</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership certificates indicate the business has the appropriate assurance for each enterprise <b>within the legal entity business</b> (e.g. if there are potatoes and cereals, there must be membership of the appropriate baseline system for both enterprises)</li> <li>Appropriate baseline systems include GLOBALG.A.P. and Red Tractor Assurance and other recognised national assurance systems which are independently verified</li> <li>The LEAF Marque Standard must be applied to all enterprises and land in the control of the farming business</li> <li>Products supplied locally for local consumption and do not contribute to the farming business as a whole may be exempt if the outcome of these activities is not detrimental to the farm as a whole</li> <li>Small enterprises, where enterprise specific assurance is inappropriate in economic terms, may be exempt if the outcome of these activities is not detrimental to the farm as a whole</li> </ul> | <br><a href="#">OP.OQ.03</a>                               |
| <b>1.3</b><br><b>The ‘farm details and product information and area’ section of the ‘My Profile’ of ‘myLEAF’ has been completed and is accurate.</b><br><b>E</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correct and up to date copy of Membership Certificate and/or LEAF Sustainable Farming Review report that contains farm data including whole farm area, information on class, enterprise, unit and quantity</li> </ul>  | <br><a href="#">OP.BI.01</a><br><a href="#">OP.BI.02</a> |
| <b>1.4</b>   | (Deleted 2015)  |   |
| <b>1.5</b>   | (Deleted 2015)  |   |

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>1.6</b><br><b>There is an <span style="color: red;">implemented</span> Farm Environmental Policy.</b><br><div style="background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-top: 10px;"><b>E</b></div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm Environmental Policy references:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Integrated Farm Management (IFM)</li> <li>○ Effective resource management through reducing and reusing water and reducing raw material consumption</li> <li>○ Eliminating or minimising pollution (i.e. energy, water, soil, air, light, and greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation)</li> <li>○ Optimising energy and water efficiency</li> <li>○ Minimising, <span style="color: red;">or avoiding altogether</span>, actions that adversely affect biodiversity and natural habitats</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Policy is communicated to all staff</li> <li>• Policy forms the basis of the business' objectives and targets</li> <li>• Policy meets all regulatory and legislative requirements</li> <li>• Policy shows commitment to continuous improvement</li> <li>• Policy is relevant to the business' activities</li> <li>• Policy is integrated with Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan</li> </ul> | <div style="text-align: right;"> <br/><br/> <span style="color: green;">OP.OQ.07</span> </div>   |
| <b>1.7</b><br><b>There is a Farm Environmental Plan setting out short and long term objectives.</b><br><div style="background-color: #2e7d32; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-top: 10px;"><b>E</b></div>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm Environmental Plan references:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Energy</li> <li>○ Water</li> <li>○ <span style="color: red;">Pollution</span>, greenhouse gases and air <span style="color: red;">quality</span></li> <li>○ Soil</li> <li>○ Other aspects of the business that impact on the environment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Plan sets out short-term (present to five years) and long-term (more than five years) objectives</li> <li>• Plan includes non-food enterprises that impact on the business</li> <li>• The Plan is integrated with the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan</li> </ul>  | <div style="text-align: right;"> <br/><br/> <span style="color: green;">OP.OQ.08</span> </div> |


| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1.8</b><br/>In the Farm Environmental Plan targets are set to improve and enhance the environment.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm Environmental Plan includes targets in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimal use of energy</li> <li>Optimal use of water</li> <li>Reducing <b>pollution</b> and greenhouse gases and improving air quality</li> <li>Soil</li> </ul> </li> <li>Targets have a timescale</li> <li><b>Targets are related to short- and long-term objectives (see 1.7)</b></li> <li>Targets link to the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2)</li> <li>Measurable targets are developed and linked to monitoring where appropriate</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">OP.OQ.08</a></p> |
| <p><b>1.9</b><br/>The Farm Environmental Plan and Farm Environmental Policy are annually reviewed and updated.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of review and necessary update to Farm Environmental Policy and Farm Environmental Plan</li> <li>Actions in Farm Environmental Plan have been implemented</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">OP.OQ.07</a><br/><a href="#">OP.OQ.08</a></p>   |
| <p><b>1.10</b><br/>The Farm Environmental Policy is signed and understood by permanent members of staff.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permanent staff (including departmental management staff where appropriate) have signed off on the Farm Environmental Policy</li> <li>Farm Environmental Policy is displayed for all staff</li> <li>Staff understand Farm Environmental Policy</li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">OP.OQ.07</a></p>  |
| <p><b>1.11</b><br/>The Farm Environmental Policy has been communicated to suppliers and contractors.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that Policy has been communicated to suppliers and contractors (e.g. via copy letters, meeting minutes, <b>or emails</b>)</li> <li>This includes graziers <b>or any other person(s) with a short-term rental licence</b> who have access to land</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">OP.OQ.07</a></p>   |

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION  |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>1.12</b><br><b>(Upgraded 2016) Water and energy efficiency are considered when new equipment is purchased or new buildings are designed.</b><br><b>E</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm Environmental Policy includes reference to commitment to improving energy and water efficiency through justified purchase decisions</li> <li>Consideration has been given to incorporation of renewable energy generation into the building design</li> <li>Consideration has been given to ways to recover or recycle water when new buildings are designed</li> </ul>   | <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.07</a><br><a href="#">EE.EQ.03</a><br><a href="#">WM.WQ.01</a>   |
| <b>1.13</b><br><b>Market outlets and product requirements are clearly identified prior to production and are integrated within enterprise planning.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records show customer requirements are incorporated into production plan (i.e. quality, quantity and environmental considerations)</li> <li>Customer contracts or sales plans are acceptable evidence</li> <li>LEAF Producer Groups can complete that as a group function</li> </ul>   | <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.02</a>   |
| <b>1.14</b><br><b>There is a record of all received complaints and evidence of appropriate actions.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records show complaints and actions taken</li> <li>LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Farm Practice Complaints (OP.OD.02) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul>   | <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.10</a><br><a href="#">OP.OD.02</a>   |
| <b>1.15</b><br><b>Relevant staff are given regular training or awareness events on the principles and practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM).</b><br><b>E</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of staff training and attendance</li> <li>Record of discussion or improvements that have arisen from the training</li> <li>Training is done regularly (at least annually)</li> <li>All staff have an appropriate awareness of IFM</li> <li>Contractors have an appropriate awareness of IFM</li> <li>LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Staff IFM Awareness (OP.OD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul> |  <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a><br><a href="#">OP.OD.01</a> |
| <b>1.16</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Deleted 2016)</li> </ul>  |   |



| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>1.17</b><br><b>There is a Health and Safety Risk Assessment.</b><br>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Safety Risk Assessment has been completed in the past 12 months</li> <li>• Health and Safety Risk Assessment covers the whole business and includes all farm operations and interactions with the general public</li> <li>• Staff understand the importance of reducing risk in day to day operations</li> </ul>   |   <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.12</a> |
| <b>1.18</b><br><b>(New 2016) LEAF Marque Chain of Custody Grown Products and Output Products have been completed and is accurate.</b><br><br>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grown Products are all crops grown and animals reared by the business</li> <li>• Output Products are all products that the business sells</li> <li>• Your active Grown Products and the Output Products can be evidenced online or by printing the Grown Products and Output Products pages</li> <li>• LEAF Producer Groups need to complete a single LEAF Marque Chain of Custody for the whole group</li> </ul>   | <br><br><a href="#">MyLEAF</a>   |
| <b>1.19</b><br><b>(New 2016) LEAF Marque Chain of Custody Self Assessment has been completed and approval received.</b><br><br>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEAF Marque Chain of Custody Self Assessment has been approved by LEAF within the last 9 months</li> <li>• The email you receive from <a href="mailto:support@leafchainofcustody.org">support@leafchainofcustody.org</a> confirming the approval of your Self Assessment or the overview page of your Self Assessment can provide evidence of this</li> <li>• LEAF Producer Groups need to complete a single Self Assessment for the whole group</li> </ul> | <br><br><a href="#">MyLEAF</a>   |
| <b>1.20</b><br><b>(New 2016) The business is a Supply Partner for the LEAF Marque Chain of Custody.</b><br><br><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses who buy, process, manufacture or mix LEAF Marque produce must be a 'Supply Partner' for the LEAF Marque Chain of Custody</li> <li>• The Site Management page can provide evidence of whether the business is a 'Grower only' or a 'Supply Partner' for the LEAF Marque Chain of Custody</li> <li>• LEAF Producer Groups need to complete a single LEAF Marque Chain of Custody for the whole group</li> </ul>                                    | <br><br><a href="#">MyLEAF</a>   |



| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |
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| <p><b>1.21</b><br/> <b>(New 2016) There is a current LEAF Marque Chain of Custody Licence where a LEAF Marque claim is made.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for first time LEAF Marque inspection or if the business is not making a claim</i></p> <p><b>NEW</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claims include use of the LEAF Marque logo and/or statements referring to LEAF Marque and/or sustainable/environmental production or similar on packaging and/or in marketing materials</li> <li>• The business holding the Licence will be the brand owner or responsible for the approval of the claim for another brand</li> <li>• The Licence Applications page can provide evidence of current Licence(s)</li> <li>• LEAF Producer Groups need to complete a single LEAF Marque Chain of Custody for the whole group</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">MyLEAF</a></p> |



## Soil Management and Fertility











**Soil is the basis of agricultural production. The conservation and improvement of this valuable resource must be the highest priority in the adoption of Integrated Farm Management.**








The availability of land and fertile soil is essential for healthy productive crops and livestock. Good quality soil also supports water management, reduces risk of nutrient run-off, acts as a carbon sink and promotes biodiversity.

Good soil husbandry includes the routine analysis, maintenance and improvement of physical, chemical and biological soil health. This helps ensure soils' long term fertility and builds organic matter, while reducing the risk of erosion, structural degradation, compaction and associated environmental concerns such as flooding and drought. Good soil husbandry increases yields and profitability.

- LEAF's [Simply Sustainable Soils](#) provides Six Simple Steps for your soil to help improve the performance, health and long-term sustainability of your land.
- There are also a number of [Simple Sustainable Soils Case Studies](#) available
- LEAF's [Soil Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to consider in your soil management planning

[illegible]

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION  |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>2.4</b><br><b>The business is aware of soils, livestock and crops that are prone to trace element deficiencies.</b><br><b>E</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate leaf/soil/livestock analysis <b>records</b></li> <li>Written records of visible crop or livestock symptoms (e.g. in a diary)</li> </ul>  |  <br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.06</a>  |
| <b>2.5</b>   | (Deleted 2013)  |  |
| <b>2.6</b><br><b>There is a long-term cropping plan.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where there are perennial crops such as orchard and long-term protected crops</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan identifies annual cropping cycles for the current year and the intentions for the future (over at least <b>three</b> years)</li> <li>The rotation/cycle is <b>sustainable and appropriate to the farm business, including the soil and climate</b></li> </ul>   |  <br><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.02</a>  |
| <b>2.7</b><br><b>The risk of soil degradation is assessed prior to operations being carried out to ensure the timing, field conditions, equipment and soil management techniques are appropriate.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where growing media other than soil is used</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The business is able to explain how soil management operations are planned and carried out</b></li> <li>The producer is able to justify and demonstrate that cultivations have minimum environmental impact</li> <li><b>The business has documented steps to reduce any adverse impacts in their Soil Management Plan (see 2.1)</b></li> <li>The Soil Management Plan map identifies risk areas <b>(see 2.1)</b></li> <li>No significant visual evidence of soil damage such as compaction or soil erosion</li> </ul> |   <br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.01</a><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.03</a><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.04</a> |
| <b>2.8</b><br><b>All cultivations and field operations are recorded.</b><br><b>R</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not carry out cultivations or field operations</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field operation records by crop type or by field</li> <li>Checking field records can be very onerous on large farms with small fields so grouping may occur and is acceptable</li> </ul>   |   <br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.04</a>  |

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |  |
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| <b>2.9</b><br><b>Recommendations for application of fertilisers (organic or inorganic) are given by competent, qualified persons.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not apply fertilisers</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of qualifications for competent, qualified person(s)</li> <li>Evidence to show professional development of competent, qualified person(s) (i.e. training records of advisor or staff)</li> <li>The recommended minimum amount of training or professional development is four hours per year</li> </ul>  | <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.06</a><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a>                                    |
| <b>2.10</b><br><b>Organic and inorganic fertiliser applications are recorded.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not apply fertilisers</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field records <b>and fertigation records</b> that show evidence that all nutrient applications have been applied at the correct rate, timings and placed accurately</li> <li>Records should confirm that the Nutrient Management Plan has been followed (<a href="#">see 2.3</a>)</li> <li>Operator records referring to field applications</li> </ul>  | <br><br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.07</a>     |
| <b>2.11</b><br><b>Operators/contractors are trained in accurate techniques of nutrient application.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operator/contractor training records including reference to the appropriate understanding and awareness of environmentally-sensitive areas on the farm and risks associated with nutrient losses through runoff</li> <li><b>Operator/contractor training records include any internal training and experience</b></li> <li><b>Operator/contractor training records include nutrient mixing for fertigation systems</b></li> </ul> | <br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a>   |
| <b>2.12</b><br><b>Nitrogen use efficiency is measured.</b><br><b>R</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where measurement is not practical. This should be justified by the business</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nitrogen use efficiency measurements are being made <b>and recorded</b></li> <li><b>LEAF Sustainable Review Question Synthetic Nitrogen Use Efficiency (SM.SD.02) is completed with appropriate figures</b></li> </ul>  | <br><br><a href="#">SM.SD.02</a>  |
| <b>2.13</b><br><b>Control measures are implemented to minimise the loss of nutrients when applying organic matter.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if manure or organic matter not applied</i>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of <b>storage</b>, nutrient application dates and cultivation practices appropriate to cropping plan</li> </ul>   | <br><br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a> |



# Crop Health and Protection

**Protecting crops from weeds, pests and disease is an essential part of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) in order to maintain yields and reduce avoidable losses.**










Safe and effective control will also help reduce the risk of water pollution and help preserve the abundance and diversity of native species.








Within an IFM system, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) takes a holistic approach to crop health and protection combining different strategies (cultural, biological, mechanical and/or chemical) to protect crops and ensure that chemical control is only used when necessary. It is essential to consider a range of approaches to ensure that the balance between optimising yield and quality, crop health, cost efficiency and environmental protection are maintained.







- LEAF's [Crop Health and Protection Policy](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [example Pollution Emergency Procedure](#) can be used as procedure template for dealing with spillages
- UK Environmental Information Sheets (EIS) are available from [The Voluntary Initiative](#)
- Pro-operator's [Biobed Masterclass](#) provides guidance on pesticide handling and disposal of spray washing
- More information on UK sprayer operators can be found on the [National Register of Spray Operators website](#)
- More information on storing plant protection products in the UK is provided in HSE's [Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users \(AIS No. 16\)](#) or under [GLOBALG.A.P. Guidelines](#)






| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |
|--|--|
| <b>3.1</b><br>There is an <b>implemented Crop Health and Protection Policy</b> that is reviewed annually.<br><span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px 6px;">E</span>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop <b>Health and Protection Policy</b> includes reference to the following;               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Farm Management (IFM)</li> <li>Integrated Pest Management (IPM)</li> <li>Crop rotation, <b>where applicable</b></li> <li>Selection of varieties resistant to pests and diseases</li> <li>Adoption of non-plant protection product interventions to control pests, where appropriate</li> <li>Cultivations</li> <li>Selection and justification of plant protection products (PPPs) to reduce any effects on beneficial species</li> <li>Appropriate dose rates <b>and timings</b></li> <li>Resistance management strategy</li> </ul> </li> <li>Policy reviewed annually</li> <li>Reviewed policy signed off by permanent staff</li> <li>The requirements of control points 3.2, 3.5 and 3.7 should be included in the Policy</li> </ul> <div>CP.CQ.01</div> |
| <b>3.2</b><br>There are strategies to avoid pest resistance to herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.<br><span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px 6px;">E</span>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop <b>Health and Protection Policy</b> (<b>see 3.1</b>) states strategies to avoid pest resistance to herbicides, fungicides and insecticides (i.e. timing and dose rate, use of thresholds, utilising different modes of action, etc.)</li> <li>Crop protection records show that strategies have been used</li> </ul> <div>CP.CQ.01</div>   |
| <b>3.3</b><br>There is a system in place for monitoring and recording pests (including vertebrate), disease, weed levels and beneficial predatory species. The system is used to decide when to apply plant protection products (PPPs).<br><span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px 6px;">E</span> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recorded system for regular monitoring by an agronomist or member of staff</li> <li>Records reference the use of pest, disease and weed thresholds, threshold warnings and local weather conditions</li> </ul> <div>CP.CQ.06</div>  |
| <b>3.4</b><br>There is a record to justify the use of crop protection practices.<br><span style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 2px 6px;">E</span>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crop protection operation records include justification of <b>products and practices used</b></li> <li>Decision support systems, advice tool and/or other precision farming techniques are used</li> </ul> <div>CP.CQ.06<br/>CP.CQ.09</div>   |





| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION   |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>3.5</b><br><b>The business considers the environmental impact of all crop protection practices, including plant protection product (PPP), mechanical and cultural practices.</b><br><b>E</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop <b>Health and</b> Protection Policy (see 3.1) includes reference to the environmental impact of crop protection practices</li> <li>• Justification is included in records kept of all crop protection operations used</li> <li>• Justification of the proposed pest and disease programme can be recorded at the planning stage prior to the growing season</li> <li>• Deviations from the Policy are considered and recorded</li> </ul> |  <br><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.01</a><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.06</a>   |
| <b>3.6</b><br><b>Growth stages, infestation levels and plant protection product type are considered before deciding on the appropriate rate of plant protection product (PPP) used.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not apply PPPs</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring, recommendation and spray records show evidence of appropriate dose rates</li> <li>• The use of adjuvants (modifying agents) enabling the use of reduced rates and low volume spraying on crops is only done within the statutory regulations</li> <li>• <b>PPP label instructions are adhered to</b></li> </ul>   |  <br><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.06</a><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.09</a>   |
| <b>3.7</b><br><b>Steps are taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species.</b><br><b>E</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop <b>Health and</b> Protection Policy (see 3.1) includes evidence of steps taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species including pollinators</li> <li>• Evidence could include use of selective plant protection products (PPPs), evidence of predators, buffer zones, minimal cultivation and use of Environmental Information Sheets (EIS)</li> </ul>  |   <br><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.01</a><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.11</a> |
| <b>3.8</b><br><b>There is a documented procedure to ensure harvest intervals are observed.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not apply PPPs</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures identify first permissible harvest <b>time and/or</b> date after plant protection product (PPP) application</li> <li>• Procedures are adhered to by <b>staff/contractors</b></li> </ul>  |  <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.19</a>   |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION   |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>3.9</b><br><b>Precautions taken to ensure plant protection product (PPP) use is limited to the area in which it is required.</b><br><div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A where business does not apply PPPs</i>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precautions taken <b>by staff/contractors</b> to limit PPP application to the area in which it is required may include methods such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>planning</li> <li>precision farming techniques</li> <li>accurate applications</li> <li>correct spraying conditions</li> <li>low drift techniques</li> <li>choice of sprayer</li> <li>choice of spray nozzle</li> <li>buffer strips or unsprayed strips of six metres adjacent to residential and business properties</li> </ul> </li> <li>Best practice is adhered to around buffer zones</li> </ul> |   <br><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.11</a> |
| <b>3.10</b><br><b>There is a documented and displayed procedure and notification process to alert relevant staff and/or authorities for dealing with spillages damaging to the environment, people and animals.</b><br><div>E</div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pollution Emergency Procedure</b> includes information on what immediate action should be taken</li> <li>Procedure is easily understood and follows a logical sequence based on the nature of the spillage</li> <li>Procedure includes contact details for all staff and/or authorities</li> <li>Staff are aware of the existence of the procedure <b>and can easily understand it</b></li> <li>Equipment referred to is <b>appropriate</b>, available and easy to find</li> <li>Procedure is reviewed at least annually and contact details updated where appropriate</li> </ul>              |   <br><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.08</a>                             |
| <b>3.11</b><br><b>Plant protection product (PPP) applications are recorded.</b><br><div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A where business does not apply PPPs</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Records meet appropriate baseline assurance scheme requirements</b></li> <li>Records include soil conditions (where practical and appropriate)</li> <li>All operators (<b>including contractors</b>) within the spray team are recorded either on the spray record or as a separate record</li> </ul>  | <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.18</a><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.09</a><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a>   |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION  |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>3.12</b><br>Protection measures are in place where plant protection products (PPPs) are mixed/handled to ensure potential spillage or resulting pollution is prevented from entering water and the local environment.<br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> N/A where business does not handle or mix PPPs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPP mixing area takes account of yard drains, slope and proximity to watercourses, very permeable ground in groundwater protected zones/areas and/or <b>highly trafficked areas</b></li> <li>• PPP mixing areas in the field avoid gateways, locations near ditches, locations in close proximity to underground field drains, very permeable ground in groundwater protected zones/areas and highly trafficked areas</li> <li>• Portable drip trays used</li> </ul>                 |  <br><br>CP.CQ.08                 |
| <b>3.13</b><br>Plant protection product (PPP) <b>recommendations</b> are made by competent, qualified persons.<br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of qualifications for competent, qualified person(s)</li> <li>• <b>Evidence to show professional development of competent, qualified person (s) (i.e. training records of advisor or staff)</b></li> <li>• Records of attendance at conferences, training days, manufacturers' technical training and other events aimed at updates on crop protection</li> <li>• The recommended minimum amount of training or professional development is eight hours per year</li> </ul> | <br><br>OP.OQ.09<br>CP.CQ.10   |
| <b>3.14</b><br>Operators/contractors are trained in the use of plant protection products (PPPs) and participate in continuous professional development.<br><b>E</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of qualifications for competent, qualified person(s)</li> <li>• <b>Evidence to show professional development of competent, qualified person(s) (i.e. training records of advisor or staff)</b></li> <li>• The recommended minimum amount of training or professional development is three or more hours per year (this is guide and should be proportionate depending on farm size and PPP usage)</li> </ul>  | <br><br>OP.OQ.09<br>CP.CQ.10   |
| <b>3.15</b><br>Staff/contractors are trained in the identification of pests, diseases and crop disorders.<br><b>R</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training records for relevant staff (a competent, qualified person may train staff when walking the farm)</li> </ul>   |  <br><br>OP.OQ.09<br>CP.CQ.10 |

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION  |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>3.16</b><br><b>Sprayers/granular applicators have test certificates from a nationally-recognised scheme or are appropriately maintained and calibrated to ensure safe and reliable operation.</b><br><b>E</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sprayer/granular applicators have test certificates from a nationally-recognised scheme where a national scheme is available</li> <li>Where there is no national scheme, there are records of routine maintenance and calibration</li> <li>Monthly calibration for sprayers/granular applicators that are used weekly is appropriate</li> </ul>  | <br><a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a>  |
| <b>3.17</b><br><b>Plant protection products (PPPs) are stored securely to give protection to the environment and people.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not store PPPs</i>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPPs are stored in accordance with the UK HSE's Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users (AIS No. 16) or GLOBALG.A.P. Guidelines</li> </ul>   | <br><a href="#">CP.CQ.07</a>  |
| <b>3.18</b><br><b>Only plant protection products (PPPs) with approval are used and stored.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not store PPPs</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stores, stock rotation and records show that all PPPs that are used have been approved</li> <li>In certain countries it may be necessary for the business to use Extrapolated Usage from another country. The PPP itself must already have another legal use in the country in which it is used. Full justification for any extrapolation is present, in line with GLOBALG.A.P. requirements</li> </ul>  | <br><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.07</a> |
| <b>3.19</b><br><b>Plant protection products (PPPs) are used at the appropriate rate and timing for safe and effective use.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not apply PPPs</i>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PPP applications comply with the statutory conditions regarding the specific crop, maximum permitted total dose, maximum number of treatments and latest time of application as indicated on the PPP label or by authorised extension of use</li> <li>In certain countries the label harvest interval for the crop in question may be inappropriate to fit with the current MRL for the commodity when exported into Europe. In that situation the business may be using a longer harvest interval; this often being advised on a case-by-case basis by the technical staff of the company importing the crop into Europe</li> </ul> | <br><a href="#">CP.CQ.09</a>  |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>3.20</b><br/> <b>Adequate precautions are taken to protect neighbouring businesses and the public from plant protection product (PPP) application activities.</b></p> <p><b>R</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjacent to residential <b>and business</b> properties, bystander exposure is reduced by the presence of a six-metre no-spray buffer strip (this can include the two-metres of margin that has been left as an undisturbed field margin (<b>see 8.13</b>))</li> <li>• Operator instructions indicate a lack of field pest control on headlands or evidence of buffer strips</li> <li>• A six-metre no spray zone may not be appropriate in small fields</li> <li>• Where hand-held equipment is used a buffer zone of less than six metres may be appropriate</li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><u><a href="#">CP.CQ.11</a></u></p> |



# Pollution Control and By-Product Management






Nearly every process and practice results in the generation of ‘by-products’ or ‘wastes’ and therefore poses a potential risk of pollution and a threat to the environment. Wherever possible you should reduce, reuse and recycle any wastes.







Well managed pollution control and by-product management is an important part of Integrated Farm Management and will help make best use of resources, avoid pollution and save money as well as playing an important part in protecting water, energy, biodiversity and soil.

In many cases farm ‘wastes’ are a valuable resource and this section focuses on their optimum use in order to make cost savings and decrease pollution risk.

- LEAF’s [Manure Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include and how to integrate it with your Nutrient Management Plan
- LEAF’s [Pollution Risk Assessment](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF’s [Pollution Emergency Procedure](#) provides an example on what to include

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION   |
|---|--|
| <b>4.1</b><br><b>There is a general policy to minimise waste.</b><br><b>E</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of current waste management practices is completed at least annually</li> <li>• Opportunities are identified, and actions planned to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce production of waste</li> <li>○ Re-use waste produced</li> <li>○ Recycle waste</li> <li>○ Safely and effectively disposal of waste where it cannot be utilised</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div>  <br/> <a href="#">PC.PQ.03</a><br/> <a href="#">PC.PQ.04</a><br/> <a href="#">PC.PQ.05</a> </div> |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION  |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>4.2</b><br><b>There is an <b>implemented</b> Manure Management Plan that is integrated with the Nutrient Management Plan (see 2.3).</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if organic material is not produced or used</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manure Management Plan includes slurry, manure, compost, anaerobic digestate and industrial waste and other organic materials</li> <li><b>Field applications are in line with Plan</b></li> <li>Field records include the application date and application rate</li> <li>Land spreading of industrial waste (other than sewage sludge), needs to be registered with the relevant environmental agency or authority if appropriate</li> <li><b>Requirements for control points 2.3 and 5.4 can be included in the Plan</b></li> </ul> | <br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.06</a><br><a href="#">PC.PQ.04</a>   |
| <b>4.3</b><br><b>Fixed fuel tanks are bunded and potential spillages are prevented from entering watercourses.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel tanks that store more than 200 litres are bunded</li> <li>Underground tanks are pressure tested every five years</li> <li>Fuel oils stored in either a fuel storage tank or within a <b>bunded</b> storage area</li> <li><b>Bunded storage areas are impermeable and more than 10-metres away from areas of high risk contamination, such as open drains and ditches</b></li> <li><b>Consideration has been given to bunding of mobile fuel tanks</b></li> </ul>  | <br><br><a href="#">PC.PQ.02</a>   |
| <b>4.4</b><br><b>Equipment and machinery is regularly maintained and calibrated to ensure accurate and efficient application and operation.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not use sprayers, fertiliser and muck/manure spreaders, and tractors</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records show regular maintenance and procedures for sprayers, fertiliser and muck/manure spreaders and tractors (including tyres)</li> </ul>   | <br><br><a href="#">OP.OQ.16</a><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a><br><a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a>                               |
| <b>4.5</b><br><b>There is a <b>Pollution Risk Assessment</b> that identifies, documents and records all potential pollutants on a map.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pollution Risk Assessment</b> includes potential pollutants at each stage of their use from unloading to disposal</li> <li>Assessment indicates what is at risk and the priority action based on the risk</li> <li>Assessment considers air, noise, light, soil, surface and ground water pollution</li> <li><b>The requirements of control point 4.6 can be included in the Assessment</b></li> </ul>  |  <br><br><a href="#">PC.PQ.01</a> |

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION  |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>4.6</b><br><b>There is an action plan to reduce the impact of all potential pollutants on the environment.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Action plan can be incorporated into the <b>Pollution</b> Risk Assessment (see 4.5)</li> <li>Action plan has a recorded review date and dates for planned and completed actions</li> </ul>   | <br><br><a href="#">PC.PQ.01</a><br><a href="#">PC.PQ.02</a>   |
| <b>4.7</b><br><b>Quality and condition of drainage ditches and watercourses are visually monitored.</b><br><b>R</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if no ditches or watercourses</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records of regular monitoring (at least quarterly and especially after recent field operations)</li> <li>Watercourses have not been polluted by run-off (e.g. are not discoloured or have excessive growth of algae)</li> <li>Action plan includes emergency strategies</li> </ul> |   <br><br><a href="#">WM.WQ.05</a> |
| <b>4.8</b><br><b>There are maps of all drainage schemes for fields and general farm building areas.</b><br><b>R</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractors' certified maps of completed schemes or good farm plans with outfalls</li> <li>Maps of general farm building are available in the event of a pollution incident to provide guidance in controlling the run of water</li> </ul>   | <br><br><a href="#">WM.WQ.05</a><br><a href="#">WM.WQ.06</a>  |
| <b>4.9</b><br><b>New land drainage is recorded and outlets are identified.</b><br><b>E</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage plans are up to date</li> </ul>   | <br><br><a href="#">WM.WQ.05</a>   |







# Animal Husbandry








**Optimising animal welfare, feeding and herd or flock health status are essential to implementing Integrated Farm Management (IFM) in any livestock business.**







Appropriate animal management can also contribute to improved grass production and reduced sward restoration costs. Suitable grazing management can help reduce topsoil and nutrient losses, improve the quality of watercourses and enhance biodiversity. With appropriate planning and management, manures and slurries represent a valuable resource and can form a key fertiliser input, significantly reducing production costs.



Animal health has a big impact on production, a key aspect of any successful livestock business. Poor animal husbandry is not only detrimental to animal welfare, but can also be at the root of a variety of production, environmental and food safety issues.

- LEAF's [Manure Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Livestock Health Plan](#) provides more information on what to include

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>5.1</b><br><b>Measures are taken to avoid undue grazing damage leading to soil erosion and runoff.</b><br><div>E</div><br><div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if no grazing</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (<a href="#">see 8.2</a>) includes advice on livestock management and the environment</li> <li>• Measures such as adjusting stocking rates, animal movements and positioning of supplementary feeders are carried out to reduce undue grazing damage, overgrazing and erosion</li> </ul> |  <br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.03</a><br><a href="#">AH.AQ.04</a><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.02</a> |

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>5.2</b><br><b>Nesting birds and wildlife are protected when cutting forage.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if forage is not cut</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of protection by staff and contractors through the direction and timing of cutting</li> </ul>  |  <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a>   |
| <b>5.3</b><br><b>Organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent, slurry and solid organic matter are stored according to best practice.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in circumstances where organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent or solid organic matter is not used or stored</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An active programme of inspection, maintenance and repair is in place for all organic material stores</li> <li>Stores have sufficient capacity for organic material being stored and expected rainfall as appropriate</li> <li>All stores are at least 10 metres away from water bodies and further away where necessary e.g. near a water supply intake</li> <li>Field stores are at least 50 metres away from water bodies where potable water is abstracted</li> <li>Above ground stores have an expected lifespan of at least 20 years from construction with maintenance</li> <li>Below ground stores have an expected lifespan of at least 20 years from construction without maintenance</li> <li>Run-off, drainage and effluent from stores is appropriately managed</li> <li>Construction materials are appropriate considering permeability and corrosion</li> <li>Construction of a new store, or alteration to an existing store, has been notified to relevant authorities where required and appropriate (e.g. environmental and planning)</li> </ul> |  <br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.08</a><br><a href="#">AH.AQ.04</a>   |
| <b>5.4</b><br><b>There is adequate safe holding capacity for animal manure and slurry for the requirements of the business.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in circumstances where animal manure and slurry is not stored</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal manure or slurry store have no potential overspill and/or pollution risk</li> <li>Animal manure or slurry stores have at least four months' storage for slurry unless the Manure Management Plan identifies less is needed (see 4.2)</li> <li>Records show regular inspection and maintenance</li> </ul>   |   <br><br><a href="#">SM.SQ.08</a><br><a href="#">AH.AQ.04</a> |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION  |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>5.5</b><br><b>Dirty water and silage effluent are collected and safely recycled.</b><br><div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if no dirty water or silage effluent</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of dirty water is minimised and sufficient storage is provided to allow for its effective use</li> <li>Silage effluent is applied in accordance with crop requirements and in suitable conditions</li> <li>Run-off from animal manure on hard surface areas or yards is contained and treated as dirty water</li> <li>Dirty water is an effluent consisting of water contaminated by manure, urine, cleaning material, crop seepage and other waste products</li> </ul> | <br><br><a href="#">PC.PQ.04</a><br><a href="#">PC.PQ.05</a><br><a href="#">AH.AQ.04</a>  |
| <b>5.6</b><br><b>Environmentally-sensitive areas, identified in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan, are protected and managed appropriately.</b><br><div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmentally valuable/sensitive areas identified in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (e.g. hedges, ponds, ditches, streams, rivers, margins) are appropriately managed for the identified and targeted species to protect wildlife and water quality (see 8.2)</li> </ul>   | <br><br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.01</a><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a> |
| <b>5.7</b><br><b>There is an implemented Livestock Health Plan.</b><br><div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock Health Plan is appropriate for all livestock within the business</li> <li>Plan has been produced in consultation with and signed off by a vet</li> <li>Plan is reviewed and updated annually and has a review date and date for completed actions</li> </ul>   | <br><br><br><a href="#">AH.AQ.01</a>                         |
| <b>5.8</b><br><b>There is an annual visit from your vet to discuss animal health strategy and welfare issues.</b><br><div>E</div> <div>N/A</div> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signed vet report from annual visit that includes strategy and welfare issues</li> <li>Vet report incorporates all animals within the business, including those not covered by the business' assurance schemes</li> </ul>  | <br><br><a href="#">AH.AQ.01</a><br><a href="#">AH.AQ.03</a>  |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>5.9</b><br/> <b>Animal welfare indicators are monitored and used to assess performance on a production cycle basis.</b></p> <p><b>R</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records and analysis of indicators (e.g. <b>loss of body condition, lameness, diarrhoea</b>, mastitis, <b>flystrike, hock burn</b>, %mortality)</li> <li>Remedial action has been taken where necessary</li> </ul> <div>   </div> <p><a href="#">AH.AQ.01</a><br/> <a href="#">AH.AQ.02</a></p> |



## Energy Efficiency

**Awareness of sustainability issues and responsible management of natural resources are important within Integrated Farm Management.**

Efficient use of energy on farm will help save costs, use resources more efficiently and reduce waste, as well as contributing to an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.

Careful use of inputs, appropriate tillage, reduced reliance on fossil fuel, and striving for optimum instead of maximum yields will all help improve energy efficiency and contribute towards maximum returns in the long run.

- LEAF's [Energy Audit and Energy Action Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Energy Monitoring Spreadsheet](#) provides more information on monitoring energy

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION   |
|---|--|
| <b>6.1</b><br><b>There is an Energy Audit.</b><br><div>E</div>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Audit includes measurement of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fuel</li> <li>○ Heating</li> <li>○ Cooling</li> <li>○ Lighting use</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Audit includes energy saving opportunities</li> <li>• Audit identifies ways of reducing dependency on non-renewable energy sources</li> <li>• Audit is reviewed annually</li> <li>• Audit is completed by farmer, local energy organisation or a consultant</li> </ul> <div>EE.EQ.01</div> |
| <b>6.2</b><br><b>Energy consumption is monitored.</b><br><div>E</div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy consumption is recorded on a monthly basis (at minimum)</li> <li>• There is a measure for each major energy use (e.g. drying, heating, livestock housing)</li> <li>• Energy use is measured per unit of output or other relevant metric (kWh per tonne/bird/hectare)</li> <li>• Measurement is in energy units</li> </ul> <div>EE.EQ.01</div>  |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION  |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>6.3</b><br>CO <sub>2</sub> emissions are recorded from energy consumption records.<br><br><div>E</div>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions based on energy consumption records</li> </ul>  | <br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><u>EE.EQ.01</u>                                       |
| <b>6.4</b><br>(New 2016) The business is taking steps to optimise energy use.<br><br><div>R</div><br><div>NEW</div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on the annually reviewed Energy Audit, and associated CO<sub>2</sub> emission records, steps are identified and taken to optimise energy consumption and reduce associated carbon emissions</li> <li>Carbon footprinting and/or carbon budgeting will help identify opportunities</li> <li>If carbon footprinting tools are being used, LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Carbon Footprints (PC.PD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul> | <br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><u>PC.PQ.06</u><br><u>PC.PD.01</u><br><u>EE.EQ.01</u> |





# Water Management







**Efficient water management is a core component of Integrated Farm Management. Managing water wisely as well as assessing and enhancing the efficiency of on farm use saves money and helps provide for future needs.**

Good water management practices help protect water sources and improve water quality. In particular, good water management will contribute towards reducing run-off and pollution, improved field access and soil workability and restoration of wetland areas.

Sustainable management of water in agriculture is critical to increase agricultural production and maintain the environmental benefits and social requirements of water systems.

- LEAF's [Simply Sustainable Water](#) provides Six Simple Steps for managing water quality and use on your land.
- LEAF's [Water Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION  |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>7.1</b><br><b>There is an <span style="color: red;">implemented</span> Water Management Plan.</b><br><div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>E</b></div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water Management Plan includes reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ where water is used and justification for use</li> <li>○ plans to reduce water use</li> <li>○ justification of water sources used</li> <li>○ environmental impact of water used</li> <li>○ leakage</li> <li>○ collection and re-use of some waters such as clean roof water or cooling water</li> <li>○ irrigation scheduling</li> <li>○ water discharges to the environment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <span style="color: red;">The requirements for control points 7.2, 7.4 and 7.5 can be included in the Plan</span></li> </ul> | <div style="text-align: right;">   </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <a href="#">WM.WQ.01</a> </div> |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION   |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>7.2</b><br><b>Water Management Plan is reviewed annually.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Management Plan includes records of annual review (see 7.1)</li> </ul>  | <br><a href="#">WM.WQ.01</a>   |
| <b>7.3</b><br><b>Applied water use efficiency is measured.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A when no irrigation is carried out or in some circumstances when measurement is not practical and justified by the business</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water use efficiency of all irrigated water is measured in litres (or m<sup>3</sup>) of water per tonne of output</li> <li>LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Question Applied Water Use Efficiency (WM.WD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> <li>Irrigated water is water that is either taken from the mains or from the environment and directly irrigated or stored for use</li> </ul> | <br><a href="#">WM.WQ.04</a><br><a href="#">WM.WD.01</a>   |
| <b>7.4</b><br><b>Applied water use efficiency measurements are analysed, any changes justified, and measurements are used to plan improvements.</b><br><b>R</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A when no irrigation is carried out or in some circumstances when measurement is not practical and justified by the business</i>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Management Plan includes a documented annual review of water efficiency measurements and actions for improvement through enhanced agronomic or technological practices (see 7.1)</li> </ul>   | <br><a href="#">WM.WQ.02</a><br><a href="#">WM.WQ.04</a>   |
| <b>7.5</b><br><b>The business is increasing the percentage of water use from stored water from periods of natural rainfall abundance over direct abstraction. The business is also developing rainwater harvesting and water reuse opportunities.</b><br><b>R</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for those not using irrigation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Management Plan indicate plans to increase the percentage of water used from stored sources over direct abstraction (see 7.1)</li> <li>Applied water use efficiency data and Water Management Plan indicate plans to develop rainwater harvesting and water reuse opportunities (see 7.1)</li> <li>Business can justify progress on water efficiency and sources of water used</li> </ul>           |   <br><a href="#">WM.WQ.01</a><br><a href="#">WM.WQ.03</a><br><a href="#">WM.WD.01</a> |







## Landscape and Nature Conservation

**Care for the environment is at the core of Integrated Farm Management. For many farmers the demonstration of this care is a living farm landscape which will enhance the public's experience of the countryside.**

Responsible management of the landscape leads to enhanced biodiversity. It can also help protect soil and water and improve land value, farm image and market opportunities. In addition, environmental land management will support a range of ecosystem services that benefit both the farm and the surrounding area.












It is important to remember that landscape and wildlife are like any other aspects of the farm; what is achieved depends on the starting conditions, the capability of the land and the effort invested. Consideration should be given to all areas and actions which could improve habitats. This will include existing habitats, field boundaries and margins, in-field features, watercourses and wetlands, flower-rich and seed-rich habitats.





- LEAF's [Simply Sustainable Biodiversity](#) provides Six Simple Steps to help improve biodiversity on your land
- LEAF's [Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- Further information on biodiversity in your area visit can be found on the [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](#) (UK only) and the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) websites
- LEAF's [Great habitats, more flowers, better protection – Pollinator Guidance](#) provides more information on pollinating insects








| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>8.1</b><br/> <b>There is a documented Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (including map).</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit includes map(s) with reference to the following key environmental features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ areas and sites on farm with any statutory landscape designation</li> <li>○ lakes, ponds and watercourses</li> <li>○ semi-natural habitats (e.g. moorland, wetlands, lowland heath, species-rich grassland, carbon sinks etc.)</li> <li>○ linear features (e.g. hedges, fence lines, verges, field margins, walls, ditches)</li> <li>○ public rights of way</li> <li>○ archaeological or historical sites</li> <li>○ land on which other important species are found</li> <li>○ areas that are grazed</li> <li>○ lists of any important species recorded in the area</li> <li>○ traditional buildings</li> <li>○ fire breaks that help protect crops and habitats</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Audit includes notes on how the farming operations could damage, or have detrimental effects, on these features</li> <li>• Audit completed or reviewed by a specialist conservation advisor or consultant</li> <li>• Audit regularly reviewed (at least every five years) by the specialist advisor and annually by farmer</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="1273 324 1402 383">   </div> <p><u><a href="#">LN.LQ.01</a></u></p> |









| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>8.2</b><br/>There is an <b>implemented Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ covers the whole farm <b>including any land rented for more than three years</b></li> <li>○ is based on the map-based Audit (<b>see 8.1</b>) <b>and includes all key features</b></li> <li>○ aims to enhance the farm and encourage greater biodiversity</li> <li>○ identifies the necessary action required to conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscapes on the farm, and the protection and maintenance of archaeological or historical sites</li> <li>○ is linked to Biodiversity Action Plan (BAPs) that exist in the local area or country</li> <li>○ has a detailed list of present actions</li> <li>○ includes future actions over a 5-year period</li> <li>○ has a focus on work for the next 18 months</li> <li>○ list key species present on the farm</li> <li>○ identifies 4 specific species (or collection of species) as a focus</li> <li>○ <b>is annually reviewed and covers a period of at least 5 years</b></li> <li>○ is reviewed at least every five years by a specialist advisor</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The requirements of control points 5.1, 5.6, 8.3, 8.6, 8.8, 8.10, 8.24, 8.25 should be included in the Plan</li> <li>• The requirements of control points 8.21 can be included in the Plan</li> </ul> <div> </div> <p>LN.LQ.02<br/>LN.LQ.03</p> |
| <p><b>8.3</b><br/>The Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan is an integral part of the farming system.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agronomic, crop protection and animal husbandry production practices take account of the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (<b>see 8.2</b>)</li> </ul> <div> </div> <p>LN.LQ.02</p>   |






| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION  |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>8.7</b><br><b>Traditional field boundaries, environmental/landscape features and other natural habitats are retained.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field boundaries, environmental/landscape features have not been removed and maps and plans show no intention to remove them</li> </ul>  |  <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.03</a><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a>   |
| <b>8.8</b><br><b>Timing and frequency of field/boundary management is restricted.</b><br><b>E</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No recent damage to field boundaries</li> <li>Field boundary management plans set out in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (<a href="#">see 8.2</a>) observe nesting periods and consider other flora and fauna including pollinating insects</li> <li>Hedge cutting and boundary management carried out more often than every two years is justified (e.g. due to highway safety)</li> </ul> |   <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a> |
| <b>8.9</b><br><b>Timing and frequency of watercourse management is restricted.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where there are no watercourses</i>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ditches, invoices or timesheets showing sympathetic management</li> <li>Sympathetic management includes not clearing ditches during bird nesting period, only re-profiling or clearing vegetation from one side of a ditch in any one year</li> <li>Where drainage clearance for unimpeded water flow is necessary, management may need to be more regular and justified</li> </ul>                                    |  <br><br><a href="#">WM.WQ.05</a>   |
| <b>8.10</b><br><b>There is a license for any removal of trees (where required and appropriate).</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where no trees have been removed</i>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval documents (where required and appropriate) are present where recent tree felling is apparent</li> <li>Recent tree felling is referred to in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan and is in accordance with local regulations</li> </ul>   |  <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a>   |
| <b>8.11</b><br><b>In-field trees and trees in boundaries and hedgerows are retained.</b><br><b>E</b><br><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where there are no trees in-field, within hedges or within boundaries</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hedgerows and trees are present as recorded in the Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (<a href="#">see 8.1</a>)</li> <li>Hazardous hedgerows and trees may be removed</li> </ul>  |  <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a>                         |

| STANDARD  | VERIFICATION   |
|---|--|
| <p><b>8.12</b><br/><b>Deep cultivation under the canopy of trees is avoided.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where there are no in-field trees or hedgerows</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep cultivations are not used under field trees <b>and hedgerows</b> except where trees have been deliberately grown or retained as shade trees</li> <li>• Trees in a boundary or wood edge are bordered by a two-metre margin (<b>see 8.13</b>)</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a></p>   |
| <p><b>8.13</b><br/><b>There is a two-metre wide undisturbed field margin around all field boundaries.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two-metre undisturbed (i.e. uncropped and uncultivated) margins on all permanent field boundaries</li> <li>• Margins are measured between the middle of the hedge, fence or stone wall, or edge of the water or ditch and the crop</li> <li>• In grass fields the two-metre margin may be unfenced but no application or operation should take place on the two metre margin</li> <li>• In fields less than two hectares with permanent boundary features there is no requirement for two metre margins</li> <li>• In fields where there is not a boundary feature and the natural habitat extends from the crop or crop headland the need for a two-metre margin is reduced</li> <li>• A two-metre margin may be reduced upon external consultant advice or evidence existing that these have been offset by larger margins or field corners elsewhere</li> <li>• Green tracks can be included as grass margins on the first inspection only if presented alongside plans to develop margins</li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a></p> |
| <p><b>8.14</b><br/><b>Field margins <b>and</b> boundaries are under sympathetic management.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field margins <b>and boundaries</b> are managed <b>with minimal and appropriate use of</b> fertiliser or plant protection products (PPPs)</li> <li>• <b>Spot control of noxious weeds is carried out as appropriate</b></li> <li>• Field margins <b>and boundaries</b> are cut late in the summer (or during the least destructive period for flora and fauna) and cuttings are removed where possible. Alternatively, margins are grazed every two to three years</li> <li>• <b>Travel on field margins and boundaries is minimised</b></li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a></p>  |

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION  |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>8.15</b><br><b>Native habitat banks are present in fields larger than 20 hectares.</b><br><b>R</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fields larger than 20 hectares are split with habitat banks:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fields between 20 and 30 hectares have at least one habitat bank</li> <li>fields between 30 and 40 hectares have at least two habitat banks</li> <li>fields between 40 and 50 hectares have at least three habitat banks</li> <li>fields over 50 hectares have at least four habitat banks</li> </ul> </li> <li>If fields have six metre margins this may negate the need for habitat banks</li> </ul> |  <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a>     |
| <b>8.16</b><br><b>Native and/or appropriate species are used in field margins and other habitats.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeding of field margins uses local provenance of seed and native species where possible</li> <li>Seeding records including seed label</li> <li>Hedgerow and trees comprised of native and/or appropriate species</li> </ul>   |  <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a>     |
| <b>8.17</b>  | (Deleted 2016)  |   |
| <b>8.18</b><br><b>Care is taken to avoid damage or destruction of national/local important ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest.</b><br><b>E</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no damage to national/local important ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest caused by sub-soiling, unauthorised excavation, land reclamation, levelling, tipping/in-filling, woodland clearance, tree-planting, excessive damage by livestock etc.</li> </ul>  | <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a>   |
| <b>8.19</b><br><b>Flora and fauna are able to thrive through rotation and leaving land uncropped.</b><br><b>R</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farm records and farmland give evidence of land being left uncropped</li> <li>Uncropped land will not be appropriate on all soil types</li> <li>Where applicable, grazing is managed to allow for flora and fauna</li> </ul>   |  <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a> |

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION  |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>8.20</b><br><b>Field operations are adjusted to avoid areas where birds are nesting.</b><br><b>E</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of avoidance of nests in crops (e.g. appropriately marking nests)</li> <li>Reduced mechanical weed control during nesting period</li> <li>Headlands in perennial crops such as orchards are not cut until after nesting</li> <li>Windbreaks are not cut until after nesting</li> </ul>  |  <br><a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a>   |
| <b>8.21</b><br><b>Staff are involved in planning and implementing improvement to habitats and landscape features.</b><br><b>R</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are aware of, understand and, where appropriate, follow the recommendations of the Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (see 8.1) and Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2)</li> </ul>   | <br><a href="#">LN.LQ.04</a>   |
| <b>8.22</b><br><b>Flora/fauna, wildlife and/or wider environment on the farm is monitored.</b><br><b>R</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring records</li> </ul>  | <br><a href="#">LN.LQ.04</a><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.09</a>   |
| <b>8.23</b><br><b>There is a minimum of 5% farm area available as habitats, not used for cropping and food production.</b><br><b>R</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cropping plans and total farm area show 5% area is available as habitat</li> <li>Habitat area can include non-cropped area managed for wildlife, ditches, hedges, margins, woodland, desert, forest, wild bird mixes and others</li> </ul>   | <br><a href="#">LN.LQ.03</a>   |
| <b>8.24</b><br><b>Nesting habitat, summer food and winter food for farmland birds are provided alongside other activities to enhance the habitat for native fauna.</b><br><b>E</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A measure is being carried out to provide:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>nesting habitat for farmland birds</li> <li>summer (insect) food for farmland birds</li> <li>winter (seed) food for farmland birds</li> </ul> </li> <li>Measures are recorded in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan (see 8.2)</li> <li>Other fauna may be more relevant than farmland birds in some cases</li> </ul> |   <br><a href="#">LN.LQ.03</a> |



| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION  |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>8.25</b><br/>Bees and pollinators are included as key species in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan includes reference to seasonal food (nectar and pollen), shelter and foraging sites for bees and pollinators</li> <li>• Bee and pollinator habitats are present</li> </ul>  |  <br><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.02</a><br><a href="#">LN.LQ.05</a> |
| <p><b>8.26</b><br/>(New 2016) The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review question On-Farm Habitats has been completed.</p> <p><b>R</b></p> <p><b>NEW</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEAF Sustainable Farming Review question On-Farm Habitats (LN.MD.01) has been completed with appropriate figures</li> <li>• Total Farm Area should be the total area of the business</li> <li>• Total Farmed Area should be actual cropped area</li> <li>• Habitat Area should be uncropped area that is being actively managed for the benefit of biodiversity</li> </ul> | <br><br><a href="#">LN.MD.01</a>   |







# Community Engagement

**There are so many good reasons for building strong community connections. Through these networks farmers can explain how they farm and use Integrated Farm Management (IFM).**

A good relationship with the local community forms a shop front for the business. All other aspects of IFM should feed in to what is shown and shared. In this way, trust is built in businesses and farming as a whole.

Enjoying explaining farming to the public, suppliers and influencers will help others better understand agriculture and the rural environment. Being connected to your local community and a wide range of people will help address their concerns about the countryside and enable them to become more connected with their food.


- More information about LEAF's [Open Farm Sunday](#) can be found on the website
- LEAF's [Farm Walks and Talks](#) provides further information on hosting farm visits
- [LEAF Farm Notice Boards](#) are a great way to communicate positive messages about food, farming and the countryside
- LEAF's [Speak Out](#) programme provides advice on improving communication skills

| STANDARD   | VERIFICATION   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>9.1</b><br/>There is regular communication and participation with local community initiatives to communicate a balanced and positive approach to farming.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEAF Sustainable Farming Review questions Open Farm Sunday (CE.MD.01), Visits and Talks (CE.MD.02), Media Engagement (CE.MD.03) and Wider Engagement (CE.MD.04) have been completed with appropriate figures</li> <li>• Communication includes reference to Integrated Farm Management (IFM) and sustainable farming as appropriate</li> <li>• AND/OR Evidence of farm walks, talks and participation in local initiatives carried out throughout the year (e.g. feedback from interested parties, visitor books)</li> <li>• AND/OR LEAF's SpeakOut toolkit has been used to improve communication skills</li> <li>• AND/OR LEAF noticeboards present on farm footpaths</li> <li>• AND/OR A farm website with up to date information</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">CE.MD.01</a><br/><a href="#">CE.MD.02</a><br/><a href="#">CE.MD.03</a><br/><a href="#">CE.MD.04</a><br/><a href="#">CE.MQ.01</a><br/><a href="#">CE.MQ.04</a><br/><a href="#">CE.MQ.05</a><br/><a href="#">CE.MQ.09</a></p> |
| <p><b>9.2</b><br/>Public and traditional paths are kept clear from obstructions. Stiles and gates are in good condition.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where there are no designated paths</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no obstructions to public and traditional footpaths</li> <li>• Stiles and gates are all in good condition</li> <li>• Paths are highlighted on the Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (see 8.1)</li> </ul> <p></p> <p><a href="#">CE.MQ.09</a></p>  |
| <p><b>9.3</b><br/>Public and traditional paths are clearly marked.</p> <p><b>R</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where there are no designated paths</i></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public and traditional paths are visible and well-signposted</li> </ul> <p> </p> <p><a href="#">CE.MQ.09</a></p>  |



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