

LEAF Marque Standard Version 15.0 Checklist

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This Checklist aims to support businesses when preparing for their LEAF Marque Audit. It does not replace the LEAF Marque Standard v15.0 which provides further information on the verification requirements and evidence needed. Further guidance can be found on the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review and the LEAF Marque Website.

Red text indicates the information which has been either edited or new for the LEAF Marque Standard v15.0.

CP No.	Control Point	E - Essential	R - Recommended	N/A	Notes on N/A eligibility
1. Organisation and Planning					
1.1	The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review has been completed.	E			
1.2	The business is a certified full member of a LEAF Marque approved baseline certification system for each product .	E			
1.3	The 'Farm Details' and 'Production Information' section of the 'My Profile' of 'myLEAF' has been completed and is accurate.	E			
1.4	(Deleted since v13.0)				
1.5	(Deleted since v13.0)				
1.6	There is an Integrated Farm Management Policy.	E			
1.7	(Deleted since v15.0)				
1.8	(Deleted since v15.0)				
1.9	(Deleted since v15.0)				
1.10	The Integrated Farm Management Policy is signed and understood by permanent members of staff.	E			
1.11	Relevant elements of the Integrated Farm Management Policy have been communicated to suppliers and contractors.	E			
1.12	Resource use and waste management are considered when purchasing or designing buildings and/or equipment .	E			
1.13	(Deleted since v15.0)				
1.14	There is a record of all received complaints and evidence of appropriate actions.	E			
1.15	Relevant staff attend regular training or awareness events on the principles and practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM).	E			
1.16	(Deleted since v14.1)				
1.17	There is a Health and Safety Risk Assessment.	E			
1.18	(Deleted since v15.0)				
1.19	(Deleted since v15.0)				
1.20	(Deleted since v15.0)				
1.21	(Deleted since v15.0)				
2. Soil Management and Fertility					
2.1	There is an implemented Soil Management Plan (including a descriptive map).	E			
2.2	Measures are taken to conserve and build up soil organic matter.	E		N/A	N/A in some circumstances where growing media other than soil is used
2.3	There is an implemented Nutrient Management Plan that is integrated with a Manure Management Plan (4.2).	E			
2.4	The business is aware of soils, livestock and crops that are prone to trace element deficiencies.	E			
2.5	(Deleted since v11.0)				
2.6	There is a long-term cropping plan.	E		N/A	N/A in some circumstances where there are perennial crops such as orchard and long-term protected crops and permanent pasture
2.7	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.	E		N/A	N/A in some circumstances where growing media other than soil is used
2.8	All cultivations and field operations are recorded.		R	N/A	N/A where business does not carry out cultivations or field operations
2.9	Recommendations for application of fertilisers (organic or inorganic) are given by competent, qualified persons.	E		N/A	N/A where business does not apply fertilisers

2.10	Organic and inorganic fertiliser applications are recorded.	E		N/A	N/A where business does not apply fertilisers
2.11	Operators/contractors are trained in accurate techniques of nutrient application.	E			
2.12	Nitrogen use efficiency is measured.		R		N/A in some circumstances where measurement is not practical. This should be justified by the business
2.13	Control measures are implemented to minimise the loss of nutrients when applying organic matter.	E		N/A	N/A if manure or organic matter not applied
2.14	(New v15.0) Soil health is measured.		R	N/A	N/A in some circumstances where growing media other than soil is used
3. Crop Health and Protection					
3.1	There is an implemented Crop Health and Protection Plan.	E			
3.2	There are strategies to avoid weed, disease and pest resistance to herbicides, fungicides and insecticides.	E			
3.3	There is a system in place for monitoring and recording pests (including vertebrate), disease, weed levels and beneficial predatory species. The system is used to decide when to apply plant	E			
3.4	There is a record to justify the use of all crop protection practices.	E			
3.5	The business considers the environmental impact of all crop protection practices, including plant protection product (PPP), mechanical and cultural practices.	E			
3.6	Growth stages, infestation levels and plant protection product type are considered before deciding on the appropriate rate of plant protection product (PPP) used.	E		N/A	N/A where PPPs are not applied
3.7	Steps are taken to minimise damage to beneficial and non-target species.	E			
3.8	There is a documented procedure to ensure harvest intervals are applied.	E		N/A	N/A where PPPs are not applied
3.9	Precautions are taken to ensure plant protection product (PPP) use is limited to the area in which it is required.	E		N/A	N/A where PPPs are not applied
3.10	There is a documented and displayed procedure and notification process to alert relevant staff and/or authorities for dealing with spillages damaging to the environment, people and animals.	E			
3.11	Plant protection product (PPP) applications are recorded.	E		N/A	N/A where PPPs are not applied
3.12	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	E		N/A	N/A where business does not handle or mix PPPs
3.13	Plant protection product (PPP) recommendations are made by competent qualified persons.	E			
3.14	Operators/contractors are trained in the use of plant protection products (PPPs) and participate in continuous professional development.	E		N/A	N/A where PPPs are not applied
3.15	Staff/contractors are trained in the identification of pests, diseases and crop disorders.		R		
3.16	Plant protection products (PPPs) application equipment have test certificates from a nationally-recognised scheme or are appropriately maintained and calibrated to ensure safe and reliable	E		N/A	N/A where PPPs are not applied
3.17	Plant protection products (PPPs) are stored securely to give protection to the environment and people.	E		N/A	N/A where business does not store PPPs
3.18	Only plant protection products (PPPs) with approval are used and stored.	E		N/A	N/A where business does not store PPPs
3.19	Plant protection products (PPPs) are used at the appropriate rate and timing for safe and effective use.	E		N/A	N/A where PPPs are not applied
3.20	Adequate precautions are taken to protect neighbouring businesses and the public from plant protection product (PPP) application activities.		R	N/A	N/A where PPPs are not applied
4. Pollution Control and By-Product Management					
4.1	Measures are taken to minimise waste.	E			
4.2	There is an implemented Manure Management Plan that is integrated with the Nutrient Management Plan (see 2.3).	E		N/A	N/A if organic material is not produced or used
4.3	Fixed fuel tanks are bunded and potential spillages are prevented from entering watercourses.	E			
4.4	Equipment and machinery is regularly maintained and calibrated to ensure accurate and efficient application and operation.	E		N/A	N/A where business does not use sprayers, fertiliser and muck/manure spreaders, tractors and equipment used for treating and handling livestock
4.5	There is a Pollution Risk Assessment that identifies, documents and records all potential pollutants on a map.	E			
4.6	(Deleted since v15.0)				
4.7	Quality and condition of drainage ditches and watercourses are visually monitored.		R	N/A	N/A if no ditches or watercourses

4.8	There are maps of all drainage schemes for fields and general farm building areas.		R		
4.9	New land drainage is recorded and outlets are identified.	E		N/A	N/A if no new land drainage
5. Animal Husbandry					
5.1	Measures are taken to avoid damage to grassland by livestock and to optimise biodiversity.	E		N/A	N/A if no outdoor livestock production
5.2	Nesting birds and wildlife are protected when cutting forage.	E		N/A	N/A if forage is not cut
5.3	Organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent, slurry and solid organic matter are stored according to best practice.	E		N/A	N/A in circumstances where organic material, digestate, compost, silage, silage effluent or solid organic matter is not used or stored
5.4	There is adequate safe holding capacity for animal manure and slurry for the requirements of the business.	E		N/A	N/A in circumstances where animal manure and slurry is not stored
5.5	Dirty water and silage effluent are collected and safely recycled.	E		N/A	N/A if no dirty water or silage effluent
5.6	Environmentally-sensitive areas, identified in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan, are protected and managed appropriately.	E		N/A	N/A if business has no livestock
5.7	There is an implemented Livestock Health Plan.	E		N/A	N/A if business has no livestock
5.8	There is an annual visit from your vet(s) to discuss animal health strategy and welfare issues.	E		N/A	N/A if business has no livestock
5.9	(Upgraded v15.0) Animal health and welfare indicators are monitored and used to assess performance on a production cycle basis.	E		N/A	N/A if business has no livestock
5.1	(New v15.0) Staff/ contractors are trained in monitoring of animal health and welfare indicators.		R	N/A	N/A if business has no livestock
5.11	(New v15.0) Animal performance indicators are monitored on a production cycle basis.		R	N/A	N/A if business has no livestock
5.12	(New v15.0) There is an Animal Feed Audit.		R	N/A	N/A if business has no livestock
5.13	(New v15.0) There is an implemented Action Plan based on the Animal Feed Audit.		R	N/A	N/A if business has no livestock
6. Energy Efficiency					
6.1	There is an annual Energy Audit.	E			
6.2	Energy consumption is monitored.	E			
6.3	CO2 emissions are recorded.	E			
6.4	(Upgraded v15.0) There is an implemented Energy Action Plan	E			
7. Water Management					
7.1	There is an implemented Water Management Plan.	E			
7.2	(Deleted since v15.0)				
7.3	Applied water use efficiency is measured.	E		N/A	N/A when no irrigation is carried out or in some circumstances when measurement is not practical and justified by the business
7.4	Applied water use efficiency measurements are analysed, any changes justified, and measurements are used to plan improvements.		R	N/A	N/A when no irrigation is carried out or in some circumstances when measurement is not practical and justified by the business
7.5	The business is increasing the percentage of water use from stored water from periods of natural rainfall abundance over direct abstraction. The business is also developing rainwater harvesting and water reuse opportunities.		R	N/A	N/A for those not using irrigation
8. Landscape and Nature Conservation					
8.1	There is a documented Landscape and Nature Conservation Audit (including map).	E			
8.2	There is an implemented Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan.	E			
8.3	The Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan is an integral part of the farming system.	E			
8.4	Information is sought about landlord's conservation management practices where land is rented for less than three years.	E		N/A	N/A where there is no rented land

8.5	Contractors, or tenants who rent land from the certified business, manage the land in a way that protects and enhances the environment.		R	N/A	N/A where no contractors used or land is rented out
8.6	Environmental impact is minimised if the business has brought or is planning to bring “uncultivated land or semi-natural areas” into agricultural use in the last 12 months or near future.	E		N/A	N/A where business has not brought or is not planning to bring “uncultivated land or semi-natural areas” into agricultural use in the last 12 months or near future
8.7	Traditional field boundaries, environmental/landscape features and other natural habitats are retained.	E			
8.8	Timing and frequency of field/boundary management is restricted.	E		N/A	N/A for fields where there is not a distinguishable boundary feature
8.9	Timing and frequency of watercourse management is restricted.	E		N/A	N/A for businesses where there are no watercourses
8.10	There is a license for any removal of trees (where required and appropriate).	E		N/A	N/A for businesses where no trees have been removed
8.11	In-field trees and trees in boundaries and hedgerows are retained.	E		N/A	N/A where there are no trees in-field, within hedges or within boundaries
8.12	Deep cultivation under the canopy of trees is avoided.	E		N/A	N/A for businesses where there are no in-field trees or hedgerows
8.13	(Deleted since v15.0)				
8.14	Field margins and boundaries are under sympathetic management.	E			
8.15	Native habitat banks are present in fields larger than 20 hectares.		R	N/A	N/A for businesses where there are no fields larger than 20 hectares
8.16	Native and/or appropriate species are used in field margins and other habitats.	E			
8.17	(Deleted since v14.1)				
8.18	Care is taken to avoid damage or destruction of national/local important ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest.	E		N/A	N/A where there are no ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest
8.19	Flora and fauna are able to thrive through rotation and leaving land uncropped.		R		
8.20	Field operations are adjusted to avoid areas where birds are nesting.	E			
8.21	Staff are involved in planning and implementing improvement to habitats and landscape features.		R		
8.22	Flora/fauna, wildlife and/or wider environment on the farm is monitored.		R		
8.23	There is a minimum of 5% farm area available as appropriate habitats, not used for cropping and food production.		R		
8.24	Nesting habitat, summer food and winter food for farmland birds are provided alongside other activities to enhance the habitat for native fauna.	E			
8.25	Bees and pollinators are included as key species in the Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan.	E			
8.26	(Upgraded v15.0) The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review question On-Farm Habitats has been completed.	E			
8.27	(New v15.0) At least one representative species or habitat, that can be justified in environmental terms, is monitored on the farm.		R		
9. Community Engagement					
9.1	(Deleted since v15.0)				
9.2	(Deleted since v15.0)				
9.3	(Deleted since v15.0)				
9.4	(New v15.0) At least one activity is carried out annually with the intention of engaging local or wider community(ies).	E			
9.5	(New v15.0) The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review data questions on Community Engagement have been completed.	E			