



Sheep and Goat Meat and/or Fiber Production Evaluation Tool

To be used in conjunction with the Food Alliance Whole Farm/Ranch Inspection Tool

Operation Name:	
Address:	
Evaluation Date:	
Evaluator/Inspector:	

Scoring System

Compliance with the Food Alliance Sheep and Goat Meat and/or Fiber Production standard includes the following:

1. Full compliance with all fixed evaluation criteria
2. Average Scores of 3.0 (75%) or above in each of the following evaluation areas:
 - a. Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock: Living Conditions
 - b. Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock: Other Criteria
 - c. Feed Production and Pasture Management
 - d. Manure Management
 - e. Pest Management

Instructions for Use

1. **Scored Criteria:** Using the performances indicators listed in Levels 1-4 of each of the Scored evaluation criteria, assign a Score for each criterion. Level 1 is worth 1 point; Level 2 is worth 2 points, and so on. Scoring half points is allowed. Example: All Level 2 requirements and half of Level 3 requirements are met. In this instance, a Score of 2.5 may be assigned. Fixed Criteria: Indicate whether the operation complies with the requirements of each fixed criterion, and verification method(s) used.
2. **Inspectors:** In the NOTES section at the end of each criterion, include any pertinent additional information which was considered in determining the Score. These notes will provide important background that will be carefully considered in the final certification decision. As applicable, please include reference to documents which were reviewed to verify compliance with requirements.
3. **Completion:** At the end of each set of evaluation criteria, complete the scoring table and calculate the final percentage Score. Points for non-applicable criteria are not included in the final percentage Score.

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Fixed Criteria

Check the following to indicate compliance with each fixed criterion (all the following fixed criteria must be met for animals to be sold as Food Alliance certified):

- Feed additive antibiotics or non-therapeutic antibiotic use is not permitted.¹ Animals 59 days or younger may be treated with antibiotics when necessary for illnesses. Sick animals 60 days or older should be treated, but not sold as Food Alliance certified.
- The use of hormone treatments (including implants) to enhance growth or other growth promotents is not permitted. The use of hormone treatments to induce synchronized estrus in a herd or herds is not permitted.
- Feedstuffs containing animal by-products of any kind are not permitted, with the exception of milk and milk products for unweaned animals or milk products such as whey for young and adult animals. ("Animal by-products" means any fish, animal or meat by-products, including animal fat, meat and bonemeal, fishmeal, tankage, blood or plasma, chicken litter, etc.)²
- Genetically modified livestock or those produced directly from embryo transfer are not permitted.³ Artificial insemination is permitted, but the use of hormones to synchronize estrus in a herd or herds is not permitted. Cloned animals are not permitted.
- Feeder animals may be purchased and finished provided they are finished for at least 60 days on a Food Alliance certified farm or ranch prior to slaughter and an affidavit is obtained from the seller that the animals meet the above criteria. (Animals may be moved from one farm or ranch to another during those 60 days, if both operations are Food Alliance certified.)

NOTES:

Scored Criteria

Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock: Living Conditions

Living Conditions

Level 1: All legal requirements and industry association standards (if any) are met for space/stocking rate, and size and configuration of indoor shelter and/or confinement areas. Check all that apply:

- Manager is aware of legal requirements/industry standards.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.

Level 2: As per Level 1, animals are provided bedding, as necessary and appropriate. In addition, manure collection and storage are separate from housing area. Facilities are checked regularly to maintain good living conditions. Check all that apply:

- Outdoor shelters and bedding are clean and dry.
- Where conditions are appropriate, bedding in sleeping areas is available for all animals. If bedding is not utilized, manager can explain the rationale.
- If housed indoors, animals appear free from sores and abscesses attributed to inadequate bedding.
- Fences and shelters are checked regularly for broken sections or sharp objects to prevent injury.
- If animals are shorn during subfreezing weather, the newly shorn animals either are housed or are pastured in protected areas for the first few days post-shearing.
- Handlers are scheduled to check on animals at appropriate intervals to detect and resolve problems before undue stress occurs.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and free ranging on pasture is provided when seasonably appropriate. If animals are wintered outside, check all that apply:

- Care is taken to prevent frostbite and thermal stress, as appropriate for the species.
- Rations are adjusted to meet the increased caloric demand.
- Extra, dry bedding is provided, as appropriate.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: Animals are raised utilizing rational and sustainable pasture management, such as a management intensive grazing system, intensive rotational grazing, appropriate use of rented pastures, effective use of annual forages, etc. Animals spend most of the season on pasture, continually moved to fresh grazing areas as appropriate for those pastures and the production period of the animals. Moves to new pasture take place frequently, with great care to prevent “overgrazing” of forage in pastures that require sufficient residual.

If a continual grazing system is used, manager can explain why continual grazing is appropriate and can explain and demonstrate the use of appropriate stocking rates for a given environment.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock: Other Criteria

Animal Nutrition

Level 1: Basic necessities for water and feed supply quantity and quality are met. No stress from competition for food is seen. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Manager can describe visible signs of stress stemming from food and water deficiency.
- Water supplies are freely available on a daily basis.
- Livestock appear well fed with good body fitness (determined by using body condition index), as appropriate for the production system, the breed and the stage and level of production.⁴
- Records indicate breeding stock experience normal reproductive potential for the species and region.
- Feed and water supplies are fresh and clean. Feed and water stations are well maintained.
- If competition is evident among feeding/watering animals, manager can explain why there is competition.⁵

Level 2: As per Level 1, and feed and water supplies are adequately managed to preserve feed quality and avoid animal competition and stress. Animals are given mineral and vitamin supplements, if needed. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Forage on grazing land is of good quality and quantity, where appropriate, as demonstrated by test results.⁶
- Appropriate mineral supplements (salt licks and/or loose minerals) are available if minerals are not otherwise provided.⁷
- Food stores are at proper temperature and moisture to maintain optimum freshness, palatability and nutritional value.
- Feeding and watering equipment size and spacing is adequate for the maximum number of livestock present at any one time.
- Records show changes in feed type from forage to grain or from grain to forage are made gradually, as appropriate.⁸

Level 3: As per Level 2, and diet quality is adjusted to meet production level of the animals. Two or more of the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Facilities and/or equipment are designed to work with different-age animals.
- Producer is aware of the nutritional requirements of the animals in various situations on the operation and has taken measures to address those requirements.

- Producer can describe his/her herd's rate of gain related to feeds used.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: At least three age-specific strategies from Level 3 apply. Producer can relate how animal nutrition on the farm/ranch results in superior animal health. Check all indicators that producer relates to nutrition:

- Breeding and lambing/kidding success
- Weight gain
- Freedom from illness
- Premiums at slaughter
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Feed Storage

Level 1: Supplemental feed storage is not covered and precipitation and runoff freely enters and leaves the storage site.

Level 2: Supplemental feed storage is covered to prevent precipitation from running through.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and supplemental feed storage is managed to prevent clean runoff from entering or leaving the storage site. Feed is stored to prevent animal access.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and supplemental feed storage is never subject to flooding, or is downslope of and/or sufficient distance from surface water, wells or untreated drainage systems to prevent contamination in the event of flooding.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Animal Health

Level 1: All basic requirements for livestock health are met. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Manager is aware of legal requirements.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.
- Livestock appear healthy, and free of disease and/or severe problems with parasites.⁹
- Records indicate compliance with any legal requirements for vaccinations, administration of medicines and recordkeeping.
- No planning or policy for weaning and castration is in place.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and livestock are regularly monitored for injury, disease or abnormal behaviors. Any indications are addressed promptly and adequately, including isolation, professional veterinary assistance, and correction of causal factors when necessary. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- No evidence of unresolved health issues.
- A plan or policy is in place for weaning and castration.
- Facilities for isolating sick animals are available and adequate to allow normal movement.
- If castrated, lambs/kids are castrated before 3 weeks of age. If rubber rings are used for castration, lambs/kids are castrated at 1 week.
- Urine and feces from infected animals are handled without spreading the infection.
- Records indicate veterinary consultation occurs when appropriate.
- Evidence of a valid veterinarian-client relationship.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and facilities are well designed and maintained to promote health and reduce injuries. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Records indicate newly acquired animals are screened for health issues and/or quarantined for at least 30 days with no fence-line contact before being added to stock.
- Facilities design allows for effective cleaning of surfaces.
- Potentially slippery surfaces are grooved or otherwise provided with traction.
- Equipment and surfaces are well maintained to avoid sharp edges, protruding nails or other sources of injury.
- Handler can explain how timing and practice for potentially injurious procedures minimize risk, fear and stress.
- Animal identifiers (e.g., bands, tags) are applied safely and carefully, and checked regularly to avoid animal discomfort. Farm operators, farm employees or other individuals applying identifiers must be properly trained to avoid injuring animals or causing undue stress during the application process.
- New animals are isolated from other animals for 2-3 weeks.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and handler has a written health plan or can provide a detailed verbal description of a health plan that is implemented and proven effective; livestock health and fitness appear excellent and animals appear calm. The plan contains all the following. Check as applicable:

- Policies/practices for low-stress handling and use of preventative health measures.
- Discussion of practices to make procedures such as weaning, tail docking, castration, disbudding, etc., less stressful or least likely to injure.

- If lambs/kids are weaned early or late, manager must have a solid justification and should address this stress with appropriate nutritional, health, and facility management.
- Policy of regular maintenance and repair of facilities to prevent injury.
- Policy and procedure to regularly evaluate and monitor herd health.
- Tabulation of written records show low incidence of injury or disease or need for veterinary intervention.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Shearing

N/A: Animals do not have wool or mohair.

Level 1: Basic necessities for shearing are met. Wool is removed at least once each year and stored in a safe, protected, dry place. Wool is stored to prevent animal access.

Level 2: Facilities and equipment are improved to provide a better environment for the shearer and animals. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- First aid kit is available containing appropriate items for the animals and shearer.
- Emergency phone numbers or contacts are posted conspicuously in the shearing area.
- The shearing floor consists of plywood or other smooth wooden surface.
- Extra lighting is provided at the shearing area so that the shearers have plenty of light.
- Sufficient labor is available to move animals smoothly to and from the shearer.
- Animals are only shorn on the shearing board. Additional management procedures (worming, foot-trimming) are performed separately in a different area either prior to or after shearing.
- Unshorn animals and shorn animals are penned separately and apart from the shearing area.
- Newly shorn animals are not released outside in subfreezing weather unless shorn with cover combs or equivalent.
- Manure, britches, and bellies are separated from the main fleeces.
- Animals are never shorn wet.
- Wool is stored cleanly in temporary bags or bales.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and facilities are well designed to allow for smooth and relatively low-stress flow of animals. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Shearers get their unshorn animals from well-designed catch pens with hinged doors or from shearing trailers.
- Unshorn animals move smoothly throughout the barn and gathering areas.
- Prior to shearing, unshorn animals are housed dry overnight without feed or water.

- Holding pens are never allowed to contain only a single animal.¹⁰ Pens always contain two or more animals.
- While shearing, shearers wear special footwear (such as jute or felt moccasins) that is different from their regular shoes or boots.
- If appropriate, electric outlets are available near the shearing area to avoid long, exposed extension cords.
- An emergency pen is available to hold injured or sick animals.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and additionally facilities are designed to maximize the quality and efficiency of the shearing, obtain a high-quality product, and minimize the stress on the animal and the shearer. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Multiple holding pens and races lead animals smoothly to the shearer.
- A separate room is made available for shearers to wash and work on equipment.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Handling and Handling Facilities

Level 1: Animals are handled aggressively. Sticks and electric prods are used to move animals. Handling facilities (pens, chutes, ramps, stalls, etc.) do not consider natural behaviors and may be slippery and potentially injurious.

Level 2: Animals are handled calmly. Sticks, if used, are extensions of the arms only; electric prods, goads and striking animals with sticks are not permitted. Animal handlers show no evidence of raised voices or aggressive actions evident during inspection. Handling facilities show no evidence of fear or stressed behavior, such as bowed panels, smashed gates, etc.¹¹ Handlers use trained stock dogs to move animals in pastures.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and animal handlers are well trained and understand the natural behaviors and factors that cause stress or injury to the livestock under his or her care. Facility maintenance and design are effective in matching animal natural behaviors and reducing fear, stress and injury. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Handler can discuss stress factors to watch out for, such as agitated movements, vocalizations, and fear.

- Handler can discuss natural behaviors to consider, like balking at shadows, changes in flooring, trash in ramps and chutes, “the flight zone,” movement towards light, balking at flapping objects like a shirt hanging on a fencepost, etc.
- Handler can discuss facility maintenance and design such as cleanliness, protruding sharp edges, slippery flooring, etc. that may result in injury to animals.
- Animals are not showing fear or stress, e.g., rushing to escape or running into each other during handling or transport operations, excessive vocalization, etc.
- Inspection of chutes, ramps and fencing shows no sharp protruding edges. If electric fencing is used, voltage and placement is such that only momentary discomfort occurs.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and new or renovated handling and transport facilities are present. Design and/or modifications to handling and transport facilities match the natural behaviors of the animals and handler can discuss the features. Horned animals are not caught, pulled or dragged by their horns. Check all that apply:

- Lighting to prevent shadows
- Lighting in rooms at ends of chutes to draw animals in
- Curved chutes, with smooth edges and solid sides
- Uniform flooring to prevent balking
- Quiet fans, pumps, etc. to prevent high pitch noise
- Rubber stops on gates to prevent noise when closing
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Transportation

Level 1: Transportation equipment is in good repair to prevent injury and comply with regulations. Loading and equipment are managed to prevent injury. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Truck floors are leak-proof to prevent urine and manure from dripping onto the highway.
- Overloading will injure animals and is prevented.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and temperature and weather conditions are factored into transportation to reduce thermal stress.¹² All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Animals have been fasted for 12 hours before loading onto trucks.
- If animals in late pregnancy are moved within parturition, extra care is taken to accommodate premature birth and nutritional stress that can result in ketosis and/or hypocalcemia.
- If the temperature is over 70° F (21° C), effort is made to keep trucks moving for ventilation purposes, to restrict travel to short distances with no stops. Extra space is provided.

- When the temperature is below 32° F (0° C), holes may be plugged to keep excess wind out.
- For newly shorn animals, when temperatures are below 32° F (0° C), no transportation occurs when raining or snowing, to keep animals from getting wet.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and loading densities are closely managed to prevent under loading or over loading, using the following guidelines:¹³

Slaughter Weight English / Metric Units	Shorn English / Metric Units	Full Fleece English / Metric Units
60 lbs. (27 kg)	2.13 sq.ft. (0.20 sq.m.)	2.24 sq.ft. (0.21 sq.m.)
80 lbs. (36 kg)	2.50 sq.ft. (0.23 sq.m.)	2.60 sq.ft. (0.24 sq.m.)
100 lbs. (45 kg)	2.80 sq.ft. (0.26 sq.m.)	2.95 sq.ft. (0.27 sq.m.)
120 lbs. (54 kg)	3.20 sq.ft. (0.30 sq.m.)	3.36 sq.ft. (0.31 sq.m.)

Level 4: Producer has written records of animal transportation to slaughter facilities, including dates, numbers of animals transported, and conditions. Impacts of transportation on animals and the environment are minimized. Check all that apply:

- On-farm production and direct marketing.
- Animal transport coordinated with other regional producers.
- Transport vehicles use biobased fuels. Use is documented by transportation provider.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

On-farm Casualty Slaughter (Euthanasia)

Level 1: All legal requirements for on-farm casualty animal slaughter and disposal are met. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Animals are rendered insensible to pain before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast away, or cut.
- Non-ambulatory animals are never dragged to the kill area.
- Insensibility must come from a single blow, gunshot or knife stroke, or an electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid and effective.
- Non-ambulatory, dying, diseased and disabled animals are provided shelter, food and water.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and handler can discuss assessment of insensibility to ensure animals are in fact rendered insensible during on-farm slaughter. Handler discusses methods of testing for insensibility, such as limp tongue, blank stare, limp back, no rhythmic breathing (gasping OK), no response to painful stimulus, no vocalizations, etc.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and handler can discuss guidelines for deciding when a casualty animal should be treated vs. slaughtered. Check all that apply:

- Handler can explain decision-making guidelines regarding casualty animals, including examples of how the guidelines are followed.
- Non-ambulatory, dying, diseased and disabled animals are separated from healthy animals, and provided with a stress-free pen sufficient to protect them from temperature and other stresses while awaiting disposition.¹⁴
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and careful records are kept of casualty slaughter incidents and causes, and effective corrective measures are put in place to minimize reoccurrence. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Records of casualty slaughter, including cause, procedures and disposition of carcass are legible and complete.
- Handler can report corrective actions taken.
- Animal casualty rate due to disease and injury is low or non-existent. Predator losses are minimized through appropriate management such as guard animals, good fences, careful herding, etc. Manager can discuss how predator losses have been minimized and controlled.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Hazard Reduction and Sanitation

Level 1: All legal requirements are met for food safety and bio-security, including hygiene, sanitation, and fuel, pesticide and medicine storage. Access to facilities and livestock is controlled. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Manager is aware of legal requirements.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and a policy addressing procedures, materials for cleaning and disinfecting facilities and equipment, personal protective gear, and limiting risks from contamination and disease spread is in place. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Signage listing procedures and precautions is present where appropriate, e.g., fuel, pesticide, medicine storages, toilet facilities and feed stores.
- Cleaning and disinfecting products are used properly, i.e. anti-microbial disinfectants are not used where cleaning products are appropriate.
- Handlers use clean and appropriate personal protective gear (such as gloves, hairnets, boots), where appropriate.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and access to some facilities (where appropriate), equipment, medicine, fuel and pesticide stores is limited to appropriate persons. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Medicine, pesticide and fuel storage is locked.
- Entrances to farm and facilities are appropriately marked and secured to discourage/prevent unauthorized entry and/or movement of disease or contaminants into sensitive areas.
- Pesticide, medicine and/or fuel use is tracked in such a manner to ensure unauthorized use or spillage is detected.
- Biosecurity measures are in place to prevent diseases from being transferred to the farm (e.g., footbaths for visitors, plastic booties, etc.).
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and on-farm storage of hazardous materials is minimal or non-existent. Check as applicable:

- Animal health and preventative pest management is adequate and as such very little medicine or pesticide is present on farm.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Feed Production and Pasture Management

Grazing Plan

Level 1: No written or otherwise describable grazing plan based on land/vegetation features or livestock needs. Livestock moved when convenient or based on when they have always been moved. No criteria established for pasture condition, which would signal a livestock move, other than short forage. Most pastures appear unhealthy, either overgrazed or under-grazed. Most pastures contain bare spots with little or no vegetation.

Level 2: Producer has a very basic written grazing plan or can give a verbal description of the grazing plan. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Plan describes herd size, pasture size, criteria for moving animals, estimated forage yield, and periods of expected shortage.¹⁵
- Plan establishes the forage conditions that trigger moving animals, but the description of conditions is not specific or detailed. Move dates tend to be long intervals, one month or more. May mention consideration of other resources, but little management directed at enhancement or protection of these resources.
- Plan mentions animal gain and health, but does not elaborate on aspects of pasture/range management e.g., signs of poison plant symptoms to watch for, moving livestock before they start to eat poison plants, etc.
- Plan mentions weather related variations in forage production and plans for having adequate forage and water in dry years, but only general solutions described, leaving specific decisions until time of need.
- Most detailed discussions in the plan deal with livestock and not resource management.
- Plan calls for little monitoring of conditions, and such monitoring is done at irregular times.
- Some pastures appear overgrazed with short leaves and little residual. This overgrazing is not part of an overall grazing strategy.
- Pasture density as evaluated by ground leaf cover is reasonable but not very dense. There are few bare spots in the pastures.

Level 3: Producer has a written grazing plan with considerable detail, including accounting for manure nutrients added or removed by pastured animals, but the plan deals only with the current year. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- The plan is missing discussion of long-term goals and the short-term objectives needed to reach these goals.
- The plan discusses livestock moves, and bases them on pasture condition criteria, which would tend to maintain vigorous production. Moves tend to be on a shorter timeframe, providing for good livestock gain and protection of forage resources.
- Plan considers weather related forage and water problems and outlines alternative management that would be instituted if these conditions occur.
- Field records include additions of manure and commercial fertilizer nutrients.
- Plan covers pasture and forage management beyond consideration of animal nutrition issues.
- Fertilizer and manure applications are timed to optimize effectiveness at the lowest possible rates.
- Soil testing is conducted regularly on the farm, with all fields being tested within a three-year period.

Level 4: As per Level 3 and, ranch operates from a written grazing plan that addresses most livestock and land management issues and covers three years or longer, with provisions for reviewing specific issues at least annually. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Riparian conditions and resources are considered, and management is directed towards the issue.
- Producer utilizes a grazing wedge to guide pasture management and updates this wedge often.
- Water quality conditions and resources are considered, and management is directed towards the issue.
- Erosion conditions and resources are considered, and management is directed towards the issue.
- Noxious weed and poison plant issues are considered, and management is directed towards the issue.
- Plant community health and forage production issues are considered, and management is directed towards the issue.
- Wildlife habitat conditions and resources are considered, and management is directed towards the issue.
- Additional water development is considered, and management is directed towards the issue.
- Monitoring occurs at least once a year and information obtained is used to address problems and improve the existing management plan.
- Pastures are densely populated with forages exhibiting vigorous plant growth. There is a minimum of standing litter. Plant and leaf density are high, ground cover is excellent, and pastures show no bare ground.
- Surface water and/or groundwater monitoring is conducted to test for nutrient contamination.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Pasture or Grazing Units

Grazing Unit Types (check all that are present)

- Rangeland**
- Improved**
- Unimproved/Marginal**

Note: Each grazing unit type must be evaluated individually for each of the following criteria.

Grazing Riparian Areas

Level 1: Livestock has open access to riparian areas and stream banks and is allowed to concentrate along streams in these areas. Manager has no plan for protecting these areas.

Level 2: Riparian buffer exists and is maintained. Buffer is appropriate to site and environmental conditions and is adequate to minimize overland flow. No riparian degradation is apparent.

Management plan is minimal or nonexistent. If fencing is used to keep livestock out of the riparian area, fencing is adequately maintained.

Level 3: As per Level 2, manager can describe how the livestock management plan specifically protects riparian areas. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Fencing is maintained at least annually to ensure it will hold animals out.
- Water supplied off site.
- Some in-stream watering sites are selected and fenced off and area can withstand some livestock watering use without adding large amount of silt or animal waste to stream.
- Riparian areas monitored, but only visually and done at long time intervals or on an irregular basis.
- Information sometimes used to adjust livestock management to protect riparian maintenance or enhancement.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: Written livestock management plan specifically considers riparian areas and their enhancement or maintenance in good condition, which may include the following items. Check all that apply: :

- Off stream/wetland livestock watering facilities.
- Temporary or permanent fencing in some areas where other forms of management not possible or adequate to keep animals out of riparian/stream at specific times.
- Pasture rotations that use units with riparian areas in early spring when livestock spend little time near water and range out to find new grass in cool weather and those with other water opportunities during warmer periods.
- Plan to graze riparian areas only to a stated conservation stubble height (e.g., 6 inches), to maximize re-growth and protect stream(s) from surface flow situation and degradation of stream shading.
- Using “hardened crossings” to direct livestock access to those stream watering sites where little or no damage will be done to riparian areas, and where stream banks and water quality for livestock and fish will be protected.
- Annual systematic monitoring of riparian/stream development with management. This information used to make management decisions to better protect the riparian/stream resource.
- Other management techniques that protect high quality riparian/stream characteristics (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Noxious Weed Management and Herbicide Usage

Level 1: Herbicides applied every year to the same noxious weeds or all conspicuous weed species on the same place.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and every two or more years an inventory is taken, or monitoring activity is performed to determine location of new noxious weed infestations and effectiveness of previous year's treatment methods.

Level 3: As per Level 1, and every year an inventory is taken, or monitoring activity is performed to determine location of new noxious weed infestations and effectiveness of previous year's treatment methods.

Level 4: A yearly evaluation of noxious weed infestations is performed consistent with a written noxious weed control plan that includes three or more of the following items. Check all that apply:

- Regular inventory and monitoring done to determine location of new noxious weed infestations and effectiveness of last year's treatment methods.
- Monitoring information used to plan current year's noxious weed control and at least two or more years into the future, specifically target small new infestations where treatment takes least resources, is most effective and very low costs.
- Control methods applied based on plant phenology, so they have the most impact on target weed.
- Long-term plan should include site re-vegetation naturally or mechanically with desirable species to maximize site usefulness and noxious weed competition, and limit potential reinvasion; this will eventually reduce noxious weed control time, resources and costs.
- Other (please specify):

Note: If area is relatively free of noxious weeds, manager must be aware of potential problems, and monitor the area regularly. They must also have a plan to control calling for some of the elements in Level 4 to Score at Level 4:

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Feeding, Shelter, and Watering Site Management

Level 1: Supplemental feeding, watering, and sheltering sites are sited within 100 ft. of surface waters.

Level 2: Supplemental feeding, watering, and sheltering sites are sited greater than 100 ft. away from surface water (or farther if required by law) where flooding rarely occurs. These sites are, in general, fixed and used by animals on a regular basis.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and erosion and/or manure pollution due to animals is reduced by consistently moving (1 of the 2) feeding or watering sites, or by adequately rocking or barking watering sites to reduce/eliminate erosion and/or manure pollution. Where waterers are used, they are designed and maintained to prevent manure contamination. Soil erosion and manure build-up around waterers is monitored and managed.

Level 4: As per Level 3, but both feeding, and watering site are consistently moved, where appropriate.¹⁶ Moveable waterers are encouraged. If flow-through waterers are used, flow is stopped when not required.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Manure Management

Manure Management Plan

Level 1: All legal requirements are met for collection, storage, treatment and application of manure. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Manager is aware of legal requirements.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and manure is managed to minimize risks to surface and ground water, and animal health. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Manure from the operation is not present on roads around the farm.
- Livestock are effectively excluded from manure storage areas.
- If excess manure accumulates in confinement or feeding areas, it is treated with straw or other composting material until it can be removed.
- Manure is removed from confinement areas as soon as feasible.¹⁷
- Manure storage capacity is adequate to contain all manure produced when application is not appropriate (e.g., frozen or saturated soils).
- A written Nutrient Management Plan documents the generation, collection, treatment, storage and agronomic use of all manure and includes a mass nutrient balance for the major crop nutrients (N, P and K) that considers inputs from water, soil amendments, nitrogen-fixing crops, existing soil and plant tissue.

- The plan specifically includes nutrient management strategies for preventing erosion and water pollution resulting from wallows, woodlands, dry lots and other areas associated with outdoor production, where applicable.
- The plan specifically includes provisions for safeguarding manure storage areas from consequences of significant flood events.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and manure is managed for its nutrient value and to minimize nuisance.

All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Excess manure, if any, is put to good use off farm. Records are kept documenting the amount of manure exported and the name and address of individual receiving the manure.
- Soil testing is conducted regularly on the farm, with all fields being tested within a three-year period.
- Field records include manure and commercial fertilizer nutrients.
- Manure nutrients from pastured animals are accounted for in budgeting and pasturing is rotated among fields/paddocks.
- Nuisance-level manure odors are not detectable in neighboring off-farm locations where people are present.
- Fly populations are at acceptable Levels both on and off-farm, without use of insecticides labeled “Warning” or “Danger.”
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and farm demonstrates exceptional commitment to manure management. Two or more of the following apply. Check as applicable:

- All manure produced by confined animals is composted. ¹⁸
- Other pathogen-reduction practices are in place (please specify and verify effectiveness).
- Records of crop yields are used to monitor and adapt nutrient management plan.
- Within the past 5 years, farm has been involved in testing or demonstrating innovative manure management techniques.
- Other management practices are in place to reduce odors (please specify and verify effectiveness).
- Surface water and/or groundwater monitoring is conducted to test for nutrient contamination.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Solid Manure Storage

N/A: Manure is not stored as a solid.

Level 1: Solid manure storage is greater than 100 ft from surface water (or farther if required by law/local ordinance) and not in areas subject to flooding. Storage is adequate to contain manure production when application is not appropriate.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and two or more of the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Some portion of the farm's stored manure is composted.
- All manure is stored with a significant buffer from surface waters.
- All manure and compost are stored on an impermeable surface.
- Compost is mixed, and a proper blend of Carbon and Nitrogen sources is available for microbial action.
- Storage is designed so that runoff from the storage site is contained and utilized.
- In high rainfall areas, compost is covered to prevent runoff from the manure and over-saturation of composting manure.
- Animal mortalities, if composted, are composted separately from the bulk of manure and the resulting compost is also stored and handled separately.
- Manure is stored downwind of sensitive areas.

Level 3: At least four practices from Level 2 apply. Storage structures are monitored and inspected annually, and maintenance action taken to repair cracks and other faults that may lead to contamination of ground or surface water.

Level 4: All practices from Level 2 apply, and all the farm's stored manure is composted. Composting material is mixed, turned and monitored to a high standard including temperature and airflow. Clear separation exists between piles of raw materials, working compost and finished compost. No raw manure leaves the farm without composting.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Liquid Manure Storage¹⁹

N/A: Manure is not stored as a liquid.

Level 1: Liquid manure is stored in earthen lagoons. Storage is adequate to contain manure production when application is not appropriate.

Level 2: All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Lagoons have been designed and certified to NRCS standards.
- No individual lagoon exceeds 3.25 million gallons (10 acre-feet).

- Inspection of the lagoon shows no signs of bank erosion.
- Lagoon floor is above winter high water table.
- Manure collection (scrape) tank has adequate storage to contain storm event rainfall without overflow from slab.
- Access to lagoons is controlled, and warning signs are posted.
- Vegetation on lagoon banks is well maintained; there is no woody vegetation on the earthen banks.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and at least four of the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Access ramps of either stone or concrete are built into the lagoon.
- Lagoon is fenced to prevent unauthorized access.
- Erosion control structures are included to prevent incoming manure flow from damaging the lagoon integrity.
- Manure is agitated at pump out.
- Twin lagoons are utilized to help manage phosphorus and/or crop scorch.
- Lagoon is lined with packed clay, bentonite or a butyl liner.
- The lagoon is covered to reduce rainfall impact on storage capacity or to collect methane.
- A device is in place to measure manure volume in the lagoon.
- A manure separator is used to reduce solids accumulation in the lagoon.
- Groundwater testing wells around the lagoon are monitored regularly and records of water quality are kept.
- Manure is stored downwind of sensitive areas.

Level 4: At least six practices from Level 3 apply or all manure is stored in an above ground steel or concrete structure.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Fertilizer and Animal Manure Applications

Level 1: Fertilizers and animal manure are applied on a regular schedule or routine basis, without regard to nutrient testing of soil or crop requirements. Testing fulfills state standards.

Level 2: All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Soils are tested regularly in a program determined with a forage expert, agronomist, or state agency.²⁰
- Nutrient management records are maintained annually for each field.
- Fertilizers and animal manure are applied according to test results for all major plant nutrients.
- Animal manure is not spread within 50 ft. of surface water, or within 100 ft. of wells used for domestic water supplies.
- Animal manure is not applied to frozen or saturated ground.
- Animal manure is not spread on steep slopes.
- Animal manure is not applied to bare ground in the fall.²¹

Level 3: As per Level 2, and all the following apply. Check as applicable:

- All animal manure and other fertilizers used on the farm are applied in accordance with a Nutrient Management Plan for the farm written to NRCS or other county/state standards designed to protect surface and ground waters.
- Nutrient requirements for the cropping year are considered in depth before application for the season begins.
- Soil Organic Matter Level is determined, and the nitrogen release is included in crop nutrient management planning for the year.
- Animal manure is not spread within 100 ft. of surface water, or within 300 ft. of wells used for domestic water supplies.
- Applications of fertilizers and animal manure are timed to optimize effectiveness at the lowest possible rates.
- Applications of animal manure are monitored closely to avoid odor nuisance issues with neighbors.
- Animal manure applied to bare ground is incorporated within 24 hours.
- Application records are kept in accordance with the plan.

Level 4: Animal manure and fertilizers are applied as per Level 3, and all the following apply. Check as applicable:

- A long-range plan is in place that considers organic matter, pH, and the full range of crop nutrients in the soil and addresses the over-accumulation of some nutrients and the depletion of others.
- Soil quality, including organic matter content and pH, is established at planting and maintained at optimum levels to maximize the availability of existing soil nutrients, where feasible and applicable.
- Off-farm applications are under the control of a manure agreement that guides applications through accompanied manure test results.
- Producer does not apply manure when wind conditions are likely to move odors to sensitive areas.
- Manure is managed to allow differentiation between manures with different characteristics (e.g., Carbon rich shavings from hospital pens or Phosphorus rich sludge from the base of undisturbed lagoons).
- Producer schedules manure spreading to reduce impacts to neighbors. Producer applies manure early in the day and not on weekends or holidays, and/or can provide evidence of good faith attempts to coordinate manure applications with the schedules of neighbors.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Fertilizer and Animal Manure Usage

Level 1: Fertilization for feed production is part of the farm's manure management plan. Manure fertilization is credited according to typical values for similar, local farms or by actual testing and analysis.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and previous crops, cover crops, and manure applications are credited when fertilizing. Producer can describe how the operation recycles nutrients, and how their operation balances nutrient inputs with nutrient use.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and records show continuing decrease in per acre inputs of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), and/or Potassium (K) from nonorganic sources, such as synthetic fertilizers.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and for at least half of the rotation two of the three nutrient requirements are met exclusively with organic sources.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Application Equipment

Level 1: Fertilizer and manure application equipment is not calibrated or maintained to prevent spillage.

Level 2: Both of the following must apply. All the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Application equipment is designed and maintained to prevent spillage.
- Application equipment is calibrated to deliver desired amount of material.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and all the following apply. Check as applicable:

- Filling sites are designed and maintained to allow effective spill cleanup. Spills are cleaned promptly.
- Liquid manure, if used, is not applied through overhead sprinklers or big guns. Splash plates are located no higher than 4 ft. above the ground.
- All application equipment running on moist soils is fitted with tires designed to minimize soil compaction.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and commercial fertilizers and animal manure is not tracked onto public ways by equipment.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Pest Management

Rodents

Level 1: Rodents are not monitored or controlled.

Level 2: Rodents are monitored, and rodenticides are used only when populations exceed predetermined action Levels.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and cultural, physical and biological controls are used such as sanitation, exclusion, trapping and predators (e.g., cats). Rodenticides, if used, are in enclosed, tamper-resistant bait stations secured to posts, walls or floors to prevent removal. Rodenticides labeled “Danger” or “Warning” are not used. Traps, if used, are checked daily and injured rodents are humanely killed.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and cultural, physical or biological controls are used exclusively.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

External Parasites and Bot Flies

Level 1: Pesticides are used on a routine basis.

Level 2: As per Level 1, and animals are monitored on a regular basis for presence of external parasites, particularly when recently sheared. Specific sites are checked for those parasites common to the body region, e.g., ears are checked for spinose ear tick, wounds are checked for blowflies, etc. Pesticides are used only according to label directions, including avoiding application to animals with open wounds (e.g., immediately after shearing), and avoiding spraying animals with liquids when temperatures are below 40 F.

For Bot Flies, animals are monitored on a regular basis, e.g., for irritated nasal passages, blood flecks in nasal discharge, unusual behaviors, etc., such as banging heads against feed bunks, fences or ground. Pesticides are applied only when symptoms over a predetermined threshold or indicated by herd history.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and pesticides are used only when a problem infestation is confirmed and correctly identified. Cultural controls are used such as shearing of infested animals, prompt medical attention to wounds, and grazing animals in open pastures without shade. When possible, bot fly treatments are timed after a hard frost, which kills bot fly adults and delays reinfestation.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and replacement or breeding stock are carefully examined for presence of external parasites and bot flies and treated if necessary before adding to herd.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Internal Parasites

Level 1: Synthetic anthelmintics are used on a routine basis, with little or no regard for environmental conditions, parasite life cycles, host immunity, or drug efficacy.

Level 2: Producer understands parasite life cycles, environmental factors, host immunity, drug resistance issues, and the effects of grazing management. Fecal egg counts are monitored regularly to ascertain parasite load. Deworming is performed/timed in a strategic manner to reduce the number of treatments needed.

Level 3: As per level 2, and anthelmintic resistance is determined using fecal egg counts or the DrenchRite system. Where appropriate, the FAMACHA® eye anemia system is used to guide the use of anthelmintics on individual animals for barber pole worm infection. New animals are dewormed aggressively while in quarantine to prevent the introduction of anthelmintic-resistant worms.

Level 4: As per level 3, and experts such as state parasitology specialists and/or other information sources are consulted to implement a holistic or integrated parasite management program (IPM). Also, where possible, genetic selection takes into account resistance to internal parasites.²²

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Scorecard

CRITERIA	Score/LEVEL
Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock: Living Conditions	
(1) TOTAL POINTS EARNED =	
Total Points Available	4
- Minus Total Points Not Applicable	
(2) TOTAL APPLICABLE POINTS=	
(3) AVERAGE Score=	

CRITERIA	Score/LEVEL
Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock: Other	
Animal Nutrition	
Feed Storage	
Animal Health	
Handling & Handling Facilities	
Transportation	
On-Farm Casualty Slaughter (Euthanasia)	
Hazard Reduction and Sanitation	
(1) TOTAL POINTS EARNED =	
Total Points Available	28
- Minus Total Points Not Applicable	
(2) TOTAL APPLICABLE POINTS=	
(3) AVERAGE Score=	

CRITERIA	Score/LEVEL
Feed Production and Pasture Management	
Grazing Plan	
Grazing Riparian Areas	
Noxious Weed Management & Herbicide Usage	
Feeding, Shelter and Watering Site Management	
(1) TOTAL POINTS EARNED =	
Total Points Available	16
- Minus Total Points Not Applicable	
(2) TOTAL APPLICABLE POINTS=	
(3) AVERAGE Score=	

CRITERIA	Score/LEVEL
Manure Management	
Manure Management Plan	
Solid Manure Storage	
Liquid Manure Storage	
Commercial Fertilizer and Animal Manure Application	
Commercial Fertilizer and Animal Manure Usage	
Application Equipment	
(1) TOTAL POINTS EARNED =	
Total Points Available	24
- Minus Total Points Not Applicable	
(2) TOTAL APPLICABLE POINTS=	
(3) AVERAGE Score=	

CRITERIA	Score/LEVEL
Pest Management	
Rodents	
External Parasites and Bot Flies	
Internal Parasites	
(1) TOTAL POINTS EARNED =	
Total Points Available	12
- Minus Total Points Not Applicable	
(2) TOTAL APPLICABLE POINTS=	
(3) AVERAGE Score=	

Acknowledgements

The evaluation criteria included in this inspection tool were developed using information from many sources, including*:

1. Control of Sheep Keds. K. A. Johnson. Cooperative Extension, Washington State University, Department of Animal Sciences. Publication No. EB1389.
<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1389/eb1389.pdf>
2. Managing and Utilizing Pasture and Harvested Forages for Sheep. 1982. J. B. Outhouse, K. D. Johnson and C. L. Rhykerd. Purdue University Cooperative Extension.
<http://persephone.agcom.purdue.edu/AgCom/Pubs/ID/ID-153.html>
3. Nutritional Management of the Sheep Flock. K. A. Johnson. Cooperative Extension, Washington State University, Department of Animal Sciences. Publication No. EB1675.
<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1675/eb1675.html>
4. Problem Weeds – A Cattlemen’s Guide. Grazing and Pasture Technology Program, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food.
http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca/DOCS/livestock/beef/herd_health/Probweed.asp
5. Producing High Quality Consumer Products from Sheep. 1995. American Sheep Industry Association, USDA-Extension Service, Colorado State University.
6. Sheep Insect Management. 1996. J. B. Campbell. Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska Lincoln. <http://www.ianr.unl.edu/pubs/insects/g1142.htm>
7. Sheep Pocket Guide. 1996. R. G. Haugen. North Dakota State Extension.
<http://www.ext.nodak.edu/extpubs/ansci/sheep/as989-1.htm#Introduction>
8. Withholding times for antibiotics and other drugs:
<http://www.minsterleyvets.4mg.com/Drugs Page.htm>
9. Temple Grandin’s Web Page. <http://www.grandin.com>

*Not all practices from these sources were incorporated into the final draft of these evaluation criteria, so acknowledgement of their use does not constitute an endorsement of these criteria.

These evaluation criteria were developed in collaboration with Dr. Woody Lane, Lane Livestock Services, Roseburg, OR, woody@woodylane.com

The following individuals reviewed and provided comment on the evaluation criteria**:

1. Susan Schoenian, Sheep and Goat Specialist, Western Maryland Research & Education Center, University of Maryland Cooperative Extension;
2. Chet Parsons, Livestock Specialist, University of Vermont Extension;
3. Dr. Beth Walker, Assistant Professor, Missouri State University;
4. Dr. Rick Machen, Professor and Extension Livestock Specialist, Texas A&M University; and
5. Kathy Panner, Co-Owner, Umpqua Valley Lamb, Riddle, OR.

**Not all reviewer comments and suggestions were incorporated in the final draft of these evaluation criteria, so recognition of their contribution does not constitute an endorsement.

Endnotes

1 Food Alliance accepts the definition of nontherapeutic as any use of antimicrobials in food animals in the absence of clinical disease or known (documented) disease exposure; i.e., any use of the drug as a food or water additive for growth promotion, feed efficiency, weight gain, disease prevention in the absence of documented and verified exposure, or any other “routine” use as nontherapeutic.

2 Whey is a byproduct in dairy areas. It is sometimes used in silages in the Midwest as well as in drinking troughs.

3 Embryo transfer restriction applies to the animal’s dam, not to previous generations (i.e. if the animal’s sire or dam were produced through embryo transfer but that individual animal was produced through a normal fertilization and gestation).

4 Hair sheep and dairy sheep breeds tend to lay down fat internally rather than subcutaneously, and therefore may appear in lower body condition than they really are. In addition, high-producing ewes lactating triplets will often lose quite a bit of body condition, especially in early and mid-lactation, even if they have been fed correctly. Some managers will use dry ewes to eliminate weeds and other unwanted plants and therefore allow a lower body condition Score for those ewes. This is a sustainable and appropriate practice.

See Langston University website, <http://www2.luresext.edu/GOATS/research/bcshowto.html>, for Goat Body Condition Index guidance. See Oregon State University Extension website, <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/html/ec/ec1433/>, for Sheep Body Condition Index guidance.

5 There are times when limiting feed is necessary for animal health. In such cases, there will be competition. Goats commonly compete for food even if feed is not limited.

6 Proper grazing of animals may include grazing poor quality forages and weeds during maintenance and early gestation. Manager should not be penalized for following good land or nutritional management practices.

7 Vitamin supplements, per se, are usually not appropriate for ruminants. Some vitamins may be included in a trace mineral mixture rather than provided independently, but this practice depends on geography and other nutritional factors.

8 This is an issue when ruminants are switched from a forage-based diet to a grain-based diet. The reverse usually is not a problem. In general, changing from grain to forage may be done quickly without any nutritional stress or problems. Weaning from milk to grain should be done within one day for artificially reared lambs and other lambs. In addition, some grain mixtures may be made primarily from high-pectin soy hulls or beet pulp, so that the changeover from forage to this ration may be done much more quickly than to a traditional grain (corn, barley, etc) ration.

9 The parasites situation may be tricky, because some good managers permit a reasonable level of parasites for the purpose of the FAMACHA “refugia”. See <http://www.sheep101.info/201/parasite.html>.

10 This insures the safety of both animals and shearers.

11 This damage will occur even with quiet animals if a predator (bear, cougar, etc) gets near the flock when they are in the facilities and the animals panic and try to escape, or if two aggressive animals are penned next to each other. Evaluator MUST give allowance for these extreme behaviors that are not under the manager’s control.

12 The Lower Critical Temperature for woolled animals and for shorn animals (especially newly shorn animals) are very different – by as much as 30 degrees F. Freezing temperatures for full-wooled animals are not stressful, even if the surface of the wool is slightly wet.

13 These figures are taken from Dr. Temple Grandin’s Web Page: <http://www.grandin.com/index.html>.

14 A “covered” pen may not be a reasonable facility in some types of weather conditions. Cover may increase discomfort by isolating animals in the dark.

15 AUMs are not appropriate especially for improved pastures. Grazing plan should account for feed availability and a feed budget rather than animal-based “stocking rates”.

16 In arid and semi-arid range country, feeding [and mineral] sites are also used to concentrate grazing in specified areas. Sites cannot be moved often.

17 In frozen winters, it is simply not feasible or economically rational to move near-frozen barn manure frequently. Bedding is allowed to accumulate until early spring, when the barn is carefully and thoroughly cleaned out and disinfected. However, animals should not be forced to lie in their own manure. Thus, the manure need not be removed as long as fresh bedding is applied to give the animals clean areas

18 Food Alliance does not condone managing manure as a liquid. While logistically it makes sense to move large quantities of animal manure as a liquid, manure poses more of a threat to water quality in a liquid state, especially in earthen storage lagoons. Handling manure as a liquid prevents producers from reaching level 4 in these criteria. Composting, although not a panacea for all ills and not without its problems, is widely regarded as the ultimate form of manure management. This may change in the future, especially as anaerobic digesters become more commonplace and accepted.

19 See Endnote 15, above. If no manure is handled as a liquid, the Liquid Manure Storage section is Scored Not Applicable (NA).

20 The consultant does not have to be “local”, nor just an agronomist. Excellent professional help is available from many types of consultants, and these people may be in other states communicating electronically.

21 Manure should only be applied to ground where there is grass or a cover crop planted to uptake nutrients.

22 IPM may include the planting of tanniferous plants such as sericea or chickory.