Dairy Feeds Assessment & Traceability Guidance

1.0 Background

There is a variety of dairy feeds to maximize economic returns available to farmers. Meanwhile, customers and regulators are increasingly scrutinizing dairy products for their content and production methods. Animal feed impacts milk quality, food safety, and customer perceptions of sourcing. Therefore, ensuring the suitability and traceability of all feeds is crucial. This guide helps dairy farmers and feed providers meet customer expectations and New Zealand regulations.

2.0 Scope

This guide outlines the requirements for all dairy feeds brought onto the farm that are not grown or produced by the farm owner/operator. This includes all purchased feeds and excludes those grown on the farm's milking platform or support blocks. The types of feeds covered are:

- Forage crops: e.g. grass and maize silage, hay, Lucerne,
- NZ-grown plant crops: e.g. wheat, kiwifruit, apples,
- Compound feeds: e.g. meal, blends,
- Imported feeds: e.g. PKE, corn, tapioca,
- Processed foods: e.g. bread, confectionery, biscuits, whey,

These requirements apply to both bulk and bagged feeds, as well as other forms of product delivery.

3.0 Feed Declaration Process Overview

Dairy feeds are categorized based on their risk profile:

- New Zealand Grown Feeds:
  This includes all fresh or conserved NZ-grown crops, forages, fruits, vegetables, and grains that have not been processed with additional ingredients.
- Imported/Compound & Processed Feeds:
  This includes all imported, compound, and processed feeds such as imported grains, PKE, tapioca, almond hulls, biscuits, bread, lollies, juices, whey, and sauces. It also includes any NZ-sourced feeds that do not meet the declaration conditions.

The assessment and documentation requirements for each category are detailed below.

3.1 New Zealand Grown Feeds

Table A: New Zealand Grown Feeds Process Summary

Step	Responsibility	Actions	Notes
1	Vendor	Confirm that all requirements of the NZ Sourced Feeds declaration are met for the consignment of feed being supplied.	• See Appendix 1 for a copy of the NZ Sourced Feeds declaration. • If the conditions of the declaration cannot be met, then follow the Imported/Compound & Processed Feeds process (3.2 below).
2	Vendor	Complete the Declaration.	• Ensure all mandatory information is supplied
3	Vendor	Sign the declaration	
4	Vendor	Supply a copy of the declaration to the Receiver at the time of delivery/pickup.	• A separate declaration is required for each consignment sold.
5	Vendor	Retain a copy of the declaration and all supporting information (spray programs etc.)	• Feed records must be kept for at least four years
6	Receiver	Accept purchased feed if delivered with appropriate documentation, **OR** Reject if not suitable for dairy animals	• Refer to suitability assessment
7	Receiver	Retain a copy of the declaration	• Feed records must be kept for at least four years
8	Receiver	Appropriate use of feed	• Use the declaration information to feed the product to the appropriate animals e.g., dry stock, lactating animals.

9	Receiver	All purchased feed must be stored appropriately to prevent deterioration (aflatoxin production) and/or contamination	

3.2 Processed/Imported Feeds

Table B summarizes the process for providing feed suitability information for imported, processed, and compound feeds. Most commercial feed suppliers are expected to use electronic systems to gather supporting data, assess suitability, and provide this information to Receivers (via load docket, bag label, email, etc.).
The Dairy Feed Declaration - Imported/Compound & Processed Feeds in Appendix 2 is included for one-off use when an automated system is not available.

Table B: Processed/Imported Feeds Process Summary

Step	Responsibility	Actions	Notes
1	Vendor	Undertake an assessment for each batch of feed (or multiple batches where there is no material change in ingredient status) to confirm feed suitability for lactating dairy animals.	• See 3.2.1 for details of the suitability assessment process.
2	Vendor	Provide the Receiver with feed information, including the declaration of suitability, at the time of delivery/pickup.	• Declaration may be in the form of a load docket, package label, standard template (see Appendix 2), or equivalent. • A separate declaration is required for each consignment sold.
3	Vendor	Retain a copy of the feed consignment information.	• A copy of the feed information supplied to the Receiver, together with supporting evidence used in the suitability assessment, must be kept for at least four years. • This need not be in the same format as supplied to the Receiver and may be stored electronically.
4	Receiver	Accept purchased feed if delivered with appropriate documentation, **OR** Reject if not suitable for dairy animals	• Refer to suitability assessment
5	Receiver	Retain a copy of the feed consignment information.	• Feed records must be kept for at least four years
6	Receiver	Appropriate use of feed	• Use the declaration information to feed the product to the appropriate animals e.g., dry stock, lactating animals.
7	Receiver	all purchased feed must to be stored appropriately to prevent deterioration (aflatoxin production) and/or contamination	

3.2.1 Dairy Feed Suitability Assessment

Use Table C to assess each batch of processed or imported feed. If the feed meets the minimum requirements for lactating animals in all risk areas and appropriate supporting evidence is available, it may be labelled as "**Suitable for Lactating Animals**."

Table C: Dairy Feed Suitability Assessment

Feed Risk Area	Minimum Requirement for Lactating Dairy Animal Feed	Examples of Supporting Evidence
Chemical Residues The presence of chemical/biological contaminants in milk represents major food safety, commercial, and reputational risks to the dairy industry. The level of contaminants/residues in the feed must be below relevant (Maximum Residue Limits) MRLs and not result in detection in milk above MRLs when fed at recommended rates.	The vendor has appropriate assurances from raw material supplier(s), in depth knowledge of the raw material production methods, and/or test results for each batch of raw material confirming acceptable residue levels.	• Declaration from feed supplier/grower confirming that any fumigant/pesticide /insecticide/herbicide, was applied following label requirements and that all specified withholding times were observed before harvest or sale, as appropriate. • Copy of raw material manufacturing process. • Chemical test results
Biological/Toxin Residues Copra has been shown to present a high risk of elevated aflatoxin levels in milk. An intake of less than 15% of the total diet has been set to manage this risk.	The feed contains no copra, or in the case of compound feeds, which contains less than 15% copra and 5ppb aflatoxin. Bulk copra cannot be fed to lactating cows	• Test results for bacteria, yeast, fungi, and mycotoxins as appropriate to the feed. • Details of copra content of feed.
Ruminant and Porcine Protein Feeding of ruminant protein to ruminants can lead to the development of BSE in cattle and similar conditions in other ruminants. The feeding of ruminant protein is controlled under the Ruminant Protein Regulations. Porcine proteins can restrict access to some markets.	The feed contains no ruminant or porcine protein as an ingredient and was not manufactured in a shared processing facility where ruminant or porcine protein is processed.	• List of feed ingredients • Details of production facility used for manufacture.
Human/Municipal Waste Some markets have an aversion to the practice of applying human/municipal waste to land used to produce feed for dairy animals.	Human/municipal waste **has not** been applied to land used to grow the source material.	• Declaration from feed supplier/grower.
Meat and other Industrial or commercial activities Waste Uncontrolled application of meat/industrial waste to land used to produce feed for dairy animals can lead to product contamination or market rejection. In cases where the risk is sufficiently managed using an industry approved management plan, the resulting feed may be suitable for dairy cattle.	No meat/industrial waste has been applied to land used to grow the feed OR. Meat/industrial waste has been applied to land following an approved dairy industry management plan.	• Declaration from feed supplier/grower. • Copy of approved dairy industry management plan.

3.2.2 Feed Information Schedule

The information in Table D must be provided to the Receiver with each delivery. This information can be printed on; a load docket, bagged products, included in an information sheet with a weighbridge docket, or sent electronically. It must be easily accessible to the farm operator and available for future audits.

Table D: Information to be provided with all Feed Consignments

Information Required	Description	Sample statement(s)	Applicability
Delivery Date	Date the product is received at the farm	*15/03/2015*	Required for each load/delivery
Manufacturer/Supplier/ Importer	Name and address of manufacturer/supplier/ importer of providing the feed.	*Best Feeds Ltd* *1 Pacific Highway* *Mt Maunganui*	Required for each load/delivery
Receiver	Name and address of purchaser the feed, and dairy supply number of farms delivered to.	*Joe Brown Ltd* *987 Smith Road* *Cowtown* *S/N 12345*	Required for each load/delivery
Feed type	Description of feed (e.g., PKE, Molasses, dried distillers' grain, Tapioca pellets) may also include codes for specific blends.	*Palletised dairy blend 5A*	Required for each load/delivery/bag
Unique identifier/Batch no.	As used by the manufacturer/product supplier. May refer to a specific batch, manufacture date, bin, etc. or a combination of these. Must be sufficient to allow the product to be traced to its source.	*P2014PTBA*	Required for each load/delivery/bag
Quantity	Include both unit type and number of units supplied	*12 tonnes*	Required for each load/delivery. May be included on an attached weighbridge docket
Carrier	Name of cartage company used for delivery	*Acme Transport Ltd*	Required for each load/delivery. May be included on an attached weighbridge docket
Feed Suitability	Feed suitability statement based on feed assessment	*Suitable for Lactating Dairy Cows*	Required for each load/delivery/bag
GM Status	An optional statement where the product does not contain genetically modified source materials	Sourced from non-GM crops.	Recommended for each load/delivery /bag where the product does not contain genetically modified source material

4.0 Other information

The vendor should be able to provide the receiver with information in addition to that required on the Declaration. This may cover such things as:

- Fact sheets
- Nutritional value
- Storage recommendations

5.0 Records

Feed vendors and Receivers must keep dairy feed records for at least four years. Records can be in paper or electronic form but should be organized for easy retrieval. Detailed batch information is not expected to be publicly available but may need to be produced for traceback or audit purposes. Depending on the feed type and origin, the following records should be maintained.

For each batch (as applicable)

Product type/description (what it contains, what is it?)
Batch number unique identifier
Company name(s) and address(es) of feed provider(s) (Source -where it came from)
Full list of ingredients
Confirmation that it is suitable for feeding to dairy animals including: 1. Statement regarding the application of wastes: • Human waste • Meat processing waste • Paper and pulp mills and tannery waste • Waste form industrial or commercial activities, including land farming. 2. Statement regarding the absence of ruminant or porcine protein (e.g., blood & bone, beef meat products) 3. Statement regarding the application of agricultural chemicals, applications have been applied in accordance with: • Label requirements • With holding periods have been observed prior to harvest. 4. Statement regarding GM status

For each consignment

Delivery Date
Receiver of feed name and address
Carrier
Product type/description
Batch or unique identifier
Quantity
Statement of suitability
GM Status

6.0 Audit

Dairy processors and/or MPI may conduct feed supply audits periodically to ensure the system is functioning correctly and risks are managed appropriately. These audits could check whether:

1. <u>For New Zealand, Sourced Feeds:</u>
   - The vendor holds sufficient evidence to sign the declaration.
   - The vendor has supplied a copy of the declaration to the Receiver at the time of delivery.
   - The vendor is retaining feed supply information for a minimum of four years.
   - The Receiver is holding a completed declaration for all NZ sourced feed consignments.
   - The Receiver is retaining feed supply information for a minimum of four years.

2. <u>For Imported, Processed and Compound Feeds</u>
   - The vendor holds sufficient evidence to undertake a suitability assessment.
   - The suitability assessment has been correctly undertaken.
   - All ingredients are traceable to the grower/supplier.
   - All required information has been provided to the Receiver at the time of delivery.
   - The vendor is retaining feed supply information for a minimum of four years.
   - The Receiver is holding feed supply information, including a feed suitability statement, for all consignments received.
   - The Receiver is retaining fed supply information for a minimum of four years.

Appendix 1: Dairy Feeds Assessment & Traceability Guidance

Dairy Feed Declaration – New Zealand Grown Feeds

This form outlines the minimum requirements for transferring feeds for dairy animals producing milk for a dairy processor, from sources not controlled by the Receiver. It should be used for all locally grown (not imported) crops such as hay, silage, maize, vegetables, fruit, cereals, etc. For other feed types, including imported and compound feeds, or if the declaration requirements cannot be met, use the Dairy Feed Declaration - Imported/Compound & Processed Feeds Form available from dairy/milk processors.

Part 1: General Information *(required in all cases)*

Vendor (feed supplier) details:		**Receiver details:**	
Name		**Name**	
Supply # (If applicable)		**Supply #**	
Address		**Address**	
Ph:	**Email:**	**Ph:**	**Email:**

Feed supply details	**Delivery date(s):** *(single date or date range)*	
Feed type: *(hay, silage, apple pomace, wheat etc.)*	**Source:** *(paddock, block, farm, etc.)*	**Quantity:** *Unit (bales, bins, tonnes, kgs, Litres etc.)*
Carrier Details:		

Part 2: Additional Information *(provide where available/relevant)*

Use Recommendations *(Max kg/day, % of diet, do not feed with, etc.)*	
Storage Recommendations *(Keep dry, store inside, keep out of sun, etc.)*	

Part 3: Declarations *(required in all cases) or complete the Dairy Feed Declaration - Imported/Compound & Processed Feeds Form available from dairy/milk processors.*

I/We declare that in relation to the feed included in this consignment:

1. Was not produced, or harvested from, land treated or irrigated with:
    a. Fertiliser or waste containing ruminant or porcine protein.
    b. human sewage or bio-solids;
2. Was not produced, or harvested from, land treated or irrigated with unless under an industry approved management plan.
    a. meat waste.
    b. industrial waste of any type including petroleum industry Land Farming wastewater.
3. If the feed or the land where it was grown was treated with any fumigant, pesticide, insecticide, or herbicide, the vendor must have records showing that the treatment followed label requirements and that all specified withholding times were observed before harvest or sale.
4. Contains only non-genetically modified source crops

And as such, **is suitable for feeding to all classes of dairy animal**.

Vendor Signature	**Date**

Responsibilities

The feed Vendor is responsible for providing the completed declaration.

The feed Receiver is responsible for:

- Ensuring that documentation is received for all brought-in feed and retained for four years.
- Storing the feed in a manner that avoids degradation or contamination

Part 4: Feed Suitability Assessment *(required in all cases)*

For each Feed Risk Area, confirm that the minimum requirement for lactating dairy animal feed has been met, and that suitable evidence is available to support the conclusion. Where the feed meets the minimum requirement for **ALL** risk areas it may be considered **Suitable for Lactating Dairy Animals**. In all other cases, the feed is **Not Suitable for Lactating Dairy Animals.**

Feed Risk Area	Minimum Requirement for Lactating Dairy Animal Feed	Examples of Supporting Evidence
Chemical Residues The presence of chemical/biological contaminants in milk represents major food safety, commercial, and reputational risks to the dairy industry. The level of contaminants/residues in the feed must be below relevant (Maximum Residue Limits) MRLs and not result in detection in milk above MRLs when fed at recommended rates.	The vendor has appropriate assurances from raw material supplier(s), in depth knowledge of the raw material production methods, and/or test results for each batch of raw material confirming acceptable residue levels.	• Declaration from feed supplier/grower confirming that any fumigant/pesticide /insecticide/herbicide, was applied in accordance with label requirements and that all specified withholding times were observed prior to harvest or sale, as appropriate. • Copy of raw material manufacturing process. • Chemical test results
Biological/Toxin Residues Copra has been shown to present a high risk of elevated aflatoxin levels in milk. An intake of less than 15% of the total diet has been set to manage this risk.	The feed contains no copra, or in the case of compound feeds, which contains less than 15% copra and 5ppb aflatoxin. Bulk copra cannot be fed to lactating cows	• Test results for bacteria, yeast, fungi, and mycotoxins as appropriate to the feed. • Details of copra content of feed.
Ruminant and Porcine Protein Feeding of ruminant protein to ruminants can lead to the development of BSE in cattle and similar conditions in other ruminants. The feeding of ruminant protein is controlled under the Ruminant Protein Regulations. Porcine proteins can restrict access to some markets.	The feed contains no ruminant or porcine protein as an ingredient and was not manufactured in a shared processing facility where ruminant or porcine protein is processed.	• List of feed ingredients • Details of production facility used for manufacture.
Human/Municipal Waste Some markets have an aversion to the practice of applying human/municipal waste on crops used for feed manufacture or on the land used to grow those crops.	Human/municipal waste **has not** been applied to land used to grow the source material.	• Declaration from feed supplier/grower.
Meat/Industrial Waste Uncontrolled application of meat/industrial waste on crops used for feed manufacture or on the land used to grow those crops can lead to contamination or market rejection. In cases where the risk is sufficiently managed using an industry approved management plan, the resulting feed may be suitable for dairy cattle.	No meat/industrial waste has been applied to land used to grow the feed or. Meat/industrial waste has been applied to land following an approved dairy industry management plan.	• Declaration from feed supplier/grower. • Copy of approved dairy industry management plan.

Dairy Feed Declaration – Imported/Compound & Processed Feeds

This form outlines the minimum requirements for transferring feeds for dairy animals producing milk for a dairy processor. It should be used for all imported, compound, and processed feeds, as well as locally grown feeds that do not meet the conditions of the Dairy Feed Declaration - New Zealand Grown Feeds. For other locally sourced forage feeds and grains, use the Dairy Feed Declaration - New Zealand Grown Feeds form available from dairy/milk processors.

Processed feeds	Surplus, downgraded, or otherwise unsalable food products or by-products primarily intended for human consumption e.g., biscuits, bread, pastries, lollies, juices, whey, and sauces.
Imported/Compound feeds	Compound meals, grains, PKE, tapioca, almond hull, cotton seed hull, etc.

Part 1: General Information *(required in all cases)*

Vendor (feed supplier) details:		**Receiver details:**	
Name		**Name**	
Supply # (If applicable)		**Supply #**	
Address		**Address**	
Ph:	**Email:**	**Ph:**	**Email:**

Feed supply details	**Delivery date(s):** *(single date or date range)*	
Feed type: (list ingredients in blends)	**Quantity:**	**Batch ID:**
		Best Before *(if applicable)*:
Carrier Details:		

Part 2: Additional Information *(provide where available/relevant)*

Use Recommendations				
Storage Recommendations				
Nutrient Content	*% Dry matter*	*MJ/kg ME*	*% Crude protein*	*% Nitrogen*

Part 3: Declarations *(required in all cases)*

I/We declare that:

(a) Based on the Feed Suitability Assessment overleaf, this consignment at the time of delivery is *(tick one only)*:

☐ Suitable for lactating dairy animals ☐ Not suitable for lactating dairy animals

(b) Based on records held by the Vendor, this consignment *(tick if applicable)*:

Contains only, or is manufactured from only, non-genetically modified source crops ☐ Yes ☐ No / Unknown

(c) Records are held by the Vendor that allows traceability of all ingredients used in this consignment.

Vendor Signature	**Date**

Part 4: Feed Suitability Assessment *(required in all cases)*

For each Feed Risk Area, confirm that the minimum requirement for lactating dairy animal feed has been met, and that suitable evidence is available to support the conclusion. Where the feed meets the minimum requirement for **ALL** risk areas it may be considered **Suitable for Lactating Dairy Animals**. In all other cases, the feed is **Not Suitable for Lactating Dairy Animals.**

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