



AGW Standards Amendment Proposals August 2021

Proposed changes to AGW's 2021 standards are listed below. Please send any comments you have on the proposed revisions to julie@agreenerworld.org no later than September 17, 2021.

Certified Grassfed by AGW

1. G17.0.9-G17.0.11 – Proposed amendment to clarify requirements in case of inadvertent/accidental exposure to prohibited feedstuffs

Current:

G17.0.9 If inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuff occurs, the incident must be recorded.

G17.0.10 Records of any non-forage supplement must be maintained along with identification for the animals that consumed them.

G17.0.11 Meat from animals fed non-forage feedstuffs may not be sold under the AWA Grassfed label.

Proposed:

G17.0.9 If **accidental grazing or feeding of non-approved forage or** non-forage feedstuff occurs, the incident must be recorded.

G17.0.10 Records of any **non-approved or** non-forage supplement must be maintained along with identification for the animals that consumed them.

G17.0.11 Meat from animals fed **non-approved or** non-forage feedstuffs may not be sold under the Certified Grassfed by AGW label.

Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW (AWA) Standards

1. 1.0.3 (All Species) – Proposed amendment on dual production where clear traceability can be demonstrated (note that definitions for the terms referenced in 1.0.3.1 – 1.0.3.3 are available [here](#))

Current:

1.0.3 The AWA Standards must be met for all the animals or birds of the species for which approval is sought. Farmers must not use “split” or “dual” systems, in which some animals or birds of one species are simultaneously kept in systems that do as well as systems that do not meet AWA Standards.

Note: A farm is not required to seek approval for all the species they manage simultaneously. Farms who do not meet the standard on dual production are invited to contact AGW to discuss a possible derogation for a conversion period to come into full compliance.

Proposed:

1.0.3 The AWA Standards must be met for all the animals or birds of the species for which use of the label is sought. **Farmers using “split” or “dual” systems, in which some animals or birds of one**

species are simultaneously kept in systems that do not meet AWA Standards must have a plan that demonstrates clear separation and traceability of operations. The plan must address:

1.0.3.1 Physical Separation

1.0.3.2 Financial Separation

1.0.3.3 Operational Separation

Note: A farm is not required to seek approval for all the species they manage simultaneously. If a farm has split or dual systems of the same species and cannot demonstrate clear traceability, AGW maintains the right to refuse to audit or certify the farm.

2. 4.6.9, 4.6.10 (Sheep, Dairy Sheep, Goats, Dairy Goats) – Proposed amendment to ensure consistency of standards across species

Current:

N/A

Proposed (to match Beef/Dairy cattle and Bison standards):

4.6.9 *Recommended* Lambs/kids should not be weaned from milk before they are 12 weeks of age.

4.6.10 Lambs/kids must not be weaned from milk before they are six weeks of age.

3. 4.6.12 (Beef cattle, Bison) – Proposed amendment to state an average minimum weaning age rather than define a set average

Current:

4.6.12 The average weaning age of beef/bison calves in the herd must be eight months.

Note: Farms that do not meet this standard but which have a protocol to assess and manage individual cows and calves based on body condition scoring with the time of weaning based on weight and calf condition rather than age should contact AGW for further advice.

Proposed:

4.6.12 Average weaning age of beef/bison calves in the herd must be a minimum of seven months.

4. 8.1.3 (Turkeys) – Proposed amendment to ensure consistency with other meat bird standards

Current:

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.

5. 2.3.2 (Laying Hens) – Proposed amendment regarding source of AWA pullets

Current:

2.3.2 If chicks can be placed on farm within 36 hours of hatch they may be sourced from non-AWA hatcheries. Birds over 36 hours old must come from AWA sources.

Note: If it is not possible to place chicks within 36 hours please contact AGW for further advice. This standard will be reviewed annually, and when there are sufficient AWA hatcheries it will be a requirement to source AWA chicks.

Proposed:

2.3.2 If chicks can be placed on farm within 36 hours of hatch they may be sourced from non-AWA hatcheries. Birds over 36 hours old must come from AWA sources.

Note: A derogation may be granted for layer and breeder pullets to be brought on farm from non-AWA sources where none are available locally. The breed must be suitable for pasture reared systems with no mutilations, i.e., beak tipping or trimming and must be no older than 17 weeks. The farm must commit to sourcing approved pullets or rearing pullets from 36 hours of hatch on farm within 12 months.