

Red Tractor Assurance (RTA) DAIRY HERD HEALTH PLAN AND REVIEW TEMPLATE – outlining the minimum scheme requirements and recommendations

The RTA Dairy scheme requires members to have an up-to-date herd health plan and to review herd health and performance annually. To assist in this process this template includes all of the scheme requirements (and the recommendations in *italics*). The table below outlines who is required to complete which part of the plan and how often the scheme expects it to be completed or updated.

It is *recommended* a vet is involved in all aspects of the herd health plan and review. Note: many herd health plans in existence already comply with or exceed the scheme minimum requirements – but it is recommended you check the plan covers the relevant sections and the review elements in this template.

Part	Section title	Completed by	What is it?	Frequency of completion	October 2013 template version – any changes?
A	Routine Preventative Measures; Treatment Plans and Management Procedures	Farmer/ herdsman <i>or</i> <i>Vet</i>	This has traditionally been referred to as the Health Plan - the plans in place that address or prevent relevant health threats.	Updated if need identified in Part C or if a change in practice occurs on farm.	No change in October 2013 template from 2010 template
B	Health and Performance Monitoring	Farmer/ herdsman <i>or</i> <i>Vet</i>	Health and performance should be monitored on an on-going basis – but the scheme requires as a minimum that incidence of health conditions and performance should be collated from medicine records and other relevant on-farm records annually.		October 2013 includes minor changes
C	Health and Performance Review	Vet (ideally the herd vet that routinely visits the farm)	The review requires a vet to review health and performance records, data, see cows and make recommendations (where applicable). Vets are expected to complete a template and leave it on-farm.	Annual – following completion of Part B	Completely new section for reviews from October 2013

Extra lines and spaces are provided in most tables within the rest of this template. This is for any farm-specific actions or issues (e.g. parasites, infections) to be stated (if they are not covered already).

FARM NAME: CAFRE Future Herd**PART A - Routine Preventative Measures; Treatment Plans & Management Procedures****Part A - Section 1: Routine Preventative Measures and Treatment Plans**

The health plan must set out the preventative measures and proposed treatments to address the main health threats that have been identified on the farm.

1.1 Bio security

Bio security measures must be farm-specific, relevant and proportionate to the health risks. Guidance on possible bio security measures that could be implemented is provided in Appendix AM.11

Farm Specific Measures	
Measures taken with incoming stock:	
• Sourcing policy	Animals will be selected from areas where various diseases, e.g. TB/Brucellosis are considered low risk by colleagues within Veterinary Services Division.
• Ascertaining disease status	All animals must be clear from TB, BR and Johne's Private purchase preferred
• Pre-movement/purchase information from seller	Clear test required on TB, BR and Johne's
• Avoid / minimise mixing of stock	All animals will receive a veterinary inspection and will move out of isolation on advice from vet.
Nominated Isolation Facility/Area	
• Location of nominated Isolation facility or area	Blair's Farm isolation Pen
• Actions required, if any, to make the facility available	
• Means of cleaning and disinfecting after use	Power washed and disinfected
Other Measures:	
• People	Clean protective clothing must be worn at all times while on the farm Visitors will receive disposable suits and boots when visiting the farm
• Buildings	Livestock building are power washed and disinfected each year
• Equipment	All machinery is power washed after use and kept in good mechanical condition
• Vehicles	All vehicles must drive through a vehicle wash as they enter and leave the farm yard
* Fencing	All fencing are kept in good condition with hedges or double fence created next to neighbouring farms

1.2 Infectious Disease and Vaccinations

Disease	Status*	Control Measure / Vaccine	Target Animals	Timing
Johne's	F	Annual test	Milking cows	Annual
Leptospirosis	V	Vaccinate	All breeding stock	March - April
BVD	V	Vaccinate	All breeding stock	Sept - Oct
IBR	V	Vaccinate	All breeding stock	Every 6 months
TB	F	Annual test	Everything over 6 weeks of age	Annual
Salmonella	V	Vaccinate	All breeding stock	January - February

Use the blank rows to indicate other conditions that are relevant to the farm (e.g. calf pneumonia, salmonella, husk, ringworm)

* Status: F - free, U - currently unknown, action required, V - vaccinated, T - being tested, M- being monitored, P - present, N - no action

1.3 Parasite Control

Parasite	Control Measure / Product	Target Animals	Timing
Fluke	Drench :Fasinex or Zaniil	All grazing livestock	At housing or drying off
Lungworm	Drench or pour on : Zermex Eprizero	All young stock All Milking cows	At housing or drying off
Intestinal Worms	Drench or pour on : Zermex	All young stock	At 5-8 week intervals throughout the summer
Lice	Pour on : Zermex or Swish	All grazing livestock	At 5-8 week intervals throughout the summer
Flies	Pour on : Zermex or Swish	All grazing livestock	At 5-8 week intervals throughout the summer
Ticks	Pour on : Zermex or Swish	All grazing livestock	At 5-8 week intervals throughout the summer

Use the blank rows to include any other parasites that are relevant to the farm

1.4 Specific Health Conditions

1.4.1 Foot care

Name of persons with responsibility for foot care	Experience/ Qualifications*
Philip Higginson	NPTC trained
Jim Fulton	NPTC trained

* *It is recommended that foot-trimming is carried out by a foot trimmer that has been trained and qualified through National Association of Cattle Foot Trimmers (NACFT) and/or NPTC.*

Is Mobility Scoring carried out? (Recommended) Yes/No

If yes,

Frequency/ how many times per year	Monthly
By whom	Technologists and Farm Manager

Routine Measures taken for Prevention, Control and Treatment of Foot Problems (e.g. examination, trimming, foot-bathing) -

Condition	Measure	When / How Often / Who	Products Used
Digital dermatitis	Control: Regular scrapping of cow passages and regular bathing Treatment: Linco spectrum	Scrapping every 2 hrs and foot bathing once a week	Blue stone
Sole Ulcers	Control: Regular analysis of dietary protein levels, straw bedded pens 5 days pre and 5 days post calving Treatment: Trim infected claw and shoe	Weekly analysis of diets with the feeding team	
Foul in the foot	Control: Regular scrapping of the cow passages and regular foot bathing, well maintained farm roadways and field entrances Treatment: Medicated foot spray and foot bath	Scrapping every 2 hrs and foot bathing once a week	Blue stone
White line disease	Control: Routine trimming and maintain lanes Treatment: Trimming	At drying off and any period the cow is lame throughout her lactation	
	Control: Treatment:		

Use the blank rows to include other conditions that are relevant to the farm.

1.4.2 Mastitis

Describe method (s) of detection:

We strip all cows onto a black floor to help distinguish any mastitis

Routine preventative measures	Used?	Products used
Pre-dipping	Yes	Deosan Teatfoam
Post-dipping	Yes	Deosan Teatfoam
Cluster Spraying	No	N/A
Cubicle Management	Yes	Mechanically brushed and bedded with kiln dried sawdust and cubicle lime

Actions taken in treatment of clinical mastitis cases:

Condition	Measures Taken	Products Used	Withdrawal Period (milk and meat)
Environmental mastitis	Cows are identified with red tapes on their back legs; they are removed from the main milking group and put into the treatment pen until the treatment is finished. These cows will also be milked at the end of each milking	Loxicom Tetra delta Cobactan tubes Synulox tubes Ubrolexin tubes Pathacef tubes	Milk Meat
Contagious mastitis	Cows are identified with red tapes on their back legs; they are removed from the main milking group and put into the treatment pen until the treatment is finished. These cows will also be milked at the end of each milking Cluster will be dipped in peracetic acid after use	Loxicom Tetra delta Cobactan tubes Synulox tubes Ubrolexin tubes Pathacef tubes	Milk Meat
			Milk Meat

Please indicate details for any specific conditions being tackled.

Procedures for drying off cows:

Group	Measures Taken	Products Used	Withdrawal Period (milk and meat)
Drying off cows	Weekly analysis of drying off dates in conjunction with condition scores, milk yields, SCC and feed usage to bring milk yields down to 12 litres/day or less before drying off. 8 week dry period for cows in normal condition 2.75 or greater 10 week dry period for cows with a condition score of 2.50 12 week dry period for cows with a condition score of 2.25 or less. Selective dry cow therapy only to cows with SCC over 200 in last 4 milk recordings and or history of mastitis in the lactation.	2cc of Rotavac Corona 54 day dry cow tube (where applicable) Noroseal tube Go-secure bolus Fluke drench Back feet trimmed	Milk Meat
High SCC drying off cows	Cows with a SCC of 750 thousand or greater in their last milk recording test treated for the last 3 days before drying off with a lactating tube, identify the quarter using a California milk test kit	Cobactan tubes Synulox tubes Ubrolexin tubes Pathacef tubes	Milk Meat

Please indicate if different actions are taken for different groups (e.g. high SCC cows)

Part A. Section 2: Other Routine Management Procedures

2.1 Colostrum*

Measures taken to ensure newborn animals receive adequate colostrum:

1. All calves receive 3- 4 litres or 10% of their body weight of colostrum immediately after birth and another 2 litres before 6 hours after birth

* NB - If this is already covered in the feedplan, this need not be repeated in the health plan.

2.2 Metabolic Disorders

Condition	Preventative Measures	Measure Taken If Affected	Products Used
Hypomagnesaemia (Staggers)	Sufficient levels of magnesium are in the concentrates to prevent staggers	The vet is called in extreme cases but usually the stockman administer 2 bottles of caliject 40% beneath the skin	
Milk fever	Dry cows are housed 4 weeks pre calving and fed a low potassium diet and 2 kg of pre calver nut daily. Lactation 4+ cows treated with calcium bolus pre and post calving	The vet is called in extreme cases, but usually the stockman administers 1xAgromin bolus 1 hr before calving and 2 nd bolus 24 hrs after calving	
Ketosis	All fresh calved cows are fed 150ml of glycerine for the first 7 days after calving plus any Cream cow that produces over than 50 litres a day and heifers 40 litres a day are fed 150ml of glycerine a day	Dose the cow with glycerine and adjust the diet accordingly	
Displaced abomasums	Any cow with a displaced stomach will be put into a individual straw pen , fed plain high fibre silage and fed no concentrates.		

Use the blank rows to include other conditions that are relevant to the farm.

2.3 Veterinary Related Operations

Type and age of stock	Task	Person*	Method	Anaesthetic
Calves less than 2 months of age	Disbudding	Instructors and students	De-horning iron	Yes
Calves greater than 2 months of age	Dehorning	Vet		Yes
Calves less than 2 months of age	Castration	Instructors and students	Burdizzo	
	Removal of supernumary teats	N/A		

Use the blank rows to include other routine operations supplied to the herd.

* Persons undertaking veterinary related tasks must be suitable, experienced and/or trained, details of which must be recorded in Training Records.

NB: A summary of the legislative requirements with respect to methods, competency, age limits and the need for anaesthetic is provided in Appendix AM.1

2.4 Casualty and Dead stock

Action (s) taken with 'downer cows'	The vet is called immediately to administer drugs; the cow is put into the sand pen and is lifted 2-3 times a day as recommended by the vet.
Action (s) taken with casualty animals	The vet is called immediately and we react on the decision he makes about the animal plus trying to minimise any stress on the animal.
Action (s) taken with unmarketable ("bobby") calves (see Appendix AH.9)	Take veterinary advice.
Humane slaughter on farm: - Carried out by - Method	The vet carries out any humane slaughter on the farm the vet usually administers pentobarbitone into the vein.
Method (s) of dead stock disposal (to whom, where)	Calves are incinerated on the farm and all other livestock are taken to Linergy, Dungannon.

2.5 Other Disease and Management Problems

Condition	Prevention/Treatment Measures (including products used and withdrawal periods)
Retained foetal membranes	Dry cow receive 2 Co-secure + iodine bolus at drying off. Minimal assistant at calving. Vet administers drugs and removes afterbirth.
Navel ill (calves)	Calves navels are sprayed with iodine that birth. Calf pens are cleaned washed and disinfected after each calf.
Infertility	Weekly vet visit from 1 st Nov – 31 th July to scan, PD and administer any drugs required to improve fertility.

Use the blank rows to include other conditions that are relevant to the farm.

2.6 Identification of Treated Animals

Describe the means used for identification:

All treated cows have red tape put onto both back legs.
All treatments are recorded in the medicine book.
The cow receives a "code 8" on the parlour monitor to stop cluster coming down.

2.7 Broken Needle Policy

A suggested policy is provided below - if necessary amend with any additional or farm-specific actions

In the event that a broken needle is left in an animal during treatment we will take the following action:

1. Mark the animal with a distinct and permanent form of identification and record the date, animal identification and injection site in the veterinary medicine record.
2. When disposed of, the animal will be consigned direct to slaughter and not sold to another producer. The movement/means of disposal will be recorded in the herd/flock record book.
3. If the animal is to be retained as breeding stock or for longer than 7 days we will check its health regularly and when disposed of, follow the procedure at point 5.
4. The animal will only be marketed within 7 days if the withdrawal period for the substance being injected allows this. The animal will be consigned to a slaughterhouse with an emergency slaughter certificate from a veterinary surgeon, which provides details of the injection site. The injection site with the broken needle will be marked on the animal before consignment.
5. If the animal is marketed after 7 days we will consign it to a slaughterhouse and inform the slaughterhouse in writing of the broken needle, providing details of the injection site and the date on which it occurred. The injection site with the broken needle will be marked on the animal before consignment.
6. Otherwise the animal will be kept for home consumption taking care to avoid broken needle. Alternatively it will be euthanized.

If precautions 1-5 above are taken and the slaughterhouse is fully informed in writing, the animal may be marketed as farm assured.

2.8 Actions for Dealing with Confirmed TB Reactors in the Milking Herd

A suggested policy is provided below – if necessary, amend with any additional or farm-specific actions:

- Isolate confirmed reactor animal(s) as soon as diagnosed by the veterinary surgeon pending their removal from the farm.
- Clearly identify reactor animals (e.g. with marker spray, tail tapes).
- Milk reactor animals last and thoroughly clean equipment after use.
- Discard milk from reactors completely - exclude from bulk tank and do not feed to calves.
- If disposing of milk via direct land spreading, apply a grazing interval - minimum 6 months recommended.

Other actions taken:


PART A COMPLETED BY:

Name: Jim Fulton

Role on farm: Assistant Farm Manager

Declaration:

The information recorded within this health plan, is, to the best of my knowledge accurate and a true reflection of practices on the farm.

Signed: 

Date of completion: 29th November 2017

Health and performance should be monitored on an on-going basis. The scheme requires the table below to be completed annually. It requires the collation of incidence of conditions and information from various health and performance records (including the medicine records and records required for AH.5). There is no direct impact on certification if incidence of a health issue is high and it is being acted upon. This section once completed must be reviewed by a vet for Part C – this information must be accurate to be meaningful and useful in the veterinary review.

3.1. Health and performance information that must be collated for monitoring

	No. of cases		Farm Target (s) (Total or Per 100 Cows – delete as appropriate)	Comments, Observations (e.g. pattern in timing, common causes)
	Total	Per 100 cows*		
Lameness	Please see attached locomotion result for the herd		See attached monthly locomotion report	
Mastitis	47 cases Jan-Dec 2017	25%		
Culling Rate	26	14%		
Main Reasons for culling	13 Not in Calf 6 Low Udder & Old Age 2 Feet 1 Abortion 1 High SCC & Old Age 1 Infertility 1 Slow milker & Old Age 1 mastitis			
Involuntary culls i.e. number of animals that died/ emergency slaughtered (on-farm)	10	5.4%		1 ruptured calf bed 1 stomach ulcer 1 infection in foot 1 cervix torn at calving 1 dislocated at calving 1 bad heart 1 LDA 1 bad feet couldn't transport 1 done the splits and dislocated her lip 1 put calf bed out at calving 1 bloat
Calf Mortality – 0-24 hours (incl. stillborn)	16	8.7%		
Calf Mortality – 24 hours – 42 days	10	5.4%		

* To determine number of cases per 100 cows, calculate: $\frac{\text{Total number of cases} \times 100}{\text{Total number of cows}}$

PART B COMPLETED BY:

Name: Jim Fulton

Role on farm: Assistant Farm Manager

Declaration:

The information recorded within Part B, to the best of my knowledge, is accurate and a true reflection of incidences on the farm. Where required, relevant records will be provided to the vet to undertake the annual herd health review.

Signed: 
Date: 2⁹th November 2017

Signed: (and vet if applicable)

3.2 Health and performance information it is recommended is collated for monitoring

	Number of cases		Farm Target (s)	Comments, Observations
	Total	/ 100 cows		
Health and Welfare				
Mobility Scoring – Score 2 and 3 cows (impaired and severely impaired mobility)	See locomotion results	Herd avg 91% 0 or 1	Over 80% scoring 0 or 1 on 0 to 3 scale	
Milk Fever Sept 16 – May 17	8 cases (183 cows)	4.4%	5%	
Hypomagnesaemia ('staggers')	0			
Retained Foetal Membranes	13 cows	7.6%	5%	
No. of assisted calvings	34 cows	18%		
Survivability and Productivity				
	2016	2017		
Fertility Parameters				
- Days to 1 st service				
- Conception Rate (%)	38%	32%	50%	
- Calving Interval (days)	390 days	403 days	380 days	
- Females reaching second calving				
Average Number Of Lactations				
Av. Milk Yield (state whether yield is related to days, lactation etc).	July 16 8,989 litres	July 17 8,865 litres	8500 litres	
- Cows				
- Heifers				
Av Milk Quality (12 months)				
- Butterfat %	4.18%	4.18%	4.20%	
- Protein %	3.32%	3.32%	3.50%	
- Bactoscan	24	24	<20	
- Somatic Cell Count	151	151	<150	
- Urea				

Use the blank rows to include other conditions that are most relevant to the farm.

FARM NAME: CAFRE Future Herd
PART C – HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW
VET REVIEW OF DATA AND RECOMMENDATION OF ACTIONS/ PRIORITY AREAS

This section must be completed by a Veterinary Surgeon, at least annually. As part of the vet review, the vet may need access to the records that have been used to collate data (e.g. medicine records). NB: The vet is not expected to validate or verify data collated by the farmer – they are required to review it and make recommendations based on what they have seen. Farmers are not bound by the scheme to act upon vet recommendations.

I have reviewed data and health and performance records (where available) related to:

- Lameness [] Tick if seen
- Mastitis []
- Culling and mortalities []
- Fertility, reproductive disorders and calving problems []
- Metabolic disorders []
- Calf diseases []
- Other diseases and conditions []
- (list any others seen)

And as part of the review I have also inspected:

- Cows in Milk [] Tick if seen
- Calves []
- Dry Cows []
- Other young stock []
- Stock bulls []
- other (list)

And recommend that the following priorities are acted upon within the specified timeframe:

	Priority	Actions to address	Complete by
1.			
2.			
3.			

The relevant sections (to these priorities) of the Herd Health Plan should also be updated.

The priorities and actions I recommend above are based upon the data and facts provided to me and the cows inspected on the day. As such the effectiveness of my recommendations could be limited by the accuracy of the information provided and whether the cows seen are a true reflection of the herd.

Veterinary surgeon name: Brian McAuley

Veterinary practice: Firmount Veterinary Practice

Veterinary surgeon's signature:

Date of review