

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL  
STANDARD

PNS/BAFS

Draft copy only

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for  
Sheep**



**BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STANDARDS**

BPI Compound Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1101 Philippines  
Phone (632) 920-6131; (632) 455-2856; (632) 467-9039; Telefax (632) 455-2858  
E-mail: bafpsda@yahoo.com.ph  
Website: www.bafps.da.gov.ph

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

---

**Foreword**

This Philippine National Standard on Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practices for Sheep was developed by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards in collaboration with a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group created as per Department of Agriculture Special Order No. 146 series of 2016.

The objective of this PNS was to revise the generic, multi-species PNS 60:2008 Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) to species-specific GAHP in consideration of the directional thrust of the ASEAN towards species-specific GAHP. This revision is in accordance with the BAFS mission to ensure harmonization of local standards with that of international and regional standards.

← Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

DRAFT

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep****1 Scope**

This code sets out the general principle and good practice and minimum requirements in the rearing of sheep for food use. Industry specific requirements for sheep production system may be developed provided that it satisfies the minimum requirements set out in this Code.

**2 References**

The titles of the standard publications and other references of this Code are listed on the inside back cover.

**3 Objective**

The purpose of this Code is to ensure that the farming practices of the establishment provide greater confidence in consumers' expectations that the final products are safe and fit for human consumption, while ensuring health safety and comfort to both the farm workers and animals, without any degradation to the environment.

**4 Definition of terms**

For the purpose of this Code, the definitions specified in the documents of the Codex Alimentarius shall apply. Other relevant definitions are as follows:

**4.1 abnormal behavior**

any behavioral change developed as a response to poor or wrong management practice causing stress to the animal

**4.2 animal**

refers to sheep conventionally raised or reared for food and non-food (e.g. animal by-products such as wool, leather, etc.) purposes

**4.3 authorized**

that which has been permitted by the competent authority

**4.4 competent authority**

an entity/agency who has the knowledge, expertise and authority as designated by law

**4.5 dam**

female animal used for breeding and having given birth at least once

**4.6 establishment**

given due permission, a firm authorized to operate by the competent authority

**4.7 farm owner/operator**

legal entity who is knowledgeable and responsible for the management and general operation of the farm; the term maybe used interchangeably

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

**4.8 farm technician**

a trained personnel, certified by the competent authority, who is technically skilled and knowledgeable in the various aspects of dairy operation

**4.9 farm worker**

trained personnel directly responsible for the rearing of animals

**4.10 feeds**

any single or multiple materials, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended to be fed directly to domesticated animals to meet the nutrient requirements in order to maintain life, promote growth, production and reproduction

**4.11 forage**

plants grown for grazing, cut-and-carry, ensiling or haying.

**4.12 gait**

way of walking or pace of the animals

**4.13 ration**

total amount of feed given for one day

**4.14 rearing/farming**

the act of raising of animals

**4.15 vehicle**

any means of transporting animals, including but not limited to trucks, tractors, trailers, trains, ferries, ships and aircrafts

**4.16 weaning**

a process of complete withdrawal from the dam and of milk feeding

**5 Minimum requirements****5.1 General Skills and Responsibilities****5.1.1 Farm operators and workers**

- a. The farm owner/operator should provide training to farm workers on the necessary knowledge and skills about basic procedures of farm management including the correct handling of animal, routine management practices and usage of farm tools or equipment.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

- b. The farm operator/worker should be responsible for the welfare of the animals by giving adequate provisions so that they are able to perform at their optimum levels.
- c. The farm operator/owner should provide farm workers with appropriate attire and footwear for protective measures
- d. Appropriate working uniform/attire and footwear should be provided to visitors who need to be at the production area.
- e. In cases of housed staff, the farm owner/operator should provide adequate and modest accommodation for the workers.
- f. The farm operator/worker should always promote a safe and healthy working condition in the farm. Accident and emergency procedures should be available with clear instructions for all workers. First aid kits, fire extinguishers, and information on hotline numbers should be easily available at all times, and placed conspicuously in strategic locations.
- g. The owner/operator should ensure that all farm operators and farm workers undergo annual routine health check-up/medical examination.
- h. The farm operator should report immediately or within 24 hours to relevant authorities any incidence of abnormal behavioral changes, health conditions and mortalities in the farm or any characteristic of a disease outbreak (Hemorrhagic Septicemia, etc).

**5.1.1.1 Legal Responsibilities of the Farm Operator/Owner**

- a. The farm owner should conform to existing animal farming legislation. This covers, but is not limited to, the management of environment issues, farm location, animal welfare requirements, disease control and reporting, carcass disposal, production of wholesome food and occupational hazards associated with animal farming.
- b. The farm operator should conform to existing labor legislation.

**5.1.2 Farm technicians and workers**

**5.1.2.1** The farm workers should not cause cruelty to animals, in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act (Republic Act 8485) and the amended Animal Welfare Act (RA 10631):

- a. Maltreatment of animals under his/her care and attention.
- b. Neglect of animal, such that it experiences pain, suffering or distress.

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

- c. Failure to implement the proper feeding program to maintain the live weight of the animal within the normal physiological range for the species type, age and sex.
- d. Removal of any part of the anatomy without adequate anesthesia, whenever applicable.
- e. Putting to sleep (euthanasia), confine, handle or transport any animal in a manner causing deliberate pain, suffering or distress.
- f. Keeping an animal alive, especially that which is pronounced physically or physiologically incapacitated, unless it is under the direct care of a licensed and registered veterinarian.

**5.1.2.2** The farm technicians and workers should not neglect animals according to the following criteria;

- a. Freedom from hunger and thirst and malnutrition. Feed withdrawal of animals should not be more than eighteen (18) hours before slaughter;
- b. Freedom from physical discomfort and pain;
- c. Freedom from injury and disease;
- d. With due consideration to the differences in the production system (confined and free-range/grazing), animals should be given enough freedom to conform to essential behavior patterns; and
- e. Freedom from fear and distress.

**5.2 Farm Location****5.2.1 Site Selection**

The farm should:

- a. Be strategically located within the approved land use plan of the local government and should be compliant with the DENR regulations and other regulations as prescribed by law (e.g. Laguna Lake Development Authority).
- b. Have a continuous supply of adequate power, potable water and good access road.
- c. Not be prone to flooding. Perimeter canals that drain to a closed lagoon may be constructed to prevent runoff from contaminating bodies of water and/or adjacent farms.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

- d. Be accessible to major facilities of production (i.e. feed mill, water system, forage area).
- e. With exception for those practicing integrated farming with their own post-harvest facilities, the farm should not be near service/public slaughterhouses.\*

\*Existing farms should have full control of the risks and ensure that there are mitigation measures in place.

**5.2.2 Site history**

If there are available data/information from relevant government agencies or organizations on the prior land use, then it should be used to establish that the site is not a possible source of physical, chemical, microbiological, and other hazards. However, when these data are not available and uncertainty exists as to the suitability of the land for agricultural use, it is recommended to have the soil and water source analyzed for contamination.

**5.3 Animal housing and facilities**

Farm owners/operators when building animal housing facilities may also refer to the Standards on Animal Housing established by competent authorities.

**5.3.1 Housing**

- a. The farm building should be designed and constructed appropriately for the intended purpose, should provide proper ventilation and should be well maintained.
- b. The building intended for keeping animals should be constructed in the orientation that minimizes the adverse effects on animal performance and eliminates possible hazards to its surroundings.
- c. The building should be designed and constructed using materials that:
  - should not cause any injury or impart hazard to the welfare of the animal;
  - provide comfort;
  - can be easily cleaned and disinfected;
  - can be easily replaced when damaged;
  - create efficient stock management; and
  - enhance biosecurity.
- d. Painting materials used for the building and facilities should not be hazardous to the animals.
- e. There should be an effective drainage system in place at the building.
- f. Animals should be provided with sufficient floor space/size suitable for their age, body weight and size to allow animals to feed and drink comfortably.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

- g. The feeding and drinking equipment and facilities should conform with the standards/requirements for each species and should be constructed and conspicuously placed such that:
- animals are able to eat and drink freely, allowing them to behave normally; and
  - contamination with animal feces and urine is prevented.
- h. Pens and pathways should:
- be designed and constructed to prevent animals from escaping;
  - be free from protruding objects or structures (e.g. nails and bolts) that may cause injury to the animals and farm operators and farm workers.
- i. Housing design (particularly roof height and sides) should provide proper ventilation (whether natural or artificial) to maintain a comfortable environment.
- j. Animal buildings should have adequate lighting to ensure that animals can be thoroughly inspected as required.
- k. Electrical installations and wirings should be protected and should not be accessible to the animals.
- l. Floors and pathway used by the animals should be elevated and made from non-slippery materials, safe, stable and well-lighted to prevent injury or abnormal gait to the animals.
- m. The design of alleys and chutes should allow effective management of the animals
- Floors of alleys and chutes should be properly built to provide good footing, preventing slippage and injuries.
  - Alleys and chutes should have sides of sufficient height to prevent animals from jumping off or falling.
- n. The farm should provide effective and appropriate facilities to restrain or handle animals without causing undue stress and injury to both animals and farm workers.
- o. The premises should be kept clean at all times to prevent disease occurrence, establishment of breeding ground for pests and prevent environmental degradation.

**5.3.2 Facilities****5.3.2.1 Holding yard**

- a. Sufficient pens and floor space should be provided to prevent overcrowding and permit necessary segregation of animals.
- b. Pen floors should be rough finished for cemented flooring, grass finished or sandy flooring and well-drained to provide good footing and prevent slipping or tripping.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"



**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

- c. The holding yard should be constructed in such a way that it will adequately protect the animals from adverse weather conditions and will provide sufficient ventilation.
- d. The holding yard should have proper facilities for animals to feed and drink.

**5.3.2.2 Pasture area and Paddocks**

Provide enough space for grazing and practice rotational grazing, i.e., the herd is moved pasture after one pasture lot has been grazed for sometime. This will keep the pasture from being over grazed and polluted or heavily infested by parasites.

**5.3.2.3 Storage facilities**

- a. Feeds and forage materials, machinery and equipment and chemicals must be properly stored, with accompanying signages or labels.
- b. The storage facilities should be kept clean at all times.
- c. The storage should have adequate ventilation, adequate protection from moisture to prevent acquisition of molds, and should be vermin-proof.
- d. Effective stock rotation should be practiced, i.e. "First in – first out" rule.

**5.3.2.4 Breeding facilities**

The breeding facility and equipment should be properly designed to provide the animals a comfortable and conducive environment for reproduction.

**5.3.2.5 Isolation area**

There should be a separate area intended for sick, injured and disabled animals which require necessary veterinary attention.

**5.3.2.6 Condemnation/Disposal Facility**

There should be a separate area for disposal of mortalities that is enclosed and isolated, and should conform to existing environmental waste management regulations.

**5.3.2.7 Fencing**

- a. The fence, including its posts and gates, should be effectively designed to prevent entry of stray animals, and escape or injury of the farm animals.
- b. If electric fence is used, it should be operated as per manufacturer's instructions.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

## 5.4 Farm Management

### 5.4.1 Animal sourcing, identification and traceability

- a. Animal identification should be routinely done (ear tagging and other forms of identification that are compliant with animal welfare regulations) and the records of identification for the animals should be kept properly.
- b. If the establishment imports animals, updated records of pertinent documents should be kept.
- c. The farm operator/ owner should record all movement of animals in and out of the farm. This includes updated records of veterinary protocols as prescribed by the concerned authority.

### 5.4.2 Feeds and Nutrition

The farm operator/owner should:

- a. Ensure that animals are provided with optimum level of nutrition at all times, as required for their respective functions and well-being.
- b. Provide animals with adequate and continuous access to clean and safe water.
- c. Provide the animals with safe, clean, and adequate rations or feeding materials (grasses, legumes and concentrates) suited for sheep.
- d. Provide animals with commercial feed that has been officially registered with the Animal Feeds, Veterinary Drugs and Biologicals Control Division (AFVDBCD) of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).
- e. In case of farm-mixed feed formulation, farm operators should only use ingredients from authorized and traceable suppliers. Updated records of purchases should be kept.
- f. Not use banned chemicals, feed additives, supplements and any form of medication in the diet of the animals, including those disallowed by the authorities of importing countries.
- g. In cases of medicated feeds, the farm operator/owner should strictly follow instructions of medication, paying special attention to the withdrawal period of each specific drug being administered before the animals are sent to market.
- h. The feed mixing equipment should be kept clean at all times and have regular preventive maintenance schedule.

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

- i. The farm operator should provide a daily feeding schedule or routine.
- j. Procurement documents of feed concentrates should be kept and updated properly to include:
- supplier or source of feed concentrate and its registration number;
  - type of feed and supplements;
  - quantity;
  - declaration of ingredients;
  - document of feed analysis;
  - date of delivery; and
  - date of manufacturing and batch number
- k. The farm operator should record the type and quantity of ration being fed to the animals.

**5.4.3 Animal health management**

- a. The farm operator should be responsible for maintaining good health of the animals at all times, through proper management practices that include prevention, treatment and disease control and containment measures of the disease affecting the animals.
- b. There must be a written animal health program in place that is updated regularly and supervised by a licensed veterinarian, in accordance with the requirements of the competent authorities.
- c. The health status of the animals in the farm should be monitored and recorded regularly by the farm, and veterinary assessment of the establishment should be carried out annually by a licensed veterinarian and/or by a competent authority.
- d. The vaccination program should be adopted against the diseases as required by competent authorities.
- e. Drugs, medicines, and vaccines should be administered by a licensed veterinarian or trained personnel under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
- f. Drugs or medicines should only be used for prophylactic and treatment reasons
- g. The use of illegal and banned medication and vaccines should be prohibited (use vaccines accredited by BAI; the same with controlled drugs.)
- h. Drugs, medicines, and vaccines should be stored and identified properly; proper disposal of these items should be followed to prevent contamination to the environment.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

- i. The farm operator should keep and maintain complete records of farm operations, management routines, and animal health records like disease monitoring and medication. These records should be easily retrievable.
- j. Records include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Vaccination program;
  - Deworming;
  - Disease condition;
  - Diagnosis;
  - Intervention or treatment done;
  - Control measures;
  - Post-mortem findings;
  - Surveillance; and
  - Disposal.
- k. The farm should maintain updated records of medicine purchase and administration that should be readily available for inspection.
- l. The procurement records should have:
- Date of purchase;
  - Name of the product (generic compound);
  - Quantity purchased;
  - Batch number;
  - Expiry date; and
  - Name of supplier.
- m. Administration records should consist of the following:
- Type of drugs or medication used;
  - Batch number;
  - Quantity of medicine used;
  - Date administered;
  - Route of administration;
  - Identification of animals/group treated;
  - Number of animals treated;
  - Date of completion of treatment;
  - Withdrawal period; and
  - Name of the person who administered the medicine.

**5.4.4 Breeding, lactation and weaning**

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

- a. Only sexually mature animals of appropriate age and weight, and free from any disease or probable inherited abnormality should be bred.
- b. In natural mating, appropriate ratio of male to female animals should be practiced.
- c. Only trained personnel should perform assisted breeding techniques on the animals
- d. The lambs should be weaned only at a recommended body weight and age.
- e. Weaning should be conducted with minimum stress to both the dam and its young.
- f. The farm operator/owner should provide the basic facilities for the newly weaned animals.
- g. The farm operator/owner should maintain updated individual animal records that contain their lactation, breeding and reproductive performance.
- h. Breeding programs and activities should be properly recorded, maintained, monitored and evaluated.

**5.4.5 Other management practices**

The farm personnel, when performing the management practices listed below, should use the appropriate tools and equipment, observe proper procedure (including provisions for restraint and pain management), and should keep records of such activities:

- a. Hoof trimming
- b. Disbudding/dehorning
- c. Castration
- d. Shearing
- e. Other routine management practices

**5.4.6 Animal welfare management**

- a. Proper techniques should be applied to handle and restrain animals.
- b. Animals should always be handled and restrained in such a way to protect them from fear, stress, pain and injury.
- c. Appropriate facilities, equipment, and tools should be used for effective animal handling and restraint, in order to minimize stress and injury against animals.
- d. Tools should functional to ensure efficient application on animals.
- e. The operators should acquire the skills and techniques to use the tools properly.
- f. Sick, injured or disabled animals should be separated form healthy animals and should be given the necessary veterinary attention.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

- g. Sticks or canes should not be used to restrain the farm animals.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

#### 5.4.7 Animal Transportation

In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act, the following measures should be observed during the transport of animals:

- a. Minimize soiling and cross-contamination with fecal material;
- b. Carry records to include animal identification and place of origin;
- c. Avoid undue stress and/or risk from injury during loading, transport and unloading;
- d. Separate each animals whenever necessary to avoid injury during transport;
- e. Whenever necessary, underloaded vehicles should contain partitions to avoid injury of animals during transport;
- f. If the transport vehicle has more than one deck, animals should be protected from cross-contamination;
- g. Maintain adequate ventilation of the animals;
- h. Clean and sanitize transport vehicles and crates as soon as the animals have been unloaded.
- i. To mitigate the abrupt changes in weather condition, fit the transport vehicle with supplies for, but not limited to containers with water, truck blanket or cover, and other tools to include water hose, sprinklers, pail, and shovel, whichever is needed.
- j. Provide transport vehicles with loading ramp, if necessary, and supplies necessary for emergencies such as tools, spare tires, etc.;
- k. Transport vehicles should be registered with the Animal Health and Welfare Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

#### 5.4.8 Biosecurity measures

- a. The farm should have a written protocol of biosecurity measures. Proper warning signage should be provided
- b. Biosecurity procedures should be well implemented and continuously monitored to prevent introduction of disease into the farm and/or to control its spread within the farm.
- c. The biosecurity measures should take into consideration the relevant diseases identified by local regulations/authority.

- d. The farm should have the appropriate and functional lay-out and infrastructure to ensure effective implementation of the biosecurity measures. These should include facilities for disinfection, with appropriate concentration of disinfectant, at entry (e.g. wheel bath or spraying, shower for visitors, handwashing facility, etc.)/exit point of the farm and the building (footbath).
- e. All incoming animals should undergo the appropriate quarantine measures.
- f. Farm visitors and workers should undergo the appropriate quarantine measures.
- g. Stray animals should not be allowed within the premises. Sentinel animals, when used, should be properly restrained/contained.
- h. Imported animal by-products should be accompanied by official documentation from the competent authority.

#### 5.4.9 Farm Sanitation Program and Environmental Management

- a. Farm premises should be kept clean and free of potential conditions conducive to breeding of pests, animal parasites and disease outbreak. This is to avoid prevent effects on the landscape, environment and animal welfare.
- b. Organic materials should be regularly removed from all livestock contact surfaces (i.e. floors, pen partitions). Where bedding is used, it should be regularly replaced.
- c. The farm should have a proper and functional drainage system towards a water treatment facility. Solid and liquid waste should be managed and disposed according to existing relevant guidelines imposed by competent authorities.
- d. The farm should have proper handling and disposal system for sick, injured and dead animals, and should be in accordance to existing regulations of the authority.
- e. The farm should have a written sanitation program that includes integrated pest management.
- f. The farm operator/owner should take necessary measures to ensure that activities related to sheep farming do not contribute to the degradation of the environment (i.e. land, water, air) and cause destruction to bio-diversity.
- g. The farm operator/owner should maintain and display clear instructions on procedure for disposal of farm solid wastes and farm chemical wastes (e.g. expired pesticide/weedicide and containers, paint, etc.)

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

---

- h. The farm operator/owner should be familiar with the proper procedure for disposal and schedule of actions to be taken, especially at times of emergency.
- i. Measures should be in place to keep noise from barns to acceptable levels, particularly if the farm is located close to urban centers.
- j. The farm should regularly monitor the air quality inside the building and maintain it at acceptable levels.
- k. The farm should take appropriate measures to minimize excessive odor coming from the farm especially those which may be associated with waste decomposition.

**5.6 Review and Evaluation of Practices**

5.6.1 Practices should be checked for compliance and evaluation for effectiveness and do-ability on a regular basis.

5.6.2 In cases where provisions are no longer applicable, it should be amended.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

DRAFT



**Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Sheep**

**References**

PNS/BAFPS 60:2008. Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practices. Department of Agriculture. Philippines.

PNS/BAFS 163: 2015. Animal Feed Ingredients. Department of Agriculture. Philippines.

PNS/BAFS 164:2015. Code of Slaughtering Practices for Goats. Department of Agriculture. Philippines.

Guide to Good Farming Practices for Animal Production Food Safety. 2009. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Organization for Animal Health. Rome.

Food Safety Module - Good Animal Husbandry Practices for Layers and Broilers in ASEAN Countries. 2015. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Jakarta, Indonesia.

Formatted: Right, Tab stops: Not at 6.88"

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

DRAFT