



## FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

### 1. FOREWORD

The Farm Assured Namibian Meat (FAN Meat) Scheme was developed in a collaborative effort between the Meat Board of Namibia (MBN) and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) following and Industry decision for the safeguarding of Namibian meat markets.

The need for livestock traceability and farm assurance in Namibia arose from an outbreak of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in humans in the United Kingdom from 1986 to 2001. The Namibian Livestock and Meat Industry and DVS acted pre-emptively through the development of an extensive livestock identification and traceability system (NamLITS) which is utilized by the FAN Meat scheme to provide assurance regarding the safety, wholesomeness and quality of Namibian meat.

The FAN Meat Scheme Logo was published on 29 September 1999, Government Notice number 195, Gazette number 2193. The cabinet during the same sitting pronounced the FAN Meat Scheme as a National Scheme. The Meat Board is the mandated administrator of the FAN Meat Scheme.

The FAN Meat Scheme was developed to include all Namibians and the rules and standards of the scheme are based on National Legislation combined with Good Agricultural Practice and Animal Welfare principles.

The FAN Meat value chain includes Producers at farm level, and non-producers, which are: Livestock Feed Manufacturers, Agents and auctioneers, Transporters and Export Abattoirs.

The Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme Logo symbolizes assurance for safety, wholesomeness, quality and traceability of Namibian export meat. Meat produced under this scheme, is:

- Naturally produced in extensive free range conditions OR grain fed;
- Hormone free;
- Antibiotic residue free;
- Carries Negligible risk for Mad Cow Disease;
- Originates from animals which were humanely treated;
- Traceable from abattoir to the farm of origin.

This document sets out the standards for livestock producers under the FAN Meat scheme.

## 2. INDEX

DEFINITIONS .....	3
FARM MANAGEMENT.....	4
ENVIRONMENT.....	8
ANIMAL WELFARE.....	9
ANIMAL HEALTH.....	16
FEEDS AND LICKS.....	20
IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY.....	22
DOCUMENTATION.....	24
CONTACT DETAILS.....	26

## FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**FAN MEAT FREE RANGE / PASTURE RAISED** Means all livestock are raised under extensive conditions with continuous and unrestricted access to pastures that are suitable as fodder for their entire life. Short term confinement is restricted to times of inclement weather, veterinary treatment or giving birth. Feed supplements can be given to ensure all nutritional and production needs are met. Concentrates may be given at a maximum of 1% of bodyweight to prevent substitution of pasture.

Meat derived from free range / pasture raised livestock have a specific taste and colour expectation and have positive health benefits in terms of low fat content, higher protein content, a higher Omega 3 polyunsaturated fatty acid content and carries a positive image in terms of animal welfare and environmental impact.

In the case of drought conditions and where an adequate amount or quality natural pasture is not available, suitable fodder and feed supplements should be provided to ensure all nutritional and production needs are met. A full feed containing concentrates at a maximum of 1% bodyweight may be given. This includes the feeding of "boskos" as a complete feed, where bush biomass should constitute the main ingredient of the feed and added concentrates within the limits of this standard.

A period of rounding off of livestock prior to slaughter in kraals without unrestricted access to pastures constitutes feedlotting and will disqualify livestock as free range / pasture raised. Feeding concentrates in excess of 1% bodyweight during rounding off, even with unrestricted access to pasture will be regarded as substitution of pasture, and will disqualify livestock as free range / pasture raised.

**FAN MEAT GRAIN FED** Means livestock are kept in an area for fattening and are fed a nutritionally balanced ration of a high energy content, meaning concentrates are fed in excess of 1% bodyweight, for a minimum period of 40 days.

Meat derived from grain fed livestock have a specific taste and colour expectation, with higher levels of intramuscular fat.

In order to be marketable as **FAN MEAT GRAIN FED** the area in which livestock are kept for fattening should be approved by FAN Meat. Livestock raised under extensive conditions with continuous and unrestricted access to pasture, but receiving feed containing concentrates in excess of 1% bodyweight will also qualify as FAN Meat Grain Fed.

## FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

**HORMONE FREE** Means free from any growth promoter as defined and listed as a prohibited or controlled substance in the Prevention of Undesirable Residue in Meat Act (Act 21 of 1991) and its Regulations, notices and amendments. Livestock never received any remedy in any form for the purpose of growth or fattening. In the case of controlled substances protocols for application as well as prescribed withdrawal periods were adhered to.

Further, prohibited substances in food producing animals as per the Prevention of Undesirable Residue in Meat Act includes the active ingredients phenylbutazone, clenbuterol and chloramphenicol in any form.

**ANTIBIOTIC RESIDUE FREE** Means antibiotics (antimicrobials) are only used when prescribed by a veterinarian registered to practice in Namibia and only in accordance with veterinarian and manufacturer instructions. Antibiotics are not used preventatively or for the purposes of growth or fattening. Livestock are only presented for slaughter after the prescribed withdrawal period for meat.

**HUMANE TREATMENT** Means livestock are reared, kept, transported, handled and slaughtered in accordance with the five freedoms which form the basic principles for animal welfare and applies to all links in the FAN Meat value chain.

## 4. FARM MANAGEMENT

### 4.1. General

Skills and knowledge of livestock producers are very important for the integrity of the meat production chain. In order to comply with FAN Meat standards with regard to bio-safety, food safety as well as animal health and welfare, a well-organized and thought-through farm management is indispensable. Improved management practices increase profitability.

An annual management plan should be in place, mentioning activities related to the management of animal health and the setting in place and maintenance of required welfare standards.

### 4.2. Pasture and feed

Animals must preferably be exposed to extensive free-range grazing conditions. Farmers must adhere to recommended stocking rates to prevent overgrazing and

## FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

suboptimal animal body condition due to pasture shortages. Pasture and any supplementary feed must be of good quality and well balanced and must ensure all nutritional and production needs are met. Concentrates can be given, but may not exceed 1% of body weight, to prevent substitution of pasture in the case of free range production. See chapter 8 for guidelines regarding licks and feed.

In the case of drought conditions and where an adequate amount or quality natural pasture is not available, suitable fodder and feed supplements should be provided to ensure all nutritional and production needs are met. Concentrates may be given at a maximum of 1% bodyweight to qualify for free range production.

### **4.3. Water**

Watering places must be regularly inspected and maintained. Ensure that there is clean drinking water available for livestock at all times. Water should be easily accessible for the animals without posing any risk of injury. Drinking troughs must be cleaned on a regular basis to eliminate the growth of algae and the deposit of waste feed and other contaminants.

### **4.4. Facilities and restricted areas**

All fences and gates must be stock proof and continuously maintained.

All electrical installations at mains voltage to be inaccessible to livestock, protected and earthed properly. Electrical installations are undertaken by competent persons only and appropriate records need to be kept.

Electrical fences, where used, shall be managed such that only momentary discomfort is caused to livestock.

Animal handling and holding facilities must be sound and be species specific, to allow ease of handling and prevent injury to animals and handlers alike.

If areas of the property are used as dump sites/ scrap yards, it must be ensured that livestock are not exposed to the risk of injury or intoxication.

### **4.5. Training and workshops**

The owner or manager of livestock needs to instruct staff initially and when taking over a new task. Initial instructions must be followed by continuous training on aspects such as animal handling, handling of chemicals/veterinary drugs and animal health

and welfare. This is important for responsible, motivated and efficient work and for the well-being of the animals. Training of staff must be recorded on Form C of the farm file.

In order to stay informed about the ever-changing livestock husbandry measures and techniques, farm owners, farm managers and farm personnel are encouraged to participate in meetings and workshops offered by various institutions and organizations.

#### **4.6. Knowledge of legislation**

All producers are required to be familiar with and adhere to the national legislation pertaining to their livestock producing activities.

Applicable legislation is mentioned under 10.4 of this publication.

#### **4.7. Record-keeping**

The following forms must be regularly up-dated and filed/saved, and the records must be available for inspection by an Animal Health Technician or a Meat Board auditor. Records can be kept as hard copies or electronically.

- Animal Treatment and Vaccination Register (Form 25 as per the Animal Identification Regulations)
- Feeds and Lick Register (Form B)
- Employee Training (Form C)
- Prescribed Animal Register (Form 23 Animal Identification Regulations)
- Receipts of Animal Movement Permits
- Proof of Animal Movement Notices submitted (Form 27 of Animal Identification Regulations)
- Annual Management Plan

## FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

- Imported Prescribed Animal Register (Form 26 Animal Identification Regulations)
- Proof of Return of Animals on Registered Establishment submitted (Animal Health Declaration) (Form 24 Animal Identification Regulations)
- Proof of Animal Termination Notice Submitted (Form 30 Animal Identification Regulations)
- Proof of Animal Slaughter Notice Submitted (Form 31 Animal Identification Regulations) (local abattoirs)

The following forms and documents must be filled in timely and submitted to the respective recipients.

- Animal Termination Notice (form 30 as per the Livestock Identification Regulations) (issued by the Directorate of Veterinary Services) for loss or on-farm slaughter of officially tagged livestock – must be submitted to the district DVS office within six months of confirming the loss or date of slaughter year.
- Animal Movement Permit accompanied by the Animal Movement Notice (Departure/ Arrival) must be submitted to the destination DVS office within 14 days from the date of issue.
- The Animal Health and FAN Meat Self-declaration (Form 24 as per the Livestock Identification Regulations: Return of animals on Registered Establishment) to be filled in twice a year for the periods January to June and July to December and to be submitted to the state veterinary office or submitted online ([www.namlits.com](http://www.namlits.com)) before the end of July (for the January to June period) and before the end of January (for the July to December period) respectively.
- Animal Registration Cards – for livestock with official ear tags (issued by the Directorate of Veterinary Services) to be submitted to the State Veterinarian office for registration on the central database within 14 days after the ear tags were attached or required to be attached to the animal.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1. General

Livestock farming can have various impacts on the environment (e.g. decrease of biodiversity, bush encroachment, usage of ground water). Acting with awareness and responsibility towards nature and environment is an essential part of livestock farming. Determining and keeping to stocking rates is essential for sustainable and responsible farming. Determining the grass yield per hectare to ensure correct stocking rates should be done on a regular basis. Careful planning and selection of grazing systems to suit the environmental conditions as well as the species of livestock and type of production is advised.

### 5.2. Dump sites/scrap yards

If certain areas of the farm are used as dump sites make sure that deposited dump/scrap does not contain toxic materials or components that can contaminate the soil and groundwater.

### 5.3. Usage of arboricides and pesticides

If chemical methods are applied on the farm to combat invader bush and pests, the owner must make sure that only chemical compounds that are approved by the respective regulatory authority are used and that chemicals are handled and stored according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Empty containers should be deposited at a recycling facility or returned to the distributor.

Everybody working with these chemicals must be informed about possible health and other risks and receive proper instructions for their handling. Proof of training should be kept on file.

After treating bush with arboricides, the time period as recommended by the manufacturer to wait before restocking of treated ground must be respected.

### 5.4. Storage of chemicals

All chemicals must be stored in a lockable, dry and cool place, away from feed and not accessible to animals, children or unauthorized personnel.

All such substances must be clearly labeled and only be used by instructed persons.

### 5.5. Predators

Predators form part of the Namibian ecosystem and the removal of animals other than clearly identified 'problem animals' (meaning a single animal that repeatedly kills livestock) has not proved to be successful. If predators are caught alive in box traps, sanctuaries should be contacted which relocate and release them or turn them into captivity if necessary. The usage of gin traps and poison are not allowed since they cause pain and a cruel death of the caught/poisoned animal. Also, they are indiscriminate methods leading to the destruction of animals belonging to species other than the target species.

## 6. ANIMAL WELFARE

### 6.1. General

Livestock owners, managers and their personnel have a legal and moral responsibility for the welfare of animals under their control. This entails the welfare of livestock raised and kept for meat production, pelt production, wool production, milk production and breeding but also the welfare of animals used for farm work (horses, dogs, etc.).

Regular surveillance assists to detect diseases/injuries early. It helps to familiarize extensively kept livestock with humans, resulting in a lower level of stress during later handling.

The basic principles for animal welfare are the "Five Freedoms":

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behavior
5. Freedom from fear and distress

### 6.2. Access to water and food

All animals must have access to sufficient clean water and appropriate food to support nutrition and production needs.

## FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

Healthy livestock should not be denied access to drinking water for more than 24 hours and lactating females for more than 12 hours. Calves less than one month old should not be denied water for more than 16 hours. For sick or injured animals and animals in poor physical condition, shorter maximum time spans must be applied. This applies for periods during transport or for any other reason.

Healthy livestock must not be deprived of access to food for longer than 48 hours. Animals in poor condition, females in late gestation/early lactation and animals less than one month of age for not longer than 24 hours. This applies for periods during transport or for any other reason.

If pasture is limited in quantity and/or quality and no sufficient supplement can be fed, stocking rate must be reduced in order to maintain acceptable body condition of the remaining animals and to prevent overgrazing.

### **6.3. Behaviour**

Cattle, sheep and goats are social animals. Animals should not, without reason, be kept isolated for long stretches of time. Their natural movements should not be restricted except for the time necessary for marking, rounding up, treating, loading or transport.

Dogs must be kept under control at all times and prevented from causing livestock distress. Dogs used for herding of livestock should be trained and bred for that purpose.

### **6.4. Protection from poisoning/intoxication**

Livestock and domestic animals should be protected as far as possible from poisonous plants and from access to other toxic substances that can be harmful to their health.

### **6.5. Diseased animals**

No animal that is diseased, distressed or injured must be denied appropriate and prompt treatment. If possible, the animal should be separated for the time of treatment and recovery. A veterinarian should be consulted and veterinary instructions for treatment followed. If animals are treated with veterinary drugs, the correct dosage and mode of administration must be known and adhered to. Take note of the manufacturer recommendations of how the medicine should be kept

## FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

(temperature, protected from light etc.). Overdosing can harm the animal, while under dosing may result in treatment failure and contribute to antibiotic resistance creation. Take note of the withdrawal period for all medications used.

Lame animals should be diagnosed and treated and, if possible, their movement should be restricted. If painful lameness persists for a lengthy period despite the treatment of a veterinarian the animal should be destroyed rather than forced to live with pain and to deteriorate physically.

Medical treatment of animals must be done by competent persons, using clean and hygienic equipment. Administration of veterinary drugs via syringe or applicator require a clean and sharp needle and should be done in such a way as to prevent the breaking of the needle. Responsible use of veterinary drugs, especially antimicrobials is of utmost importance, and should only be used in accordance with the instructions as per the veterinary prescription. Antimicrobials should never be used as a first line treatment and should only be used on instruction by a veterinarian. Take note of withdrawal periods for all medication used, and update the relevant form accordingly. It is recommended that 2x the withdrawal period be adhered to when presenting livestock for slaughter. (E.g. if the withdrawal period is 14 days, wait 28 days after the last treatment before slaughter)

### **6.6. Moving**

The use of goads or prodders must be limited to the minimum and not be a permanent action while handling and moving animals. Goads should be considered an extension of the human arm rather than a means to increase the physical power of the person. Goads should be made of plastic, canvas or leather. Metal or wooden pickets, pipes or fencing wire are not acceptable for animal use. The use of electric goads (prodders) should be avoided. Moreover, the use of electric goads on animals with no room to move is not tolerated. Livestock should never be struck or prodded in the face.

Livestock should be moved at their own pace, without being excessively hurried by humans, horses and vehicles. No animal on the hoof must be moved in excess of the following distances:

Journey not longer than one day:

- a) Cattle: 30 km
- b) Sheep and goats: 20 km

Journey longer than one day:

- a) Cattle: 25 km on the first day, 20 km on each subsequent day
- b) Sheep and goats: 20 km on the first day and 15 km on each subsequent day.

Upon arrival at the destination or at the overnight stop, animals must be fed and watered sufficiently and given adequate rest.

## 6.7. Handling

The handling of animals must always be performed as calmly as possible.

Animal handling facilities and gathering areas must be constructed and maintained in such a way that they ensure ease of handling, minimize stress, prevent injuries and are free of protrusions. When livestock is assembled /rounded up this should be done in the calmest manner possible. Excessive noise must be avoided. The use of electric immobilizers should be avoided since these devices do not provide analgesic or anaesthetic effect and have been proven to be very stressful to animals.

Head restraint facilities should allow for quick release and easy removal.

The lifting/twisting of cattle's tails should not be done with big physical power as this may cause pain, tail fracture and dislocation of tail vertebrae.

Sheep may not be caught by the wool, but by one leg. If they need to be carried, they should not be lifted by the wool.

Horned goats may be restrained by holding the horn at its base, not at its tip, as this may cause the horn to break. Goats should be lifted up bodily, not by their hair or their horns.

## 6.8. Marking of animals

When marking animals, they must be restrained properly to prevent injuries.

The branding, ear tagging and tattooing of animals for identification purposes should be conducted in a way that minimizes pain and stress. The firebrands must be applied to the prescribed body part(s). Their size and positioning should not exceed legal instructions. For ear tagging only sharp tongs with undamaged edges must be used. The piercing/damaging of main blood vessels and ridge cartilage should be avoided.

Instruments used for tattooing of small stock should be sharp and undamaged. Instruments must be frequently cleaned and disinfected.

### **6.9. Castration, dehorning, branding and tail shortening**

Castration, dehorning and tail shortening are painful procedures and their impact on the animal in terms of pain and stress increases with the animal's age. Any of these procedures must be conducted in a hygienic way to avoid infections.

The following procedures can be performed without local or general anaesthetic by competent persons as indicated below:

- **Castration** of cattle, goats and sheep **under two months of age**
- **Dehorning** or the prevention of horn growth of cattle **under two months of age.**
- **Disbudding of goats** as young as possible and **not later than at 12 weeks of age**
- **Tail shortening** in sheep **under a week**, using elastic rings.

In older animals, local or general anesthesia is required.

### **6.10. Loading of animals for transport**

Rounding up of cattle must be well planned in advance and done only by staff that is competent in loading and unloading of animals and done in a manner which minimizes stress for the animals and does not create delays.

After selecting animals for transport they should be given rest prior to loading. If mustering has been physically exhausting, animals should be given water and food but large quantities of food and water should not be offered within six hours of loading.

When preparing animals for loading, it must be kept in mind that incompatible animals must be transported separately. Possible examples for such animal groups are:

- Weak and strong animals
- Very small and fully grown animals
- Horned and polled cattle
- Bulls and cows, and
- Calves and unfamiliar older cattle.

Animals that cannot stand up unaided as well as weak and poorly conditioned animals that go down after a little exercise should not be transported.

They must be watered and fed until fit for transport or destroyed humanely. Exceptions can be made after recommendation by a veterinarian for transport to receive veterinary treatment.

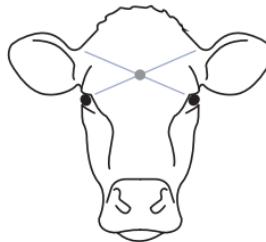
- Cattle pregnant for more than eight months must not be transported. After calving, cattle should not be transported for four days.
- Animals known for aggressive behavior must be segregated and transported in a separate compartment.

When animals are loaded onto a truck, the loading ramp should be designed in such a way as to prevent animals from slipping and have secure side guards with no projections to cause injury, only safe movement of animals onto the truck. Ideally, there should be a flat platform at the top of the ramp, level with the deck of the transport vehicle.

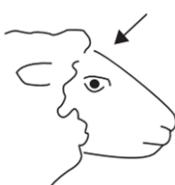
Please refer to the “FAN Meat standards for Transport Operators and Drivers of livestock”.

#### **6.11. Euthanasia or emergency slaughter**

If euthanasia or emergency slaughter is recommended, it should be done promptly and humanely, and only by an authorized person. The most recommended method for cattle with regard to animal welfare and to circumstances on farms is the use of firearms. Cattle should be killed by shooting them in the brain at a short range while the animal is not moving the head.



Sheep should also be killed with a firearm. Alternatively, they can be clubbed (lambs only - stunning by a heavy blow on the back of the head to reach unconsciousness followed by bleeding) or bled out, using a very sharp knife.



Adult goats should be destroyed using the behind-the-horn method, (the firearm is directed to the skull behind the horns in line with the animal's mouth. Kids can also be shot from the front, directing the shot at a point of intersection of lines taken from the base of each ear to the opposite eye. This method is not suitable for adult goats, since their brain is small, compared to that of other livestock, and is located well back in the skull. Destruction of goats by severance of the throat and spinal cord should only be done if no firearm is available, and then only by an experienced operator.

The following are signs of an effective kill:

- The animal collapsed immediately;
- The animal stopped rhythmic breathing;
- The animal has a fixed, glazed expression to its eyes, with no eye movement;
- the animal has lost the corneal reflex, i.e. it should not blink when you touch the cornea (the clear surface) of the eye with a finger

The effectiveness of the method of killing must be determined.

During on-farm slaughter, the same principles apply. Keep in mind the animal welfare principles of freedom from fear and distress. Livestock waiting to be slaughtered should be protected from the smell of blood and the sight and sound of other livestock being slaughtered. The killing process must be swift in order to prevent the experience of pain. The effectiveness of the method of killing must be determined and the animal must be confirmed dead prior to progressing to skinning and evisceration.

## **7. ANIMAL HEALTH**

### **7.1. General**

The installation of preventive measures can decrease the outbreak, transmission and severity of livestock diseases. Such measures include: –

- regular surveillance and inspection of livestock
- timely vaccination of animals
- preventative treatment of animals against internal and external parasites
- provision of good quality and sufficient quantity feed and water, and
- establishing a trustful working relationship with a veterinarian.

### **7.2. Treatment of sick animals**

Sick or injured animals should be physically presented to a veterinarian. If this is not possible, the animal should be treated immediately if the exact cause and proper treatment is known or after consultation with a veterinarian and strictly according to the veterinarian's instructions. This should be the case for all animals treated with antibiotics. Only trained and competent staff members are entitled to administer treatments to an animal.

### **7.3. Veterinary drugs and equipment**

All veterinary drugs that are used must be registered according to legislation. The use of any remedy for the purposes of growth or fattening is not allowed. For the use of remedies for heat synchronization refer to 7.8.

Medicines for treatment are only used when necessary and when prescribed by a veterinarian or for preventive purposes in the case of external and internal parasites (e.g. Worming)

Any treatment that involves a surgical operation to livestock must only be done by a competent person, preferably a veterinarian.

After treatment, details must be entered in the Animal Treatment and Vaccination Form. (Form 25 of the Animal Identification Regulations, Animal Health Act (Act 1 of 2011))

Any buyer of recently treated animals must be informed if the withdrawal period (WDP) has not lapsed at the time of buying. No animal may be slaughtered before the end of the withdrawal period. It is recommended that a period equal to 2x the withdrawal period be adhered to prior to presenting the animal for slaughter.

Veterinary drugs must be kept securely locked away and be stored according to the manufacturer's instructions (including refrigeration when required) in the original container with the original label. They must not be used after their expiry date. Inventory of veterinary drugs should be done every six months and out-of-date drugs should be returned to the veterinarian to be disposed of in a proper manner.

Veterinary drugs shall only be used according to label instructions to ensure successful administration and avoiding risks to livestock, workers, consumers and the environment.

Access to veterinary drugs shall be limited to workers with adequate training on the handling of medicine.

Emergency information and corresponding equipment shall be available to deal with accidents during application (e.g. eyewash, plenty of clean water)

Empty medicine containers shall not be re-used and shall be disposed of in a manner that avoids contamination of the environment. This includes the disposal of needles, gloves and infectious biological material (puss). Needles, gloves and empty medicine containers should be disposed of in a designated container, and returned to the veterinary practice or alternatively a pharmacist for the correct disposal.

Veterinary equipment must be stored and used under clean and hygienic conditions. After contact with potentially infectious substances, equipment must be cleaned and, if possible, disinfected.

#### **7.4. Vaccinations**

Compulsory vaccinations according to the Animal Health Act are:

- Vaccination of all cattle against anthrax once a year
- Vaccination of female cattle against brucellosis between the ages of 3 and 11 months
- Vaccination of dogs and cats against rabies infection every three years (in some areas of high risk it must be done every year)
- Although not compulsory, it is highly recommended that cattle be vaccinated on an annual basis against Rabies. It is also recommended that Lumpy Skin Disease be included in the on-farm vaccination regimen.

Records of all inoculations must be kept in the Veterinary On-farm Drug and Treatment Register. Invoices and/or empty bottles /containers must be kept and presented as proof during farm inspections.

It is recommended that a veterinarian be consulted for recommendations on other routine vaccinations like Botulism, Tetanus, Pulpy Kidney, Pasteurellosis, Lumpy skin disease, Bluetongue, African Horse Sickness, Rift Valley Fever, Infectious Bovine Rhino-tracheitis and Black Quarter.

#### **7.5. Record-keeping**

After each treatment/vaccination of livestock, details must be recorded in the Veterinary On-Farm Drug and Treatment Register. The name of the drug, batch number, the date of treatment and the identity of the animals treated are entered in the respective columns. The animal's identity is entered as the species (cattle, sheep or goat) followed by:

- a) for cattle and individually identified small stock: ear tag number
- b) sheep/goats: number, age group and gender of animals and ear tag or tattoo number. (It is recommended that treated animals be marked individually)

If the enclosed leaflet or label indicates a withdrawal period, this period must be entered in the column 'withdrawal period.'

### **7.6. Notifiable diseases**

In case of suspicion of one of the following diseases, the nearest State Veterinarian must be informed immediately:

- Foot-and-mouth disease
- Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (Bovine lung sickness)
- Lumpy Skin disease (Knopvelsiekte)
- Rift Valley Fever (Slenkdalkoors)
- Blue tongue disease
- African Horse sickness
- African swine fever
- Avian Influenza (Bird flu)
- Newcastle disease
- Rabies (Hondsdolheid)
- Bovine Tuberculosis
- Bovine Brucellosis (Besmetlike nageboorte)
- Sheep scab (Brandsiek)
- Anthrax (Miltsiek)
- Bovine Malignant Catarrh (Snotsiekte)
- Rinderpest

Or any other disease as described in the Government notice no 180 of 12 July 2013: Declaration of notifiable diseases: Animal Health Act, 2011

Any unknown disease or cause of death or disease should be reported to the nearest State Veterinarian immediately.

### **7.7. Antibiotics**

In the absence of a clear diagnosis and indication, antibiotics should NOT be used as a first line treatment, and should not be used preventatively. This includes antibiotics like Terramycin. The responsible use of antibiotics is needed to prevent the

development of resistance to antibiotics, and antibiotics should only be used when and as prescribed by a veterinarian. When antibiotics are prescribed it is also very important to complete the treatment course and not stop treatment sooner than recommended. The prescribed dose must be adhered to as well as the withdrawal period prior to presentation for slaughter.

### **7.8. Heat Synchronisation**

The synchronization of heat in cattle for the purpose of concentrated breeding, artificial insemination or embryo transfer may only be done with the knowledge of the State Veterinarian and with the products as permitted by law. Proper record keeping is compulsory. Very strict withdrawal periods are prescribed by law and must be adhered to.

### **7.9. Needles**

A written procedure must be available to deal with the situation of a needle which broke during treatment and remained in an animal. The procedure must provide for identification of such animal to prevent it from being slaughtered at an abattoir.

Used needles, gloves, empty drug containers and sharp instruments must be safely disposed of by placing into a 'SHARPS BOX'. This box is disposed of in an environmentally safe manner (incineration) and all staff needs to be familiar with this requirement. Alternatively, the box can also be returned to the veterinary practice or pharmacist for correct disposal. The "Sharps Box" can be a clearly marked dedicated container for the disposal of used needles, gloves, empty drug containers and sharp instruments (blades).

## **8. FEEDS AND LICKS**

### **8.1. General**

Livestock may be fed supplementary feed and licks but only registered feeds and licks may be used. Besides commercially available feeds and licks, on-farm mixtures may also be fed. On-farm mixtures must only contain /consist of farm feeds or licks previously registered for use in Namibia and may not contain any prohibited substances. Feed supplementation should be sufficient to support nutritional and production needs, but should not substitute pasture and may not contain

concentrates in excess of 1% of the animal's body weight in the case of free range production. In the case of grain fed production, a balanced energy rich feed containing concentrates in excess of 1% of the animal's body weight may be fed.

In the case of drought, sufficient fodder / feed should be given to support nutritional and production needs if sufficient natural pasture is not available.

### **8.2. Prohibition of ingredients in farm feeds**

No feeds containing ingredients obtained from ruminants (carcass meal, blood meal, bone meal or any other bone product, including hoofs and horns, meat meal or meat) and chicken manure may be acquired, disposed of, sold or fed to ruminants. It is recommended not to use any mammalian protein as an ingredient in ruminant feed. No growth promoters or other illegal substances (like antibiotics) as described and listed in the legislation may be used. Feed must not contain any feedstuff known for excess heavy metal and pesticide disposition.

### **8.3. Record-keeping**

The feeding of supplementary feeds and licks must be recorded in the Feed and Lick Register (Form B) and retained in the farm file or kept electronically. If a commercial lick is used, the registered name and the batch number should be entered. If an own mixture is fed, the composition (ingredients quantities or percentages) must be recorded. The number, type (e.g. dry cows) and identification of animals (group-identification) are recorded in the respective columns. The other two columns are reserved for the recording of the time period, when licks/ supplements were fed and the quantity (total kilograms fed per group over the entire period).

Invoices or copies of invoices of commercial licks/supplements must be kept together with the records.

### **8.4. Storage**

Feeds and supplements must be stored in a dry and clean place in such a way that no contamination with other substances (e.g. pesticides) can occur.

## FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

### 8.5. Rodent Control

Entry points into buildings used for storing feed must be suitably protected to prevent entry from birds and rodents. If bait boxes are used, these must be fixed to the floor/wall, tamper proof and locked to ensure that non-target species do not have access to the bait. Bait boxes must be indicated on a site plan and detailed records kept of pest control inspections with necessary actions taken.

## 9. IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

### 9.1. General

In order to meet national and international requirements and standards, livestock must be identified and marked so as to trace them and products derived from them back to the farm of origin. Farmers must be aware of and comply with the national legal framework.

### 9.2. Ownership identification

Every livestock owner must have his/her registered stock brand. This provides group identification of cattle, sheep and goats. Only one brand per owner is allowed per district (commercial producers) or in one area (communal producers), except where special brands for stud breeding are required.

### 9.3. Identification of cattle

Brand identification of cattle is compulsory before or at the age of six months. However, if a producer intends to remove cattle from the farm before they reach the age of six months, it is mandatory to mark them with the owner's registered stock brand symbol before the removal. If animals are bought or otherwise legally acquired, they must be branded with the new owner's stock brand within 30 days of change of ownership.

Size, form and position of the brand must follow the current legislation. Cattle intended to be exported to South Africa must be branded with an "N" on the left neck and cattle imported from South Africa must be branded with a "(-)" on the left neck.

All cattle in Namibia are individually identified the latest at the age of six months or when leaving the holding of origin, whichever occurs first. Cattle must be identified

using a set of official identification ear tags. All tagged cattle must be registered on the central database within 14 days from attaching the official ear tags. The ear tags remains for life, regardless of changes in ownership, the new owner is only required to add his/her brand mark at the next available brand area as per the branding sequence according to the Stock Brands Act 24 of 1995.

Imported cattle must be individually identified and registered as such on the central database. Import ear tags can be obtained from the State Veterinary office. Imported cattle are tagged with red ear tags.

#### **9.4. Identification of small livestock**

Small livestock are currently identified by means of group identification based on the owner's registered stock brand on a metal ear tag or a tattoo. Sheep and goats must be marked by a metal ear tag or tattoo in the left ear before they are older than three months. If animals are bought or otherwise legally acquired, the old ear tag/tattoo remains, but they must, within 30 days, be marked with the new owner's registered stock brand according to the legislation.

Individual identification of small stock is envisaged by the Directorate of Veterinary Services for the future, and producers are recommended to stay updated with latest animal identification regulations. Individual identification of small stock is currently required for export to the Republic of South Africa. All tagged small stock must be registered on the central database within 14 days from attaching the ear tags.

Imported small stock must be individually identified and registered as such on the central database.

#### **9.5. Compliance of new stock with FAN Meat Standards (Residency requirement)**

For livestock to be eligible under the FAN Meat Scheme, livestock should have been born and raised in Namibia and should have been resident on FAN Meat accredited farms for a continuous period of 40 days prior to slaughter. It is thus strongly advised to acquire livestock from other farms complying with the FAN Meat standards.

### **9.6. Record-keeping**

Details of animals moved in or out (as recorded in movement permits) are entered as movements occur. To keep track, it is compulsory to fill in information whenever changes in livestock numbers occur.

Loss, death, on-farm slaughter and theft of livestock need to be recorded on the Livestock Termination Register. This information must be submitted to the district DVS office within six months of confirming the loss or date of slaughter.

## **10. FAN MEAT DOCUMENTATION**

### **10.1. Farm file**

A farm file must be regularly updated and available for document review. The Forms A, B and C should be saved as hard copies or electronically.

### **10.2. Annual management plan**

An annual management plan must be in place and available for inspection.

### **10.3. FAN Meat standards for producers**

All producers are required to be in possession of a copy of the FAN Meat Rules and Standards for Producers and must be able to show it.

### **10.4. National legislation pertaining to livestock production**

Acts as amended with their Regulations, amendments and Government Notices:

- Animal Health Act 1 of 2011
- Animal Identification Regulations: Health Act, 2011 (GRN gazette No 6476, 23 November 2017)
- Stock Brands Act 24 of 1995
- Regulations in terms of the Stock Brand Act No. 24 of 1995 from 2004
- Prevention of Undesirable Residue in Meat Act No. 21 of 1991
- Regulations in Terms of The Prevention of Undesirable Residue in Meat Act No. 21, 1991 from 1994 (prohibition of hormonal growth promoters and other substances) Medicines and Related Substances Control Act No. 13 of 2003

- Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act No. 36 of 1947
- Prohibition in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act 36 of 1947 (prohibition of the feeding of ruminant derived proteins to ruminants)
- Stock Theft Act 12 of 1990
- Animal Welfare Act of 1962
- Meat Industry Act No. 12 of 1981 as amended

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