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## **Guide to developing an Organic Animal Health Plan**

The Organic Standards require that you have on farm an Animal Health Plan for the livestock. The Animal Health Plan can be written by yourself or in conjunction with your vet. Many vets will have their own template for herd and flock health plans that cover all aspects of the livestock's management. It may be wise to contact your veterinary practice to see if they have a template that they can issue you, they can also complete details in relation to any known problems on the holding or within your locality.

We would suggest that the health plan would include the following items:

- It should identify all potential problems and put in place a framework to ensure that flock/herd health is maintained and improved with the emphasis being on prevention rather than treatment;
- Identify any persistent or regular health issues that occur on the farm, for example, mineral deficiencies, internal and external parasites, Johnes disease, Tb, lameness etc. The Plan needs to cover management of the issues and what preventative husbandry techniques will be employed to reduce the incidence of the problems;
- Identify all veterinary treatments that you are likely to use on a regular basis and include details of any vaccinations that you intend to use;
- Quarantine measures taken for any sick/bought-in livestock;
- Youngstock management; weaning age, feeds offered, type of housing.

Example:

Potential health issue	Preventative measures	Veterinary treatment (if necessary)
Sheep - Flystrike	Lambs are castrated with rubber rings within the first 7 days of life by a competent stock person. The ring is carefully placed to ensure the anus of a male lamb and the anus and vulva of a female lamb are covered. During the summer and early autumn months notifications from <a href="http://alerts.nadis.org.uk">alerts.nadis.org.uk</a> are obtained to ascertain the risk and the need for preventative external treatment against blowfly. As well as monitoring sheep for dirty back ends, appropriate care of wounds and foot rot lesions also takes place to limit laying sites for flies.	Pour-on such as Clik 5% or CLIKZIN 12.5mg/ml are used with consideration given to withdrawal periods