



AMA GÜTESIEGEL	AMA QUALITY SEAL
Geprüfte Qualität	Verified quality
AUSTRIA	AUSTRIA

Part of the AMA Quality Seal programme  
**MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS**

For participants indicating  
Austria as the region of origin



## AMA QUALITY SEAL GUIDELINES (AMA Production Regulations)

# COW FARMING

including the voluntary modules

- + Animal husbandry plus
- + Hay milk
- + Alpine pasture milk/Alpine milk
- + Q<sup>plus</sup> Cow
- + GMO-free feeding
- + Mountain product

2024 Version

NOTE: Changes in the text are shown in *italics*.

Parts of the AMA Quality Seal Guidelines 'Cow farming', 2022 Version, are cited for comparison purposes. These are shaded in grey.

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

➔ Comment XYZ

The addition, based on the European Commission's comments of 31 January 2024, is shaded green.

## Chapter A

### Point 4

Subpoints 4.1 and 4.2. (page 19)

- ➔ GMO-free feeding has been added
- ➔ Requirements for feed containing or made from soy have been added.

#### 4.1 GMO-free feeding

For cows whose milk is delivered to AMA quality seal milk processing establishments, the requirements of the voluntary module 'GMO-free feeding' in these Guidelines must be complied with.

#### 4.2 Purchase of feed

When purchasing feed materials and compound feed, care must be taken to ensure that the feed is marked with 'pastus<sup>®</sup> AMA-Gütesiegel tauglich' ('suitable for the pastus+ AMA Quality Seal') and that manufacturers and distributors participate in the pastus<sup>®</sup> feed quality assurance programme.

The labelling of feed (on feed bags or bag trailers, delivery notes or invoices) is done as a graphic or text:



#### 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 commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation provides for a general obligation to use deforestation-free soy in feed from 30 December 2024, which also applies to the AMA Quality Seal programme.

If operators of mobile grinding and mixing plants for the production of feed are commissioned, they must also be registered with AMA Marketing in accordance with the pastus<sup>®</sup> system. Excluded from this are mobile mixers with integrated distribution equipment (TMR mixers) which are used locally to produce feed mixtures.

All feed suppliers and mobile grinding and mixing plants approved for pastus<sup>®</sup> are listed at [www.pastus.at](http://www.pastus.at).

Rough fodder (grass silage, maize silage, hay, haylage and straw) may also be purchased without pastus<sup>®</sup> certification from distributors.

Harvesting activities for feedstuffs are not subject to certification. Further processing steps by third parties, which constitute a significant intervention in the structure, composition or condition of the feed, require pastus<sup>®</sup> certification. Drying in the immediate process (the exhaust gas flow comes into contact with the dry material) is, in any case, subject to certification.

**Web**

A fact sheet indicating which processing steps by third parties are subject to certification can be found at [www.amainfo.at/teilnehmer/landwirtschaft](http://www.amainfo.at/teilnehmer/landwirtschaft).

1.

## Chapter B

### Point 5 (page 23)

➔ New minimum requirements for tethered animals

#### 2. Animal husbandry/animal welfare

The animals shall be kept in such a way that, in particular, the following points are implemented in a manner appropriate to the needs of the animals:

- o Space available
- o Freedom to move
- o Floor condition
- o Structural configuration of housing and husbandry facilities
- o Climate in the pens
- o Light and temperature conditions
- o Care and nutrition
- o Possibility for social contact

#### Cattle checklist

Selbstevaluierung Tierschutz

Self-evaluation of animal welfare



For self-monitoring compliance with animal welfare regulations, the Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) has produced a 'Cattle Handbook' as well as a 'Cattle Checklist'. This enables the livestock owner to find out about the legal provisions. We recommend filling in the checklist 'Self-evaluation – Animal welfare for cattle' at regular intervals.

The documents are available at [www.tierschutzkonform.at](http://www.tierschutzkonform.at).

#### Combination farming

Starting from 1 January 2024, tethered farming with access to pasture/outdoor enclosure/ other opportunity for movement on fewer than 90 days per year will no longer be permitted under the AMA Quality Seal Programme for Milk. Tethered farming with access to pasture/ outdoor enclosure/other opportunity for movement on more than 90 days per year will still be permitted.

## Chapter C

### Point 2 (pages 30 to 33)

➔ New voluntary module with higher animal husbandry requirements

## 2. 'Animal husbandry plus' module

### 2.1. Objectives

The voluntary additional module 'Animal husbandry plus' builds on the Basic Guidelines and lays down additional requirements for animal husbandry and feeding on the farm. This enables consumers to identify products where animal husbandry standards over and above those required by law are implemented on farms.

1.1.



AMA GÜTESIEGEL	AMA QUALITY
Geprüfte Qualität	Verified quality
AUSTRIA	AUSTRIA
TIERHALTUNG PLUS	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PLUS

### 2.2. Scope

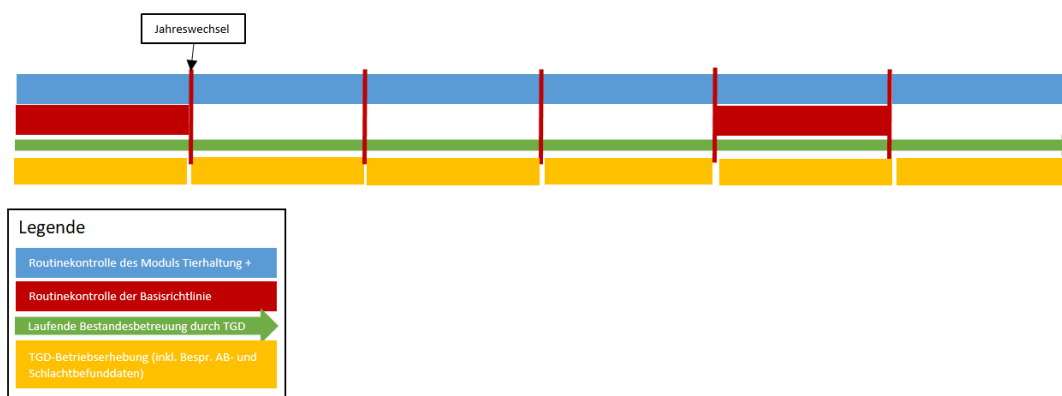
The requirements apply to all calves, young female cattle and dairy cows (including dry cows). In addition, the animal welfare regulations must be met for all farm animals kept on the farm.

### 2.3. Special control and monitoring system

The basis for controlling compliance with the specifications of the 'Animal husbandry plus' module is the control system pursuant to Chapter A 4 of the AMA Quality Seal Basic Guidelines. This system requires independent controls by external control bodies to take place at least once every four years. In addition, compliance with the specifications of this module are audited annually, without the audit being announced in advance. The independent controls under the 'Animal husbandry plus' module are carried out, just like the controls under the Basic Guidelines, by independent, accredited, external control bodies. In the event of non-compliance, corrective measures shall be demanded in the same way as for controls under the Basic Guidelines.

Comprehensive veterinary care of the herd is a very good basis for maintaining the health status of farm animals and is therefore also central to higher animal husbandry standards. For this reason, in accordance with point 4.4, the use of antibiotics and data findings relating to slaughter shall be monitored on an ongoing basis, with feedback being provided to farms.

An overview of the control system as well as the veterinary herd care can be found in the following figure:



Jahreswechsel	Turn of the year
Legende	Key
Routinekontrolle des Moduls Tierhaltung +	Routine control for the Animal husbandry + module
Routinekontrolle der Basisrichtlinie	Routine control for the Basic Guidelines
Laufende Bestandesbetreuung durch TGD	Ongoing herd care by animal health service
TGD-Betriebserhebung (inkl. Bespr. AB- und Schlachtfunddaten)	Animal health service farm survey (incl. antibiotics and data findings relating to slaughter)

The controls are based on the checklist and the catalogue of sanctions for the 'Animal husbandry plus' module. The up-to-date versions of these documents are publicly available from [www.amainfo.at](http://www.amainfo.at). In addition, compliance with the animal husbandry-related requirements of the Animal Welfare Act and the First Animal Husbandry Ordinance shall also be examined.

Controls for the 'Animal husbandry plus' module can be combined with controls for other standards, in particular with those for the AMA Quality Seal Basic Guidelines.

## 2.4. Special requirements

In addition to the requirements for the AMA Quality Seal 'Cow farming' ('Basic Guidelines'), participants in this module must also comply with the requirements listed below:

### > Special housing requirements

Animals are to be kept in loose housing. This can be loose housing with cubicles or other loose housing systems. In loose housing, a cubicle must be available to each animal. For systems without cubicles, the area with unrestricted use must be at least 4 m<sup>2</sup> for cows over 350 kg, at least 4.5 m<sup>2</sup> for cows over 650 kg, and 5 m<sup>2</sup>/animal for cows over 750 kg (animal weights as group average).

On farms without loose housing, combination farming is permitted. It must be ensured in this respect that access to pasture, meadow, outdoor enclosure or other possibility for movement (e.g. movement pen) is provided for a period of at least two consecutive hours on at least 120 days a year. The area for movement shall be at least 4.5 m<sup>2</sup> per LU and consist of a contiguous area of at least 16 m<sup>2</sup>. This require-

ment can also be met by dividing the herd into groups, which use the outdoor enclosure at different times.

The minimum dimensions for cubicles, walking and feeding aisles as well as tethering stalls are as per the requirements laid down in the First Animal Husbandry Ordinance or equivalent rules in other Member States.

> **Rubbing facilities**

Where animals are kept in groups (in loose housing or, in the case of combination farming, in the outdoor enclosure or other area for movement), all animals must be provided with rubbing facilities (rubbing/scratching brush). There must be at least one rubbing facility for every 60 animals. This is not necessary on alpine pastures and meadows.

> **Veterinary care contract with the animal health service**

Active participation in a recognised animal health service (TGD) and an animal health service programme or comparable programme in other Member States is mandatory. The animal health service programmes or comparable programmes of other Member States shall include:

- monitoring and benchmarking of the use of antibiotics and data findings relating to slaughter
- regular provision of reports to the farms on the use of antibiotics and data findings relating to slaughter
- veterinary farm visits/surveys with recommendations for action for the farms

Recommendations for action by the farms shall be derived from the regularly provided reports as part of the veterinary farms visits/surveys. The recommendations for action must be implemented by the farms and shall be reviewed during the annual audits. The farmer shares responsibility for ensuring that the specified farm surveys are carried out at the appropriate intervals.

In addition, training shall be carried out at least once a year under this programme. The content and scope shall be determined by the organisation responsible for implementation (e.g. animal health service).

> **Monitoring of udder health**

Healthy cows are required for high-quality milk. Ongoing monitoring of udder health is therefore necessary in cows used for milk production. The mean content of somatic cells in tanker milk shall not exceed 200 000 cells/ml on a 3-month average. Where the cell content is higher, measures must be taken in consultation with the veterinarian.

In farms participating in the voluntary add-on module Q<sup>plus</sup> Cow under the present Guidelines, monitoring will take place under this module.

> **Specific requirements for feeding**

The requirements of the voluntary module 'GMO-free feeding' in these Guidelines must be complied with.

Only feed that does not contain palm oil and palm kernel oil and fats derived therefrom as an ingredient may be used.

To strengthen regional cycles and value chains in milk production, cereals and protein feed from Europe must be used in the feeding cows (harvested and processed in Europe).

These requirements also serve, in particular, to further enhance sustainability in milk production.

## 2.5. Animal husbandry plus with outdoor climate

1.

2.



mate

AMA GÜTESIEGEL	AMA QUALITY SEAL
Geprüfte Qualität	Verified quality
AUSTRIA	AUSTRIA
TIERHALTUNG <b>PLUS</b> AUSSENKLIMA	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY <b>PLUS</b> WITH OUTDOOR CLIMATE

In addition to the above-mentioned requirements of this module, farms participating in 'Animal husbandry plus with outdoor climate' must also implement the following criteria:

The cows must be kept

- > in loose housing and have access to pasture for six hours a day on at least 120 days per year

or

- > in loose housing with access to an enclosure for movement all year round (minimum 3 m<sup>2</sup> per animal)

or

- > in open-front loose housing.

The minimum areas in this respect are:

- > Loose housing with cubicles – one cubicle per animal

or

- > Loose housing without cubicles: 5 m<sup>2</sup> per animal > 350 kg (total lying and movement area) or 1 000 m<sup>2</sup> pasture area per animal

Open-front loose housing (outdoor climate pens) are pens where at least 25 % of the outer envelope is permanently open. The pen's outer walls, excluding the roof, are regarded as the

outer envelope. In extreme weather conditions, these openings can be closed for a limited period of time. This must be documented together with the respective reason, e.g. snow drifts, hail, heavy rain, extreme temperatures, strong winds and strong sunlight.

