

BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CATTLE LIVESTOCK FARMER
AND BOVINE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER

Bilateral agreement between cattle livestock farmer (hereafter livestock farmer) and bovine veterinary practitioner (hereafter vet)

Livestock farmer

Name livestock farmer:

Address:

.....

Unique Farm Number / UBN number:

Veterinary practice

Name vet plus registration number of Veterinary Association or similar, if applicable:

.....

Name of replacement vet(s) plus registration number of Veterinary Association or similar, if applicable:

.....

.....

Address veterinary practice:

.....

Whereas

the beef sector wants to take a socially responsible approach to beef cattle health in relation to public health, food safety and the correct, selective and transparent use of veterinary medicines;

the livestock farmer uses a registered bovine vet who works in accordance with local regulations for, and in compliance with, further requirements placed on the livestock farmer, including periodic visits to the farm according to the protocol;

the farmer must indicate the name and address of the vet who normally provides services on the farm of origin and appropriate care will be given to sick or injured animals immediately and that a vet will be consulted without delay if the care given does not improve the animal's condition;

this agreement is governed by the local legislation on animal husbandry;

inter alia, the veterinary medicines prescribed or administered by the vet are to be recorded in a database (logbook) managed by the vet and/or livestock farmer for the purpose of assessment and for the purpose of any measures to be taken concerning the prescription and administration of veterinary medicines;

this agreement establishes clear agreements which among others refer to applying a restrictive regime on the use of antibiotics and further measures complying with local regulations on the use of veterinary medicines;

declare to have agreed the following:

hereinafter referred to as:

the farmer is the authorised person (farmer) who has signed the agreement,

the vet is the bovine veterinary surgeon who normally provides services on the farm and who has signed the agreement,

parties are the farmer and the vet who signed the agreement.

FARM-SPECIFIC HEALTH PLAN AND FARM-SPECIFIC TREATMENT PLAN

- a. the vet shall, in consultation with the livestock farmer, draw up a farm specific health plan that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Better Life label.
- b. the farm specific health plan is evaluated by the parties at least once per year and, if necessary, updated.
- c. based on the farm specific health plan, a farm specific treatment plan is drawn up by the vet, the farm specific treatment plan is based on the most recent advice concerning the use of antibiotics.
- d. the livestock farmer observes the company specific health plan, and the farm specific treatment plan which is an integral part of the farm specific health plan, and he maintains contact with the vet in relation to public health, animal health, animal welfare and management of their cattle and provides the vet access to the relevant parts of the farm.

THE LIVESTOCK OWNER

The livestock owner

- a. provides the vet access to any premises where cattle are kept by the livestock owner and provides access to the medicine and veterinary logbook;
- b. contracts the vet to carry out periodic visits to the farm in a frequency that complies with the Better Life regulations, treats their cattle in accordance with the veterinary prescriptions in the farm specific health plan and the farm specific treatment plan and informs the vet without delay if the prescribed (veterinary) treatments do not have the desired effect;
- c. maintains the (veterinary) means in accordance with the indications (of the manufacturer and/or instruction of the vet) and provides access to the log that records the receipt and administration of (veterinary) medicines and vaccines;
- d. maintains a farm specific health plan of which the farm specific treatment plan is an integral part and maintains contact with the vet in relation to public health, animal health, welfare and

management of his/her livestock and provides access to the relevant operational farm management with the aim of improving the animal health situation;

- e. instructs the vet to draw up the farm specific health plan in consultation and ensures this health plan updated by the vet;
- f. informs the vet fully about veterinary advice and treatments administered by third parties and the (veterinary) medicines that have been administered and, if necessary, provides access to the records of the administered (veterinary) medicines and ensures the use of (veterinary) medicines is reported and recorded in a database, only uses the services of the replacement vet(s) as stated in the preamble;
- g. may only use the services of a vet other than the vet stated as the replacement vet(s) in the preamble in cases where: the circumstances necessitate emergency care; the vet, with the consent of the farmer, is assisted by another vet with specific skills, expertise or experience; or in the framework of controlling an outbreak of an animal disease which is subject to notification, organised by European or national legislation, permit other vets and authorised persons to perform veterinary activities relating to the outbreak on the farm;
- h. informs the vet about opinions, such as a second opinions given by third parties. If this concerns opinions that may affect cattle health and welfare including public health and food safety;
- i. indicates the contracted vet on every Food Chain Information form that accompanies cattle for slaughter;
- j. must grant the (Better Life label) Certification Body access to their farm for the purpose of conducting a desired/necessary audit to assess whether the contacted vet observes the regulations of the Better Life label.

THE VETERINARY PRACTITIONER

The veterinary practitioner:

- a. is registered as a vet (bovine) by the official authorities in a veterinary register. The register is publicly available;
- b. indicates to the livestock farmer which vet acts as replacement bovine vet. Ensures that files are transferred to this replacement vet and livestock farmer, by mutual consent of the vet and livestock farmer;
- c. works according to the regulations of the Better Life label and further requirements to be made including the periodic visits to the farm and applicable legal provisions such as they currently read and will read in the future;
- d. prescribes veterinary medicines (antibiotics) for up to the period as permitted in legislation and regulations;
- e. only advises different research or treatment, that differs from the research or treatment prescribed in the guide to good veterinary practice for food-producing animals, in consultation

and with the consent of the livestock farmer and notes the research or treatment in the veterinary log reports or administration;

- f. conducts in case of animal disease control programmes, organised in accordance with the prescribed regulations;
- g. ensures registration of all visits including the periodic visits to the cattle farm for the benefit of the administrative records of the cattle farm and saves the reports for at least one year after the date of the visit;
- h. conducts visits to the farm at regular intervals while monitoring cattle health status and meeting the livestock farmer to discuss progress.

CONSENT AND REGISTRATION

By signing this agreement, the farmer expressly agrees

1. that the veterinary medicines prescribed or administered by the vet, as well as relevant personal data (e.g. name, address, place of residence and unique farm number / UBN) may be registered in a database administered by the vet for the purposes of assessment and, where appropriate, measures to be taken concerning the prescription and administration of veterinary medicines.
2. that the data registered in the database, as referred to in paragraph 1 and the output data generated (including the animal day dose), may be requested by the certification bodies and bodies conducting the assessments.
3. that the farmer will always save a valid agreement in the administrative records of the farm. The vet has a copy of this agreement at the veterinary practice. The agreement may be accessed and saved in the form of paper or digitally.

The vet ensures that the data relating to the prescribed and administered veterinary medicines are correctly processed in the database, as referred to in paragraph 1.

CONCLUSION, DURATION AND TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The parties conclude this agreement on a voluntary basis for an indefinite period of time.

In the case of amendments concerning replacement vets and emergency care vets, these vets shall be incorporated in the already registered agreements by the vet.

The agreement may be terminated in writing with immediate effect, without prejudice to the legal provisions, and without judicial intervention.

Upon termination of the agreement, the farm file shall be transferred by the vet to the new vet to be stated by the farmer. The transfer concerns the last 12 months prior to termination and includes the reason for termination, the farm specific health plan, the farm specific treatment plan, relevant research results and the relevant treatments.

Thus drawn up and signed in duplicate

Date:

Place:

For the authorised farmer:

Name (in capitals):

Signature:

For the veterinary practitioner:

Name (in capitals):

Signature: