



# LEAF Marque Standard

Version 16.0

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



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### Version History

Version Number	Date of Publication	Changes
V16.0	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Control Points: 11 new, 13 deleted, 7 upgraded to Essential. Minor typographical changes and content development.

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

Changes since LEAF Marque Standard v15.0 have been made to the Control Points listed in the table below.

Section	Control Points
<b>Organisation and Planning</b>	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.12, 1.22, 1.23, 1.24
<b>Soil Management and Fertility</b>	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.14
<b>Crop Health and Protection</b>	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.9, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 3.20, 3.21
<b>Pollution Control and By-Product Management</b>	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11
<b>Animal Husbandry</b>	5.1, 5.6, 5.7, 5.10, 5.12, 5.13
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	6.3, 6.4, 6.5
<b>Water Management</b>	7.1, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7
<b>Landscape and Nature Conservation</b>	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.14, 8.15, 8.19, 8.20, 8.21, 8.22, 8.23, 8.24, 8.26, 8.27, 8.28, 8.29
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Changed title to Engaging Society

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## Introduction

### LEAF Marque



LEAF Marque is an environmental assurance system recognising more sustainably farmed products. It is based on LEAF's **nine** Integrated Farm Management (IFM) principles.

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

BASIS points are available for undergoing a LEAF Marque audit. For more information, please see the LEAF Marque website.

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

**Any business engaged with the LEAF Marque System must comply with all applicable regional and national laws and regulations, following relevant international treaties, conducting business lawfully and with integrity.**

LEAF Marque's Intended **Outcomes** are aligned with LEAF's beyond certification work which helps farmers and growers across the globe to deliver more sustainable farming. LEAF aims to inspire and enable more circular approaches to farming through integrated, regenerative, and vibrant nature-based solutions, that deliver productivity and prosperity among farmers, enriches the environment, and positively engages young people and wider society. **Within the context of IFM, the LEAF Marque system aims to deliver positive action for climate, nature, economy, and society transforming farming and food at an increasingly global level through:**

1. **Building resilience**
2. **Implementation of regenerative practices**
3. **Implementation of strategies to reduce GHG emissions and sequester carbon**
4. **Improved soil management to enhance soil quality and soil health**
5. **Improved implementation of effective IPM solutions for crop health and protection**
6. **Improved implementation of waste management best practice**
7. **Improved strategies for livestock health, performance, and environmental impact**
8. **Improved energy use and efficiency**
9. **Improved management of water use and water quality**
10. **Enhanced habitats and biodiversity**
11. **Engagement with local or wider communities**



## Scope

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

The LEAF Marque certificate states the products certified in accordance with the LEAF Product List. All products listed on the certificate must also be part of the business' baseline system certification(s). The LEAF Marque Standard is applicable to the whole business regardless of the products listed on the LEAF Marque certificate.

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

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

LEAF Marque certification is third party verified by LEAF Marque approved and accredited Certification Bodies (CBs). The current CBs and the countries where they operate can be found on the [LEAF Marque website](#).

All LEAF Marque audits are carried out independently, on-farm on an annual basis, either at the same time as the baseline certification system(s), or as a stand-alone audit.

LEAF Marque certification requires the business to fully comply with all the **Essential (E)** Control Points within the Standard. Compliance with the **Recommended (R)** Control Points is preferable, and they may become Essential Control Points in the future. Some Control Points may be **Not-Applicable (N/A)** as determined within the Standard.

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

**Consistent interpretation of the LEAF Marque Standard is sought by setting criteria that are clear, objective, and verifiable.** There is no binding additional guidance. However, there is further support for LEAF members in the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review and LEAF Information Centre.

It should be noted that the LEAF Marque Standard is additional and complementary to approved baseline systems; the list of approved baseline systems is included within the LEAF Product List, which is available on the [LEAF website](#).



## Revising the Standard

Revising the LEAF Marque Standard provides the opportunity to continually improve the Standard based on experience gained, lessons learned, and input provided during the implementation of the previous Standards (v15 and earlier).

The public consultation for the LEAF Marque Standard v16.0 Draft was held between the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

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

If you would like to make a proposal for revisions of the LEAF Marque Standard, please contact [info@leafmarque.com](mailto:info@leafmarque.com). The next review of the LEAF Marque Standard will take place no later than 1<sup>st</sup> October 2027.



## LEAF



LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING

LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) is a leading organisation delivering and promoting Climate Positive, thriving, resilient and exemplar agro-ecological farming at an increasingly global level. Working with farmers, the food industry, scientists, environmentalists, teachers, young people, and consumers we are looking at new ways to deliver productivity and prosperity among our farmers, enrich the environment and engage young people and society in a valuable and meaningful way.

### LEAF's Vision

A global farming and food system that delivers Climate Positive action, builds resilience, and supports the health, diversity and enrichment of our food, farms, the environment, and society.

### LEAF's Mission

To inspire and enable more circular approaches to farming and food systems through integrated, regenerative, and vibrant nature-based solutions, that deliver productivity and prosperity among farmers, enriches the environment, and positively engages young people and wider society.

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

1. Facilitating knowledge generation and exchange;
2. Developing market opportunities through LEAF Marque;
3. Educating and engaging **young people and the wider society** in sustainable food and farming.

These pillars align with three cross-cutting themes: **Health, Diversity and Enrichment**. LEAF has developed as a credible 'go-to' organisation in the delivery of more sustainable farming practices with a very well respected and regarded network of demonstration farms and innovation centres, building management tools and guidance, developing communication skills and channels between farmers and consumers, such as through our successful public outreach programmes, for example, LEAF Open Farm Sunday and in the marketplace with LEAF Marque.

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

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

[www.leaf.eco](http://www.leaf.eco)

## LEAF's Integrated Farm Management

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

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

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

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



## LEAF Sustainable Farming Review

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

## LEAF Resources

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

- [LEAF Information Centre](#)
- LEAF Energy Monitoring Spreadsheets: [Year on Year](#), [Compare Across Sites](#), and [Compare Across Sites and Combined Heat and Power \(CHP\)](#)
- [LEAF IFM Bulletin](#)
- Simply Sustainable Series: [Soils](#), [Water](#), [Biodiversity](#), [Biosecurity](#), [Integrated Pest Management](#), [Plastics](#)



## LEAF Network

LEAF Demonstration Farms are commercial farms which show the beneficial practices of IFM to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. LEAF Demonstration Farmers communicate, discuss, and demonstrate IFM best practice amongst other farmers and are a crucial component in promoting sustainable farming to wider groups such as politicians, industry, and students. LEAF's network of Demonstration Farms includes a range of farm businesses across the UK. They work alongside LEAF Innovation Centres.

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

## LEAF Open Farm Sunday



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

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

## LEAF Education





In partnership with our members, we work to engage, inspire, and motivate young people through experiential learning, in order to equip our future generations with balanced and informed insight into food production, farming and the environment. We work across the education and agricultural sectors to mobilise farmers and educators to bring food production, farming and the environment into a learning context and embed an appreciation of farming into everyday life.

LEAF Education manages a number of industry and educational initiatives, including Access to Farms, CEVAS (Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme), and Countryside Classroom. It provides teachers with curriculum focused training, tools, and resources to help them deliver high-quality learning experiences about farming. It helps farmers navigate the world of education and supports them in delivering inspiring and engaging on-farm and in-classroom activities. To find out more visit: <https://leaf.eco/education/leaf-education>

## How to use this Standard

The style and layout of the LEAF Marque Standard is detailed below. Where there is a change for v16.0, this is indicated in **orange**.

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>2.10</b> <b>Organic and inorganic fertiliser applications are recorded.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not apply fertilisers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field records and fertigation records that show evidence that all nutrient applications have been applied at the correct rate and time, and placed accurately</li> <li>Records <b>align with the strategies within the Nutrient Management Plan (see 2.3), and if applicable, the Manure Management Plan (see 4.2)</b></li> <li>Operator records referring to field applications</li> </ul>	   <p>SM.SQ.07</p>

*Control Point Reference* (points to 2.10)

*Verification Icons* (points to speaker and document icons)

*Control Point Compliance* (points to E and N/A)

*LEAF Sustainable Farming Review Reference – hyperlinks directly to LEAF Sustainable Farming Review* (points to SM.SQ.07)

The LEAF Marque Standard is based on principles of Integrated Farm Management and includes plan-based requirements that enable a site specific and whole-farm approach. For all sections of the Standard excluding Organisation and Planning and Engaging Society, there is a corresponding Management Plan(s). These Plans should be informed by any relevant monitoring activities within or beyond the section of the Standard the Plan refers to. This enables contextually relevant strategies and targets to be identified and recorded. The Plan can also include any activities associated with other Control Points; the requirements of what to include in the Plan are a minimum and can be supplemented by other LEAF Marque Standard requirements or additional management activities. If an existing protocol or plan exists that meets the requirements of the Standard, this can also be used – the name of the plan doesn't have to correspond with the Control Point, but compliance with the Control Point must be met.

Due to the degree of interaction between each aspect of Integrated Farm Management, it may be beneficial or necessary to have integration between Management Plans (e.g., Nutrient Management Plan integrated with Manure Management Plan). There are different strategies that can be used to integrate Management Plans, such as combining several plans into one, highlighting which actions have relevance to actions or targets of other Plans, or using a Plan to inform and be informed by other Plans. Regardless of how Plans are integrated, the aim is that Plans benefit you/your business and help support the implementation of Integrated Farm Management Principles. The integration of Plans helps to recognise which activities impact other aspects of Integrated Farm Management, which enables identification of management strategies that deliver positive outcomes across multiple attributes.

## Key

All Control Points are either Essential (E) or Recommended (R). Compliance can be recorded as Not-Applicable (N/A) where determined within the Standard if the business meets the situation (s) stated.

Verification icons are listed for each Control Point; these highlight the means of verification needed to evidence the Control Point and are described in the table below. Unless specified in the verification text, the verification icon(s) are optional and suggestions only.

Control Point Compliance		
		<b>Essential</b> Control Point All certified businesses must comply with these Control Points. Where the icon is <b>orange</b> , the Control Point was not Essential in the previous version of the Standard
		<b>Recommended</b> Control Point Compliance with these Control Points is not compulsory. <b>The Control Points indicate best practice and may either become Essential in the future or remain Recommended if contextual factors prevent relevance to all enterprises and countries.</b> Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , the Control Point was not Recommended in the previous version of the Standard
		<b>Not-Applicable</b> Control Point Applies to situations as determined within the Standard. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , the situations for Not-Applicable have been changed from the previous version of the Standard
Control Point Information		
		<b>New</b> Control Point Control Points which are new to the Standard.
Verification Icon		
		<b>Verbal</b> e.g., interview with business staff and/or management and/or contractors. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard
		<b>Observe</b> e.g., observation of activities, practices, and environment. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard
		<b>Record</b> e.g., a printed or electronic copy of a record or document. Where this icon is <b>orange</b> , it is a new means of verification from the previous version of the Standard

A glossary of terms can be found on the [LEAF Marque Website](#). The glossary is additional guidance and non-binding.






## Organisation and Planning

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

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

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

- More information on the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review can be found on the [LEAF website](#) or [myLEAF](#)
- More information on the LEAF Charity Membership Certificate can be found on the [LEAF website](#) or downloaded from [myLEAF](#)
- More information on the LEAF Product List can be found on the [LEAF website](#). The list of LEAF Marque approved baseline certification systems is also included in the LEAF Product List.
- Previously called the Farm Environmental Policy, LEAF's [Integrated Farm Management Policy](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Health and Safety Risk Assessment](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [IFM PowerPoint](#) can be used to inform staff about LEAF and IFM

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>1.1</b> The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review has been completed.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of Completion of the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review within the last 9 months</li> <li>If part of a Producer Group, the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review is completed by the operator of the Quality Management System on behalf of all members in the LEAF Producer Group</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">myLEAF</a>
<p><b>1.2</b> The business is a certified full member of a LEAF Marque approved baseline certification system for each product.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independently verified baseline certification systems must be approved by LEAF Marque</li> <li>Certificate(s) from approved baseline certification system(s) include all products within the legal entity business, as defined in the LEAF Marque Certification System Rules (e.g., if there are cereals, vegetables and livestock products, the business demonstrates certification of the appropriate baseline system(s) for each)</li> <li>The LEAF Marque Standard applies to all products and land within the control of the farming business</li> <li>Minor products which do not contribute a significant commercial value to the business are exempt if the outcome of these activities is not detrimental to the farm as a whole. These products <b>do</b> not take up a significant part of the business' time or land. Contact LEAF Marque if unsure</li> <li>Products for which there is not a baseline certification system are exempt if the outcome of these activities is not detrimental to the farm as a whole. Contact LEAF Marque if unsure</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.03 LEAF Website</a>
<p><b>1.3</b> The 'Farm Details' and 'Production Information' section of the 'LSFR' has been completed and is accurate.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accurate and up to date 'Farm Details' and 'Production Information' in the business' LEAF Sustainable Farming Review report</li> <li>'Production Information' includes all the business' products</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">LEAF Website</a> <a href="#">OP.BI.01</a> <a href="#">OP.BI.02</a>
<p><b>1.4</b></p>	<p>[Deleted since v13.0]</p>	
<p><b>1.5</b></p>	<p>[Deleted since v13.0]</p>	









## Soil Management and Fertility

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









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

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

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





STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>2.6</b> <b>There is a long-term cropping plan.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where there are perennial crops such as orchard, long-term protected crops, and permanent pasture</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan identifies cropping cycles, including intentions for the future (over at least <b>three</b> years)</li> <li>The rotation/cycle is sustainable and appropriate to the farm business, including the soil, livestock (where applicable) and climate</li> <li><b>The cropping plan references nutrient availability and effective use of nutrients in cropping choice and rotation decisions</b></li> <li>Cropping plan is reviewed annually and, where appropriate, updated</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">CP.CQ.02</a>
<p><b>2.7</b> <b>The risk of soil degradation is assessed prior to operations being carried out to ensure the timing, field conditions, equipment and soil management techniques are appropriate.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in some circumstances where growing in substrate</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The business is able to explain how soil management operations are planned and carried out</li> <li>The producer is able to justify and demonstrate that field operations and/or grazing have minimum environmental impact</li> <li><b>Records of cultivations and field operations are used to inform assessment of risk</b></li> <li>No significant visual evidence of soil damage such as compaction or soil erosion</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">SM.SQ.01</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.03</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.04</a>
<p><b>2.8</b></p>	<p>[Deleted since v16.0]</p>	
<p><b>2.9</b> <b>Recommendations for application of fertilisers (organic or inorganic) are given by competent, qualified persons.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not apply fertilisers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of qualifications for competent, qualified person(s)</li> <li>Evidence to show professional development of competent, qualified person(s) (i.e., training records of adviser or staff)</li> <li>The recommended minimum amount of training or professional development is four hours per year</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.06</a> <a href="#">SM.SQ.09</a>
<p><b>2.10</b> <b>Organic and inorganic fertiliser applications are recorded.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where business does not apply fertilisers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field records and fertigation records that show evidence that all nutrient applications have been applied at the correct rate and time, and placed accurately</li> <li>Records <b>align with the strategies within the Nutrient Management Plan (see 2.3), and if applicable, the Manure Management Plan (see 4.2)</b></li> <li>Operator records referring to field applications</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">SM.SQ.07</a>





# Crop Health and Protection

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












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

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





Grassland and forage crops should be managed as a crop in terms of Crop Health and Protection in order to optimise yield and grass quality for livestock and therefore should also align with the principle of IFM and IPM.

- LEAF's [Crop Health and Protection Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- Sprayer operator's continuous professional development can be provided by schemes such as the [National Register of Spray Operators website](#) in the UK
- More information on storing plant protection products is in the [GLOBALG.A.P Guidelines](#), or in the UK, HSE's [Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users \(AIS No. 16\)](#)



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>3.4</b> There is a record to justify the use of all crop protection practices.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crop protection operation records include justification of products and practices used</li> <li>• Decision support systems, advice tools and/or other precision farming techniques are used</li> <li>• <b>Records state any deviations from the justified practice and the reason for the deviation</b></li> </ul>	   <a href="#">CP.CQ.06</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.09</a>
<p><b>3.5</b> The business considers the environmental impact of all crop protection practices, including plant protection product(s) (PPP), mechanical and cultural practices.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The environmental impact of crop protection practices are considered</b></li> <li>• <b>Identified impacts are used to inform and provide justification for management decisions (e.g., informs strategies in the Crop Health and Protection Plan, justification recorded at the planning stage prior to the growing season)</b></li> </ul>	   <a href="#">CP.CQ.01</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.06</a>
<p><b>3.6</b> Growth stages, infestation levels and plant protection product (PPP) type are considered before deciding on the appropriate rate of plant protection product used.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where PPPs are not applied</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring, recommendation, and spray records show evidence of appropriate dose rates</li> <li>• The use of adjuvants (modifying agents) enabling the use of reduced rates and low volume spraying on crops is only done within the statutory regulations</li> <li>• PPP label instructions are adhered to</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">CP.CQ.06</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.09</a>
<p><b>3.7</b> Steps are taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species.</p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Records state</b> steps taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species including pollinators</li> <li>• Evidence could include use of selective plant protection products (PPPs), evidence of predators, buffer zones, <b>and</b> minimal cultivation</li> </ul>	    <a href="#">CP.CQ.01</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.11</a>
<p><b>3.8</b> There is a documented procedure to ensure harvest intervals are applied.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where PPPs are not applied</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures identify first permissible harvest time and/or date after plant protection product (PPP) application</li> <li>• Procedures are adhered to</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">OP.OQ.19</a>



STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>3.12</b> Protection measures are in place where plant protection products (PPPs) are mixed/handled to ensure potential spillage or resulting pollution is prevented from entering water and the local environment.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> N/A where business does not handle or mix PPPs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPP mixing area takes account of yard drains, slope and proximity to watercourses, very permeable ground in groundwater protected zones/areas and/or highly trafficked areas</li> <li>• PPP mixing areas in the field avoid gateways, locations near ditches, locations in close proximity to underground field drains, very permeable ground in groundwater protected zones/areas and highly trafficked areas</li> <li>• Portable drip trays used</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">CP.CQ.08</a>
<p><b>3.13</b> Plant protection product (PPP) recommendations are made by competent, qualified persons.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> N/A where no PPPs are used</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of qualifications for competent, qualified person(s)</li> <li>• Evidence to show professional development of competent, qualified person(s) (i.e., training records of adviser or staff)</li> <li>• Records of attendance at conferences, training days, manufacturers' technical training and other events aimed at updates on crop protection</li> <li>• The recommended minimum amount of training or professional development is eight hours per year</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a>
<p><b>3.14</b> Operators/contractors are trained in the use of plant protection products (PPPs) and participate in continuous professional development.</p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> N/A where PPPs are not applied</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of qualifications for competent, qualified person(s)</li> <li>• Evidence to show professional development of competent, qualified person(s) (i.e., training records of adviser or staff)</li> <li>• The recommended minimum amount of training or professional development is three or more hours per year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>NOTE:</b> this is a guide and should be proportionate depending on farm size and PPP usage)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	  <a href="#">OP.OQ.09</a> <a href="#">CP.CQ.10</a>
<p><b>3.15</b></p>	<p>[Deleted since v16.0]</p>	







# Pollution Control and By-Product Management

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



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

In many cases farm ‘wastes’ are a valuable resource, and this section focuses on their optimum use in order to make cost savings and decrease pollution risk. ‘Wastes’ can result from any process or activity on-farm.

- LEAF’s [Manure Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include and how to integrate it with your Nutrient Management Plan
- LEAF’s [Pollution Risk Assessment](#) provides more information on what to include
- [Food Waste Matters](#) guidance for fresh producer growers produced by WRAP in conjunction with LEAF





STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>4.11</b> <b>(New v16.0) There is an implemented Waste Audit Action Plan.</b></p> <p><b>R</b></p> <p><b>NEW</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Waste Audit Action Plan is based on the annual Waste Audit (4.1)</li> <li>• Waste Audit Action Plan includes reference to and targets around:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ reducing production of waste</li> <li>○ reuse waste produced</li> <li>○ recycling waste</li> <li>○ safe and effective disposal of waste where it cannot be utilised</li> <li>○ reducing dependency on non-recyclable materials</li> <li>○ the use of alternative materials such as biodegradable or compostable plastics</li> <li>○ closed loop, circular approaches (e.g., send packaging back to manufacturer/supplier for reuse)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If waste cannot be reused, reduced, or recycled it must be justified by the business</li> <li>• Action Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</li> <li>• The implementation of the Action Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan.</li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: right;">   </div> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>OP.OQ.12</u></p>



## Animal Husbandry








**Optimising animal health and welfare, feeding and resource use are essential to implementing Integrated Farm Management (IFM) in any livestock business.**







Good animal welfare is paramount not only for maintaining healthy animals but is also essential for maintaining productivity and reducing environmental impact.

With appropriate planning and management, manures and slurries represent a valuable resource and can form a key fertiliser input, significantly reducing production costs. Feeding decisions should be linked to many aspects of the business, ensuring livestock are fed to maintain their health and welfare, generate a profit and, where possible, reduce environmental impacts. Appropriate management of outdoor-reared livestock can also contribute to improved grass production and reduced sward restoration costs. Suitable management can help reduce topsoil and nutrient losses, improve the quality of watercourses, and enhance biodiversity.

Poor animal husbandry is not only detrimental to animal welfare but can also be at the root of a variety of production, environmental and food safety issues.

- LEAF's [Simply Sustainable Biosecurity](#)
- LEAF's [Livestock Health Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Manure Management Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's [Animal Feed Audit and Animal Feed Action Plan](#)

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>5.1</b> <b>Measures are taken to avoid damage to grassland by livestock and to optimise biodiversity.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if no outdoor livestock production</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Records state</b> livestock management approaches that protect and enhance biodiversity and the environment</li> <li>• Measures taken to optimise biodiversity and reduce soil erosion and run-off may include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ adjusting stocking rates</li> <li>○ adjusting animal movements and/or using rotation</li> <li>○ consideration of permanent tracks</li> <li>○ positioning of gateways and fencing</li> <li>○ positioning of supplementary feeders and drinkers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	    <a href="#">SM.SQ.03</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.12</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.02</a>
<p><b>5.2</b> <b>Nesting birds and wildlife are protected when cutting forage.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if forage is not cut</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of protection by staff and contractors through the direction and timing of cutting</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a>
<p><b>5.3</b> <b>Organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent, slurry and solid organic matter are stored according to best practice.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in circumstances where organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent or solid organic matter is not used or stored</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An active programme of inspection, maintenance and repair is in place for all organic material stores</li> <li>• Stores have sufficient capacity for organic material being stored and expected rainfall as appropriate</li> <li>• All stores are at least 10 metres away from water bodies and further away where necessary (e.g., near a water supply intake)</li> <li>• Field stores are at least 50 metres away from water bodies where potable water is abstracted</li> <li>• Above ground stores have an expected lifespan of at least 20 years from construction with maintenance</li> <li>• Below ground stores have an expected lifespan of at least 20 years from construction without maintenance</li> <li>• Run-off, drainage, and effluent from stores is appropriately managed</li> <li>• Construction materials are appropriate considering permeability and corrosion</li> <li>• Construction of a new store, or alteration to an existing store, has been notified to relevant authorities where required and appropriate (e.g., environmental and planning)</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">SM.SQ.08</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.10</a>

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>5.4</b> <b>There is adequate safe holding capacity for animal manure and slurry for the requirements of the business.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A in circumstances where animal manure and slurry is not stored</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal manure or slurry stores have no potential overspill and/or pollution risk</li> <li>Where there is no minimum capacity stated in law, animal manure or slurry stores have capacity for at least 4 months storage, or as justified in the Manure Management Plan (see 4.2)</li> <li>Records show regular inspection and maintenance</li> </ul>	    <p><a href="#">SM.SQ.08</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.10</a></p>
<p><b>5.5</b> <b>Dirty water and silage effluent are collected and safely recycled.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if no dirty water or silage effluent</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production of dirty water is minimised, and sufficient storage is provided to allow for its effective use</li> <li>Silage effluent is applied in accordance with crop requirements and in suitable conditions</li> <li>Run-off from animal manure on hard surface areas or yards is contained and treated as dirty water</li> </ul>	  <p><a href="#">PC.PQ.04</a> <a href="#">AH.AQ.10</a></p>
<p><b>5.6</b></p>	<p>[Deleted since v16.0]</p>	
<p><b>5.7</b> <b>There is an implemented Livestock Health Plan.</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p> <p><b>N/A</b> <i>N/A if business has no livestock</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Livestock Health Plan is appropriate for all livestock within the business</li> <li>Plan includes reference to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>targets to prevent resistance build-up to veterinary medicines</li> <li>adoption of non-chemical methods to optimise fertility, production, health, and welfare, where relevant</li> <li>biosecurity</li> </ul> </li> <li>Plan has been produced in consultation with and agreed with vet(s)</li> <li>Plan is reviewed at least annually and, where appropriate, updated</li> <li>The implementation of the Plan is reviewed at least annually, recording achievements and progress towards all targets, and used to inform updates to the Plan</li> <li><b>Livestock Health Plan can include the Action Plan based on the Animal Feed Audit (see 5.13)</b></li> </ul>	   <p><a href="#">AH.AQ.01</a></p>







## Energy Efficiency

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

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

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

- LEAF's [Energy Audit and Energy Action Plan](#) provides more information on what to include
- LEAF's Energy Monitoring Spreadsheets provide more information on monitoring energy and are suitable for businesses of different sizes – [Year on Year](#), [Compare Across Sites](#), and [Compare Across Sites and Combined Heat and Power \(CHP\)](#)







# Water Management

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

Good water management practices help protect water sources and improve water quality. In particular, good water management contributes toward reducing run-off and pollution, improved field access, soil workability and restoration of wetland areas. **Improved water retention can be achieved by enhancing soil health, potentially reducing irrigation demands and enabling energy savings.**

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

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











# Landscape and Nature Conservation

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

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






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

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

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>8.1</b>  <b>There is a documented Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (including map).</b></p> <p><b>E</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit includes map(s) with reference to the following key environmental features:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>protected and/or high conservation value areas</b></li> <li>○ lakes, ponds, and watercourses</li> <li>○ semi-natural habitats (e.g., moorland, wetlands, lowland heath, species-rich grassland, carbon sinks etc.)</li> <li>○ linear features (e.g., <b>boundaries</b>, hedges, fence lines, verges, field margins, walls, ditches)</li> <li>○ lists of any important species recorded in the area <b>including rare, threatened, and endangered species and invasive species</b></li> <li>○ other land on which important species are found</li> <li>○ areas that are grazed</li> <li>○ <b>other uncropped land managed for the benefit of flora and fauna</b></li> <li>○ public rights of way</li> <li>○ archaeological or historical sites</li> <li>○ traditional buildings</li> <li>○ fire breaks that help protect crops and habitats</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Audit includes notes on how the farming operations could damage, or have detrimental effects, on these features</li> <li>• Audit completed by the <b>business or</b> specialist adviser</li> <li>• Audit regularly reviewed (at least every five years) by <b>a</b> specialist adviser and annually by <b>the business</b></li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: right;">   </div> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>LN.LQ.01</u></p>





STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
<p><b>8.10</b> <b>There is a license for any removal of trees (where required and appropriate).</b></p> <p><b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where no trees have been removed</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval documents (where required and appropriate) are present where recent tree felling is apparent</li> <li>Recent tree felling is referred to in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan and is in accordance with local regulations</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a>
<p><b>8.11</b> <b>In-field trees and trees in boundaries and hedgerows are retained.</b></p> <p><b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A where there are no trees in-field, within hedges or within boundaries</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hedgerows and trees are present as recorded in the Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (see 8.1)</li> <li>Records to show if trees causing a hazard have been removed</li> </ul>	   <a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.07</a> <a href="#">LN.LQ.08</a>
<p><b>8.12</b> <b>Deep cultivation under the canopy of trees is avoided.</b></p> <p><b>E</b> <b>N/A</b> <i>N/A for businesses where there are no in-field trees or hedgerows</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep cultivations are not used under field trees and hedgerows except where trees have been deliberately grown or retained as shade trees</li> <li>Trees in a boundary or wood edge are bordered by a two-metre margin (see 8.14)</li> </ul>	  <a href="#">LN.LQ.06</a>
<p><b>8.13</b></p>	<p>[Deleted since v15.0]</p>	















## Engaging Society

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

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

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

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

STANDARD	VERIFICATION	
9.1	[Deleted since v15.0]	
9.2	[Deleted since v15.0]	
9.3	[Deleted since v15.0]	
<p data-bbox="204 439 523 645"><b>9.4</b> At least one activity is carried out annually with the intention of engaging local or wider community(ies).</p> <p data-bbox="209 667 268 725"><b>E</b></p>	<ul data-bbox="584 439 1206 1189" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes a description of the activity; objective(s) of the activity; date(s) of delivery; personnel responsible for delivery; evaluates whether the objective(s) was met. Less detail may be appropriate where a significant number of activities are carried out</li> <li>• Where activities relate to food, farming, and nature, they include reference to Integrated Farm Management (IFM) and sustainable farming as appropriate</li> <li>• In the first year, the activity can be related to improving skills to support delivery in future years</li> <li>• For whichever group(s) of people which are selected, their needs and preferences are considered where appropriate</li> <li>• Activities may be repeated or extended over more than one year</li> <li>• For LEAF Producer Groups, activity(ies) may be undertaken by the Producer Group on behalf of the farms</li> </ul>	<div data-bbox="1222 439 1417 497">    </div> <div data-bbox="1289 891 1417 1205"> <p><a href="#">CE.MQ.01</a>  <a href="#">CE.MQ.02</a>  <a href="#">CE.MQ.03</a>  <a href="#">CE.MQ.04</a>  <a href="#">CE.MQ.05</a>  <a href="#">CE.MQ.06</a>  <a href="#">CE.MQ.07</a>  <a href="#">CE.MQ.08</a>  <a href="#">CE.MQ.09</a></p> </div>
<p data-bbox="204 1236 523 1442"><b>9.5</b> The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review data questions on Community Engagement have been completed.</p> <p data-bbox="209 1464 268 1523"><b>E</b></p>	<ul data-bbox="584 1236 1206 1406" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEAF Sustainable Farming Review questions Open Farm Sunday (CE.MD.01), Visits and Talks (CE.MD.02), Media Engagement (CE.MD.03) and Wider Engagement (CE.MD.04) have been completed with appropriate figures</li> </ul>	<div data-bbox="1356 1236 1417 1294">  </div> <div data-bbox="1289 1451 1417 1585"> <p><a href="#">CE.MD.01</a>  <a href="#">CE.MD.02</a>  <a href="#">CE.MD.03</a>  <a href="#">CE.MD.04</a></p> </div>



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