



LEAF Marque Standard. Version 17.0

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





Document: LEAF Marque Standard v17.0
Published: 5th November 2025
Effective From: 5th May 2026

Version History

Version Number	Date of Publication	Changes
v17.0	5 th November 2025	See Appendix A – Changes to LEAF Marque Standard (v16.1 to v17.0)

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 v16.1 have been made to the Control Points listed in the [Appendix A – Changes to LEAF Marque Standard \(v16.1 to v17.0\)](#).

LEAF Marque Ltd
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2LG
United Kingdom

t: +44 (0)24 7641 3911
e: info@leafmarque.com
w: www.leafmarque.eco
 @LEAF_Farming

© LEAF Marque Ltd
All rights reserved.



Contents

Introduction	4
LEAF Marque	4
Scope	5
Revising the Standard	6
LEAF's Integrated Farm Management	7
LEAF Sustainable Farming Review	7
LEAF Resources	7
How to use this Standard	8
Key	9
Control Points	10
Business Planning and Resilience.....	10
Soil and Substrate Management	18
Crop Health and Integrated Pest Management	31
Waste and By-Product Management.....	44
Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	50
Water Management.....	57
Landscape and Biodiversity.....	66
Engaging Society.....	82
Livestock Management	85



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. Support farmer resilience and build farming businesses that are environmentally and economically resilient.
2. Create synergies with people, farming systems and wider society to share knowledge throughout the food system.
3. Minimise the effects of the environment on livestock and minimise negative impacts of livestock systems on the environment.
4. Create more diverse, improved, and connected habitats to protect and enhance biodiversity.
5. Manage water efficiently to improve water quality, reduce pollution and enhance climate resilience.
6. Improved soil conservation and restoration practices, that promote soil quality, health, and nutrition, to improve soil functionality.
7. Implement effective IPM solutions to produce healthy crops and plants that require minimal interventions.



8. Sustainable sourcing, monitoring and use of resources that support responsible waste reduction practices.
9. Improved energy use and efficiency, via monitoring and sourcing of renewable energy and the implementation of strategies to reduce GHG emissions.
10. Implement regenerative practices to mitigate the negative impacts of farming, sequester carbon and improve soil and ecosystem health.

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 Standard, Integrated Farm Management, and the LEAF Marque audit applies the whole farm (all products, land, and farming activities within the control of the farming business). 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 conform with all the **Core** Control Points within the Standard. Conformance with the **Advanced** Control Points is preferable but not mandatory, and they may become Core 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 on the [LEAF website](#) and myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



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 (v16.1 and earlier).

There were two public consultations held for the LEAF Marque Standard v17.0 Draft between the 12th March 2024 to the 10th May 2024 and the 1st October 2024 to the 29th November 2024.

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. The next review of the LEAF Marque Standard will take place no later than 1st October 2030.



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.



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 can be found on the [LEAF website](#) and myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



How to use this Standard

The style and layout of the LEAF Marque Standard is detailed below.

Control Point Reference	LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Verification Icon	Guidance
	3.1.6 Future pest, weed and disease risks are assessed/forecasted. Advanced	-	a. The business assesses and forecasts future pest, weed and disease risks (e.g., due to climate change, resistance, etc.).		Purpose: Assessing and forecasting future risks (e.g., pest, weed and disease pressures that could develop and present challenges in the future) can help the business to be proactive in its management planning and implement preventative strategies. 
	Control Point Conformance		Indicates that control point can be evidenced at Producer Group level		

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 Business Planning and Resilience 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. 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 Core or Advanced. Conformance can be recorded as Not Applicable (N/A) where determined within the Standard if the business meets the situation(s) stated. The acceptable means of verification needed to evidence the Control Points in the v17.0 LEAF Marque Standard include Record, Observe, and Verbal verification – these verification formats are described in the table below.

Control Point Conformance	
Core Control Point	Conformance with Core control points is mandatory for LEAF Marque certification. Unless they are specifically labelled as Advanced, all control points are considered Core control points. <i>Conformance Outcomes for Core control points: Conforms, Non-Conformance, or Not Applicable.</i>
Advanced Control Point	Conformance with Advanced control points is <u>not</u> mandatory for LEAF Marque certification. These control points indicate best practice and may either become Core in the future or remain Advanced if contextual factors prevent relevance to all enterprises and countries. <i>Conformance Outcomes for Advanced control points: Conforms, Recommendation, or Not Applicable.</i>
Not Applicable Control Point	Applies to situations determined to be Not Applicable within the Standard.
Control Point Information	
New	Control points which are new to the Standard.
Upgraded	Control points that have become Core (mandatory) in the Standard which were optional in the previous version of the Standard (Recommended in v16.1).
Verification Format	
Record	e.g., a printed or electronic copy of a record or document. In the v17.0 LEAF Marque Standard, the Record icon  indicates where a Record is mandatory evidence for a control point or a specific verification point. Additional supporting evidence in Observational or Verbal format may also be used to demonstrate conformance.
Observe	e.g., observation of activities, practices, and environment.
Verbal	e.g., interview with business staff and/or management and/or contractors. In the v17.0 LEAF Marque Standard, LEAF have indicated in the Guidance Column where it is deemed acceptable to evidence specific control points or specific verification points Verbally only. Typically, this includes where a business is required to demonstrate “awareness”, or where a business is required to provide a “justification.”
Guidance Column	
A Guidance column is included in the v17.0 LEAF Marque Standard document, which provides guidance on how to interpret the LEAF Marque requirements. The  icon indicates that the control point can be evidenced at producer group level.	



Business Planning & Resilience.

Effective organisation and planning are the foundations to a successful Integrated Farm Management (IFM) approach. Setting, reviewing and updating the business' objectives that relate to its commitments and aims to IFM, provide the means by which the benefits of IFM can be quantified, demonstrated and continuously improved.

Staff and contractor training and awareness of IFM principles and practices, along with the communication of environmental sustainability objectives to relevant individuals carrying out farm operations are important to ensure the land is managed sustainably.

It is also important that business and environmental risks are assessed, and strategies developed to enable the business to function safely and efficiently, reduce its impact on the environment and strengthen its resilience.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
1.1 LEAF Sustainable Farming Review			
1.1.1 The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review has been completed.	-	a. The LEAF Sustainable Farming Review (LSFR) is completed/updated annually before the LEAF Marque audit.	 Purpose: To complete/update the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review (LSFR) prior to the LEAF Marque audit. The LSFR is an online self-assessment management tool to help the business farm more sustainably. It enables the business to monitor its performance, identify strengths and weaknesses and set targets for improvement across the whole farm. 
		b. The 'Farm Details' and 'Products' section of the LSFR has been completed and is accurate. i. 'Products' section includes all the business' products.	
	N/A if not part of a Producer Group	c. If part of a Producer Group, the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review is completed via the operator of the Quality Management System.	
1.2 Baseline Certification			
1.2.1 The business is a fully certified member of a LEAF Marque-approved baseline certification system for each product requiring LEAF Marque certification.	-	a. The LEAF Marque Standard, Integrated Farm Management, and scope of the audit applies to the whole farm (all products, land and farming activities within the control of the farming business).	 Purpose: To ensure the business has a baseline certificate for each product requiring LEAF Marque certification. LEAF Marque is an environmental sustainability standard. Baseline farm assurance standards address requirements not covered in the scope of LEAF Marque, such as food safety and animal welfare, which are critical for food production. Note: A list of LEAF Marque approved baseline certification systems can be found on the LEAF website in the LEAF Product List document. 
		b. Products which are to be LEAF Marque certified and eligible to use the LEAF Marque logo must be certified to a LEAF Marque approved-baseline certification.	
		c. Where products do not have a baseline certification, activities are not detrimental to the intended impacts of LEAF Marque, the farm and its surrounding environment.	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
1.3 Legal Requirements			
(New) 1.3.1 Awareness of all applicable national and local regulatory and legislative requirements.	-	a. The business is aware of all applicable national and local legislative requirements within the scope of the LEAF Marque Standard, including awareness about how to comply.	Purpose: To ensure the business is aware of/aware of how to comply with all applicable national and local legislative requirements that are within the scope of the LEAF Marque standard, related to sustainability and the environment. It is acceptable to evidence control point verbally. 
1.4 Complaints			
1.4.1 There is a record of all received complaints and evidence of appropriate actions.	N/A where there are no complaints	a. Records show: - Type of complaint(s) (New) Date of complaint(s) (New) Observations as to how complaint has arisen - Actions taken to resolve complaint(s)	 Purpose: To assess/understand the complaint(s) received by the business and confirm that appropriate actions have been taken to resolve the complaint(s) and consider preventative actions to ensure sustainable farming. Note: The focus of the control point is complaint(s) related to farm operations and environmental management.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
1.5 Integrated Farm Management			
1.5.1 There is an Integrated Farm Management Policy.	-	a. The Integrated Farm Management Policy states the business' commitments and aims relating to Integrated Farm Management (IFM).	 Purpose: To establish the business' commitments and aims relating to IFM, including its short-term and long-term sustainability objectives. IFM is made up of nine sections, which together address the entire farm business. Each of the nine sections is interrelated and an understanding of how they work together is essential for the effective implementation of IFM and more sustainable farming. IFM delivers more sustainable farming by contributing to environmental quality, economic performance and social health. 
		b. Policy sets out the business' short-term (present to five years) and long-term (more than five years) objectives.	
		c. Policy shows commitment to continuous improvement.	
		d. Policy is relevant to all of the business' activities.	
		e. Policy is reviewed annually and, where appropriate, updated.	
		f. Policy is signed and understood by senior management.	
		g. Policy is communicated and available/accessible to all staff.	
	N/A where the business does not work with contractors	h. Relevant elements of the IFM Policy have been communicated to contractors.	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
1.5.2 The business provides regular internal awareness and training on IFM principles and practices for relevant staff/contractors.	N/A where there is no staff	a. Record of staff training and attendance.		Purpose: To ensure all relevant staff/contractors, through internal annual training, are aware of the IFM principles and practices. Awareness of the IFM principles and practices will enable staff/contractors to work to deliver more sustainable farming. Note: "Training" does not necessarily refer to IFM Training facilitated by LEAF. The business is not required to attend a LEAF facilitated training; this can be internal training. 
		b. Training is provided annually.		
		c. Staff have an awareness of IFM, including any improvements that have arisen from the business implementing IFM.		
	N/A where the business does not have staff or does not work with contractors	d. Contractors have an awareness of IFM and carry out works in accordance with LEAF Marque Standard.		
		e. (New) Staff and contractors have access to the LEAF Marque Standard.		
(Upgraded) 1.5.3 Where the business has overall management, or ownership, of tenanted or contracted land, there is an agreement that contractors or tenants must manage the land in a way that protects and enhances the environment.	N/A where no contractors used or no land is rented out	a. (Upgraded/New) There is correspondence and an agreement that ensures contractors and tenants will protect/enhance the environmental features of the land and manage the land sustainably.		Purpose: To ensure that rented land is being managed sustainably, given that rented land can make up a large proportion of food production in some regions/sectors. Note: Tenants who farm LEAF Marque-approved land, where the certificate is held by the landlord, cannot sell their produce as LEAF Marque certified, without being LEAF Marque certified themselves.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 1.5.4 Where the business rents land/is a tenant, it seeks landowners with sustainability objectives. Advanced	N/A where the business does not rent land	a. The business supports the landowner's sustainability objectives during the tenancy period.		Purpose: To ensure rented land is being managed sustainably and sustainability objectives are aligned to the scope of the LEAF Marque Standard.
1.5.5 Resource use and waste management opportunities are identified when purchasing, designing, or refurbishing buildings/equipment.	N/A where no buildings and equipment purchased, designed, or refurbished in the past 12 months and/or future plans	a. During purchase, design, or refurbishment of buildings/equipment in the past 12 months or future plans, the business identifies opportunities to: • Source or generate renewable energy • (New) Improve energy efficiency • Recover or recycle water • Reduce potential GHG emissions • (New) Use recycled/recyclable or biodegradable/compostable materials, or re-use materials • Enhance utilisation of available CO₂ and water, and natural sources of light and heat b. Purchase and design decisions are justified to demonstrate how they improve resource use efficiency (including energy, water, and waste management).		Purpose: To ensure the business is identifying opportunities to improve its sustainability when purchasing, designing, or refurbishing buildings and/or equipment. Note: This does not include the general maintenance of buildings and equipment. Justification of these purchase and design decisions (1.5.5.b) can be stated in the IFM Policy. It is also acceptable to evidence 1.5.5.b verbally.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
1.6 Assessing Risk and Resilience			
1.6.1 There is a health and safety risk assessment.	-	a. There is a health and safety risk assessment that covers the whole business. i. Risk assessment is reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. ii. Risks are communicated to all staff and contractors. iii. Staff understand the importance of reducing risk in day-to-day operations.	 Purpose: Health and Safety is a fundamental requirement of a sustainable farming business. It is important to identify and evaluate the potential risks and hazards on farm and the management practices which can be incorporated to minimise the chances of the risks occurring. 
1.6.2 There is a pollution risk assessment.	-	a. There is a pollution risk assessment. i. Risk assessment is reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. ii. Risk Assessment includes: • All types of pollution and the cause, including air pollution, light, noise, soil, surface and ground water pollutants • Awareness of diffuse vs. point source pollutants • Pollution risks are assessed against likelihood and severity of impact • Pollution incidents or near-misses are recorded • Strategies to prevent pollution and its impact iii. (New) There is awareness of any pollution risks caused by external sources.	 Purpose: To identify all potential sources of pollution from the farm operations, and any pollution risks caused by external sources, as well as identify strategies to prevent pollution and its negative impacts on the environment. It is acceptable to evidence 1.6.2.a.iii verbally. 



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
1.6.3 Climate resilience is assessed.	-	a. There is awareness of: i. Locally relevant extreme weather events and their potential risks to the business. ii. Strategies to mitigate the risks of extreme weather events and enhance climate resilience. iii. Strategies to respond/adapt to extreme weather events when they occur (e.g., to minimise negative impacts).		Purpose: To identify strategies to prepare for and adapt to the local impacts of climate change, including the occurrence of extreme weather events (e.g., drought, flooding, etc). It is acceptable to evidence control point verbally. 
(New) 1.6.4 Business resilience is assessed. Advanced	-	a. The business assesses/is aware of strategies to strengthen its resilience (e.g., enterprise/variety selection, market opportunities, etc.).		Purpose: To identify ways to strengthen the business' ability to prepare for and/or adapt to shocks and pressures the business may experience (e.g., market fluctuations, increased cost of inputs, pest and disease pressures, changing weather patterns, etc.). It is acceptable to evidence control point verbally. 



Soil & Substrate Management.

Soil is the foundation of agricultural production, making its conservation and improvement a priority in Integrated Farm Management (IFM).

The availability of land and fertile soil is essential for healthy, productive crops and livestock. Good quality soil not only supports plant growth, but can also provide essential nutrients, regulate soil moisture, act as a carbon sink, and promote biodiversity.

Effective soil management includes regular analysis and maintenance/improvement of the soil's physical, chemical, and biological properties. This helps ensure soils' long-term fertility, builds organic matter, and reduces the risk of erosion, structural degradation, and compaction. Additionally, it can help mitigate extreme weather events such as flooding and drought by balancing water retention and drainage in soils. By promoting soil health, good soil stewardship can enhance yields and support profitability.

Substrates, on the other hand, are growth mediums that often serve as substitutes for traditional soil in containers or other growing systems, particularly in protected cropping of indoor systems. The sustainable management of non-soil substrates is also an important part of IFM. Like soil, they provide a stable foundation for plant roots to grow and may supply essential nutrients. Additionally, substrates play a critical role in regulating water retention and aeration, ensuring roots have access to both water and oxygen.

Beyond supporting plant growth, substrates help prevent the spread of soilborne diseases and offer greater control over growing conditions. They are also space-efficient, making them ideal for modern cultivation methods. Improving the sustainability of non-soil substrate usage accounts for the type and source of growing media materials, optimising their longevity, and recycling and disposing of used growing media responsibly.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
2.1 Assessment and Planning			
(New) 2.1.1 There is a soil assessment.	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil	a. The assessment is: i. Reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. ii. Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.	 Purpose: To assess and understand the various soil types, their current condition on the farm, and any risks of soil degradation. This can help inform the business' soil management strategies, as different soil types and locations may present different challenges that require tailored strategies to prevent degradation and support soil health and crop productivity. 
		b. The assessment includes: i. A map that identifies: • All soil types and their condition • Areas at risk of compaction, slumping, poaching, erosion, runoff, leaching, or salinisation ii. (New) Identification of soil degradation risks related to: • Land topography/slope • Crop type • Weather conditions • Bare ground • Growing/harvesting method	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
2.1.2 There is a soil management plan.	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil	a. The plan is: i. Based on the soil assessment. ii. Reviewed annually, including: • Assessing/recording progress towards targets • Updating strategies and targets, where appropriate iii. Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: Soil management planning, based on the soil assessment helps the business identify strategies to improve soil health and minimise soil degradation. Soil is the basis of agricultural production, and the conservation and improvement of this valuable resource supports crop productivity and resilience, flood and drought management, pollution control and carbon storage. 
		b. The plan includes: i. Strategies to: • Improve/support soil health • Minimise soil degradation (compaction, slumping, poaching, erosion, runoff, leaching, post-harvest soil condition) • (New) Manage peat soils more sustainably, where applicable ii. Targets to: • Improve and maintain biological, physical, and chemical attributes of soil health • (New) Integrate regenerative soil management practices, where appropriate and possible		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 2.1.3 There is a substrate assessment.	N/A where substrate is not used	a. The assessment is: i. Reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. ii. Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: To assess and understand the substrate types and their current conditions, and to identify potential degradation risks related to disease, saturation, or contamination. Early identification of these risks allows for the implementation of targeted intervention strategies, helping to prevent long-term productivity loss and maintain substrate health. 
		b. The assessment includes: i. Growing media type(s) and their condition. The type and source of growing media selected must be justified. ii. Growing media longevity/life expectancy. iii. Growing media degradation risks related to disease, saturation, or contamination. iv. The reuse or disposal of growing media. v. Any chemicals applied to sterilise growing media.		
(New) 2.1.4 There is a substrate management plan.	N/A where substrate is not used	a. The plan is: i. Based on the substrate assessment. ii. Reviewed annually, including: • Assessing/recording progress towards targets • Updating strategies/targets, where appropriate iii. Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: Substrate management planning, based on the substrate assessment, helps the business identify strategies to improve/optmise the effectiveness and longevity of growing media use. 



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(2.1.4 continues)		b. The plan includes: i. Strategies to: • Optimise water retention/drainage and aeration of growing media • Optimise longevity of growing media use ii. Targets to: • Improve the sustainability of growing media use		
	N/A where soil/substrate are used	c. If growing in neither soil nor other growing media, there are strategies to optimise management of the root-zone environment.		
(New) 2.1.5 There is a nutrient assessment.	-	a. The assessment is: i. Reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. ii. Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: To assess and understand crop nutrient requirements and the availability of nutrients in soils/substrates to ensure effective nutrient management planning. Note: This refers to all organic and inorganic nutrients, including synthetic fertilisers, animal manure and slurry, compost, etc.
		b. The assessment includes: i. The crop nutrient requirements, based on regular soil/substrate testing. For soil, at a minimum, this includes pH testing. ii. Fertiliser type and nutrient content of organic/inorganic fertilisers. At a minimum, this includes nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K). iii. Awareness of trace element deficiencies in the soil/substrate (e.g., records of visible crop symptoms). iv. (New) The application of nutrients is justified.		





LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
2.1.6 There is an integrated nutrient management plan.	-	a. The plan is: i. Based on the nutrient assessment. ii. Reviewed annually, including: • Updating strategies, where appropriate iii. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: To optimise crop nutrition and performance and mitigate negative impacts of organic/inorganic nutrient applications on the environment (e.g., pollution of surface water and groundwater, nitrous oxide emissions, etc.). Effective nutrient management planning accounts for the risks identified in the pollution risk assessment, and is integrated with soil, crop, and livestock management planning. Note: This refers to all organic and inorganic nutrients, including synthetic fertilisers, animal manure and slurry, compost, etc. 
(New) 2.1.7 Nitrogen Use Efficiency is calculated. Advanced	-	a. Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE) is calculated annually. b. NUE is calculated using accurate and repeatable methods. c. NUE calculation is used to inform the nutrient assessment and management plan.		Purpose: By assessing how effectively nitrogen is being taken up and used by crops, the business can adjust its nutrient, crop and soil management practices to support crop productivity, mitigate emissions and pollution, and reduce costs. 



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
2.2 Soil Health			
2.2.1 Strategies are implemented to prevent soil degradation.	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil	a. (New) Strategies are implemented to prevent/minimise compaction, slumping, poaching, erosion, runoff, leaching, post-harvest degradation.	Purpose: To prevent soil degradation, specifically compaction, erosion, slumping, poaching, runoff, leaching, and post-harvest degradation. Soil degradation not only impacts crop health and productivity, but it also impacts the environment by increasing the risk of run-off and leaching into ecosystems and waterbodies. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 2.2.1.b verbally.
		b. Ensure the timing, field conditions, equipment and soil management techniques are appropriate. These must be planned and justified by the business.	
		c. Records of cultivations and field operations are used to inform the assessment of risk.	
		d. There is no significant visual evidence of soil degradation such as compaction, slumping, poaching, erosion, runoff, leaching or post-harvest degradation.	
2.2.2 Strategies are implemented to increase/maintain soil organic matter.	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil	a. Strategies are implemented to increase/maintain soil organic matter. Where soil organic matter cannot be increased, the business must justify.	Purpose: To ensure that appropriate and effective strategies are in place to increase or maintain soil organic matter which is essential for soil health. Improving the organic matter content in soils can support soil structure, microorganisms and biological activity, nutrient cycling, water retention and carbon sequestration. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 2.2.2.a verbally.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 2.2.3 Strategies are implemented to minimise soil disturbance.	N/A where it is not possible to minimise soil disturbance or where the business does not grow in soil	a. Strategies are implemented to minimise soil disturbance.		Purpose: Minimising soil disturbance helps to protect soil structure, reduce erosion, maintain soil biology and preserve the long-term health of soils. Minimising disturbance can also support carbon sequestration in soils. Note: This refers to minimising physical soil disturbance (e.g., tillage, compaction from machinery, etc.). Minimising the chemical disturbance of soil (e.g., applying PPPs) is addressed in 3.3.1 and 3.3.2.
(New) 2.2.4 Strategies are implemented to minimise bare ground.	N/A where it is not possible to minimise bare ground or where the business does not grow in soil	a. Strategies are implemented to minimise bare ground.		Purpose: Reducing the extent and duration of bare ground and keeping the soil surface covered helps to prevent soil erosion, retain moisture in soils, support soil biology, and control weeds.
(New) 2.2.5 Strategies are implemented to maintain living roots in the soil. Advanced	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil	a. Strategies are implemented to maintain the presence of living roots in the soil (e.g., cover crops).		Purpose: Maintaining living roots in the soil can improve soil structure, water infiltration, nutrient cycling, biological activity, support carbon sequestration, and prevent soil erosion and compaction.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 2.2.6 Strategies are implemented to minimise soil salinisation.	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil or where there is no risk of soil salinisation	a. Strategies are implemented to: i. Minimise excessive salt penetration. ii. Optimise irrigation.		Purpose: To prevent the accumulation of water-soluble salt in the soil. Excess levels of salt can result in dehydration of the plant, causing yield decline.
2.3 Soil Health Monitoring				
2.3.1 Soil health is monitored annually.	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil	a. The physical, biological or chemical characteristics of the soil are monitored. i. The business justifies and implements a representative sampling strategy and an appropriate monitoring method.		Purpose: To assess/understand how healthy the soil is. Healthy soil helps with water retention and drainage, crop health and productivity, erosion prevention, carbon storage and more. By understanding the current health of the soil, the business can decide which practices to implement to improve/optmise the soil's health and assess their effectiveness over time. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 2.3.1.a.i verbally.
		b. (New) Monitoring is performed annually.		
		c. (New) Results are used to inform soil management strategies.		





LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 2.3.2 Soil Organic Matter is measured. Advanced	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil	a. Soil Organic Matter is measured every 3-5 years using a method justified by the business.		Purpose: Understanding the organic matter content in soils can inform the business' practices to improve/maintain soil health. Tracking the organic matter content in soils over time can indicate the effectiveness of these management practices, and where the business may need to adjust its management. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 2.3.2.a verbally. 
		b. LSFR question SSM.04.B has been completed with accurate figures.		
		c. Results are used to inform soil management strategies.		
(New) 2.3.3 Soil Organic Carbon is measured. Advanced	N/A where businesses do not grow in soil	a. Soil Organic Carbon is measured every 3-5 years using a method justified by the business.		Purpose: Assessing the carbon content in soils can help the business to understand the quality and health of soils. Soil organic carbon can be considered a key indicator of soil health and carbon retention in soils. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 2.3.3.a verbally. 
		b. LSFR question SSM.04.D has been completed with accurate figures.		
		c. Results are used to inform soil management strategies.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
2.4 Substrate			
(New) 2.4.1 Strategies are implemented to transition to peat-free growing media. Advanced	N/A where the business does not use peat-based growing media	a. Strategies are implemented to: i. Reduce reliance on peat-based growing media. ii. Source growing media from suppliers that use/encourage sustainably managed resources/materials.	Purpose: To ensure that there are strategies to move away from the use of peat as a growing medium, due to the significant negative impacts of peat extraction on biodiversity and climate change. Sourcing growing media from suppliers that actively encourage sustainably managed resource, and materials can help the business to reduce their reliance on peat-based growing media. It is acceptable to evidence 2.4.1.c verbally.
		b. The business records the intended timeline to transition to peat-free growing media.	
		c. The business justifies the type of peat-free growing media used.	
(New) 2.4.2 Where propagated plants are bought in, the business sources plants propagated in peat-free growing media. Advanced	N/A where propagated plants are not bought in	a. Where propagated plants are bought in, the business sources plants propagated in peat-free growing media.	Purpose: To encourage businesses to source propagated plants that have been grown in peat-free growing media, due to the significant negative impacts of peat extraction on biodiversity and climate change.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
2.5 Nutrient Applications			
2.5.1 Strategies are implemented to minimise the loss of nutrients.	N/A where fertilisers/silage effluent/wastewater are not applied	a. Where organic/inorganic fertilisers (e.g., synthetic fertilisers, animal manure and slurry, etc.), silage effluent, wastewater are applied to crops/grass, they are applied in accordance with crop requirements and in suitable conditions.	Purpose: To support crop productivity and health while mitigating nutrient runoff and leaching into the environment. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 2.5.1.c verbally.
		b. (New) Fertilisers are not applied to buffer zones, protected areas and areas managed as habitat.	
		c. Any fertiliser applications to field margins (e.g., to support establishment) or site boundaries must be minimised/targeted and justified.	
	-	d. Strategies are implemented to minimise the loss of nutrients: i. During nutrient applications/soil cultivation. ii. Through adequate fertiliser/nutrient storage (see 2.5.5, 4.3.1, 6.3.5, 9.4.1).	
(New) 2.5.2 Precision techniques are used to apply fertilisers. Advanced	N/A where fertilisers are not applied	a. Fertilisers are applied using precision techniques/technology.	Purpose: Using precision techniques can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fertiliser applications - optimising crop nutrition while preventing excess nutrient applications and minimising pollution risks to the environment.
2.5.3 Fertiliser application equipment and machinery is maintained and calibrated.	N/A where fertilisers are not applied	a. There is evidence to demonstrate that farm machinery and equipment (including owned and contracted equipment) for applying organic/inorganic fertilisers (e.g., synthetic fertilisers, animal manure and slurry) is maintained and calibrated to prevent pollution to the environment and ensure application at appropriate rates.	 Purpose: To prevent environmental pollution by ensuring farm machinery and equipment function correctly.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
2.5.4 Recommendations for application of fertilisers (organic or inorganic) are given by competent, qualified individuals.	N/A where fertilisers are not applied	a. Evidence of qualifications for competent, qualified individual(s).		Purpose: To ensure that fertiliser recommendations, whether organic or inorganic, are provided by qualified individuals. This helps to optimise crop health and productivity, prevent over-or-under application, and minimise environmental impacts such as water pollution or soil degradation. 
		b. Evidence to show professional development of individual(s) to maintain competency and qualification (i.e., training records of adviser or staff).		
2.5.5 Fertiliser storage and applications are recorded.	N/A where fertilisers are not applied	a. Field/plot records and fertigation records that show evidence that all organic/inorganic fertilisers have been applied strategically at the correct rate and time and placed accurately.		Purpose: To ensure that the storage and application of organic and inorganic fertilisers are systematically recorded. This helps track nutrient use, maintain compliance with regulations, improve resource management, and identify potential environmental risks. 
		b. (New) Organic/inorganic fertiliser applications are in line with legislation.		
		c. Records/applications align with strategies in the integrated nutrient management plan.		
		d. Operator records referring to field applications.		
		e. Records show storage of organic/inorganic fertilisers.		
2.5.6 Operators/contractors are trained in accurate techniques of fertiliser application.	N/A where fertilisers are not applied	a. Operator/contractor training records include: i. Any internal training and experience. ii. Nutrient mixing for fertigation systems. iii. Appropriate awareness of protected/high conservation value areas on the farm and risks associated with nutrient losses through runoff.		Purpose: To ensure that operators and contractors are properly trained in accurate fertiliser application techniques to minimise negative environmental impacts. 



Crop Health & Integrated Pest Management.

Within an IFM system, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) takes a holistic approach to crop health and protection by combining different strategies (cultural, biological, mechanical and 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.

Protecting crops from pests, weeds, and diseases is an essential part of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to maintain yields and reduce avoidable losses. Effective and responsible implementation of plant protection practices not only supports crop health and productivity but also helps prevent the risk of water pollution, protects soil health, and protects the abundance and diversity of native and beneficial species.

Grassland and forage crops should be managed as a crop in terms of Crop Health and Protection. Managing them in line with IFM and IPM principles helps optimise both yield and grass quality for livestock, while preventing negative impacts to the environment and biodiversity.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
3.1 Assessment and Planning			
3.1.1 There is short-term crop/rotation planning.	N/A in some circumstances where there are perennial crops, fully indoor systems, or where no crops are grown (see guidance)	a. The business identifies the intended crop rotation over a period of 3 years.	Purpose: Effective crop and rotation planning support crop and soil health by improving nutrient management, cultivations, and breaking pest, weed and disease cycles. Crop rotations encourage greater crop diversity, which helps to mitigate these pressures and promote greater agrobiodiversity. Note: The scope of this control point also includes grassland.
		b. (New) Crop selection accounts for: • Variety/species selection • Pest, weed and disease pressures • Optimisation of nutrient uptake • Improving/supporting soil health • Weather/climate	
		c. Crop rotations are sustainable and appropriate to the business/land - the rotation accounts for: • Crop type and nutrient requirements • Nutrient availability in soils • Improvements to soil health • Management of pests, weeds and diseases • Role of livestock, where applicable • Weather/climate	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 3.1.2 There is long-term crop/rotation planning. Advanced	N/A in some circumstances where there are perennial crops, fully indoor systems, or where no crops are grown	a. The business identifies the intended long-term crop rotation (more than 3 years).		Purpose: Effective crop and rotation planning support crop and soil health by improving nutrient management, cultivations, and breaking pest, weed and disease cycles. Crop rotations encourage greater crop diversity, which helps to mitigate these pressures and promote greater agrobiodiversity. Note: The scope of this control point also includes grassland.
(New) 3.1.3 The business increases/optimises crop diversity. Advanced	N/A where there are fully indoor systems	a. The business increases/optimises the diversity of crops/cover crops in the rotation.		Purpose: Greater crop and cover crop diversity can help build resilience and support productivity. Greater diversity helps to mitigate pest, weed and disease pressures, support soil health and crop health, and promote greater agrobiodiversity on-farm.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 3.1.4 Where land is rented for less than 3 years, there is awareness of the wider crop rotation. Advanced	N/A where there is no rented land, or in some circumstances where there are perennial crops, fully indoor systems, or where no crops are grown	a. Where land is rented for less than 3 years, the business is aware of: i. The crop's position within the rotation. ii. How its position within the rotation can be used to improve/optimize the soil/nutrient/pest/weed/disease management.		Purpose: To understand how the business can implement more sustainable management practices based on its position in the rotation, in order to improve the overall sustainability of the rotation. It is acceptable to evidence control point verbally.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
3.1.5 There is a crop health and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.	N/A where no crops are grown	a. The plan is: i. Reviewed annually, including: • Updating strategies, where appropriate ii. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.	 Purpose: Implementing an IPM approach helps the business adapt to and manage pest, weed and disease pressures while minimising negative impacts on the environment (e.g., soil and water pollution, biodiversity loss) and promoting greater biodiversity on-farm (e.g., beneficial insects, wildflower strips, etc). By focusing on prevention, detection/monitoring, then control, the business can minimise the risk of resistance build up, reduce reliance on chemical usage, and improve its adaptability and resilience to changing pressures. Note: Where the business determines chemical control is necessary (e.g., where mechanical, physical or biological control are not appropriate or possible), the strategies implemented should be tailored to the specific crop type and, where applicable, companion plants, ensuring a targeted approach. 
		b. (New) The business prioritises planning and decisions according to the hierarchy of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) pyramid.	
		c. The plan includes IPM strategies to manage pests, weeds and diseases through: i. Prevention (e.g., agronomic practices). ii. Detection/monitoring (e.g., crop walking, decision support). iii. Control/managing impact (e.g., mechanical, physical, biological, chemical).	
		d. All plant protection practices and products are justified. i. This includes any deviations from the planning/practice and the reason for the deviation.	
	N/A where no chemical control is used, or where no crops are grown	e. Where chemical control is necessary, there are: • Strategies to minimise/optimize synthetic chemical use • Appropriate dose rates and timings (see 3.3.9, 3.3.10) • Resistance management strategies (see 3.3.3)	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 3.1.6 Future pest, weed and disease risks are assessed/forecasted. Advanced	-	a. The business assesses and forecasts future pest, weed and disease risks (e.g., due to climate change, resistance, etc.).		Purpose: Assessing and forecasting future risks (e.g., pest, weed and disease pressures that could develop and present challenges in the future) can help the business to be proactive in its management planning and implement preventative strategies. 
(New) 3.1.7 Decision support systems/tools are used. Advanced	-	a. The business uses decision support systems/tools to inform pest/weed/disease management.		Purpose: Decision support systems and tools can support with better planning and control of pests, weeds and diseases by providing greater insight on appropriate treatment thresholds and methods, forecasting the severity of impact, etc. 
3.2 Monitoring				
3.2.1 Pests, weeds, diseases and beneficial organisms are monitored and recorded.	-	a. There are records of regular monitoring. Records include: i. The use of pest, weed and disease thresholds, where appropriate. ii. Local weather conditions.		Purpose: Monitoring pests, weeds, diseases, and beneficial organisms can help businesses make informed decisions about crop management, including deciding which plant protection practice(s) to implement and when. 
		b. Monitoring is completed by an agronomist, a trained member of staff or by technology, if available.		
		c. Monitoring outcomes are used to decide when to apply PPPs.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
3.3 Environmental Protection and Pollution Control			
3.3.1 The business identifies the environmental impact of all plant protection practices.	-	a. Identified environmental impacts are used to inform and provide justification for management decisions of all plant protection practices, including PPP, mechanical and cultural practices.	 Purpose: By understanding the potential negative impacts of plant protection practices, the business can implement strategies to minimise harm to ecosystems and soil biology, protect biodiversity, and comply with environmental regulations. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 3.3.1.a verbally. 
		b. Strategies to minimise environmental impact are recorded during planning prior to the growing season.	
3.3.2 Strategies are implemented to minimise negative impacts to beneficial and non-target species.		a. Strategies are implemented to minimise negative impacts of plant protection practices on beneficial and non-target species, including pollinators.	 Purpose: To ensure the business prevents/minimises negative impacts on beneficial and non-target species (e.g., pollinators, beneficial soil organisms/microorganisms, etc.) that support biodiversity, crop health and soil biology. 
3.3.3 Strategies are implemented to avoid pest, weed and disease resistance to PPPs.	N/A where PPPs are not applied	a. Resistance management strategies are implemented for each respective PPP used, including: • Use of thresholds, where available • Utilising different methods of application • Minimising or avoiding applications of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, molluscicides, and plant growth regulators	 Purpose: To prevent resistance developing from misuse of PPPs and therefore mitigate the risks of PPP resistance (e.g., crop failure, emergence of 'super' pests/weed/diseases, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss from additional/stronger PPP applications, etc.).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
3.3.4 There is a documented and displayed Pollution Emergency Procedure.	-	a. The Procedure identifies strategies for dealing with spillages damaging to the environment, people and animals. Including: i. Contact details for all staff and authorities. ii. The notification process to alert relevant staff and authorities. iii. A logical sequence to be followed based on the nature of the spillage. iv. What immediate action should be taken. v. Relevant equipment (equipment is appropriate, available, and easy to find).		Purpose: A documented and displayed Pollution Emergency Procedure helps to ensure staff can respond to and manage spillages and pollution events to minimise detrimental impacts to people, animals, and the environment. 
		b. Staff are aware of the Procedure and can easily understand it.		
		c. The Procedure is reviewed annually and contact details updated where appropriate.		
3.3.5 Only approved PPPs are used and stored.	N/A where business does not use/store PPPs	a. Stores, stock rotation and records show all PPPs that are used have been approved according to national regulation.		Purpose: The business uses and stores only approved Plant Protection Products (PPPs), in compliance with national regulations, to ensure safety, environmental responsibility, and adherence to legal standards.
	N/A where the business does not extrapolate usage from another country	b. Some countries may require the business to use Extrapolated Usage from another country. The PPP itself must already have another legal use in the country in which it is used. Full justification for any extrapolation is present, in line with baseline requirements.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
3.3.6 PPPs are stored and disposed of securely to protect the environment and people.	N/A where business does not store/dispose of PPPs	a. PPPs are securely stored and responsibly disposed of in accordance with national regulations and guidance.		Purpose: To ensure PPPs are stored and disposed of in a way that prevents unauthorised access, protects human health, and prevents pollution to the environment.
		b. PPP containers are disposed of in accordance with national regulations.		
3.3.7 PPP application equipment is appropriately maintained and calibrated.	N/A where there is not a national scheme or PPPs are not applied	a. PPP application equipment have test certificates from a nationally-recognised scheme, where a national scheme is available.		Purpose: To prevent environmental pollution by ensuring PPP application equipment is in proper working order (e.g., no over-application of PPPs, etc).
	N/A where there is a national scheme available or PPPs are not applied	b. Where there is no national scheme, there are records of routine maintenance and calibration.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
3.3.8 PPP recommendations and applications are made by competent and qualified individuals.	N/A where PPPs are not applied	a. PPP recommendations are given by competent and qualified individuals, including evidence of professional development to maintain competency/qualification.		Purpose: To ensure that PPPs are recommended and applied by individuals with appropriate qualifications and expertise to guarantee safe, effective, and responsible use.
		b. Operators/contractors are competent and qualified in the use of PPPs, which includes training and evidence of continuous professional development to maintain competency/qualification.		
3.3.9 The PPP application rate and timing are appropriate and justified.	N/A where PPPs are not applied	a. PPP application rate and timing comply with legal requirements and PPP label instructions (e.g., regarding the specific crop, maximum permitted total dose, maximum number of treatments and latest time of application as indicated on the PPP label).		Purpose: To ensure that PPPs are applied at justified and appropriate rates to optimise effectiveness, minimise negative environmental impact, and comply with local and national regulations.
		b. Growth stages, infestation levels and PPP type are assessed to determine the appropriate rate of PPP application.		
	N/A where modifying agents are not used	c. The use of modifying agents (e.g., to enable reduced rates and low volume spraying) complies with local and national regulations.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
3.3.10 PPP applications and rate are recorded.	N/A where PPPs are not applied	a. The business records PPP applications and rate.		Purpose: To ensure that PPP applications, including the rates used, are accurately documented. This supports traceability, compliance, and more effective management planning.
	N/A where PPPs are not applied or where not possible to record application conditions	b. Records include application conditions (e.g., soil, weather, etc.).		
	N/A where PPPs are not applied	c. All operators/contractors within the spray team are identified in the records.		
3.3.11 There is a documented procedure to ensure harvest intervals are applied.	N/A where PPPs are not applied	a. Procedures identify first permissible harvest time and date after PPP application.		Purpose: Implementing harvest intervals can help mitigate negative impacts of PPP applications on human health and the environment.
		b. Procedures are adhered to.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
3.3.12 Protection measures are in place where PPPs are mixed/handled to prevent spillage or pollution to waterbodies and the local environment.	N/A where PPPs are not applied or where PPPs are not mixed/handled on site	a. PPP mixing and handling areas are not located near: • Gateways • Waterbodies • Ditches/dikes • Very permeable ground in groundwater protected zones/areas • Drains (e.g., yard drains, underground field drains), unless drain leads to secure holding tank/water treatment equipment • Highly trafficked areas		Purpose: To ensure protection measures are implemented during PPP mixing and handling to prevent potential pollution to the environment and damage to environmentally sensitive areas.
		b. Portable drip trays/bunds are used.		
3.3.13 Strategies are implemented to ensure PPP use is limited to the application area.	N/A where PPPs are not applied	a. Strategies to limit PPP application to the required area include: • Application planning • Correct spraying conditions (e.g., to avoid spray drift) • Accurate applications • Choice of sprayer • Choice of spray nozzle • Buffer zones/unsprayed strips (see guidance)		Purpose: To ensure that PPPs are applied strictly to the designated area, using the strategies listed to prevent contamination of the environment (especially sensitive areas like habitats and protected areas). It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 3.3.13.c verbally.
		b. (New) PPPs are not applied to buffer zones, protected areas, and areas managed as habitat.		
		c. Any PPP applications to field margins (e.g., to support establishment) or site boundaries must be minimised/targeted and justified.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 3.3.14 Precision techniques are used to apply PPPs. Advanced	N/A where PPPs are not applied	a. The business applies PPPs using precision techniques.		Purpose: Implementing precision techniques can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PPP applications, and ensure PPPs are applied only to the required area. This can help to minimise PPP use and minimise environmental pollution risks.
(New) 3.3.15 Low-drift techniques are used to apply PPPs. Advanced	N/A where PPPs are not applied	a. The business applies PPPs using low-drift techniques.		Purpose: Implementing low-drift techniques can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of PPP applications, and ensure PPPs are applied only to the required area. This can help to minimise PPP use and minimise environmental pollution risks.
3.3.16 Adequate precautions are taken to protect neighbouring businesses and the public from agrochemical use.	N/A where agrochemicals are not used	a. The set-up and operation of application equipment is accurate.		Purpose: To prevent negative impacts of agrochemical use on neighbouring businesses and the public, prioritising the protection of human health.
		b. There is a no-spray buffer zone when spraying next to neighbouring properties and public access areas.		
3.3.17 Actions are taken to inform neighbouring businesses and the public of agrochemical application activities. Advanced	N/A where agrochemicals are not used	a. Adjacent businesses/residential properties/public access areas are notified when agrochemical application(s) will take place.		Purpose: To ensure that neighbouring businesses and the public have proper awareness of when and where agrochemical applications will take place, to ensure better safety and reduce the risks of exposure.



Waste & By-Product Management.

Managing waste and by-products effectively and responsibly on-farm is an important part of Integrated Farm Management (IFM). Managing waste and by-products in more circular ways helps to optimise resource use, prevent pollution, reduce costs, and protect water, biodiversity and soil.

Nearly every farming business generates waste, posing potential pollution risks and negative impacts to the environment. To mitigate these risks, any waste produced on farm should be reduced, reused, and recycled wherever possible.

In many cases farm 'wastes' and 'by-products' are valuable resources, and maximising their potential can not only enhance efficiency but also reduce costs and decrease pollution risks on-farm.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
4.1 Assessment and Planning			
(Upgraded) 4.1.1 There is a waste and by-product assessment.	-	a. The assessment is: i. Reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. ii. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.	 Purpose: Assessing and understanding the waste and by-products produced on-farm, and whether they are reused, recycled, or disposed of, can help the business to identify the largest sources/types of waste and by-products and inform strategies to manage them more sustainably. 
		b. The assessment includes: i. Identification of all types of waste/by-products (e.g., plastic, substrate, chemical waste, animal waste, cardboard, food waste). ii. Sources of waste/by-products. iii. Estimated proportion of waste/by-products that are reused, recycled and disposed of.	
(New) 4.1.2 Quantity of waste/by-products produced on-farm is measured. Advanced	-	a. The business measures the quantity of waste/by-products produced on-farm (e.g., plastic, food waste/food surplus, etc.).	 Purpose: By measuring the quantity of waste and by-products produced on-farm, the business can assess the effectiveness of its management strategies over time.
		b. Measurement is carried out annually.	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(Upgraded) 4.1.3 There is a waste and by-product management plan.	-	a. The plan is: - Based on the waste and by-product assessment. - Reviewed annually, including: - Assessing/recording progress towards targets - Updating strategies/targets, where appropriate (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: To identify ways to reduce waste and manage waste and by-products more sustainably, including managing waste/by-products in a more circular ways that prevent early disposal and pollution to the environment. Many types of waste and by-products are valuable resources that can be reused or repurposed. 
		b. The plan includes: - Strategies to: - Reduce waste - Reuse waste/by-products - Recycle waste/by-products - Responsibly dispose of waste where it cannot be reused - Targets to: - Minimise waste - Increase proportion of waste that is reused and recycled/reduce dependency on non-recyclable materials - Use alternative materials (e.g., biodegradable or compostable plastics), where possible - Implement closed-loop or circular approaches (e.g., send packaging back to manufacturer/supplier for reuse), where possible		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
4.2 Waste Reduction			
(New) 4.2.1 Strategies are implemented to manage food waste/food surplus on-farm.	-	a. Strategies are implemented to manage on-farm food waste/food surplus, including: i. Preventing/minimising food waste/food surplus. ii. Reusing or redirecting food waste/food surplus, where possible.	Purpose: To ensure that food waste/food surplus produced on farm is effectively managed to minimise waste, reduce environmental impact (e.g., GHG emissions), and optimise resource use.
(New) 4.2.2 Waste/by-products are reused or repurposed. Advanced	-	a. Waste/by-products are reused or repurposed to prevent unnecessary disposal.	Purpose: To encourage businesses to utilise waste and by-products as resources by reusing or repurposing them instead of disposing of them. This approach can help the business contribute to a more circular economy and minimise their impact on the environment.
(New) 4.2.3 Waste/by-products are disposed of responsibly.	-	a. Waste/by-products are disposed of responsibly and as a last resort after all other options to reuse or recycle are exhausted. b. The business must provide justification where waste/by-products are disposed of and cannot be reused, reduced, or recycled.	Purpose: To ensure that all feasible options for reusing or recycling waste and by-products are thoroughly considered before resorting to disposal. When disposal is unavoidable, it should be carried out responsibly to prevent environmental pollution. It is acceptable to evidence 4.2.3.b verbally.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
4.3 Pollution Control			
4.3.1 Compost, slurry, manure, digestate and other organic materials are stored to prevent pollution to the environment.	N/A in circumstances where compost, slurry, manure, digestate and other organic materials are not used or stored	a. Stores are compliant with national and local regulations.	Purpose: To prevent environmental pollution, such as water or soil pollution, by ensuring that compost, slurry, manure, digestate, and other organic waste materials are stored in accordance with best practices. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 4.3.1.j verbally.
		b. Stores are designed and managed to prevent overspill and pollution, especially from drainage, run-off and effluent.	
		c. Stores have sufficient capacity for organic material and expected rainfall.	
		d. Construction materials are appropriate regarding permeability and corrosion.	
		e. There is regular inspection, maintenance and repair for all stores.	
		f. All stores are at least 10 metres away from waterbodies (e.g., near a water supply intake).	
		g. Field stores are at least 50 metres away from waterbodies where potable water is abstracted.	
		h. Where there is construction of a new store, or alteration to an existing store, relevant authorities have been notified, where required and appropriate (e.g., environmental and planning permissions).	
		i. For animal manure, slurry and digestate, above/below ground stores have an expected lifespan of at least 20 years from construction with maintenance.	
		j. Where there is no minimum capacity stated in national and local regulations, animal manure or slurry stores have capacity for at least 6 months storage, or as justified.	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 4.3.2 Land spreading of industrial waste is managed appropriately.	N/A where no industrial waste is applied to the land or where registration is not required	a. Industrial waste that is applied to the land (other than sewage sludge, which is prohibited) must be registered with the relevant environmental agency or authority, where required.		Purpose: To ensure industrial waste is managed and applied to land in ways that prevent pollution to the environment.
	N/A where no industrial waste is applied to the land	b. (New) The business records land applications of industrial waste, including: • Type of industrial waste • Records of field application date and application rate		
(New) 4.3.3 The business avoids routine burning or incineration of waste/by-products.	-	a. There is no routine burning or incineration of waste/by-products. i. Where waste/by-products are burned or incinerated, there must be a justification, and it must be done legally.		Purpose: To minimise the impact of burning or incineration of waste and by-products on the environment (e.g., pollution of air, water, soil). It is acceptable to evidence the justification in control point verbally.



Energy & Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

The responsible management of natural resources and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions are important within Integrated Farm Management.

Efficient use of energy on farm will not only help reduce costs, use resources more efficiently and reduce waste, but also contribute to an overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. Efficient and responsible use of inputs like fertilisers, appropriate tillage, reduced reliance on fossil fuels, and striving for optimum instead of maximum yields will all help improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute towards maximum returns in the long run.

Assessing and quantifying the business' greenhouse gas emissions can support with the development of targets and implementation of strategies to mitigate emissions across different areas of the business. This can also help the business align with local, national and international targets to reduce agricultural emissions.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
5.1 Assessment and Planning			
5.1.1 There is an energy assessment.	-	a. The assessment is: i. Reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. ii. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.	 Purpose: To assess and understand where the business is using the most energy, and whether the energy used is from a renewable source. This can help the business identify opportunities to manage their energy use more sustainably. It is acceptable to evidence 5.1.1.c verbally. 
		b. The assessment includes: i. All sources of energy used (e.g., electricity, fuel). ii. Whether sources of energy are renewable or non-renewable. iii. A measurement of energy use for each source. Energy use must be recorded at least annually. iv. (New) Proportion of energy that is purchased vs. generated by the business.	
		c. There is awareness of the most significant use(s) of energy in the business.	
5.1.2 On-farm greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from energy use are recorded.	-	a. GHG emissions from on-farm energy use are recorded annually.	 Purpose: By assessing emissions from its on-farm energy use, the business can identify particular sources or activities to focus on adjusting their management practices (e.g., to minimise energy use and emissions) and also track the effectiveness of their management practices over time. 
		b. The results inform strategies to minimise emissions from energy use.	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
5.1.3 There is an energy management plan.	-	a. The plan is: i. Based on the energy assessment. ii. Reviewed annually, including: - Assessing/recording progress towards targets - Updating strategies/targets, where appropriate iii. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: To identify ways to minimise energy consumption and use energy more efficiently, as well as opportunities to generate or use renewable energy. This can help the business reduce their GHG emissions and operate more efficiently and sustainably. 
		b. The plan includes: i. Strategies to: - Reduce energy consumption - Enhance energy efficiency - Reduce dependency on non-renewable energy sources/use renewable energy sources ii. Targets to: - Minimise energy consumption		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
5.1.4 A carbon footprinting tool is used. Advanced	-	a. Carbon footprint of the business is calculated annually.		Purpose: Using a carbon footprinting tool can help the business to understand its total greenhouse gas emissions footprint. Carbon footprinting tools use farm data to calculate emissions - this includes converting methane and nitrous oxide emissions to carbon dioxide equivalents to produce a carbon footprint. Some tools may also estimate the emissions balance (GHGs emitted and sequestered by the business). Carbon footprint calculations can be used to inform strategies to reduce emissions and track the effectiveness of emissions management practices over time. It is acceptable to evidence 5.1.4.b verbally. 
		b. (New) Selection of the carbon footprinting tool is justified.		
		c. Results from carbon footprinting are used for year-on year comparison of emissions measurements.		
		d. LSFR question EGHGE.04.B has been completed with accurate figures.		
		e. (New) Carbon footprint calculations inform strategies to: i. Reduce GHG emissions ii. Capture and retain GHGs on-farm/site (e.g., soil, trees, waterbodies, peat, etc.), where possible		
		f. Footprinting includes the business' direct emissions, including at a minimum emissions from: i. Farm machinery and equipment (e.g., tractors, leaks from refrigeration, etc.) ii. (New) Nutrient applications. iii. Livestock, where applicable. iv. Change of land use.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
5.2 Fuel Storage			
5.2.1 Fixed fuel tanks are bunded and maintained to prevent potential spillages.	N/A where a business does not store fuel	a. Reduce the pollution risk of fuel to the environment by ensuring: i. Fuel tanks that store more than 200 litres are bunded. ii. Underground tanks are pressure tested every five years. iii. Fuel oils are stored in either a fuel storage tank or within a bunded storage area. iv. Bunded storage areas are impermeable and more than 10-metres away from high-risk contamination areas, such as open drains and ditches.	Purpose: Bunding and maintaining fuel tanks can reduce the risk of fuel spillages/leaks and prevent pollution to the environment. Reference to fuel tanks will also need to be made in control point 1.6.2.
5.3 Reduction of GHG Emissions			
(New) 5.3.1 The business is aware of the types and sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on-farm.	-	a. Awareness of the potential types and sources of emissions on the farm, including: i. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) (e.g., from nitrogen applications). ii. Methane (CH₄) (e.g., enteric livestock emissions, emissions from slurry/manure). iii. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) (e.g., diesel, soil tillage, etc.)	Purpose: To have a general understanding of GHG emissions that are produced on farms. Understanding the potential types and sources of emissions on-farm can help identify what activities or areas of the business could be managed differently to reduce emissions. It is acceptable to evidence the control point verbally.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 5.3.2 Strategies are implemented to mitigate/minimise GHG emissions from energy use.	-	a. Strategies are implemented to mitigate/minimise GHG emissions from energy use.		Purpose: To implement strategies that can help reduce and minimise emissions from energy use in ways that are practical and feasible for the business.
(New) 5.3.3 Strategies are implemented to mitigate/minimise GHG emissions from nutrient applications. Advanced	N/A where the business does not apply nutrients	a. Strategies are implemented to mitigate/minimise GHG emissions from nutrient applications.		Purpose: To implement strategies that can help reduce and minimise emissions associated with nutrient applications in ways that are practical and feasible for the business.
(New) 5.3.4 Strategies are implemented to mitigate/minimise GHG emissions from livestock systems. Advanced	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Strategies are implemented to mitigate/minimise GHG emissions from livestock systems, including manure/slurry.		Purpose: To implement strategies that can help reduce and minimise emissions from livestock systems in ways that are practical and feasible for the business.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
5.4 Sequestration of GHGs			
(New) 5.4.1 Strategies are implemented to capture and retain GHGs on-farm. Advanced	-	a. Strategies are implemented to capture and retain GHGs on-farm (e.g., in soils, agroforestry, wetlands, etc.).	Purpose: To remove GHG emissions from the atmosphere by capturing and retaining carbon dioxide/methane in soils and biomass on-farm, with the aim of storing the GHGs for the long-term/permanently.



Water Management.

Sustainable water management and water stewardship are core components of Integrated Farm Management (IFM). Water is a critical and valuable resource, and it is becoming increasingly more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and environmental pollution.

Managing water wisely, for example by conserving water use and recycling water, as well as assessing and enhancing the efficiency of water use on-farm can reduce costs and help provide for future needs.

Responsible and integrated management of soils, nutrients, crop protection and water can help to reduce the risk of run-off and pollution, protect the water quality of waterbodies, and improve field access, soil workability and crop productivity.

Improved water retention drainage can be achieved by enhancing soil health, potentially reducing irrigation demands, saving water and energy, and mitigate flood and drought risks. Sustainable water management in agriculture is critical to increase agricultural production and maintain the environmental benefits and social requirements of water systems.

Good water stewardship and the protection of water resources and water quality is essential for protecting ecosystems and biodiversity and promoting sustainable and responsible water management in the wider catchment.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
6.1 Assessment and Planning			
(New) 6.1.1 There is a water assessment.	-	a. The assessment is: - Reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. - Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.	 Purpose: To understand the current status of water resources. Assessing information and data related to water availability and usage on farm can inform strategies to improve water use efficiency, manage flood and drought risks, and protect water quality. It is key for the business to understand its catchment context and how it can implement more sustainable farming practices to conserve and protect shared water resources and the surrounding environment.
		b. The assessment includes: - A map that identifies: - Waterbodies on or adjacent to the site - Water sources (e.g., surface water, wells, etc.) - Stored water (New) Flood risk areas - Drains (Upgraded) All water sources must be justified. (New) Quantity of water used from each source. Water use is measured at least annually. (New) Type(s) of wastewater. (New) Quantity of wastewater discharged.	
		c. Awareness of the water catchment context, including: - Water flows into, through and from the site in relation to the catchment(s). (New) Water sustainability challenges in the catchment (e.g., water scarcity, flood risks, water quality) and impact of the business on the challenges. (New) Key stakeholders and initiatives working to improve water stewardship in the catchment.	(6.1.1.b.v) This can be an estimation. It is acceptable to evidence 6.1.1.c verbally. 



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
6.1.2 Water use efficiency for irrigation is measured.	N/A where no irrigation is carried out	a. Water use efficiency for irrigation is measured annually.		Purpose: Measuring water use efficiency can help the business to assess the efficiency of irrigation methods, and can inform strategies to better optimise efficiency, reduce water use and wastage, and conserve valuable water resources 
		b. Water use efficiency is analysed to plan irrigation improvements.		
6.1.3 There is a water management plan.	-	a. The plan is: i. Based on the water assessment. ii. Reviewed annually, including: • Assessing/recording progress towards targets • Updating strategies/targets, where appropriate iii. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors		Purpose: Water is a valuable resource, and it is becoming increasingly more vulnerable due to the impacts of climate change and environmental pollution. Water management planning that is proportionate to water use and risks is key to support the business in minimising and optimising its water use, improving irrigation efficiency, protecting water quality and the longevity of water resources, and building resilience to flood and drought risks. 



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(6.1.3 continues)		b. The plan includes: - Irrigation schedule. - Strategies to: - Improve/optmise water use efficiency (New) Manage flood and drought risks (New) Manage wastewater - Improve/protect the water quality of waterbodies on and adjacent to the site - Targets to: (New) Increase/optmise proportion of reused water and rainwater, and minimise abstracted and mains/municipal water use, where possible - Minimise/optmise water use (New) Information about the business' participation in collaboration/collective action in the catchment to address water challenges, where applicable.		
6.2 Water Use				
(New) 6.2.1 Water outlets / storage / irrigation equipment are inspected to prevent water loss.	-	a. Water outlets/storage (e.g., taps, hoses, basins, over and underground pipes, tanks, etc.) and irrigation equipment are inspected for leaks and drips and repaired accordingly.		Purpose: To conserve water resources by ensuring water is not being lost/wasted.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 6.2.2 Water is reused. Advanced	-	a. The business reuses/recycles water (e.g., to reduce reliance on water abstraction, surface water use, mains/municipal water use, etc.).		Purpose: To implement more circular water use, reduce water wastage and conserve water resources.
(New) 6.2.3 There is a closed-loop system to reuse water for irrigation. Advanced	N/A where there is no irrigation	a. The business implements a closed-loop system, where water most/all water for irrigation is reused.		
(New) 6.2.4 Rainwater is collected and used. Advanced	N/A where collecting rainwater is not legally allowed	a. The business collects and uses rainwater to reduce reliance on water abstraction or use of mains/municipal.		Purpose: To reduce dependence on external water sources. By capturing and storing rainwater, farms can minimise the need for mains water, natural surface water or groundwater abstraction, which can deplete valuable natural reserves and potentially harm surrounding habitats. Using rainwater for irrigation, livestock, or other farm operations can also help reduce water costs.
(New) 6.2.5 Rainwater is stored for use during periods of water scarcity. Advanced	N/A where collecting/storing rainwater is not legally allowed	a. Rainwater is stored for use during periods of water scarcity to reduce reliance on water abstraction or use of mains/municipal/surface water.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 6.2.6 All groundwater abstraction/water use from surface water must be legal and responsible.	N/A where there is no groundwater abstraction/surface water use	a. Groundwater abstraction/surface water use is compliant with all local and national regulations.		Purpose: To prevent illegal water abstraction and use, and the depletion of surface water and ground water, especially where these water resources are shared. Over-abstraction not only causes water scarcity but can also reduce water flows and degrade aquatic habitats and ecosystems. It is acceptable to evidence 6.2.6.c verbally.
		b. Where required, the business has a valid water abstraction licence/permit and adheres to the licence/permit rules (e.g., maximum water use limits, etc.)		
		c. Awareness of how the business can prevent over-abstraction/over-use of groundwater/surface water (e.g., to mitigate water scarcity/prevent the depletion of groundwater).		
(New) 6.2.7 There is no use of fossil water sources. Advanced	-	a. There is no use of fossil water for irrigation or other production activities.		Purpose: To encourage businesses to transition away from using fossil water for agricultural production, as it is a non-renewable water source. Fossil water is groundwater that has been stored underground for millennia, and cannot be replenished once extracted (e.g., the aquifer cannot be recharged).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
6.3 Water Quality and Pollution Control			
(New) 6.3.1 There is a 2-metre buffer zone around waterbodies.	N/A where there are no waterbodies on/adjacent to the site	a. There is a buffer zone at least 2-metres wide around waterbodies (e.g., rivers, streams, ditches, ponds, ocean, etc.) to prevent water pollution. i. The business also complies with buffer zone legislation/product label requirements, where applicable.	Purpose: To prevent the pollution of waterbodies (e.g., from nutrients/fertilisers, PPPs, run-off from soils, etc.). Surface water quality on farms will directly impact the health of ecosystems and the surrounding environment. Clean water supports a diverse range of flora and fauna, maintains balanced food chains and promotes healthy habitats for wildlife. Pollutants such as nutrients, pesticides, and sediment can degrade water quality, leading to issues like algal blooms, oxygen depletion, and the loss of aquatic species. By protecting water quality, farms can help protect biodiversity and ecosystems, while also safeguarding essential and shared water resources.
(New) 6.3.2 There is a 10-metre buffer zone around waterbodies. Advanced	N/A where there are no waterbodies on/adjacent to the site	a. There is a 10-metre buffer zone around waterbodies (e.g., rivers, streams, ponds, ocean, etc.) to prevent water pollution. i. Where precision/targeted nutrient and PPP application techniques are used, or where no nutrients or PPPs are applied, the buffer zone size may be 6-metres.	
(New) 6.3.3 Strategies are implemented to prevent soil/silt from running off into waterbodies.	N/A where there are no waterbodies on/adjacent to the site	a. Strategies are implemented to prevent soil/silt from running off into waterbodies.	
(New) 6.3.4 Strategies are implemented to prevent nutrient runoff and leaching into waterbodies/ groundwater.	-	a. Strategies are implemented to prevent organic/inorganic nutrient runoff and leaching into waterbodies/groundwater.	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
6.3.5 Wastewater/waste liquids are collected and stored to prevent pollution to the environment.	N/A where there is no wastewater/waste liquids	a. Production of wastewater/waste liquids is minimised.		Purpose: To prevent environmental pollution from wastewater/waste liquids. Wastewater/waste liquids can contaminate soils and nearby water sources and may harm aquatic ecosystems. Having sufficient storage for wastewater/waste liquids is essential to prevent spillage and overflow into the surrounding environment. Proper storage also allows for wastewater/waste liquids to be treated or reused in a controlled manner.
		b. There is sufficient storage capacity for wastewater/waste liquids.		
		c. (New) Storage facilities are managed to prevent overspill and pollution.		
	N/A where there is no livestock manure	d. Run-off from livestock manure on hard surface areas or yards is contained and treated as wastewater.		
(New) 6.3.6 Where wastewater is discharged/applied to the land, there are strategies to prevent the pollution of waterbodies.	N/A where wastewater is not discharged/applied to the land	a. Where wastewater is discharged/applied to the land: i. Wastewater discharge follows local and national legislation, where applicable. ii. Wastewater is discharged/applied in suitable conditions and avoids pollution of waterbodies.		Purpose: To prevent the pollution of waterbodies from nutrients, chemicals and other potential contaminants found in wastewater.
(New) 6.3.7 Strategies are implemented to restrict livestock from entering waterbodies wherever possible.	N/A where there are no livestock	a. Strategies are implemented to restrict livestock from entering waterbodies to prevent disturbance and contamination of surface water wherever possible. i. Where livestock must enter waterbodies, there is justification (e.g., only source of drinking water). ii. There are livestock exclusion zones or controlled access points for waterbodies (e.g., utilising fencing or other barriers), where possible.		Purpose: To prevent the pollution of waterbodies from animal waste (e.g., manure, urine) and other contaminants (e.g., bacteria, disease, etc).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 6.3.8 The business provides livestock drinking water points that are located away from waterbodies. Advanced	N/A where there are no livestock	a. Drinking water points (e.g., troughs) are provided and strategically located away from the waterbodies to meet the hydration needs of livestock.		
6.4 Water Quality Monitoring				
6.4.1 The quality of surface water on the farm is monitored. Advanced	N/A where there is no surface water	a. Surface water quality on farm is monitored at least annually. b. Surface water quality on farm is monitored using one or more of the following: • Biological health (e.g., freshwater invertebrates, mammals as indicators) • Physical health (e.g., turbidity, flow, clarity) • Chemical health (e.g., ammonia, nitrate, phosphorus, pH, compounds) c. The monitoring method and frequency is justified. d. The business identifies and implements a reliable and repeatable sampling strategy.		Purpose: To assess the quality of surface water on/flowing through the farm. By assessing water quality at key time(s) during the year, the business can track any changes in quality over time (e.g., whether water quality has deteriorated or improved) and use the results to inform management practices. Note: Focus is on monitoring the quality of natural surface water from an ecological/environmental perspective. This is different from monitoring irrigation water quality from a food safety perspective, which is covered under baseline systems where appropriate. It is acceptable to evidence 6.4.1.c verbally. 



Landscape & Biodiversity.



Care for the environment is at the core of Integrated Farm Management. Protecting and enhancing the environment on-farm and in the wider landscape promotes greater biodiversity.

Biodiversity is critical as it supports a range of ecosystem services that can benefit the farm and the surrounding area, including improved soil health, water quality, pollination, flood and drought management, pest, weed, and disease management, and carbon sequestration.

Prioritising responsible management of the landscape and farm operations helps to prevent pollution and protect key species and habitats. 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.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
7.1 Assessment and Planning			
7.1.1 There is a landscape and biodiversity assessment.	N/A where land is rented for less than 3 years	a. The assessment is: i. Completed by the business or an individual(s) with appropriate expertise (see guidance). ii. Reviewed by the business annually and updated where appropriate. iii. Reviewed by an individual(s) with appropriate expertise at least every 5 years. iv. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.	 Purpose: In order to protect and enhance biodiversity on the farm, the business must first be aware of the existing environmental features, habitats and species on-farm. Drawing on the knowledge of an individual(s) with appropriate expertise can be useful as some species or habitats may be difficult to identify, for example it might be more feasible to look for signs that a species is present on-



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
(7.1.1 continues)		b. The assessment includes: i. A map that identifies key environmental features/habitats including the following, where applicable: • Linear features • Protected and high conservation value areas • Uncropped or unused land managed for the benefit of flora and fauna • Areas that are grazed • Semi-natural habitats • Trees • Fire breaks that help protect crops and habitats • Lakes, ponds, and watercourses • Traditional buildings • Archaeological or historical sites • (New) Location(s) inhabited by key/protected species ii. Identification of any important species recorded in the area including: • 4 key species are identified as a focus (New) one of the key species must be a pollinator) • Protected species (rare, vulnerable, threatened, and endangered) • Invasive species and their potential negative impacts	farm, rather than trying to sight the actual species itself. Understanding the biodiversity on-farm, the wider landscape in which the farm is situated, and how the current farming operations may negatively impact habitats and species can all inform strategies to better protect and enhance the biodiversity on-farm. It is acceptable to evidence 7.1.1.c and 7.1.1.d verbally. 



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(7.1.1 continues)	N/A where there is no rented land rented for less than 3 years	c. (New) Where land is rented for less than 3 years, the business demonstrates awareness of the biodiversity on site (see guidance).		
	-	d. There is awareness of how farming operations could damage, or have detrimental effects, on the biodiversity identified above.		
7.1.2 There is a landscape and biodiversity plan.	N/A where land is rented for less than 3 years	a. The plan is: - Based on the whole farm, including any land rented for more than three years. - Based on the landscape and biodiversity assessment. - Reviewed annually by the business, including: - Assessing/recording progress towards targets - Updating strategies/targets, where appropriate - Reviewed by an individual(s) with appropriate expertise at least every 5 years (see guidance). - Available/communicated to all relevant staff and contractors.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
(7.1.2 continues)		b. The plan includes: i. Strategies to: • Conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscapes on-site • Create additional habitat over time, where appropriate and possible • (New) Restore habitats/natural ecosystems, where applicable/possible • Support protected and key species • Support pollinators • Manage invasive species, where applicable/possible ii. Reference to local or national biodiversity action plans, where applicable. iii. Targets: • Short term (18 months) • Long term (at least 5 years) iv. (New) Where applicable, a description of appropriate and legal management of wildlife.	Purpose: To identify strategies to protect and enhance biodiversity, focusing on the environmental features, habitats and species highlighted in the landscape and biodiversity assessment. The strategies should be appropriate to the needs of the local environment, and align with any local or national biodiversity targets/initiatives where appropriate. Biodiversity is critical as it provides ecosystem services that support farm resilience and the ecological health of the wider landscape (e.g., soil health, water management, pollination, pest/weed/disease management, carbon sequestration, climate regulation, etc). 



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
7.1.3 Staff are involved in planning and implementing improvement to habitats and landscape features. Advanced	N/A where there is no staff	a. Records to show staff engagement with planning or improvements to habitat and landscape. b. Improvements align to strategies from the landscape and biodiversity plan (see 7.1.2).		Purpose: To encourage staff to actively participate in the planning and implementation of improvements to habitats and landscape features, promoting a collaborative approach to environmental management.
7.1.4 Where land is rented, information is sought about landlord's landscape and biodiversity management practices.	N/A where the business does not rent land	a. The business seeks at least one of the following pieces of information: i. Documentation from the landlord regarding engagement with LEAF (e.g., completion of the LEAF Sustainable Farming Review, LEAF Marque certificate). ii. OR Environmental management plans or assessments of the land that is rented (e.g., conservation/biodiversity plan, landscape and biodiversity assessment). iii. OR Correspondence with landlord showing requests for information.		Purpose: To ensure that rented land is farmed sustainably and that the business' management practices complement/support the biodiversity work that may already be in place on rented land, ensuring that past efforts are not adversely affected, and that the business will not negatively impact established working ecosystems. Collaborative approaches to biodiversity management can ensure the protection and longevity of biodiversity on-farm and across the wider landscape.
(New) 7.1.5 Where land is rented, the business collaborates with the landlord to enhance habitats and biodiversity on farm. Advanced	N/A where the business does not rent land	a. Where the landlord has landscape and biodiversity objectives, the business actively supports the objectives during the tenancy period.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
7.2 Landscape			
7.2.1 There is no damage or destruction of national/local areas of archaeological or historical interest.	N/A where there are no ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest	a. The business avoids damage or destruction caused by sub-soiling, unauthorised excavation, land reclamation, levelling, tipping/in-filling, woodland clearance, tree-planting, excessive damage by livestock etc.	Purpose: To ensure the preservation of any national/local areas of archaeological or historical interest for future generations.
	N/A where no damage or destruction has occurred to ancient monuments and areas of archaeological or historical interest	b. (New) Where damage or destruction has occurred, records must be kept to identify how it was caused, type of damage and date of occurrence.	
7.2.2 Protected areas and High Conservation Value areas are protected and managed appropriately.	N/A where there are no Protected or High Conservation Value areas	a. Protected and High Conservation Value areas are managed to protect wildlife and water quality.	Purpose: Protected and High Conservation Value (HCV) areas are designated for environmental protection due to their significant ecological, social, or cultural importance. These areas must be managed to conserve
		b. Management practices are targeted to benefit species and habitats identified in the landscape and biodiversity assessment (see 7.1.1).	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(7.2.2 continues)	N/A where there are no livestock	c. Livestock management practices are aligned with strategies to manage/support protected and High Conservation Value areas, where applicable.		biodiversity, ecosystems, and the resources they provide. Effective management ensures the preservation of these areas for future generations while balancing environmental, social, and economic factors.
7.2.3 Natural forests, protected areas and peatland have not been converted into agricultural use.	N/A if no history of or current natural forests/protected areas	a. Natural forests have not been converted into agricultural use since 1st January 2020, nor are there any plans to do so.		Purpose: To prevent deforestation and the degradation of key ecosystems that provide vital ecosystem services. Keeping natural forests, protected areas and peatlands intact is critical to maintaining biodiversity, supporting various species, preventing soil erosion, protecting water resources, and storing carbon, among other functions.
		b. Formally/legally protected areas have not been converted to agricultural use since their designation as a protected area, nor are there any plans to do so.		
	N/A where there is no peatland	c. (New) Since the business' ownership or management of the land, peatland has not been converted into agricultural use since 5 May 2026, nor are there any plans to do so. i. Where peatland has been converted into agricultural use before 5 May 2026, the business takes measures to minimise further degradation of the converted peatland.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
7.2.4 Where conversion of other natural ecosystems occurs, the business avoids negative environmental impact.	N/A where conversion activity does not occur	a. Since the business' ownership or management of the land, compliance with criteria that permits conversion of other natural ecosystems into agricultural use must be achieved prior to conversion or during development stages of existing conversion plans: i. Compliance with all local and national regulations regarding conversion. ii. Notification is given to, and approval is gained from relevant authorities, where required.		Purpose: To maintain the integrity of natural ecosystems to preserve biodiversity, prevent soil erosion, protect water resources, store carbon and support other ecosystem services. Any approved and legal conversion activity must be carried out with care and respect for the environment, ensuring any negative impacts are mitigated.
		b. The business must conduct and implement an impact assessment to ensure the conversion strategy avoids negative environmental impact.		
		c. Records state strategies implemented to: i. Minimise negative environmental impacts of any conversion activity. ii. (New) Add habitat elsewhere on site, where possible.		
(New) 7.2.5 Strategies are implemented to restore habitats/ecosystems. Advanced	-	a. The business implements strategies to restore habitats/ecosystems to a healthy condition.		Purpose: To restore habitats and ecosystems to a healthy condition or return them to their natural state in order to rebuild/increase biodiversity and create resilient environments. 



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
7.2.6 Trees/hedgerows are retained.	N/A where there are no trees/hedges	a. Trees/hedgerows are present, as recorded in the landscape and biodiversity map.		Purpose: To preserve habitats, ecosystems and support biodiversity. Retaining and maintaining tree and hedgerow cover is a crucial aspect of land and environmental management and plays a key role in soil stability, water management, carbon sequestration, and habitat provision for wildlife. Note: Control point refers to non-crop trees located in-field, in site boundaries and habitats.
	N/A where no trees/hedges are removed	b. Where the removal of non-crop trees/hedges is required, the business must demonstrate: i. Compliance with relevant local/national legislation where required, including approval documents. ii. (New) Reason for tree removal (e.g., causing a hazard). iii. (New) Where land is rented, approval for non-crop tree removal must be sought from the landlord. iv. (New) Location of tree felling and subsequent plan for the area is referred to in the landscape and biodiversity map/plan.		
7.2.7 Deep cultivation under the canopy of in-field trees is avoided.	N/A for businesses where there are no in-field trees or hedgerows	a. Deep cultivations are not carried out under in-field trees except where trees are used for the purpose of shade.		Purpose: To prevent tree root damage that may severely injure the tree.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
7.2.8 Waterbodies are managed to protect biodiversity.	N/A where there are no waterbodies	a. Timing and frequency of management is appropriate (e.g., seasonal, avoiding nesting periods).		Purpose: To protect biodiversity within the vicinity of waterbodies, especially during key times of the year where species may be nesting or inhabiting the area. It is acceptable to evidence 7.2.8.b verbally.
	N/A where there are no waterbodies or where the business does not have management control over areas around waterbodies	b. Watercourse clearance is justified if more frequent than once per year.		
		c. (New) Strategies are implemented to promote biodiversity in areas surrounding waterbodies/buffer zones.		
7.3 Habitats and Species				
(New) 7.3.1 5% or more of the total farm/site area is managed as habitat.	-	a. Habitat type and habitat management is justified and informed by the landscape and biodiversity assessment/plan.		Purpose: To provide environments that can encourage and support increased biodiversity on the farm. While it is important to have habitat areas on-farm, it is also important to focus on improving the quality of those habitats to ensure their longevity and their ability to support key and protected species. Though at times, some habitat spaces may be temporary or seasonal (e.g., wildflower strips). It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 7.3.1.a and 7.3.1.c.i verbally.
		b. Strategies are implemented to protect and enhance the quality of habitat area.		
		c. Map (7.1.1) shows that 5% or more of the total farm/site area is managed as habitat. Where habitat area is less than 5%: i. There must be a justification (see guidance). ii. There must be more than 0% habitat area on the site. iii. Awareness of potential areas for habitat creation.		
		d. LSFR question LB.03 has been completed with accurate figures.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
7.3.2 10% or more of the total farm/site area is managed as habitat. Advanced	-	a. Habitat type and habitat management is justified and informed by the landscape and biodiversity assessment/plan.		Purpose: To provide environments that can encourage and support increased biodiversity on the farm. While it is important to have habitat areas on-farm, it is also important to focus on improving the quality of those habitats to ensure their longevity and their ability to support key and protected species. Though at times, some habitat spaces may be temporary or seasonal (e.g., wildflower strips). It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 7.3.2.a verbally.
		b. (New) Strategies are implemented to protect and enhance the quality of habitat area.		
		c. Map (7.1.1) shows that 10% or more of the total farm/site area is managed as habitat.		
		d. LSFR question LB.03 has been completed with accurate figures.		
(New) 7.3.3 Strategies are implemented to improve the connectivity of habitats. Advanced	-	a. Strategies are implemented to improve the connection between habitat areas on-farm and across the landscape that would otherwise be isolated from each other.		Purpose: To encourage and support the movement of species between habitats, which can promote greater biodiversity across the farm and landscape.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
7.3.4 Strategies are implemented to support protected and key species.	-	a. Appropriate habitat is provided.		Purpose: To encourage and support healthy populations of protected and key species, especially those that may be in decline. By focusing some of its landscape and biodiversity planning and efforts on species, the business can promote and protect biodiversity on farm and across the wider landscape. Note: This control point refers to supporting key species/protected species, including pollinators, identified in the landscape and biodiversity assessment/plan.
		b. There are areas available for protected/key species to forage/hunt.		
		c. Breeding seasons are identified and recorded.		
		d. Farm management activities are adjusted to avoid disturbance according to breeding seasons, including: i. Avoiding areas inhabited by species on site. ii. Watercourses are not cleared during nesting periods.		
7.3.5 Plant/tree species used in field margins and other habitats are native/appropriate to the local ecosystem.	-	a. Trees/hedgerows are comprised of native species/species appropriate to the local ecosystem.		Purpose: To maintain ecological balance and promote biodiversity while also avoiding the introduction of invasive plant species, reducing competition for resources, and providing appropriate food and shelter for local wildlife. Native species are well-adapted to local soil, climate, and wildlife, supporting healthier, more resilient ecosystems.
		b. (New) The business uses native species/species appropriate to the local ecosystem when planting other vegetation for habitat.		
		c. Seeding of field margins use native species/species appropriate to the local ecosystem, or local provenance of seed, where possible.		
		d. Where seeding of field margins and habitats has occurred, the business must have seeding records, including seed labels.		
		e. (New) Where trees are planted, the business must have records of trees purchased and number of trees planted.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
7.3.6 Field/plot margins and site boundaries are managed to avoid negative impacts on species and habitats.	N/A where cutting is not used for management	a. Where management occurs through cutting, there are strategies to prevent negative impact on species and habitats, including: i. Timing of cutting occurs during the least destructive period for flora and fauna. ii. Frequency and extent of cutting is minimised. iii. Grass cuttings are removed where possible.		Purpose: Field/plot margins and site boundaries have the potential to provide habitat for a diverse range of species from insects to small mammals and can provide nectar and pollen resources for pollinators. Therefore, it is important to manage margins and site boundaries in ways that do not negatively impact any species or their habitats.
		b. If cutting is required for access or health and safety: i. (New) There is justification. ii. Negative impacts on species and habitats are recorded. iii. Mitigation strategies are implemented.		
	-	c. Travel is minimised on field/plot margins and near site boundaries.		
	N/A for protected and indoor cropping systems	d. Field/plot margins are maintained to be at least two-metres wide, measured from the middle of the permanent boundary feature, unless: i. Fields/plots are less than two hectares. ii. Fields/plots have no boundary feature, and the natural habitat extends from the crop or crop headland.		
(New) 7.3.7 The business must comply with local and national legislation regarding invasive species management.	N/A where there is no legislation regarding invasive species management	a. The business complies with local or national legislation regarding invasive species management.		Purpose: To prevent invasive species from spreading on/offsite, as they can have detrimental impacts on local ecosystems, biodiversity and crop production by competing for space, light, nutrients, water, as well as spreading diseases.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 7.3.8 Strategies are implemented to manage and control the spread of invasive species. Advanced	-	a. Strategies are implemented to manage and control the spread of invasive species.		
7.4 Biodiversity Monitoring				
7.4.1 At least one species or habitat is monitored on-farm.	-	a. Species/habitat chosen are justified in terms of their importance to the local environment.		Purpose: To establish a more in-depth understanding of the species/habitat on-farm, and where possible understand whether the strategies implemented to support protected and key species, and protect and enhance habitats, have positively impacted the species/habitat. This can then inform the update of strategies as needed. It is acceptable to evidence 7.4.1.a verbally. 
		b. The business documents the monitoring of the chosen species/habitat.		
		c. (New) At a minimum, monitoring must be carried out annually.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 7.4.2 Four or more species are monitored on-farm. Advanced	-	a. Species chosen are justified in terms of their importance to the local environment.		Purpose: To establish a more in-depth understanding of the species/habitat on-farm, and where possible understand whether the strategies implemented to support protected and key species, and protect and enhance habitats, have positively impacted the species/habitat. This can then inform the update of strategies as needed. It is acceptable to evidence 7.4.2.a verbally. 
		b. The business documents the monitoring of the chosen species.		
		c. At a minimum, monitoring must be carried out annually.		



Engaging Society.

There are so many good reasons for building strong community and wider stakeholder connections. Through these networks producers can share knowledge on how they farm and use Integrated Farm Management (IFM), as well as gain new knowledge about sustainable farming through collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Connecting with the public, farmers and producers, and other stakeholders can help encourage a wider understanding of food sustainability and the importance of sustainable farming for the environment, health and building resilience in the food system. Building these collaborative relationships can also help preserve local and traditional knowledge and foster innovation to and support farmers and producers to tackle key sustainability challenges and enable greater adaptability to ever-changing farming pressures.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
8.1 Community Engagement				
8.1.1 The business engages with local or wider communities.	N/A where it is not appropriate to carry out a community engagement activity and a justification is provided (see guidance and 8.2.1.a)	a. At least one activity is carried out annually.		Purpose: To share knowledge about sustainable farming with local or wider communities to encourage an understanding of food sustainability, and its importance for the environment, health and building resilience in the food system. 
		b. At a minimum, the business provides information about its sustainable farming practices during the activity.		
		c. Date and details of the activity are documented.		
8.2 Knowledge Exchange				
(New) 8.2.1 The business participates in a knowledge exchange activity.	-	a. The business actively participates in at least one knowledge exchange activity annually. i. Where 8.1.1 is justified as Not Applicable, the business must carry out at least two knowledge exchange activities.		Purpose: For the business to gain or to share knowledge about sustainable farming with other businesses/institutes/organisations. Knowledge exchange is key for preserving local and traditional knowledge, driving innovation, and enabling greater adaptability to changing pressures within farming communities. 
b. The topic of the activity must be related to sustainable food/farming.				
c. Date and details of the activity are documented.				



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
8.3 Collaboration and Collective Action			
8.3.1 The business participates in collaboration/ collective action. Advanced	-	a. In the last 12 months, the business has participated in collaboration/collective action with others to address sustainability challenges.	 Purpose: To actively work with others to improve the sustainability of food production and protect the environment, for example by participating in a group, initiative or project.
		b. (New) Date(s) and details of the collaboration/collective action are documented.	



Livestock Management.



The sustainable and responsible management of animal health and welfare, feed and grazing practices is essential to implementing Integrated Farm Management (IFM) in any livestock business.

Livestock systems can have significant impacts on the climate and environment in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution, but when managed appropriately, these systems can also have positive impacts that support climate resilience and farm resilience.

Good animal health and welfare is paramount not only for maintaining healthy animals but is also important for maintaining productivity and reducing the use of antibiotics and anthelmintics.

Feeding decisions should ensure livestock maintain their health and welfare and reduce environmental impacts wherever possible by considering alternative sources of proteins and responsible sourcing of feed. IFM also encourages businesses to consider how they can improve self-sufficiency through home-grown feed or sourcing locally produced feed.

Appropriate grazing and land management practices can help improve grass production, reduce topsoil and nutrient losses, improve soil health, improve the quality of watercourses, enhance biodiversity, and promote soil carbon sequestration.

Additional guidance for this section can be found in the myLEAF [Guidance Library](#).



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
9.1 Assessment and Planning			
9.1.1 There is an annual visit and review from a veterinary surgeon.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. There is a visit from a veterinary surgeon at least annually. b. There is an annual review by a veterinary surgeon. The review includes: i. (New) Livestock health assessment. ii. (New) Reproductive health, where appropriate. iii. (New) Nutrition and feeding assessment. iv. (New) Biosecurity measures and emergency procedures. v. (New) Any veterinary recommendations.	 Purpose: Input from veterinary professionals on-farm is essential to ensure good animal health and welfare and appropriate management of livestock. The annual veterinary visit and review should be used to inform livestock management strategies.
9.1.2 There is a health and welfare plan in place for livestock.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. The plan is: i. Produced in consultation with and agreed with vet(s). ii. Reviewed annually, including: iii. Recording progress towards targets iv. Updating strategies/targets, where appropriate v. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.	 Purpose: To protect and enhance the health and welfare of animals. Ensure that animals on the farm, and new animals brought onto farm, are in good health helps to maintain productivity and reduce environmental impact. Good health and welfare management develops stronger and healthier livestock, improves immunity, reduces antibiotic usage and supports sustainability outcomes. Optimising animal health and welfare is essential to implementing Integrated Farm Management in any livestock



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(9.1.2 continues)		b. The plan includes: i. (New) Protocol of quarantine when bringing new animals into the holding. ii. Strategies to: • (New) Minimise antibiotic/anthelmintic use • Adopt non-chemical methods to manage/support health, where appropriate • Manage biosecurity, including insect-borne diseases iii. Targets to: • Prevent resistance build-up to veterinary medicines • (New) Any veterinary recommendations.		business. 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.
(New) 9.1.3 Stocking density and number of animals is appropriate for the farm system.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. The number of animals and stocking density are justified in terms of: • Minimising pollution risk • Ensuring waste can be adequately managed • Minimising risk of soil degradation • Minimising risk of disease spread and impact • Enabling the business to respond to extreme weather emergencies		Purpose: To demonstrate awareness and consideration of how high stocking densities, especially in intensive farming systems, can lead to several environmental issues, and health and welfare issues, specific to each species. Sustainable management practices - for example rotational grazing for cattle and sheep, improved waste management in pig and poultry systems - and reduced stocking densities, are essential for minimising these negative impacts. GHG emissions can also vary depending on the farming system and stocking density.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
9.1.4 There is a feed assessment.	N/A if no feed is used, or where the business does not have livestock	a. The assessment is: i. Reviewed annually and updated where appropriate. ii. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: To effectively evaluate and understand the current status of feed resources, including the quality, sources and availability of feed. This assessment can support the business to identify strategies to manage feed more sustainably while improving efficiency, quality and livestock production. The feed assessment and management planning exercises can help the business to consider sustainability factors when making feed decisions, in addition to nutritional factors.
		b. The assessment includes: i. Feed type/composition. ii. Traceability of all feed. iii. Proportion of home-grown and brought-in feed. iv. Feed certification/assurance schemes, where appropriate. v. Nutritional requirements of all livestock within the business.		
9.1.5 There is a feed management plan.	N/A if no feed is used, or where the business does not have livestock	a. The plan is: i. Based on the feed assessment. ii. Reviewed annually, including: • Assessing/recording progress towards targets • Updating strategies/targets, where appropriate iii. (New) Available/communicated to relevant staff and contractors.		Purpose: To identify strategies to improve the sustainability of feed production, sourcing and use while ensuring that animals receive a balanced and sufficient diet tailored to their specific needs, including growth, maintenance, reproduction, and lactation.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
(9.1.5 continues)		b. The plan includes: i. Strategies to: • Maximise the amount of home-grown feed used/minimise the amount of brought-in feed, where possible • (New) Utilise food/crop waste/by-products as a source of feed, where appropriate and possible • (New) Source brought-in feed locally, where possible • Minimise the waste/loss of feed • (New) Optimise nutrition to ensure livestock receive adequate and balanced nutrition ii. Targets to: • (New) Where the business uses brought-in feed that contains soy/palm ingredients, transition to feed containing deforestation-free soy/palm • (New) Transition to soy/palm-free feed, where appropriate	By implementing more on-farm, local and circular feed sourcing strategies, the business can reduce the environmental impact of its feed sourcing. These strategies can also help the business become more self-sufficient and resilient by reducing reliance on external inputs and minimising financial pressures from fluctuating feed costs. Animal feed production, particularly soy and palm ingredient production, is a leading cause of land use change, deforestation and biodiversity loss globally. By transitioning to feed with deforestation-free soy/palm ingredients, or feed that is free from soy/palm ingredients where appropriate, the business can reduce the environmental impact of its feed sourcing and contribute to a more sustainable livestock sector.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 9.1.6 There is an emergency/contingency plan.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Emergency plan includes: i. Location of all livestock holdings and housing units, including access points during emergencies. ii. Location of water sources for fire services, including information about the capacity and accessibility of each water source. iii. Strategies to manage livestock during emergencies, including extreme weather events (see guidance).		Purpose: To provide a 'go-to' document for emergency situations and have a clear plan for any emergencies that could occur on farm.
		b. Routes to emergency access points and water sources are accessible at all times.		
		c. There is an emergency water supply to meet the needs of the entire livestock population during extreme weather/temperature conditions.		
		d. Relevant staff involved in emergency responses can access and understand the location information.		
		e. There is a contingency plan in place for disease outbreaks.		Purpose: To have a clear plan of how to implement biosecurity measures to reduce the occurrence/spread of disease among livestock, and to prepare for, manage, and mitigate the effects of animal disease outbreaks on-farm. A well-structured contingency plan ensures a rapid, coordinated, and effective response.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
9.2 Health and Welfare			
(New) 9.2.1 The species/breed(s) of livestock are appropriate for the farm system.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Species/breeds are selected based on the long-term fit of the breed to the farm system, including: i. Adaptability to microclimate. ii. Endurance. iii. Any other relevant factors (e.g., disease resistance, forage ability, etc.)	Purpose: To ensure that the species or breeds of livestock on farm are well-suited to the farm system, in terms of animal welfare and environmental sustainability. Breeds with high endurance, disease resistance, and strong forage ability are particularly important, as they can graze efficiently on available pasture, reducing reliance on supplementary feed. By selecting breeds that align with the farm's environmental goals, the business can enhance productivity, minimize resource use, and improve the environmental impact of livestock on the farm ecosystem, all while maintaining animal health and welfare.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 9.2.2 During periods of extreme weather/temperatures, livestock management is adjusted.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Livestock management adjustments include, where appropriate and possible: • Livestock are checked more frequently, for possible signs of heat-stress • Reducing stocking density during extreme heat • Easy access to shelter/shade • Handling livestock at cooler times in the day during extreme heat • Ensuring a continuous and abundant supply of clean drinking water • Adequate ventilation in enclosed spaces like buildings • Assessment of standing conditions (e.g., livestock standing in water-logged mud) • Staff awareness and assessment of signs of heat stress		Purpose: Although some species may be more adaptable to changing climates than others, every species is susceptible to extremes in temperature and weather. Changes in temperature and weather not only affect livestock health and welfare directly, but can also impact feed, water availability and housing.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 9.2.3 Strategies are implemented to minimise antibiotic and anthelmintic use.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Strategies are implemented to: i. Minimise antibiotic/anthelmintic use. ii. Ensure the use of antibiotics/anthelmintics is targeted.		Purpose: To ensure that antimicrobial medicine usage is in line with good practice and does not contribute to antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a significant global threat. Adequate and balanced nutrition, good husbandry and routine preventative measures can all help reduce antimicrobial usage. Where antibiotics or anthelmintics (anti-parasitic medications) are required, they must be justified and used responsibly to avoid increasing antimicrobial resistance. It is acceptable to evidence 9.2.3.c verbally.
		b. Antibiotics and anthelmintics administered are recorded, including justification according to the livestock species for: i. Reason for use. ii. Type of antibiotic/anthelmintic used. iii. Frequency of use.		
		c. Awareness of the potential impact of antibiotic and anthelmintic usage on the wider environment.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
9.3 Housing and Equipment			
(New) 9.3.1 Buildings that house livestock are optimised for the local climate.	N/A if no buildings are used for livestock housing or where the business does not have livestock	a. Livestock buildings: i. Have regular infrastructure maintenance. ii. Can safely shelter livestock during extreme weather conditions.	Purpose: To ensure that buildings are fit for the local climate and weather conditions in order to optimise resource use (e.g., energy, water use, etc.) and to provide a safe, healthy, and comfortable environment for animals.
	N/A if no buildings are used for livestock housing or if there are no new buildings, or where the business does not have livestock	b. New building designs/refurbishment account for local climate conditions and potential extreme weather/temperature conditions.	
	N/A if no buildings are used for livestock housing or where the business does not have livestock	c. Livestock building ventilation system provides adequate airflow throughout the entire structure. i. Natural ventilation is maximised, where possible.	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 9.3.2 Sustainable/recycled materials are used for bedding. Advanced	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Bedding is made of sustainable/recycled materials or by-products.		Purpose: To promote more circular resource use and reducing waste by using sustainable or recycled materials for livestock bedding, instead of relying on new raw materials used for bedding, and by potentially reducing the impact of used bedding disposal (e.g., may be suitable to compost). Note: It is essential that materials used as bedding are safe, suitable and legal.
9.3.3 Equipment used to treat/handle livestock is regularly maintained.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Records show regular maintenance and procedures for equipment used for treating and handling livestock.		Purpose: To ensure machinery and equipment function properly and efficiently and are safe for animals.
(New) 9.3.4 Drinking water systems are efficient and in working order to prevent water waste.	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Drinking water systems are regularly maintained and assessed for leaks, clogs, or any signs of malfunction that could result in water waste (e.g., pipes, troughs, valves, and water delivery mechanisms).		Purpose: To ensure water resources are conserved and not wasted.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
9.4 Silage			
9.4.1 Silage/silage effluent is stored to prevent pollution to the environment.	N/A in circumstance s where silage is not used or stored, or where the business does not have livestock	a. Stores are compliant with local and national regulations.	Purpose: To prevent environmental pollution, especially from silage effluent which can pollute nearby water sources and harm aquatic ecosystems due to its high nutrient content.
		b. Silage/effluent stores have an expected lifespan of at least 20 years from construction with maintenance.	
		c. (New) Stores are designed/constructed and managed to prevent pollution, especially from drainage and run-off.	
		d. Effluent stores have sufficient holding capacity, where applicable.	
		e. There is regular inspection, maintenance and repair for all stores.	
		f. Where there is construction of a new store, or alteration to an existing store: i. Relevant authorities have been notified, where required and appropriate. ii. Construction materials are appropriate regarding permeability and corrosion.	
		g. All stores are at least 10 metres away from waterbodies (e.g., near a water supply intake).	
		h. Field stores are at least 50 metres away from waterbodies where potable water is abstracted.	



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification	Guidance
9.5 Sustainable Land Management			
9.5.1 Strategies are implemented to manage grazing/foraging.	N/A where not appropriate or possible to implement grazing/foraging, or where the business does not have livestock	a. The grazing/foraging strategies: i. (New) Account for seasonal variations in grass/forage growth, weather conditions, and nutritional and health needs of livestock. ii. (New) Optimise pasture health and productivity, including recovery periods. iii. Adjust stocking density/rates to align with pasture carrying capacity. iv. (New) Prevent over-grazing. v. (New) Prevent poaching and soil compaction. vi. Protect and optimise on-farm biodiversity. b. (New) Grazing/forage conditions are regularly monitored to inform adjustments to the management of grazing/foraging.	Purpose: To protect soil health and biodiversity, while also supporting livestock health and nutrition. While grazing/foraging can bring many benefits to the land and to livestock, it must be carefully managed to maintain those beneficial outcomes and prevent the degradation of soils and the land.
(New) 9.5.2 Rotational grazing/foraging is implemented. Advanced	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. A rotational grazing system is implemented, where pastures are divided into manageable paddocks.	Purpose: To allow rest and regrowth of grass/forage which in turn supports plant diversity and an enhanced habitat for beneficial insects and wildlife. Rotational grazing can improve soil health, increasing organic matter, promote carbon sequestration, improve grass health and reduces parasite burdens on land.



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 9.5.3 The grazing areas have a diverse composition. Advanced	N/A where the business does not have livestock	a. Grazing areas have a diversity in sward varieties/herbal leys/legumes.		Purpose: Although some native species of grasses and herbs may have lower levels of protein, adding legumes to the mix (e.g., clovers) can improve both diversity and protein in animal diets. Maintaining a diverse composition in grazing areas/species-rich grassland also supports improved soil health (e.g., soil cover, organic matter, variation in root structures support soil structure), biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
		b. Grass/forage species: i. Are resilient to local climate conditions. ii. Provide nutritional diversity for livestock.		
(New) 9.5.4 Livestock grazing/foraging is used as a strategy in crop rotations. Advanced	N/A if no crops are grown, or where the business does not have livestock	a. Livestock grazing/foraging is included in crop rotation schedules. i. Grazing/foraging is coordinated with crop cycles to optimise nutrient cycling and minimise soil compaction, where possible.		Purpose: To improve the diversity of rotations, improve soil health (e.g., organic matter) and control weeds and pests. This can also encourage opportunities to collaborate and work with other farming enterprises, which can potentially help diversify income streams and spread the risks of production.
		b. The impact of livestock grazing on soil health is regularly monitored.		



LEAF Marque Control Points	Notes on N/A eligibility	Verification		Guidance
(New) 9.5.5 Silvopastoral/ agroforestry systems are implemented (or trialled). Advanced	N/A where not appropriate or possible to implement silvopastoral/ agroforestry, or where the business does not have livestock	a. The business identifies and justifies the type and placement of tree/forage species.		Purpose: Encouraging a more diverse grazing/foraging system by integrating trees with grasses, herbs, legumes and scrub/shrub as appropriate can support nutritional enrichment and provide shade, while also improving biodiversity, soil health and water management. It is acceptable to evidence the justification in 9.5.5.a verbally.

© LEAF Marque Ltd
All rights reserved.

LEAF Marque Ltd,
Stoneleigh Park,
Warwickshire,
CV8 2LG,
United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)24 7641 3911
E: info@leafmarque.com
W: www.leaf.eco/farming/leaf-marque