



Part of the AMA Quality Seal Scheme

**FRESH MEAT**

**MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS**

For participants indicating  
Austria as the region of origin



AMA QUALITY SEAL GUIDELINES  
(AMA production provisions)

# KEEPING OF SHEEP AND GOATS

for the purpose of meat and milk pro-  
duction

with the voluntary modules

- + regional origin
- + from GMO-free feed  
Q<sup>plus</sup> Sheep & goat
- + Q<sup>plus</sup> Lamb & kid
- + Mountain product

NOTE: Changes in the text are yellow *flagged*.

Comments on the amendments are always presented in the following way and are not part of the Guidelines:

→ Comment XYZ

## FOREWORD

➔ Note: The version or addition to the guidelines that was notified.

The '2024 version' of the guidelines replaces the '2021 version' and is valid from XX.XX.XXXX. The guidelines were notified in accordance with Directive 2015/1535. If you have any questions on these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact us. We also welcome any suggestions for further improvements and practical implementation.

## CHAPTER B

### POINT 1

#### SUBPOINT 1.1 (Page 17)

➔ Note: Age requirements at the time of placement have been dropped.

#### 1. TRACEABILITY

##### 1.1 Purchases

- > All additionally purchased animals must originate from **the same country** (region) in which the holding is located. If the holding is, for example, in Austria, then **all animals purchased must also come from Austria**. The purchase of breeding animals from other countries is only permitted if the animals are registered in the herd book. These animals may not be marketed within the framework of the AMA quality seal programme.
- ~~Lambs that are more than six weeks old at the time of insertion must originate either from organic holdings or holdings that are participants in this guideline.~~
- > The purchase and keeping of cloned animals is prohibited.
- > Animals must be **tagged** in accordance with the applicable provisions.

## CHAPTER B

### POINT 3

#### SUBPOINT 3.2 (Page 25/26)

→ Note: Acquisition supplement

#### Acquisition/Purchase of individual feed materials, compound feed and additives

Only **individual and compound feed** certified in accordance with the **pastus<sup>+</sup>** system may be acquired and used in the feed.

→ Note: Requirements for feed containing or made from soy have been added.

#### Additional requirements for feed containing or made from soy

Only soy from certified deforestation-free production may be used under the AMA Quality Seal programme. The use of deforestation-free feed is guaranteed when feed labelled with the 'pastus+ AMA Quality Seal' is purchased. Only deforestation-free soy may be used in feed labelled with the 'pastus+ AMA Quality Seal'.

It should be noted that Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain raw materials and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation provides for a general obligation to use deforestation-free soy in feed from December 30, 2024, which also applies to the AMA Quality Seal programme."

## CHAPTER B

### POINT 4

AMA leaflet

#### SUBPOINT 4.10 (Page 31)

→ Note: Clarification of requirements for operations.

Permitted operations are regulated by the Federal Animal Protection Act (Bundestierschutzgesetz), according to which these operations may only be carried out by a veterinarian or another qualified person.

The use of rubber rings, cauterisation sticks and cauterisation lotions is prohibited. Tail docking shall be carried out using a device which cuts sharply and at the same time anaesthetises.

## CHAPTER C

### POINT 5

AMA leaflet

→ **NOTE:** Lamb and kid module – Adaptations in the direction of animal health and extension of parameters

## 2. Q<sup>PLUS</sup> Lamb & Kid

The **aim** of this module is to continuously improve quality in meat production. By optimising **lamb and kid rearing** in terms of feeding, animal husbandry, **animal health**, animal welfare, hygiene and farm management, the quality of the final products is increased to exceed usual commercial standards.

In the area of animal welfare and animal health, the focus is on operational parasite management. This includes the review of a wide range of grazing systems and recommended and already implemented grazing management measures. Animal health must also be maintained and improved through specific health monitoring.

Farm-specific production data (see table 'Key indicators and target values' below) is compared with data from other farms participating in the module. By this production sector-specific comparison of farm data, **including animal health parameters (parasite management)** and action planning based on this, improvements in management **and animal health** are to be achieved. The aim of these measures is continuous improvement of the quality of the participating establishment **and the maintenance and improvement of animal health**, so that the quality of all the sheep meat and goat meat production is increased.

The participating farm is required to use a processing centre recognised by AMA Marketing (list of centres: [www.amainfo.at](http://www.amainfo.at)). Recognition is awarded on the basis of these guidelines and of the service catalogue compiled by AMA Marketing. The processing centre must perform its tasks in compliance with the service catalogue. In addition to comparing farm data, the main task of the centre is to plan measures based on the data and monitor the implementation of measures stipulated.

Where the indicator figures in the table are not met, corrective measures must be taken. If a farm fails to meet these key indicators repeatedly, it will be dropped from the module. When the indicators have been met, the task of the processing centre is to set measures to safeguard and further improve the figures.

### Collection of data

For participation in the module, the parameters relating to animal husbandry, mother animals, use of breeding animals, lambs/kids born, time between lambing/kidding, lambs/kids reared per ewe/goat as well as the loss of lambs/kids for each animal shall be recorded and centrally documented.

Animal-based parameters on management	
<b>Sheep and goat farmers</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Categories: Ewes and nanny goats</li> <li>• Lambs/kids born</li> <li>• Time between lambing/kidding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lambs/kids reared per ewe/goat</li> <li>• <b>Mortality</b> of lambs/kids</li> <li>• Use of breeding animals</li> </ul>
<b>Lamb and kid rearing</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mortality rate</li> </ul>	

## Farm-related parameters on animal health and on animal welfare/health

- Medicinal products documentation
- Parasite management by supporting faecal sample analysis
- Body Condition Score (BCS) of the flock and the weakest individual animals
- Survey of TGD membership and specific TGD programme participation
- Survey of bedding management
- Survey of cadaver management
- Survey of grazing/alpine days and fence systems

### Collecting, recording and calculating the key indicators:

The following indicators and target values for holdings keeping sheep and goats are collected, recorded and calculated and compared with the data of the other holdings participating in the module. The target values refer to the annual average of all dams; and reared lambs/kids.

The basis for calculating the key indicators is the data collected on an individual animal basis. For this purpose, breeding data and farm records shall be used. The figures are calculated at the farm level from the data collected on individual animals.

### Indicators and target values for ewes/goats/lambs/kids

Ewes/goats	Key indicators	Target values
Lambing rate Lambs/kids born per ewe/goat	0.8 Lambs/kids per year	at least 80 %
Time between lambing/kidding	400 days	at least 80 %
Lambs/kids reared per ewe/goat (after 48 hours)	0.7 Lambs/kids per year	At least 80 %
Lambs/kids lost (stillbirths, premature deaths)	Max. 10 % relative to lambs/kids born	
Lamb and kid rearing	Key indicators	Target values
Deaths during lamb and kid rearing (mortality)	max. 15 % of lambs and kids bred per year	
Criteria for participation		
Breeding animals (for rearing farms, this criterion is dropped or does not apply to rearing farms)	<b>Male animals:</b> Meat performance test value of at least 100 and/or classed in Division A <b>Female animals:</b> 20 % of ewes/goats have an average breeding fitness value of at least 95 and/or are classed in Division A	
Use of an online herd management programme	Mandatory birth declaration within 21 days Declaration of arrival and departure within 7 days	
Electronic animal identification	Use of an electronic and visual ear tag	

## Annual report

Participants in the voluntary module will receive an annual report from the processing centre with the following content:

- > Results from the specific data collected on individual animals and the farm as a whole
- > Yearly comparison of previous reports and presentation of the trend
- > Results of farm data comparison with other participants in the module
- > Explanatory notes on the results

The annual report refers to the previous audit year.

## Action plan and monitoring implementation

The processing centre shall draw up a farm-related action plan for each module participant. This will be made available to the participant in writing. The measures to be adopted relate mostly to the results of the key indicator evaluation. If individual key indicators are not met, corrective measures must be stipulated and implemented by the participant.

The processing centre shall monitor the **implementation of measures** on a regular basis. It shall check the progress of measures using an in-house checklist. However, the scope and frequency – at least every six months – may be increased by the processing centre if necessary. If the action plan is not implemented, the farm must be withdrawn from the module. If there is no improvement despite the measures set, the farm will be dropped from participation in the module no later than the third year of participation.

## Sample measures in the event of deviations

### - Feeding measures

The feed ration and the correct performance of the feed are checked during feeding advice. If necessary, feed will be investigated and feeding plans prepared. Documentation (printout) of the optimised feed ration is required.

### - Feed hygiene

The storage of the feed on the farm is checked and, if necessary, improved.

### - Stall climate measures

Technical and operational measures are taken to improve stall climate. The assessment is carried out by measuring or checking with smoke cartridges, for example.

### - Hygiene measures on the farm

Targeted cleaning and disinfection measures, documentation using cleaning plans as well as documentation of the disinfection measures (hygiene plan) are implemented. The management of bedding on the holding has a significant impact here on hygiene and subsequently

on animal health. This point is therefore also collected and possible optimisation potential discussed with the holding.

#### - Animal health and welfare measures

Animal health management is reviewed, e.g: general abnormalities, animal health status and hoof health. In the event of an excessive number of deaths, animal health must be optimised by means of targeted measures, where appropriate in consultation with the attending veterinarian (examples: optimisation of management around birth).

##### - Parasite management measures:

Parasites are a crucial health factor in small ruminants and the infestation has an important impact on animal welfare. For each farm visit, the bulk faecal sample is evaluated directly on site on the farm using methods that reflect the state of the art, such as the FEC test using visual image recognition software.

To be evaluated: Strongyles

Cocciidaries

Nematorius spp.

Moniezia spp.

Strnyloides paillosus

The results shall be made available electronically to module participants. This allows livestock keepers to take targeted management measures, where appropriate in consultation with the veterinarian. These measures are taken by the animal keeper himself and by the veterinarians.

##### - Body Condition Score

The body condition of the animal is assessed using the Body Condition Score (BCS). Inferences are drawn as to performance and supply of feed.

The general condition of the flock or main performance group is assessed for each farm visit. In addition, an individual animal assessment of the most vulnerable animals is carried out.

Grazing/alpine grazing and fence systems:

The following data are collected:

- 1) Grazing/mountain grazing and the respective form of pasture used (alpine pasture, permanent pasture, portion grazing, short grassland, rotational pasture)
- 2) Animal categories that are put out to pasture (mothers, fathers, young animals (post-breeding), lambs and kids)
- 3) Fencing system (nets, 5 bands, 3-4 bands, 2 bands, 1 band)
- 4) Electricity (mains, solar, battery or rechargeable battery)
- 5) Voltage at 500 Ohms (<3,500 volts, > 3,500 volts, > 7,000 volts)

The aim is to build a sound data basis in order to demonstrate the potential for optimisation and to provide the basis for future grazing strategies.

#### External inspection



The implementation of the measures on the farm and the monitoring activities of the processing centre shall be subject to random checks within the framework of external inspection. The documentation of the measures shall be reviewed on a random basis in the context of external inspection.