

Sourcing Better 2.0

A pathway to less and better meat and dairy



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INTRODUCTION

To create a food system that works for people, animals, and the planet, we need to rethink how meat and dairy are produced and consumed. Eating Better's 'Less and Better' approach calls for a shift towards eating less meat and dairy overall, while ensuring that the meat and dairy we do consume comes from higher-welfare, nature-friendly farming systems. Our Better by Half Roadmap sets out 25 actions for five key sectors – government, food businesses, retailers and manufacturers, producers, and investors – which must happen in order to make this shift a reality.

Better by Half Roadmap



ROADMAP ACTIONS FOR FOOD BUSINESSES

Retailers, manufacturers, and food service providers have the ability to create a food environment where better choices are the easy choices, where sustainably produced meat and dairy become the standard, and where plant-based options are accessible, affordable, and appealing. The Better by Half roadmap asks retailers to:

- Label origin and method of production for all meat and dairy
- Encourage sales of plant foods
- Set targets for more plants in the basket and evaluate progress
- Embed a sustainable diets strategy across the business
- Develop a sourcing policy that delivers Better meat and dairy

Putting this action into practice?  [Sourcing Better framework](#)

Better
by
Half
Roadmap

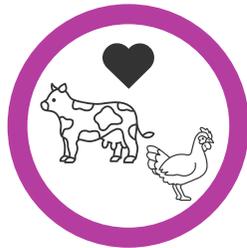


THE SOURCING BETTER FRAMEWORK

Sourcing Better framework directly addresses the ask to:

Develop a sourcing policy that delivers Better meat and dairy

This framework provides a clear, structured roadmap to improving meat and dairy sourcing. It has been designed to outline what constitutes Better meat and dairy, helping food businesses achieve the retail and food service Better by Half roadmap actions. It draws on the Eating Better's principles for more sustainable meat and dairy, developed in consultation with our members, identifying 8 key impact areas that must be addressed if we are to transition to Better meat and dairy as standard. The key impact areas apply specifically to how animals are raised on farms and fed:



ANIMAL WELFARE



ANTIBIOTIC USE



GHG



LAND USE



BIODIVERSITY



SOIL HEALTH



LOCAL POLLUTION



WATER SCARCITY



KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOOD BUSINESSES

Sourcing Better is designed to assist in the development and implementation of sourcing policies that deliver Better meat and dairy. Food businesses should integrate the practices set out in this framework into their sourcing policies, work closely with suppliers to implement them, and ensure farmers are fairly rewarded through appropriate pricing and long-term contracts. There are three key areas of opportunity:

1. **Fill the 'missing middle' on environmental ambition:** There is a notable absence of medium-ambition environmental certification schemes. By integrating the practices outlined in this framework, particularly in the soil health, biodiversity, and local pollution impact areas, food businesses can strengthen their environmental performance, while also guiding farmers to be more aligned with ambitious schemes. Focus should be placed on cross cutting practices which hit multiple impact areas, such as how livestock are used to manage biodiversity and soil health, fertiliser use, and pest control.
2. **The animal welfare - antibiotic unlock:** Lower antibiotic use is only achievable when the root causes of antibiotic demand are addressed; and those sit firmly in animal welfare. Stronger antibiotic policies are needed, yet there are few certification schemes that set requirements between the legal baseline and the highest organic standard. This gives businesses a clear role: pair robust antibiotic policies with the welfare improvements that make reduced use possible. When strengthened together, meaningful progress is unlocked across both impact areas.
3. **Drive farm-level improvement through stronger feed supply chains:** Focusing on what and how we feed animals is a key lever for improving the sustainability of livestock value chains. There is a clear gap in certification schemes for animal feed, particularly on deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) requirements, giving food businesses the opportunity to enable a farm-level shift through supply-chain action. Retailers should honour and actively implement their existing commitments to DCF supply chains, working with feed suppliers to make verified, traceable DCF feed available.



A NEW APPROACH FOR SOURCING BETTER 2.0

This is the second iteration of Sourcing Better; this edition builds on the original framework by adding greater detail and granularity. Our level of ambition remains the same but we have strengthened the framework to provide clearer pathways for progress.

The first edition of Sourcing Better established a handful of certifications as a key marker of responsible sourcing. While schemes, such as Organic and Pasture for Life, deliver significant benefits across animal welfare, soil health, biodiversity, and antibiotic use, only a small fraction of meat and dairy sold in the UK currently meets these standards. Some food businesses are making improvements to the requirements set out in their sourcing policies, yet these changes are not reflected in the uptake of certification schemes. As a result, focusing solely on certifications has provided a limited picture of actual progress across the key impact areas of Sourcing Better.

To unlock meaningful change, markets for nature-friendly, higher-welfare meat and dairy need sustained investment, and retailers are well placed to break down the barriers farmers face by designing sourcing policies that genuinely incentivise and reward transition.

To address this, Sourcing Better 2.0 moves beyond a certification-based approach to a combined certification and practice-based model. This updated framework defines Basic, Better, and Best levels of production through specific on-farm practices, while also providing a comprehensive list of all relevant certifications and commitments that can be used to verify whether these practices are being met. This ensures that food businesses can be assessed not just on the volume of product certified under schemes, but also on the tangible production methods permitted in their sourcing policies.

Using Eating Better's definition, we've also incorporated practices associated with Industrial Livestock Production (ILP) into the 'Basic' level of production within this framework. There is a strong case for moving away from ILP and the growing use of industrial farms in the UK. Changing sourcing policies and creating demand for better production is one important step in providing farmers with a viable alternative to industrialisation. By including ILP practices in the framework, we aim to support retailers in identifying and phasing out supply chain models that reinforce this system, and in building a market for approaches that deliver better outcomes for animals, people, and the planet.



STRUCTURE

AMBITION LEVEL

Each of the 8 impact areas are broken down into three levels of ambition:

BASIC

Standard UK production

The legal baseline of UK production, including entry-level assurance schemes. All food businesses should commit to sourcing meat that meets, at minimum, current UK production standards. Basic identifies the practices characteristic of industrial livestock production, highlighting them as priority areas for improvement.

BETTER

A step in the right direction.

We would like to see all production move up to this level as the baseline, raising standards across the current system.

BEST

Raising the bar

The further steps necessary to reach the highest levels of animal welfare and environmental sustainability.



OUTCOMES, CHARACTERISTICS, AND PRACTICES:

Basic, Better and Best are each structured as follows:

- **Outcome:** The outcome specifies the expected result or achievement at Basic, Better, or Best levels of practice.
- **Characteristic:** Characteristics describe the essential features that contribute to achieving an outcome. They serve as descriptive labels that define the core attributes distinguishing Basic, Better, or Best levels of practice.
 - **Practice:** Practices define the specific actions required at a farm level to meet each characteristic. These are tangible requirements, or allowances in the case of Basic, made by businesses that indicate Basic, Better, or Best levels of production.
 - **Certifications, standards and commitments:** Next to each practice is a list of certifications or commitments that can be used to verify that the practice is being met, or exceeded, on farm. These certifications are currently the most reliable way to confirm implementation. However, businesses may also choose to set their own sourcing standards that meet or surpass the requirements for the Better and Best levels of production.

For example:

	BETTER	
Outcome	Livestock are provided with conditions that exceeds minimum legal guidelines, supporting their health and well-being, including opportunities for the expression of some natural behaviours	
Characteristic	Animals are given more space and the use of confinement systems is restricted	
Laying Hens	No cages, including no combination or limited access systems	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, British Lion Barn Eggs, A Greener World Regenerative Standards

This box explains to which species the practice applies. The framework covers Laying Hens, Broilers, Pigs, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, and Sheep. 

This box contains the specific on farm practice required in order to meet the characteristic 

These are the certifications or commitments which require this practice to be met. 



We recognize that there are many farming practices, in many different systems, which meet the criteria for Better and Best levels of production. The practices outlined here are those which we believe are a *minimum requirement* for Better and Best levels of production. The practices listed under Best are limited to currently recognised certification standards – livestock systems that go above and beyond the requirements listed should be adopted where possible.





WHAT DOES 'BETTER' LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

Better production improves the lives of animals within the current system and represents an important step in the right direction. We'd like to see all livestock production move up to Better as the baseline standard. It should be understood as the beginning of a longer journey toward fundamental system change, not an end point.

BETTER CHICKEN COMMITMENT

The Better Chicken Commitment (BCC) has become one of the most recognised frameworks for improving the welfare of meat chickens within large-scale systems. Rather than taking a transformational theory of change, it sets an achievable standard for progress designed to move the industry away from the worst welfare conditions experienced by broiler chickens.

The BCC is grounded in six core requirements that address some of the most pressing welfare issues in modern poultry farming: lower stocking densities, the use of slower-growing breeds, access to natural light, environmental enrichment, the use of humane slaughter methods.

For retailers and food service companies, adopting the BCC as a minimum sourcing standard is an important statement of intent. It ensures consistency and transparency across supply chains, aligns with consumer expectations for higher welfare, and helps future-proof sourcing strategies.

Many major retailers and manufacturers across Europe have already made BCC commitments, but full implementation remains uneven. To build momentum, food businesses must adopt all aspects of the BCC, and actively work with suppliers to deliver the transition. In line with Eating Better's goal of more plants, less and better meat and dairy, food businesses should also commit to decreasing the volume of animal-based protein sources sold and increasing plant-based protein sources. When commitments to less and better are made together, progress on welfare, nature and climate can be achieved by reducing the number of animals in the system while improving the lives of those who remain.



WHAT DOES 'BEST' LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

The 'best' tier sees supply chains shift from reducing harm, to actively using livestock as a part of healthy functioning ecosystems. Certification schemes like Soil Association Organic demonstrate what this can look in practice.

SOIL ASSOCIATION ORGANIC

Among food production systems in the UK, organic is one of the most trusted and transparent. It is the only certification with standards defined in law, setting clear requirements for how food is produced, processed, stored and sold.

Soil Association Organic goes further than the organic legal baseline, setting some of the highest food and farming standards in the country. On certified farms, soils are nurtured as living systems. Farmers use crop rotations, legumes and composted manure instead of synthetic fertilisers, supporting the natural cycles that build fertility. Animals are raised on pasture, with space, bedding and natural light, and antibiotics are used only when necessary. In fact, many of the practices required to be certified Soil Association Organic exceed the minimum expectations for what counts as 'Best' production in the Sourcing Better framework.

Despite twelve consecutive years of market growth, organic still makes up only around 3% of UK farmland. Farmers face barriers that limit conversion, including high upfront costs, inconsistent supply chain support and price competition from imports.

Without fairer payments or longer-term contracts, it remains risky for farmers to move away from conventional systems. Food businesses can play a pivotal role in changing this. By integrating organic practices and organic certification into core sourcing strategies, committing to long-term partnerships and paying fair prices that reflect the true value of production, businesses can unlock stability and confidence for UK farmers.



SUMMARY



**CERTIFICATION SUMMARY,
OUTCOMES AND CHARACTERISTICS**



SUMMARY

CERTIFICATION SUMMARY TABLE

BASIC

UK Legal baseline
Red Tractor

BETTER

RSPCA Assured
Better Chicken Commitment
Red Tractor Indoor Enhanced Welfare
British Lion Barn Eggs

BEST

Free Range
RSPCA Assured Free Range
Organic
Soil Association Organic
Pasture for Life
Leaf Marque
A Greener World Regenerative Standards
Fair to Nature

This table gives only an indication of the level of ambition at each level of production, it does not provide the full nuance of how well each certification covers the required practices of Basic, Better and Best.



SUMMARY



BASIC

Livestock are managed to meet minimum legal welfare requirements

- Meets the minimum legal guidelines
- The use of confinement systems is permitted
- Animals are bred and reared for maximum growth rates and/or have short lives
- Animal mutilations are permitted
- The use of breeds with low welfare potential is permitted



ANIMAL WELFARE

Actions that downstream food businesses should take to support the delivery of improved on-farm animal welfare:

- Set procurement policies that make Better welfare practices the minimum requirement across all meat dairy and egg sourcing
- Prohibit sourcing from confinement systems
- Use established industry tools such as [BBFAW](#) to benchmark business performance and drive progress beyond the farm-level
- Incentivise the transition to higher-welfare systems, including investment into the supply chain
- Allow variance in carcass and product quality
- Offer long-term, secure, and fair price contracts for Better and Best production systems, including paying a premium for achieving improved animal welfare outcomes in production

BETTER

Livestock are provided with conditions that exceeds minimum legal guidelines, supporting their health and well-being, including opportunities for the expression of some natural behaviours

- Animals are given more space and the use of confinement systems is restricted
- Animals are provided with appropriate housing, environmental enrichment and suitable lighting
- Ruminants are given pasture access
- Animal mutilations are restricted
- The use of breeds with low welfare potential is restricted

BEST

Livestock are raised in systems that prioritise high welfare standards, ensuring good health, comfort, and full expression of natural behaviours

- Animals are provided with ample space that allows for free roaming and the full expression of natural behaviours
- Animals have constant access to suitable housing and high-quality environmental enrichment
- All animals have outdoor access
- All animals are kept in appropriate social groupings
- Animals are fed appropriate diets
- Breeding practices are designed to maximise animal welfare outcomes

BASIC

Antibiotic use is compliant with legal requirements

- Meets the minimum legal guidelines
- Antibiotics are permitted for group treatments
- Welfare conditions may create extreme circumstances that justify the use of antibiotics, including prophylactic or group treatments, under legal exceptions
- The use of critically important antibiotics (HPCIA) is unrestricted or minimally restricted
- Animal mutilations are permitted
- The use of breeds with low welfare potential is permitted



ANTIBIOTIC USE

Actions that downstream food businesses should take to support the delivery of improved on-farm antibiotic use:

- Set procurement policies that make Better antibiotic and animal welfare practices the minimum requirement across all meat dairy and egg sourcing
- Adopt a publicly available antibiotic use policy (see framework for reference)
- Offer long-term, secure, and fair price contracts for Better and Best production systems, including paying a premium for achieving improved animal welfare outcomes in production

BETTER

Antibiotic use is minimised through improved transparency, preventative measures, and prioritisation of individual treatments

- The food business has a publicly available antibiotic use policy that clearly outlines its coverage, includes reduction targets, and aligns with the latest UK legislation
- The majority of antibiotics are administered as individual treatments rather than group treatments
- No antibiotics are used for growth promotion, routine disease prevention, or any other form of routine treatment
- Animal husbandry is at a standard where prophylactic use of antibiotics is never required, meeting the criteria for Better animal welfare
- Animal mutilations are restricted
- The use of breeds with low welfare potential is restricted
- Antibiotic use is minimised through improved transparency, preventative measures, and prioritisation of individual treatments

BEST

Antibiotics are used responsibly and only when clinically necessary, supported by advanced preventative systems that eliminate all routine use

- Antibiotics are not used as the first line of treatment when alternative treatment options are available
- Antibiotics are not used preventatively in the absence of disease or surgical intervention
- Animal husbandry is at a standard where 'Best' animals welfare standards are met meaning disease prevention is pro-actively managed through high-welfare practices.
- Last-resort antibiotic colistin is completely avoided
- The use of 'critically important antibiotics' (modern cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones) restricted
- Withdrawal periods for antibiotic treatments must exceed legal minimums



BASIC

Livestock systems operate with no specific requirements to measure, mitigate, or reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Meets minimum legal guidelines
- Livestock production generates concentrated animal waste with limited measures to address the associated GHG emissions
- Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards reducing the associated GHG emissions
- UK Legal Baseline, Red Tractor



GHG

Actions that downstream food businesses should take to reduce GHG emissions associated with livestock agriculture:

- Set procurement policies aligned with Better GHG standards across all meat dairy and egg sourcing
- Follow the [WWF Blueprint for Action](#) in order to meet 1.5-degree aligned Science Based Targets (SBT), in all scopes, near-term and long-term. This should include measuring scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, setting SBTs, developing action plans and making investments in livestock supply chains to reduce emissions and increase resilience
- Use established industry tools such as the [IGD Food Supply Chain Sustainability Framework](#) to benchmark business performance and drive progress beyond the farm-level
- Set and publish protein-split targets based on %volume of sales (tonnes) which aim to decrease the share of animal-based protein sources and increase plant-based protein sources

BETTER

Livestock systems implement measures to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

- Livestock numbers and stocking densities are reduced
- On-farm GHG emissions are monitored and steps are taken to reduce them
- Steps are taken to reduce GHG emissions associated with animal feed

BEST

Livestock systems actively contribute to climate mitigation by minimising greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration, and aligning with net-zero pathways

- Livestock numbers and stocking densities are further reduced
- Energy use is optimised, with a transition to low-carbon or renewable energy sources.
- Carbon sequestration measures are implemented
- There is minimal or no use of agrochemicals and adequate measures are in place to minimise the GHG emissions associated with fertilisation and pest control

BASIC

Livestock systems fail to prevent and may actively contribute to land use change

- Meets minimum legal guidelines
- Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, driving land use change



LAND USE CHANGE

Actions that downstream food businesses should take to minimise land use change associated with livestock agriculture:

- Set sourcing requirements aligned with Better land use standards across all meat dairy and egg sourcing
- Follow WWF Blueprint for Action to achieve 100% DCF agricultural commodity supply chains by 2025
- Use established industry tools such as the [IGD Food Supply Chain Sustainability Framework](#) to benchmark business performance and drive progress beyond the farm-level
- For sourcing in Brazil, require suppliers to employ expert CSO agreed [minimum monitoring requirements](#) for soy and maize
- Support and implement the [independent national standard](#) for DCF soy supply chains
- Set and publish protein-split targets based on % volume of sales (tonnes) which aim to decrease the share of animal-based protein sources and increase plant-based protein sources

BETTER

Livestock systems do not result in land use change

- Steps are taken to avoid all deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems

BEST

Livestock systems support protection of existing natural ecosystems and restoration of degraded habitats

- Livestock are fed from diverse production systems which support protection of natural habitats



BASIC

Livestock systems do not actively protect or enhance biodiversity, with minimal natural habitats on farm

- Meets minimum legal guidelines
- No specific practices are in place to support or enhance biodiversity through livestock management
- Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards mitigating biodiversity loss or ecosystem degradation



BIODIVERSITY

Actions that downstream food businesses should take to support the delivery of improved on-farm biodiversity:

- Set procurement policies that make Better biodiversity practices a minimum requirement across all meat dairy and egg sourcing
- Use established industry tools such as the [IGD Food Supply Chain Sustainability Framework](#) to benchmark business performance and drive progress beyond the farm-level
- Require suppliers to maintain at least 5% on-farm habitat protection
- Encourage and support farmers to achieve robust certification for biodiversity
- Align procurement policies with Better standards across all environmental impact areas
- Offer long-term, secure contracts to support transition towards biodiversity-enhancing practices, including paying a premium for achieving improved nature outcomes in production
- Set and publish protein-split targets based on % volume of sales (tonnes) which aim to decrease the share of animal-based protein sources and increase plant-based protein sources

BETTER

Livestock systems incorporate measures to protect wildlife habitats and maintain natural elements on farm

- Livestock are used to maintain or potentially improve farmland biodiversity
- Sensitive or high value habitats are protected
- Pest and disease management minimises harm to biodiversity while maintaining farm resilience

BEST

Livestock systems support a biodiversity-rich landscape, protecting existing habitats and promoting the creation of new ones

- Livestock are used to improve farmland biodiversity
- Habitats are protected and enhanced on the farm and in the surrounding landscape
- Field margins and/or site boundaries are under sympathetic management
- There is minimal or no use of agrochemicals such as synthetic pesticides and/ or mineral nitrogen fertilizers

BASIC

Livestock systems do not actively support soil health and fertility

- Meets minimum legal guidelines
- No specific practices are in place to support or enhance soil health through livestock management
- Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards maintaining or improving soil health



SOIL HEALTH

Actions that downstream food businesses should take to support the delivery of improved on-farm soil health:

- Set procurement policies that make Better soil health practices a minimum requirement across all meat dairy and egg sourcing
- Encourage and support farmers to achieve robust certification for soil health
- Align procurement policies with Better standards across all environmental impact areas
- Offer long-term, secure contracts to support transition towards soil health- enhancing practices, including paying a premium for achieving improved nature outcomes in production
- Collaborate with on-farm monitoring like LandApp, Soil Association Exchange to monitor regenerative practices
- Set soil health targets for feed crop production
- Set and publish protein-split targets based on % volume of sales (tonnes) which aim to decrease the share of animal-based protein sources and increase plant-based protein sources

BETTER

Livestock systems help maintain and potentially improve soil health and fertility

- Livestock are used to maintain or potentially improve soil health and fertility
- Soil health and fertility is measured and accounted for in the planning of farm operations

BEST

Livestock systems actively improve and support soil health and fertility

- Livestock are used improve soil health and fertility
- All land is nourished primarily through healthy soil ecosystems
- All soil management practices protect and enhance soil health, structure, and fertility.

BASIC

Livestock systems do not actively minimise their pollution footprint beyond legal requirements

- Meets minimum legal guidelines
- Livestock production generates concentrated animal waste with limited measures to address the associated emissions
- Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards reducing pollution potential and eutrophication risk



LOCAL POLLUTION

Actions that downstream food businesses should take to support the delivery of improved on-farm biodiversity:

- Set procurement policies that make Better biodiversity practices a minimum requirement across all meat dairy and egg sourcing
- Use established industry tools such as the [IGD Food Supply Chain Sustainability Framework](#) to benchmark business performance and drive progress beyond the farm-level
- Require suppliers to maintain at least 5% on-farm habitat protection
- Encourage and support farmers to achieve robust certification for biodiversity
- Align procurement policies with Better standards across all environmental impact areas
- Offer long-term, secure contracts to support transition towards biodiversity-enhancing practices, including paying a premium for achieving improved nature outcomes in production
- Set and publish protein-split targets based on % volume of sales (tonnes) which aim to decrease the share of animal-based protein sources and increase plant-based protein sources

BETTER

Livestock systems take steps to reduce pollution risks by limiting harmful nutrient runoff, pharmaceutical residues, and other pollutants

- Nutrient management practices are in place to understand risks and reduce pollution potential and eutrophication risk
- Inputs such as nitrogen fertilisers and chemicals are restricted in high-value habitats
- Appropriate infrastructure is in place to prevent the escape of pollutants into the environment
- Pesticide use is minimised through responsible management practices that prioritise non-chemical alternatives

BEST

Livestock systems actively minimise pollution, preventing harmful levels of nutrients, pharmaceuticals, and other toxic elements from contaminating soil, air, and water

- Livestock are managed to nullify pollution potential and eutrophication risk.
- Livestock are fed from diverse production systems which actively work to reduce or nullify pollution potential and eutrophication risk
- There is minimal or no use of agrochemicals and adequate measures are in place to nullify the pollution risk of those used
- Soil, water, and air quality are monitored using biological indicators to assess and mitigate pollution risks

BASIC

Livestock systems do not actively minimise water scarcity and run off

- Meets minimum legal guidelines
- Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of water intensive feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards minimising water scarcity and run-off

BETTER

Livestock systems take steps to minimise water scarcity and runoff, improving water use efficiency and may contribute to sustainable water management within their catchment area

- Measures are in place to monitor and minimise water scarcity and runoff

BEST

Livestock systems actively contribute to water conservation by optimising water use efficiency, preventing runoff, and supporting sustainable water management within their catchment area

- Water use is managed to minimise consumption, enhance natural water retention, and protect water sources, actively reducing water scarcity and preventing runoff
- Livestock are fed from diverse production systems which actively work to minimise water scarcity and run off



WATER SCARCITY

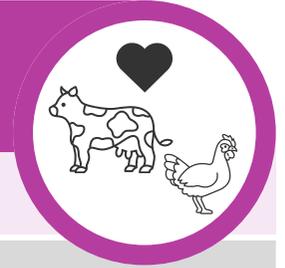
Actions that downstream food businesses should take to reduce water scarcity associated with livestock agriculture:

- Businesses should set procurement policies that make Better practices for water scarcity the minimum requirement across all meat dairy and egg sourcing
- Businesses should align with the [UK Food and Drink Pact Water Roadmap](#)
- Use established industry tools such as the [IGD Food Supply Chain Sustainability Framework](#) to benchmark business performance and drive progress beyond the farm-level
- Retailers should work with suppliers to increase the percentage of animal feed (by volume) that comes from catchments with sustainable water management
- Suppliers should map production locations in the supply chain to farm level (or best available local unit) and report associated sourcing volumes. This spatial sourcing data should be used to assess local water pressures and environmental status and prioritise measures at those locations that directly address the specific issues of concern, whether related to flows or pollution
- Support suppliers to adopt water-efficient practices and invest in infrastructure that reduces runoff and pollution
- Offer long-term contracts that enable farmers to transition to rain-fed or lower-input systems and reduce dependence on irrigation, including paying a premium for achieving improved nature outcomes in production

**OUTCOMES, CHARACTERISTICS
AND PRACTICES**



ANIMAL WELFARE



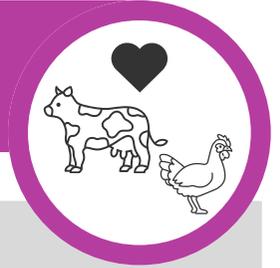
BASIC

Outcome: Livestock are managed to meet minimum legal welfare requirements

Characteristic	Meets the minimum legal guidelines	
Characteristic	ILP	The use of confinement systems is permitted
Broilers, Laying hens, Dairy cattle, Pigs		Permanent housing in indoor, close confinement systems is permitted
Beef cattle		Housing in an indoor or outdoor close confinement CAFO or feedlot system is permitted
		Minimum floor space allowances in straw yard accommodation below RSPCA Assured requirement E4.2 for beef cattle is permitted
Dairy cattle		The single penning of calves is permitted
		Minimum floor space allowances in straw yard accommodation below RSPCA requirement <u>E4.2</u> for dairy cows is permitted
		Minimum cubicle space allowances below RSPCA requirements <u>E5.1, E5.8, E5.9, E5.9.1, E5.10, E5.11, E5.12</u> are permitted
Laying hens		Use of cages (enriched/colony and/or combination/limited access systems) is permitted
		A caged stocking density of 750cm ³ per hen is permitted
Broilers		A stocking density which exceeds 30 kg/m ² is permitted
Pigs	Routine crating of farrowing and lactating sows is permitted	
	Minimum space allowances below RSPCA Assured requirements <u>E5.2, E5.2.1, and E5.2.2</u> for pigs are permitted	

Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.
Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best animal welfare

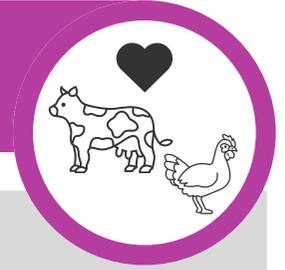
ANIMAL WELFARE



BASIC

Characteristics		A lack of enrichment and access to the natural environment is permitted	
Beef cattle, Pigs	ILP	The use of fully slatted flooring is permitted	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best animal welfare.
		The use of straw as bedding is not a requirement	
All		Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems	
		There is no requirement for environmental enrichments beyond the legal minimum	
Pigs		Lighting practices which fall below RSPCA Assured <u>E8.1- E8.3</u> for pigs are permitted	
Broilers		Lighting practices which fall below RSPCA E4.1 Assured for meat chickens is permitted	
Laying hens	Lighting practices which fall below RSPCA E4.1 Assured for laying hens is permitted		
Characteristics		Animals are bred and reared for maximum growth rates and/or have short lives	
Broilers		Slaughter at typically 5 weeks of age	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.
Beef cattle		Slaughter at typically 12-15 months of age after an intensive finishing period	Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best animal welfare
Laying hens		Day old male chicks are culled	

ANIMAL WELFARE



BASIC

Characteristics	ILP	Animal mutilations are permitted	
Broilers, Laying hens		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toe clipping, dubbing/ comb trimming, de-spurring, and beak trimming are permitted within legal guidelines 	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.
Pigs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail docking, teeth clipping and grinding, are permitted within legal guidelines 	Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best animal welfare
Characteristics		The use of breeds with low welfare potential is permitted	
Broilers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of breeds which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ a) do not meet the Better Chicken Commitment/European Chicken Commitment requirements for improved welfare outcomes • or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ b) do not have slower growth potential defined as >40g/d averaged over the growth cycle according to the breeding company specification is permitted 	<p>Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.</p> <p>Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best animal welfare</p>	



ANIMAL WELFARE



BETTER

Outcome: Livestock are provided with conditions that exceeds minimum legal guidelines, supporting their health and well-being, including opportunities for the expression of some natural behaviours

Characteristics	Animals are given more space and the use of confinement systems is restricted	
Laying hens	No cages, including no combination or limited access systems	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, British Lion Barn Eggs, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Maximum stocking density of 9 birds per m ² of usable area where usable area is legally defined as an area at least 30 cm wide with a floor slope not exceeding 14% (8°), with headroom of at least 45cm.	RSPCA Assured, British Lion Barn Eggs, Organic, Soil Association Organic
Broilers	Maximum stocking density of 30 kg/m ²	RSPCA Assured, Better Chicken Commitment, Red Tractor Indoor Enhanced Welfare V1, Organic, Soil Association Organic
Pigs	No routine crating of farrowing or lactating sows	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Minimum farrowing pen size 6.9m ²	
	No confinement (sow stalls/gestation crates) during the dry period (including the observation period)	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Minimum space allowances must follow RSPCA requirements E5.2, E5.2.1, and E5.2.2 for pigs	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic

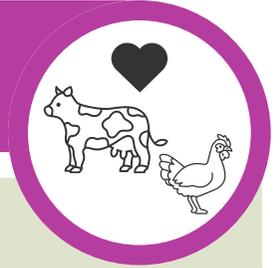
ANIMAL WELFARE



BETTER

Characteristics	Animals are given more space and the use of confinement systems is restricted	
Dairy cattle	The floor space allowances in straw yard accommodation must follow (at a minimum) RSPCA requirement E4.2 for dairy cows over 350kg	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic
	Cubicle housing space requirements must follow (at a minimum) RSPCA requirements E5.1 , E5.8 , E5.9 , E5.9.1 , E5.10 , E5.11 , E5.12 for dairy cows	
Beef cattle	The floor space allowances in straw yard accommodation must follow (at a minimum) RSPCA requirement E4.2 for beef cattle	
Sheep	The space allowances for housed sheep must follow (at a minimum) RSPCA requirement E5.5 for sheep	
Characteristics	Animals are provided with appropriate housing, environmental enrichment and suitable lighting	
Laying hens	At least two types of enrichment per 1,000 birds (e.g., pecking blocks, straw bales)	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, British Lion Barn Eggs
	Nest boxes	
	Minimum 15 cm of perch space per bird.	
	At least 33% of the floor must be covered with litter for foraging and dustbathing.	
	Minimum period of 8 hours of consecutive artificial light and a minimum period of 6 hours continuous darkness in every 24 hour cycle, except when the natural darkness period is shorter	
Broilers	<p>Meet improved environmental standards including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50 lux of light, including natural light. • At least two metres of usable perch space, and two pecking substrates, per 1,000 birds. • On air quality, the maximum requirements of Annex 2.3 of the EU broiler directive, regardless of stocking density. 	RSPCA Assured, Red Tractor Indoor Enhanced Welfare V1, Better Chicken Commitment, Organic, Soil Association Organic

ANIMAL WELFARE

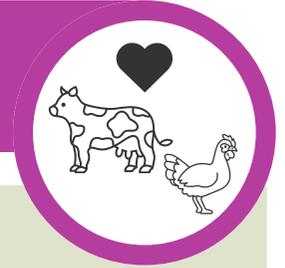


BETTER

Characteristics	Animals are provided with appropriate housing, environmental enrichment and suitable lighting (continued)	
Pigs	Adequate enrichments provided throughout life: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floors with bedding • Manipulable material (edible, chewable, destructible and investigable fibrous material) 	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic
Dairy cattle, Beef cattle	Cattle kept in straw yard accommodation must be kept on, or have access at all times to, a lying area which is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) well-drained or well maintained with dry bedding • b) of sufficient size to accommodate all cattle lying down together in normal resting posture 	
Sheep	Housed sheep, including lambs, must be kept on, or at all times have access to, a lying area that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) bedded to a sufficient extent to avoid discomfort, and • b) well drained and/or maintained so that it is kept dry. 	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
	When sheep are kept outdoors, to ensure comfort and limit the build-up of mud or dung on the fleece, there must be an area to which they have ready access that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) grassed or straw covered • b) well drained and dry, and • c) of sufficient size to accommodate all sheep lying down together at the same time in normal resting postures. 	



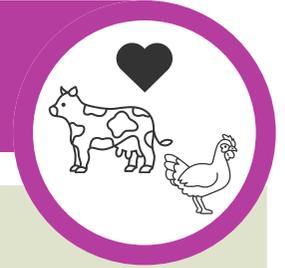
ANIMAL WELFARE



BETTER

Characteristics	Ruminants are given pasture access	
Dairy cattle	Cattle must have access to pasture for at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) 4 hours per day, and ideally 6 hours • b) the minimum number of days per year calculated using the following farm-specific equation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Number of days in the year – Predicted number of days whereby access to pasture may not be reasonable due to inclement weather – Average transition/freshly calved period (in days) = expected minimum number of days available for each cow to have access to pasture per year. 	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Animals should be turned out into a pasture with a grass height and density capable of providing a contribution to nutritional requirements.	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
Beef cattle	All cattle, except unweaned calves being fed by artificial means and calves being reared for veal, must have access to pasture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) during the grass-growing season, and • b) for at least four hours per day. 	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Pasture must provide grass of a sufficient height and density to enable cattle to express grazing behaviour.	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
Sheep	During the grass growing season, climatic conditions allowing, all sheep must derive as much of their nutritional requirements as possible from grazing at pasture.	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Pasture for Life
	The routine feeding of diets high in concentrates is not permitted (0.4kg of concentrate feed per day)	

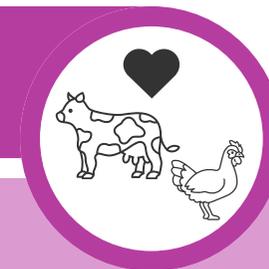
ANIMAL WELFARE



BETTER

Characteristics	Animal mutilations are restricted	
Laying Hens	Beak trimming is discouraged, and must only be carried out on chicks no older than 24 hours using infrared equipment and when necessary to prevent injurious feather pecking and cannibalism	RSPCA Assured, British Lion Barn Eggs, Organic, Soil Association Organic
Broilers	All mutilations are prohibited	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Red Tractor Indoor Enhanced Welfare V1
Pigs	Tail docking, teeth clipping and grinding, and ear notching are prohibited unless deemed necessary for animal welfare by a veterinary professional.	RSPCA Assured, Organic
Sheep	Routine castration and tail docking are prohibited	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	Pain relief must be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) when any procedure performed on the animal is likely to cause pain during and/or after the procedure, for example therapeutic foot trimming (cattle) or traumatic lambing (sheep), and • b) when an animal is suffering from a condition which is likely to be painful, e.g. lameness. 	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
Characteristics	The use of breeds with low welfare potential is restricted	
Broilers	Slower growing breeds are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Hubbard Redbro (indoor only), Norfolk Black, JACY57, JA757, 787, 957, or 987, Rambler Ranger, Ranger Classic, Rustic Gold (indoor only), and Ranger Gold, • b) or others that meet the criteria of the RSPCA Broiler Breed Welfare Assessment Protocol. 	RSPCA Assured, Red Tractor Indoor Enhanced Welfare V1, Better Chicken Commitment, Organic, Soil Association Organic

ANIMAL WELFARE



BEST

Outcome: Livestock are raised in systems that prioritise high welfare standards, ensuring good health, comfort, and full expression of natural behaviours

Characteristics	Animals are provided with ample space that allows for free roaming and the full expression of natural behaviours	
Laying Hens	Outdoor stocking density must not exceed 1 hen per 4m ² of range area or 2500 hens per ha	Soil Association Organic, RSPCA Assured Free Range, Organic, Free range
Broilers	Outdoor stocking density must not exceed 1 bird per m ²	
	Indoor stocking density must not exceed 13 birds per m ² , with a maximum of 27.5 kg live weight per m ² .	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Pigs, Sheep	There must be no more than 13 birds per m ² and flock thinning must not be practiced	Soil Association Organic, Organic, RSPCA Assured Free Range , Free range
	Minimum space requirements and outdoor stocking densities must meet those set out in GB Organic Regulations for each species and weight classification	
Dairy cattle	Outdoor stocking density must be low enough to prevent poaching of the soil and overgrazing of vegetation at all times of year	Organic, Soil Association Organic, RSPCA Assured, Pasture for Life
	There must be at least 5% more functioning cubicles than the number of cows in the herd, unless there is adjacent, adequately sized loose housing.	

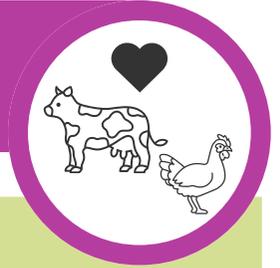
ANIMAL WELFARE



BEST

Characteristics	Animals have constant access to suitable housing and high-quality environmental enrichment	
All	Housing must provide the insulation, heating and ventilation necessary to ensure that air circulation, dust levels, temperature, humidity and gas concentrations are kept within limits that are not harmful to the animals	RSPCA Assured, Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Pigs, Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	For indoor spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) The housing must provide a comfortable clean and dry resting/lying area, which is solid and not slippery and not slatted or of grid construction. • b) The resting/lying area must have ample dry bedding. • c) The bedding must comprise of straw or other suitable natural material 	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Broilers	Shelter/cover must be provided, with natural cover (e.g. trees, shrubs) over at least 5% of the range	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Free range, RSPCA Assured Free Range
	Litter must be provided over the entire floor area and maintained at an average minimum depth of 5cm and topped up daily if necessary to maintain in a dry friable condition suitable for dustbathing Birds must have access to natural daylight from 7 days of age, with a minimum of 8 hours light and 6-12 hours continuous darkness following the natural daylight cycle, except during the first 7 days and last 3 days when at least 2 hours of darkness is required	RSPCA Assured, Soil Association Organic, Organic
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle	Where concrete-based cubicles are used, rubber mats or other cushioned materials and an additional layer of bedding should be used, otherwise a substantial layer of bedding must be provided	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic

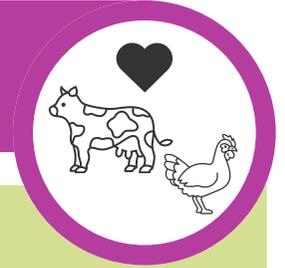
ANIMAL WELFARE



BEST

Characteristics	Animals have constant access to suitable housing and high-quality environmental enrichment (continued)	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	Natural daylight must be provided during the grazing season, when housed the lighting must be adequate to meet animals ethological needs and must have appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
	Fully-slatted floors are prohibited	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
Laying hens	One nest must be provided for every 5 birds or 1m ² of nest space for every 120 birds in communal nests – approx 83cm ² per bird	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic
	Shade/ shelter must be provided at an area of at least 8m ² per 1,000 birds	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Free range, RSPCA Assured Free Range
	Birds must have access to natural daylight outdoors; minimum 8 hours light and minimum 6 hours continuous darkness except when natural darkness period is shorter	RSPCA Assured, Soil Association Organic, Organic
Pigs	All pigs must have access to bedding made of straw or other natural materials to support nesting, resting, and comfort	Soil Association Organic, Organic
	Outdoor pigs must have sheltered areas that provide protection from wind, rain, and extreme temperatures, ensuring thermal comfort.	
	Sows and meat pigs must have continuous access to outdoor areas with suitable ground conditions that allow for rooting and foraging	Organic, Soil Association Organic, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Outdoor areas must be permanently enriched with pasture, roughage, or other natural materials to encourage exploratory behaviors. This may include materials such as bean haulm, bracken, rushes, sawdust, wood shavings, and sand.	

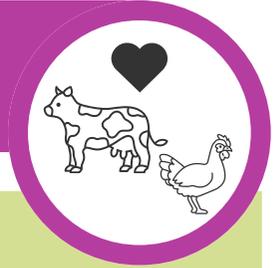
ANIMAL WELFARE



BEST

Characteristics	Animals have constant access to suitable housing and high-quality environmental enrichment (continued)	
Laying hens, Broilers	Open-air runs should be mainly covered with vegetation, providing a natural environment that encourages foraging and other behaviours	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Free range, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	<p>Sufficient protection must be provided against predation and rain, wind, sun and extreme temperatures, depending on local conditions and breed.</p> <p>This may include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Trees, hedges, • b) Rocks, ridges, • c) Scrub, tussocks, • d) Drystone walls, • e) Brashings, • f) Field shelters, • g) Bales, • h) Buildings, • i) Long grass, • j) Wallows 	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
Characteristics	All animals are kept in appropriate social groupings	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle	No single penning of calves after 7 days of age	Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	When housed, cattle must be kept with animals of a similar size to reduce the risk of bullying; mixing of animals from different social groups for transport must be avoided	Organic, Soil Association Organic
Pigs	Pigs must be kept in stable evenly-sized groups; mixing of pigs from different social groups for transport must be avoided	

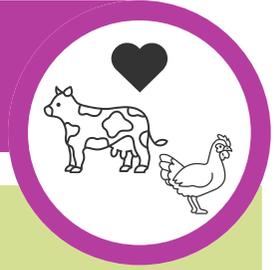
ANIMAL WELFARE



BEST

Characteristics	All animals have outdoor access	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Pigs, Sheep	Animals must have permanent access to pasture, unless the following circumstances temporarily prevent this: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) the health or welfare of the animal • b) the weather conditions and the state of the ground • c) community or national requirements or restrictions relating to specific animal or human health problems. 	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
Beef cattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully pasture based systems are encouraged. Where not possible, cattle may be finished in well-bedded spacious yards provided this period is less than one fifth of lifetime and no more than 3 months. 	RSPCA Assured, Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
Laying Hens	Birds must have continuous daytime access to open-air runs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) for at least 8 hours a day • b) from 21 days of age 	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Free range, RSPCA Assured Free Range, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
Broilers	Birds must have continuous daytime access to open-air runs for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) at least 8 hours per day • b) least half of their lifetime 	
Characteristics	All animals have outdoor access	
Laying hens	Poultry must have access to insoluble grit	RSPCA Assured, , Soil Association Organic, Organic, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Birds must have access to vegetation outdoors from 21 weeks	Soil Association Organic, Organic

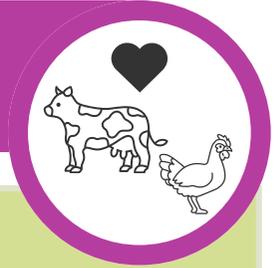
ANIMAL WELFARE



BEST

Characteristics	All animals have outdoor access (continued)	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle	Minimum weaning age 12 weeks	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Sheep	Minimum weaning age 45 days	
Pigs	Minimum weaning age 40 days	Soil Association Organic, Organic
	Roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage must be included in their daily feed ration and at least 20% of their total diet must be produced on the holding. Where this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used.	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	<p>Rearing systems for herbivores must be based on maximum suitable use of grazing pasturage.</p> <p>This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) At least 60% of their daily diet on a dry matter basis must consist of fresh or dried fodder, roughage, or silage • b) At least 60% of their total diet is grown on-farm, or if this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	
Beef cattle	Feed rations that are high in energy and low in fibre or those that contain over 40% concentrates as dry matter percentage of the total diet are not permitted	Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
	Cattle must graze fresh forage throughout the grazing season	
Broilers, Laying Hens	Feed may not be withheld for more than 12 hours before slaughter	RSPCA Assured, , Soil Association Organic

ANIMAL WELFARE



BEST

Characteristics	Breeding practices are designed to maximise animal welfare outcome	
Dairy cattle	Must have a plan in place to end the killing of healthy male calves	RSPCA Assured, Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Broilers, Laying Hens	Breeds must be chosen to avoid specific disease or health problems associated with intensive production and to avoid problems at birth	(RSPCA Assured for broilers only), Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Beef cattle	The use of double muscle breeds is prohibited	-
Pigs	The use of hyperprolific sows, i.e. those producing an average of >16 piglets/ per litter is not permitted	-
Broilers	Traditional or slow-growing breeds (daily weight gain averaged over the life of the bird of no more than 35g per day) must be used, or if fast-growing breeds are used the minimum slaughter age is 81 days	Soil Association Organic, Organic



ANTIBIOTIC USE



BASIC

Outcome: Antibiotic use is compliant with legal requirements

Characteristics	Meets the minimum legal guidelines	
Characteristics	Antibiotics are permitted for group treatments	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor
All	Prophylactic use of antibiotics is permitted in extreme circumstances	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.
	Unrestricted or minimally restricted use of antibiotics for metaphylaxis	Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best antibiotic use
Characteristics	Welfare conditions may create extreme circumstances that justify the use of antibiotics, including prophylactic or group treatments, under legal exceptions	
All	ILP See 'Basic' animal welfare practices	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best antibiotic use
Characteristics	The use of critically important antibiotics (HPCIA) is unrestricted or minimally restricted	
All	Colistin, a last-resort antibiotic, is permitted	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.
	Use of HPCIA is permitted	Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best antibiotic use

ANTIBIOTIC USE



BETTER

Outcome: Antibiotic use is minimised through improved transparency, preventative measures, and prioritisation of individual treatments

Characteristics	The food business has a publicly available antibiotic use policy that clearly outlines its coverage, includes reduction targets, and aligns with the latest UK legislation	
All	The policy must apply to all UK-supplied meat, dairy, and egg products, ensuring comprehensive national supply chain coverage.	
	The policy must apply to all own-brand products, guaranteeing accountability across the retailer's supply chain.	
	Antibiotic usage data across the supply chain is published at regular intervals (e.g. annually) to maintain transparency.	
	Antibiotic reduction targets are established, measurable, and time-bound, demonstrating the commitment to reducing use.	
	Progress against antibiotic reduction targets is publicly reported.	
Characteristics	The majority of antibiotics are administered as individual treatments rather than group treatments	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Pigs, Sheep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group prophylaxis is prohibited 	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metaphylaxis is restricted to situations where there is a high risk of disease spread within a group of animals, and no other appropriate alternatives are available, in line with EU legislation 	

ANTIBIOTIC USE



BETTER

Characteristics	Animal husbandry is at a standard where prophylactic use of antibiotics is never required, meeting the criteria for Better animal welfare	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of antibiotics for growth promotion is prohibited 	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine prophylaxis and metaphylaxis are prohibited 	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
Characteristics	The majority of antibiotics are administered as individual treatments rather than group treatments	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal welfare standards meet the criteria for Better levels of production 	See 'Animal Welfare'
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An action plan must be drawn up aimed at reducing the use of antibiotics on the farm through improvements in animal husbandry 	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic



ANTIBIOTIC USE



BEST

Outcome: Antibiotics are used responsibly and only when clinically necessary, supported by advanced preventative systems that eliminate all routine use

Characteristics	Antibiotics are not used as the first line of treatment when alternative treatment options are available	
All	Animal welfare standards meet the criteria for Better levels of production	See 'Animal Welfare'
	An action plan must be drawn up aimed at reducing the use of antibiotics on the farm through improvements in animal husbandry	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic
Characteristics	Antibiotics are not used preventatively in the absence of disease or surgical intervention	
Beef cattle, Sheep	Prophylaxis is prohibited	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, RSPCA Assured
All	Metaphylaxis is prohibited	Organic, Soil Association Organic
	The use of antibiotics for an individual animal is only permitted in the case disease or surgical intervention under the responsibility of a vet.	

ANTIBIOTIC USE



BEST

Characteristics	Animal husbandry is at a standard where 'Best' animals welfare standards are met meaning disease prevention is pro-actively managed through high-welfare practices	
All	Animal welfare standards meet the criteria for 'Best' levels of production	See 'Animal Welfare'
Characteristics	Last-resort antibiotic colistin is completely avoided	
All	Use of Colistin is prohibited	Red Tractor (Broilers and Laying hens only), Soil Association Organic
Characteristics	The use of 'critically important antibiotics' (modern cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones) restricted	
All	The withdrawal period for all antibiotic treatments must be least double the statutory withdrawal period as referred to in Article 11 of Directive 2001/82/EC, or where not specified at least 48 hrs	Organic, Soil Association Organic





BASIC

Outcome: Livestock systems operate with no specific requirements to measure, mitigate, or reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Characteristics	Meets the minimum legal guidelines	
Characteristics	Livestock production generates concentrated animal waste with limited measures to address the associated GHG emissions	
Laying Hens, Broilers, Pigs, Dairy cattle	ILP	Animals are permanently housed in indoor, close confinement systems
Beef cattle		Animals are housed in an indoor or outdoor close confinement CAFO or feedlot system
Broilers		Stocking density exceeds 30 kg/m ²
Laying Hens		A caged stocking density of 750cm ³ is permitted and may be practiced
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Pigs		Stocking density, floor space allowance, and cubicle space allowance (for dairy cattle), may fall below that required for Better methods of production as defined by Sourcing Better
All		Manure storage and handling follows legal requirements but does not exceed them
		There are no and/or inadequate measures in place to prevent to a) prevent the over-application of manure and b) ensure manure application does not exceed the carrying capacity of the catchment
		There are no and/or inadequate measures in place to ensure manure application is appropriately integrated into crop cycles
		Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best GHG



BASIC

Characteristics	Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards reducing the associated GHG emissions		
All	ILP	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best GHG	
			Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems
			The use of pesticides in grassland and feed crop production is unrestricted beyond legal guidelines
			The use of synthetic fertilizers in grassland and feed crops is unrestricted beyond legal guidelines
			No restrictions are in place regarding tillage practices in feed crop production
			Crop rotations in feed crop production are not mandated
			No carbon sequestration measures are mandated for feed crop production
			There are no or limited restrictions around the conversion of land to arable agriculture for feed crop production
There are no or limited restrictions around the clearance of land for infrastructure to support animal and/or feed crop production			



BETTER

Outcome: Livestock systems implement measures to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Characteristics	Livestock numbers and stocking densities are reduced	
All	Stocking densities are reduced to those required for Better under animal welfare	See 'Animal Welfare'
Characteristics	Livestock numbers and stocking densities are reduced	
All	<p>GHG emissions are measured at least every 4 years using a carbon footprinting tool. Carbon footprint results are used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce GHG emissions • Capture and retain GHGs on-farm/site (e.g., soil, trees, waterbodies, peat, etc.), where possible 	LEAF Marque V17.0, Fair to Nature
	<p>Organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent, slurry and solid organic matter are stored according to best practice. This may include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Manure and slurry storage must be located in a safe situation and precautions taken to avoid the spread of disease both to livestock and humans. • b) Muck heaps in fields must be fenced off to prevent direct access by grazing livestock 	Red Tractor, N.I. Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme, Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Scheme, Organic, Soil Association Organic, LEAF Marque V17, Pasture for Life
	<p>Efficiency improvements are made; this may include, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Optimising feed conversion to reduce emissions per unit of production • b) Utilising advancing technologies i.e renewable energy sources or decarbonised farm machinery 	LEAF Marque V17.0



Characteristics	Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards reducing the associated GHG emissions	
All	<p>A feed management plan is in place which (at a minimum) includes strategies and targets to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) maximise the amount of home-grown feed used/minimise the amount of brought-in feed, where possible • b) utilise food/crop waste/by-products as a source of feed, where appropriate and possible • c) source brought-in feed locally, where possible • d) transition to feed containing deforestation-free soy/palm • e) transition to soy/palm-free feed, where appropriate 	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature, Pasture for Life
Dairy cattle, Beef cattle, Sheep	Steps are taken to conserve and build up soil organic matter, e.g. including the use of permanent pastures, herbal lays (where appropriate) or the addition of fibrous manures	Organic, Soil Association Organic, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Pasture for Life
	<p>No restrictions are in place regarding tillage practices in feed crop production</p> <p>A plan is in place to ensure that grazing, foraging or cultivation is managed to protect and enhance soil organic matter. This means the risk of soil degradation must be assessed prior to operations being carried out to ensure the timing, field conditions, equipment and soil management techniques are appropriate.</p>	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards

**BEST**

Outcome: Livestock systems actively contribute to climate mitigation by minimising greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing carbon sequestration, and aligning with net-zero pathways

Characteristics		Livestock numbers and stocking densities are further reduced	
All	Stocking densities are reduced to those required for 'Best' under animal welfare	See 'Animal Welfare'	
Characteristics		Energy use is optimised, with a transition to low-carbon or renewable energy sources	
All	Carbon sequestration practices must be widely implemented across the farm. This may include but is not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) agroforestry and/or silviculture • b) new tree planting and/or appropriate woodland management • c) pasture management which promotes carbon storage 	LEAF Marque 17.0, Pasture for Life	
Characteristics		There is minimal or no use of agrochemicals and adequate measures are in place to minimise the GHG emissions associated with fertilisation and pest control	
All Grassland Arable land used for feedcrop production	The organic matter, fertility and biological activity of the soil must be maintained and increased through means suitable for the site	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life	
All	Non-chemical controls must be used as the first practice to reduce weeds		



Characteristics	Livestock are fed from diverse production systems which actively work to minimise GHG emissions	
All	All bought-in feed is verified as deforestation and conversion free	Pasture for Life
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	<p>The pollution footprint of the rearing systems for herbivores must be lowered by maximising the use of grazing pasturage and reducing the reliance on imported feed. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) At least 60% of their daily diet on a dry matter basis must consist of fresh or dried fodder, roughage, or silage b) At least 60% of their total diet is grown on-farm, or if this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Pigs, Broilers, Laying Hens	<p>The pollution footprint of the rearing systems must be lowered by maximising the use of grazing pasturage and reducing the reliance on imported feed. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage must be included in their daily feed ration b) at least 20% of their total diet must be produced on the holding. Where this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	Soil Association Organic, Organic

LAND USE CHANGE



BASIC

Outcome: Livestock systems fail to prevent and may actively contribute to land use change

Characteristics	Meets minimum legal guidelines	
Characteristics	Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, driving land use change	
All	ILP	Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems
		There are no or limited restrictions around the conversion of land to arable agriculture for feed crop production
		There are no or limited restrictions around the clearance of land for infrastructure to support animal and/or feed crop production
		Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best land use change

BETTER

Outcome: Livestock systems do not result in land use change

Characteristics	Steps are taken to avoid all deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems (as defined under <u>AFI definitions</u>)	
All	<p>A feed management plan is in place which (at a minimum) includes strategies and targets to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) maximise the amount of home-grown feed used/minimise the amount of brought-in feed, where possible • b) utilise food/crop waste/by-products as a source of feed, where appropriate and possible • c) source brought-in feed locally, where possible • d) transition to feed containing deforestation-free soy/palm • e) transition to soy/palm-free feed, where appropriate 	
		LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature, Pasture for Life

LAND USE CHANGE



BEST

Outcome: Livestock systems support protection of existing natural ecosystems and restoration of degraded habitats

Characteristics	Livestock are fed from diverse production systems which support protection of natural habitats	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	<p>The footprint of rearing systems must be lowered by maximising the use of grazing pasturage and reducing the reliance on imported feed. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) At least 60% of their daily diet on a dry matter basis must consist of fresh or dried fodder, roughage, or silage • b) At least 60% of their total diet is grown on-farm, or if this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Pigs, Broilers, Laying Hens	<p>The footprint of rearing systems must be lowered by maximising the use of grazing pasturage and reducing the reliance on imported feed. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage must be included in their daily feed ration • b) at least 20% of their total diet must be produced on the holding. Where this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	Soil Association Organic, Organic
	Use of waste, agricultural bi-products or unwanted biomass are used as a main source of animal feed, or as supplement to pasture	
All	All bought-in feed is verified as deforestation and conversion free	Pasture for Life



BASIC

Outcome: Livestock systems do not actively protect or enhance biodiversity, with minimal natural habitats on farm

Characteristics		Meets minimum legal guidelines	
Characteristics		No specific practices are in place to support or enhance biodiversity through livestock management	
Laying Hens, Broilers, Dairy cattle, Pigs	ILP	Permanent housing in indoor, close confinement systems is permitted	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best biodiversity
Beef cattle		Housing in an indoor or outdoor close confinement CAFO or feedlot system is permitted	
All		Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems	



BASIC

Characteristics	Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards mitigating biodiversity loss or ecosystem degradation	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle	ILP	<p>There is no requirement for grassland cultivation and/or feed crop production to be managed to protect or enhance biodiversity and native ecosystems</p>
Laying Hens, Broilers, Pigs		<p>No and/or weak restrictions are placed on the use of soy from high-risk areas linked to deforestation, ecosystem conversion, and biodiversity loss</p>
All		<p>Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems</p>
		<p>The use of pesticides in grassland and feed crop production is unrestricted beyond legal guidelines</p>
		<p>The use of synthetic fertilisers in grassland and feed crops is unrestricted beyond legal guidelines</p>
		<p>Crop rotations in feed crop production are not mandated</p>
		<p>Land clearance for the development of infrastructure to support animal and/or feed production is permitted</p>
		<p>Land conversion to arable agriculture for feed crop production is permitted</p>
		<p>Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.</p> <p>Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best biodiversity</p>



BETTER

Outcome: Livestock systems incorporate measures to protect wildlife habitats and maintain natural elements on farm

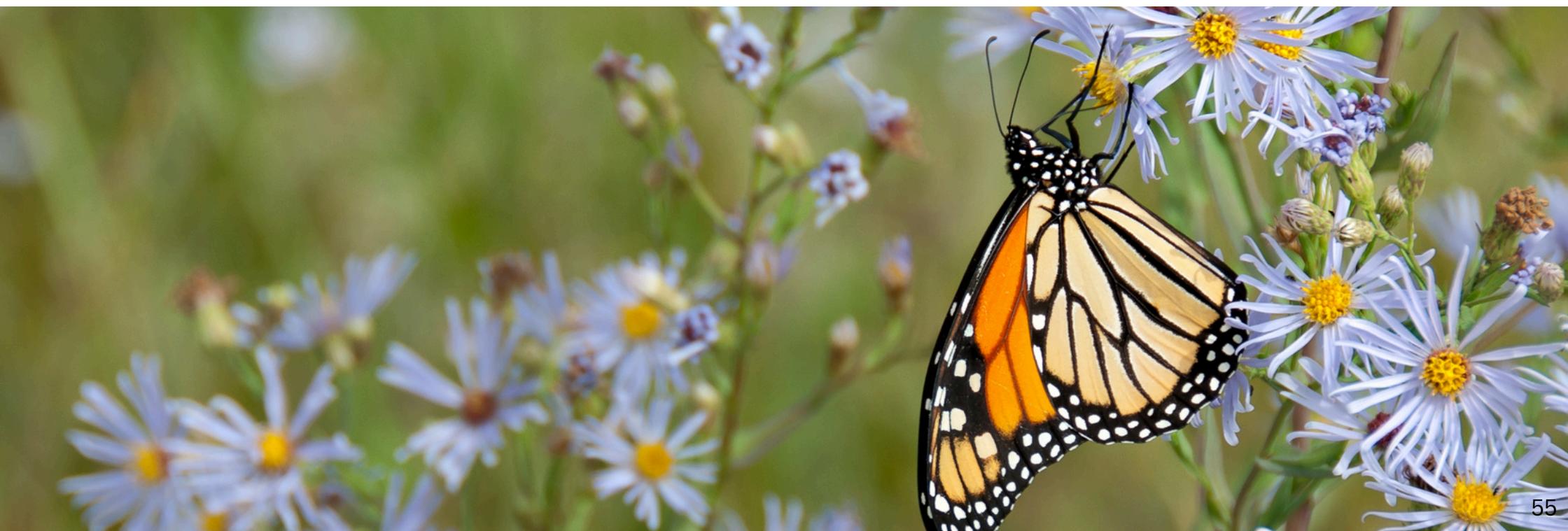
Characteristics			Livestock are used to maintain or potentially improve farmland biodiversity		
Dairy cattle, Beef cattle, Sheep	Ruminants are reared in grazing systems rather than fully housed ones. The requirements for pasture access are the same as for Better animal welfare.	RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life			
	A plan is in place to ensure that grazing, foraging or cultivation is managed to protect and/or enhance biodiversity.				
	Animals are managed in a way which avoids damage to habitats such as grassland, heath, moorland, heather, bog and rushy uplands. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) adjusting stocking rates, b) adjusting animal movements and/or using rotation, c) consideration of permanent tracks, d) positioning of gateways and fencing, e) positioning of supplementary feeders and drinkers 	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards			
Characteristics			Sensitive or high value habitats are protected		
All Grassland Arable land used for feedcrop production	Key semi-natural habitats are recorded, including the presence of habitats of high conservation value and local protected areas	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature			
	Any practices that may damage statutory, non-statutory or local wildlife sites or ecologically significant habitats are prohibited. For example, ploughing species rich or unimproved grasslands.				
	Management practices ensure existing key semi-natural habitats are protected. There may be a management plan.	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, LEAF Marque V17.0, Red Tractor- Fresh Produce, Fair to Nature, A Greener World Regenerative Standards			

BIODIVERSITY



BETTER

Characteristics	Pest and disease management minimises harm to biodiversity while maintaining farm resilience	
All Grassland Arable land used for feedcrop production	An integrated pest management plan is in place. Practices detailed in the plan may include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Creating fertile soils with high biodiversity • b) Choosing appropriate species and varieties resistant to pests and diseases • c) Appropriate crop rotations, particularly the inclusion of a fertility building grass leys • d) Protecting and encouraging natural enemies of pests. • e) Carefully planning planting dates • f) Pre-emergence and post-emergence mechanical weeding • g) Using good husbandry and hygiene practices to limit the spread of any pests or disease. 	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature





BEST

Outcome: Livestock systems support a biodiversity-rich landscape, protecting existing habitats and promoting the creation of new ones.

Characteristics	Livestock are used to improve farmland biodiversity	
All	Outdoor stocking density must be low enough to prevent poaching of the soil and overgrazing of vegetation at all times of year	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
	All animals are reared with pasture access. The requirements for pasture access and enrichment are the same as for Best <u>animal welfare</u> .	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	<p>Grazing practices are actively managed to enhance plant diversity; this may include, but is not limited to the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) permanent pastures and species-rich grasslands • b) herbal leys where suitable • c) silvopasture systems • d) rotational and mob grazing • e) deferred and/or conservation grazing 	Pasture for Life, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic, LEAF Marque V17.0



BIODIVERSITY



BEST

Characteristics	Habitats are protected and enhanced on the farm and in the surrounding landscape	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	Measures are taken to protect and enhance biodiversity. This includes but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) In-field trees and trees in boundaries and hedgerows are retained • b) Native and/or appropriate species are used in field margins and other habitats. • c) Deep cultivations are not used under field trees and hedgerows except where trees have been deliberately grown or retained as shade trees 	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Soil Association Organic, Fair to Nature, Pasture for Life
	10% or more of the farm/site land is managed as a habitat area. This may include but is not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) hedges • b) margins • c) woodland • d) desert • e) forest • f) scrub • g) grazed areas • h) savanna • i) shrubland • j) wildflower meadows • k) and habitats within cropped areas (i.e. habitat banks and groups of trees) 	A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature, Pasture for Life
	Strategies are in place to provide habitat and food to support native fauna	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature, Pasture for Life

BIODIVERSITY



BEST

Characteristics	Habitats are protected and enhanced on the farm and in the surrounding landscape (continued)	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	Farm management activities are adjusted to avoid areas where birds and/ or other species are nesting, and nesting birds are protected when cutting forage. Where farmland birds are present, they are provided with:a) nesting habitatb) food year-round	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature
	Timing and frequency of watercourse management is restricted, this includes not clearing ditches during bird nesting period	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Bee and pollinator habitats are maintained or improved	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Pasture for Life
Characteristics	Field margins and/or site boundaries are under sympathetic management	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	Where management occurs through cutting, environmental impact informs decisions:a) timing occurs during the least destructive period for flora and fauna identifiedb) frequency and extent minimisedc) grass cuttings removed where possible unless part of the management plan	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards
	Where management occurs through application of fertiliser or plant protection products (PPPs), use is minimised and targeted	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
	Where management occurs through grazing, timing, frequency, and extent is informed by measures taken to avoid damage to soil and grassland	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Pasture for Life

BIODIVERSITY



BEST

Characteristics	There is minimal or no use of agrochemicals such as synthetic pesticides and/ or mineral nitrogen fertilisers	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	Steps are taken to conserve and build up soil organic matter and biodiversity, e.g. including the use of permanent pastures, herbal lays (where appropriate) or the addition of fibrous manures	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
	Non-chemical controls must be used as the first practice to reduce weeds	
	Where an agrochemical is used, there must be buffer zones in place to protect watercourses, boundaries and neighbouring land	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic



SOIL HEALTH



BASIC

Outcome: Livestock systems do not actively support soil health and fertility

Characteristics	Meets minimum legal guidelines	
Characteristics	No specific practices are in place to support or enhance soil health through livestock management	
Laying Hens, Broilers, Dairy cattle, Pigs	Permanent housing in indoor, close confinement systems is permitted	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.
Beef cattle	Housing in an indoor or outdoor close confinement CAFO or feedlot system is permitted Management of outdoor feedlots is unresponsive to weather and soil conditions	
All	Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems	
Characteristics	No specific practices are in place to support or enhance biodiversity through livestock management	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	No plan is required to ensure that grassland cultivation or feed crop production is managed to protect or enhance soil health	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best soil health
All	Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems	
	The use of pesticides in grassland and feed crop production is unrestricted beyond legal guidelines	
	The use of synthetic fertilisers in grassland and feed crops is unrestricted beyond legal guidelines	
	No restrictions are in place regarding tillage practices in feed crop cultivations	
	Crop rotations in feed crop production are not mandated	



BETTER

Outcome: Livestock systems help maintain and potentially improve soil health and fertility

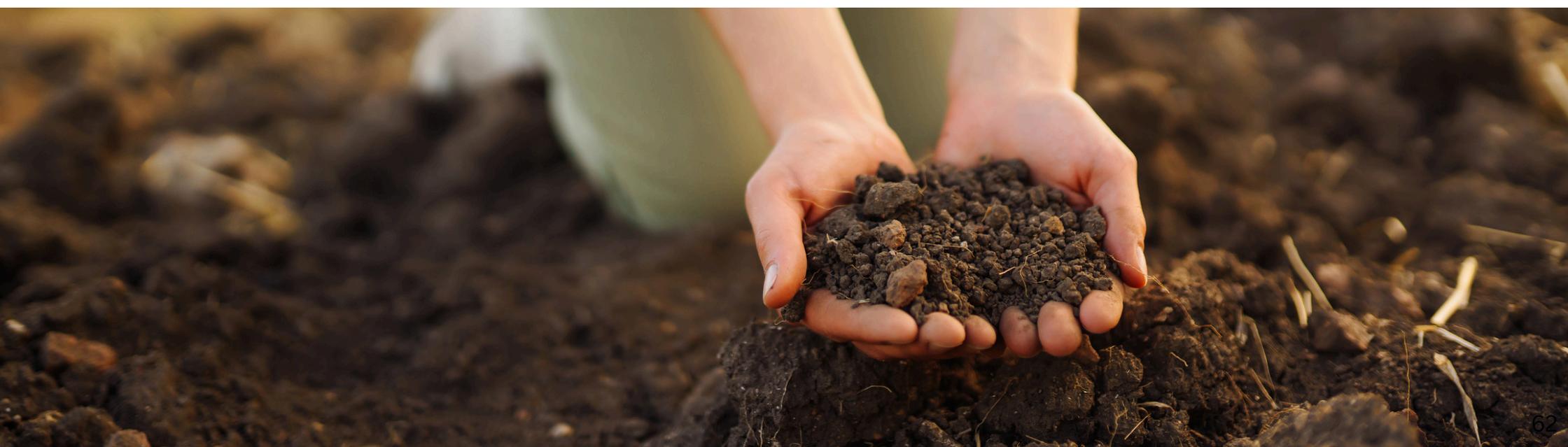
Characteristics	Livestock are used to maintain or potentially improve soil health and fertility	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	<p>Ruminants are reared in grazing systems rather than fully housed ones. The requirements for pasture access are the same as for Better animal welfare.</p>	<p>RSPCA Assured, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life</p>
	<p>A plan is in place to ensure that grazing, foraging or cultivation is managed to protect and enhance biodiversity. This means the risk of soil degradation must be assessed prior to operations being carried out to ensure the timing, field conditions, equipment and soil management techniques are appropriate.</p>	<p>Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, LEAF Marque V17.0</p>
	<p>Animals must be managed in a way which avoids damage to natural (or semi-natural) habitats such as grassland, heath, moorland, heather, bog and rushy uplands. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) adjusting stocking rates • b) adjusting animal movements, pasture rest period and/or using rotation • c) consideration of permanent tracks • d) positioning of gateways and fencing • e) positioning of supplementary feeders and drinkers 	<p>Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards</p>
	<p>Steps are taken to conserve and build up soil organic matter, e.g. including the use of permanent pastures, herbal lays (where appropriate) or the addition of fibrous manures</p>	<p>Organic, Soil Association Organic, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Pasture for Life</p>

SOIL HEALTH



BETTER

Characteristics	Soil health and fertility is measured and accounted for in the planning of farm operations	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	The farm must have an implemented Soil Management Plan which, at a minimum, addresses farm specific soil erosion risks	LEAF Marque 17.0, Fair to Nature, Pasture for Life
	A Nutrient, Manure, and/or Farm Waste Management Plan is in place, including strategies to manage the nutrient loading of soils. The plan should cover the use of slurry, manure, compost, anaerobic digestate and/or other organic materials	Red Tractor, LEAF Marque V17.0, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, Quality Meat Scotland, Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Scheme, Fair to Nature, Pasture for Life
	A representative sample of soils are tested for nutrient levels at least every 5 years. Characteristics required for testing must include but are not limited to pH, extractable phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and magnesium (Mg).	LEAF Marque V17.0, Fair to Nature, Legal requirement



SOIL HEALTH



BEST

Outcome: Livestock systems actively improve and support soil health and fertility

Characteristics	Livestock are used to maintain or potentially improve soil health and fertility	
All	Outdoor stocking density must be low enough to prevent poaching of the soil and overgrazing of vegetation at all times of year	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
	All animals are reared with pasture access. The requirements for pasture access and enrichment are the same as for Best <u>animal welfare</u> .	
	<p>Grazing practices are actively managed to enhance soil structure, organic matter, and biological activity; this may include, but is not limited to, the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Permanent pastures • b) Herbal leys where suitable • c) Application of composted organic materials • d) Rotational and/or mob grazing • e) Deferred and/or conservation grazing • f) Agroforestry and /or perennial planting 	Pasture for Life, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic, LEAF Marque V17.0
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	Nitrogen application must not exceed 170 kg per hectare per year, in line with GB Organic Regulations	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
	The use of insecticidal veterinary medications that remain present in manure fertilisers, such as avermectin, triclabendazole and deltamethrin, is restricted	
	Where additional manure is exported, a written agreement must ensure that total nitrogen application across all cooperating holdings does not exceed 170 kg per hectare per year	Soil Association Organic, Organic
	Control measures are implemented to minimise the loss of nutrients when applying organic matter.	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life

SOIL HEALTH



BEST

Characteristics	All soil management practices protect and enhance soil health, structure, and fertility.	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	Soil must be managed to enhance stability, soil organic matter levels and soil structure and to prevent compaction, erosion and runoff.	A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic, LEAF Marque V17.0, Pasture for Life
	Tillage practices must minimise soil disturbance	
	A representative sample of soils are tested at least every 3 years, using one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Visual Soil Assessment • b) Earthworm counts • c) Bulk density and soil organic matter 	A Greener World Regenerative Standards, LEAF Marque V17.0, Pasture for Life



LOCAL POLLUTION



BASIC

Outcome: Livestock systems do not actively minimise their pollution footprint beyond legal requirements

Characteristics	Meets minimum legal guidelines	
Characteristics	No specific practices are in place to support or enhance soil health through livestock management	
Laying Hens, Broilers, Dairy cattle, Pigs	Animals are permanently housed in indoor, close confinement systems	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best local pollution
Beef cattle	Animals are housed in an indoor or outdoor close confinement CAFO or feedlot system	
Broilers	Stocking density exceeds 30 kg/m ²	
Laying Hens	ILP A caged stocking density of 750cm ³ is permitted and may be practiced	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Pigs	Stocking density, floor space allowance, and cubicle space allowance (for dairy cattle), may fall below that required for Better methods of production as defined by Sourcing Better	
All	There are no and/or inadequate measures in place to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o a) prevent the over-application of manure o and/or b) ensure manure application does not exceed the carrying capacity of the catchment 	
	There are no and/or inadequate measures in place to ensure manure application is adequately integrated into crop cycles	

LOCAL POLLUTION



BASIC

Characteristics	Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of non-organic, monoculture feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards reducing pollution potential and eutrophication risk		
All	ILP	Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems	Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor. Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best local pollution
		The use of pesticides in grassland and feed crop production is unrestricted beyond legal guidelines	
		The use of synthetic fertilisers in grassland and feed crops is unrestricted beyond legal guidelines	
		Feed crops may be grown without crop rotations	
		Buffer zones around water bodies beyond legal guidelines are not mandated	

BETTER

Outcome: Livestock systems take steps to reduce pollution risks by limiting harmful nutrient runoff, pharmaceutical residues, and other pollutants.

Characteristics	Nutrient management practices are in place to understand risks and reduce pollution potential and eutrophication risk	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	A Nutrient, Manure, and/or Farm Waste Management Plan is in place, including strategies to manage the nutrient loading of soils. The plan should cover the use of slurry, manure, compost, anaerobic digestate and/or other organic materials.	Red Tractor, LEAF Marque V17.0, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, Quality Meat Scotland, Farm Assured Welsh Livestock Scheme, Fair to Nature
	A representative sample of soils are tested for nutrient levels at least every 5 years. Characteristics required for testing must include but are not limited to pH, extractable phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and magnesium (Mg).	Legal requirement

LOCAL POLLUTION



BETTER

Characteristics	Inputs such as nitrogen fertilisers and chemicals are restricted in high-value habitats	
All Grassland	Limit the use of nitrogen and chemical inputs onto permanent grasslands, particularly species rich permanent grasslands	Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature
Characteristics	Appropriate infrastructure is in place to prevent the escape of pollutants into the environment	
All	Organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent, slurry and solid organic matter are stored according to best practice. This may include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Manure and slurry storage must be located in a safe situation and precautions taken to avoid the spread of disease both to livestock and humans. • b) Muck heaps in fields must be fenced off to prevent direct access by grazing livestock 	Red Tractor, N.I. Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme, Quality Meat Scotland, Organic, Soil Association Organic, LEAF Marque V17.0, Pasture for Life, Fair to Nature, A Greener World Regenerative Standard
Characteristics	Pesticide use is minimised through responsible management practices that prioritise non-chemical alternatives	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	An integrated pest management plan is in place. Practices detailed in the plan may include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) Creating fertile soils with high biodiversity • b) Choosing appropriate species and varieties resistant to pests and diseases • c) Appropriate crop rotations, particularly the inclusion of a fertility building grass leys • d) Protecting and encouraging natural enemies of pests. • e) Carefully planning planting dates • f) Pre-emergence and post-emergence mechanical weeding • g) Using good husbandry and hygiene practices to limit the spread of any pests or disease. 	Organic, Soil Association Organic, LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Fair to Nature

LOCAL POLLUTION



BEST

Outcome: Livestock systems actively minimise pollution, preventing harmful levels of nutrients, pharmaceuticals, and other toxic elements from contaminating soil, air, and water

Characteristics	Livestock are managed to nullify pollution potential and eutrophication risk.	
All	Outdoor stocking density must be low enough to prevent poaching of the soil and overgrazing of vegetation at all times of year	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
	All animals are reared with pasture access. The requirements for pasture access and enrichment are the same as for Best <u>animal welfare</u> .	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	Organic nitrogen application must not exceed 170 kg per hectare per year, in line with GB Organic Regulations	Soil Association Organic, Organic
	Where additional manure is exported, a written agreement must ensure that total nitrogen application across all cooperating holdings does not exceed 170 kg per hectare per year	
	Control measures are implemented to minimise the loss of nutrients when applying organic matter	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
	The use of insecticidal veterinary medications that remain present in manure fertilisers, such as avermectin, triclabendazole and deltamethrin, is restricted	Fair to Nature, Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life

LOCAL POLLUTION



BEST

Characteristics	Livestock are fed from diverse production systems which actively work to reduce or nullify pollution potential and eutrophication risk	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	<p>The pollution footprint of the rearing systems for herbivores must be lowered by maximising the use of grazing pasturage and reducing the reliance on imported feed. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) At least 60% of their daily diet on a dry matter basis must consist of fresh or dried fodder, roughage, or silage • b) At least 60% of their total diet is grown on-farm, or if this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Pigs, Broilers, Laying Hens	<p>The pollution footprint of the rearing systems must be lowered by maximising the use of grazing pasturage and reducing the reliance on imported feed. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage must be included in their daily feed ration • b) at least 20% of their total diet must be produced on the holding. Where this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	
All	All bought-in feed is verified deforestation and conversion free	Pasture for Life
Characteristics	There is minimal or no use of agrochemicals and adequate measures are in place to nullify the pollution risk of those used	
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	The organic matter, fertility and biological activity of the soil must be maintained and increased through means suitable for the site	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic, Pasture for Life
	Non-chemical controls must be used as the first practice to reduce weeds	
	<p>The pollution footprint of the rearing systems must be lowered by maximising the use of grazing pasturage and reducing the reliance on imported feed. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a) roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage must be included in their daily feed ration • b) at least 20% of their total diet must be produced on the holding. Where this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standards, Organic, Soil Association Organic

WATER SCARCITY



BASIC

Outcome: Livestock systems do not actively minimise water scarcity and run off

Characteristics	Meets minimum legal guidelines		
Characteristics	<p>Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of water intensive feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards minimising water scarcity and run-off</p>		
All	ILP	<p>Animals are permitted to be raised with no pasture access and no opportunities for grazing in the listed close confinement systems</p>	<p>Minimum UK production standards, Red Tractor.</p> <p>Exceeded by any certification listed for Better or Best water scarcity</p>
<p>Feed, fresh grass and silage is permitted to be sourced from intensive monoculture systems reliant on irrigation</p>			
<p>Limited measures are implemented to reduce water scarcity in feed crop production, with minimal use of natural water retention methods</p>			



WATER SCARCITY



BETTER

Outcome: Livestock systems take steps to minimise water scarcity and runoff, improving water use efficiency and may contribute to sustainable water management within their catchment area

Characteristics	Livestock production is reliant on the large-scale cultivation of water intensive feed crops and grasslands, with no requirements and/or limited action towards minimising water scarcity and run-off	
All	The farm must have an implemented water management plan	LEAF Marque V17.0, A Greener World Regenerative Standard
	Applied water use efficiency is measured and improved, where applicable. It is recommended that water-efficiency interventions in stressed basins must be tied to limits on total abstraction.	LEAF Marque V17.0, Fair to Nature
	All sources of on-farm water used are justified and consideration must be given to progression and plans towards increasing the proportion of water used which is re-used and/or collected from periods of natural abundance	LEAF Marque V17.0
	On-farm water quality is measured, at a minimum through visual analysis of water bodies	



WATER SCARCITY



BEST

Outcome: Livestock systems actively contribute to water conservation by optimising water use efficiency, preventing runoff, and supporting sustainable water management within their catchment area

Characteristics	Water use is managed to minimise consumption, enhance natural water retention, and protect water sources, actively reducing water scarcity and preventing runoff	
All Grassland	Rainwater harvesting and storage systems are implemented to reduce reliance on freshwater extraction, where appropriate. Particular focus should be placed on catchments where water stress is an issue.	LEAF Marque 17.0
Arable land used for feed crop production	Natural ways to retain water on-farm are used. This may include but is not limited to mulching, organic matter incorporation, agroforestry and well maintained hedgerows.	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Characteristics	Livestock are fed from diverse production systems which actively work to minimise water scarcity and run off	
Beef cattle, Dairy cattle, Sheep	Rearing systems for herbivores must be based on maximum suitable use of grazing pasturage. This means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) At least 60% of their daily diet on a dry matter basis must consist of fresh or dried fodder, roughage, or silage b) At least 60% of their total diet is grown on-farm, or if this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used. 	Soil Association Organic, Organic, Pasture for Life
Pigs, Broilers, Laying Hens	Roughage, fresh or dried fodder or silage must be included in their daily feed ration and at least 20% of their total diet must be produced on the holding. Where this is not possible, feed produced within the same region and which meets the same specifications may be used.	

WATER SCARCITY



BEST

Characteristics	Livestock are fed from diverse production systems which actively work to minimise water scarcity and run off	
All	All bought-in feed is verified deforestation and conversion free	Pasture for Life
All Grassland Arable land used for feed crop production	Suitable grass species are prioritised to increase drought tolerance	
	Grazing systems are designed to align with local water availability, avoiding overstocking in water-scarce areas	LEAF Marque 17.0, Pasture for Life



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