Farming for the future self-assessment tool (SAT)

Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia

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Farming for the Future

SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

Demonstrating sustainability

SAT Edition 1
OCTOBER 2006
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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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

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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, Baldivis, 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
   b. Maintaining farm biosecurity

### Farm business plan

1. The farm business plan is documented, implemented and reviewed regularly.
2. The farm business plan shows a commitment to:
   a. Economic sustainability
   b. Providing a safe and rewarding business for family and employees
   c. Protecting and enhancing local biodiversity, land and water resources
   d. Complying with relevant legislation and regulations
3. As a part of the annual planning process the business partners review and set business goals, and develop action plans.

### 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.
2. Financial analysis is undertaken annually.
3. Asset/liability statements are produced annually.
4. Partners recognise the importance of investment strategies, as well as tax and financial planning in business activities.
5. There is an ongoing consultation between the business and its consultant, lender and/or accountant.
6. A marketing strategy is in place for all major products.
7. The business participates in industry financial and production benchmarking.
8. The business complies with relevant legislation.
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.

2. A skills training plan is included in the farm business plan, and an annual budget is allocated towards training.

3. The farm business provides 10 days and/or budgets $1,500 per person (full-time farm business member) towards training every year.

4. The farm business complies with relevant legislation regarding training. E.g. ChemCert, food safety, occupational health and safety training.

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.

2. Team members feel confident in planning and conducting meetings according to their business’ needs.

3. Leadership is shown in creating work teams. E.g. shearing teams and casual labour.

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

5. Work programs and labour performance reviews are set annually for every member of the business.

6. The retirement and succession plan is reviewed regularly.

7. Business and personal goals are set to ensure good time management and to reduce personal stress.

8. Business members are allowed access to relevant mentoring, coaching and exchange programs.

Leadership is shown by business partners in creating work teams.

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

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

1. Occupational health and safety hazards have been identified, risks assessed and hazards reduced.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

2. Business partners and employees have a working knowledge and understanding of occupational health and safety laws.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

3. 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

4. Occupational health and safety inductions are conducted and records kept.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

5. Safe working procedures are compiled and accessible to all members of the farm business.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

6. There is a plan for occupational health and safety emergencies, and appropriate processes in place to prevent recurrence.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

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

1. Time is regularly set aside for family and friends.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

2. Breaks are taken; including an annual holiday and regular long weekends.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

3. Farm business members are encouraged to be active within their community.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

4. Regular health checks are undertaken and a commitment is shown to a balanced lifestyle which includes regular exercise.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

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

1. 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

2. Access to the land is maintained for indigenous people for the purpose of cultural maintenance.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE

3. Appropriate cultural awareness training is provided for relevant personnel.
   - [ ] YES
   - [ ] NO
   - [ ] NOT APPLICABLE
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.
2. Remnant vegetation areas are identified on a farm map.
3. A fencing plan has been developed for remnant vegetation.
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.
5. Native and riparian vegetation have been fenced off and revegetated using native species.
6. Catchment scale activities, such as wildlife corridors, have been investigated, and incorporated into the farm plan.

**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.
2. Tramline or controlled traffic farming is investigated to improve soil structure and aid stubble handling.
3. A paddock rotation plan is used to plan crop, tillage and chemical rotations.
4. Rotations are designed to minimise the length of bare soil periods.
5. Vegetation cover is retained to reduce soil erosion and maintain soil health.

Stubble is maintained to enhance soil health.

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

2. Records are kept of soil test results and fertiliser applications.  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

3. Fertiliser applications are matched to pasture and crop requirements, and are based on soil or tissue testing results.  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

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

5. Fertiliser spreaders are calibrated to ensure accurate application and uniform distribution.  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

6. Fertilisers are selected on their nutrient content in relation to soil and plant requirements.  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

7. Fertiliser applications are timed to ensure the soil is moist and plants are actively growing.  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

8. A buffer is maintained around major watercourses to prevent adverse environmental impacts (e.g. 20 metres).  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

9. Irrigation and fertiliser applications are integrated wherever possible to maximise plant uptake.  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

10. Slow-release and low-soluble phosphorus fertilisers are used on sandy soils in high rainfall zones.  
    - [ ] Yes  
    - [ ] No  
    - [ ] Not Applicable

---

### 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

2. Good quality lime is applied to maintain surface (0-10 cm) soil above pH_{Ca} \geq 5.5 and sub-surface (10-20 cm) soil above pH_{Ca} \geq 4.8.  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

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### 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

2. Farm management options to manage salinity have been evaluated.  
   - [ ] Yes  
   - [ ] No  
   - [ ] Not Applicable

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

4. Hazard areas are being assessed for salinity risk by monitoring groundwater levels and salinity level trends, through observation bores and soil salinity tests

5. Recharge areas have been defined in the farm plan and management options determined

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#### 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

2. Potential sodic areas are managed appropriately, including the use of gypsum

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#### 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

2. Water management systems are carefully planned and evaluated for on-site and off-site impacts before construction

3. Dams are constructed under industry guidelines for site selection using qualified dam designers and builders, considering natural surface water flows

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

5. Dams are inspected regularly and maintained to ensure optimum function and performance

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#### 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

2. If an observation bore is installed on the property, groundwater levels are monitored

3. The option of drainage is assessed and only implemented on suitable soils

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

5. If within a water management area, groundwater is managed in accordance with licence requirements

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

1. Irrigation is scheduled .....................

2. Irrigation scheduling is based on evaporation and crop water use factors, or information from soil moisture sensors ......

3. Irrigation is managed to avoid run-off and deep percolation ..................

4. The irrigation system is regularly checked for operating efficiency (pressure, leaks, wear and tear) and is checked at least annually for uniformity .............

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% ........................................

6. A drainage system is incorporated into the design ..........................

7. Water budgeting is conducted to ensure the irrigation system can meet the irrigation requirements of the intended production ...

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

1. Water Use Efficiency (WUE) is monitored to ensure optimisation .................

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 ..................

2. Hazardous wastes are disposed of using a licensed waste contractor ...........

3. Used chemical containers are triple-rinsed and disposed of correctly using designated collection sites or programs such as Drum Muster ..................

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 ..........................

5. The business partners have a working understanding of legislation regarding pollution prevention and waste storage, handling and disposal ..................

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 .........................
### 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

### 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

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 .

2. Records are kept of all chemical groups used on the farm.

3. Incidences of significant resistance are reported to the local office of the Department of Agriculture and Food.

**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.

**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.

2. Different chemical groups are stored separately.

3. Fuel is stored in tanks on a sealed base and pumped according to legal requirements.

4. All fuels, chemicals, fertilisers and other hazardous goods are transported in accordance with the relevant regulations.

5. A manifest is kept of all chemicals and fuels on the property.

**Energy management**
Optimise energy efficiency and reduce reliability on non-renewable energy sources.

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

2. Legume rotations are used to reduce reliance on synthetic nitrogen fertilisers.

3. Where practical, solar or wind power is used for domestic power and/or pumping water for livestock.

4. The business continues to investigate the potential for self-sufficiency through the production and use of biodiesel and alternative fuel supplies.

5. Machinery and equipment are maintained, repaired and replaced to maintain operational efficiency.

6. Electricity and fuel consumption is regularly reviewed.

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

2. Stubble is retained and burnt only as a pest control measure

3. Groundcover is maintained at appropriate levels to prevent dust creating air pollution

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

2. The effect of present and future climate risk on the business is assessed, and procedures developed to minimise its impact

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

2. Staff are trained in the handling and welfare of livestock including the recognition of illness and disease

3. Key animal welfare issues relevant to the enterprise have been identified, assessed and documented within an animal health and production plan

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.  
2. Vendor declarations and consignment documentation are completed and signed for all stock leaving the property, and are appropriately stored.  
3. Individual animals are identified to enhance business performance in relevant enterprises.  
4. Livestock records are available from purchase or birth, to point-of-sale.

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.  
2. An integrated weed control program is in place for the farm and meets industry standards by including chemical and cultural control methods.  
3. Roadside, tree lanes, paddocks and confinement areas are monitored for weeds and controlled accordingly.  
4. Crops and pastures are inspected at key stages to make weed management decisions.  
5. A weed management plan has been developed and documented within a farm biosecurity plan, and weed management risks have been assessed and prioritised.

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.  
2. An integrated insect control program is in place for the farm and meets industry standards by including chemical and cultural control methods.  
3. Crops and pastures are inspected at key stages to enable insect pest management decisions.  
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.  
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.
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.
2. Diseased plant material is removed and destroyed.
3. An integrated plant disease control program is in place for the farm and meets industry standards by including chemical and cultural control methods.
4. A disease management plan has been developed and documented within a farm biosecurity plan and plant disease risks have been assessed and prioritised.
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.

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.
2. Livestock introductions, including purchases, agistment and strays, are managed to minimise the introduction of disease.
3. Boundary fences and gates are stock-proof and secure to prevent access by straying stock.
4. Livestock are monitored for signs of disease, its cause and potential treatments.
5. Records of stock treatments are kept, and withholding periods observed.
6. Prevention programs are in place to protect against diseases and parasites. E.g. vaccination, trace elements, worm control, blowfly control.
7. Control programs minimise the risks posed by feral animals and pests. E.g. pigs, foxes and rodents.
8. Animal carcasses are disposed of by burning or burial as soon as practical.
9. Diseased animal carcasses are destroyed according to industry guidelines.
10. No food of animal origin is fed to ruminants, and no swill (including carcasses) is fed to pigs.
11. A disease management plan has been developed and documented within a farm biosecurity plan and animal disease risks have been assessed and prioritised.
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.

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.
### Business planning and economic sustainability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>What is the key benefit to my farm?</th>
<th>Is there a cost? How much?</th>
<th>By date</th>
<th>By whom</th>
<th>Done ✔️</th>
<th>Monitoring and recording</th>
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### Social sustainability

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## Natural resources and production sustainability

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## Biosecurity

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact person</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trading name</td>
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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

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**Internal use:**

<table>
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<th>DAFWA property number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Level of recognition</td>
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<td>Expiry date (Recognition will expire in one (1) year from the date of issue.)</td>
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</table>
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**
Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
Locked Bag 4 Bentley DC 6983
Fax ........................................... (08) 9780 6208
Email ........................................ f4f@agric.wa.gov.au
Website ........................................ www.agric.wa.gov.au
Jon Warren .......................................... (08) 9368 3361
John Noonan ........................................ (08) 9368 3123
Danielle England ................................. (08) 9368 3187
Rebecca Ashley Jones ......................... (08) 9368 3929
Theo Nabben ...................................... (08) 9780 6208
Marie Shanks .................................... (08) 9690 2000