

Self-assessment checklist for cattle farming

Supplementing Guidelines Agriculture Cattle Farming

You can use this checklist to document your **self-assessment**. Self-assessment must be carried out **at least once per calendar year** and must consider all areas relevant to your company. This supporting document is based on the requirements defined in the guidelines Agriculture Cattle Farming.



Additional explanations and interpretation aids can also be found in the **Explanatory Notes** to the Guideline Agriculture Cattle Farming (related requirements).

Important to know: You can use the self-assessment in whole or in parts, as well as on one date or at different times throughout the year, depending on how you want to carry out the self-assessment. You can also have an external person (e.g. technician, consultant or veterinarian) assist you with the inspection.

This self-assessment checklist **does not replace the daily inspection** of all animals and all livestock buildings and facilities.

Note: The self-assessment checklist is divided into **Part A Control of documents** and **Part B Livestock inspection**. You can use the additional supporting document "Document overview" to check whether all documents are available that you will need for QS and in the audit. **Important:** The self-assessment checklist does not cover the complete QS Guidelines 1:1, but those points that should be checked once a year.

Business data

Name of the company

Street and house number
Postcode and town

QS location number (VVVO No.) and production scope

Contact, legal representative

Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Deadline
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Part A Document control

2.1.1 [K.O.] General company data

<p>Is there an up-to-date company overview with the following master data?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address of the company and its locations (incl. location numbers) • Telephone and fax number, e-mail address • Legal representative, contact person • Capacities/operating units • For on-farm mixers: type of feed used, number of animal places or amount of feed • Animal places/numbers (relevant for antibiotic monitoring, among other things) 					
<p>Has the coordinator been informed of all master data changes since the last self-assessment?</p>					
<p>Is there a company sketch with clear naming of all areas of the company and a location plan for operating resources/a description for externally stored operating resources (in particular feed, bedding material)?</p>					
<p>Is the list of personnel (caring for the animals) up to date, including qualification and period of employment?</p>					
<p>Is there a current declaration of participation and power of attorney?</p>					

2.1.3 Fulfilment of measures of the self-assessment

<p>Are all corrective actions from the last self-assessment implemented and is the implementation documented?</p>					
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Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Deadline
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2.1.4 Incident and crisis management

Can a paper of incident always be accessed?					
Is a responsible person named who can be contacted in the event of an incident?					
Is there a complete and up-to-date emergency plan at each location?					

3.1.2 Verification of eligibility of delivery

Has a procedure been established to check the QS eligibility of delivery of all relevant suppliers at the time of delivery (e.g. recipient and supplier list or check in the public scheme participant search)?					
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3.2.9 Emergency power supply

Is there a written agreement if an emergency power generator is borrowed from a third party in case of need?					
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3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer)

Is there a list of used feed material and compound feed or a ration calculation showing the individual components?					
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Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Deadline
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3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation

Is the documentation for traceability available in case of a cooperation (name and address of the companies supplied as well as the type and quantity delivered)?					
Is there a contractual agreement on feed production or for purchasing groups?					

3.5.1 Care contract with farm veterinarian

Is there a current care contract with all the necessary details?					
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3.5.2 [K.O.] Implementation of the stock care

Are at least one veterinary visit record per year and all examination findings available (if no abnormalities: simplified documentation of findings, e.g. on invoice sufficient)?					
<u>If a need for action has been identified</u> : Is there an action plan?					

3.5.3 [K.O.] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines

Is it ensured that the purchase and use of medicines and vaccines are documented to the day and in chronological order?					
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3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control

Are monitoring protocols available?					
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Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Deadline
Are locations for bait boxes and pest traps documented in a plan?					
<u>In case of pest infestation</u> : Is there verification for pest control measures?					

3.7.1 Fattening calves: residue control program

Were the receipts of the animals reported to the coordinator on time?					
Are the slaughter registrations and results of the residue controls documented?					

3.8.8 [K.O.] Proof of qualification for drivers/carer (for livestock transport over 65 km)

Is there a proof of qualification for drivers and carers for transport over more than 65 km?					
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Date

Signature

Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
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Part B Livestock inspection

3.2.1 [K.O.] Monitoring and care of livestock

Are the claws of all the livestock maintained appropriately?					
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3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements

Is it ensured that the husbandry does not lead to avoidable physical health and behavioural damage?					
Are the animals adequately protected from the weather?					
Are all installations and equipment (in particular lighting, ventilation and supply equipment such as drinking troughs and feeding systems) in perfect condition?					

Calves:

Is it ensured that no calves are kept tethered?					
Do single held calves always have visual and tactile contact with other calves (except sick calves)?					

3.2.3 [K.O.] Handling sick and injured animals

Are suitable facilities (recovery bays) available for sick and injured animals?					
Are the recovery bays provided with sufficiently dry and soft bedding or padding?					

Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
Are the devices for culling animals available and ready for use (e.g. bolt firing device incl. ammunition and sharp knife)?					
3.2.4 Shed floors					
Are the shed floors and driveways stable and non-slip?					
Do the animals not come more than unavoidable into contact with faeces and urine?					
Is there a dry lying area?					
<u>Calves:</u>					
Are there littered lying areas for up to 2 weeks old calves?					
Are calves from the 3rd week of life up to six months kept exclusively on littered ground or on slatted ground with the following maximum dimensions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slat width max. 2.5 cm • Slat width for elastically wrapped beams or beams with elastic coating maximum 3 cm, with a tolerance of 0.3 cm • Width of the beams at least 8 cm 					
<u>Specialised Fattening Calves:</u>					
Are all pens for fattening calves (in old buildings as of 9 February 2024) provided with an elastic layer in the lying areas?					
3.2.5 Shed climate, temperature, noise pollution, ventilation					

Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
Are air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative humidity and concentration of gas in the air kept at a level which is not harmful to the animals?					
Is noise reduced to a minimum?					

3.2.6 Lighting

Is the intensity and duration of light appropriate for the animals?					
Is artificial light needed for the care and maintenance of the animals?					
Is the light intensity in the calves' occupied area at least 80 lux for at least ten hours a day and is the lighting adapted to the daily rhythm?					

3.2.7 [K.O.] Space allowances

Are there enough lying areas pens so that all cattle can lie down at the same time?					
Does every cattle in free stall sheds with lying boxes have one lying box?					
Do the bays in which calves are kept separately meet the requirements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to two weeks: Inner dimensions min. 120 cm long, 80 cm wide and high • Two to eight weeks: Minimum size 160 or 180 cm length depending on trough; 90 or 100 cm wide depending on type of construction 					

Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
For group housing: Does the minimum floor area per animal meet the requirements (see guideline)?					

3.2.8 [K.O.] Alarm system

If there is electrical ventilation, is there an alarm system that provides a breakdown of the ventilation system and operates independently of the power grid?					
Does the alarm system work?					
Is the alarm system checked for functionality at technically required intervals?					

3.2.9 Emergency power supply

Is an emergency power supply present if an adequate provision of fresh air, feed and water is not ensured in the event of a power failure?					
Are the necessary technical facilities to allow the connection of this generator in place?					
Does the emergency power supply work?					
Are emergency power generators checked for functionality at technically required intervals?					
Are back-up devices available to ensure adequate air exchange if the ventilation system fails?					

3.2.12 Requirements on loading and unloading equipment for livestock transport

Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
Are the loading and unloading facilities constructed in such a way that animals cannot get injured and can be loaded safely?					
Is there a protective railing for ramp systems?					
Are the ramps suitable (angle of inclination, crossbars if necessary, side protection, lighting)?					
3.2.13 [K.O.] Handling livestock during loading					
Are the persons loading the animals trained or qualified?					
3.2.14 Dehorning of calves					
Is it ensured that only calves under six weeks old are dehorned without anaesthesia and that painkillers are used therefore?					
3.3.1 [K.O.] Feed supply					
<u>Calves:</u>					
Are the following requirements met? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calves are offered bovine colostrum milk within the first four hours of life. • For group housing it is ensured that all calves can feed at the same time, with the exception of call feeding. • From the eighth day of life onwards, calves receive structured feed rich in raw fibre for free consumption. • Calves are fed at least twice a day. 					

Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
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3.3.2 Hygiene of feeding facilities

Are all plants, equipment, containers and feeding lines, feed transport boxes, equipments (e.g. shovels) and vehicles clean and in proper condition?					
Are feeding systems cleaned after the use of veterinary drugs?					

3.3.3 Feed storage

Are all feeds stored clean and dry?					
Are all feeds protected from contamination (separated from waste, liquid and solid manure, hazardous substances, seeds, medication. chemicals)?					
Are all feeds protected from the weather?					
Are all feeds protected from pests, rodents, birds, wild boar, other wild animals and pets?					
If necessary, are suitable measures taken to remedy defects and/or combat them?					
Is mixing avoided and are silo cells clearly marked and easy to identify?					

3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer)

Have the plants and equipment for feed production been inspected and, if necessary, maintained or repaired?					
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Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
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3.4.1 [K.O.] Water supply

Do all animals from two weeks of age onwards have access to drinking water (ad libitum) at all times?					
Are there enough drinkers? (Tethered housing: one drinking trough per place; group housing; animal to drinking trough ratio maximum 15:1 (recommended 10:1), with trough drinking troughs min. 6 cm width per animal or max. 15 animals per drinking place)					
Is the used drinking water clean, clear and without extra-neous odour?					

3.4.2 Hygiene of drinking facilities

Are all drinking facilities clean and in proper condition?					
Are drinking facilities cleaned after the use of medicines?					
<u>Optional</u> : Was a drinking water check carried out?					

3.5.3 [K.O.] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines

Is it ensured that only flawless injection needles are used (replacement of bent, blunt, broken and otherwise unsuitable needles)?					
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3.5.4 [K.O.] Storage of medicines and vaccines

Is the medicine store clean and inaccessible to unauthorised persons?					
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Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
Are all medicines and vaccines stored in accordance with the instructions of the producer?					
Have all expired preparations been disposed of according to regulations? Have empty containers been disposed of?					
3.6.1 Buildings and equipment					
Are all buildings, adjoining rooms (including medication storage), outdoor facilities including loading equipment, all shed equipment and feeding systems clean and in proper condition?					
Is effective pest control possible for all buildings and facilities including containers and troughs, feed transport boxes, equipment (e.g. shovels), and vehicles used for feeding animals?					
3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm					
Are all sheds marked with a sign stating "Livestock –Access prohibited for unauthorised persons" or a similar text?					
Do gates, doors and other entrances effectively prevent the entry of unauthorised persons and animals?					
Is protective clothing for external persons provided?					
Are there a functional hand-wash basin, hand cleaning agent, disposable wipes or clean towels?					
Is access to landfills and household waste for animals prevented?					

Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
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Specialised Fattening Calves:

Is direct contact between humans and animals excluded in tourist or camping companies? Is access to the shed facilities only permitted with protective clothing and under supervision?					
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3.6.3 Handling litter, dung and feed leftovers

Is litter stored clean and protected from pests?					
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3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick-up

Are dead animals stored on a paved area and outside the shed area if possible?					
Is the carcass storage large enough?					

3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control

Is the infestation checked regularly by means of pest monitoring?					
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3.6.6 Cleaning and disinfection measures

Are all cleaning agents and disinfectants stored properly?					
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3.8.2 Requirements for the means of transportation

Are the vehicles in perfect technical and hygienic condition?					
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Criterion/requirement	Yes	No	Not applicable	Remark/ corrective action	Dead line
Are the dividers strong enough?					
Aren't the animals on the lower level unnecessarily contaminated with faeces?					
Are the tethers strong enough?					
Can't the animals escape or fall out?					
Are the animals protected against the weather?					
Is the fresh air supply sufficient and air circulation possible?					
Is the floor non-slip?					
Are the floors littered?					
Is the inspection of animals possible at any time (e.g. lighting)?					
Transport over 50 km: Is there a sign " live animals" on the vehicle?					

Date

Signature