FARM DOG CERTIFIED TEST
12 Elements

The Farm Dog Certified Test consists of 12 situations that a dog might encounter in a typical farm environment. All of the exercises are done on leash.

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.

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

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

click "events" then "herding"

To locate a club near you visit:
www.akc.org/clubs/search/index.cfm

Farm Dog Certified Contact Info:

Email: performanceevents@akc.org

Event Applications or Results
919-816-3908

Title Requests
919-816-3816

FDC Judges
919-816-3904
Email: performancejudges@akc.org

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

FARM DOG CERTIFIED TEST

Photo by Alison Ruhe

Photo by Melinda Stevenson

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.

Photo by Melinda Stevenson

The **Farm Dog Certified** program provides an opportunity for all dogs to apply their basic training in a novel environment, demonstrating their natural capability and trainability to work in partnership with their human companions.

The **Farm Dog Certified** test is open to *all dogs.*

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!

Photo by Alison Ruhe

Visit: www.akc.org
click "events" then "herding"

About the test—

Farm Dog Certified tests are conducted in a real farm environment, with real livestock. There are twelve test items, all of which must be completed successfully to pass the test (see back for test items).

When you are confident that your dog is able to pass the Farm Dog Certified test, you can find an event near you through the AKC Event Calendar, at www.apps.akc.org//apps/event_calendar

Once your dog passes the FDC test twice, with two different judges, you can apply for the Farm Dog Certified title.

Photo by Alison Ruhe

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

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.

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).

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.

Photo by Alison Ruhe

We'll see you *on the farm!*