The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs, and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

www.akc.org
go to “Sports & Events”, then “Herding & Farm Dog”

Farm Dog Certified
Contact Info:
General Inquiries: performanceevents@akc.org
Event Applications or Results 919-816-3908
Title Requests 919-816-3816
FDC Judges 919-816-3904 performancejudges@akc.org

Test 1: Greet the judge
The handler approaches the judge with the dog at their side on a loose lead. The dog must not jump, or show aggression or excessive shyness.

Test 2: Walk around the farm and a passive stranger
The handler walks the dog on a loose lead at least 200 feet around a variety of objects and near a sitting person.

Test 3: Jump on hay/straw bale
Handler instructs the dog to jump on a bale and stay until released by the judge.

Test 4: Walk past farm animals
Handler walks the dog on a loose lead in view of penned farm animals.

Test 5: Walk over or through unusual surfaces
The handler walks the dog over three unusual surfaces, such as a plastic tarp, a sheet of plywood, and metal grating lying flat on the ground.

Test 6: Supervised separation
The handler places the dog in a crate and walks out of sight for a minimum of 1 minute.

Test 7: Pass through a gate
The dog stays while the handler opens the gate, passes through on the handler’s command, and stays while the handler closes the gate.

Test 8: Handler feeds livestock
The dog is tethered while the handler approaches and feeds livestock in an enclosure.

Test 9: Reaction to another dog
The dog remains stationary on a loose lead while another dog is walked by twice, about 10 feet away.

Test 10: Reaction to noise distraction
The dog is exposed to two common farm sounds (such as hammering nails, leaf blowers, tractor engine, etc.) and must not panic.

Test 11: Dog approaches livestock
The handler approaches penned livestock with the dog on a loose lead. The dog may not lunge or be fearful or aggressive to the stock.

Test 12: Physical examination
The handler examines the dog for plant material or debris collected while working on the farm—examining the ears, eyes, mouth, coat, and toes.

Test items 2-11 may be conducted in a different order than listed.
What is the **FARM DOG CERTIFIED** Test?

The **Farm Dog Certified** test assesses whether a dog has the capability to perform as a confident working partner on a farm.

The test presents the dog with situations that would be typical for a farm environment. The dog must demonstrate self-control, courage, and trust in the handler. These are all traits that are vital to a working farm dog.

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**Do I need to train my dog?**

The FDC test is intended to test a dog’s aptitude to work as a farm dog. It is not meant to be an obedience test, however your dog will need to have basic leash-walking skills and a solid “stay” to be successful.

If your dog reacts negatively to unfamiliar situations, you may need to work with him before attempting the FDC test.

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**What you need to bring—**

- Your dog
- A four to six foot leash
- A secure, well-fitting, flat collar
- A can-do attitude and a spirit for adventure!

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**Does my dog need to be AKC registered?**

Yes. To participate in the FDC test your dog needs to be registered with the AKC, listed in the Purebred Alternative Listing (PAL) program, or enrolled with Canine Partners (CP).

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**My dog has never seen livestock before.**

That’s okay! Your dog doesn’t need to herd or interact with the livestock in any way. They are only required to follow your directions.

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**Juniors are encouraged to participate through their local 4H group, youth organization, or AKC club.**

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**We’ll see you on the farm!**