



# **NEW ZEALAND FARM ASSURED INCORPORATED (NZFAI)**

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

**We want to let you know about new procedures for New Zealand Farm Assured Programme (NZFAP) audits as part of the response to COVID-19.**

AssureQuality (AQ) has been declared an essential service and can continue to operate the associated farm audits under strict operational guidelines.

The new procedures, are designed to ensure the continued flow of farm assured stock to processors, enable new suppliers to join NZFAP, and allow existing suppliers to retain certification while avoiding on-farm visits.

### **OPTIONS FOR NEW AND EXISTING SUPPLIERS:**

NOTE: With the Covid-19 outcome and restrictions unknown these procedures are under constant review and subject to change at any time.

#### **Option One: Business as usual audit**

- New or existing suppliers can choose to undergo the business as usual audit. This will be carried out on farm under all Government and essential service requirements, including physical distancing rules between the auditor and farmer.

#### **Option Two: Interim Assurance Audit (Remote Audit)**

- Suppliers both new and existing, will be required to undertake a remote audit (including the completion of a declaration) that will grant them respectively either an 'interim status of farm assured' or 'certification extension' for 12 months, but not longer.
- By the end of the interim period, a full on-farm audit will need to be completed to 'obtain' (for new suppliers) or 'retain' (for previously existing suppliers) full NZFAP certification.

#### **Option Three: Roll-over Extension (No Audit)**

- Existing suppliers who do not want to undertake an on-farm audit or a remote audit at this point, may request a roll-over of their certification. This will extend your existing farm certification for a maximum of three months, after which you would need to either:
  - Undertake a full in-person on farm audit to retain full NZFAP certification, or
  - Complete a remote audit by phone. This would be valid for a further nine months.