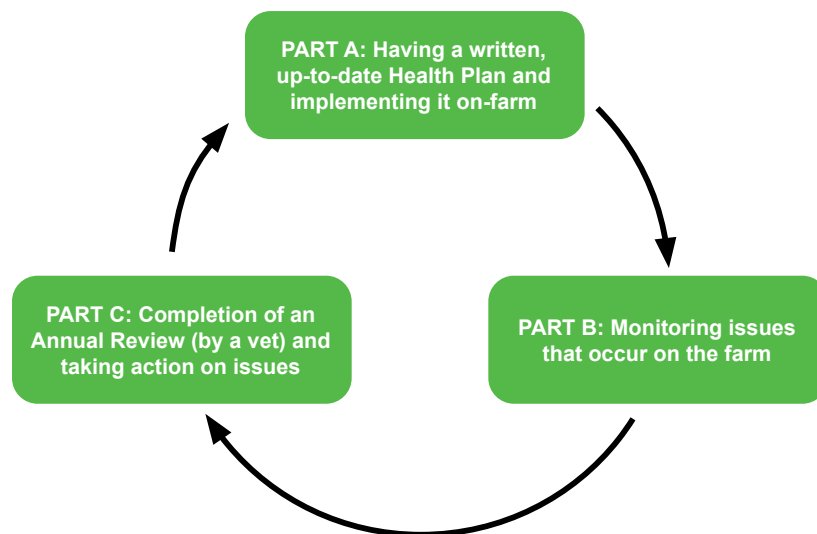


HEALTH PLAN AND REVIEW (DAIRY)

Standards AH.a to AH.c.1 requires proactive, farm-specific health planning. This is demonstrated by:



It is recommended that a Veterinary Surgeon is involved in all aspects of health planning, but it is a requirement that they undertake an Annual Review.

TEMPLATES

There is a herd health plan and review template available from the Red Tractor website (www.redtractorassurance.org.uk). The Scheme template references the minimum scheme requirements. Other templates and/ or computer packages may be used, as long as the criteria outlined in this appendix is included.

PART A: The Health Plan

There are certain, key criteria that your health plan must include. Farmers can complete the health plan themselves – or can develop it with their veterinary surgeon who has knowledge of the farm. See Table A (overleaf) for an outline of the criteria that must be included.

PART B: Monitor the issues that occur on-farm

Health and performance should be monitored on an on-going basis – but the scheme requires as a minimum that incidence (total cases and cases per 100 cows) of the following health conditions is collated annually:

- Lameness
- Mastitis
- Culling rate
- Top 3 reasons for culling
- Involuntary culls (excluding TB reactors and planned culls)
- Calf mortality (split stillborn to 24 hours and 24 hours to 42 days)

The collation can be undertaken by the farmer themselves, or a veterinary surgeon.

The health and performance records required by standard AH.b should be used to collate the incidence data.

PART C: Annual Herd Health and Performance Review

It is a requirement that a veterinary surgeon (ideally the herd vet that routinely visits the farm) conducts an annual herd health and performance review – that entails reviewing records, seeing livestock and recommending actions. See Table B for more information.

To demonstrate that this has been completed, Red Tractor has produced a template that the vet can complete, sign and leave on farm to be shown to the assessor.

HEALTH PLAN AND REVIEW (DAIRY)

TABLE A: HERD HEALTH PLAN – mandatory components

MANAGEMENT TOPIC	WHAT THE PLAN MUST DETAIL/ EXPLAIN	EXAMPLES TO CONSIDER
Biosecurity policy	Actions taken to reduce biosecurity risks to your farm Isolation and quarantine procedures for incoming stock Biosecurity risks from animals in neighbouring fields	e.g. managing incoming stock, disease transmission from animal to animal within the holding, equipment, people, vehicles, risks from watercourses
Infectious disease and vaccination	For disease risks relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Johne's Control Strategy (signed by BCVA accredited vet) ■ BVD eradication plan ■ herd status ■ vaccines used and vaccine timing 	e.g. Johnes, Lepto, BVD, IBR, TB
Parasite control	For parasite risks relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ products used and timing 	e.g. fluke, lungworm, worms, lice, flies
Foot care & lameness management	Lameness management including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ mobility scoring protocol ■ foot trimming protocol ■ footbath protocol For foot problems relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ details of the person responsible for treating ■ when and How the problem is treated - controls/ treatments and products used 	e.g. digital dermatitis, sole ulcers, foul, white line disease
Mastitis	For routine prevention measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the measures taken and products used ■ milking routine protocol For treatment of clinical cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ measures taken, products used and withdrawal periods 	e.g. Mastitis Control Plan, AHDB Dairy Mastitis Pattern Analysis Tool
Metabolic disorders	For metabolic disorders relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ preventative measures ■ how clinical cases are treated including products used 	e.g. staggers, milk fever, ketosis, displaced abomasums
Management of drying off	The drying off procedure - measures taken; products used and withdrawal periods	
Calving procedures	Protocol for use of calving aids, including cleansing and disinfection Management of cow/calf separation Disease control at calving (e.g. Johnes)	
Young animal management and husbandry procedures	The measures taken to ensure newborns receive adequate colostrum For husbandry procedures relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the person responsible ■ methods and age of animal ■ anaesthetics used 	e.g. Disbudding, dehorning, castration, removal of supernumerary teats
Husbandry procedures	For husbandry procedures relevant to the farm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The person responsible ■ Methods and age of animal Anaesthetic/analgesia produce used	e.g. disbudding, dehorning, castration, removal of supernumerary teats, freeze branding
Identifying treated animals	A written policy detailing how livestock are identified to manage withdrawal periods, and their treatment	

HEALTH PLAN AND REVIEW (DAIRY)

TABLE A: HERD HEALTH PLAN – mandatory components (continued)

Pain relief procedures	A written policy detailing when pain relief should be provided, the person responsible and the products used	e.g. difficult calving, disbudding, lameness treatments
Dealing with TB reactors	A written policy for dealing with TB reactors within the herd and their milk, including actions taken to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ isolate and identify reactors ■ ensure reactor milk doesn't enter the bulk tank and is not fed to calves ■ inform milk buyer(s) 	The policy should make reference to information from the TB advisory service as appropriate
MANAGEMENT TOPIC	WHAT THE PLAN MUST DETAIL/ EXPLAIN	EXAMPLES TO CONSIDER
Downer cows	Actions taken with downer cows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ when vet should be notified ■ when euthanasia decision should be made 	
Protocol for use of shackles/hobbles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When shackles/hobbles are used ■ How they are used and for how long ■ When vet should be notified of their use ■ Details to be recorded - including date applied and reason 	
Euthanasia	A written policy outlining how euthanasia is undertaken on-farm, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ animal type ■ methods used ■ name of person who undertakes it 	

NOTE: If farming beef cattle or sheep, the health plan must also cover them – or in the case of sheep, the supplement template may be completed as an alternative.

TABLE B – HERD HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW – mandatory components

	REVIEWING/ SEEING	
Step 1 – Review/ see:	Herd health and performance records and collated incidence data	Examples of records include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lameness records ■ Mastitis records ■ Mortality and culling records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Incidence data summary sheet ■ Milk recording, milk quality and cell count records ■ Buyer and abattoir feedback
	Medicine and antibiotic records AM.f.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Medicine purchase, use and administration ■ Antibiotic collation ■ Responsible use of antibiotics is discussed
	Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Milking herd and dry cows ■ Calves ■ Youngstock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stock bulls ■ Other cattle and sheep
Step 2 – Recommend actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identifying 3 or more issues that could be addressed to improve health and welfare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recommending actions to be taken and suitable timescales
Step 3 – Date and sign	The vet must date and sign the review in order for it to be deemed complete	