AGW Standards Amendment Proposals 2022-2023
AGW South Africa

Proposed changes to AGW's standards are listed below following the annual standards review process. Please send any comments you have on the proposed revisions to Rob@agreenerworld.org no later than 21 March 2023.

Contents

Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW (AWA) Standards

1. 11.1.2 Farm Plans (All Species) **– Proposed clarification of note to encourage planning based on current and evolving weather patterns, recognizing historical conditions may not be predictive.**

Current:
11.1.2 *Recommended* All plans for animal management should be reviewed at least annually or whenever changes to farm management practices occur, whichever is most frequent.

Note: This standard applies to the health plan (standard 3.0.4); pasture management plan (standard 7.0.8); emergency plan (standard 11.1.1) and transport plan (standard 13.0.1).

Proposed Note:
Note: This standard applies to the health plan (standard 3.0.4); pasture management plan (standard 7.0.8); emergency plan (standard 11.1.1) and transport plan (standard 13.0.1). Plans should take into consideration climatic trends rather than event exceptions.

2. 2.1.4 Embryo Transfer **– Proposed amendment to embryo transfer requirements to recognize the challenge of obtaining and documenting ET status of semen, and focus standard on welfare impacts on-farm.**

Current:
2.1.4 Embryo transfer and knowingly using the semen or progeny of animals produced by embryo transfer is prohibited.

Note [All animals]: The prohibition on use of embryo transfer extends to a single generation. In other words, if the sire or dam of an animal was produced by embryo transfer then that animal cannot be bought into a Animal Welfare Approved *herd or flock. New farms with existing livestock produced by embryo transfer should contact the* Animal Welfare Approved *office for further advice.*

Note [Dairy cattle only]: If farmers are unable to obtain semen from sources other than embryo transfer bulls please contact the Animal Welfare Approved office

Proposed:
2.1.4 Embryo transfer is prohibited.

3. 3.1.4 Estrus **– Proposed amendment to permit the use of substances to induce estrus where welfare would be improved.**

Current:
3.1.4 Non-therapeutic use of substances to induce estrus (heat) is prohibited.

Proposed:
3.1.4 Substances to induce estrus must only be used when there is a therapeutic need or when a welfare benefit can be demonstrated.

4. 4.7.9 Pain Relief **– Proposed new standard to recommend pain relief for every painful husbandry procedure.**

Proposed:
4.7.9 *Recommended* Castration should be accompanied by administration of appropriate anesthetic and/or analgesia.

5. 8.1.3 Space Requirements (Laying hens) **– Proposed amendments to improve auditability of shelter requirements.**

Current: Laying Hens
8.1.3 The following space allowances are required in housing or shelter when birds are shut indoors during daylight hours. They do not apply when laying hens are kept in a roost.

A roost contains perches that meet the requirements of standard 8.7.1 and may contain nest boxes; where the birds have free access to the ranging and foraging area from sunrise to sunset and where the thermal comfort of the birds can be maintained – see also Standard 8.0.2 and associated note.

Proposed:
8.1.3 The following space allowances are required in housing or shelter.

Note: Roosts that were previously compliant with standards on certified farms can continue to be used until no longer functional. All new or replacement shelter and housing must meet current housing and shelter requirements.

6. 4.3.3 Lambing/Kidding Age (Sheep/Dairy Sheep/Goats/Dairy Goats) **- Proposal to change the minimum age of lambing/kidding to reflect generally accepted best practices for pasture-based systems.**

Current:
4.3.3 Ewes/Does must not lamb/kid before the age of 13 months.
Note: In a situation where lambing/kidding takes place over a period of time the flock average figure will be assessed.
Young females may reach puberty before the optimal age of first service. Males must be managed carefully to ensure females are not accidentally served too young.

Proposed:
4.3.3 Ewes/Does must not lamb before the age of 12 months.

7. 4.8.4 Spaying Cattle (Beef Cattle) **– Proposal to explicitly prohibit "webbing"**

Current:
4.8.4 Spaying of heifers is prohibited.

Proposed:
4.8.4 Spaying, "webbing" and other similar operations are prohibited.

8. 2.2.5 Growth Rates (Meat Chickens) **– Proposal to amend growth rate requirements in cases where breeds have passed a recognized welfare outcome assessment**

Current:

2.2.5 When averaged over their entire lives, the rate of growth of meat chickens allowed to grow naturally on an optimum ration must not exceed 0.088 lbs (40 g) per day.

Note: The rate of growth for a breed type must be measured as if the bird was allowed to grow on an optimum ration that ensures the welfare of the bird is maintained. AGW looks at information from the breeding company or hatchery that supplies the bird and not individual on farm information to determine compliance with standard.

Proposed:
2.2.5 Unless the breed has passed a recognized welfare outcome assessment, when averaged over their entire lives, the rate of growth of meat chickens allowed to grow naturally on an optimum ration must not exceed 0.088 lb (40 g) per day.

For the purposes of this proposed amendment, the recognized welfare outcome assessments under consideration are: the RSPCA broiler breed welfare assessment protocol and the G.A.P. Better Chicken Project Broiler Chicken Assessment Protocol.

9. 7.3.9 Poultry Outdoor Run Space (Meat Chickens) **– Proposal to add specific space allowances for mobile pens with aerial predator challenges.**

Current:
7.3.9 After the brooding period each bird must have continuous access to at least 4 sq ft (0.37 sq m) range and foraging area (see also 7.0.3).

Proposed:

7.3.9 After the brooding period each bird must have continuous access to at least 4 sq ft (0.37 sq m) range and foraging area (see also 7.0.3), or if raised inside a mobile pen 2 sq ft (0.19 sq m) range and foraging area (see also 7.3.13).

Note: If a mobile pen is used the pen must be moved to meet standard 7.3.1 in addition to other ranging and foraging standards.

7.3.13 The minimum pen size on ranging and foraging areas are as follows:

7.3.13.1 For chickens in stationary pens: 18 ft (5.48 m) by 10 ft (3.04 m).
7.3.13.2 For chickens in mobile pens: 50 sq ft (15.2 sq m).

Note: For the purposes of this standard a pen is an enclosed area on the ranging and foraging area, usually attached to the poultry house or an enclosed mobile pen, which allows chickens to range within a defined area.

All Certifications (AWA, Certified Non-GMO by AGW, Certified Regenerative by AGW)

1. Section 17 Traceability (All) – **New proposed section to ensure logo use and traceability**

New Proposed Standards:
17.0.1 Producers must use the applicable logo on certified products unless otherwise agreed with AGW.

17.0.2 Records must ensure an input/output balance can be carried out on a product with an AGW logo and must be retained for at least two years.

17.0.3 AGW must approve logo use prior to certified sales.

For the purpose of this proposed amendment, logo use will be assessed according to the relevant policies in the AGW Policy Manual *– see section P5.*

Certified Grassfed by AGW

1. 17.0.1.1 Root Crops – **Proposal to clarify requirements on root crops**

New Proposed Standard:

17.0.1.1 Root crops planted for grazing must be a part of a pasture mix. Grassfed animals can graze the pastures with the mix, but the root crops cannot be harvested by the farmer and fed to Certified Grassfed by AGW animals.

Certified Regenerative by AGW

1. 8.0.4 Deforestation – **Proposal to extend the amount of time a holding must address the impacts of clearing primary or old growth secondary forests**

Current:
8.0.4 It is prohibited to destroy or clear primary or old growth secondary forests.

Note: Any holding that has made land cultivatable or available for grazing up to 10 years before certification can only be accepted for Certified Regenerative certification if considerable and adapted efforts are made to repair the damages and impacts caused, and to avoid them occurring again.

Proposed:
8.0.4 It is prohibited to destroy or clear primary or old growth secondary forests.

Note: Any holding that has made land cultivatable or available for grazing up to 15 years before certification can only be accepted for Certified Regenerative certification if considerable and adapted efforts are made to repair the damages and impacts caused, and to avoid them occurring again.

Certified Non-GMO by AGW

1. 18.5.5-18.5.6 Wild Harvest **– Proposal to introduce new standards for wild harvested crops**

Proposed:
18.5.5 The crops and location of wild harvested crops intended to carry the Certified Non-GMO by AGW logo must be declared annually.

18.5.6 For wild harvested crops, the crop collected must not be listed as endangered or threatened.

2. Annex 1 High-Risk Feeds **– Proposal to add new products**

Proposed additions:

Moderate Risk (CRISPR):
- Banana (TR4- Resistant Cavendish)
- Camelina (Enhanced Omega-3)
- Hemp (Cross-pollination from cannabis)
- Cannabis (THC reduction CRISPR)
- Lettuce
- Peanuts (Hypoallergenic)
- Wheat (Gluten free)

High Risk:
- Cowpeas (GMO in Nigeria, soon to be Ghana)
- Pigs (GalSafe)
- Cattle (PRLR-SLICK)