NZFAP Plus Standard (v7)

What has changed?
(effective from 1 October 2026)

Each year, the New Zealand Farm Assurance Programme Plus (NZFAP Plus) Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which includes representatives from meat processors, industry, and farmers, reviews the NZFAP Plus Standards. This helps make sure the Standards continue to meet customer expectations, remain practical, and reflect feedback received from stakeholders. Minor programme changes have been made this year to remove unnecessary administration and support a more streamlined certification process, while maintaining the integrity of the programme after certification is achieved. These are summarised below with further information included in the NZFAP Plus Standard v7.

If you have any questions in relation to the NZFAP Plus Standard programme or the changes, please contact your meat company or wool company representative.

Key programme changes include:

- **Self-assessment replaced with short pre-audit checklist before your audit is booked.** We have received feedback that the self-assessment was not always useful, could feel like a lot to complete, and was often out of date by the time the audit happened. Removing it makes the programme simpler and avoids asking you to complete paperwork that is not adding enough value. Instead, when you request an audit, a checklist will be emailed to complete that will help you, your member company, and QCONZ check that your farm is ready for audit. This is to support a smooth audit process, identify any areas where support may be required prior to your audit, and help ensure a successful audit outcome while minimising audit costs.
- **Online upload for annual evidence.** You will now upload evidence for annual requirements online when it is due each year. This means you will not need to keep that evidence aside and find it again before your next audit. The process will be kept as simple and streamlined as possible, so it does not add unnecessary administration. The aim is to make things easier for you, support a smoother audit, and help ensure the integrity of the NZFAP Plus programme is upheld. Further detail is included on page 6 of the Standard.

There have also been a few small changes to the requirements to make them clearer. The following NZFAP Plus requirements have been added and/or amended to provide clarity. Key changes are shown in **bold**.

Definitions: Where a word or phrase is shown in *italics*, more information is provided on pages 22–25.

1.1. Farm Plans and Records

1.1.2 All livestock must meet a minimum of 60 consecutive days residency across one or more NZFAP Plus certified farms (D) (New)

1.1.3 All plans and records must be retained for **the period between NZFAP Plus audits (e.g. three years of 36 months)**. (D) (Amended)

This requirement has been amended to align with NZFAP and ensure that you are not having to retain documents unnecessarily.

2.2. Health, Safety and Wellbeing

2.2.9 **Work schedules must provide** all people working in the business **with a reasonable opportunity for regular time away from work** to pursue **activities** outside the farming business. (C) (Amended)

Wellbeing has been incorporated within the Health and Safety section.

3.6 Nutrient Management and Soil Health

3.6.1 **An assessment of soil health must be** undertaken using the Visual Soil Assessment (VSA) method for each soil type or LMU at least once every three years. **The visual soil assessment must include the following:** (D) (Amended)

a. Soil structure and consistence
b. Soil porosity
c. Soil colour
d. Number and colour of soil
e. Earthworm counts
f. Surface relief
g. Tillage pan (if under cropping)
h. Degree of clod development (if under cropping)
i. Degree of soil erosion (if under cropping)
j. Ranking Score.

The information that must be recorded has been listed for consistency and to make the requirement clearer.

3.10 Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change

3.10.4 A written GHG emissions plan **must be completed that is reflective of the farming system.** (D) (Amended)

Other minor amendments have been made for clarity and/or remove duplication, marked by "(Amended)" at the end of each requirement. To request a copy of the NZFAP Plus Standard v7, please visit www.nzfap.com/resources/

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