Leading Harvest Public Consultation Feedback Form

For the 2025 version of Farmland Management Standard

and other normative documents

Purpose: Leading Harvest implements a five-year revision cycle for the Farmland Management Standard and all other normative documents. Regardless of when a document was released (i.e., Leading Harvest Group Certification Module in 2022), all normative documents will align to the five-year cycle, with new versions being published in 2025.

The purpose of this form is to collect feedback from stakeholders during a 60-day public consultation period. Feedback may be received at any time during the year, but the comments collected during the 60-day public consultation period will be scrutinized by the Leading Harvest Standards Committee and other subsets of the Leading Harvest governance as part of the revision process.

Stakeholder information (optional): Providing information in the table below is optional, as stakeholders may remain anonymous if desired. Information provided will only be used by Leading Harvest in the revision process in an effort to remain fair and balanced with our programming.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name** |  |
| **Company** |  |
| **Classification** (LH Standard User, NGO, Corporate, Ag Service Provider, Certification Body, or Other) |  |
| **Sustainability Chamber** (Environmental, Economic, or Social) |  |
| Would you like to be recognized for contributing feedback? (Yes or No) |  |

Instructions: Below are the **normative documents** up for public consultation, along with a brief description. There is a blank table below each where you can indicate the relevant indicator, section, or page number and then provide your feedback. There is also a row in each table for “general feedback,” allowing you to comment on any aspect of the normative document.

**Farmland Management Standard:** This is the flagship standard of the Leading Harvest program, originally launched in 2020. In 2023, a version of the standard was published for use in Australia with terminology edits in the requirements *and* glossary to fit the Australian context. In 2024, a version of the standard was published for use in Canada with terminology edits in the requirements to fit a *global context* and a glossary specific for the Canadian context. One outcome of this revision process will be one standard with global applicability.

During the first half of 2024, the Leading Harvest Standards Committee has reviewed and discussed audit result trends, auditability language, industry trends and other certification schemes, and stakeholder feedback. The results of these discussions are shown as draft edits to the Farmland Management Standard available for public feedback. It is recommended to comment on the draft edits, which are based on the Standard published for use in Canada, but comments on the U.S. and Australian versions of the Standard will also be accepted. You can find the U.S. and Australian versions on the Leading Harvest website. Please provide comments on either the draft edits, existing indicators, or both.

**Farmland Management Standard**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Indicator(s)/section/page number/etc.** | **Your feedback** |
| General | [enter any general feedback here] |
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**Group Certification Module:** The Group Certification Module was published in 2022 and offers usability to a group of producers or farmers under the LH Farmland Management Standard, allowing users to aggregate farms under one control system that may otherwise not be related to one another.

There are no draft edits for the 2025 iteration of the Group Certification Module, though comments are welcome.

**Group Certification Module**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section/page number/etc.** | **Your feedback** |
| General | [enter any general feedback here] |
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**Pasture and Livestock Standard excerpts:** The Pasture and Livestock Standard was published in December 2023 and is intended for use by operations that are managing land that includes grazing animals. It includes all of the Farmland Management Standard with additional indicators for certain topics like soil and water quality, as well as a new Principle, which is focused on animal wellbeing.

Because this standard is still new and has limited use cases thus far, there are no proposed edits for the 2025 iteration. The extract that is publicly available for comment contains all of the requirements that are not included in the Farmland Management Standard.

**Pasture/Livestock**

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| --- | --- |
| **Indicator(s)/section/page number/etc.** | **Your feedback** |
| General | [enter any general feedback here] |
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**Certification Body Administration Procedure:** This document was published in 2022 and is an elaboration of Section 2 in the Farmland Management Standard. It presents the infrastructure for approval and oversight of the independent certification bodies that carry out Leading Harvest audit programs.

In the 2025 iteration of the Farmland Management Standard, the previous Section 2 will not be included and only this standalone procedure will house the requirements for certification bodies. It is therefore open for public consultation.

**CB Administration**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Section/page number/etc.** | **Your feedback** |
| General | [enter any general feedback here] |
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**Standards Management Procedure:** This document was published in 2023 and explains the standard revision process, along with other aspects of managing normative documents. Adherence to this procedure is overseen by the LH Board of Directors and the LH Independent Review Panel. Stakeholder comments are welcome during this time of public consultation.

**Standards Management**

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| --- | --- |
| **Section/page number/etc.** | **Your feedback** |
| General | [enter any general feedback here] |
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Leading Harvest Standards Committee: The purpose of the Standards Committee is to facilitate revision to Leading Harvest standards. The committee is an assembly of individuals representing various stakeholder groups that meet regularly during the fourth year of the revision cycle to work through draft standard changes based on data, feedback, opinions, industry shifts, and other factors.

**2024 Committee Members:**

Kai Robertson, Corporate Sustainability Advisor

Max Feinberg, Verdova

Matt Armstong, Averum Certification Body

Ellen Herbert, Ducks Unlimited

Carl Evers, AgIS Capital

Amie Turner-Brown, Natural Resources Asia Pacific

Steve Mackinlay, Stahmann Webster

Scott Hansen, Leading Harvest