



ORGANIC TRUST CLG

Animal Health Plan Template

- The Health Plan should be drawn up in partnership with a veterinary surgeon.
- The Health Plan must ensure the development of a pattern of health building and disease control measures appropriate to the particular circumstances of the individual farm and allow for the evolution of a farming system progressively less dependant on veterinary medicinal products.
- Where animals become sick or injured they must be treated immediately. Issues will arise from time to time which were not identified in the Health Plan. In those cases, the farmer is required to apply for permission for use of the veterinary input required which must be accompanied by letter or prescription from veterinary surgeon.
- The farmer must provide Organic Trust with updates to the contents of the Animal Health Plan on an annual basis (usually incorporated in the annual renewal documentation).

Farmer Details

Name

Signature

Date

Address

Herd/Flock Number

Are veterinary products and antibiotics stored in a secure supervised location or cabinet?

Yes No

Veterinary Surgeon/ Practice Details

Name

Signature

Date

Address

Stamp

Phone Number

(a) Disease Management

Please provide a list of known disease problems and mineral deficiencies on this farm. **Please refer to example provided on the last page of this document.**

All Veterinary Treatments and Bought-In Veterinary Products must be documented and recorded in the Producer Record Book

Your Animal Health Plan must be kept up-to-date

| Species & Type of stock | Disease problem or mineral deficiency | Suggestions re managing the identified problem organically | Veterinary inputs required if the problem persists and veterinary intervention is deemed necessary |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
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|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
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(b) Mutilations and Operations on Animals (to include dehorning, castration, tail docking)

Mutilations do not have to be included in the Animal Health Plan, however, prior approval is required annually from the Organic Trust via Mutilations and Operations on Animals Derogation Request Form for ALL such procedures and operations which must be carried out under the conditions specified below:

- any suffering to the animals shall be reduced to a minimum by applying adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia (**anaesthesia and/or analgesia must be administered in all cases *see advisory note below for exceptions**)
- mutilations & operations must be carried out at the most appropriate age (please refer to the specific conditions required for each of the mutilations and operations outlined below – if animals are older than the age specified, please contact the Organic Trust)
- all mutilations and operations must be documented and recorded in the Producer Record Book
- your Animal Health Plan must be kept up-to-date. Therefore, please attach a copy of approved derogations to your Animal Health Plan

Please ensure that the proof of using anaesthetic/analgesic, i.e. receipt/invoice/vet letter confirming its use is kept on file and available at the inspection.

| Mutilation & Operation Description | | Specific Conditions |
|---|--|--|
| Cattle Dehorning (We proactively encourage the adoption of suitable polled breeds in organic production) | Disbudding of a calf | A calf that has not attained the age of 15 days |
| | Dehorning | In the first instance we strongly recommend disbudding over dehorning. Dehorning should only be undertaken in exceptional circumstances & must be performed by a veterinary surgeon |
| Bull Castration | Use of the burdizzo | Bull aged no more than 6 months |
| | Use of a rubber ring (to constrict the flow of blood to the scrotum) | Bull that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Sheep Disbudding | | Sheep that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Ram Castration | Use of the burdizzo | Ram that has not attained the age of 3 months |
| | Use of a rubber ring (to constrict the flow of blood to the scrotum)* | Ram that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Sheep Tail Docking* (Removing part of the tail by means of a rubber ring to constrict the flow of blood to the tail) | | Sheep that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Goat Disbudding | | Goat that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Goat Castration | Use of the burdizzo | Goat that has not attained the age of 2 months |
| | Use of a rubber ring (to constrict the flow of blood to the scrotum)* | Goat that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Goat Tail Docking * (Removing part of the tail by means of a rubber ring to constrict the flow of blood to the tail) | | Goat that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Pig Castration | | Pig that has not attained the age of 8 days by a method that does not involve tearing tissue |
| Pig Tail Docking (Removing part of the tail) | | Pig that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Cutting of Teeth on a Pig (Removal of the corner teeth) | | Pig that has not attained the age of 8 days |
| Deer Castration | Use of a rubber ring (to constrict the flow of blood to the scrotum) | Deer that has not attained the age of 8 days |

***Advisory Note – Sheep & Goats:**

In relation to tail docking and castration of lambs/goats by means of a rubber ring as outlined above: The requirement for the administration of anaesthetic/analgesia in these specific situations can be waived on foot of documented instructions (by way of letter) from the prescribing veterinary surgeon advising that for reasons of animal welfare (undue stress and/or potential infection risk) that the administration of anaesthetic/analgesia is not recommended.

Note: This only applies to lambs/goats **under the age of 8 days** – over the age of 8 days the mandatory requirement for use of anaesthetic/analgesia applies. **Operators must ensure that the required letter from the veterinary surgeon is forwarded to the Organic Trust in advance of such procedures taking place.**

| Disease Management Example | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Species & Type of stock | Disease problem or mineral deficiency | Suggestions re managing the identified problem organically | Veterinary inputs required if the problem persists and veterinary intervention is deemed necessary |
| <i>e.g. Sheep</i> | <i>Intestinal worms</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Low stocking rate</i> • <i>Cross grazing with cattle, on alternate years</i> • <i>Strategic pre-lambing anthelmintic</i> | <i>*Anthelmintic (e.g. white worm drench – Panacur)</i> |
| <i>e.g. Sheep</i> | <i>External maggots</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Appropriate timing of shearing</i> • <i>Removal of soiled wool</i> • <i>Use of “vetrazine” –cyromazine as a preventative</i> • <i>Use of “spot-on” – cypermethrin to kill maggots – as required</i> | <i>*Vetrazine</i> <i>*Spot on</i> |
| <i>e.g. Cattle</i> | <i>Fluke problem</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fencing off wet areas</i> • <i>Liming</i> • <i>Results of analysis of liver by butcher</i> | <i>*Use of Flukicide</i> |
| <i>e.g. Cattle</i> | <i>Blackleg area</i> | <i>Specific Blackleg vaccine</i> | <i>*Blackleg vaccine</i> |

****The use of all veterinary inputs must be substantiated in writing by the veterinary surgeon***