

Certification Programme: Dairy Farmer - Respect for Animal Welfare



No	Criterion	Means	Explanation
1	Space: Adequate space for natural behaviour	Freestall with cubicles: animal-cubicle ratio of 1:1	One cubicle is available for each dairy cow, dry cow and calving cow. Ratio = 1:1
		Or freestall without cubicles: over 350 kg of live weight, minimum area of 5 m ² /animal (resting and walking space)	Freestall without cubicles For animals weighing over 350 kg, the total resting and walking space must be at least 5 m ² per animal.
2	Housing: All cows must be able to move freely. In addition, provide lactating and dry cows with adequate outdoor climate stimuli.	Loose housing systems with exercise area that is accessible year-round:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 m²/animal in exercise area • Freely accessible year-round • No roof • Fenced in
		Open-front freestall (outdoor climate stall)	In an outdoor climate stall, 25% of the outer shell must be open. The outer boundary consists of the outer walls of the stall. The calculation does not factor in the stall roof. It is only permitted to close these openings during special weather conditions (possibly also during an audit). Permitted openings include curtains or wind curtains, as well as space boards, sash windows, and similar fittings. The openings must be quick and easy to open and close, to ensure smooth operation at all times during day-to-day work. NB: The dairy farmer keeps a log of when and why the openings are closed. The farmer must log the temporary closure of any and all openings included in the calculation.
		Loose housing systems with pasture access (at least 120 days, 6 hours)	Cows can go to pasture at least 6 hours a day for 120 days of the year (or at least 120 days for 720 hours a year). Pasture access log The dairy farmer enters the time when the cows go outside in a log (digital pasture calendar on Z-net). Perform complete pasture logging, which means logging the following (digital pasture calendar on Z-net): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first pasture day of the current year • Per day, the times when the cows are outside (start and end times) • Whenever the cows are temporarily not pastured Additional requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate grass is available. • The pastures feature fences suitable for cows. • At least 1 hectare of pasture is available for every 10 cows.
		No tethered housing	All animals must be able to move freely. Tethered housing is not permitted.



3	Calf dehorning, if practised on the farm	Calf dehorning is permitted if the animal is 6 weeks of age or younger, is anaesthetised and receives long-term pain control.	<p>Calf dehorning is only permitted under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The calf is not older than 6 weeks. • The anaesthesia is administered by a veterinarian. • After dehorning, long-acting pain medication is administered. <p>The medication prescribed by the veterinarian must be used properly (see instructions in the Farm Treatment Plan (“BBP“)).</p>
4	Comfort facilities	In freestall: Barn scratching brushes	<p>For every 60 dairy and dry cows: at least one (properly functioning) electric or mechanical cow brush, and at least one cow brush per group. For every 60 heifers (from fertilisation age): at least one (properly functioning) electric or mechanical cow brush, and at least one cow brush per group. This does not include calving pens or hospital pens.</p> <p>The brush meets the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The brush is sturdy. • The brush is installed at animal-appropriate height so it is functional for the relevant animal group. • The brush is of good quality and in good condition. • The brush is available and accessible at all times.
5	Voeren	Only GMO-free feed is permitted.	<p>The dairy farm falls under the VLOG group certification by A-ware. This requires approval of the milk supply as “GMO-free” under the EC GMO Implementation Act (the “EGGenTDurchfG”).</p> <p>For this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feed for dairy cows (lactating and dry) is Non-GMO/VLOG. • The VLOG profile must be updated annually (by 1 November). • The business meets all VLOG requirements.
6	Animal health monitoring	<p>Entry of results of medical examination at slaughterhouse</p> <p>Entry in a centralised database, see also the QA system. Qualified antibiotic monitoring</p> <p>Entry in a centralised database, see also the QA system.</p> <p>Datenbank vergl. der QS-Systematik</p>	<p>Digital participation in the indexed slaughter examination results programme in Z-net is required for your cull cows. See Annex 10. Slaughter examination results.</p> <p>A veterinarian must log each and every antibiotic prescribed or administered in MediRund (legally required in the Netherlands). MediRund is the centralised antibiotics records database for the bovine sector. https://medirund.nl. It calculates the animal/day dose and sends it to the farmer and the dairy plant three times a year. See Annex 8. MediRund.</p> <p>If the animal/day dose exceeds the threshold prescribed by the Netherlands Veterinary Medicines Institute (the “SDa”), the farmer must work with their veterinarian to draft a plan to reduce the use of antibiotics. See Annex 7. Criteria for the use of antibiotics https://www.autoriteitdiergeneesmiddelen.nl/</p>
7	Inspection frequency	Inspection of all farms by neutral certification bodies at least once a year	
8	Mandatory programme	Participation in a Milk Quality Chain (“KKM”) programme registered for the housing type	