

Better for Nature & Farmer dairy



“Working together for a sustainable future with attention to animal, nature and farmer with as a basis a healthy revenue model for all.”

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Proud of our partnership with farmers

Dear reader,

At Albert Heijn, **we are fast-tracking sustainability** with the mission: 'Together, we make eating better the easy choice. For everyone.' And achieving real impact is what we do together. As the link between customers, producers, suppliers, farmers and growers, Albert Heijn occupies a unique connecting position within the food chain. Together, we work continuously on improving the selection, strengthening our chains and providing a more sustainable range.

Together with our dedicated Dutch farmers and growers, we are taking ambitious steps to make our fresh produce chains as sustainable, transparent and fair as possible. We develop these partnerships through **Better for Nature & Farmer**. Together, and often over generations, we invest in animal welfare, the climate and biodiversity. Within the Better for Nature & Farmer scheme, we make agreements on sustainability, innovations and earning power within our food chain, among other things. This allows us to give farmers and growers certainty and perspective and offer our customers the tastiest fresh produce every day.

In this document, we explain Better for Nature & Farmer Dairy. With the aim of making the dairy production chain more sustainable and transparent. With long-term partnerships with nearly 450 dairy farmers, we contribute to sustainable agriculture, a good revenue model for the farmers and sufficient high-quality dairy products for our customers. Our partnerships are always **dynamic and evolving**. Going forward, we are working to raise the standard of grazing cows and want to further improve animal welfare for cows and calves. This is how we stay forward-looking, striving to do better every day.

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CHAPTER 1

Building blocks Better for Nature & Farmer

'Better' means for...

... **Cow:** In the 'Better for the Cow' pillar, we work to continuously improve the animal welfare of cows and calves. The animals are well cared for and can exhibit natural behaviour.

... **Nature:** In the 'Better for Nature' pillar, we increase biodiversity on and around dairy farms. The number of cows is balanced with the amount of grassland and the feed comes from nearby. In addition, farmers aim to balance their greenhouse gas emissions with the carbon they store in the soil.

... **Farmer:** In the 'Better for the Farmer' pillar, a good revenue model is central. This allows Albert Heijn to provide security and continuity so that farmers can continue to invest in the future of their farms. We work with farmers for the long term.

We develop together

Better for Nature & Farmer is always developed collaboratively on all three pillars. Farmers' participation through focus groups makes the Better for Nature & Farmer programme unique and successful. Together with farmers, suppliers and independent experts, the measures are constantly reviewed and fine-tuned. This is an ongoing process where a working group develops a draft certification scheme, which is then reviewed by experts. This draft certification scheme is then reviewed by a focus group after which the working group again adjusts the scheme where necessary. Finally - once the focus group has approved the scheme - it will be established by chain director Royal A-ware and Albert Heijn.



Since the start of Better for Nature & Farmer, the certification scheme has been periodically reviewed by Albert Heijn, Royal A-ware and the focus group. Items on the review agenda are assessed and possible new measures implemented. This way, we avoid standing still and keep taking positive steps forward. This is how we stay at the forefront of the market.

How Better for Nature & Farmer is set up

In 2017, Better for Nature & Farmer Dairy was developed together with Royal A-ware. In order to encourage further sustainability in Dutch dairy farming and produce more sustainable dairy products.

The programme was created for and by dairy farmers. As the chain continues to develop, Better for Nature & Farmer also continues to evolve. New requirements are discussed annually. Together with a focus group of dairy farmers, Royal A-ware, Deltamilk, relevant stakeholders and dairy farming

experts, we are looking at what is desirable and also feasible in terms of new requirements. In this way, we continue to shape and direct Better for Nature & Farmer together.

Certifying the entire production chain

Besides the fact that our dairy farmers must meet the Better for Nature & Farmer criteria on dairy farming, all partners in the chain must also demonstrably work according to our conditions. These are the dairies, raw milk transporters and dairy processing and handling companies.

At the start, and annually thereafter, inspections are carried out to ensure compliance and that the Better for Nature & Farmer' milk stream is not mixed with other milk streams. These inspections are done by an independent auditor from the certifying body Qlip. Only when the entire dairy product chain is certified will Albert Heijn's dairy product be allowed to carry the Better for Nature & Farmer logo on its packaging. If the dairy farmer or a chain partner does not meet the criteria, another audit is carried out after a remedial period. Should a dairy farmer or chain partner still fail to comply, they will be excluded from supplying under the Better for Nature & Farmer logo.

The certification scheme for dairy farmers

Inspections on our dairy farmers' farms are done by an approved, independent auditor using a list of assessment criteria. Within Better for Nature & Farmer, the decision has been made to subdivide the criteria into:

Ambitious mandatory measures

On the Cow pillar with the themes:

- Animal welfare
- Animal Health

On the Nature pillar with the themes:

- Environment
- Biodiversity.

On the Farmer pillar with the themes:

- Transparency and Security
- Knowledge and development.

Monitoring the impact of the programme by recording and measuring soil carbon content and on-farm animal welfare and animal health, among other things. This makes their effectiveness measurable over time.

NATUUR & BOER





CHAPTER 2

Better for the Cow

In the 'Better for the Cow' pillar, we have an extra focus on animal welfare and animal health. This is how we ensure healthy calves and cows. In this chapter, we explain the different measures.

Natural behaviour outside and inside

Cows and calves should be allowed to exhibit natural behaviour. One way we provide space for this is by giving dairy cows adequate pasture. This means that cows can graze in pasture for a minimum of 120 days, 6 hours a day, annually. In practice, the average number of days cows are out to pasture is 170 days. In addition, the cows have plenty of space in the barn. For young animals, it is also important to spend enough time outside to learn how to graze on grass. Cows are social animals and prefer to live in herds. Therefore, the calves live in group pens with straw suitable for young animals. This way, the cows and calves have social interaction and natural behaviour develops.

Good care of cows

Proper care is important for cow health. For dairy cows, their hooves are trimmed at least once a year by a certified hoof care professional. Indeed, good hoof care promotes animal welfare and longevity. In addition, udder health is checked daily and monitored and recorded once every 8 weeks. Should the cows fall ill, they are given rest and space in a separate sick shed. There is also a clean and dry place in the barn for calving: with its own bedding, feed and fresh drinking water. We work with dairy farmers to extend the life of cows. This is because older cows also produce more efficiently and are stronger. If necessary, we make a plan of action each year together with the vet and dairy farmers to

extend the lifespan of dairy cows.

Housing for cows

The cows live in barns where there is always clean and fresh drinking water and feed for each cow. The barns have soft cubicles where cows can lie comfortably. This is necessary for cows to ruminate and rest properly.

Monitoring for health

We keep a close eye on the health of the cows. One way we do this is with KoeMonitor. This is used to monitor animal welfare and animal health. For calves and young stock, we monitor them with the KalfOK score. This score gives an indication of how the farm is doing in terms of the health of calves and young stock. Together with the vet, a plan of action is drawn up to improve animal health if needed. Healthy dairy cows and calves ensure a future-proof herd.



CHAPTER 3

Better for Nature

More sustainable feed

Cows are true ruminants. They can digest grass and crops, which humans can do nothing with, and convert them into milk. Therefore, our programme aims for as much grass in the diet as possible. Grazed grass in summer and preserved grass in winter. Producing milk takes a lot of energy; dairy cows and calves are, for example, given pellets to supplement the grass. All raw materials for the pellets come from Europe and are guaranteed GMO-free. This reduces our footprint by not using soy from South America and reduces the distance the raw materials travel.

Grassland-based and nature-inclusive dairy farming

Balancing the number of dairy cows with hectares of grassland is at the heart of Better for Nature & Farmer. When the number of cows is matched to the hectares of grassland, there is always enough grass for the cows to graze, there is sufficient grass production for the cows' feed in winter and dairy farmers can dispose of manure on the land. Dairy farmers are not allowed to keep more than 2.5 LU (livestock unit) per hectare of grass and an upper limit of 18,000 kg of milk per hectare of grass. This creates a balance between the dairy farm and its surroundings. On average, Better for Nature & Farmer dairy farmers have 2.1 LU per hectare of grass and, if you include non-grassland, as many as 1.9 LU per hectare of land. A natural extensive way of dairy farming that is also nature-inclusive due to herb-rich grasslands and more space for nature.

Healthy soil

Soil health is very important for future-proof agriculture. Healthy soils are more resilient to climate change, more

fertile and can also capture CO₂ in the form of carbon. Our farmers have stopped ploughing the soil to capture the maximum amount of CO₂ from the air in the form of carbon. To get a picture of exactly how much carbon is captured, soil samples are taken from the dairy farmers and analysed. The results show in the first measurement that up to 2 times more carbon was captured in the soil compared to national averages. This capture is very important for offsetting CO₂ emissions. We aim to strike a balance between CO₂ emissions and soil carbon capture on dairy farms.

Increasing biodiversity

Biodiversity is important for the resilience of our food system. Together, we aim to increase the amount of insects, birds and other small mammals on and around dairy farms. We are making the grasslands more biodiverse by sowing native herbs and clovers. At least 10% of a farmer's total hectares of grassland will have this herb-rich grassland. In addition, agricultural nature management is applied on 10% of the area. This involves not mowing for a certain period of time, giving meadow bird chicks a chance to grow up, and fertilising only with straw-rich manure. This is a source of food for insects and shelter for meadow birds. We also place hotels for insects.

Green energy

Our farmers use only green electricity. This is electricity generated from more sustainable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro and/or heat. We also encourage farmers to become self-sufficient. Farmers can generate their own green energy using solar panels and wind turbines.

Circular farming

We believe that circular agriculture is the future. And we try to give farmers every opportunity to develop this. Thus, we bring as many suitable residual streams from the human

food industry to farmers as possible, which can be used as animal feed. In addition, dairy farmers can take their cows to a designated slaughterhouse. We can valorise the meat from these cows under the Better for Nature & Farmer logo and thus work towards a smaller CO₂ footprint at Albert Heijn for this beef as well.



CHAPTER 4

Better for the Farmer

Transparent and presentable

Our dairy farmers are transparent about their business and operations. The dairy farm is presentable and always open for visits. After all, the farms are the calling cards of the sector and Albert Heijn. The dairy farmers can be found in Albert Heijn's suppliers map. The farm can also be visited during open days or company visits. People can look around the farm and learn more about the production of Albert Heijn's milk.

Knowledge exchange between sectors

The chain is constantly changing, and within the sector, insights regarding animal welfare, but also, for example, regarding grassland management are changing. For this reason, dairy farmers attend a workshop twice a year. Here, they share knowledge concerning various elements of dairy farming. It is important that we continue to learn from each other. By mutual agreement, the dairy farmer will also open his farm to an internship from, for example, a Albert Heijn manager. This knowledge sharing between the sectors provides additional insight and understanding of

each other.

Safety on the farm

Safety within the dairy chain is paramount. That is why we think it is essential for all dairy farmers to complete the online risk inventory and evaluation. Working safely and responsibly is important on every dairy farm.

Long-term participation

The input from farmers is a prerequisite for the success of Better for Nature & Farmer. Therefore, farmers must have a say as the programme continues to evolve. Farmers are always represented during consultations by a focus group of eight dairy farmers. We work with them to develop new animal welfare and nature measures, but also, for example, on making the chains even more efficient. Together, we look at the possibilities and what is practically feasible.



CHAPTER 5

Revenue model

The cornerstone of Better for Nature & Farmer is a healthy revenue model for everyone in the chain, now and in the future. Central to this is a long-term partnership with healthy prices and guaranteed sales for the farmer.

Investing in Cows, Nature and Farmers is something we do together

In the Netherlands, we value milk that comes from cows grazing in pastures. The basis of the revenue model for dairy farmers in our chain is the market price for pasture milk

In addition to the requirements for pasture milk, dairy farmers employ a large number of measures in the areas of animal health, animal welfare, nature, environment, biodiversity and the climate. The cost of this is worked out on the basis of an average dairy farm and the level of the premium is set on that basis. When we add new requirements to the scheme, these will be recalculated and the amount of the premium will be set again.

The current scheme gives the dairy farmer a premium of 5 cents per kilo of milk extra on top of the price for pasture milk.

Milk price based on global market supply and demand

The 5 cents extra per kilo of milk provides a healthy revenue model for the dairy farmer. The market price of a litre of raw farm milk is based on world market supply and demand. This market price fluctuates and depends on supply and

demand.

Future-proof business

Grass and soil are the basis of Better for Nature & Farmer. The dairy farmer is the steward of the grasslands. Taking good care of the soil and biodiversity on the farm makes it future-proof. Banks and tenant farmers appreciate the Better for Nature & Farmer's approach and it is easier for our dairy farmers to get financing or lease land because of the more sustainable approach.

Long-term and sustainable partnerships

We aim for long-term, sustainable partnerships. Our dairy farmers enter into an indefinite partnership agreement with us. As such, together with our dairy farmers, affiliated with Deltamilk and Royal A-ware, we create a future-proof dairy product chain. We together ensure the best dairy products for Albert Heijn customers every day. Now, and in the future.



CHAPTER 6

Certification scheme

Scope and audit protocol

Scope

The scope of this certification scheme is the dairy farm. The certification scheme in this document is for all dairy farmers supplying Better for Nature & Farmer dairy.

Audit protocol

- Prior to participation in Better for Nature & Farmer, an entrance certification takes place. This is a written intake completed by the dairy farmer. The dairy then assesses whether a dairy farmer can participate in the KNB chain programme and from which date.
- The standards are audited by an **external party** on behalf of Albert Heijn and the dairy companies.
 - Every dairy farm is audited annually by Qlip. At least 10 per cent of annual audits will take place unannounced from 2023.
 - Qlip carries out random (announced and unannounced) grazing inspections on dairy farms every year.
 - Every dairy farmer holds a valid VLOG certificate. Qlip checks compliance (this may be done in combination with Qlip's annual audit for the KNB chain programme). This requirement is in force as long as there is no other assurance system guaranteeing the European origin of feed.
- In collaboration with a herb expert, random annual monitoring of the presence of herbs and/or clovers in grassland is carried out.
- Dairy companies conduct annual **administrative checks** to check whether individual dairy farmers meet the standards regarding:
 - Milk production per hectare.
 - Ban on ploughing/disturbing grassland.
 - Participation in workshops.
- An annual **internal audit** is conducted to determine whether the administrative checks have been properly implemented by the dairy companies ('review').
- Annually, dairy farmers complete a **self-assessment** on Z-net.

BETTER FOR THE COW

MEADOW AND BARN

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	Remedial period
K1.1	Grazing dairy cattle	* Lactating cows walk outside for a minimum of 6 hours a day for 180 days annually. * Register in Z-net: * Start and end date of grazing. * Days when grazing is not possible.	* Check according to the regulations of Stichting Weldegang. * Grazing 180/6 is a best-effort obligation. At a minimum, lactating cows must walk in pasture for a minimum of 120/6 (or 720/120) in accordance with the requirements of Stichting Weldegang.	Physical check	GH
K1.2	Pasture grass supply	There is sufficient grass supply so that lactating cows can exercise their natural grazing behaviour.	In accordance with the requirements of Stichting Weldegang.	Physical check	HI
K1.3	Grazing young cattle	Young cattle are grazed for at least 3 months between birth and first calving.	Registration by animal number, e.g. on young stock calendar sent annually by dairy company.	Physical check	GH
K1.4	Cow brush	* For every 70 dairy cows: at least 1 electric (working/ functioning) cow brush. * For every 70 dry cows: at least 1 electric or stationary cow brush.		Physical check	HI
K1.5	Drinking water - availability in the barn	* For the dairy cows and dry cows, clean and fresh drinking water is always available. * Water supply is cleaned regularly.	See KoeKompas * Maximum 30 cows per trough. * Maximum 15 cows per quick drinker. * Water tank is cleaned at least once a month.	Physical check	HA
K1.6	Drinking water - availability in the pasture	* One or more drinking points are present in the pasture. * The maximum distance to a drinking water supply for a cow is 500 metres.	Surface water may be counted as a drinking water point.	Physical check	HI
K1.7	Cubicle bedding: lactating and dry cows	* There is soft bedding in cubicles. * In group housing or shed, sufficient bedding is provided (at least 10 cm of bedding).	* Soft cubicle bedding passes the “knee test”. For the knee test, see the KoeKompas manual. * For example, a sand cubicle, deep bedding cubicle, cow mattress and rubber mat are sufficient.	Physical check	HI
K1.8	Cubicle bedding: young stock	* There is soft bedding in cubicles. * In group housing or shed, sufficient bedding is provided (at least 10 cm of bedding). * Full grid floor for young stock is not allowed.	* Soft cubicle bedding passes the “knee test”. For the knee test, see the KoeKompas manual. * For example, a sand cubicle, deep bedding cubicle, cow mattress and rubber mat are sufficient.	Physical check	HI
K1.9	Barn occupation	There is no overcrowding at any age; every animal has a place to lie.	* The total number of cubicles is at least equal to the number of animals kept. * In a shed for dairy and dry cows, there is a minimum of 8m ² per animal.	Physical check	HI
K1.10	[Artificial] light strength	[Artificial] light strength in the barn for lactating cows is at least 100 Lux during the day and dark or no more than 50 Lux at night.	* If enough daylight is present, artificial lighting need not be on. * Measure light intensity at animal eye level in 3 different places in the barn. * Average number of Lux is decisive.	Physical check	HI
K1.11	Calving and sick pen	A separate calving and sick pen with sufficient fresh drinking water should be available.	* Space for both the calving pen and the sick pen should be at least 8m ² per cow. * A large tank of fresh drinking water in the calving and sick pen is also allowed.	Physical check	HI
K1.12	Stanchion barn	No stanchion barn.		Physical check	HI
K1.13	Tethering animals	Tethering animals for long periods is not allowed.	* Temporary tethering of animals for periods of up to 3 hours is allowed. * Temporary immobilisation is allowed only in connection with veterinary treatment or trimming of hooves.	Physical check	HI
K1.14	Housing bulls	Bulls are housed in a sturdy pen with sufficient exercise space and soft cubicle bedding.	* Total area, including movement and deck space, of 20m ² (of which at least 16m ² is lying space). * Bulls roaming among the flock 24 hours a day have permanent access to a lying area. * Soft cubicle bedding passes the “knee test”. For the knee test, see the KoeKompas manual. For example, a sand cubicle, deep bedding cubicle, cow mattress and rubber mat are sufficient. * If standard is not met, it will be realised with complete new construction of barn for lactating cows.	Physical check	HI
K1.15	MDV stable	In the case of an entire new building, the barn for dairy cows meets the requirements of Maatlat Duurzame Veehouderij (MDV) or equivalent.	https://www.maatlatsuurzameveehouderij.nl/	Physical check	GH

CARING FOR COWS

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	
K2.1	Lifespan	Strive for as long a lifespan for dairy cows as possible with the minimum standard being: * 2023: 5 years and 4 months. * 2024: 5 years and 5 months.	* Based on average age at discharge based on past 36 months. * Annual assessment: Q2 * When an individual dairy farmer fails to meet the standard, a plan of action will follow (see also 2.4).	Administrative	HA
K2.2	Hoof health - Hoof trimming	At least once a year, hoof care provided by: * Certified/qualifies hoof trimmer. * Qualified dairy farmer/family member.	* Certified hoof trimmer: * Listed on members' page. https://www.vwp.nl/ledenpagina Dairy farmer shows certificate and/or invoice from hoof trimmer. * Dairy farmer family member/employee is qualified when he/she holds certificate from Hoof Trimming Course.	Physical check	HI
K2.3	Hoof health - evaluation	Annual hoof health evaluation by vet.	* Part of KoeKompas.	Administrative	HA
K2.4	Hoof health - continuous improvement programme	Continuous improvement programme aimed at objective registration and/or monitoring and/or improvement of hoof health and/or practical applicability of additional preventive measures.	* Programme starts in 2023 based on project plan with targets. * Joint responsibility of dairy companies, dairy farmers and Albert Heijn. * Could be a programme that runs for several years. * The programme starts with a section of dairy farmers.	N/A	HA

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	
K2.5	Udder health - MPR participation	Individual insight into cow (including udder health indicators): * Option A: Participation in MPR. [min. 1x every 8 weeks; including cell count measurement]. * Option B: Conductivity measurements from an AMS.	* MPR = Milk Production Registration. * AMS = Automatic Milk System.	Physical check	HI
K2.6	Udder health - evaluation	Annual udder health evaluation by vet.	Part of KoeKompas.	Administrative	HA
K2.7	Udder health - continuous improvement programme	Continuous improvement programme aimed at objective registration and/or monitoring and/or improvement of udder health and/or practical applicability of additional preventive measures.	* Programme starts in 2023 based on project plan with targets. * Joint responsibility of dairy companies, dairy farmers and Albert Heijn. * Could be a programme that runs for several years. * The programme starts with a section of dairy farmers.		N/A
K2.8	Feed availability in the barn	There is always plenty of good feed available at the feed gate.	When the cows are inside, there is feed in front of the feed gate.	Physical check	HI
K2.9	Barn hygiene	* Dairy cattle cubicles are cleaned, dried and new bedding placed twice daily. * Grids are cleaned at least twice a day.	Grids can be cleaned by hand or using slurry scraper or manure spreading robot.	Physical check	HI
K2.10	Antibiotics - not preventive use	No preventive use of antibiotics (working according to BGP and BBP).	BGP and BBP present on the farm on basis of Module 2.4 Farm health plan. (BGP) and Company Treatment Plan (BBP) from KKM Manual.	Physical check	HA
K2.11	Antibiotics - 3 rd choice drugs	Ban on use of 3 rd and 4 th choice drugs.	* 3 rd choice drugs such as 3 rd and 4 th generation cephalosporins are not in the farm treatment plan. * On veterinary prescription, 3 rd and 4 th generation agents can be applied in exceptional cases. There must be a veterinary certificate for this (including a plan of action with a goal that future use of these means will not be necessary).	Physical check	HA
K2.12	Animal disease control	Control of animal diseases such as Paratbc, Salmonella, BVD, IBR, Lepto (according to KKM), among others.	Monitoring compliance and possible sanctions by Qlip in scope of KKM.	Physical check	HA
K2.13	Participation in KoeMonitor	KoeMonitor: (KoeData, KoeKompas and KoeAlert).	Monitoring compliance and possible sanctions by Qlip in scope of KKM.	Physical check	HA
K2.14	Freeze branding	Freeze branding is not allowed.		Physical check	GH
K2.15	Embryo transplant	No embryo transplanting or embryo collection on the farm.		Administrative	GH
K2.16	Genetic suitability	The animals are genetically suited to produce milk in a more extensive farming operation where the integrity of the animal is guaranteed by veterinary observation.	Better For leads to more extensive farming operation which eliminates the need to encourage a cow to exceed its limits and compromise its integrity.	Physical check	HA
K2.17	Closed Chain Meat	The dairy farmer transports his cows to a designated point where it can be used for “Closed Chain Meat” at Albert Heijn.	On a voluntary basis.	Administrative	N/A

CARING FOR CALVES

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	Remedial period
K3.1	Brush	Each group pen of calves and heifers is equipped with at least one fixed brush.		Physical check	HI
K3.2	Housing - single pen	Calves are housed in a single pen for up to two weeks.	* Housing calves in a single pen for up to two weeks is a best-effort obligation. * In all cases, calves are housed in groups on straw after a maximum of 8 weeks.	Physical check	HI
K3.3	Housing - group pen	Housing calves in group pen on straw until at least 4 months of age.	* A group consists of at least two calves. * If the farm has no more than 1 calf, the calf can only be housed in a straw pen. * Group pen can also be a group Igloo.	Physical check	HI
K3.4	Kalf OK	Participation in KalfOK. The minimum number of points is 75.	* Annual assessment Q2 based on rolling annual average. * When an individual dairy farmer fails to meet standard, a plan of action follows (see also 2.4).	Administrative	HA
K3.5	Calf mortality	* Calf mortality does not exceed the rolling national annual average. * Issue authorisation in Z-net to buyer of milk.	* Annual assessment: Q2 compared to rolling annual average of Q4 of the previous calendar year. * When an individual dairy farmer fails to meet standard, a plan of action follows (see also 2.4).	Administrative	HA
K3.6	KalfVolg System	Participation in the KalfVolg System.	Animals disposed of through 'White list livestock dealers': https://www.nzo.nl/documenten/	Administrative	HA
K3.7	Closed farming operations	* Purchase of animals is not allowed. * The young stock is reared within a radius of up to 25 km (from the main site).	Control via I&R data (barn map).	Physical check	GH
K3.8	Antibiotics - 3 rd choice drugs	* Ban on use of 3 rd and 4 th choice drugs.	* 3 rd choice drugs such as 3 rd and 4 th generation cephalosporins are not in the farm treatment plan. * On veterinary prescription, 3 rd and 4 th generation agents can be applied in exceptional cases. There must be a veterinary certificate for this (including a plan of action with a goal that future use of these means will not be necessary).	Physical check	HA



BETTER FOR NATURE

GROUND-BASED

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	Remedial period
N1.1	Grassland ground-based	Maximum 2.5 LU (Large Livestock Units) per hectare of grass.	* Combined statement is decisive. * It concerns only dairy cattle [species 100,101,102].	Administrative	GH
N1.2	Milk production per hectare	Maximum 18,000 kilograms of milk per hectare of grass.	* Combined statement is decisive. * Milk production is supplied by dairy company.	Administrative	GH

2.2.2 Climate

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	Remedial period
N2.1	CO ₂ eq-reducing measures	Set of management measures leading to CO ₂ eq reduction per hectare of grass.	* Explanatory note in annex 6.1.1.	Physical/ Administrative	GH or HI or HA
N2.2	CO ₂ offsetting measure: Soil organic carbon measurement	All plots covered by the grassland-based farming requirement will be made available for soil sampling.	* The aim is to gain insight into the organic carbon (OC) levels in the different plots up to 60 cm deep (soil organic carbon measurement). * Selected plots are sampled and analysed by an external party. * Soil samples are taken from 0-30 cm and from 30-60 cm. * See also paragraph 6.1.2.	Physical/ Administrative	GH
N2.3	Tillage operations	The dairy farmer does not perform tillage operations on the hectares of grass within the grassland-based farming requirement.	* In exceptional situations (e.g. mouse damage, entire land with breeding etc.), this may be deviated from after written permission from dairy company. * 100% of plots are monitored annually through satellite monitoring, supplemented by physical checks where necessary.	Satellite/ Physical	GH
N2.4	Green electricity	Only electricity generated from renewable energy sources is used. This can be through purchase or in-house (green) production.	Electricity can be generated directly from renewable sources and/or through the purchase of Guarantees of Origin (GOs) of European origin.	Physical/ administrative	HI
N2.5	Electricity origin analysis	In 2023, an analysis will be made of the sources of green electricity used by dairy farmers.	Possible sources: self-generated, from Dutch sources, from non-Dutch sources.	Administrative	HA
N2.6	KringloopWijzer	Completing the climate module in the KringloopWijzer.	For insight into emissions of total group of Better For dairy farmers to air, soil and water.	Administrative	HA

BIODIVERSITY

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	Remedial period
N3.1	Crop protection agents	It is prohibited to apply glyphosate as a crop protection agent on both farmyard and plots covered by the grassland-based farming requirement.	In exceptional situations (including extreme breeding problems and mouse damage) this may be deviated from with written permission from dairy company.	Physical check	GH
N3.2	Herb-rich grassland	* At least 10% herb-rich grassland (ditch edges/field margins can be an example of this). Or * at least 20% overseeding in the existing grassland (grass clover). Or * A combination of both.	* Percentage applies only to hectares under the grassland-based farming requirement. * At least 5 herbs and/or at least 2 species of clover (from the herb and clover list (see Annex 6.1) should be present in the herb-rich grassland * Outcome obligation: When there are no longer any herbs and/or clovers present, re-seed or overseed. * 10% of plots/farms are randomly inspected each year by an independent herb specialist.	Administrative	HI
N3.3	Managed grassland	The dairy farmer has 10% managed grassland (e.g. bird clutch management). This is in addition to or on top of the previously mentioned percentage of herbs and/or clovers under standard N3.2.	* Percentage applies only to hectares under the grassland land requirement. * Managed grassland: * Dormant period from 1 April to 1 June: * Allowed: grazing. * Not allowed: mowing or fertilising. * Outside the dormant period, fertilise only with rough manure. * Managed grassland should be mowed at least once from 1 June with the grass being disposed of.	Administrative	HI
N3.4	Insect hotel	There is an insect hotel on every dairy farm.		Physical check	HI
N3.5	Rodent control	Control rodents without using biocides.	* In the case of an infestation of rodents where human and animal health is at risk, use of a biocide is allowed if indicated and certified by an expert. * Pest management also contributes towards improving fire safety.	Physical check	HI

LIVESTOCK FEED

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	Remedial period
N4.1	Proportion of grass	The roughage ration for lactating cows consists of at least 70% grass or grass products on the basis of dry matter.	Grass or grass products include grass silage, pasture grass, hay, pelleted grass, grazed grass.	Administrative	HI
N4.2	European feed	Origin of feed for dairy cattle is EU27 plus Ukraine.	* This ensures that cattle feed is of European origin. * Feed is purchased from the companies listed: 'AH milk flow: White list of animal feed suppliers'	Physical check	GH
N4.3	VLOG	* The feed for dairy cattle complies with Ohne Gentechnik (NON-GMO) / VLOG. * VLOG profile should be updated annually (by 1 November).		Physical/ Administrative	GH
N4.4	Soy	If soy is used, it comes from Europe.	European soy has been assessed as low risk in terms of deforestation.	Physical/ Administrative	HA
N4.5	Circular livestock feed	Where possible, by-products from food companies supplying Albert Heijn are used as animal feed.	On a voluntary basis.		

BETTER FOR THE FARMER

PROFESSIONALISM AND SAFETY

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	Remedial period
B1.1	Ri&E	Annual online Ri&E (Risk Inventory & Evaluation) update (incl. plan of action).		Administrative	HA
B1.2	Fire safety	For fire safety purposes, an Agricultural Electrical Inspection is carried out at least once every five years.	* NTA 8220 or * NEN 3140 or * NEN 1010 or * SCIOS Scope 10 inspection or * SCIOS Scope 8 inspection or * An Agricultural Electrical Inspection accepted by the insurer is sufficient.	Administrative	HA
B1.3	Workshops	The dairy farmer attends a workshop focused on topics in this certification scheme at least twice a year.	* Aimed at increasing and/or updating knowledge and/or skills linked to the themes Cow, Nature and Farmer. * Workshops organised by Dairy Academy and DeltaMilk meet this requirement. * Minimum workshop requirements are outlined in annex 6.5	Administrative	HI
B1.4	Orderliness and cleanliness	The entire dairy farm is neat and presentable according to Better For standards.		Physical check	HI
B1.5	KKM accreditation	Dairy farmer has a valid KKM (Chain Quality Milk) accreditation.		Administrative	GH
B1.6	Milk refusal	From 1 July 2020, the farm must not have milk refused by a dairy business.		Administrative	GH

TRANSPARENT

Standard	Checkpoint	Compliance criterion	Interpretation	Audit	Remedial period
B2.1	Audits and inspections	The dairy farmer cooperates with: * the necessary inspections and investigations under the KNB chain programme. * sharing data in the context of KNB chain programme.	Dairy company only shares data of a dairy farmer * If the dairy farmer has given permission for this * In compliance with privacy laws.	Administrative	GH
B2.2	Location	The dairy farm is located in the North-East Netherlands + Groene Hart/Central Netherlands.		Administrative	GH
B2.3	Visitors	In agreement with the dairy company and AH, dairy farmer opens dairy farm to * visitors. * an "internship" of, for example, AH managers.		Administrative	GH
B2.4	Transparency	Willingness to be transparent regarding one's own dairy farm through, for example, a website or Facebook page.		Administrative	GH
B2.5	Sign	The company has a Better For programme company sign on the road.	The participant in the Better For programme is recognisable to the outside world by a company sign on the road at the main location.	Physical check	HA
B2.6	Albert Heijn Supplier website	The farm is listed on Albert Heijn's supplier website.	https://www.ah.nl/suppliers/map	Administrative	HA
B2.7	Communications	Dairy farmers cooperate on request with communication messaging under the Better For programme in the form of text and/or visual material.	Dairy farmers are willing to be visible with a company profile on relevant media.	Administrative	HA
B2.8	Laws and regulations	Dairy farmers comply with laws and regulations.		Administrative	HA
B2.9	Agreement	Dairy farmers have a signed addendum/agreement for the KNB chain programme.		Administrative	HA



