

FAN MEAT STANDARDS FOR LIVESTOCK AGENTS AND AUCTIONEERS



FOREWORD

The Farm Assured Namibian Meat (FAN Meat) Scheme was developed in a collaborative effort between the Meat Board of Namibia (MBN) and the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) following an Industry decision for the safeguarding of Namibian meat markets.

The need for livestock traceability and farm assurance in Namibia arose from an outbreak of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease in humans in the United Kingdom from 1986 to 2001. The Namibian Livestock and Meat Industry and DVS acted preemptively through the development of an extensive livestock identification and traceability system (NamLITS) which is utilized by the FAN Meat scheme to provide assurance regarding the safety, wholesomeness and quality of Namibian meat.

The FAN Meat Scheme Logo was Gazetted on 29 September 1999, Government Notice number 195, Gazette number 2193. The cabinet during the same sitting pronounced the FAN Meat Scheme as a National Scheme. The Meat Board is the mandated administrator of the FAN Meat Scheme.

The FAN Meat Scheme was developed to include all Namibians and the rules and standards of the scheme are based on National Legislation combined with Good Agricultural Practice and Animal Welfare principles.

The FAN Meat value chain includes Producers at farm level, and non-producers, which are: Livestock Feed Manufacturers, Agents and auctioneers, Transporters and Export Abattoirs.

The Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme Logo symbolizes assurance for safety, wholesomeness, quality and traceability of Namibian export meat. Meat produced under this scheme, is:

- Naturally produced in extensive free range conditions or grain fed;
- Hormone free;
- Antibiotic residue free;
- Carries Negligible risk for Mad Cow Disease;
- Originates from animals which were humanely treated;
- Traceable from abattoir to the farm of origin.

This document sets out the standards for livestock agents and auctioneers under the FAN Meat scheme.

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1. DEFINITIONS

FAN MEAT FREE RANGE / PASTURE RAISED Means all livestock are raised under extensive conditions with continuous and unrestricted access to pastures that are suitable as fodder for their entire life. Short term confinement is restricted to times of inclement weather, veterinary treatment or giving birth. Feed supplements can be given to ensure all nutritional and production needs are met. Concentrates may be given at a maximum of 1% of bodyweight to prevent substitution of pasture.

Meat derived from free range / pasture raised livestock have a specific taste and colour expectation and have positive health benefits in terms of low fat content, higher protein content, a higher Omega 3 polyunsaturated fatty acid content and carries a positive image in terms of animal welfare and environmental impact.

In the case of drought conditions and where an adequate amount or quality natural pasture is not available, suitable fodder and feed supplements should be provided to ensure all nutritional and production needs are met. A full feed containing concentrates at a maximum of 1% bodyweight may be given. This includes the feeding of “boskos” as a complete feed, where bush biomass should constitute the main ingredient of the feed and added concentrates within the limits of this standard.

A period of rounding off of livestock prior to slaughter in kraals without unrestricted access to pastures constitutes feedlotting and will disqualify livestock as free range / pasture raised. Feeding concentrates in excess of 1% bodyweight during rounding off, even with unrestricted access to pasture will be regarded as substitution of pasture, and will disqualify livestock as free range / pasture raised.

FAN MEAT GRAIN FED Means livestock are kept in an area for fattening and are fed a nutritionally balanced ration of a high energy content, meaning concentrates are fed in excess of 1% bodyweight, for a minimum period of 40 days.

Meat derived from grain fed livestock have a specific taste and colour expectation, with higher levels of intramuscular fat.

In order to be marketable as **FAN MEAT GRAIN FED** the area in which livestock are kept for fattening should be approved by FAN Meat. Livestock raised under extensive conditions with continuous and unrestricted access to pasture, but receiving feed containing concentrates in excess of 1% bodyweight will also qualify as FAN Meat Grain Fed.

HORMONE FREE Means free from any growth promoter as defined and listed as a prohibited or controlled substance in the Prevention of Undesirable Residue in Meat Act (Act 21 of 1991) and its Regulations, notices and amendments. Livestock never received any remedy in any form for the purpose of growth or fattening. In the case of controlled substances protocols for application as well as prescribed withdrawal periods were adhered to.

Further, prohibited substances in food producing animals as per the Prevention of Undesirable Residue in Meat Act includes the active ingredients phenylbutazone, clenbutarol and chloramphenicol in any form.

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ANTIBIOTIC RESIDUE FREE Means antibiotics (antimicrobials) are only used when prescribed by a veterinarian registered to practice in Namibia and only in accordance with veterinarian and manufacturer instructions. Antibiotics are not used preventatively or for the purposes of growth or fattening. Livestock are only presented for slaughter after the prescribed withdrawal period for meat.

HUMANE TREATMENT Means livestock are reared, kept, transported, handled and slaughtered in accordance with the five freedoms which form the basic principles for animal welfare and applies to all links in the FAN Meat value chain.

2. REGISTRATION

2.1. FAN Meat

All agents and auctioneers of livestock should register with the FAN Meat office of the Meat Board of Namibia. FAN Meat compliant livestock must, when marketed through an auction or agent, be marketed by a FAN Meat registered agent or auctioneer in order to maintain FAN Meat status. Registered agents and auctioneers of livestock will receive a FAN Meat Agents / Auctioneer membership Certificate and a membership card with a registration number. Membership is renewable **annually**.

2.2. Registration with the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)

All animal gathering places (auction pens, livestock sales facilities, livestock show grounds and other livestock exhibition facilities) must be registered with the DVS as per the Animal Identification Regulations. Any person or company who intends to hold at least two or more animal gatherings (public livestock sales/ auctions/ shows) must submit an annual calendar to the DVS on or before the 30th of November the preceding year, indicating the date, time and location. Any person or company who intends to hold an ad hoc animal gathering (public livestock sale/ auction) must apply in writing to the district DVS office at least 10 working days before the proposed animal gathering. (intended auction date).

2.3. Registration with the Meat Board of Namibia

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Livestock agents and auctioneers must be registered with the Meat Board of Namibia. A binding contract between Livestock agents and auctioneers and the Meat Board of Namibia specifies the rules and rights of both parties.

2.4 Proof of knowledge

Agents and Auctioneers of livestock must be experienced with animal handling and have knowledge of animal welfare and health and have extensive knowledge on the Animal Identification Regulations in terms of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011). This expertise and knowledge will be verified through an initial self-declaration done in the course of application for FAN-Meat registration and will again be verified during audits conducted by FAN Meat appointed auditors (Meat Board Inspectors).

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENTS AND AUCTIONEERS OF LIVESTOCK

3.1. General

Agents and auctioneers have to ensure that the trade is orderly and conforms to applicable laws, regulations and standards.

3.2. Staff

All staff handling livestock must be regularly trained to ensure competence and knowledge with regard to the handling/ moving of animals, general animal health, food and water requirements and identification of livestock.

A record of training must be kept for all staff handling livestock.

3.3. Livestock

When acquiring livestock from a FAN Meat producer it must be made sure that he/ she complies with the FAN Meat Standards for Producers. This includes correctness of accompanying documents, correct identification and a good health of the animals. FAN Meat compliant livestock must be transported by a FAN Meat registered transporter to and from the animal gathering place (livestock sale facilities) in order to maintain FAN Meat status.

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From the moment of offloading at the animal gathering place (auction, show or public sale ground), agents and auctioneers are responsible for the respecting of animal welfare and for the traceability of the livestock in accordance with the Animal Identification Regulations in terms of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011).

3.4. Traceability

Agents and auctioneers of livestock are responsible for maintaining the traceability of livestock throughout the marketing chain.

Auctioneers/ agents must ensure that animals found not eligible for sale as a result of non-compliance with requirements of movement documentation and animal registration are removed from the facilities prior to commencement of the event as per the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011).

Agents / auctioneers must ensure correctness of data when capturing and issuing animal movement permits and notices, which must be done in a timely manner.

3.5. Planning

Animal gatherings (Livestock sales, auctions, exhibitions and shows) must be organized sufficiently ahead of time to ensure a smooth course of the event. It must be made sure in advance that facilities are sufficient and in a condition satisfactory to the requirements laid out in these standards. A nominated veterinary official (veterinarian or Animal Health Technician) must be available to attend the sale/ auction/ show at very short notice.

All site staff must be clearly identified during operating hours.

Contingency plans should be in place in the case of

- Fire
- Escape of animals
- Outbreak of disease.

4. FACILITIES

4.1. General

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The auction/sale/show facility (yard) must be designed, constructed and maintained to facilitate efficient flow, minimize stress and ensure visibility of livestock for sale whilst providing for human safety, animal welfare and environmental friendly operation.

4.2. Loading/offloading facilities

When animals are being loaded onto a truck or offloaded from a truck by means of a ramp, the loading ramp should be designed in such a way as to facilitate the safe flow of animals into/ out of the truck. Ideally, at the top of the ramp should be a flat platform, at level with the deck of the transport vehicle. The ramp must have side panels or bars adequate to prevent animals from escaping or falling off. The incline of the ramp must not be steeper than 25 degrees for cattle and 30 degrees for sheep and goats.

If an onboard removable loading ramp is used, the same maximum steepness applies. The distance from the ground to the heel of the ramp must not exceed 120mm.

4.3. Animal gathering facilities (Holding pens/ sale pens)

Sufficient pens should be provided to avoid unwanted mixing of different consignments of animals. Fences and gates should be secure and high enough to prevent animals from mixing, escaping or getting their heads or legs stuck. All surfaces within the site, where animals move, must be non-slip.

Holding/ selling facilities must be free of any projections likely to cause injury. The facility must provide for the inspection of animals by veterinary officials in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011).

There must be enough space in each pen for animals to lie down simultaneously. Minimum requirements are:

- 2.5 m² per adult cattle
- 0.5 m² to 0.8 m² per adult sheep/ goat

Lower densities can be used where there are calves, kids or lambs at foot.

The site must have an identified isolation pen and the means to identify a pen containing an unfit, ill or diseased animal.

4.4. Water and food supply facilities

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Fresh clean water must be available at all times. Watering facilities and troughs must be designed and located to minimize injury of animals and minimize contamination with faeces. They should be easily accessible and cleanable. Watering facilities must provide sufficient, clean drinking water.

Livestock should be monitored to ensure that they are drinking water and if not drinking (depending on seasonal temperature/conditions) action should be taken to investigate and rectify the cause.

If livestock are to be held in the facility (yard) for longer than 24 hours, feed must be provided. Feed must be stored in a designated place where it can be kept dry and secure. All supplementary feeds must be clearly labeled.

4.5 Cleanliness of site

The site must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.

4.6. Cleansing of vehicles

Animal gathering places (Livestock sale/ auction/ show grounds) must provide facilities for truck cleaning, i.e. sufficient water under high pressure and suitable drainage.

5. ANIMAL WELFARE

Only animals which is deemed fit for onward travel must be accepted onto the site. A procedure must be in place to record and report any vehicle that is deemed unfit for transport or with visible construction defects to the site operator who must then take appropriate action.

The basic principles for animal welfare are the “Five Freedoms”:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behavior
5. Freedom from fear and distress

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5.1. Handling and moving of animals

The handling of animals must always be performed in a calm manner.

Animal handling facilities and congregation areas must be constructed and maintained in such a way that they ensure ease of handling, minimize stress, prevent injuries and are free of protrusions.

The lifting/ twisting of a cattle's tail should not be done with strong physical power as this may cause pain, tail fracture and dislocation of tail vertebrae.

Sheep may be caught, but not pulled, by one leg. If they need to be carried, they should not be lifted by the wool. Horned goats may be restrained by holding their horn at its base, not at its tip, as this may cause the horn to break. Goats should be lifted up bodily, not by their hair or their horns.

Animals should be moved at their own pace, without being hurried.

The use of goads must be limited to the necessary minimum and they should not be used permanently while handling and moving animals. Goads should be made of plastic, canvas or leather. Metal or wooden pickets, pipes or fencing wire are not acceptable for animal use. The use of electric goads (prodders) should be avoided and they must never be applied to the animals' faces and genitals. Moreover, the use of electric goads on animals with no room to move is not acceptable. Animals should never be struck in the face. Sticks must only be used as an extension of the arm to guide, persuade and encourage livestock. Electric goads may not be used on sheep, goats or pigs.

5.2. Loading/ offloading of animals

Animals arriving at the premises must be unloaded under the supervision of experienced animal handlers. Before unloading, drivers and personnel at the unloading ramp must check the condition of the receiving area and make sure arrangements are in place for penning of animals and /or that appropriate pens are available and that the stock gate is properly aligned with the loading ramp to ensure the smooth movement of animals and prevents injury.

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The loading/ offloading of animals must always be performed as calmly as possible. Animals should be moved onto the ramp at their own pace. Goads may only be used as described under 5.1.

Flaps and filler boards must be used to cover any gap between the loading ramp and floor of the stock crate.

Calves and lambs may be carefully lifted and placed in the vehicle if they cannot negotiate loading ramps.

Lactating females with overstocked udders must be milked on site before further movement.

5.3. Segregation of animals

In the case of risk of injury and stress, incompatible groups of animals must be kept separated after offloading. Examples of such animal groups are:

- weak and strong animals,
- very small and fully grown animals,
- horned and polled cattle,
- bulls and cows,
- calves and unfamiliar older cattle

Animals known for aggressive behavior must be segregated from other animals and be kept in a separate compartment.

Unweaned animals must be kept together with their mothers. If lactating females are transported without their offspring; they must be milked at intervals not exceeding 12 hours.

5.4. Watering and feeding of livestock

See 4.4.

Fresh, clean, potable water must be available at all times.

Livestock kept for periods exceeding 24 hours must be provided with feed.

5.5. Treatment of livestock

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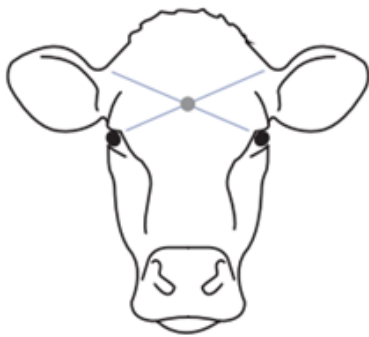
No injured or sick animal is allowed to be auctioned. Instead, injured or diseased animals must be separated from other animals, be reported to the Veterinary official immediately and receive immediate appropriate treatment.

If treatment cannot be provided, and if cleared by the Veterinary official, they must be sent back to their farm of origin or nearest Veterinary clinic or, if appropriate, be transported to the nearest abattoir for slaughter.

If treatment is not possible and a further transport not advisable either, emergency slaughter must be considered (see 5.6.). In the case of Notifiable diseases, the provisions of the Animal Health Act (Act 01 of 2011) prevail.

5.6. Emergency slaughter

If euthanasia or emergency slaughter is indicated, it should be done promptly and humanely only by an authorized person. The most recommended method in cattle with regard to animal welfare and to circumstances on animal gatherings is the usage of firearms. Cattle should be killed by shooting in the brain at a short range while the animal is not moving the head.



Sheep should be killed with a firearm, or bled out using a very sharp knife, or, in the case of lambs, clubbed (stunning by a heavy blow on the back of the head to reach unconsciousness followed by bleeding).

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Adult goats should be stunned using the behind-the-horn method, (the firearm is directed to the skull behind the horns in the line with the animal's mouth). Kids can also be shot from the front directing the shot at a point of intersection of lines taken from the base of each ear to the opposite eye. This method is not suitable for adult goats, since their brain is, compared to other animals, located well back in the skull. Killing of goats by severance of the throat and spinal cord should only be done if no firearm is available and only by an experienced operator.

The following are signs of an effective kill:

- The animal collapsed immediately;
- The animal stopped rhythmic breathing;
- The animal has a fixed, glazed expression to its eyes, with no eye movement;
- The animal has lost the corneal reflex, i.e. it should not blink when you touch the cornea (the clear surface) of the eye with a finger

The effectiveness of the method of killing must be evaluated.

5.7 Animals down

Where a "down" animal is identified on a truck, the remaining animals should, where possible, be unloaded from the vehicle first, provided that this will not cause any further injury to the "downed" animal/s. For the "downed" animal/s remaining on the truck, time may be given to see

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if such animal/s regains composure and footing, otherwise action for humane destruction must be carried out.

5.8 Pregnant animals and animals born at the gathering facility

Cattle pregnant for more than 8 months (past 90% gestation) must not be transported. After calving, cattle should not be transported for the following 4 days. Also, cows with udders distended with milk should not be loaded. Recently born animals should only be transported once their navel has healed properly

Sheep or goats pregnant for more than 4 months (past 90% gestation) must not be transported. After lambing, sheep or goats should not be transported for the following 4 days. Recently born lamb and kids should only be transported once their navel has healed properly (The navel should be dry and withered and the new born must be strong and healthy).

In the event where livestock are born at the gathering facility despite efforts to prevent this, special arrangements should be made to protect the new born animal. The arrangements may include separate penning with the mother in holding areas, provision of feed, water and shelter or humane destruction of the newborn.

5.9 Emergency unloading

Access must be provided to sale yards for emergency unloading outside business hours to ensure ongoing animal welfare. If the facility is locked, a notice must be displayed at the entrance giving the after hour phone numbers of the agent on duty, his contractor or the sale yard manager.

6 ANIMAL HEALTH

6.1. Prevention of spread of disease

Managers or supervisors of animal gatherings (livestock auctions, sales or shows) must take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of diseases.

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6.2. Separation of injured/ sick animals

Animals that are sick or injured upon arrival at/ or become injured sick at the animal gathering (auction, sale or show) facilities must be separated from other animals immediately and the veterinary official notified.

6.3. Suspicion or confirmation of infectious diseases

The management responsible for the animal gathering (livestock auction, sale or show) must ensure that animals being suspected or confirmed to be infected by a notifiable or other infectious and contagious disease are removed from the facilities immediately and prior to commencement of the event. The attending veterinary official must be notified immediately of any suspicion of infectious disease.

6.4 Dead Animals

Dead animals are disposed of in a manner that is in accordance with local health and veterinary regulations and that does not allow the spread of any disease.

7. DOCUMENTS/ RECORDS

7.1. The FAN Meat documents

The FAN Meat Standards for livestock agents and auctioneers and the FAN Meat Rules must be available at the office.

7.2. Auction schedule

The yearly auction schedule and its approval by DVS must be available at the office.

7.3. Records of employee training

A record must be available at the office giving proof of instructions and training of permanent staff handling animals during the auction/ sale.

7.4. Animal Movement permits

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All animals arriving at the animal gathering (livestock auction/ show/ sale) must be accompanied by a valid animal movement permit and, in the case of individually identified livestock, the animal movement notice. The auctioneer/ agent must verify the correctness of information and submit the animal movement permit and notice to the attending veterinary official.

7.5. Animal Movement Notice

All individually identified animals arriving at the animal gathering (livestock/ show/ sale) must be accompanied by a copy of the animal movement notice. The auctioneer/ agent must verify the correctness on the number and, -the individual identification of the animals and fill out the arrival record and the Auction Roll. All documents must be presented to the attending DVS official before livestock inspections.

Animals that will not be sold/ change owner but sent back to the previous owner need to be accompanied by the animal movement notice issued by the agent/ auctioneer and a new animal movement permit issued by the attending DVS official.

Animals leaving the auction/ sale to be transported to the buyer's holding need to be accompanied by the animal movement notice issued by the agent/ auctioneer and a new animal movement permit issued by the attending DVS official.

Auction operators have to submit electronically the animal movement notices for livestock received and the Animal movement permits and notices for livestock leaving the auction facility to the NamLITS database.

7.6. Export permits

Livestock sold for export needs to be accompanied by a Veterinary Import permit from the importing country, a Veterinary export health certificate, a Meat Board Export permit and, in the case of breeding stock, a Livestock Improvement Permit, an Animal Movement Permit and Animal Movement Notice as well as proof of export related tests conducted, where applicable. It is the responsibility of the exporter to ensure that animals to be exported are prepared in accordance with the requirements as stated in the Veterinary Import permit. Only authorized person may issue Meat Board export permits on behalf of the Meat Board to other persons.

7.7. Document of Identification/ Removal permit

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After the sale of livestock, the auctioneer/ agent must complete a Document of Identification for the new owner and a Removal permit for the driver/ transporter of the livestock.

7.8 Complaints Register

The site operator must keep a record of any complaints received and action taken. Relevant complaints include those concerning personnel, members of the public, livestock and/or vehicles. The record must contain date and details of complaint and any corrective action.

CONTACT DETAILS

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