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Farming for the future self-assessment tool (SAT)

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Farming for the Future

SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Demonstrating sustainability

SAT Edition 1
OCTOBER 2006



Department of
Agriculture and Food



FIRST EDITION

This publication is Edition 1 of the *Farming for the Future* Self-Assessment Tool. Updated editions will be available on the website (www.agric.wa.gov.au).

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Farming for the Future

Minister's welcome

There is an ever increasing demand from international markets and local consumers who want to be confident that their goods have been produced in a sustainable manner.

In 2003, the Sustainable Agricultural Practices Working Group was formed to provide industry, Government and the community with a mechanism to address these needs and develop a framework for primary producers to demonstrate sustainable farming practices.

This framework is now known as the *Farming for the Future* initiative.

The *Farming for the Future* initiative assists producers to meet market needs for economically, environmentally and socially sustainable production systems.

The initiative is a voluntary process that will assist in providing a more cost effective and scientifically valid mechanism to demonstrate stewardship by producers to the broader community and Government.

This Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) provides a catalogue of recommended practices that help form a sustainable primary production enterprise.

I would like to thank the many producer groups, community organisations and Government agencies that have enthusiastically contributed to the development of this Self-Assessment Tool.

I am confident that the *Farming for the Future* initiative will contribute to a more profitable and sustainable future for both Western Australia's primary producers and our domestic and international customers.

Kim Chance MLC

Minister for Agriculture and Food



Acknowledgements

This publication is The first edition and part of an ongoing consultative process to identify current recommended practices. The process has involved producers, producer and catchment groups, industry representative bodies, non-government organisations and various State and Commonwealth Government agencies too numerous to individually mention.

We are grateful for the technical assistance provided by the Western Australian DairyCatch project and the Victorian Department of Primary Industry EMS group at the Rutherglen Research Institute.

The Minister for Agriculture and Food's Sustainable Agricultural Practices Working Group has provided strategic guidance through the development of the *Farming for the Future* initiative. This Group has been comprised of representatives from:

- Department of Agriculture and Food
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Curtin University of Technology
- ERA Farming Company
- Natural Resource Councils of Western Australia
- World Wide Fund for Nature
- Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA
- University of Western Australia
- WAFarmers

Our thanks to the following people for assisting us in the compilation of this publication and allowing us to use their images;

- David Anderson
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- David and Jo Curtin and family
- Maureen Dobra and the Loose Leaf Lettuce Company staff
- Dale Hanks and family
- Kalis Organic Olive Groves staff
- Bev Logue, 2006 RIRDC Rural Women's Award winner.

Continuous Improvement

We value your comments and suggestions for improvements to this Self-Assessment Tool. They should be sent to the *Farming for the Future* team by email - f4f@agric.wa.gov.au; in writing - Farming for the Future, Department of Agriculture and Food; Locked Bag 4, Bentley Delivery Centre, WA. 6983; or by telephoning one of the team members who's contact details are on the back page.

Farming for the Future is an on-going process informed by the latest research through industry consultation. This Self-Assessment Tool will be regularly updated and available on the website. (www.agric.wa.gov.au).

Farming for the Future

SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Prepared by the *Farming for the Future* team

Danielle England, Rebecca Ashley Jones, John Noonan and Jon Warren

Contents

	Page
Minister's welcome	1
Acknowledgements	2
What is <i>Farming for the Future</i> ?	4
How can I be involved?	4
What is the <i>Farming for the Future</i> Self-Assessment Tool?	5
Business planning	6
Economic sustainability	6
Social sustainability	7
Natural resource and production sustainability	9
Biosecurity	15
Action plans	19
Recognition request	inside back cover
Industry contacts	back cover

What is Farming for the Future?

Western Australian produce is some of the cleanest, safest and most reliable in the world.

It is also being produced in an increasingly sustainable manner as our primary producers adopt documented and industry-agreed, current recommended practices.

International markets and local consumers want to be confident that their goods have been produced in a sustainable manner. *Farming for the Future* now gives Western Australian producers a process to demonstrate this.

Farming for the Future is working with industry to identify relevant, scientifically valid and measurable sustainable practices. These on-farm practices are being aligned with business, community and government plans for business, social and environmental targets.

Agriculture continues to innovate and change and *Farming for the Future* recognises this as an essential part of sustainability. The program is working closely with industry research and development teams to continually refine sustainable farm practices, and to identify the practices that will make Western Australian producers more sustainable.



Good management

“the best bang for the buck”

David Anderson, Baldvis, JC Anderson and Co., vegetable producer

“Consumers want fresh, safe and good quality food - we can now prove this and keep our clean and green image.

“We have fine-tuned our environmental practices such as water and fertiliser use, to make sure our business gets ‘the best bang for the buck’. We aim to show good stewardship of the land.”

How can I be involved?

Through *Farming for the Future* Western Australian primary producers can be recognised as operating in an economically, environmentally and socially responsible manner.

Farming for the Future will recognise primary producers who are using industry agreed practices. They can be recognised by participating in an existing industry assurance program, or by successfully completing a *Farming for the Future* Self-Assessment Tool (SAT).

Primary producers will be recognised within *Farming for the Future* at one of three levels:

LEVEL 1 Self-Assessment

This level of recognition is provided to producers who have completed a Self-Assessment Tool either through *Farming for the Future* or an industry code of practice. E.g. Flockcare, Cattlecare, Horticulture for Tomorrow.

The completion of any of these Self-Assessment Tools meets Level 1 recognition under *Farming for the Future*.

LEVEL 2 Independent Assessment or LEVEL 3 Internationally Recognised Certification

This level of recognition is provided to producers who are assured through a second or third-party audited certification process that incorporates a management or action plan which builds on Level 1. E.g. DairyCatch, Best Farms, Flockcare, Cattlecare, Enviroveg, Freshcare; and quality assurance programs such as SQF, BetterFarm IQ or Dairy Farm Assurance.

Contact the industry programs listed on the back page of this brochure about obtaining Level 2 / Level 3 recognition.

What is the *Farming for the Future* Self-Assessment Tool?

Following is a selected list of current recommended practices generally regarded by Western Australian agricultural industries as being sustainable. It is not intended to be a complete list and *Farming for the Future* recognises that because every business is different, sustainable farm practices will also differ.

Agriculture is innovative and continues to change. This is an important part of sustainability. As such, *Farming for the Future* is working closely with industry to review and define sustainable farm practices to assist with the continuous improvement of sustainability on Western Australian farms.

How to use this Self-Assessment Tool

This Self-Assessment Tool has divided the farm business into five main areas:

Business planning

Economic sustainability

Social sustainability

Natural resource and production sustainability

Biosecurity

As you move through each of these areas, you will be able to assess if your business meets the current recommended practice outlined.

If the current recommended practice is not met, then we suggest you identify how it could be addressed by including it in the **action plan** found on pages 21-22. These plans can then be discussed at your next business planning session, and the outcomes included in your updated business plan.

If the current recommended practice is not directly relevant to your business then tick the NOT APPLICABLE box and continue with the next question.

Achieving recognition

This Self-Assessment Tool has been designed to allow you to be recognised as meeting Level 1 of *Farming for the Future*.

All you need to do to be recognised by *Farming for the Future* is to:

- Complete the following checklist to determine which of the sustainable farm practices are implemented in your farm business. (Tick the YES, NO or NOT APPLICABLE boxes.)
- Make a note in the action planning section (pages 21-22) of any changes you plan to make as a result of completing this Self-Assessment Tool.
- Make a copy of the completed Self-Assessment Tool, action plan, and recognition request, and post it to *Farming for the Future*. (Contact details are on page 24.) A certificate of recognition will be returned to you.

By completing this Self-Assessment Tool, and/or implementing any number of the practices on your farm, you will be moving towards a sustainable farm business that is optimising its natural, financial and social resources.

This is what *Farming for the Future* is all about.

A sustainable farm business optimises its natural resources.



Business planning

The farm business plans and monitors its performance.

Sustainability commitment

1. A sustainability commitment is documented in the business plan. It outlines how business operations are conducted with consideration of:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Economic, environmental and social sustainability | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Maintaining farm biosecurity | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Farm business plan

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The farm business plan is documented, implemented and reviewed regularly..... | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The farm business plan shows a commitment to: | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| a. Economic sustainability | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Providing a safe and rewarding business for family and employees | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Protecting and enhancing local biodiversity, land and water resources .. | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Complying with relevant legislation and regulations | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. As a part of the annual planning process the business partners review and set business goals, and develop action plans... | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cashflow budgets are prepared annually and reviewed regularly.



Remember to make a note in the action planning section (pages 21-22) of any changes you plan to make.

Economic sustainability

The farm business is financially sustainable.

Financial performance

At the annual review the business will show a positive change in liquidity (the cash position of the business) and equity (net worth), taking into account seasonal conditions.

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Cashflow budgets are prepared annually and reviewed regularly | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Financial analysis is undertaken annually .. | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Asset/liability statements are produced annually | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Partners recognise the importance of investment strategies, as well as tax and financial planning in business activities..... | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. There is an ongoing consultation between the business and its consultant, lender and/or accountant | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. A marketing strategy is in place for all major products | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The business participates in industry financial and production benchmarking | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The business complies with relevant legislation | YES | NO | NOT APPLICABLE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Social sustainability

The farm business is socially sustainable.

Human resources

The business shows a commitment to a safe and enjoyable workplace for partners, employees and family members.

Skills development

Relevant training and education opportunities are provided to members of the farm business.

1. A training needs analysis is conducted annually for every member of the farm business

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. A skills training plan is included in the farm business plan, and an annual budget is allocated towards training

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The farm business provides 10 days and/or budgets \$1,500 per person (full-time farm business member) towards training every year

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The farm business complies with relevant legislation regarding training. E.g. ChemCert, food safety, occupational health and safety training

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

People management

The business partners have effective people management skills in leadership and communication.

1. The business has a positive attitude towards innovation and is actively managing change by participating in industry research and development programs

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Team members feel confident in planning and conducting meetings according to their business' needs

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Leadership is shown in creating work teams. E.g. shearing teams and casual labour

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remember to make a note in the action planning section (pages 21-22) of any changes you plan to make.

4. The legal requirements and personal responsibilities of staff recruitment and management are recognised within the business

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Work programs and labour performance reviews are set annually for every member of the business

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The retirement and succession plan is reviewed regularly

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Business and personal goals are set to ensure good time management and to reduce personal stress

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Business members are allowed access to relevant mentoring, coaching and exchange programs

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Leadership is shown by business partners in creating work teams.



Social sustainability

Occupational health and safety

The business provides safe work conditions and appropriate training to ensure worker health and safety.

- Occupational health and safety hazards have been identified, risks assessed and hazards reduced.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Business partners and employees have a working knowledge and understanding of occupational health and safety laws.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- The business has completed the industry-compiled Farmsafe WA, 15-minute checklist, or farm business managers have participated in a Managing Farm Safety workshop.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Occupational health and safety inductions are conducted and records kept.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Safe working procedures are compiled and accessible to all members of the farm business.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- There is a plan for occupational health and safety emergencies, and appropriate processes in place to prevent recurrence...

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Quality of life

Maintain and enhance the quality of life for the farm family and all members of the farm business.

- Time is regularly set aside for family and friends.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Breaks are taken; including an annual holiday and regular long weekends.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Farm business members are encouraged to be active within their community.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Regular health checks are undertaken and a commitment is shown to a balanced lifestyle which includes regular exercise....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Time is regularly set aside for family and friends.

Heritage and culture

Heritage and cultural values that reflect the cultural diversity of all people and places are respected.

- Culturally sensitive sites are identified (both indigenous and non-indigenous sites), and their protection, and any information pertaining to them, is documented.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Access to the land is maintained for indigenous people for the purpose of cultural maintenance.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Appropriate cultural awareness training is provided for relevant personnel.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Natural resource and production sustainability

The farm business is environmentally sustainable.

Biodiversity and landscape features

The natural habitat is maintained and enhanced as a part of farming operations.

Native vegetation and wildlife protection and enhancement

Identify and protect, maintain or enhance, stands of remnant vegetation and wildlife on the property.

1. Advice on protecting and managing native vegetation and wildlife has been sought from relevant sources YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Remnant vegetation areas are identified on a farm map YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. A fencing plan has been developed for remnant vegetation YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. Catchment scale activities have been investigated; and the farm business cooperates in programs that help protect local threatened and endangered species and ecological communities E.g. voluntary conservation schemes and conservation covenants, pest and weed control programs YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. Native and riparian vegetation have been fenced off and revegetated using native species YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
6. Catchment scale activities, such as wildlife corridors, have been investigated, and incorporated into the farm plan YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Remember to make a note in the action planning section (pages 21-22) of any changes you plan to make.

Soil and land management

Manage soil, physically, nutritionally and biologically, in a way that it is profitable, productive and stable.

1. Reduced tillage and stubble retention are used where possible YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Tramline or controlled traffic farming is investigated to improve soil structure and aid stubble handling YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. A paddock rotation plan is used to plan crop, tillage and chemical rotations YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. Rotations are designed to minimise the length of bare soil periods YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. Vegetation cover is retained to reduce soil erosion and maintain soil health. YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Stubble is maintained to enhance soil health.



Natural resource and production sustainability (cont.)

Fertility management

Manage soil nutrition through correct fertiliser use which optimises productivity while minimising nutrient loss.

1. Regular soil and tissue tests are conducted.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Records are kept of soil test results and fertiliser applications.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Fertiliser applications are matched to pasture and crop requirements, and are based on soil or tissue testing results.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Nutrient budgets are used when making fertiliser decisions to match nutrient inputs to outputs, and only those nutrients removed are replaced.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Fertiliser spreaders are calibrated to ensure accurate application and uniform distribution.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Fertilisers are selected on their nutrient content in relation to soil and plant requirements.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Fertiliser applications are timed to ensure the soil is moist and plants are actively growing.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. A buffer is maintained around major watercourses to prevent adverse environmental impacts (E.g. 20 metres).....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Irrigation and fertiliser applications are integrated wherever possible to maximise plant uptake.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Slow-release and low-soluble phosphorus fertilisers are used on sandy soils in high rainfall zones.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Acidity management

To optimise soil pH.

1. The productive areas of the farm have been tested (both surface and sub-surface) to develop a pH profile.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Good quality lime is applied to maintain surface (0-10 cm) soil above pH_{Ca} 5.5 and sub-surface (10-20 cm) soil above pH_{Ca} 4.8.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Salinity management

To minimise the spread of salinity in the landscape through farm and water management practices.

1. The current and future salinity risk of the property has been assessed using maps and other techniques.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Farm management options to manage salinity have been evaluated.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Saltland agronomy and revegetation are used to manage salinity.



Natural resource and production sustainability (cont.)

3. Appropriate salinity management options are being implemented. E.g. saltland agronomy, revegetation, surface water management and engineering options YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. Hazard areas are being assessed for salinity risk by monitoring groundwater levels and salinity level trends, through observation bores and soil salinity tests YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. Recharge areas have been defined in the farm plan and management options determined..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Sodic soil management

To minimise the effects of sodicity.

1. The productive areas of the farm have been tested for sodicity over the past five years YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Potential sodic areas are managed appropriately, including the use of gypsum. YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Water management

Local water resources are managed in a manner that balances agricultural and community needs.

Surface water management

Maintain or enhance water quality while ensuring natural flows are optimised, erosion is minimised, and there is sufficient quantity and quality water to meet business needs.

1. A combination of suitable systems is used to manage surface water on the farm E.g. dams, contours, surface (shallow) drains, raised beds, grassed waterways, broad-base channels, grade banks YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

2. Water management systems are carefully planned and evaluated for on-site and off-site impacts before construction..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. Dams are constructed under industry guidelines for site selection using qualified dam designers and builders, considering natural surface water flows YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. The necessary permits (including planning approval, clearing permits and a licence to take water) are obtained from the relevant Local and State Government authorities prior to the construction of dams or any surface water management systems..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. Dams are inspected regularly and maintained to ensure optimum function and performance YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Groundwater management

Groundwater is managed to minimise physical impacts on the environment and protect infrastructure.

1. Recharge is reduced through the use of perennial plants in the farming system YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. If an observation bore is installed on the property, groundwater levels are monitored YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. The option of drainage is assessed and only implemented on suitable soils..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. Drainage water is only discharged into natural drainage lines where there are no negative impacts to water quality (nutrient loading, salinity, erosion), and when all legal requirements have been met YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. If within a water management area, groundwater is managed in accordance with licence requirements YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Natural resource and production sustainability (cont.)

Irrigation

Irrigation systems are operated for efficiency and productivity while minimising off-site impacts.

1. Irrigation is scheduled YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Irrigation scheduling is based on evaporation and crop water use factors, or information from soil moisture sensors YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. Irrigation is managed to avoid run-off and deep percolation..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. The irrigation system is regularly checked for operating efficiency (pressure, leaks, wear and tear) and is checked at least annually for uniformity YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. All new irrigation meets the internationally accepted standards of a Coefficient of Uniformity (CU) greater than 85% and a Distribution Uniformity (DU) greater than 75%..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
6. A drainage system is incorporated into the design..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
7. Water budgeting is conducted to ensure the irrigation system can meet the irrigation requirements of the intended production ... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Irrigation scheduling is based on evaporation and crop water use figures.



Water use efficiency

Use water efficiently to optimise productivity and minimise off-site impacts.

1. Water Use Efficiency (WUE) is monitored to ensure optimisation..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Waste management

Reduce the impact of farm waste from business operations.

Disposal

Effective systems are in place for waste management that meet social responsibilities and legal requirements.

1. Unwanted chemicals are disposed of according to the label..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Hazardous wastes are disposed of using a licensed waste contractor..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. Used chemical containers are triple-rinsed and disposed of correctly using designated collection sites or programs such as Drum Muster YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. Landfill waste is not dumped on the property, or if it is, it is dumped in a designated area and in an environmentally sound manner according to local guidelines. E.g. gullies or erosion areas are not treated as landfill sites YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. The business partners have a working understanding of legislation regarding pollution prevention and waste storage, handling and disposal YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
6. Government and local authority approvals are gained before commencing any activity that may have off-site effects, or pollute surface or groundwater E.g. a piggery or feedlot..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Natural resource and production sustainability (cont.)

7. Animal manures are used and composted according to industry standards.....
8. Plastics, tyres, aerosols and treated timbers are not burnt.....
9. Waste oil and lead-acid batteries are disposed of using an approved collector or delivered to a local collection point.....
10. On-farm and off-farm risks are considered before the disposal of animal carcasses, and where possible, animal carcasses are disposed of using a licensed carrier.....

Reuse and recycling

Maximise reuse and recycling opportunities.

1. The ability to recycle or reuse packaging is considered in purchasing decisions.....
2. Materials and equipment are reused where possible.....
3. A recycling program is in place for recyclable materials used on the property. E.g. silage wraps, tyres, drums.....



Chemical and fuel management

Optimising the long-term effectiveness of agricultural and veterinary chemicals while minimising the negative impact of agrichemicals and fuels on the environment.

Chemical management

To achieve the application's purpose while avoiding the contamination of soils, groundwater and surface water; and the impact on non-target areas and species.

1. Personnel applying or handling agricultural chemicals are ChemCert certified or equivalent.....
2. The reliance on the use of chemicals is minimised by implementing an integrated pest and disease management strategy....
3. Farm chemicals are used safely and only for the purpose and in the manner for which they are intended according to the label and Material Safety and Data Sheet (MSDS) unless otherwise lawfully authorised.....
4. The instructions on the label and Material Safety and Data Sheet (MSDS) are read, understood and followed by all personnel applying or handling chemicals.....
5. Equipment is well maintained and designed for its intended use.....
6. The recommended protective clothing is always worn.....
7. Empty containers are disposed of appropriately.....

A recycling program is in place for recyclable materials such as silage wrap.

Natural resource and production sustainability (cont.)

Chemical resistance

Reduce chemical reliance and resistance in our agricultural industries.

1. An integrated pest management (IPM) plan has been developed and implemented to optimise the use of control methods

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Records are kept of all chemical groups used on the farm

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Incidences of significant resistance are reported to the local office of the Department of Agriculture and Food

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Fuel and oil management

Avoid the contamination of soils, groundwater and surface water and impacts on non-target areas and species.

1. Farm fuels and lubricants are used safely and only for the purpose and in the manner for which they are intended

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Chemical and fuel storage and handling

Implement procedures for safe chemical and fuel use, and handling and storage to avoid potential hazards and risks of environmental contamination.

1. A designated, lockable chemical storage facility is available on the property and meets ChemCert recommendations

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Different chemical groups are stored separately

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Fuel is stored in tanks on a sealed base and pumped according to legal requirements

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. All fuels, chemicals, fertilisers and other hazardous goods are transported in accordance with the relevant regulations...

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. A manifest is kept of all chemicals and fuels on the property.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Energy management

Optimise energy efficiency and reduce reliance on non-renewable energy sources.

1. Approaches such as minimum tillage and/or precision farming (tramline farming) are used to reduce fuel consumption

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Legume rotations are used to reduce reliance on synthetic nitrogen fertilisers.....

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Where practical, solar or wind power is used for domestic power and/or pumping water for livestock

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The business continues to investigate the potential for self-sufficiency through the production and use of biodiesel and alternative fuel supplies

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Machinery and equipment are maintained, repaired and replaced to maintain operational efficiency

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Electricity and fuel consumption is regularly reviewed

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The business investigates the potential for self-sufficiency through the production of biodiesel and alternative fuel supplies.



Natural resource and production sustainability (cont.)

Air quality

Minimise the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, dust, chemical drift, smoke odours and noise generated through farm business activities.

1. There is a regular maintenance program for all farm machinery and equipment as per manufacturer's specifications to reduce undesirable emissions

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Stubble is retained and burnt only as a pest control measure

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Groundcover is maintained at appropriate levels to prevent dust creating air pollution

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Production risk management

Ensure risk management strategies are adopted.

1. Production hazards have been identified, documented and incorporated into production, business and financial risk planning

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The effect of present and future climate risk on the business is assessed, and procedures developed to minimise its impact

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Biosecurity

The impacts of weeds, pests and diseases on farming operations are minimised.

Animal health and safety

Ensure all animals are managed to maximise animal health and welfare.

1. Animal husbandry practices, treatments, interventions and movements comply with relevant National and State codes or standards, and industry guidelines for management and transport of animals

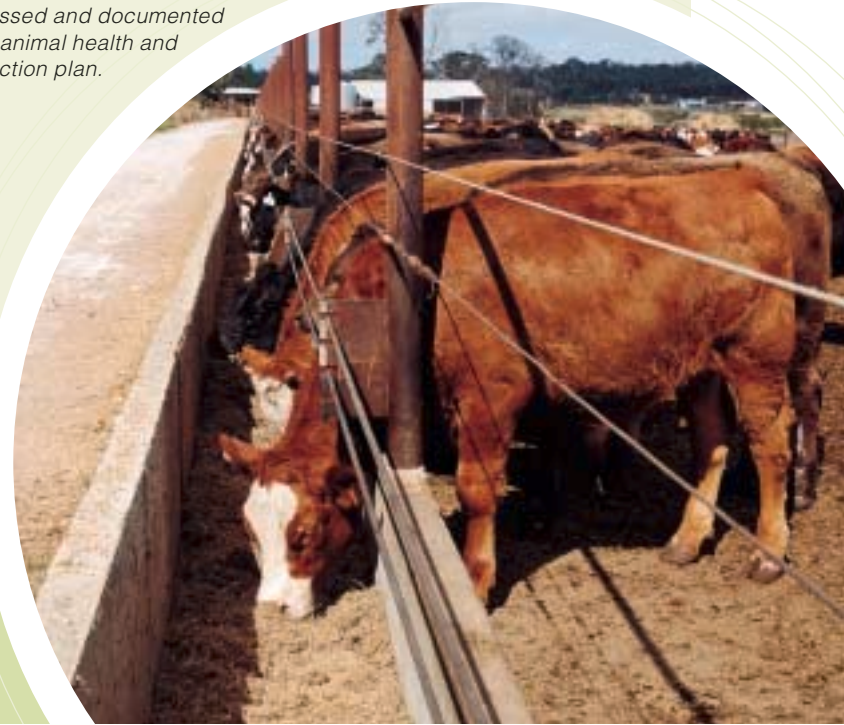
YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Staff are trained in the handling and welfare of livestock including the recognition of illness and disease

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Key animal welfare issues relevant to the enterprise have been identified, assessed and documented within an animal health and production plan

YES	NO	NOT APPLICABLE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Remember to make a note in the action planning section (pages 21-22) of any changes you plan to make.

Key animal welfare issues are addressed and documented in the animal health and production plan.



Biosecurity (cont.)

Livestock identification and traceability

An identification system is implemented to enable traceability and effective livestock management.

1. An identification system is in place to comply with industry and mandated requirements..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Vendor declarations and consignment documentation are completed and signed for all stock leaving the property, and are appropriately stored..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. Individual animals are identified to enhance business performance in relevant enterprises..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. Livestock records are available from purchase or birth, to point-of-sale..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Weed, plant and animal pest and disease management

Minimise the probability of entry, establishment and spread (through control, containment and reporting) of weeds and plant pests and disease.

Weed management

A plan is in place to prevent, monitor and control weeds.

1. People, machinery, vehicles, animals and stockfeed are managed to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. An integrated weed control program is in place for the farm and meets industry standards by including chemical and cultural control methods..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. Roadsides, tree lanes, paddocks and confinement areas are monitored for weeds and controlled accordingly..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

4. Crops and pastures are inspected at key stages to make weed management decisions..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. A weed management plan has been developed and documented within a farm biosecurity plan, and weed management risks have been assessed and prioritised... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
6. A procedure for reporting biosecurity threats has been documented and threats such as notifiable weeds are reported to the local office of the Department of Agriculture and Food..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Insect pest management

A plan is in place to monitor and control insect pests.

1. People, machinery, vehicles, animals and stockfeed are managed to prevent the introduction and spread of insect pests..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. An integrated insect control program is in place for the farm and meets industry standards by including chemical and cultural control methods..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. Crops and pastures are inspected at key stages to enable insect pest management decisions..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. An insect pest management plan has been developed and documented within a farm biosecurity plan and insect pest risks have been assessed and prioritised..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. A procedure for reporting biosecurity threats has been documented and threats such as notifiable insects are reported to the local office of the Department of Agriculture and Food..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Biosecurity (cont.)

Plant diseases

A plan is in place to prevent, monitor and control plant diseases.

1. People, machinery, vehicles, animals and stockfeed are managed to prevent the introduction and spread of plant disease ... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Diseased plant material is removed and destroyed..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. An integrated plant disease control program is in place for the farm and meets industry standards by including chemical and cultural control methods YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. A disease management plan has been developed and documented within a farm biosecurity plan and plant disease risks have been assessed and prioritised YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. A procedure for reporting biosecurity threats has been documented and threats such as notifiable diseases are reported to the local office of the Department of Agriculture and Food..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Animal diseases

There is a planned approach to prevent, monitor and control animal diseases.

1. People, machinery, vehicles, animals and stockfeed are managed to prevent the introduction and spread of animal diseases YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Livestock introductions, including purchases, agistment and strays, are managed to minimise the introduction of disease YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. Boundary fences and gates are stock-proof and secure to prevent access by straying stock..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. Livestock are monitored for signs of disease, its cause and potential treatments YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. Records of stock treatments are kept, and withholding periods observed..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

6. Prevention programs are in place to protect against diseases and parasites. E.g. vaccination, trace elements, worm control, blowfly control..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
7. Control programs minimise the risks posed by feral animals and pests. E.g. pigs, foxes and rodents YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
8. Animal carcasses are disposed of by burning or burial as soon as practical..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
9. Diseased animal carcasses are destroyed according to industry guidelines YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
10. No food of animal origin is fed to ruminants, and no swill (including carcasses) is fed to pigs YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
11. A disease management plan has been developed and documented within a farm biosecurity plan and animal disease risks have been assessed and prioritised YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
12. A procedure for reporting biosecurity threats has been documented and threats such as notifiable diseases are reported to the local office of the Department of Agriculture and Food..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Stock treatments are recorded.



Biosecurity (cont.)

Pest animal management

Effective control of feral animals and vertebrate pests is achieved within the farm business.

1. The farm is monitored for stray and pest animals..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
2. Sightings of notifiable pests are reported to the relevant authority..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
3. A pest animal control program is carried out according to the relevant legislation YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
4. Advice is sought from the relevant bodies before controlling feral animals and native fauna pest species YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
5. Cooperation with neighbours, other groups and local authorities ensures the control of pest animals on the farm YES NO NOT APPLICABLE
6. Boundary and border fences are appropriately maintained..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Food safety

Ensure that farm products meet the relevant food safety requirements.

1. The farm business is certified to an industry recognised food safety code of practice or food safety and quality assurance program..... YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Healthy crops maximise production.



Recognition request

I wish to apply for sustainability recognition within the Western Australian Department of Agriculture and Food's *Farming for the Future* initiative. I provide a copy of the completed Self-Assessment Tool for your records. **OR**

I wish to demonstrate my sustainability through participation in the following industry programs:
(Please detail the programs you have completed or are certified under.)

Applicant details

Contact person		
Trading name		
Name for certificate		
Postal address		
Phone		Mobile:
Fax		Email:
Location		ABN:
Signed		Date:

Please return to:

Farming for the Future

Department of Agriculture and Food,
 Western Australia
 Locked Bag 4 Bentley DC 6983
 Or fax to (08) 9367 4265

Internal use:	
DAFWA property number	
Level of recognition	
Expiry date <i>(Recognition will expire in one (1) year from the date of issue.)</i>	

Industry and relevant program contacts

General

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry www.daff.gov.au/ems
SQF www.sqfi.com

Grains

CBH BetterFarm IQ (08) 9454 0359
Mingenew Irwin Group's Healthy Farms (08) 9928 1646

Livestock

Dairycatch (08) 9753 2359
Dairy Farm Quality Assurance (08) 9388 4958
Lotfeeders Association (08) 9368 3736
WA Pork Producers Association (08) 9479 7315
Flockcare/Cattlecare – contact either WAFarmers or PGA

Horticulture

Freshcare (02) 9764 3244
Enviroveg (03) 5429 5220

Environmental

Blackwood Basin Group's Best Farms (08) 9765 1555
Mingenew Irwin Group (08) 9928 1646

Other

ChemCert (08) 9341 5325
FarmSafe (08) 9359 4118
Kondinin Group - Mulesing accreditation (08) 9478 3343
Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA (Inc.) (08) 9479 4599
WAFarmers (08) 9486 2106
WaterWise (08) 9368 3333

Farming for the Future

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Locked Bag 4 Bentley DC 6983

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