

Preparation of a Farm Health Plan

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Presentation 4

Farm Health Planning



- A farm health plan is : **Any written plan designed to maintain or improve the welfare of livestock on a farm unit**
- Often the requirements of the plan will be influenced by or determined by
 - Farm Assurance scheme
 - Supplier Contract
 - Statutory Scheme
 - The needs or requirements of the client

Two Main Methodologies



- PDSA Cycle approach
- Customised HACCP approach
 - PDSA approach requires careful monitoring and evaluation of animal health status and animal performance
 - HACCP approach is more focussed on systems control and monitoring; it places more emphasis on local non-specialist management than the PDSA method

7 Principles of HACCP Approach



Based on food safety in food manufacturing:

- Conduct a hazard analysis (1)
- Determine critical control points (2)
- Establish critical limits (3)
- Establish monitoring procedure (4)
- Establish corrective actions (5)
- Establish verification procedures (6)
- Establish record-keeping and documentation (7)

The details of HACCP require some adjustments for application on a livestock enterprise but the underlying principles apply

HACCP in Livestock Systems



- Define the objectives (1)
- Systematize the operation or activity (2)
- Identify the hazards (3)
- Establish preventative measures (4)
- Set action criteria (5)
- Establish monitoring procedures (6)
- Pre-plan corrective action (7)
- Record livestock performance and use records (8)

Livestock HACCP has one more step than conventional HACCP but step 7 can be regarded as optional

Points to Note



- Define the objectives (1)
 - Define in terms of the measurable – improved animal performance, less losses, better breeding etc
- Systematize the operation (2)
 - Define the farm enterprise in terms of a step by step table or drawing of what is actually done. Note where there are significant changes or management interventions.



Points to Note

- Identify the hazards (3)
 - Assess the disease risks taking account of the farm history and the different diseases that might occur
- Establish the preventative measures (4)
 - Determine the actions needed to prevent or control disease. Identify the critical control points where disease may enter or spread. Consider long-term control strategies.



Points to Note

- Set action criteria (5)
 - Referred to also as 'critical limits'. These are the points which indicate that management intervention is required (form into SOPs).
- Establish monitoring procedures (6)
 - This is monitoring of the control points. It checks that the planned system has been effected.



Points to Note

- Pre-plan corrective actions (7)
 - This sets out what will be done if the planned system breaks down. It identifies the second line of defence.
- Record livestock performance and use records (8)
 - In HACCP systems every effort should be made to make use of whatever records exist on the farm: animal performance; animal health; environmental impact; financial performance etc. The objective is to highlight any areas where the enterprise is not delivering the desired outcomes.



Step by Step for the SQP

If there is an existing farm health plan ask to see /it obtain a copy. Work with the client to:

- optimise use of products
- consider alternative products
- select pack sizes that minimise waste and disposal problems
- provide product formats that simplify farm use and operator safety

If no Farm Health Plan exists encourage the client to develop one. Offer assistance, as appropriate.

Step by Step for the SQP



- Establish the clients requirements
- Record clients details
- Establish details of the farm holding(s)
- Establish the details of the management systems in operation
- Establish the disease status and history
- Prompt and support a systems analysis and monitoring approach
- Record recommendations, targets and monitoring measures

Points to Note



- Establish the clients requirements
 - Essential first step
 - What are they seeking from the SQP?
 - Are they taking advice from anyone else?
 - If so act, as part of that advisory team.
- Record clients details
 - Name; address; telephone numbers; fax number; e-mail; emergency contact.
 - Unit managers; bio-security and delivery requirements; vets and feed suppliers, who might also be providing medicinal products.
 - Use SQP client-manager approach, where possible.

Points to Note



Establish details of the farm

- Physical locations
- Holding numbers
- Landscape characteristics
- Personnel
- Numbers and types of animals
- Flock/herd numbers
- Numbers and types of non-commercial animals
- Any special environmental features
- Any special biodiversity features

Points to Note



Establish the details of the management systems in operation

- Type of production system adopted
- Pattern of movement of livestock
- Policies for purchasing in animals
- Details of separation/quarantine
- Biosecurity measures and cleansing systems
- Routine preventative health
- Recording systems and records
- Biosecurity for animals to/from market
- Biosecurity for animals to abattoir



Points to Note

- Establish the disease status and history
 - What diseases are 'typical' on the farm?
 - Is there evidence of sub-clinical disease?
 - Is there a requirement for diagnostic support?
- Prompt and support a systems analysis and monitoring approach
 - Prompt the development of a planning approach based on HACCP or PDSA



Points to Note

- Record recommendations, targets and monitoring measures
 - Make sure you have good client records, including details of client's requests, recommendations given, and recording or monitoring systems that may indicate the impact.
 - Use the records as a basis for developing the ongoing relationship with the producer and as a point of reference for charting improvements.

Take a Consultancy Approach



- Keep up-to-date with developments
 - Keep up to date on products and procedures
 - Be aware of policy/statutory developments in animal health and welfare
 - Be aware of local animal health issues
- Be prepared to comment, advise and discuss
- But ensure that the producer/keeper has 'ownership' of the resulting health plan or recommended solution to his/her problem – only that will ensure effective implementation