Certified Regenerative by AGW Standards

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Welcome to Certified Regenerative by AGW

Thank you for considering Certified Regenerative by AGW

Your interest in our certification tells us something important: you care about genuine, long-term change and you are committed to doing the hard work of producing food and fiber in a way that heals, not harms.

We created the Certified Regenerative by AGW programme in 2017 *specifically* to support businesses like yours. We recognised the importance of the emerging regenerative claim—and the need to protect it from greenwashing and misuse.

A label you can trust

Certified Regenerative by AGW is a high-integrity programme designed to help producers build healthy soil, protect biodiversity, support animal welfare, reduce pollution, strengthen rural communities, and improve resilience to climate extremes. It's a label your customers can trust, backed by rigorous standards, third-party verification, and alignment with international best practice, including ISO/IEC 17065 principles.

As a not-for-profit organisation, A Greener World (AGW) exists to serve the public good. That means our certification programmes are built around fairness, integrity, and long-term impact—not marketing trends. We see ourselves as partners to the businesses we certify: practical, trustworthy, down-to-earth, and transparent. While we make no apologies for the robustness of our programmes, we are also here to support, listen, and work with you in partnership.

A partnership—*not* a prescription

What sets A Greener World apart is our commitment to partnership and practicality. We know every business is different, and that a one-size-fits-all certification does not work. You also do not need to be Certified Organic to take part—and we have designed these standards to be flexible, realistic, and achievable, without compromising on principles or outcomes.

We are serious about certification

This is not a tick-box exercise or a rubber stamp. Certification is serious work—and it should be. The challenges we face in food and farming—from soil loss to biodiversity collapse, climate change to social injustice—are too important to ignore or dilute.

That is why Certified Regenerative by AGW is grounded in real, measurable outcomes. It is a way to show that your business is not just talking about regeneration but actually doing it.

How the standards work

To make things as clear and usable as possible, each section of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards includes:

Standard	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Situated in the left-hand column, a standard is a clear requirement that **must** be met to achieve and maintain certification. These are written in plain, direct language to avoid any potential misunderstanding or ambiguity.	In the middle column, the guidance section explains what the standard means in practice—and how AGW will assess compliance. The guidance may include examples, context, or clarifications. Some sections also include sources of **further guidance** and **links to Annexes** with additional technical guidance, templates, or requirements for specific situations.	The right-hand column lists possible documentation to demonstrate compliance with the standard. These are suggestions—not exhaustive lists. But they should give you an idea of what might be needed.

Your Regenerative Plan

The Regenerative Plan sits at the very heart of the programme. It is something you will create as part of the application process and amend over time, identifying your individual goals and how you will achieve them. But your Regenerative Plan is also a powerful management tool, helping you track progress, identify opportunities, and make informed decisions.

A broader view of regeneration

Some other regenerative programmes focus almost entirely on soil. But while soil is essential, we believe true regeneration goes much further. Certified Regenerative by AGW takes a whole-system approach, addressing key issues:

- Soil health and fertility.
- Biodiversity and ecosystem function.
- Water and air quality.
- Animal welfare.
- Climate resilience and emissions.
- Social responsibility and fair treatment.
- Economic sustainability and long-term viability.

Certified Regenerative by AGW is more than just a certification. It is about building a food system that works for people, animals, and the planet. One that is truly regenerative in every sense of the word—and independently verified to prove it.

We look forward to working with you

Thanks again for considering Certified Regenerative by AGW. We are proud to work alongside producers and businesses like yours—and we look forward to supporting you on this journey. If you have questions, we're only ever a phone call or email away.

Section 1: Your Responsibilities and Obligations

About Section 1

Understanding your responsibilities—and the evidence and documentation you need to create and maintain—is essential for credible, outcome-based certification. While regenerative agriculture focuses on environmental and social benefits on the ground, good record keeping and administration is essential to ensure these outcomes are measurable, transparent, and consistently applied. The Certified Regenerative by AGW programme is voluntary. The standards do not supersede national government or local legislation.

Section 1 of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards sets out the core requirements for participation in the programme. This includes eligibility criteria, scope of certification, land use rules, mapping expectations, and essential recordkeeping. These requirements provide the foundation for effective auditing, continuous improvement, and long-term success in regenerative farming.

Standard 1.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Scope of the Programme The Certified Regenerative standards (hereafter 'the standards') set out the requirements that **must** be followed for products to be certified and sold as Certified Regenerative by AGW.	The Certified Regenerative by AGW standards apply to: • Annual and perennial crop production. • Wild harvesting. • Crop storage. • Livestock production. • Non-commercial operations, such as educational centres and national parks. If you process Certified Regenerative by AGW products after harvest, you may need a separate **AGW Further Processor or Brand Certification** to sell them as Certified Regenerative by AGW and to use the logo. For example, if you make chips from Certified Regenerative by AGW maize or sausages from Certified Regenerative by AGW pork, you'll require AGW Further Processor Certification. This is because traceability is central to the credibility of all AGW certifications. We need to be able to follow a certified ingredient from the farm to the final packaged product—so everyone, from auditor to consumer, can trust that the label reflects the standards behind it. If you are unsure whether you need AGW Further Processor or Brand Certification, please get in touch. We're happy to help.	*N/A*

Standard 1.2	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Land Management and Tenure The operator **must** have management control of the land for the full period of certification.	This standard ensures that anyone applying for certification has the legal right to manage the land and make decisions about how it's used. This gives confidence that regenerative practices will be implemented and maintained over time. It also protects the integrity of the programme and supports long-term improvements like healthier soil, cleaner water, and greater biodiversity. Your business must have valid, legal, and undisputed land tenure and resource use rights (such as access to water). If any disputes arise, you must inform AGW immediately. In exceptional cases, certification may still be considered where formal rights are unavailable—but only at AGW's discretion. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess whether: • You have legal control and use rights for all land under certification. • Any known disputes have been disclosed. • Evidence of tenure and resource access is available.	Acceptable records may include: • Land ownership documents or lease agreements. • Water or resource use agreements. • Correspondence or declarations confirming tenure. • Records of any active or historic disputes, where applicable.

Standard 1.3	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Ineligible Land Uses Land that is currently subject to any of the following activities is **not** eligible for Certified Regenerative by AGW: • Fracking. • Mining. • Topsoil removal. • Deforestation. • Destruction of land, including riparian areas. • Peat harvesting.	Certain activities cause long-term environmental degradation and are incompatible with the goals of regenerative agriculture. Land with any of these uses cannot be certified under the programme. AGW will assess the eligibility of all land proposed for certification as part of the application process. If you are unsure about the past or present use of your land, please contact AGW before submitting your application. Note: this standard does not apply to operations with a non-commercial gravel or sand pit or quarry where materials are extracted for your own use. If you are unsure, please get in touch. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess: • Whether any excluded activities have taken place on the land. • Whether land use records and maps align with regenerative eligibility criteria. • Any declarations or historical information provided by the applicant.	Acceptable records may include: • Land use history or declarations of prior activity. • Satellite imagery, maps, or soil assessments. • Correspondence or documentation related to land restoration (if applicable).

Standard 1.4	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Prohibited and Restricted Inputs The use of **prohibited** inputs is not permitted. (See Annex A.) Restricted materials for agricultural production **may only** be used if planned and targeted as part of the approved Regenerative Plan. (See Annex A.)	Inputs include fertilisers, pesticides, and any other product applied to land or livestock. Some inputs—and their misapplication—can harm soil health, biodiversity, water quality, human health, and animal welfare. Any input on the prohibited list in Annex A cannot be used on a Certified Regenerative by AGW operation. This includes genetically modified organisms (GMOs). **Note: This standard applies to the current cropping cycle for scopes seeking certification (including any part of the cropping cycle prior to certification). While it is possible for the operation to become certified, any crops treated with a prohibited input within the current cropping cycle will not be eligible to use the Certified Regenerative by AGW logo.** You must justify any use of restricted inputs in the plan and obtain agreement with AGW *before* first use. You must explain the reasons for use in the plan, along with the amounts used and what is being done to reduce the use of these inputs with the goal of elimination, where possible, or develop alternative inputs that are not restricted. **Note: Pesticides permitted for use in the European Union may be acceptable where justified in the Regenerative Plan.** **Note: If an input, feed, or supplement is not specifically prohibited in these standards, that does *not* mean you are automatically permitted to use it. If you have any doubt as to**	Acceptable records may include: • Regenerative Input Form. • Integrated Crop Management plan.

	whether an input is suitable for Certified Regenerative by AGW, contact AGW before it is used. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess: • That no prohibited inputs listed in Annex A including GMOs, are used. • That any use of restricted inputs is justified in the Regenerative Plan, approved by AGW, and includes reasons, quantities, and plans to reduce or replace them. • That the operation consults AGW before using any unlisted input, feed, or supplement.	

Standard 1.5	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Partial Certification Certified Regenerative by AGW **may** be pursued for a specific scope, or clearly defined part of an operation.	It is possible to certify part of your operation without certifying the entire operation where the certified and non-certified areas are physically and functionally distinct. For example, land included in the same crop rotation cannot be split between certified and non-certified areas. Certified land—and anything manged on or produced from it—must be clearly separated from non-certified land in a way that can be both strictly maintained and easily verified. **Please contact AGW if you have any questions about how this applies to your operation.**	Acceptable records may include: • Maps showing certified and non-certified areas. • Crop rotation plans or field records. • Documentation explaining how certified land is managed separately.

Standard 1.6	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Defined Product and Area of Land Certification **must** apply to the entire production system for a defined product from a clearly defined area of land. For annual crop rotations, all land within the rotation **must** be included in the certification.	To ensure traceability and integrity, Certified Regenerative by AGW must be linked to a specific product produced on a clearly defined and auditable area of land. Where annual crop rotations are used, you must include all fields within the rotation in the scope of certification—even if some fields are not growing the certified product every year. Partial certification of a crop rotation is not permitted. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess:	Acceptable records may include: • Maps and crop rotation plans. • Field records showing planting and harvesting locations. • Regenerative Plan describing the defined product and area.

	• That the certified product can be traced to a specific area of land. • That crop rotation records include all relevant land under certification. • That no uncertified land is contributing to certified product claims.	• Input/output balance and traceability documentation for certified products.

Standard 1.7	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Land Use History Details of previous land use **must** be provided for all land proposed for Certified Regenerative by AGW.	Understanding the past use of the land helps assess its suitability for regenerative certification and ensures transparency about any previous activities that may affect soil health, biodiversity, or chemical residues. If you are unsure about the land's history, contact AGW for guidance. If new information comes to light after certification that may affect eligibility, you must inform AGW immediately. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess: • That land use history has been documented for each operation. • That any relevant past activities have been disclosed. • That any new information is reviewed and, if needed, followed up with AGW.	Acceptable records may include: • Written statements from current or previous landowners. • Land use declarations or application forms. • Historical maps or satellite imagery. • Soil tests or assessments indicating legacy chemical use.

Standard 1.8	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Use of Regenerative Plan Template The AGW Regenerative Plan Template **must** be used for the Certified Regenerative by AGW programme.	Using the AGW Regenerative Plan Template ensures that all required information is submitted in a clear, standardised format. This supports consistency and fairness across all Certified Regenerative by AGW businesses—and helps the certification process run smoothly and efficiently. Please note that completing the template does *not* guarantee approval. The level of detail provided must meet the requirements of the standards. It is therefore essential that the person writing the plan is familiar with both the standards and their specific requirements. In certain cases—such as where an Internal Control System (ICS) is used—AGW may accept alternative formats. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be agreed with AGW in advance. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess: • That the Regenerative Plan has been completed using the required template. • That any alternative formats have been pre-approved by AGW. • That all relevant information has been provided clearly and accurately.	Acceptable records may include: • Completed AGW Regenerative Plan Template. • Supporting documents submitted as part of the application. • Written confirmation from AGW of any approved alternative formats.

Standard 1.9	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Maps and Land Identification Maps **must** be included as required in the Certified Regenerative by AGW template**.**	Maps are essential for identifying the land under certification and understanding its context. They help ensure that regenerative practices are applied appropriately and that all relevant land features are accounted for during audits. You must submit maps in electronic form and include the following, where applicable: • Location and total area. • Area under production. • A key showing boundaries. • Watercourses. • Wooded areas. • Uncropped land. • Buildings. • Areas of special biodiversity value. • Areas of archaeological or historical significance. If you have any questions about map format, please get in touch. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess: • That the maps cover all land under certification. • That the maps include the required information. • That the maps align with the Regenerative Plan and land use records.	Acceptable records may include: • Links to farm maps online • Property maps or aerial photographs with relevant areas noted, in a format that can be transmitted digitally (e.g., a PDF file)

Standard 1.10	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Regenerative Plan Requirements The Regenerative Plan **must** address all relevant sections of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards. The plan **must** contain sufficient detail to be reviewed and approved by AGW. The plan **must** cover a minimum period of five years. Plans **must** be submitted annually prior to audit. Any updates or changes to the plan (including results of testing and measured metrics) **must** be indicated in a different colour text to allow easy identification during assessment.	The Regenerative Plan is a core requirement of certification and must demonstrate how you meet the standards across all applicable areas of your operation. Your plan should reflect a genuine commitment to regenerative outcomes and include enough information for AGW to assess your approach. The plan must: • Address each relevant section of the standards in full. • Provide sufficient explanation and evidence to support planned actions. • Extend over a minimum five-year timeframe to support long-term planning. The Regenerative Plan isn't just for certification: it's a practical, forward-looking tool that can help you monitor progress, identify opportunities, and make informed management decisions over time. Plans that are vague, incomplete, or missing required sections may not be accepted for certification. If you are unsure how to complete any part of the template, please contact AGW for support. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess: • That the Regenerative Plan is complete and covers all applicable standard sections.	Acceptable records may include: • Completed AGW Regenerative Plan Template.

	• That it contains adequate detail to demonstrate how you meet the requirements. • That it outlines actions and goals over at least five years.	

Standard 1.11	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Consistency of Land Certification Operators **must not** repeatedly add and remove the same land from Certified Regenerative by AGW.	Certification is intended to support long-term regenerative management. Repeatedly entering and removing the same land from certification undermines the credibility and continuity of the programme. If you need to remove land from certification due to a genuine change in circumstances (such as a change in ownership or land use), you must discuss this with AGW in advance. Temporary withdrawal for convenience or strategic advantage is not permitted.	*N/A*

Standard 1.12	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Recordkeeping and Retention Operators **must** maintain records that: • Accurately reflect on-farm activities and conditions. • Are updated regularly and reviewed at least annually. • Are available for inspection by AGW Auditors upon request. Records **must** be retained for at least five years, or longer if required by local law. Operators **may** keep records in digital or physical form, but they **must** be organised, legible, and accessible during audits. Records **must** be maintained for any relevant activities carried out on the operator's behalf by third parties, such as contractors or community groups.	Good recordkeeping goes beyond compliance—it helps you understand what's working, track improvements, and respond to issues before they become problems. Your records should support transparency, learning, and continuous improvement. You should maintain key documents such as Regenerative Plans, habitat or conservation plans, and annual reviews of your progress. Ongoing field logs and monitoring records—like harvest data, pest control activity, or species observations—help demonstrate implementation. Maps and photographs are useful to show changes over time, while training records help confirm that staff and contractors are competent for their roles. Legal or administrative documents (such as access agreements or correspondence with AGW) also support traceability and accountability. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess: • That you maintain relevant records. • That your records are accurate, up-to-date, and accessible during audits.	Acceptable records may include: • Plans and Protocols Field Logs and Monitoring Records. • Maps and Visual Documentation. • Training and Competency Records. • Legal and Administrative Documents. • Annual Reviews and Improvement Logs • Incident and Corrective Action Reports.

Section 2: Soil

About Section 2

Healthy soil is the foundation of productive, regenerative farming. Soil loss because of poor soil management represents one of the greatest challenges facing agriculture. Leaving the soil exposed, over-tilling, compaction, and excessive use of agrochemicals can lead to soil erosion, damage soil health and biodiversity, reduce natural fertility, and threaten long-term farm productivity and resilience.

Section 2 of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards identifies the principal risks to soil associated with agriculture and the possible approaches that can help to minimise the risks and mitigate any impacts.

Standard 2.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Soil Health and Risk Assessment The Regenerative Plan **must**: • Identify any risks that may damage soil health and/or cause soil erosion. • Outline the changes in practice to mitigate any Medium or High risks identified. • Establish a baseline measurement of each Medium or High risk using appropriate soil health indicators. • Measure and monitor the effectiveness of any changes in practice to demonstrate progress towards realistic goals (with appropriate timelines). • Include up-to-date records to support monitoring and	Maintaining healthy soil is central to regenerative farming. Soil health can be compromised by factors such as erosion, compaction, runoff, or declining soil organic matter. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Identify any Medium or High risks to soil health. • Outline the management changes needed to mitigate these risks. • Select appropriate soil health indicators to establish a baseline for monitoring. These actions help track the effectiveness of your practices and demonstrate improvements over time. **Factors to Consider When Assessing Risk** When identifying risks to soil health, consider the following: • Soil type, topography, and aspect. • Climate, seasonal conditions, and annual rainfall. • Land management history. • Crop rotation and current cropping system. • Machinery use and tillage methods. • Livestock species and grazing management. **Selecting Soil Health Indicators** Choose indicators that are relevant to your soil risks and farming system. These may include:	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs showing soil condition over time. • Visual assessments or soil health observation logs. • Laboratory results for biological, chemical, or physical soil indicators. • Field records noting management changes or identified risk areas. • Weather or rainfall records relevant to erosion or compaction risk.

demonstrate progress over time.	• Biological: Soil organic matter, earthworm counts, microbial biomass, or soil respiration data. • Chemical: pH and macro/micronutrients. • Physical: Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS), crumb structure, bulk density, compaction, or water infiltration rates. For practical support on soil assessment, refer to AGW's *Soil, Water and Air Guidance Document*. **Example** You identify that clay soil on a sloped field is vulnerable to runoff and compaction after heavy rainfall. To reduce this risk, you maintain vegetation cover during wet months and avoid trafficking the soil when it's saturated. You monitor the area using photos and field notes each year to evaluate the effect of your actions. Your goal is to improve water infiltration and reduce erosion over time. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan and soil health records. • Conduct a visual inspection of fields for signs of erosion, compaction, or excessive tillage. • Confirm that monitoring is occurring as described.	

Standard 2.2	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Soil Health Assessment A representative soil health assessment **must** be carried out as agreed in the plan. The assessment **must** include at least two soil health indicators, taken at the same general location. The Regenerative Plan **must** include up-to-date details of the representative soil health assessment, as appropriate and recorded or attached in the template.	To demonstrate continued progress in improving soil health, you must carry out a soil health assessment at least once every three years on a representative area of your holding. Your assessment must include at least two soil health indicators, drawn from different categories below: • **Biological**: For example, soil organic matter, earthworm counts, microbial biomass, or soil respiration test. • **Chemical**: For example, macro/micronutrients, Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), and nitrate/nitrite/ammonium levels. • **Physical**: For example, Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS), crumb structure, bulk density, or water infiltration rates. Assessments help you track trends, inform decisions, and show ongoing improvement in soil health over time. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan and soil monitoring records. • Verify that indicators cover different soil health categories. • Check that assessments are conducted at least every three years.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs or visual observations from assessments. • Lab results for soil biology, chemistry, or physical tests. • Field records or sampling logs. • Maps showing representative sampling areas. • Notes on weather or seasonal conditions during assessment.

Standard 2.3	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Tillage Practices Tillage practices **must** minimise soil disturbance, with the objective of reducing the depth and frequency of cultivation and soil disturbance over time. The Regenerative Plan **must** explain if ploughing or other deep tillage is necessary.	Unnecessary or inappropriate tillage can degrade soil structure, increase erosion risk, disrupt soil ecology, reduce organic matter, limit water retention, and release stored carbon into the atmosphere. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe your current tillage methods. • Outline how you plan to reduce the depth and frequency of tillage over time. • Justify any planned deep tillage, such as ploughing—for example, to manage weeds or address compaction. Reducing soil disturbance is essential for improving long-term soil health and supporting regenerative outcomes. **AGW Tillage Definitions** Tillage is defined using the following categories: • Deep inversion tillage: Ploughing ≥ 6″ (15 cm). • Shallow inversion tillage: Ploughing 4–6″ (10–15 cm). • Deep non-inversion tillage: ≥ 6″ (15 cm). • Shallow non-inversion tillage: 4–6″ (10–15 cm). • Minimum tillage (min-till): ≤ 4″ (10 cm). • No-till: No mechanical tillage (direct drilling only). **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Confirm that tillage records align with the plan.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs showing soil condition before and after cultivation. • Field records detailing tillage events, depth, and equipment used. • Machinery inventory or contractor invoices. • Maps indicating tillage zones or tillage type. • Notes explaining rationale for deep or remedial tillage.

	• Assess justification for any deep tillage. • Verify efforts to reduce cultivation depth and frequency.	

Standard 2.4	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Soil Erosion and Resilience Soil **must** be managed to prevent soil erosion.	Poor soil management can lead to erosion by wind or water—for example, dry, bare soils exposed to high winds, or runoff caused by intense rainfall. These risks are increasing with climate change, as extreme weather events become more frequent. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Identify areas at risk of erosion. • Describe the measures you are taking to reduce these risks. • Outline how you plan to improve overall soil resilience. Examples of good practice include: • Crop selection and appropriate rotations. • Timing and type of cultivations. • Use of cover crops or buffer strips. • Planting windbreaks. • Appropriate grazing strategies to maintain ground cover. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect for runoff, bare soil, standing water, or compaction. • Review mitigation strategies in your Regenerative Plan. • Confirm implementation of erosion control measures.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs documenting erosion-prone areas and mitigation efforts. • Field records noting erosion risks and management actions. • Test results, such as penetrometer readings or other soil assessments. • Maps of buffer strips, windbreaks, or high-risk zones. • Notes on cultivation timing or grazing adjustments.

Standard 2.5	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Building Soil Health and Fertility Soils **must** be managed to improve and optimise soil structure, biological activity, and natural fertility.	Your Regenerative Plan must explain how you are working to improve and maintain: • Soil structure. • Biological activity. • Natural fertility. You may use a variety of strategies, such as: • Diverse crop rotations, including nitrogen-fixing species. • Reduced or minimal tillage. • Incorporating crop residues. • Applying manure, compost, or other organic amendments. • Use of cover crops. • Establishing deep-rooting, native, or perennial species. • Grazing strategies that enhance soil biology and structure. These actions support long-term productivity while reducing reliance on external inputs. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review nutrient management and cropping strategies. • Confirm reductions in synthetic inputs where applicable. • Assess how biological processes are being supported.	Acceptable records may include: • Crop rotation plans or field records. • Fertility inputs (compost, manure) and application logs. • Photographs or observations of cover cropping or root depth. • Soil test results (organic matter, biology). • Grazing plans that promote pasture recovery and soil health.

Standard 2.6	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Maintaining Ground Cover Soils **must** have living roots (living plants) for at least 11 months of the year where climatically possible. If it is not possible to maintain living roots, this **must** be justified in the Regenerative Plan. The ground **must not** be left bare for more than one month.	Your Regenerative Plan must outline how you will maintain groundcover across the holding. Measures may include: • Diverse crop rotations. • Use of cover crops, catch crops, green manures, mulches or crop residue. • Encouraging volunteers or natural regrowth. • Well-managed non-cropped areas (field margins, hedgerows). • Permanent or rotational grassland. • Appropriate grazing to maintain soil cover. If it is not possible to maintain living roots for at least 11 months due to normal climatic conditions or unavoidable circumstances, such as drought, flooding, or failed germination, this must be clearly documented in your Regenerative Plan, along with how you maintain ground cover Land seasonally flooded for wildlife habitat would be exempt from this standard during the flooding period. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review cropping, grazing, or cover crop records. • Inspect fields for evidence of prolonged bare soil. • Confirm that any exceptions are documented and justified.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs showing cover crops, grass cover, or bare patches. • Field records detailing cropping schedules, grazing rotations, or cover crop use. • Soil analysis results showing organic matter or biological activity over time. • Notes explaining any extended bare periods and contributing factors (drought or delayed planting).

Standard 2.7	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Managing Crop Residues and Manure Crop residues (such as straw) and manure **must** be added back to the soil. The Regenerative Plan **must** explain when/why you are unable to meet this requirement. **NOTE: Removal of straw/crop residues is acceptable for use as animal bedding or as a swap with other farms, such as manure for straw.**	Crop residues and livestock manure are valuable sources of nutrients and organic matter. Their effective use supports soil health, improves nutrient cycling, and reduces reliance on external inputs. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe how you manage crop residues and manure to enhance soil health. • Justify any situations where you are unable to return these materials to the soil. These practices play a key role in building long-term fertility and resilience. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your nutrient and residue management plans. • Confirm that organic materials are used to support fertility where possible. • Evaluate justifications for off-site removal or non-use.	Acceptable records may include: • Field records showing incorporation of crop residues or manure. • Manure application records (rates, timing, field locations). • Purchase records for compost or additional fertility inputs. • Straw or residue sales records, where material is removed from the holding. • Notes explaining any limitations or exceptions to returning organic matter.

Standard 2.8	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Compost Use and Management Plant and animal waste **must** be properly composted. Composted plant and animal waste **must** be stored and applied to: • Maximise benefits for soil health and fertility. • Minimise GHG emissions. • Prevent contamination of crops, soil, and watercourses from nutrients, pathogens or other harmful substances. Any bought-in materials for composting (or direct application) **must** comply with Annex A.	High-quality compost supports regenerative systems by enriching soil, improving structure, retaining moisture, and promoting beneficial soil biology. Regular use can enhance yields, reduce reliance on synthetic fertilisers, and build long-term fertility. However, poorly managed compost may introduce weed seeds, pathogens, or contaminants such as heavy metals and plastics—especially when materials are imported. These risks can reduce soil health and crop productivity and may cause pollution. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe how compost is produced, sourced, stored, and applied. • Demonstrate how you ensure inputs are safe, appropriate, and support soil health. • Identify any potential contamination risks and explain how they are managed. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may assess: • The quality, handling, and application of compost. • The source and content of composted materials. • Any risks posed by imported inputs or contamination.	Acceptable records may include: • Field records showing compost or manure application (dates, locations, rates). • Manure and compost application logs or spreading records. • Input specifications or laboratory analysis (nutrient content, contaminants). • Purchase records for bought-in compost, manure, or soil amendments. • Notes or correspondence on input safety, traceability, or rejection of unsuitable materials.

Standard 2.9	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Maintaining a Living Soil Chemical soil sterilisation **must not** be used. Routine non-chemical soil sterilisation **must not** be used. The Regenerative Plan **must** explain if you need to use non-chemical soil sterilisation for management purposes.	Soil sterilisation—used to kill pests, pathogens, or weed seeds—is most common in greenhouse and horticultural systems. While non-chemical methods such as solarisation may be permitted, routine sterilisation damages soil ecology and is not compatible with regenerative principles. Chemical soil sterilisation is prohibited. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Justify any planned non-chemical sterilisation. • Demonstrate how soil health and biological function will be restored after use. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may assess that: • No chemical soil sterilisers are used. • Any non-chemical sterilisation is exceptional and clearly justified. • Soil health is actively restored following any sterilisation.	Acceptable records may include: • Field records or greenhouse logs showing sterilisation dates and methods. • Justifications for non-chemical sterilisation (pest pressure, crop health issues). • Evidence of follow-up actions to rebuild soil biology.

Section 3: Water

About Section 3

Sustainable water management is essential for resilient, regenerative farming. Agriculture's reliance on water, particularly for irrigation, combined with poor management practices, can lead to depletion of water resources and pollution of watercourses. Over-extraction, inefficient irrigation, soil erosion, and runoff carrying nitrates, phosphates, pesticides and other contaminants, can threaten water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and long-term farm viability.

Section 3 of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards identifies the principal risks to water associated with agriculture and the possible approaches that can help to minimise these risks and mitigate any impacts.

Standard 3.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Water Quality and Runoff Risk The Regenerative Plan **must**: • Identify any risks that may reduce water quality from soils, fertilisers, pesticides, and manures. • Outline the changes in practice to mitigate any Medium or High risks identified. • Establish a baseline measurement of each Medium or High risk using appropriate water quality indicators. • Measure and monitor the effectiveness of any changes in practice to demonstrate progress towards realistic goals (with appropriate timelines). • Include up-to-date records, as appropriate.	Watercourses can be negatively impacted by runoff containing sediment, nutrients, and chemical residues. These risks are influenced by soil erosion, fertiliser or pesticide use, and proximity of fields to water bodies. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Identify any Medium or High risks to water quality. • Outline management changes to reduce or prevent runoff. • Select appropriate water quality indicators to monitor progress over time. When assessing risks, consider: • Field location and proximity to watercourses. • Soil type, slope, and aspect. • Climate, rainfall patterns, and seasonal conditions. • Land management history and tillage methods. • Crop type, rotation, and harvest timing. • Livestock grazing and field access. You should select indicators that you can reasonably influence, given that water quality may also be affected by upstream activities. Monitoring may include visual assessments or on-site sampling. **Water Quality Indicators** Appropriate indicators may include: • Decreased sediment runoff (lower water turbidity).	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs showing runoff-prone areas, buffer strips, or erosion events. • Visual assessments of water clarity, sediment deposits, or erosion risk. • Laboratory or field test results (turbidity, nitrate or phosphate levels). • Field records documenting mitigation actions or water management changes. • Maps showing field gradients, watercourses, and buffer zones. • Weather and rainfall records relevant to

	• Reduced nutrient runoff, including nitrates and phosphates. • Reduced pesticide pollution of watercourses. See AGW's *Soil, Water and Air Guidance Document* for more information on soil and water assessment. **Example** You identify runoff risks where fields slope toward a nearby stream and soil organic matter is low. You mitigate these risks by adding cover crops to your rotation, improving organic matter, and establishing buffer zones to slow water movement. You track progress through visual monitoring and annual photographs taken in the same location. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan and monitoring records. • Conduct visual inspections of runoff risks (slopes, exposed soil, cultivation timing). • Verify that indicators reflect conditions you can influence on your land.	runoff events or erosion risk.

Standard 3.2	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Buffer Zones for Water Protection Buffer zones **must** be established and maintained alongside all watercourses on certified land. Buffer zones **must** be of sufficient width to reduce the risk of pollution from: • Soil erosion. • Fertiliser or manure applications. • Pesticide use in adjacent cropped areas **NOTE: Buffer zones may include natural vegetation, planted species, or sections of cropped areas managed to minimise runoff. Riparian areas may also serve as part of the buffer zone if appropriately managed.**	Establishing and maintaining buffer zones is a key strategy for protecting water quality in regenerative systems. Buffer zones help intercept runoff, trap pollutants, and support healthy water ecosystems. Your Regenerative Plan must describe how buffer zones are used to: • Reduce surface runoff. • Prevent pollution from fertiliser and pesticide use. • Protect adjacent watercourses and aquatic habitats. You may meet this standard through one or more of the following practices: • Creating uncropped or planted buffer zones along watercourses to filter runoff. • Using diverse vegetation (planted or natural) to trap sediment, nutrients, and chemicals. • Positioning buffer zones to intercept water flow from cropped or grazed land. • Maintaining year-round vegetation cover to reduce erosion and increase infiltration. • Adjusting buffer zone width based on slope, soil type, rainfall, and pollution risk. • Controlling livestock access to prevent bank erosion and minimise pollution.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs of buffer zones showing vegetation cover and condition. • Visual assessments of runoff risk or buffer zone effectiveness. • Laboratory results (water quality sampling upstream/downstream). • Field records detailing buffer zone establishment, maintenance, and grazing restrictions. • Maps showing location, width, and adjacent land use. • Weather or rainfall records relevant to runoff or erosion risk.

	What We're Looking For The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan for mapped buffer areas and management intentions. • Inspect buffer zones for adequate width, vegetation cover, and effectiveness. • Confirm that livestock exclusion or controlled access is in place where required.	

Standard 3.3	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Fertiliser and Pesticide Management Fertilisers or pesticides **must not** be applied to any buffer zone or non-cropped areas, unless a soil test result indicates an application is required for establishment. Fertilisers or pesticides **must only** be applied when there is minimal risk to water.	Careful management of fertilisers and pesticides is essential for protecting water quality and supporting regenerative outcomes. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Explain how you are reducing reliance on synthetic inputs. • Describe how you are minimising the risk of pollution to watercourses. You may meet this standard through practices such as: • Timing applications to avoid periods of high rainfall or saturated soils. • Monitoring soil nutrient levels to optimise application rates and avoid overuse.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs showing runoff risk areas, application areas, buffer zones, cover crops. • Laboratory results, including soil nutrient analyses and water quality tests. • Field records detailing fertilizer and pesticide

	• Implementing an Integrated Crop Management (ICM) strategy to reduce chemical inputs. • Improving soil fertility through cover crops, legumes, compost, and manures. • Establishing and maintaining buffer zones to intercept runoff before it reaches watercourses. These strategies support a transition toward natural fertility and lower-input farming systems. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess that: • Chemical inputs are being used responsibly and only where necessary. • There is a clear strategy to reduce reliance on synthetic fertilisers and pesticides. • Practical steps are being taken to protect water quality.	use (dates, products, rates, and locations). • Weather and climate records to support timing of applications. • ICM records • Notes or logs on alternative fertility inputs (compost, legumes, manures).

Standard 3.4	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Riparian Habitat Protection Existing riparian habitats **must** be protected and maintained. Physical alterations **must not** be made to any natural watercourse, water body, bankside habitat, or wetland unless approved in the Regenerative Plan. **Note: Exemptions may be granted for activities, such as creating meandering streams, restoring watercourses, or installing local-scale energy generation. These activities must be detailed and approved within your Regenerative Plan.**	Riparian areas provide essential habitat, support biodiversity, and play a key role in filtering runoff before it reaches watercourses. Your Regenerative Plan must describe how you protect and maintain riparian habitats to ensure they remain intact and continue to deliver ecological benefits. You may meet this standard through actions such as: • Preventing damage to riparian zones by livestock, machinery, or other farming activities. • Maintaining vegetation and buffer zones to reduce erosion and support wildlife. • Avoiding physical alterations to watercourses, wetlands, or bankside habitats unless approved. • Providing evidence that any restoration or improvement works enhance biodiversity. Riparian areas may form part of your buffer zones, provided they are managed to protect water quality and support ecological function. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect riparian areas for damage or disturbance. • Review your Regenerative Plan and supporting records. • Confirm the presence and maintenance of buffer zones.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs of riparian zones showing changes over time. • Field records detailing protection measures, fencing, or restricted access. • Maps showing location and extent of riparian areas and buffer zones. • Correspondence or approvals for any restoration or modification works. • Notes on observed biodiversity benefits or habitat improvements.

	• Verify that any physical alterations were approved and provided clear biodiversity benefit.	

Standard 3.5	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Efficient Water Use and Irrigation Management Water for agricultural production **must** be used sustainably. Climate adaptation plans that reduce water consumption **must** be implemented. Not all aspects of this standard will apply to every operation, but where they do, they **must** be reflected in the Regenerative Plan.	Efficient use of water is essential to maintain productivity while protecting natural resources and building climate resilience. Your Regenerative Plan must explain how you are: • Optimising water use in irrigation. • Implementing strategies to reduce water consumption and adapt to changing climate conditions. You may meet this standard through practices such as: • Monitoring crop water demand and tracking irrigation use. • Using water-efficient systems (drip irrigation or precision delivery). • Selecting drought-tolerant crop varieties to reduce water requirements. • Scheduling irrigation based on weather forecasts and soil moisture levels. • Improving soil organic matter to increase water retention • Reducing evaporation and water loss through mulching or cover cropping. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan and irrigation records.	Acceptable records may include: • Irrigation schedules and water usage logs. • Photographs of irrigation infrastructure or water-saving practices. • Notes on crop selection, drought adaptations, or changes to irrigation strategy.

	• Verify monitoring of crop water needs and irrigation volumes • Assess the effectiveness of water-saving techniques in place.	

Standard 3.6	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Sustainable Water Extraction Water extraction from any above-ground water body, groundwater, or aquifers for cropland usage **must** be regularly monitored and recorded. Water extraction **must** be sustainable. Water extraction practices **must** be detailed in the Regenerative Plan. Water used for irrigation **must not** negatively impact biodiversity.	Sustainable water extraction is essential for protecting local water resources and ensuring long-term availability for both farming and the wider environment. Your Regenerative Plan must explain how you: • Monitor water extraction from all sources. • Manage water use to avoid depletion or environmental harm. You may meet this standard through practices such as: • Monitoring and recording the volume of water extracted • Participating in a recognised regional water management or monitoring scheme • Conducting your own assessments of extraction and natural replenishment • Adjusting extraction based on seasonal availability and environmental conditions • Implementing water-saving measures to reduce reliance on extracted sources. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may:	Acceptable records may include: • Irrigation records showing timing, volume, and method of application. • Water extraction records, including volume, source, and frequency. • Participation or reporting in regional water resource monitoring programmes. • Maps or logs of abstraction points and infrastructure. • Notes on seasonal water availability, restrictions, or

	• Review water extraction records, including volume and timing. • Verify participation in regional water monitoring or catchment management schemes. • Assess whether extraction is adjusted according to environmental conditions and water availability. • Evaluate the effectiveness of strategies to minimize reliance on extracted water.	environmental adjustments.

Standard 3.7	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Water Pollution Prevention and Recycling Wastewater **must not** be discharged into watercourses. Pollution **must** be prevented by properly managing chemicals, oils, and fuels.	Preventing water pollution and promoting water recycling are essential for protecting natural water resources and supporting a regenerative system. Your Regenerative Plan must explain how you: • Manage wastewater and prevent contamination of watercourses. • Store chemicals, fuels, and other potential pollutants safely. • Minimise water extraction where possible. • Reuse or recycle water to reduce environmental impact. You may meet this standard through practices such as: • Ensuring wastewater is never discharged into watercourses. • Storing chemicals, oils, and fuels in secure, bunded, or weatherproof areas.	Acceptable records may include: • Irrigation records showing use of recycled or treated water. • Water extraction and usage logs linked to recycling or reduction strategies. • Water resource records documenting storage, treatment, or recycling systems.

	• Regularly inspecting storage areas for damage or leakage risk. • Water should be recycled and reused where possible, such as using treated wastewater for irrigation. • Recycling or reusing water—for example, using treated greywater for irrigation. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect chemical and fuel storage for security and containment. • Review wastewater management and treatment systems. • Confirm that no discharges are made into watercourses. • Evaluate how and where water is recycled or reused.	• Inspection logs for chemical, oil, or fuel storage areas. • Notes or maps showing wastewater management systems and watercourse protection measures.

Standard 3.8	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Watercourse Habitat Protection Planned activities **must not** negatively impact habitats associated with watercourses and water bodies. Existing or planned river crossings **must not** negatively affect water flow upstream or downstream. **Note: If you need to create a new stream or river crossings, you must contact AGW for approval.** Altered watercourses **may** be restored to their previous state where appropriate. **Note: If you intend to alter any watercourse, you must contact AGW for approval. Operators must contact AGW for prior approval <u>before</u> altering any watercourse.**	Protecting and managing watercourse habitats is essential for supporting biodiversity and maintaining water quality. Your Regenerative Plan must explain how you: • Prevent damage to watercourse habitats. • Respond appropriately to natural changes in water flow or channel movement. You may meet this standard through practices such as: • Ensuring that farming activities do not disturb aquatic or bankside habitats, such as streams, rivers or wetlands. • Managing river or stream crossings to avoid obstructing flow or altering hydrology. • Controlling livestock access to watercourses to prevent bank erosion and pollution from manure. • Restoring previously altered or diverted watercourses, where feasible and ecologically beneficial. These actions protect sensitive habitats and help maintain the ecological function of waterways. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect riparian areas for signs of erosion, fouling, or habitat degradation. • Review your Regenerative Plan for measures to limit livestock access and protect sensitive areas.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs of watercourse habitats, livestock exclusion areas, or restoration sites. • Visual assessments of bank condition, water flow, and habitat quality. • Field records documenting livestock management, access points, or crossing maintenance. • Maps showing watercourses, buffer zones, or protected habitat areas. • Notes on restoration works or adaptive actions taken in response to changing water levels.

Management actions **must** be documented in the Regenerative Plan if local wildlife or natural conditions cause damming in watercourses.	• Evaluate any restoration of previously modified watercourses and confirm that outcomes benefit biodiversity.	

Section 4: Air and Climate

About Section 4

Farming activities can result in air pollution, including the release of greenhouse gases like methane and nitrous oxide from livestock, fertilisers, and crop burning, ammonia emissions from manure, as well as particulate matter and carbon dioxide from soil tillage and machinery use.

Section 4 of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards identifies the principal air pollution risks associated with agriculture and the possible approaches that can help to minimise the risks and mitigate any impacts.

Standard 4.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Air Quality and Pollution Risk The Regenerative Plan **must**: • Identify any risks to air quality from your operations. • Outline the changes in practice to mitigate any Medium or High risks you identify. • Establish a baseline measurement of each Medium or High risk using appropriate air quality indicators. • Measure and monitor the effectiveness of any changes in practice to demonstrate progress towards realistic goals (with appropriate timelines). • Include up-to-date records, as appropriate.	Air quality on the farm can be affected by a range of activities, including harvesting, burning, machinery use, and manure management. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Identify any Medium or High risks to air quality. • Outline the management changes you will make to mitigate these risks. • Select appropriate air quality indicators to establish a baseline and track progress over time. Appropriate air quality indicators may include: • Visual monitoring of dust and particulate matter. • Carbon calculator reports for the farm. • Photographs of soil erosion or dust-generating practices. • Service records for machinery, vehicles, and equipment, such as fertiliser spreaders or sprayers. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Conduct visual inspections for signs of wind-blown dust, erosion, or manure-related emissions. • Evaluate the relevance and use of chosen air quality indicators.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs showing dust, emissions, or erosion-related air quality concerns. • Visual assessments of particulate matter, odour, or air movement. • Service records for machinery, vehicles, sprayers, and spreaders. • Field records noting high-risk activities and mitigation measures. • Monitoring results for air quality indicators, such as dust levels, particulate presence.

Standard 4.2	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Monitoring The operation's carbon footprint **should** be calculated at least annually using a reputable carbon calculator. The calculator assessment **should** be used to identify and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, where feasible.	Carbon calculators are tools used to measure and monitor greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across a farm system. They assess emissions from sources such as: • Fuel use. • Livestock and manure management. • Fertilisers and inputs. • Soil health and carbon sequestration. Some calculators also estimate carbon sequestration from trees and soil and offer recommendations for reducing emissions and improving efficiency. Your Regenerative Plan may: • Include a carbon calculator assessment using current, farm-specific data. • Describe how the results are used to identify emissions hotspots and guide reductions. • Use a calculator that is recognised and based on sound methodology. Numerous reputable carbon calculators align with international standards and offer practical guidance for farmers. Please see AGW's *Soil, Water and Air Guidance Document* for further information. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may assess your carbon calculator report to ensure: • It is current and based on actual farm data.	Acceptable records may include: • Carbon calculator reports with up-to-date, farm-specific data. • Action plans informed by carbon assessment results. • Notes explaining how results are used to guide emissions reduction strategies.

	• It reflects observed operations and land use. • You have used the results to inform emissions reduction or carbon storage strategies.	

Standard 4.3	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Burning Activities Operators **may only** burn crop trash, non-treated wood, and other plant material on your holding. Treated wood and household trash **must not** be burned. If burning takes place, the operator **must** follow relevant regional or national best burning practices and regulatory or legal requirements. Where prescribed burning is permitted, best burning practices and up-to-date permissions are **required**.	Burning materials releases greenhouse gases and particulates, contributing to air pollution and climate change. While some burning may be necessary in exceptional circumstances, minimising this practice is essential for a regenerative system. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe any current or planned burning activities on the holding. • Explain the steps you are taking to minimise burning, including alternatives where possible. • Outline your best practices and any emergency procedures in place (e.g. for disease control or wildfire risk). • Confirm that all necessary permissions or exemptions are in place and up to date. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review details of any burning activities and their justification. • Confirm that practices follow best available techniques and legal requirements.	Acceptable records may include: • Reference to relevant regional or national best practice guidance on burning. • Field records detailing burning activities (date, material, purpose, location). • Photographs documenting burn sites or related infrastructure. • Copies of current burning permissions, licenses, or exemptions. • Notes on emergency use, risk management,

The Regenerative Plan **must** explain any planned burning, including: • How burning will be managed. • How non-cropped areas will be protected. • Emergency plans for accidents.	• Check that relevant burning permissions, licenses, or exemptions are in place where required.	and alternatives considered.

Standard 4.4	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Machinery The Regenerative Plan **must** detail total annual fuel use, with plans to improve efficiency over time. When replacing vehicles and powered equipment, operators **should** choose more efficient, lower-emission engines or electric/battery-powered models, where possible.	Your Regenerative Plan must: • Outline where you can reduce fuel consumption (with details of annual diesel and gasoline consumption). **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review machinery inventory. • Evaluate whether any new purchases or upgrades are appropriate and support emissions reduction goals.	Acceptable records may include: • Machine inventory and fuel usage logs. • Purchase records for new or upgraded vehicles or equipment. • Notes on planned phase-out of high-emission machinery or transition to more efficient alternatives.

Standard 4.5	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Manure and Slurry Management for Air Quality Livestock manures (including slurry) **must** be stored and applied in ways that minimise air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The Regenerative Plan **must** outline manure management practices.	Effective manure and slurry management reduces air pollution by limiting emissions of greenhouse gases and harmful compounds, including carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), ammonia (NH_3), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and hydrogen sulphide (H_2S). Your Regenerative Plan must describe: • How you store and apply manure and slurry. • The steps you are taking to minimise air pollution from these activities. You may meet this standard through practices such as: • Storing or covering manure and slurry to reduce methane, ammonia, and odour emissions. • Stirring or aerating slurry before application to reduce anaerobic conditions. • Composting solid manure to promote aerobic breakdown and limit methane release. • Timing applications to minimise nitrous oxide emissions (e.g. avoiding wet or compacted soils). • Using precision application methods to reduce surface exposure and volatilisation. These practices help reduce emissions, improve nutrient use efficiency, and support long-term soil health.	Acceptable records may include: • Field records showing manure and slurry applications (dates, locations, methods) • Nutrient management plans that include integration of organic inputs. • Photographs of manure storage facilities, composting areas, or application methods. • Composting logs or aeration records (if applicable). • Notes on timing, weather conditions, and techniques used to minimise emissions.

	What We're Looking For The Auditor will assess how manure and slurry is managed, including: • Review of your Regenerative Plan and related storage or application practices. • Visual inspection of manure storage systems and application equipment. • Assessment of timing and method of application in relation to air quality impact.	

Standard 4.6	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Renewable Energy and Energy Management The Regenerative Plan **must** include a short- to medium-term energy strategy.	Integrating renewable energy—such as solar, wind, or bioenergy—into farm operations can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy costs, and increase long-term resilience. Your Regenerative Plan must include a short- to medium-term energy strategy describing how you: • Use and manage energy across the farm. • Reduce overall energy consumption. • Improve energy efficiency. • Transition to renewable sources such as solar, wind, or bioenergy—where feasible.	Acceptable records may include: • Energy supplier invoices or utility bills. • Renewable energy generation records. • Energy strategy documents outlining efficiency measures and renewable goals. • Purchase or installation records for renewable systems or upgrades

	Your energy strategy should be proportionate to your scale and context and may include both current practices and future opportunities. For information on how to write an energy strategy, see AGW's *Soil, Water and Air Guidance Document*. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Assess how energy is currently used and managed on the farm. • Review steps taken to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. • Confirm whether renewable energy options have been implemented or considered.	• Photographs of installed renewable energy infrastructure. • Notes on energy audits or planned reductions in fossil fuel use.

Section 5: Biodiversity

About Section 5

The global decline in biodiversity is one of the most urgent environmental challenges of our time. Intensive food and farming systems are widely recognised as a leading cause of biodiversity loss through habitat destruction, monocultures, pesticide overuse, and overgrazing. Farms have a vital role to play in improving biodiversity, which supports healthy, productive farming systems, as well as natural ecosystems.

Section 5 of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards supports farming practices that maintain and enhance biodiversity. These include protecting existing habitats, creating new areas for wildlife, and encouraging diverse species above and below ground. It also includes sub-sections on wild harvesting, predator and vermin control, and traditional land rights—ensuring biodiversity is supported across all aspects of farm management.

Standard 5.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Biodiversity Risks and Mitigation The Regenerative Plan **must**: • Identify any current farm practices that may pose a risk to biodiversity. • Outline the changes in practice to mitigate any Medium or High risks identified. • Establish a baseline measurement of each Medium or High risk using appropriate biodiversity indicators. • Measure and monitor the effectiveness of these changes and the condition of well-managed, non-cropped areas to demonstrate progress towards realistic goals (with appropriate timelines).	Farming practices can directly or indirectly affect biodiversity—for example, through poorly timed operations, habitat loss, excessive chemical use, or lack of habitat diversity. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Identify any Medium or High risks to biodiversity. • Outline the management changes needed to mitigate these risks. • Select appropriate soil health indicators to establish a baseline for monitoring. These actions help track the effectiveness of your practices and demonstrate improvements over time. **Factors to Consider When Assessing Risk** When assessing biodiversity risks, consider factors such as: • The type of crops grown. • Timing and frequency of field operations. • Appropriate use and rates of pesticides. • Risk of fertiliser and nutrient runoff. • Management of non-cropped areas. It should also outline how you will manage and enhance non-cropped areas to support wildlife and ecosystem function.	Acceptable records may include: • Photographs of habitat condition or changes. • Visual assessments of biodiversity risks or non-cropped areas. • Field records of habitat or cropping practices. • Monitoring results for indicator species or habitat quality.

• Include up-to-date records to support monitoring and demonstrate progress over time.	**Selecting Biodiversity Indicators** You must also select appropriate biodiversity indicators to establish baselines for all identified risks. This will provide a starting point for tracking change and improvement over time. Indicators may include: • Presence and diversity of indicator species—plants, birds, invertebrates, pollinators. • Condition and extent of non-cropped habitats (for example, hedgerows, ponds, margins). • Vegetation cover or flowering plant diversity. • Photographic records to track habitat change. For information on ways to assess Biodiversity, please see AGW's *Biodiversity Guidance Document* for further information. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Make a visual assessment of land management and habitat conditions. • Review biodiversity monitoring activities and records. • Evaluate selected indicators and how they relate to identified risks.	

Standard 5.2	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Measuring Wildlife Operators **must** select at least one biodiversity metric that measures species and numbers identified on the operation each year. Operators **must** develop a plan to increase biodiversity over time by supporting target species and improving habitat conditions.	Measuring is essential for understanding biodiversity on your operation—and identifying opportunities to improve it. Regular surveys of species on your operation will help assess how well existing habitats are functioning and where changes may be needed. Your Regenerative Plan must include an annual survey of selected biodiversity metrics on your operation. Surveys may be carried out by you, trained staff, local wildlife groups, volunteers, or consultants. You should do the survey at the same time of year and at the same location. The survey should identify the species, the number of each species, and the weather conditions. Surveys should follow a consistent methodology and take place at the same location, weather, and time each year to ensure consistency. You can also note any additional species throughout the year. See AGW's *Biodiversity Guidance Document* for further information. Your Regenerative Plan should also identify opportunities to increase species diversity and abundance over time. This may include targeting underrepresented or declining species in your area and improving habitat to support them—for example: • Expanding field margins. • Restoring wet areas.	Acceptable records may include: • Completed annual species survey template or other observational records. • Weather or climate notes from the time of the survey. • Photographs of recorded species or habitats (optional).

	• Increasing tree and shrub cover. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will review your Regenerative Plan, annual survey results, and the overall measures you are taking to enhance habitats and support biodiversity.	

Standard 5.3	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records

Habitat and Species Identification and Management
The Regenerative Plan **must**:
• Identify all existing areas on your operation that provide habitat for wildlife.
• For each habitat area, include:
  ○ The type of area (for example, hedgerow, buffer strip, floodplain).
  ○ Its approximate size.
  ○ Typical plant and animal species present.
  ○ How the area is currently managed.
	Your Regenerative Plan must include a map of all existing wildlife habitats on your operation, clearly labelled as 'existing.' For each habitat, describe:
	• Its size and location.
	• Typical plant and animal species present.
	• Current management—for example, whether naturally regenerated, self-seeded, or intentionally planted with pollinator mixes or native wildflowers.
	Over time, plant communities in non-cropped areas are expected to support increased biodiversity and provide habitat for a wider range of species.
	Your Regenerative Plan must also identify opportunities to increase species diversity and abundance over time. This may include targeting underrepresented or declining species in your area and improving habitat to support them—for example:
	• Expanding field margins.
	• Restoring wet areas.
		Acceptable records may include:
		• Photographs of existing and newly established habitats and/or recorded species.
		• Visual assessments of habitat and species condition and connectivity.
		• Weather or climate records.
		• Purchase invoices for seeds, trees, or capital works.

• Map all existing wildlife habitats on the operation and clearly label them as 'existing'. • Identify any potential areas that could be developed or improved as wildlife habitat, within the reasonable constraints of the farming operation. • Indicate these areas on your maps and label them as 'proposed'. • Describe how any proposed new habitat areas will be managed to benefit wildlife. • Where possible, link existing and proposed habitats to form or enhance wildlife corridors—either within the operation or with neighbouring land, if this is of benefit. • Describe how wooded areas are managed, with the objective of improving wildlife habitat.	• Increasing tree and shrub cover. You must also identify and map areas with potential to be developed as wildlife habitat, labelling them as 'proposed'. These should include a description of planned management to support biodiversity. Examples may include: • Field margins or headlands. • Beetle banks or pollinator strips. • Floodplains or wetland margins. • Field corners or uncultivated patches. • Woodland edges or regeneration zones. Where possible, aim to connect existing and proposed habitats to form wildlife corridors. Linking habitats—within your operation or with neighbouring land—can significantly enhance biodiversity by reducing fragmentation and supporting species movement. You should also consider how wooded areas are managed to support biodiversity. This may include: • Installing bird or bat boxes. • Promoting structural diversity among trees. • Using controlled grazing or woodland-edge management to encourage understory growth. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Visually inspect habitat condition and connectivity. • Review any habitat creation or enhancement activities.	• Completed wildlife or other observational records.

• Develop a plan to increase biodiversity over time by supporting target species and improving habitat conditions.	• Evaluate proposed tree and woodland management.	

Standard 5.4	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Pollinator Protection Pollinators **must** be protected by minimising pesticide use and using existing or additional buffer zones to protect non-cropped areas. Pesticides and fertilisers **must not** be applied to non-cropped areas unless required for habitat establishment. The Regenerative Plan **must** describe how pollinators will be provided with access to a diverse range of pollen and nectar sources. This may be achieved through the	Pollinators are essential for healthy ecosystems and food production, yet they are highly vulnerable to pesticide use and habitat loss. Your Regenerative Plan must describe how you protect pollinators. This may include: • Timing field operations to avoid peak pollinator activity. • Minimising pesticide use or switching to pollinator-safe alternatives. • Establishing buffer zones to protect non-cropped areas from chemical drift. You must also show how you provide a continuous supply of diverse pollen and nectar sources throughout the growing season. This is often achieved through: • Flowering field margins. • Cover crops that include flowering species. • Diverse pasture or herbal ley mixes. • Natural regeneration in uncropped areas.	Acceptable records may include: • Pesticide application records. • Field maps showing buffer zones and pollinator habitats. • Photographs of flowering habitats. • Species or pollinator activity records (formal or anecdotal).

management of non-cropped areas.	The more diverse and well-connected these areas are, the better they support pollinators and other beneficial insects. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Make visual checks of flowering habitats. • Review pesticide use and timing. • Confirm buffer zones to protect non-cropped areas.	

Standard 5.5	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Protecting Existing Habitats Existing habitats on the operation **must** be protected, including any areas that support endangered or protected plants or animals. Primary or old-growth forests **must not** be damaged or cleared. Wetlands **must not** be drained. AGW **must** be contacted before making any improvements to existing high-value habitats.	Regenerative farming must work in harmony with the natural environment. While production areas can support biodiversity, it is essential to protect existing habitats—particularly rare, sensitive, or legally protected areas—from harm. Your Regenerative Plan must describe how you protect natural habitats on your operation, especially those that support endangered or protected species. These may include: • Woodlands. • Wetlands. • Species-rich grasslands. • Other native or semi-natural ecosystems. Primary and old-growth forests must never be cleared, due to their irreplaceable value for biodiversity, carbon storage, and climate regulation. Similarly, wetlands must not be drained, as	Acceptable records may include: • Survey results showing species presence. • Maps identifying existing habitat areas (woodlands, wetlands). • Photographs tracking habitat conditions over time. • Field records of habitat observations or management. • Correspondence with AGW regarding

	they provide critical habitat, regulate water flow, and support long-term ecosystem resilience. You may undertake appropriate habitat management, such as: • Woodland thinning. • Invasive species control. • Removal, restoration, or enhancement of degraded habitats, such as non-cropped areas and woodland. However, these activities must be clearly detailed in your Regenerative Plan and approved by AGW before proceeding. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect habitat condition and ecological integrity. • Review any habitat management activities undertaken. • Confirm that proposed actions were approved by AGW.	proposed improvements.

Standard 5.6	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Conservation Designations AGW **must** be informed of any areas on your operation that have been designated as High Conservation Value (HCV), located within a Protected or High Conservation Area, or included in any conservation zone or programme.	It is important to recognise and protect areas of high conservation value. These may be formally designated through government programmes, agri-environment schemes, certification bodies, or NGOs. Examples include: • Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). • Wildlife corridors. • Ancient woodlands. • Other protected or priority habitats. Proper management of these areas supports regenerative outcomes and demonstrates your commitment to protecting valuable ecosystems. It also allows A Greener World to align your certification with recognised conservation priorities. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Identify any HCV areas on your operation. • Describe how they are managed in line with relevant designation requirements or stewardship agreements. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review maps and supporting documentation. • Evaluate alignment with designation requirements. • Visually inspect designated areas.	Acceptable records may include: • Maps showing designated conservation areas. • Copies of designation letters or scheme agreements. • Management plans or conservation prescriptions. • Field records of habitat management activities. • Correspondence with AGW regarding designated areas.

Standard 5.7	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Invasive Species Management Operators **must** take appropriate measures to control or remove invasive species if they are present and pose a threat to biodiversity.	Invasive species can disrupt local ecosystems by outcompeting native species, degrading habitats, and reducing biodiversity. If invasive species are present on your operation and pose a risk to biodiversity, you must take appropriate steps to control or remove them, following relevant national or regional guidelines. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Identify any known invasive species on your land. • Describe how they are monitored. • Outline the actions you are taking to manage or remove them. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Visually check affected areas. • Review control or removal activities. • Confirm that national or regional guidance is being followed.	Acceptable records may include: • Field notes or maps showing locations of invasive species. • Monitoring logs or photographs of affected areas. • Records of control or removal actions taken. • Relevant guidance documents or correspondence with advisory bodies.

Standard 5.8	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Predator Control for Livestock Livestock on Certified Regenerative by AGW land **must** be protected from predation. The Regenerative Plan **must** describe how predation is prevented, including management practices and use of guardian animals. Where employed, guardian animals **must only** be used if they are appropriate for the role and suited to the local climate and working conditions.	Where predatory animals are a concern, the goal of any Certified Regenerative by AGW farm is to reduce the risk of predation through thoughtful prevention and appropriate on-farm practices. Exclusion methods—such as fencing, secure housing, or deterrents—must always be the first line of defence. Guardian animals (dogs, llamas, or donkeys) may also be suitable in some systems. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe all methods used to protect livestock from predators. • Include details on the use, management, and welfare of any guardian animals. Where guardian animals are used, their effectiveness and welfare must be assessed: • Livestock guardian dogs must meet AGW's guidance on canine management (contact AGW for details). • Other guardian species must be suited to the local climate, terrain, and farming conditions. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review the use and effectiveness of exclusion methods. • Evaluate the suitability and welfare of guardian animals.	Acceptable records may include: • Descriptions of predator control methods (fencing, housing, deterrents). • Descriptions of guardian animals and their role (if used). • Evidence of suitability (breed, climate adaptation). • Welfare assessments or vet checks. • Photographs or observational notes • Training or behaviour monitoring records (if applicable).

	• Confirm that management of livestock guardian dogs meets AGW's guidance.	

Standard 5.9	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Live Trapping and Last Resort Measures The Regenerative Plan **must** describe how predator control will be managed if exclusion or prevention methods fail. If predation continues despite exclusion or prevention methods, live trapping **may** be used as a control measure with the following conditions: • All live traps **must** be checked at least twice daily to ensure animal welfare. • Snares, leghold traps, glue boards, and similar devices **must not** be used. Poisons **must not** be used for predator control.	If exclusion methods fail and predation continues, live trapping may be used—provided traps are checked at least twice daily to ensure animal welfare. If live trapping is not feasible or proves ineffective, lethal control may only be used as a last resort, and only when there is an immediate threat. Any control method must be legal and humane for the predator species in question. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe the steps you will take if exclusion and deterrent methods fail. • Confirm that any lethal control methods are legal, justified, and meet animal welfare expectations. Detailed records must be kept, including: • The predator species controlled. • Number of animals. • Method used. If you are unsure whether a control method is permitted, contact AGW before proceeding.	Acceptable records may include: • Live trapping logs, including check frequency. • Records of lethal control (species, number, method used). • Legal permissions or confirmation of compliance (if required). • Correspondence with AGW regarding predator control decisions.

If live trapping is not feasible or proves unsuccessful, lethal control **may only** be used as a last resort, and only where there is an immediate threat to livestock. Additionally: • The chosen lethal control method **must** be legal in the region. • The chosen lethal control method used **must** cause instantaneous, irreversible unconsciousness and death. • Any ongoing lethal control programme **must** be approved in the Regenerative Plan. • Detailed records **must** be kept, including the species controlled, number of animals, and method used.	**What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Assess whether the use of live trapping or lethal control is appropriate, humane, and lawful. • Confirm that lethal control, if used, was a last resort and in response to an immediate threat. • Review records of predator species, number of animals, and method used.	

Standard 5.10	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Vermin Control Vermin **must** be prevented, monitored, and controlled to protect livestock, crops, and stored products. Feed stores, crop storage areas, and livestock housing **must** be kept clean and well maintained to discourage infestation. If licensed rodenticides are used, they **must** be placed in secure bait boxes to prevent access by non-target species. Any lethal control or euthanasia of vermin **must** result in instantaneous, irreversible unconsciousness and death.	Effective control of nuisance animals (such as rats, mice, wild boar, deer or rabbits) is essential to protect animal welfare, food safety, and stored crops or feed. Your Regenerative Plan must describe how vermin are monitored and managed, including prevention strategies, cleanliness routines, and control methods. This includes: • Regular inspections of feed stores, grain silos, livestock housing, and crop storage. • Maintaining clean and orderly storage and housing areas to reduce rodent attraction. • Using only licensed rodenticides, placed in secure bait boxes to avoid harm to non-target species. If lethal control is used, it must result in instantaneous, irreversible unconsciousness and death, in line with animal welfare expectations. For example, glue boards and drowning are strictly prohibited due to the severe welfare concerns they pose. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Visually inspect feed stores, housing, and storage areas for cleanliness and signs of infestation. • Review monitoring routines and prevention strategies. • Verify that licensed rodenticides are used responsibly in secure bait boxes.	Acceptable records may include: • Purchase records of licensed rodenticides or traps. • Vermin control log (monitoring dates, activity evidence, methods used, products, personnel, site maps). • Photographs of sanitation or control measures (if available).

	• Review lethal control methods and records. • Assess any management plans for wildlife that pose a risk to livestock, crops or habitat (for example, wild boar or deer).	

Standard 5.11	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Traditional Land Rights, Knowledge and Genetic Resources Where applicable, the Regenerative Plan **must** demonstrate that traditional land use rights and indigenous knowledge relating to biodiversity are respected and protected—both on the operation and in any areas affected by its activities. The Regenerative Plan **must** show a good faith effort to comply with the Nagoya Protocol where applicable.	Respecting traditional land use rights and knowledge is essential to ethical, regenerative agriculture. Around the world, Indigenous peoples and local communities have long stewarded biodiversity through traditional practices and deep ecological understanding. These communities are often disproportionately affected by biodiversity loss and land-use change. Ensuring their rights are respected—and that traditional knowledge or genetic resources are used responsibly—is a key part of regeneration, fairness, and global environmental justice. The Nagoya Protocol is an international agreement that promotes the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It aims to protect biodiversity and prevent biopiracy. Your Regenerative Plan must describe how you identify and respect traditional or Indigenous land use rights and knowledge, both on your operation and in any areas affected by your farming activities. This includes ensuring that: • Farming or land-use practices do not displace or restrict access to culturally significant sites or resources. • Traditional ecological knowledge is not used or shared without acknowledgement or consent. • Where national laws implement the Nagoya Protocol, you must comply with those legal requirements.	Acceptable records may include: • Maps or documents identifying culturally significant land. • Records of community or stakeholder engagement. • Agreements or letters of understanding (if applicable). • Plan details showing how rights are recognised and protected. • Photographs or notes related to cultural sites or practices.

	You may need to consult local communities or relevant organisations to determine whether traditional rights apply to your land or region, and whether any part of your farming system intersects with those rights. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Verify that farming practices do not negatively impact traditional or Indigenous rights. • Review evidence of community engagement or formal agreements (where applicable).	

Standard 5.12	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Wild Harvesting Plan and Access Rights If wild plants are collected or harvested, there **must** be a plan in place that ensures plant populations are sustained, and natural habitats are protected. The operator **must** demonstrate a clearly defined and recognised right to access and manage the target resource.	Wild harvesting plays an important role in rural economies and food systems, providing income, food, and cultural value to communities around the world. However, unsustainable harvesting can threaten wild plant populations, rare species, and surrounding ecosystems. Any wild harvesting on a Certified Regenerative by AGW operation must be carried out in a way that protects the health of wild plant populations and avoids negative impacts on surrounding habitats. If you engage in wild harvesting, your Regenerative Plan must demonstrate a clear and responsible approach to managing wild plant resources. This includes: • Planning harvests to maintain long-term population health and ecological balance. • Demonstrating that you—or any third-party collectors—hold legally recognised or customary rights to access and manage the target species and harvesting areas. • Clearly documenting access rights to support transparency, prevent overexploitation, and protect community knowledge and access. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan to ensure a harvesting strategy is in place.	Acceptable records may include: • Access agreements or permits. • Maps of harvesting areas. • Documentation of customary or legal resource rights.

	• Verify that access rights are documented (legal or customary). • Review any agreements with landowners or local communities. • Confirm that the plan supports long-term ecological sustainability.	

Standard 5.13	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Species Identification and Sustainable Harvesting The Regenerative Plan **must** identify all target species for wild harvesting and map their distribution. Collection rates and harvest limits **must** be defined, justified, and followed. Wild harvesting **must not** exceed the species' ability to regenerate over the long term.	Harvesting must be carefully managed so that populations remain stable or improve over time. When determining a sustainable collection rate, consider: • The life cycle and growth rate of the species. • Habitat health and availability. • Historic and current harvesting pressure. • Local or scientific guidance. You must define science- or evidence-based harvesting limits for each species, including: • Minimum age, size class, or maturity for collection. • Maximum quantity permitted. • Collection frequency. • Allowed harvesting seasons or periods. Rates and limits must support natural regeneration and protect future harvesting potential. They must be monitored and	Acceptable records may include: • Species lists and distribution maps. • Defined harvesting thresholds (age, size, quantity, frequency). • Harvest logs with dates, locations, and quantities collected. • Regeneration assessments or notes. • Annual reviews of collection rates.

	reassessed at least annually to ensure long-term sustainability and avoid unintentional population decline. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Verify that harvesting rates and limits are realistic, evidence-based, and appropriate to the species and site. • Check that limits are designed to protect wild populations and not exceed the natural regeneration capacity of each target species. • Confirm that harvest rates are reviewed and adjusted over time as appropriate. • Review harvest logs to confirm adherence to collection thresholds.	

Standard 5.14	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species and Habitats Any rare, threatened, or endangered species or habitats that could be affected by harvesting activities **must** be identified in the Regenerative Plan, along with	Your Regenerative Plan must identify any rare, threatened, or endangered species or habitats that could be impacted by wild harvesting. This includes both direct effects, such as harvesting, and indirect impacts, such as trampling, habitat degradation, or disturbance. You must implement appropriate conservation actions to protect these species and habitats. This may include: • Avoiding collection in sensitive areas. • Adjusting access routes to minimise disturbance.	Acceptable records may include: • List of rare, threatened, or endangered species and habitats identified on or near the operation.

appropriate measures to protect them.	• Supporting local conservation or restoration efforts. • Consulting local experts or community groups to identify at-risk areas. This information must be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes in species or habitat status. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Verify that relevant risk assessments have been conducted. • Review the conservation measures in place to avoid negative impacts. • Cross-check information against national or regional species lists, conservation designations, or third-party assessments.	• Conservation action plans or mitigation strategies. • Monitoring reports or field observations on species or habitat condition. • Records of consultations with experts, communities, or conservation bodies (if applicable). • Annual reviews or updates reflecting changes in status.

Standard 5.15	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Ecosystem Protection During Wild Harvesting Management activities associated with wild harvesting **must**: • Avoid adverse effects on ecosystem diversity.	In addition to protecting specific plant species, your Regenerative Plan must show how wild harvesting avoids broader ecological harm. This includes maintaining: • Habitat diversity (for example, not removing all vegetation from a site). • Soil health (by avoiding compaction, erosion, or disturbance).	Acceptable records may include: • Habitat condition assessments or field surveys. • Site management notes or photographs.

• Maintain natural processes and ecosystem functions.	• Natural ecological processes such as pollination, regeneration, and nutrient cycling. Your plan must demonstrate how harvesting is integrated into the wider land use system without degrading ecosystems. This may include: • Rotational harvesting. • Leaving undisturbed buffer areas. • Limiting collection to designated zones. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Make on-site observations to check for signs of erosion, habitat degradation, or ecological disruption. • Review field notes, maps, or monitoring records to evaluate landscape-scale biodiversity outcomes. • Confirm that harvesting practices support ecological balance rather than degrading natural systems.	• Observations of ecological processes (flowering, pollinator activity, regeneration). • Maps or plans showing harvesting zones, buffers, or rotational patterns.

Section 6: Cropping and Grassland

About Section 6

Annual cropping, perennials, and grassland management are central to regenerative agriculture. These systems provide essential food and forage—whether fruit, grains, grapes, olives, nuts, or pasture—while shaping soil structure, water cycles, biodiversity, and farm resilience. However, intensive practices—such as over-tillage, monocultures, excessive fertiliser use, or overgrazing—can degrade soil, pollute waterways, and reduce landscape diversity.

Section 6 of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards supports regenerative approaches to managing annual and perennial crops, including vineyards, orchards, olive groves, nut plantations, and grasslands. These standards promote practices that protect or improve soil health, minimise environmental harm, and enhance economic sustainability. All activities must contribute to long-term regenerative goals while supporting a productive, profitable farming system.

Standard 6.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Cropping Rotation The Regenerative Plan **must** include a crop rotation. The rotation **must** be designed to break pest, disease, and weed cycles, reduce reliance on synthetic inputs, and support long-term soil health. This includes promoting the build-up of soil organic matter, improving soil structure, and enhancing microbial diversity.	Effective crop rotation is essential for maintaining soil health, reducing pest and disease pressure, managing weeds, and supporting long-term productivity. Your rotation should include a sequence of crops that balance nutrient-demanding species with fertility-building phases. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Detail your crop rotation and the reasoning behind it. • Identify the sequence and timing of each crop phase, including multi-year grasslands where applicable. • Clearly show how the rotation supports soil health (nitrogen fixation, pest suppression, rest periods). • Include the use and placement of fertility-building crops such as legumes, cover crops, or green manures. Your rotation should reduce dependence on external inputs and promote resilience through greater diversity, soil recovery, and nutrient cycling. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan for crop sequences, timing, and intended outcomes. • Confirm the inclusion of fertility-building crops. • Evaluate how the rotation reduces pest, weed, and disease pressure and supports soil health.	Acceptable records may include: • Crop rotation plans or planting schedules. • Field records noting timing and purpose of crop phases. • Maps or notes identifying fertility-building species. • Soil test results (organic matter or biology). • Photos or visual assessments of soil condition or crop diversity.

	• Assess the justification for any nutrient-demanding crops or monoculture periods.	

Standard 6.2	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Perennial Cropping For perennial crops—such as vineyards, nut and fruit orchards, olive groves or other long-lived fruit-bearing systems—the Regenerative Plan **must** demonstrate the use of, or progress toward, diverse groundcovers, inter-row cropping, or livestock integration. These practices **must** be used to protect and improve soil health, support biodiversity, and reduce reliance on external inputs.	Perennial cropping systems often require minimal tillage, but the spaces between vines, trees, or bushes are frequently left bare or maintained as closely mown grass. Bare ground increases the risk of erosion, compaction, nutrient loss, and soil degradation—particularly in vineyard and orchard settings with regular traffic and equipment use. To meet this standard, your Regenerative Plan must show how you manage the inter-row or understory areas to improve soil cover and function over time. This may include: • Establishing or maintaining diverse groundcovers or cover crops to maximise living roots. • Integrating livestock, such as sheep or poultry, to enhance soil biology and reduce vegetation pressure. • Using inter-row cropping or mixed-species planting to increase diversity. These practices support soil structure, organic matter, microbial life, and nutrient cycling while also reducing the need for fertilisers, herbicides, and other external inputs.	Acceptable records may include: • Field records or maps showing inter-row management practices. • Grazing plans for livestock integration in perennial systems. • Photographs documenting groundcover, cover crops, mixed planting, livestock grazing.

	What We're Looking For The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan for inter-row and groundcover strategies. • Inspect fields for signs of bare soil, compaction, or erosion. • Confirm the use of groundcover, cover crops, or livestock in inter-row areas.	

Standard 6.3	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Building Soil Fertility Soil fertility **must** be built through practices that enhance biological activity, increase organic matter, and support natural nutrient cycling. These actions **must** reduce dependence on external inputs and improve long-term soil health.	Building and maintaining natural fertility is central to regenerative farming. Rather than relying on synthetic inputs, you must use biological and ecological processes to improve soil structure, function, and nutrient availability over time. Your Regenerative Plan must describe how you build fertility using strategies appropriate to your land and systems—whether annual cropping, grassland, or perennial systems like vineyards, nut orchards, or olive groves. These may include: • Growing green manures (with nitrogen-fixing legumes) and catch crops to build and/or retain fertility and prevent leaching. • Incorporating deep-rooted species to access and recycle subsoil nutrients. • Applying organic inputs, such as manures and composts.	Acceptable records may include: • Field records showing fertility-building crops or rotations. • Application logs for compost, manure, or other organic inputs. • Notes or maps of livestock integration or grazing activity. • Data showing organic matter or nutrient cycling over time.

	• Integrating livestock to support nutrient cycling and stimulate soil biology. You should tailor practices to your site conditions and regenerative goals, combining approaches to achieve long-term improvements in soil health and productivity. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your fertility-building strategies in your Regenerative Plan. • Confirm reductions in synthetic input reliance. • Inspect fields for signs of actions to improve organic matter, groundcover, or integrated approaches. • Evaluate the effectiveness of applied practices based on soil and crop condition.	• Photographs of cover crops, legumes, or deep-rooted species in use. • Regenerative Input form (or ICM).

Standard 6.4	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Bought-In Fertility Inputs Bought-in fertility inputs **may** be used, provided their use is justified in the Regenerative Plan. All applications of fertilisers and trace elements **must** be aligned with crop demand, consider fertility provided by soil and fertility-building crops, and be clearly recorded.	While regenerative farming aims to reduce reliance on external inputs, there may be times when bought-in fertility products are required to maintain crop viability or enhance soil health. These inputs should be used strategically and only where necessary to support transition or economic sustainability. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Justify the use of any bought-in fertilisers, trace elements, biological stimulants, or other fertility inputs. • Demonstrate how applications are tailored to actual crop demand. • Account for fertility contributions from legumes, cover crops, composts, and manures. • Show a clear plan to reduce external input reliance over time. Where appropriate, fertility inputs may be sourced in collaboration with other farms—for example, exchanging straw for manure. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan for fertility input strategy and justification. • Verify that applications match crop demand and consider existing soil fertility. • Confirm a downward trend in reliance on external inputs over time.	Acceptable records may include: • Purchase invoices for fertilisers, trace elements, or other fertility inputs. • Storage logs or inventory records for bought-in inputs. • Field application records showing product, rate, date, and location. • Fertility management plans aligning inputs with crop demand. • Notes justifying input use and showing steps to reduce reliance over time. • Regenerative Input form (or ICM).

	• Evaluate the traceability and appropriateness of any exchanged or imported inputs.	

Standard 6.5	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Weed Control Weeds **must** be managed primarily through cultural control methods. Chemical control **may only** be used when other methods have proven ineffective, and this **must** be justified in the Regenerative Plan.	Cultural methods of weed control are central to regenerative systems. These approaches reduce reliance on herbicides and help maintain soil health, biodiversity, and long-term resilience. In perennial systems such as vineyards or orchards, this might include inter-row mowing, mulching, or managed grazing. Your Regenerative Plan must prioritise practices such as: • Cultivations, mulching, or mechanical control. • Crop rotation design that disrupts weed cycles. • Variety selection, planting dates, seed rates, and row spacing to increase crop competitiveness. Chemical herbicides may only be used where alternative methods have failed or where continued mechanical control would compromise soil health or financial viability. Their use must be clearly justified and should not be routine. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan for cultural weed management strategies.	Acceptable records may include: • Field records showing cultural weed control methods used. • Notes justifying any chemical applications and alternative methods attempted. • Herbicide application logs (date, product, location, rate). • Crop rotation plans or planting schedules supporting weed suppression. • Photographs or field observations of weed pressure and control outcomes.

	• Inspect fields for weed pressure and signs of over-reliance on herbicides. • Confirm any use of chemical control is justified, minimal, and documented. • Evaluate how weed control integrates with other regenerative practices.	

Standard 6.6	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Use of Livestock on Certified Regenerative Land The Regenerative Plan must detail how grazing is managed and how livestock support the farm's regenerative goals. **The requirement applies to all livestock—owned or contracted—regardless of whether they fall within the scope of certification.** Where livestock are either contracted or not included within scope of certification, the operation **must** comply	Livestock play an integral role in regenerative farming, supporting soil health, biodiversity, and farm resilience. But when poorly managed, they can undermine these goals—damaging soils, polluting water, and degrading ecosystems. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Explain how the integration of livestock contributes to the operation's overall regenerative goals. • Detail the grazing management, including timings and rest periods. • Detail all contracted or temporary grazing arrangements • Include plans and justifications for hard (such as cultural weed control, reseeding) and emergency grazing strategies. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect grazed areas for signs of overgrazing, compaction, bare ground, or erosion.	Acceptable records may include: • Field records showing grazing activity and rest periods. • Grazing records detailing stocking levels, species, and timing. • Justifications for hard or emergency grazing (notes, seasonal plans). • Photographs of pasture condition before and after grazing.

with the Contracted Livestock standard outlined in Section 8. If livestock are included in the scope of certification, the species-specific livestock standards in Section 8 **must** be met.	• Review grazing records and assess recovery periods. • Verify that any hard grazing is justified and managed to avoid long-term damage.	• Maps and grazing plans showing grazing rotations or recovery zones.

Standard 6.7	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Grassland, Forage Conservation, and Fertility If grasslands are harvested for hay or silage, soil fertility **must** be maintained. The Regenerative Plan **must** show how nutrients removed during harvest are replaced to support long-term soil health and productivity.	Harvesting grass for hay or silage removes significant nutrients from the system. To maintain regenerative outcomes, you must demonstrate how fertility is replaced through manure and compost applications and other inputs. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Show how you maintain soil fertility in harvested grasslands. • Identify how nutrients are replenished following hay or silage cuts. • Justify any intentional reduction in fertility—such as for wildflower establishment or conservation purposes. In all cases, the plan should reflect a balance between productivity, ecological goals, and long-term soil health. **What We're Looking For**	Acceptable records may include: • Field records showing harvest dates, volumes, and locations. • Fertility input records (compost, manure, slurry applications). • Grazing plans used to support fertility in cut grasslands. • Notes explaining intentional fertility reduction (such as habitat restoration).

	The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan for fertility management strategies. • Confirm nutrient replacement where hay or silage is regularly harvested. • Evaluate any justification for intentional fertility reduction. • Inspect fields for signs of nutrient deficiency or soil degradation.	• Soil test results showing nutrient status over time.

Standard 6.8	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Natural Grasslands Natural grasslands **must not** be ploughed, reseeded, or cultivated. These areas **must** be managed using only low-intensity practices, such as hay cutting and aftermath grazing.	Natural grasslands are irreplaceable habitats that support high levels of biodiversity and cultural value. These areas must be preserved as permanent, unimproved grasslands to protect soil structure, native plant communities, and ecological resilience. Your Regenerative Plan must show how natural grasslands (for example, traditional meadows) are maintained through low-input management, such as: • Delayed hay cuts to allow flowering and seed set. • Aftermath grazing to control regrowth and maintain sward structure. • No ploughing, reseeding, fertiliser, or pesticide use. Timing and frequency of cutting or grazing must support native species lifecycles and avoid disturbance to nesting birds, pollinators, or key wildflower species.	Acceptable records may include: • Maps identifying traditional meadow or species-rich grassland. • Field records showing cutting and grazing dates and methods. • Photographs documenting important species, seasonal changes and management outcomes.

	What We're Looking For The Auditor may: • Review your Regenerative Plan for any designated natural grassland areas and management approach. • Confirm that cutting and grazing schedules support biodiversity and avoid ecological disturbance.	• Notes on sward or pasture condition, flowering phases, or wildlife presence. • Correspondence or reports confirming conservation status.

Standard 6.9	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Establishing Pasture or Temporary Grasslands When establishing pasture or temporary grasslands, species mixtures **must** be selected to be long-lasting and include legumes to support nitrogen fixation and soil fertility. Selected species **must** be suitable for the site and managed to persist over time.	Pasture or temporary grasslands play a key role in regenerative systems, contributing to soil health, fertility, and resilience. Your Regenerative Plan must show how newly established pasture or temporary grasslands are designed to meet these outcomes. You must: • Select seed mixtures that include nitrogen-fixing species (clovers, vetch). • Choose species that are adapted to local conditions and likely to persist without frequent reseeding. • Avoid short-term or high-input pasture or temporary grasslands that deplete soil fertility over time. • Manage grazing to protect root systems and species diversity.	Acceptable records may include: • Seed purchase records or sowing plans showing species mix. • Field records describing sowing dates, methods, and conditions. • Grazing plans that support recovery and persistence. • Photographs showing early establishment

	What We're Looking For The Auditor may: • Review seed mixtures for species diversity and nitrogen-fixing content. • Inspect pasture or temporary grasslands for signs of poor persistence, overgrazing, or dominance by a single species. • Verify that grazing is managed to protect plant and root structure.	and sward development.

Standard 6.10	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Use of Trees Within Cropping Areas (Silvopasture) Trees, shrubs, and hedgerows within or adjacent to cropping areas **must** be maintained to maximise their positive impact on biodiversity. Where appropriate, tree and shrub cover **must** be increased to further enhance ecological value. Established native trees or tree features—such as woodland patches, shelterbelts, or old	Trees, shrubs, and hedgerows within or around cropping systems—including perennial systems like vineyards and orchards—contribute to biodiversity, soil protection, nutrient cycling, and climate resilience. Your Regenerative Plan must show how existing tree and shrub features are maintained and managed for long-term ecological benefit, including: • How trees, shrubs, and hedgerows are integrated into cropping areas. • How these features are maintained or improved to support biodiversity, reduce erosion, and provide shade or wind protection. • Whether additional planting areas have been identified and implemented.	Acceptable records may include: • Maps or field notes identifying trees, hedgerows, or proposed planting areas. • Records of tree and hedgerow maintenance (pruning, coppicing, mulching). • Planting plans and species lists for new trees or shrubs.

hedgerows—**must not** be removed unless there is a clear ecological or safety reason, or it is part of a forest management plan.
• Any felling **must** comply with legal requirements.
• Ecological compensation, such as replanting or habitat restoration, **must** be carried out where removal occurs.
	• Where new planting is planned, how species selection prioritises:
	  ○ Biodiversity value (native, flowering, or structurally diverse species).
	  ○ Compatibility with adjacent crops.
	  ○ Benefits for pollinators, pest control, wind protection, or nutrient cycling.
	What We're Looking For
	The Auditor may:
	• Inspect tree and hedgerow features for health, structure, and biodiversity value.
	• Review planting plans or records of newly established features.
	• Confirm that any tree or hedgerow removal was justified, approved, and ecologically compensated.
	• Evaluate the role of trees in supporting regenerative outcomes (shelter, wildlife corridors, soil protection).
		• Correspondence or permits confirming legal compliance for tree removal.
		• Notes describing ecological value or observed benefits (pollinators, shade, shelter).

Standard 6.11	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Agrochemicals: Safe Handling and Application All workers who handle agrochemicals **must** be properly trained and competent in the safe handling and application of agrochemicals and other inputs. Applications **must** follow safety requirements and best practices to minimise risk to people, crops, and the environment.	Agrochemicals can pose serious risks to people, ecosystems, and the wider environment if not applied responsibly. Anyone applying these products must be trained and competent, with appropriate understanding of the risks and control measures. Your Regenerative Plan must demonstrate that: • Workers applying agrochemicals are trained and qualified where required. • Application follows label instructions, legal requirements, and safety protocols, including minimum interval between application and harvest. • Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is used and maintained. • Risks to non-target species, water, and soil are minimised. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review worker training or certification records. • Confirm appropriate PPE is available and in use. • Evaluate application methods and field-level risk reduction. • Inspect records for compliance with label and safety requirements.	Acceptable records may include: • Training certificates or proof of competence. • PPE maintenance or issue logs. • Field records showing product, rate, date, and applicator. • Safety data sheets (SDS) and product labels. • Risk assessments or standard operating procedures (SOPs).

Standard 6.12	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Agrochemicals: Storage, Transport, and Recordkeeping Agrochemicals **must** be stored and transported with full labelling and safety information. Storage **must** comply with national legislation or, where absent, be locked in clearly labelled areas outside flood-prone or ecologically sensitive zones. Accurate records of all agrochemical purchases and use **must** be kept. **Note: Certification to a recognised farm assurance programme may, in some cases, be accepted as equivalent to meeting these standards.**	Improper storage and transport of agrochemicals increases the risk of contamination, accidental exposure, and environmental harm. Secure, compliant storage protects workers, wildlife, and water quality. Your Regenerative Plan must include: • Clearly identified and secured storage areas. • Measures to prevent leaks, spills, and access by unauthorised persons. • Separation of agrochemicals from fuels, fertilisers, and feed. • Full documentation of purchases and product use over time. Storage in flood-prone areas or near watercourses must be avoided or specially managed. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect storage facilities for safety, labelling, and containment. • Review purchase, inventory, and usage records. • Confirm compliance with legal or best practice requirements. • Check for proximity to sensitive sites (watercourses, wells).	Acceptable records may include: • Purchase invoices and delivery logs. • Inventory records or stock checks. • Storage location plans or facility photos. • Field application logs (product, rate, area).

Standard 6.13	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Environmental Protection During Agrochemical Use When agrochemicals are used, buffer zones **must** be established and maintained as described in your Regenerative Plan. These measures **must** be sufficient to protect watercourses, non-cropped areas, and sensitive habitats from contamination.	Agrochemical drift, runoff, and leaching can harm aquatic life, pollinators, and beneficial species. Buffer zones provide a physical barrier to reduce the risk of contamination beyond the target area. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Identify watercourses, non-cropped areas, and ecologically sensitive sites. • Define appropriate buffer zone widths based on product, topography, and risk. • Maintain vegetation cover in buffer zones to filter runoff and trap residues. • Demonstrate how product choice and application methods limit off-target exposure. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect buffer zones for width, vegetation, and effectiveness. • Review your Regenerative Plan for risk identification and mitigation. • Confirm application practices minimise drift and runoff. • Evaluate records of product use near sensitive areas.	Acceptable records may include: • Application records with field maps showing buffer zones. • Photographs of buffer areas or sensitive site boundaries. • Notes justifying buffer widths and product selection. • Weather logs relevant to timing of applications.

Standard 6.14	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Before using any crop protection products—including seed treatments—the Integrated Crop Management (ICM) section of the Regenerative Plan template (or similar document) **must** be completed and approved. The ICM plan **must** include adequate detail on both preventative and intervention measures.	A core goal of regenerative farming is to reduce pesticide use through cultural, biological, and ecological strategies. However, interventions may occasionally be necessary to avoid catastrophic crop losses. Your Integrated Crop Management Plan must outline how you: • Design rotations to break pest and disease cycles. • Select pest- or disease-resistant varieties. • Improve plant resilience through soil health and fertility. • Use cultural controls (inter-row hoeing, mowing, mulching). • Use physical barriers (netting, sheeting) where appropriate. • Encourage beneficial predators and beneficial insect habitat. • Monitor fields to detect pest, weed, and disease pressure early. • Make decisions based on pest thresholds and field observations. • Use biological controls wherever practical. • A list of inputs with justification for use and timeline for reduction where possible. • Only apply agrochemicals when other methods have proven ineffective and thresholds have been exceeded. • Review outcomes and adapt future actions accordingly. Your Regenerative Plan must reflect this structured, preventative-first approach and demonstrate an ongoing reduction in reliance on chemical interventions over time, with the goal of elimination.	Acceptable records may include: • Completed Integrated Crop Management plan. • Field records showing cultural or biological control practices. • Scouting and monitoring logs for pests, weeds, and diseases. • Application records with justification and threshold data. • Notes reviewing outcomes and adapting future practices.

	Note: AGW can supply you with an Integrated Crop Management (ICM) plan template, but you can also create your own plan. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review the ICM section of your Regenerative Plan. • Inspect crop protection records for justification of any chemical use. • Verify that preventative and biological strategies are implemented and documented. • Assess how decisions are based on threshold monitoring, not routine use. • Evaluate how results are reviewed and used to inform future actions.	

Standard 6.15	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Crop Storage Harvested crops **must** be stored in clean, dry, and well-ventilated facilities. Storage areas **must** be regularly inspected for pests, mould, and moisture risk. Non-chemical pest deterrents **must** be prioritised, where possible. Up-to-date storage records **must** be maintained.	Proper crop storage is essential to maintain food quality, reduce losses, and minimise the risk of contamination. Poorly managed storage can lead to spoilage, pest infestations, and unsafe products entering the food chain. Your Regenerative Plan must show how storage areas: • Are clean, dry, and well ventilated. • Are inspected regularly for pests, mould, or structural issues. • Use non-chemical pest controls wherever practical (physical traps, temperature regulation, cleaning routines). • Minimise reliance on chemical treatments through good design and hygiene. Storage methods should protect crop integrity and support regenerative goals by reducing waste and avoiding unnecessary inputs. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect storage facilities for hygiene, airflow, and structural condition. • Review pest and mould monitoring records. • Confirm use of non-chemical pest deterrents where practical. • Verify that accurate storage records are maintained.	Acceptable records may include: • Storage cleaning logs. • Storage inspection logs (temperature, humidity, or pest presence). • Records of pest control methods used. • Notes on non-chemical interventions and maintenance actions. • Storage inventory records (crop type and quantity). • Photographs of storage areas showing cleanliness and infrastructure.

Section 7: Social Responsibility

About Section 7

People who live and work on the land are entitled to fundamental human rights, freedom from exploitation, and conditions that support life, health, and positive wellbeing. Agriculture can play a valuable role in supporting these goals, as well as reversing rural depopulation, addressing economic challenges, and expanding access to essential services and opportunities.

Section 7 of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards supports practices that uphold fair treatment of workers, foster equitable livelihoods, and strengthen rural communities. These standards apply worldwide and are designed to ensure that regenerative agriculture benefits not just the land—but the people connected to it.

Standard 7.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Fair Pay Operators **must** ensure workers are paid at least the locally mandated minimum wage. Operators **must** commit to paying—or working towards paying—a living wage that reflects the local economy and cost of living.	Fair pay is essential to building resilient, ethical farming systems that value the people behind the work. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Confirm that all workers receive at least the local minimum wage. If no legal minimum wage has been legally set, the local comparable average industry wage is used as a minimum benchmark. Where wages are paid as piece-rate, the minimum wage rate must be met. • Describe your commitment to paying a living wage, or outline a realistic, staged plan to progress toward this goal. • Describe any additional social, medical, or in-kind benefits included in total compensation. If a living wage is not yet achievable, your Plan must outline the steps you will take to move progressively toward this goal. See AGW's *Social Responsibility Guidance Document* for further information. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review payroll or contract records. • Interview workers (where applicable). • Check for additional benefits or allowances provided as part of compensation.	Acceptable records may include: • Information on pay and benefits in employee handbooks or induction materials. • Payroll records or other payment documentation. • Employee contracts or terms of employment. • Documentation showing how the living wage has been calculated or referenced. • Records of any non-wage benefits provided (housing, food, transport, healthcare).

Standard 7.2	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Contract Labour Operators **must** meet applicable standards for contract labourers. Companies supplying contract labour **must** have all applicable licenses and meet regulatory requirements.	Standards must be met for contracted workers on the certified operation. Where a standard references "workers" this applies to all those working on the operation, including employees and contract labourers. Where a standard references "employees" this applies to those directly employed by the operation. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review agreements with contract labour providers. • Interview workers (where applicable). • Review licenses and assess evidence of compliance with applicable regulations.	Acceptable records may include: • Agreements with contract labour suppliers. • Payment documentation. • Records of any regulatory noncompliance and remediation taken.

Standard 7.3	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining Operators **must** uphold the right of workers to freely associate, organise, and bargain collectively.	Respecting workers' rights to organise is a core principle of fair and ethical employment—and a key part of social responsibility in regenerative systems. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Affirm the right of all workers to associate freely, organise, bargain collectively, and join representative groups. • Describe how workers can raise concerns without fear of retaliation, whether or not a formal organisation is in place.	Acceptable records may include: • Employee handbooks or induction materials. • Workplace notices or signage displaying employee rights or benefits.

	You must also ensure workers are not discouraged or obstructed from exercising them. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Interview workers to confirm there are no barriers to exercising their rights. • Review relevant policies, employee handbooks, or onboarding materials. • Assess whether workers can raise concerns without fear of reprisal.	• Signed acknowledgements or checklists confirming workers received this information.

Standard 7.4	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Grievance Process Operators **must** ensure workers have a way to raise work-related concerns or grievances without fear of retaliation or negative consequences from the operator.	A healthy workplace encourages open communication and handles concerns fairly and respectfully. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe how employees and workers can raise concerns or grievances without fear of retaliation or negative consequences. • Include a clear and accessible grievance policy or procedure. • Describe how grievances are acknowledged and resolved in a fair and timely manner. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may:	Acceptable records may include: • Grievance policy or procedure. • Records of complaints or concerns and how they were addressed. • Training or induction materials explaining the grievance process.

	• Review your grievance policy or procedure. • Interview workers to confirm they understand how to raise concerns. • Check for evidence that any grievances have been handled appropriately.	

Standard 7.5	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
No Forced or Coerced Labour Operators **must not** use any form of forced, bonded, or involuntary labour.	All work must be freely chosen—without coercion, threat, or manipulation. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Affirm that all workers are employed freely and may leave with reasonable notice. • Demonstrate that forced labour—including modern slavery, debt bondage, or human trafficking—is not used. • Describe safeguards that keep recruitment and employment practices fair, transparent, and free from coercion. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review employment contracts or worker agreements. • Interview workers to confirm they are free to leave employment. • Check for signs of forced labour, such as withheld documents, debt arrangements, or recruitment fees.	Acceptable records may include: • Employment contracts, agreements, or handbooks. • Recruitment policies or agency terms and conditions. • Worker-facing materials outlining employment rights and conditions.

Standard 7.6	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Child Labour Operators **must not** employ children under 15. Young workers aged 15–18 **must not** do work that interferes with their education. Operators **must** protect all children on the holding from hazards and farm-related risks.	Children must be protected from harm and never exploited for labour. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Confirm that no children under 15 are employed and explain how this is verified. • If children aged 12–15 assist with family tasks, show that the work is occasional, light, and age-appropriate. • Confirm that young workers (aged 15–18) are not assigned tasks that interfere with their education. • Describe the steps taken to protect children on the operation from farm-related hazards. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review records to confirm the age of workers (if applicable). • Interview workers or family members. • Observe whether children are exposed to unsafe tasks or environments.	Acceptable records may include: • Employee records or proof of age documentation (if applicable). • Risk assessments or safety policies for children on the holding. • Descriptions of family tasks for children aged 12–15, confirming they are light and occasional. • Safeguarding procedures or safety protocols.

Standard 7.7	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Non-Discrimination and Equal Treatment Operators **must not** discriminate against workers based on race, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or other personal characteristics.	Every worker must be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Confirm that protections are in place to prevent discrimination in hiring, employment, and working conditions. • Ensure this commitment is clearly stated in worker-facing materials (employee handbook or policy document). • Explain how these expectations are communicated and upheld on the farm. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review employee handbooks, policies, or onboarding materials. • Interview workers about their experiences. • Observe whether any on-farm practices may be discriminatory in effect or application.	Acceptable records may include: • Employee handbook, anti-discrimination policy, or code of conduct. • Workplace notices promoting fairness and dignity at work. • Training materials on worker rights and conduct. • Records of staff training or briefings on non-discrimination.

Standard 7.8	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Fair Disciplinary Procedures Operators **must** have disciplinary measures clearly documented and available to employees.	Fair treatment includes clear expectations and a transparent process when issues arise. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Confirm you have a written disciplinary procedure in place. • Explain how disciplinary measures are applied fairly and consistently. • Ensure this is included in employee-facing materials, such as an employee handbook or code of conduct. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review written policies or procedures. • Interview employees to confirm they understand the disciplinary process. • Check for recent examples (if applicable) of how procedures have been applied in practice.	Acceptable records may include: • Employee handbook, code of conduct, or staff manual. • Written disciplinary procedure or policy. • Other worker-facing documents outlining rules and consequences.

Standard 7.9	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Health and Safety Operators **must** have emergency procedures and equipment in place, maintained, and clearly communicated to all workers. Operators **must** carry out a risk assessment of hazards to worker and visitor safety at least once a year.	Good health and safety procedures protect people and demonstrate employer responsibility. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe how you manage health and safety risks. • Conduct and document an annual risk assessment covering hazards to workers and visitors. • Show that emergency procedures are clearly posted and understood by staff. • Confirm that emergency equipment (fire extinguishers and first aid kits) is clearly marked, accessible, and routinely checked and maintained. • Include training to ensure all workers understand relevant safety procedures. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review health and safety risk assessments and training records. • Check for signage, posted evacuation routes, and emergency equipment. • Interview workers about safety procedures and emergency response knowledge.	Acceptable records may include: • Health and safety risk assessments. • Training records and safety induction materials. • Maintenance logs for emergency equipment (fire extinguishers, first aid kits). • Maps or signage showing posted emergency procedures and evacuation routes.

Standard 7.10	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Personal Protection and Risk Mitigation Operators **must** provide appropriate, functioning personal protective equipment (PPE) for all tasks, including protection from thermal (heat) stress, and ensure it is immediately available for use. Operators **must** have measures in place to protect workers from environment-related stress, including during hot weather, extreme cold, or in high-risk environments.	Personal protective equipment and risk mitigation is essential for keeping workers safe, especially during higher-risk tasks and in extreme conditions. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Confirm that task-specific PPE is available, maintained, and used correctly. • Describe how correct PPE use is communicated and reinforced with workers. • Ensure measures are in place to protect workers from extreme heat and cold—for example, adjusting working hours, providing appropriate clothing and rest areas, or scheduling more frequent rest breaks. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect PPE on site. • Review safety training or induction records. • Interview workers about access to, and correct use of, PPE, as well as other measures to protect workers from extreme heat or cold.	Acceptable records may include: • Employee handbook or health and safety policy documents covering PPE use and high-risk conditions. • Safety training records that include PPE requirements or provisions for extreme temperatures. • PPE inspection and maintenance logs. • Inventory records showing availability of task-specific PPE.

Standard 7.11	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Access to Drinking Water Operators **must** provide free access to potable drinking water for all workers during work hours.	Access to clean drinking water is a basic necessity and essential for worker health and wellbeing. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Show that potable drinking water is available, free of charge, during all work hours. • Describe how and where drinking water is made available to workers on site. • Show that water points are regularly checked for cleanliness and accessibility. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect drinking water access points on site. • Interview workers to confirm availability and use. • Review health and safety policies or site layout maps (if relevant).	Acceptable records may include: • Health and safety or training materials referencing drinking water access. • Site maps or layout showing water access points. • Water quality testing records (if available). • Inspection logs or notes confirming cleanliness and accessibility of water points.

Standard 7.12	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Toilet and Hygiene Facilities Operators **must** provide workers with easy access to appropriate, clean toilets and personal hygiene facilities.	Clean, accessible toilet and hygiene facilities are essential for health, dignity, and wellbeing at work. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Confirm that clean, accessible toilets and handwashing facilities are available to all workers. • Describe how these facilities are maintained and serviced regularly. • Ensure facilities are appropriate for the number of workers and the nature of the work undertaken. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect hygiene and toilet facilities on site. • Interview workers about access, cleanliness, and adequacy. • Review maintenance schedules or service records (if applicable).	Acceptable records may include: • Site plan showing hygiene and toilet facility locations. • Health and safety or induction materials referencing facility use. • Cleaning and maintenance logs or schedules. • Planning documents showing facility capacity relative to workforce size (if applicable).

Standard 7.13	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Employee Housing If housing is provided as a condition of employment, it **must** be adequate, clean, safe, and offered at a reasonable cost.	Employee housing must support health, dignity, and basic comfort. Where housing is provided, your Regenerative Plan must: • Describe the facilities and confirm they are structurally sound, safe and hygienic and safe for occupancy. • Confirm that any rent or deductions are fair and clearly agreed in advance. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Inspect housing facilities (if applicable). • Review housing agreements, rental terms, or deduction policies. • Interview employees about housing conditions and costs.	Acceptable records may include: • Employment contracts or housing agreements outlining terms of occupancy. • Documentation of rent levels or deductions agreed in advance. • Housing maintenance or inspection records. • Records of complaints or corrective actions related to housing conditions.

Standard 7.14	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Terms of Employment Operators **must** provide each employee the terms of their employment in clear, simple language they understand. Operators **must** record working hours and ensure that rest periods and time off are respected.	Clear agreements protect both you and your employees and help ensure fair and positive working conditions. You must: • Confirm that each employee understands their terms of employment. • Ensure any agreements are written in a form and language the employee understands. • Address key details such as job description, pay rate, working hours, housing and food costs (if applicable), duration of employment, travel expenses, safety provisions, and consequences of any breach. • Describe how working hours, time off, and rest periods are monitored and upheld. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review employee contracts, timesheets, or attendance logs. • Interview employees to confirm they understand their terms and entitlements. • Check that working hours, rest periods, and time off are properly observed.	Acceptable records may include: • Employee handbook, onboarding materials, or induction documents. • Signed agreements or terms of employment. • Timesheets, working hour logs, or attendance records. • Schedules or logs confirming rest periods and time off.

Standard 7.15	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Working Hours and Rest Periods Overtime **must** be voluntary, and workers **must** be offered at least one rest day in every seven. Weekly working hours **may only** exceed 48 if the worker agrees and can withdraw consent at short notice without fear of discrimination or retaliation. **Note: Usual weekly working hours may exceed 48 during periods of seasonal or peak production, up to a maximum of 72 hours. If there is a risk to worker health and safety due to fatigue or tiredness, this maximum must be reduced.**	Working time must respect the limits of safety, wellbeing, and consent. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Confirm that overtime is voluntary and never imposed. • Show that workers get at least one rest day in every seven. • Explain how workers may agree to exceed 48 hours per week and can withdraw this consent without penalty. • Include expectations of working hours in worker-facing documents, such as employee handbook or contracts. During seasonal or peak production periods, working hours may extend up to 72 hours per week—but only if agreed by the worker and where health and safety is not compromised. You must reduce this maximum where fatigue is likely. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review policies, contracts, and working time records. • Interview workers about overtime, rest, and their ability to withdraw consent. • Verify that any overtime agreements are voluntary, revocable, and not excessive.	Acceptable records may include: • Employee handbook, written policies, or terms of employment outlining working hours. • Timesheets, working hour logs, or attendance records. • Signed agreements relating to voluntary overtime (if applicable). • Records of working time adjustments during peak periods, including health and safety considerations.

Standard 7.16	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Respect for Communities Where applicable, the operation's activities **must not** negatively impact communities.	Respect for local and Indigenous communities is essential to ethical, regenerative practices. Your Regenerative Plan must: • Confirm that your activities do not harm the rights or well-being of surrounding communities. • Describe how you maintain respectful relationships and respond to complaints if they arise. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Review complaints, correspondence, or records of engagement. • Interview you about community relationships and consultation practices. • Consider any reputational concerns, media coverage, or public feedback relevant to your operation.	Acceptable records may include: • Community engagement records or correspondence with local or Indigenous groups. • Complaints log and documentation of resolution actions. • Notes or minutes from meetings, consultations, or informal discussions (if applicable). • Records of outreach efforts or initiatives to build community relationships.

Standard 7.17	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Recycling Programme A recycling programme and plan to reduce waste **must** be included for operational activities and domestic residencies.	Reducing and recycling waste minimises the farm's environmental impact and conserves natural resources. A clear recycling programme ensures that both operational and residential activities contribute to a more sustainable and responsible farm system. Examples of recyclable materials include metals, used oil, general waste, and other materials generated by the operation and domestic residencies. Your plan must demonstrate how the farm reduces and recycles waste from both operational activities and domestic residences. The plan should include: • Detail current quantities produced. • Targets and timescales outlined for increasing recycling and reducing non-recyclable waste streams. • Details on how recycling is accomplished. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor will assess whether your operation has an effective recycling programme and documented plan to reduce waste from both operational activities and domestic residences.	Acceptable records may include: • Written recycling plan. • Invoices or receipts from recycling facilities.

Section 8: Livestock

About Section 8

Livestock can play an integral role in a regenerative farming system, contributing to soil health, biodiversity, and farm resilience. Managed well, ruminants efficiently convert forage into protein, and all livestock produce manure that supports soil fertility. However, poorly managed livestock can undermine these goals, harming soil and water quality, degrading ecosystems, and compromising animal welfare by restricting the natural, instinctive behaviours essential to their health and well-being.

Section 8 of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards addresses these challenges by promoting livestock management practices that enhance animal welfare, support soil health, minimise environmental impact, improve farm profitability and enhance economic sustainability. All activities must contribute to long-term regenerative goals while supporting a productive, profitable farming system.

Standard 8.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
General Certification Requirements Contracted livestock managed on land that is certified as regenerative **must** meet all requirements for livestock in Section 6: Cropping and Grassland and Annex B: Contracted Livestock. Livestock that is included in the Certified Regenerative scope **must**: • Comply with all applicable regenerative standards for their species from the start of certification. (See the relevant livestock standards in Annex C.) • Meet the Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW standards for the	This guidance is intended to help you understand which animals are covered by your certification and how AGW will assess them during an audit. Some animals are never considered Certified Regenerative—for example, contracted sheep or cattle brought into the operation temporarily for grazing or management, which you do not own or directly manage. You may also choose to exclude certain livestock species that you *do* own from the scope of your regenerative certification. In both cases, however, you must still manage these non-certified animals in compliance with the requirements in Section 6: Cropping and Grassland (Use of Livestock on Regenerative Land) and Annex B: Contracted Livestock while they are on your certified land. If you want to market livestock products as Certified Regenerative, the livestock within the scope of certification must meet the regenerative standards for their species from the start of certification (see the relevant livestock species standards in Annex C). In addition, all livestock included in the scope of certification—whether by species or as part of whole-operation certification—	Acceptable records may include: • Livestock records, including grazing and movement. • Grazing agreements or contracts. • Timeline for livestock within the certification scope to meet the Animal Welfare Approved standards.

applicable species within three years. Where the entire operation is entered into regenerative certification, all livestock **must** be Certified Animal Welfare Approved by AGW for the applicable species within three years.	must also meet the Certified Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) by AGW standards within three years of the start of certification. Your Regenerative Plan should detail how you intend to meet the Certified AWA by AGW standards, including a timeline. It is strongly recommended to design and update your systems early to ensure compliance with AWA standards. To learn more about AWA, visit: https://agreenerworld.org/certifications/animal-welfare-approved/	

Annex A: List of Prohibited and Restricted Inputs

IMPORTANT: If an input, feed, or supplement is not specifically mentioned in these standards, this does **not** mean it is automatically permitted. **If in any doubt, please contact AGW for guidance**.

Prohibited Materials:

- Antibiotics for crop production. Note: Approved therapeutic antibiotics may be used in livestock production. (See Annex C: Livestock Standards for Certified Species.)
- Arsenic.
- Chemicals for soil sterilization, including formaldehyde, phenols, cresylic acid, tar oil, chloropicrin, chloropicrin + methyl bromide, dazomet, basamid (granular dazomet), D-D Fumigant (mainly for eelworm), 1, 3 — dichloropropane metham sodium.
- Guano.
- Lead salts.
- Meat, bone and blood that is not a byproduct of human consumption.
- Neonicotinoids.
- Quicklime and burnt lime (calcium oxide/CaO) (as a crop input).
- Sewage sludge or biosolids, including sludge ash.
- Slaked lime and hydrated lime (calcium hydroxide CaO + H_2O)(as a crop input).
- Strychnine.
- Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate).
- Uncomposted meat, bone or blood.
- Agrochemicals for crop termination for harvest.
- Genetically modified organisms (GMO).

Restricted Materials for Certified Regenerative Agricultural Production:

- All agrochemical use, including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and plant protection products.
- Hormone-based interventions.
- All forms of synthetic fertilizer.
- Avermectins, including but not limited to ivermectin, abamectin, doramectin, eprinomectin, moxidectin and selamectin.
- Calcium chloride, brine process is natural and prohibited for use except as a foliar spray to treat a physiological disorder associated with calcium uptake.
- Heavy metals inputs.
- Manure from non-Certified Regenerative by AGW holdings.
- Mineral fertilizers.
- Plant growth regulators.
- Plant waste (such as lawn clippings, leaves, or compost) that cannot be demonstrated to be free from contamination with lawn chemicals or petroleum products.
- Potassium chloride—prohibited unless derived from a mined (non-synthetic) source and applied in a manner that minimizes chloride accumulation in the soil.
- Sodium nitrate.
- Urea.

Note: The Restricted Materials listed above may only be used if planned and targeted as part of the approved Regenerative Plan. Use must be phased out over time, as agreed with AGW.

Standards Consulted:

Demeter/BioDynamic Inputs
http://www.demeter-usa.org/downloads/Demeter-Farm-Standard.pdf

Soil Association Approved Inputs
https://www.soilassociation.org/farmers-growers/technicalinformation/approved-inputs-for- organic-farms/

EU Organic Regulation (EC) No 889/2008
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32008R0889

NOP List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances
https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-I/subchapter-M/part-205/subpart-G/subject-group-ECFR0ebc5d139b750cd

Certified Regenerative by AGW

Annex B: Contracted Livestock

These standards apply to all livestock present on certified land that are **NOT** within the scope of your regenerative certification.

To help assess and demonstrate compliance, your auditor will review whether these non-certified animals are managed in line with the requirements in Section 6: Cropping and Grassland (Use of Livestock on Regenerative Land), Section 8: Livestock (while they are on your certified land) and this Annex. Records and documentation relating to these activities may also be requested.

Standard 8.2.1	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Food, Water and General Treatment All contracted livestock—and livestock not included in the scope of certification on Certified Regenerative land—**must** be: • Provided with clean, fresh water at all times. • Fed a suitable diet. • Managed to promote wellbeing. **Note: abuse or maltreatment is prohibited.**	Contracted and non-certified livestock and poultry on Certified Regenerative land must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times. They must also have a feeding plan that will guarantee a varied, well-balanced and wholesome nutritional regimen suitable for their age and size. Management must promote wellbeing and avoid fear and distress. **What We're Looking For:** The Auditor may: • Assess how contracted and non-certified livestock are being managed to ensure access to water and suitable diet. • Assess the body condition score of animals. • Observe the general condition of animals on site.	Acceptable records may include: • Observation and other records, such as photographs of livestock infrastructure, as appropriate. • Records or complaints. • Feed tags and other supporting documentation.

Standard 8.2.2	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Access to pasture or range All contracted livestock and livestock not included in the scope of certification managed on Certified Regenerative land **must** have access to pasture or range.	Continuous access to pasture or range supports animal welfare, health, and is a central principle of Certified Regenerative standards. All contracted and non-certified livestock managed on Certified Regenerative land must have the opportunity to express natural behaviours by accessing pasture or range. You must only confine livestock temporarily—for example, during extreme weather, for medical treatment, or during transport. In these cases, confinement should be as brief as possible, and livestock must still be provided with appropriate care, feed, and water. You should plan ahead to minimise the need for confinement and ensure that all livestock can safely access pasture or range under normal conditions. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Observe that livestock can access pasture or range freely and express natural behaviours. • Verify that any periods of confinement are temporary, justified, and managed to maintain welfare. • Check that plans are in place to minimise confinement and ensure safe access to pasture or range under normal conditions.	Acceptable records may include: • Observation and other documentation, as appropriate.

Standard 8.2.3	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Housing and Shelter All contracted livestock and livestock not included in the scope of certification **must** have continuous access to housing or shelter that: • Protects livestock from weather extremes, including high winds, sleet, and heavy snow. • Provides shade or protection from the sun in climates where high temperatures may negatively affect their welfare. • Is accessible to all livestock at all times, without overcrowding or undue stress.	Shelter is essential for animal health and welfare, offering protection from weather extremes while allowing livestock to rest and behave naturally. All livestock on Certified Regenerative land—including contracted and non-certified livestock—must be able to access shelter at all times. You can provide shelter by using natural features such as trees, shade, or windbreaks, as well as buildings or other constructed (or even temporary) structures. Housing can also serve as shelter, provided it meets the animals' needs. Shelters and housing must offer enough space for all livestock in the herd or flock to lie down, move around freely, and find shelter at the same time without crowding or stress. For birds, housing and shelter must allow free movement, wing-stretching, and expression of natural behaviors. Bedding must be available at all times and kept clean and dry. Goats must have access to shelter from rain, as they are particularly vulnerable to wet conditions. Regular checks and proactive maintenance will help ensure all shelter areas remain safe, accessible, and appropriate for the number and livestock species present. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may:	Acceptable records may include: • Observation and other documentation, as appropriate.

	• Observe that shelter is sufficient, accessible, and appropriate for the species, number of livestock, and climate. • Check that all livestock can use the shelter simultaneously without overcrowding and that it allows natural behaviors. • Verify that bedding is provided and maintained in housing, and that goats have protection from rain.	

Standard 8.2.4	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Safe Structures, Pastures, and Fencing All structures, grazing areas, and fencing **must** be: • Designed to prevent injury and ensure the safety of all livestock. • Maintained in good condition to avoid creating hazards. • Inspected regularly to identify and address any risks to animal welfare.	Structures, pasture areas, and fencing on Certified Regenerative land must be safe for all livestock and maintained to prevent injury. This includes removing hazards, such as broken or poorly designed fencing, damaged gates, sharp edges, or unstable structures. You must keep grazing areas free of old fencing, abandoned machinery, wire, and other debris that could injure livestock. Regular inspections of buildings, enclosures, and fields will help identify risks early and allow you to address them before they harm livestock. You must carry out all repairs and maintenance promptly. Any temporary fixes should still ensure the safety and welfare of the livestock. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may:	Acceptable records may include: • Observation. • Photographs. • Grazing records.

	• Observe the safety of buildings, fences, gates, and other equipment. • Check that grazing areas pastures and enclosures are clear of debris, old fencing, and abandoned machinery. • Verify that maintenance and repairs are carried out promptly and effectively to keep livestock safe.	

Standard 8.2.5	Guidance/How you will be measured	Records
Medical Treatment and Euthanasia All livestock on Certified Regenerative land—including contracted and non-certified livestock—**must** receive timely medical attention when needed. Any sick or injured animals on the farm **must** be treated immediately to minimise pain and distress. This **must** include veterinary treatment if required. Animals that are suffering and unlikely to recover **must** be	As farmers and caretakers, we have a responsibility to ensure livestock do not endure unnecessary pain or prolonged suffering. When an animal is suffering from an illness or injury and cannot recover, it is essential to act quickly and humanely to prevent further distress. This applies to all livestock on Certified Regenerative land—including contracted and non-certified livestock—that are sick or injured, or do not respond to treatment or have injuries or illnesses from which recovery is not possible. You must ensure owners of animals grazing your land are aware of the requirement to euthanise suffering livestock using a method that renders the animal immediately insensible to pain. If you are unsure of the appropriate method for a given species, contact AGW for guidance. Planning ahead is part of responsible animal care. Designate trained and competent staff to carry out euthanasia and	Acceptable records may include: • Observation. • Photographs. • Animal health records or documentation.

promptly euthanised using a method that renders them immediately insensible to pain.	ensure they have access to appropriate, well-maintained equipment. **What We're Looking For** The Auditor may: • Assess animals for signs of injury or illness. • Review documentation of treatment or animal health records. • Verify that euthanasia methods used will render livestock immediately insensible to pain and are appropriate for the species. • Check that staff responsible for euthanasia are trained and have access to proper equipment.	

Certified Regenerative by AGW

Annex C: Livestock Standards for Certified Species

These livestock standards apply wherever certification is sought for any animal species.

They must be read and implemented alongside all other relevant sections of the Certified Regenerative by AGW standards.

To help assess and demonstrate compliance with the livestock standards, your auditor may review a range of records and documentation. These may include your Animal Health Plan(s), breeding records, animal sourcing and sales documentation, body condition scores, feeding and slaughter records, and any testing reports. Observations, complaint logs, and evaluations of relevant practices, policies, or events may also be reviewed. Slaughter plant locations and transport distances will be assessed where applicable.

8.3 All Livestock

Standard 8.3.1	Guidance/How you will be measured
Breeds Breeds and strains **must** be chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in the prevailing climatic conditions of the farm, in pasture-based, free range, outdoor systems.	Breeds have different tolerances to heat, cold, wet, snow and wind. The breed chosen must reflect appropriate tolerances for the operation's climatic conditions. Breeding replacements may come from farms that are not certified by AGW but must be of a suitable breed or type for pasture-based production under these standards.

Standard 8.3.2	Guidance/How you will be measured
Biotechnology All animals **must not** be cloned or genetically engineered.	The use of cloned or genetically engineered breeding stock, the offspring of clones or genetically engineered animals and semen from cloned or genetically engineered animals is prohibited.

Standard 8.3.3 (Red Meat)	Guidance/How you will be measured
Feeder Animals Livestock **may only** be sold as Regenerative where they have remained on the operation for the last 75% of their lives and met the Regenerative livestock standards while they have been on the holding.	Feeder or store animals sourced from sale or auction barns is prohibited. The use of video auctions is permitted if the animals remain on the source farm or ranch until sold and then transported to the purchasing farm or ranch.

Standard 8.3.4 (Poultry)	Guidance/How you will be measured
Poultry Sourcing If chicks, poults, ducklings, goslings can be placed on farm within 36 hours of hatch they may be sourced from non-AWA hatcheries. Birds over 36 hours old **must** come from AWA sources. **Note: If it is not possible to place chicks, poults, ducklings, goslings within 36 hours please contact AGW for further advice.**	This standard will be reviewed annually, and when there are sufficient AWA hatcheries it will be a requirement to source AWA chicks, poults, ducklings, goslings. A derogation may be granted for layer and breeder pullets to be brought on farm from non-AWA sources where none are available locally. The breed must be suitable for pasture-reared systems with no mutilations, i.e., beak tipping or trimming and chicks, poults and ducklings must be no older than 17 weeks. Goslings must be no older than 8 months. The farm must commit to sourcing approved pullets, poults, ducklings and goslings or rearing them from 36 hours of hatch on farm within 12 months.

Standard 8.3.5 (Red Meat)	Guidance/How you will be measured
Access to Pasture or Range All livestock **must** have access to pasture or range.	Feedlot(s) and other types of confinement feeding operations are prohibited. Animals are only allowed to be confined temporarily due to conditions that would negatively affect their welfare or for medical treatment or transport. Animals must have access to fresh, clean pasture that has not become polluted with manure.

Standard 8.3.6 (Poultry)	Guidance/How you will be measured
Access to Pasture or Range All poultry **must** have access to pasture or range.	In climatic conditions that do not pose a risk to bird welfare continuous daytime ranging and foraging area access is required for all birds from the age of four weeks onwards. Note: AGW recommends that all birds have access to the outdoor range and foraging area from as early on in life as possible. This could be from two to three days old onwards if conditions allow. Birds must have space to fly, run and stretch their wings in pens on ranging and foraging areas. A fully enclosed pen on ranging and foraging areas for hens must be at least 4 ft (1.2m) high. If pens on ranging and foraging areas are moved in the lifetime of the flock protocols must be in place to ensure no harm comes to birds during the move. Confinement operations without access to range or pasture are prohibited. If birds are excluded from daytime access to ranging and foraging areas due to welfare reasons, they must be provided with vegetative material so that they can engage in foraging behavior. All hens must have access to dust baths.

Standard 8.3.7	Guidance/How you will be measured
Shelter and Housing Animals **must** have continuous access, as required, to housing or shelter that protects them from weather extremes, including high winds, sleet and heavy snows, and sun in climactic regions where high temperatures may negatively impact their welfare.	Shelter may be provided by natural features such as shade, trees, or by buildings. Housing may also be used as shelter. The thermal comfort of poultry must be protected by provision of housing or shelter with natural or mechanical temperature and humidity control as required. The needs of all ages and stages of production and local climatic extremes must be taken into account when planning housing or shelter. If the temperature drops below 55F (13C) for more than 7 days in a row, natural shelter is not sufficient to protect bird thermal comfort and man-made houses or shelters must be provided. Goats must have shelter from the rain. There must be sufficient space for all animals in the herd or flock to lie down and move around without touching each other if they choose and find shelter at the same time, respecting the social hierarchy of the herd or flock. Shelter and housing must be sufficiently spacious to allow all birds to move freely, stretch their wings and engage in natural behaviors. Houses for poultry must be at least 4 ft (1.2m) high. Note: This standard does not apply when birds always have free access in and out of the house. In housing, bedding must always be available. The house or shelter must be managed to eliminate ammonia, dampness and mold. Shelters and housing must be well ventilated and allow fresh air to enter. Shelters and housing must allow natural light to enter.

	Animals must not be subjected to dim and/or continuous lighting or kept in permanent darkness. Use of artificial light must not extend the maximum day-length beyond 16 hours.

Standard 8.3.8	Guidance/How you will be measured
Pasture Areas Structures, pasture areas and the fencing that surrounds them **must** be designed and maintained so they do not pose a risk or inflict injury on the animals.	This includes keeping pastures free of old fencing, old farm machinery and any other debris that could cause injury. Wire mesh flooring can be used for layers so long as poultry are not shut in the house during daylight hours. The wire mesh flooring must not damage the birds' feet. When poultry are excluded from outdoor, vegetated ranging and foraging areas during daylight hours they must continue to have access to a solid floored foraging area. Note for poultry: Existing mesh or slatted flooring areas within the house may be covered to create the equivalent of a solid surface, or birds may be given access to a solid floored foraging area outside the house—for example a winter garden or barn—when conditions do not allow them to be outside on a vegetated ranging and foraging area.

Standard 8.3.9	Guidance/How you will be measured
Close Confinement Close confinement is **prohibited**.	Temporary close confinement or tying up (tethering), which may be required for vaccination, weighing, feeding, milking, marking or veterinary procedures, is permitted. This must be noted in the farm plan or recorded at the time. Use of crates for gestation and farrowing is prohibited. Tie stalls must only be used for milking and/or feeding immediately pre- or post- milking.

Standard 8.3.10	Guidance/How you will be measured
Slaughter Meat sold under the Certified Regenerative label or logo **must** come from animals that have been slaughtered at an AGW-recommended slaughter facility.	The slaughter facility used must have passed a review by AGW based on the AWA Slaughter Guidelines or be granted equivalence. Meat sold under the Certified Regenerative label must come from animals that have been stunned before slaughter.

Standard 8.3.11	Guidance/How you will be measured
Abuse Abuse or maltreatment of animals is **prohibited**.	Abuse includes any physiological or emotional mistreatment of an animal including bodily harm, not providing adequate feed or water, not taking action to treat a sick or injured animal, unduly scaring or intimidating an animal or any other action that could cause suffering. Abuse is prohibited under these standards.

Standard 8.3.12	Guidance/How you will be measured
Feeding and Watering Animals **must** have free access to clean, fresh water at all times.	Feeding meat or animal by-products is prohibited. Fish and aquatic products can be fed to poultry and pigs but must come from sustainable sources. A list of ingredients or sample tear tags from all feed, feed blocks and mineral blocks used on farm must be made available to the AGW representative.

Animals **must** have a feeding plan that will guarantee a varied, well-balanced and wholesome nutritional regime appropriate for their age.	Poultry must have constant access to food during daylight hours. Young birds must have access to forage by seven days of age. Young birds should have access to forage from 24 hours after placement. Birds must always have access to insoluble grit. Birds must be able to pass the grit into the gizzard. Note: Grit may be obtained from the environment or provided as a supplement. If provided as a supplement it can be removed 48 hours prior to slaughter.

Standard 8.3.13	Guidance/How you will be measured
Animal Health Plan Animal management **must** be focused on promoting health rather than treating disease. A Health Plan emphasising prevention of illness or injury **must** be prepared in consultation with the farm's Qualified Expert advisor to promote positive health and limit the need for treatment.	The health plan must address: • Avoidance of physical, nutritional or environmental stress. • Lameness. • Climatic considerations. • Vaccinations and other methods to cope with prevailing disease challenges. • Biosecurity measures. • Nutrition. • Environmental impacts, including manure management and run-off. • Pasture management. • Exclusion of predators and control of rats and mice. • Euthanasia. • Mastitis. • Johne's disease (Cattle, Bison, Sheep, Goats). • Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (Goats).

Standard 8.3.14	Guidance/How you will be measured
Treatment of Sick Animals Any sick or injured animals on the farm **must** be treated immediately to minimise pain and distress. This **must** include veterinary treatment if required. Any surgical procedure not covered by these standards **must** be carried out by a veterinarian.	Homeopathic, herbal or other non-antibiotic alternative treatments are preferred. If alternative treatments are not suitable or not effective or if a veterinarian has recommended antibiotic treatment, this must be administered. Withholding treatment in order to preserve an animal's eligibility for market is prohibited. The discovery of untreated injured or ill animals may be grounds for removal from the programme. Animals treated with an antibiotic must not be slaughtered to produce meat for an AGW programme before a period of time has passed that is at least twice the licensed withdrawal period of the antibiotic used. Animals treated with any off-label medication must not be slaughtered to produce meat for an AGW programme until at least seven days after medication, or an alternative withdrawal as advised by a veterinarian. Animals must not be treated with any medications prohibited for food animal use. There must be provision of a safe place for sick or injured animals or poultry to recover, free of competition.

Standard 8.3.15	Guidance/How you will be measured
Antibiotics The sub-therapeutic and/or non-therapeutic use of antibiotics, or any other	All use of antibiotics or other medicines must be for therapeutic reasons only. Growth hormones or the use of any other substances promoting weight gain are prohibited. Probiotics to promote positive health are permitted.

medicines, to control or prevent disease or promote growth, is **prohibited**.	

Standard 8.3.16	Guidance/How you will be measured
Oestrus Substances to induce estruses **must only** be used when there is a therapeutic need or when a welfare benefit can be demonstrated.	The farm will need to demonstrate a therapeutic need or welfare benefit if substances are being used.

Standard 8.3.17	Guidance/How you will be measured
Recordkeeping Records **must** be kept of the administration of veterinary medical products.	Records must include: • Date of purchase. • Name of product. • Quantity purchased. • Identity of the animals treated. • Reason why animals were treated. • Number of animals treated. • Date when treatment started and finished. • Withdrawal time.

Standard 8.3.18	Guidance/How you will be measured
Euthanasia Animals experiencing pain or suffering from which they are unlikely to recover **must** be promptly euthanised on the farm in a manner that renders the animal immediately insensible to pain.	Animals not responding to treatment or with injuries that they are unlikely to recover from must be euthanised as soon as this is known. Please contact AGW if further information on appropriate methods of euthanasia is required.

Standard 8.3.19 (Red Meat)	Guidance/How you will be measured
Livestock Transport Animal welfare **must** be maintained during transport. Transport of cattle, bison, pigs, goats and sheep **must not** exceed eight hours.	All animals must have continuous access to water until the point of loading. The transportation vehicle must be thoroughly cleaned and dried prior to loading. Transporting downed animals is prohibited. During transport, all animals must be protected from harm and thermal stress. Overcrowding of livestock during transport is prohibited. See applicable regional statutory requirements. The use of hot prods or electric shocks is prohibited.

	A derogation may be granted if an approved slaughter plant is not available within eight hours travel from the farm. Transport of breeding stock that are sourced or sold for genetic improvement is exempt from this standard.

Standard 8.3.20 (Poultry)	Guidance/How you will be measured
Poultry Transport Poultry welfare **must** be maintained during transport. Poultry transport **must not** exceed 4 hours.	All Poultry must have continuous access to water until the point of loading. The transportation vehicle must be thoroughly cleaned and dried prior to loading. All birds must be healthy, ambulatory and uninjured to be transported unless they are being transported to receive veterinary treatment. During transport, all birds must be protected from harm and thermal stress. Overcrowding during transport is prohibited. See applicable regional statutory requirements. A derogation may be granted if an approved slaughter plant is not available within 4 hours travel from the farm.

8.4 Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle and Bison

Standard 8.4.1	Guidance/How you will be measured
Body Condition Animals **must** be maintained at a body condition score (BCS) of at least 4 on a 1–9 scale, or 2 on a 1–5 scale. Breeding animals **must not** exceed BCS 7 on a 1–9 scale, or BCS 4 on a 1–5 scale.	Animals will be evaluated by the auditor based on either a 1-9 or 1-5 scale.

Standard 8.4.2	Guidance/How you will be measured
Forage and Roughage Requirements To ensure proper rumen function, non-lactating cattle **must** be provided with at least 70 percent long fibre roughage/forage in their diet on a daily dry matter basis from weaning onwards.	The diet of cattle and bison will be evaluated for meeting long fibre roughage/forage requirements. Long fibre is a minimum of 1/3" in or 8 mm in length. Pellets or nuts made from ground feed are not considered long fibre roughage/ forage. The minimum requirement for roughage for lactating dairy cows is 60 percent long fibre roughage/forage on a daily dry matter basis.

Standard 8.4.3	Guidance/How you will be measured
Calving Age Heifers **must not** calve before the age of two years.	Young females may reach puberty before the optimal age of first service. Males must be managed carefully to ensure females are not accidentally served too young.

Standard 8.4.4	Guidance/How you will be measured
Calf Rearing Calves **must** be provided with colostrum within the first six hours of birth. Weaning beef and bison calves at less than six months of age is **prohibited** unless in exceptional circumstances when the health and welfare of calf or mother would be compromised.	Farm records and practices will be checked to determine compliance with the standard. If a calf is weaned before six months of age a record must be maintained with the age of the animal and justification for early weaning. Dairy animals can be separated from their mothers at birth but must not be weaned from milk before six weeks of age. Beef and Bison can only be separated from their mothers before 6 months of age for welfare reasons. Examples include if a mother rejected her calf or a mother or calf has body condition issues. Artificially reared calves must be fed milk or milk replacer at least twice a day. Artificially reared dairy calves and beef and bison calves separated for health or welfare reasons must not be weaned from milk before they are six weeks of age.

Standard 8.4.5	Guidance/How you will be measured
Castration Castration using rubber bands or rings is **prohibited** for beef and dairy calves over seven days of age. Castration using scalpel or burdizzo is **prohibited** for beef and dairy calves over two months of age. Castration of male bison is **prohibited**.	If male beef and dairy calves are castrated it must be done by 7 days if using rubber bands or rings. If male beef and dairy calves are castrated using scalpel or burdizzo it must be done on calves under two months of age. We understand that extensive beef operations or farms selling breeding stock may have difficulty with this standard. Such operations should contact AGW for guidance. Castration should be accompanied by administration of appropriate anaesthetic and/or analgesia. Male bison are not allowed to be castrated.

Standard 8.4.6	Guidance/How you will be measured
Prohibited Procedures The following procedures are **prohibited**: • Tail docking of cattle and bison. • Dehorning of cattle and bison. • Spaying of heifers. • Disbudding of bison.	These procedures are not allowed under the standards. Horns may be tipped as long as the living tissue inside the horn is not being cut.

Standard 8.4.7	Guidance/How you will be measured
Restricted Procedures Cattle less than 2 months or 60 days (whichever is longer) **may** be disbudded. Hot iron cauterisation **may** be used for disbudding. It **must** be preceded and followed by administration of appropriate anaesthetic and analgesia. Caustic paste **may** be used to disbud calves that are no older than 7 days. If removal of supernumerary teats on dairy females is to be done, the procedure **must** be carried out by a competent person using an effective local anaesthetic before the calves are five weeks old.	Choosing polled breeds, which avoids the need to disbud animals, is recommended. If used, best practice recommendations for use of caustic paste are as follows: Great care needs to be taken in applying the paste. Hair around the horn bud should be clipped, paste should only be applied to the horn bud and rubbed in well, and petroleum jelly should be applied in a ring around the horn bud to prevent the paste running. It is not recommended to carry out this procedure in wet conditions. You should consult your vet if further advice is required. This practice must be performed by a person competent to do the procedure before the calf is five weeks of age. Local anaesthetic must be used. Derogation to this standard will only be granted if it can be shown that local anaesthetics and analgesics cannot be legally obtained.

Standard 8.4.8	Guidance/How you will be measured
Identification Where identification is required, it **must not** cause harm to the animal.	Ear tagging and tattooing and freeze branding are permitted methods of identification. Ear-marking by cutting/notching the ears of cattle is permitted and must be carried out with an ear notching tool. Cutting/notching with a knife is prohibited. Ear marking by cutting/notching the ears of bison is prohibited. The recommended method for permanent identification is Sub-Cutaneous Radio Frequency Identification. The recommended method of temporary identification is non-toxic paints or dyes. Marking cattle by cutting/notching the dewlap is prohibited. Hot branding is prohibited. Note: Flank or rump branding may be carried out when required by state law or by financial institutions, breed societies or when there is a risk of theft or unintentional mixing with other herds. If both hot iron and freeze branding are permitted, freeze branding must be used when practical. Please contact AGW to discuss any requirement to brand.

8.5 Sheep, Dairy Sheep, Goats, Dairy Goats

Standard 8.5.1	Guidance/How you will be measured
Body Condition Animals **must** be maintained at body condition score 2 or above on a 1-5 scale. Breeding animals **must not** exceed body condition score 4 on a 1-5 scale.	Animals will be evaluated by the auditor based on a 1-5 scale.

Standard 8.5.2	Guidance/How you will be measured
Forage and Roughage Requirements To ensure proper rumen function, non-lactating sheep and goats **must** be provided with at least 70 percent long fiber roughage/forage in their diet on a daily dry matter basis from weaning onwards.	Diet of goats and sheep will be evaluated for meeting long fiber roughage/forage requirements. Long fiber is a minimum of 1/3" in or 8mm in length. Pellets or nuts made from ground feed are not considered long fiber roughage/forage. The minimum requirement for roughage for lactating dairy sheep and goats is 60 percent long fiber roughage/forage on a daily dry matter basis.

Standard 8.5.3	Guidance/How you will be measured
Artificial Insemination Laparoscopic or surgical artificial insemination is **prohibited**.	Other forms of artificial insemination are permitted.

Standard 8.5.4	Guidance/How you will be measured
Breeding Age Ewes and does **must not** lamb or kid before the age of 13 months.	In a situation where lambing or kidding takes place over a period of time, the flock or herd average figure will be assessed. Young females may reach puberty before the optimal age of first service. Males must be managed carefully to ensure females are not accidentally served too young.

Standard 8.5.5	Guidance/How you will be measured
Weaning Lambs and kids **must** be provided with colostrum within the first six hours of birth. Weaning lambs or kids in a meat sheep/goat herd at less than three months of age is **prohibited** unless in exceptional circumstances	Dairy animals can be separated from their mothers at birth but must not be weaned from milk before six weeks of age. Lambs and kids from meat herds can only be separated from their mothers before 3 months of age for welfare reasons, for example, if the mother rejected her lamb or kid, or the mother or offspring has body condition issues. Operator protocols will be documented and assessed to determine compliance with standard. Artificially reared lambs/kids **must** be fed milk or milk replacer at least twice a day.

when the health and welfare of lamb/kid or mother would be compromised.	Artificially reared dairy lambs/kids and lambs/kids separated for health or welfare reasons **must** not be weaned from milk before they are six weeks of age.

Standard 8.5.6 (Sheep, Dairy Sheep)	**Guidance/How you will be measured**
Shearing Where extenuating circumstances requires shearing in colder weather, bedding and shelter **must** be provided for at least seven days.	Use of chemicals that would cause the cessation of wool growth is prohibited.

Standard 8.5.7	**Guidance/How you will be measured**
Castration Immunocastration and other forms of chemical (synthetic or natural) castration or testosterone production limiting methods are **prohibited**.	Lambs may be castrated using rubber rings, scalpel or emasculator (burdizzo). Castration should be accompanied by administration of appropriate anesthetic and/or analgesia. It is prohibited to castrate lambs that are more than seven days old.

Standard 8.5.8	Guidance/How you will be measured
Prohibited Procedures The following procedures are **prohibited**: • Tail docking. • Dehorning of sheep and goats. • Disbudding sheep. • Mulesing of sheep. • De-wattling of goats. • De-scenting bucks.	Choosing polled breeds, which avoids the need to disbud animals, is recommended. Disbudding and dehorning of sheep is prohibited but horns may be tipped as long as the living tissue inside the horn is not being cut. Shepherds who meet all other AGW protocols but do not meet the standard on tail docking are invited to contact AGW to discuss a timetable to come into full compliance. Compliance with this standard will be confirmed at audit.

Standard 8.5.9	Guidance/How you will be measured
Restricted Procedures Kids 10 days or less **may** be disbudded. If removal of supernumerary teats on dairy females is done, the procedure **must** be carried out by a competent person using an effective local anesthetic before the kids/lambs are five weeks old.	These procedures must be performed by a person competent to do the procedure before five weeks of age, with local anesthetic. If hot iron cauterisation is used for disbudding kids, it must be preceded and followed by administration of appropriate anesthetic and analgesia. Note: Derogation to this standard will only be granted if the farmer can show that they cannot legally obtain local anesthetics and analgesics. Caustic paste disbudding is not recommended for kids. If used, best-practice recommendations for use of caustic paste are as follows: Great care needs to be taken in applying the paste. Hair around the horn bud should be clipped, paste should only be applied to the horn bud and rubbed in well, and petroleum

	jelly should be applied in a ring around the horn bud to prevent the paste running. It is not recommended to carry out this procedure in wet conditions. You should consult your vet if further advice is required.

Standard 8.5.10	Guidance/How you will be measured
Identification Where identification is required it **must not** cause harm to the animal.	The recommended method for permanent identification is Sub-Cutaneous Radio Frequency Identification. The recommended method of temporary identification is non-toxic paints or dyes. Ear tagging and tattooing are permitted methods of identification. Ear marking by cutting/notching the ears of sheep is prohibited.

8.6 Pigs

Standard 8.6.1	Guidance/How you will be measured
Body Condition Animals **must** be maintained at body condition score 2 or above on a 1-5 scale. Breeding animals **must not** exceed body condition score 4 on a 1-5 scale.	Animals will be evaluated on a scale of 1-5.

Standard 8.6.2	Guidance/How you will be measured
Breeding Age Gilts **must not** farrow before the age of 10 months.	Young females may reach puberty before the optimal age of first service. Males must be managed carefully to ensure females are not accidentally served too young.

Standard 8.6.3	Guidance/How you will be measured
Farrowing Farrowing systems **must** be arranged and managed in such a way to ensure welfare and minimise mortality.	Sows about to farrow must be provided with an individual arc, hut or pen for farrowing and nursing. Prior to farrowing arcs, huts or pens must be amply bedded with fresh, dry bedding that the sow can manipulate. Note: Particular care should be taken when using a heat lamp for piglets over bedding because of the risk of fire.

	Sows must not be placed into individual pens for farrowing for more than two weeks prior to the expected farrowing date. Sows must not be confined within individual huts for more than 24 hours prior to the expected farrowing date. After sows have farrowed they must not be confined within individual huts. Piglets must be able to leave the arc or hut after 10 days of age. If an indoor farrowing pen is used it must be a minimum of 64 sq. ft. (6 sq. meters). If the sow and piglets do not have immediate access to pasture after 10 days of age, an additional 48 sq. ft. (3 sq. meters) must be available for three weeks. After three weeks if climate permits the sows and piglets must have access to pasture. If farrowing huts are used on pasture, they must have 42 sq. ft (4 sq. meters) of floor space and piglets can only be confined to the hut for a maximum of 10 days. Note: Farrowing huts constructed or purchased following farm approval by AGW must meet the standard above. Smaller huts that were purchased or constructed before farm approval may be acceptable.

Standard 8.6.4	Guidance/How you will be measured
Weaning Piglets **must** be at least six weeks of age at weaning.	Excess piglets must not be removed for fostering until they have had colostrum. Piglets must be fostered onto sows within 48 hours of the foster sow giving birth. In exceptional circumstances when the health and welfare of the piglet or the mother would otherwise be compromised, piglets may be weaned before six weeks of age. A record must be kept of each instance and the reasons for this early weaning. Continuous ranging and foraging area access is required for all pigs from the age of 21 days.

Standard 8.6.5	Guidance/How you will be measured
Castration It is **prohibited** to castrate piglets that are more than seven days old. Immunocastration and other forms of chemical (synthetic or natural) castration or testosterone production limiting methods are **prohibited**.	Where a risk to the piglets' health or welfare can be demonstrated this period can be extended to 14 days. AGW is reviewing the evidence relating to immunocastration in pigs. Any farm wishing to use this method of castration must first contact AGW.

Standard 8.6.6	Guidance/How you will be measured
Prohibited Procedures The following procedures are **prohibited**: • Tail docking. • Clipping, grinding or filing of the needle teeth of piglets. • Removal of boar's tusks. • Nose ringing of pigs.	Trimming the tusks on boars as needed may be done with a surgical wire by a trained individual. Derogation may be granted for one septum nose ring for breeding sows only if it can be demonstrated that the activity of the sow would otherwise damage soil structure, cause environmental pollution, or compromise the welfare of her litter. Compliance with this standard will be confirmed at audit.

Standard 8.6.7	Guidance/How you will be measured
Identification Where identification is required it **must not** cause harm to the animal.	The recommended method for permanent identification is Sub-Cutaneous Radio Frequency Identification. The recommended method of temporary identification is non-toxic paints or dyes. Ear tagging and tattooing are permitted methods of identification. Ear-marking by cutting/notching the ears of pigs must be carried out with an ear notching tool. Cutting/notching with a knife is prohibited.

8.7 Poultry (Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese)

Standard 8.7.1	Guidance/How you will be measured
Molting Birds **must** be allowed to molt naturally.	Forced molting is prohibited.

Standard 8.7.2	Guidance/How you will be measured
Perch Requirements Once in lay, breeder flocks and laying hens **must** have access to perches.	Specific requirements for each species include: • Chickens 7" (18 cm) aerial perch per bird. • Turkey 15.7" (40 cm) aerial perch per bird. • Muscovy Ducks are the only ducks that require perches. 15.7" (40 cm) aerial perch per bird. • Geese do not require perches. Perches for chicken breeder and layers, turkeys breeders and layers, Muscovy duck breeders and layers must be at least 12" (30cm) off the floor; 18" (45cm) apart vertically in ladder perches; 12" (30cm) apart vertically in A frame or diagonal perches; 12" (30cm) apart horizontally and at least 8" (20cm) from a wall.

Standard 8.7.3	Guidance/How you will be measured
Nest Boxes Nest boxes **are required** for layers.	Chickens and ducks must have at least one individual nest box for every five birds. Where communal nests are used there must be at least 20 sq. inches (129cm^2) per chicken laying hen or laying duck. Laying turkeys and laying geese must have at least one nest box for every four birds. Where communal nests are used there should be at least 400 sq. inches (2,580cm^2) per laying turkey and geese. Communal nests should be 20" by 20" (50cm x 50cm). All poultry nest boxes must be dry with friable and manipulable nesting material.

Standard 8.7.4	Guidance/How you will be measured
Growth Rate When averaged over their entire lives, the growth of meat birds allowed to grow naturally on an optimum ration **must not** exceed programme requirements.	Maximum growth rates by species: • Meat chickens 0.088 lbs. (40 g)/day. • Meat turkeys 0.15 lbs. (68 g)/day for females, and 0.19 lbs. (86.2 g)/day males. • Meat ducks 0.132 lbs. (60 g)/day. • Meat geese 0.132 lbs. (60 g)/day. Unless the breed has passed a recognised welfare outcome assessment, when averaged over their entire lives, the rate of growth of meat chickens allowed to grow naturally on an optimum ration above must be met. The rate of growth for a breed type must be measured as if the bird was allowed to grow on an optimum ration that ensures the welfare of the bird is maintained. AGW looks at

	information from the breeding company or hatchery that supplies the bird and not individual on farm information to determine compliance with standard.

Standard 8.7.5	Guidance/How you will be measured
Flock Management If negative behaviors affecting the welfare of birds in the flock are seen or reported, management and/or breed changes **must** be made to improve welfare.	AGW may require the farmer to reduce the flock or colony size within the affected flock or any future flocks in order to remain in the programme. Flock size is a factor that has been shown to affect the occurrence of negative behaviors such as feather pecking, cannibalism and others. Hens must be protected from excessive injury during treading.

Standard 8.7.6	Guidance/How you will be measured
Prohibited Procedures All mutilations or physical alterations of poultry are **prohibited**.	Prohibited procedures include: • De-beaking (beak clipping, tipping and trimming). • De-clawing. • De-spurring. • De-toeing and toe trimming. • Hole punching. • Pinioning. • Notching. • Wattle trimming. • Comb trimming. • De-snooding.

	• Castration (caponising). Trimming feathers of poultry is permitted. Skin or flesh must not be cut.

Standard 8.7.7	Guidance/How you will be measured
Identification Where identification is required it **must not** cause harm to the bird.	Hole or toe punching is not allowed. Leg bands can be used but must be monitored for fit.

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A Greener World | PO Box 120 | Ilfracombe | EX34 4AW | United Kingdom
+44 1271 320715 | agreenerworld.org.uk | info@agreenerworld.org.uk

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