



Fair to Nature Standard

Version 3.1a

June 2023

This document sets out the required standards for Fair to Nature certification. The standards are regularly reviewed by the Fair to Nature Technical Advisory Panel and any amendments ratified by the Steering Group.

Fair to Nature certification applies to the whole farm, therefore all crops and produce from the certified holding may be deemed to be Fair to Nature if crop and produce specific requirements are also met.

Fair to Nature certified products are marketed only by approved licensees who hold a valid Fair to Nature licence agreement.

More information can be found on the Fair to Nature website (www.fairtonature.org)

Version History

Version Number	Publication Date	Changes
3.1	March 2022	The addition of Control Points 5.3 and 5.4 in the Livestock Management section. The addition of Control Point 6.4 in the Pesticide Management section.
3.1a	June 2023	Old Fair to Nature logo replaces with new Fair to Nature logo. Clarification of the classification of crop and produce as Fair to Nature if they fulfil all requirements of this standard. Deletion of Control Point 9.1 in the Training section.

Fair to Nature Vision

Fair to Nature is a biodiversity farming standard that requires farmers to create and/or actively manage a specified range of high-quality wildlife habitats, and manage their soils, crops and livestock in ways that support nature. The Fair to Nature approach supports sustainable food and farming and is based on scientific evidence which demonstrates that the required quantity and quality of habitat leads to a significant increase in biodiversity.

Fair to Nature Compliance

Fair to Nature requires farmers to manage at least 10% of their farmed land in a range of habitats and farming practices that benefit wildlife. The farmed land includes all crops, grassland, other grazed habitats (e.g. moorland, heathland), field boundaries and woodland created since 1992. It excludes roads, tracks, buildings and woodland existing before 1992.

All members will receive a Fair to Nature Habitat Assessment every two years, from an approved adviser, to help support the delivery of nature friendly habitats. Each Fair to Nature farm with a supply contract will also undergo a verification audit every two years.

Audit Control Points

The following table lists the Fair to Nature Standard Control Points together with the appropriate actions required by each member during the audit. Generally, the actions are the provision of relevant documentation and evidence to satisfy that compliance has been achieved.

Each control point in the audit is assigned one of the following classifications:

A '**Critical Failure Point: Major non-conformance**' (*CFP-Major*) classification refers to a key compliance area that is essential and where non-conformance will result in suspension of membership.

A '**Critical Failure Point: Minor non-conformance**' (*CFP-Minor*) classification refers to a key compliance area that is required and must be achieved. Minor breaches will be recorded by the auditor and should be rectified within 28 days of the audit, where failure to do so will result in suspension of membership. Excessive numbers of these or repeats of the same non-conformance will result in suspension of membership.

A '**Recommended**' classification refers to a key compliance area that is desirable and farmers should make every effort to adhere to this.

CLASSIFICATION**STANDARD CONTROL POINT****VERIFICATION****1. Documentation and Details**

1.1	CFP – Major	The business is a certified member of the Fair to Nature scheme.	Fair to Nature certificate of membership or member reference number.
1.2	CFP – Major	A Fair to Nature Farm Plan is in place, dated within the last two years, developed with, and authorised by a Fair to Nature adviser, showing how the farm is meeting the Standard.	A current Fair to Nature Farm Plan is available for inspection, developed with and authorised by a Fair to Nature adviser and dated within the last two years.
1.3	CFP – Minor	A copy of the current Fair to Nature Standard is available for inspection.	Copy available for inspection.
1.4	CFP – Minor	A copy of the current Fair to Nature Manual is available for inspection.	Copy available for inspection.

2. Conservation and Habitats

2.1	CFP – Major	<p>At least 10% of the farmed area is managed as a range of wildlife habitats and features based on the following specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semi-natural habitats in good ecological condition – no minimum • Wildlife-rich field boundaries and margins – minimum 1% • Open flower-rich habitats (i.e., not in woodland) – minimum 4% • Open seed rich habitats – minimum 2% (not required if less than 10% of the farmed area is cropped) • Wet features – at least one feature per 100 ha (two per 100ha recommended) and the average area per feature of at least 25m² (not required on semi-natural habitats where creation is not appropriate or if this is only achievable through use of an artificial liner) • Some farmed habitats (e.g. overwintered stubbles, winter cover crops and herb-rich / clover leys) have a conversion factor – see Fair to Nature Manual for details) • Appropriately sited native woodland established since 1992 and managed for wildlife can be counted 	The Wildlife Management section of the Fair to Nature Farm Plan includes a map of the farm confirming where each Fair to Nature habitat is located together with management details and locations of other key environmental features. The habitats should total an area of at least 10% of the farmed area and be created and/or managed in line with the Fair to Nature Manual.
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2.2	CFP – Major	Maintain high conservation value habitats and features on the farm, even where this may in area exceed the Fair to Nature 10% requirements, including traditional field boundaries, cultural landscape features, in-field trees, and natural habitats.	The Wildlife Management section of the Fair to Nature Farm Plan includes a map of the farm confirming where each high conservation value is located. Verified through habitat map created at start of Fair to Nature membership.
2.3	CFP – Major	Priority species supported (as guided by the Fair to Nature advisor), including recognition of local priorities and their requirements, appropriate tailoring of the habitat management and recording of priority species observations by farm staff or volunteers.	Fair to Nature Farm Plan lists priority species and brief statement of how these are accommodated by management of habitats. Farm Plan also has list of anecdotal records.
2.4	CFP – Major	Habitats across the farm are connected, for example, by good management of field boundary and margin habitats.	Fair to Nature farm map shows network of boundaries, margins or habitats managed for nature connecting blocks of habitats on farm and connecting with adjacent habitats off farm, where these occur.
2.5	CFP – Major	Ensure field boundary management operations (including trees, hedges, ditches, walls, and grass margins) are avoided between 1st March and 31st August to prevent damage or disturbance to nesting birds and/or mammals.	No evidence of management having taken place during the nesting season.
2.6	Recommended	Wildlife on the farm is monitored by the business owner, manager, or other individuals/organisations.	Fair to Nature members will be requested to survey the wildlife on the farm annually using farm staff or volunteers. Survey results would be written up using templates provided by Fair to Nature.
2.7	Recommended	Take appropriate steps to avoid nesting birds in grasslands or spring crops when undertaking mechanical operations, notably harrowing, rolling, or topping.	Areas checked for ground nesting birds before management is undertaken and protection measures implemented if required.
2.8	Recommended	Farm buildings, existing and new, should integrate biodiversity enhancement opportunities where appropriate.	Fair to Nature advisor will flag appropriate interventions in the Fair to Nature Farm Plan. Evidence of any biodiversity enhancements integrated into new buildings e.g. addition of swift bricks, bat boxes, hedgehog highways, wildlife friendly landscaping.
2.9	Recommended	Control of invasive non-native species (INNS) – the Fair to Nature advisor will flag any issues. Control will only be obligatory if invasive species are within priority or 10% habitats which should be well-managed for wildlife (e.g. heathland with rhododendron).	The Fair to Nature Farm Plan will highlight any INNS issues on site and indicate whether any require control for the habitat to be counted towards the Fair to Nature habitats’ allocation.

2.10	Recommended	Habitat management for wildlife can be combined with protection of archaeological / historic features.	Fair to Nature can advise on appropriate management of archaeological / historic features that delivers both protection for the feature and contributes to the wildlife habitat requirements of Fair to Nature.
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3. Soil Management

3.1	CFP – Major	The Fair to Nature Soil Management Plan (SMP) is completed annually, including records from soil monitoring (at least one of Soil Organic Matter (SOM) testing, Visual Evaluation of Soil Structure (VESS) or earthworm counts) and management undertaken to address issues identified.	Completed annually; proof that steps have been taken to resolve issues identified in previous years and to improve SOM.
3.2	CFP – Major	At least one management technique undertaken to increase or maintain a high Soil Organic Matter.	Prove that steps have been taken to improve or maintain high SOM.
3.3	Recommended	Fair to Nature farmers should monitor soils using both SOM testing and VESS.	Data recorded in the Soil section of the Fair to Nature Farm Plan.

4. Carbon Management

4.1	CFP – Major	Fair to Nature farmers should undertake a full farm carbon footprinting assessment on commencement of the scheme and repeat every four years.	Report available for auditor to inspect.
4.2	CFP – Major	Fair to Nature farmers should demonstrate how they are working towards reducing the total farm carbon footprint.	Fair to Nature Farm Plan refers to measures taken to reduce footprint using methods not in conflict with wildlife conservation through reducing input use (energy and fertiliser), cultivations and sequestration.

5. Livestock Management

5.1	CFP – Major	Livestock to be sold/ marketed as Fair to Nature spend their whole life on Fair to Nature certified land. Youngstock brought in during the first month of life remain eligible.	Livestock movements show Fair to Nature certification throughout the lifespan.
5.2	CFP – Major	A plan is developed to minimise chemical control of parasites through integrated control.	Livestock section of the Fair to Nature Farm Plan details steps taken to reduce the use of chemical treatment and contains a record of livestock treatments.
5.3	CFP – Major	If livestock are housed on the holding, then the checklist of animal welfare best practices for housed livestock, as listed in the Farm Manual, must be met	Livestock and housing meet best practice welfare requirements.
5.4	CFP – Minor	A Livestock Health and Welfare Plan must be established and implemented to manage and improve health and welfare and reviewed annually with a veterinarian.	Livestock Health & Welfare Plan available for inspection
5.5	Recommended	Plan for sustainable sourcing of animal feed. Prioritise on-farm/local > regional > national > imported. Will be a required element when there are clear & realistic options for farmers to source sustainable feed.	Livestock feed-purchase receipts kept for review.

6. Pesticide Management

6.1	CFP – Major	An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan is maintained to reduce use of pesticides through appropriate use of techniques, including maximising the potential for natural pest control.	The IPM Plan in the Pesticides section of the Fair to Nature Farm Plan completed every two years.
6.2	CFP – Major	Pesticide records show use is lower than average for each crop or shows a progressive decrease over time.	Pesticide application records show all applications for each field and justification for use.
6.3	CFP – Major	Fair to Nature farmers should minimise the use of rodenticides and should follow the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) Best Practice and Guidance for Rodent Control and the Safe Use of Rodenticides.	Use of rodenticides recorded and visual/verbal audit of use in line with CRRU UK Best Practice.
6.4	CFP – Major	The use of neonicotinoid insecticides is prohibited.	Pesticide application records show no neonicotinoid use.

6.5	Recommended	Aware of the PAN Highly Hazardous Pesticides list and include steps to phase out use through IPM or chemical alternatives wherever possible.	Farm Plan lists priority chemicals for reduced use and steps implemented / proposed for achieving reduction.
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7. Fertiliser & Manure Management

7.1	CFP – Major	Peat or peat-based composts should not be used on the farm.	Records of growing substrates and composts used on farm demonstrate no use of peat.
7.2	CFP – Major	Record nutrient applications including the location, date, fertiliser type, method of application, quantities / concentration, and operator of all applied organic and inorganic fertilisers.	Nutrient application records checked.
7.3	CFP – Major	Wherever you farm, maximum nitrogen application rates must not exceed those permissible under 'Nitrate Vulnerable Zone' requirements.	Nutrient application records checked to assess compliance.
7.4	CFP – Major	Steps adopted to minimise the use of inorganic N fertiliser.	The Fertiliser section of the Fair to Nature Farm Plan lists steps taken to minimise the use of inorganic N in ways consistent with the needs of the Fair to Nature Standard for soil, water, and biodiversity.
7.5	CFP – Major	Do not apply P and K wherever the indices are at or above the value where nil return is expected for the crop type.	Soil tests for P & K together with nutrient application records.

8. Water and Pollution Management

8.1	CFP – Major	Where irrigation water is used, measure the water efficiency of your farming enterprises and crops and adopt management to minimise use.	Water section of the Fair to Nature Farm Plan sets out management adopted to minimise use.
8.2	CFP – Major	Identify specific risks to water quality in your catchment area (pesticides and nutrients) and plan how to minimise or mitigate use of these inputs.	Water section of the Fair to Nature Farm Plan sets out management adopted to minimise or mitigate use of inputs listed as issues within the catchment.

8.3	Recommended	Ensure water storage areas, where possible, provide benefits to wildlife e.g. allowing the development of marginal and aquatic vegetation, reprofiling edges and/or providing nesting platforms.	Steps taken to enhance water storage areas for wildlife listed in the Fair to Nature Farm Plan. This is only a requirement if the water storage area is included as part of the 10% Fair to Nature wildlife habitat.
8.4	Recommended	Implement natural flood management practices as advised by national agency.	Steps taken to slow the flow listed in Fair to Nature Farm Plan and checked on the ground.

9. Training

9.1	CFP – Major	The Induction Training Course has been completed by the relevant farm staff.	Fair to Nature Farm Plan shows when the Induction Training Course was completed.
9.2	CFP – Minor	The business owner/manager has communicated the relevant parts of the Fair to Nature Standard requirements to staff, suppliers, advisors, contractors, and tenants to ensure compliance.	Auditors will need confirmation that details of the farm’s Fair to Nature membership and its principles have been communicated (where appropriate) to those involved in the management of the farmed land.
9.3	CFP – Minor	Training needs of all farm staff to successfully deliver the Fair to Nature Standard are evaluated and a training plan is set out.	Fair to Nature Farm Plan sets out training needs, how they will be met and when training events / activities are completed.
9.4	Recommended	Knowledge transfer of best practice Fair to Nature delivery with other Fair to Nature farmers.	Fair to Nature will facilitate knowledge transfer between Fair to Nature members – participation will be voluntary.

10. Legal and Regulatory Compliance

10.1	CFP – Major	Fair to Nature farms must comply with all legal and regulatory requirements with regards to environmental protection, health and safety and animal welfare, and notify Fair to Nature of any current, pending, or past breaches or prosecutions that have occurred.	Auditors will require details of any pending or past prosecutions or breaches of compliance.
10.2	CFP – Minor	A record of complaints (where relevant to the Fair to Nature Standard) is maintained by the business, including documentary evidence of appropriate corrective action.	Auditors will request confirmation and evidence from records that complaints are documented, and corrective action has been taken.