

Animal Care

Quick Reference User Guide

This user guide is not a legal document and is intended for educational purposes only. Producers are individually responsible for determining and complying with all requirements of local, state, and federal laws and regulations regarding animal care.

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Chapter 1 Animal Care Quick Reference User Guide Overview

The Animal Care Quick Reference User Guide is a convenient resource summarizing best practices that should be in place on your farm to assure success in the National Dairy FARM Program.SM

Created by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), with support from Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI), the National Dairy FARM Program is a nationwide, verifiable animal well-being program that provides consistency and uniformity to best practices in animal care and quality assurance in the dairy industry. Voluntary and available to all producers, the program includes education, on-farm evaluations, and third-party verification to ensure the validity and integrity of the program.

The dairy industry has an excellent track record of responsible management practices; this national effort simply brings consistency and uniformity to on-farm care and provides reassurance to consumers.

We encourage you to use the Animal Care Quick Reference User Guide as a supplement to the National Dairy FARM Program Animal Care Manual and accompanying animal care training video. The Animal Care Manual and video are comprehensive tools that provide more detail about the program, on-farm evaluations, best practices, management checklists, and third-party verification. The Animal Care Manual also includes definitions of important terms, an appendix, and lists of additional resources.

For best outcomes and a full understanding of the National Dairy FARM Program, it's important that you thoroughly review the Animal Care Manual and watch the training video.

Chapters 2 and 11 of the Animal Care Quick Reference User Guide address on-farm evaluations and third-party verification, respectively. The remaining chapters include animal care topic summaries and management checklists, which include best practices in the following categories:

- Management
- Newborn Calves
- Nutrition
- Animal Health
- Environment and Facilities
- Handling, Movement and Transportation
- Special-needs Animals
- Dairy Beef

The page numbers referenced by management checklists refer to the Animal Care Manual.

Thank you for your participation. U.S. dairy farmers have a longstanding commitment to doing what's right. Your decision to be a part of the National Dairy FARM Program illustrates that dedication and is an important step in assuring consumers that you care for the safety, comfort, and well-being of your animals and that the dairy products you produce are safe, wholesome, and nutritious.

If you have questions about the National Dairy FARM Program please call NMPF at (703) 243-6111 or log on to www.nationaldairyfarm.com.

Program Management: *NMPF is managing the production and dissemination of technical animal care manuals, producer education and training, on-farm evaluation and third-party verification. DMI is assisting with communication, specifically to producers and industry, as well as potential communication to the market chain and consumers.*

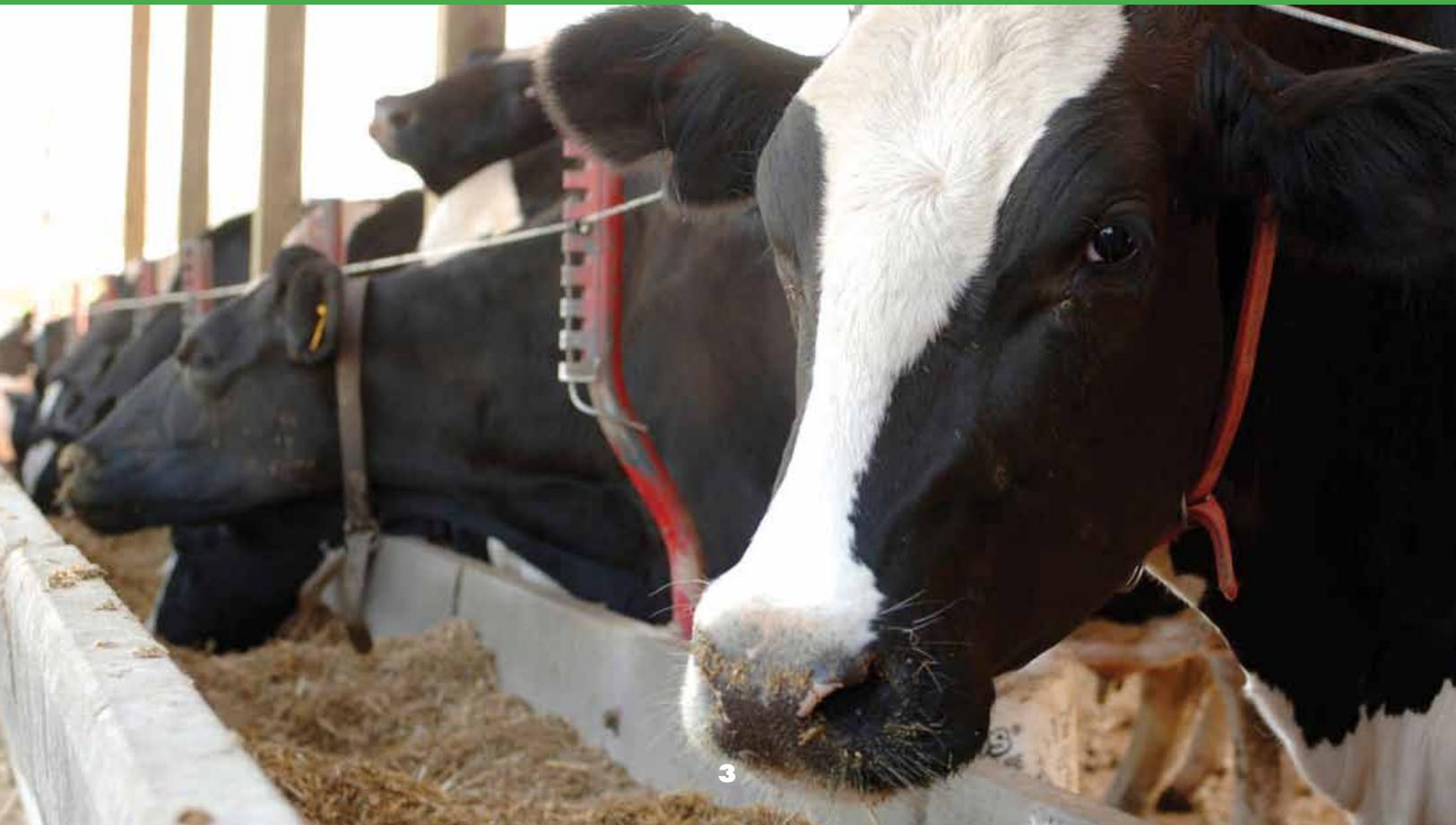


Chapter 2 **On-farm Evaluations**

The on-farm evaluation provides an external review of animal care practices based on the National Dairy FARM Program guidelines. The results of the initial evaluation will provide the producer with a status report and enable the producer to develop an action plan for continuous improvement if necessary. Subsequent evaluations, at least once every three years, will enable the producer to track progress in on-farm animal care.

A veterinarian, co-op extension agent, co-op field staff member, university personnel, or otherwise qualified personnel who have completed National Dairy FARM Program training can perform an on-farm evaluation. Evaluators will use the National Dairy FARM Program management checklists to conduct the evaluation.

The same on-farm evaluation will be used by third-party verifiers for farms that are randomly chosen through statistical sampling for program verification.



Chapter 3

Management - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Training and Record Keeping

When addressing management, it is important to describe the procedure, train to the procedure, document the completion of the training, and monitor it over time. Although verbal directions are acceptable as long as all employees are following the protocol and procedure in the same manner, written SOPs are preferred. Train and educate animal caretakers about animal care expectations and animal well-being policies. The operation should have a Herd Health Plan, as well as training and protocols for handling, transportation and movement, and euthanasia for cattle of all ages and health conditions.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<i>The dairy has a Veterinarian/Client/ Patient Relationship. (pg. 10)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Documentation exists of employee training for new and existing employees at least on an annual basis. (pg. 10)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>SOPs are readily available, and in many cases posted, in the native languages of employees assigned animal care responsibilities. (pg. 10)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>An emergency plan is readily available to address animal care needs arising from unique circumstances such as a fire or natural disaster. (pg. 10)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Each animal is permanently identified and an effective record keeping system is employed for animal care and management decision-making. (pg. 11)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>A specific milking routine, procedures, and actions are followed to ensure cow comfort and well-being. (pg. 11)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chapter 4 Newborn Calves

NUTRITION Providing an adequate volume of high-quality colostrum or colostrum replacer is critical to calf health because calves depend on colostrum for immune protection. After receiving immunity through feeding colostrum or colostrum replacer, calves should be fed milk or milk replacer through weaning. Calves should have continuous access to fresh water, or provided water at least twice a day, that is free of contaminants or pollutants. Within two weeks after birth, calves to be retained on the dairy should be offered a palatable, high-quality starter ration (no forage).

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<i>Calves receive colostrum or colostrum replacer soon after birth. (pg. 14)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Calves are fed milk or milk replacer until weaned. (pg. 14)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Calves have continuous access to fresh water or are provided water at least twice a day or as necessary to maintain proper hydration. (pg. 14)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Calf rations provide the required nutrients for maintenance and growth (and to stimulate rumen development) as found in references such as the National Research Council, 2001. (pg. 14)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ANIMAL HEALTH The Herd Health Plan (preferably written), developed in conjunction with a veterinarian through a Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship (or other knowledgeable professional such as a cooperative extension agent), should include information specific to the care of newborn animals. Topics in the Herd Health Plan relevant to newborn animals include colostrum management, navel dipping, identification and record keeping, and protocols for vaccination, dehorning, super-numerary teat removal, castration, tail docking, and euthanasia.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<i>The dairy has a Herd Health Plan, developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian (or other knowledgeable professional such as a cooperative extension agent), which includes specific areas pertaining to newborn animals: (pg. 15)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Navels are dipped in an effective antiseptic solution as soon as possible. (pg. 16)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Animal identification and animal health records are maintained. (pg. 16)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Vaccinations for common diseases are administered for disease prevention. (pg. 16)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Medical procedures are performed as soon as possible and with appropriate use of analgesics and/or anesthetics. (pg. 16)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chapter 4 Newborn Calves (continued)

ENVIRONMENT AND FACILITIES A clean, dry, well-lit, well-ventilated calving area has many health benefits for the calf at the time of birth. A separate calving area (maternity pen or paddock) that is designed to be comfortable, functional, and hygienic allows for close observation of the cow and easier, more effective assistance at calving. Calves and young stock should be given space to stand, lie down, and turn around without difficulty. Calves should be protected from extreme temperatures, wind drafts, and precipitation during periods of seasonal weather extremes.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<i>A clean, dry, well-lit, well-ventilated calving area is used. (pg. 17)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Calves are housed in a clean, dry area with adequate space to stand, lie down, and turn around without difficulty. (pg. 17)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Calves are protected from extreme temperatures, wind drafts, and precipitation during seasonal weather extremes. (pg. 17)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

HANDLING, MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION Employees should be properly trained to handle animals with a minimum of stress to the animal, and the consequences of inhumane handling should be known and enforced. Handling facilities, including trailers, must be well maintained and free of objects such as broken boards or rails that may cause bruising. The transit of calves should be safe, humane, and comfortable in order to ensure their health, quality, and market value.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<i>Calves are moved by lifting or walking. (pg. 18)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Personnel are trained to handle and restrain calves with a minimum of stress to the animal. (pg. 18)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Vehicles used to transport calves are clean, and properly designed and maintained. (pg. 18)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chapter 5 Nutrition

WATER Fresh, clean water is just as important to animals as nutritious forages and concentrates. When continuous access is impossible for other classes of animals besides lactating cows and non-lactating cows, make water available for 30 minutes at least twice daily. More frequent watering may be necessary, depending on the cow's feed intake and milk production, and the weather (see Water Consumption of Dairy Cattle Table in Chapter 5 of the Animal Care Manual). Water should be prevented from freezing in cold weather. Waterers should be convenient for the animals to reach on demand, and there should sufficient waterers (number, size, and capacity) to accommodate the number of animals in the herd or lot. Footing should be firm and dry in watering areas. Animals should not be able to wade in drinking water. Water should be fresh and free of harmful contaminants, especially human and animal waste, which may introduce pathogens into the human food chain.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<i>Water is tested periodically if recommended by the Herd Health Plan (for example, nitrates, pathogens, minerals, etc.) (pg. 21)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Water is protected from freezing. (pg. 21)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Procedures are in place for regular cleaning of waterers. (pg. 21)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>All animals have continuous access to fresh water or are provided water at least twice a day or as necessary to maintain proper hydration. (pg. 21)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Waterers are positioned at a convenient height. (pg. 21)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Watering locations prevent a dominant animal from limiting water to other animals. (pg. 21)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

FEED Feed considerations include nutritional quality and quantity, feed bunk design, and proper feed storage. Advances in ruminant nutrition science have greatly improved animal production. References such as The Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle (National Research Council, 2001) should be used to provide the basis for ration formulation. Fence line feeding or feed bunks should give animals easy access to the feed. Adequate bunk space per cow should be available to allow every animal feeding a balanced diet per feeding cycle. Feed should be pushed up several times daily.

Safely store bulk supplies of feed in appropriately designed areas to avoid moisture, vermin and bacterial or fungal contamination. Proper labeling of storage containers or areas, controlling moisture, and using an effective program of vermin control will help assure maintenance of feed quality and safety. Make sure medicated feeds are stored separately and are properly labeled. Store toxic compounds outside of the feed storage area and outside of the animals' resting area. Safely store bulk supplies of feed in appropriately designed areas to avoid moisture and vermin, and bacterial or fungal contamination.

Chapter 5

Nutrition (continued)

Rations should provide the required nutrients for maintenance, growth, and lactation for the appropriate physiological life-stage as found in references such as the National Research Council, 2001. (pg. 21)

YES

NO

DON'T
KNOW

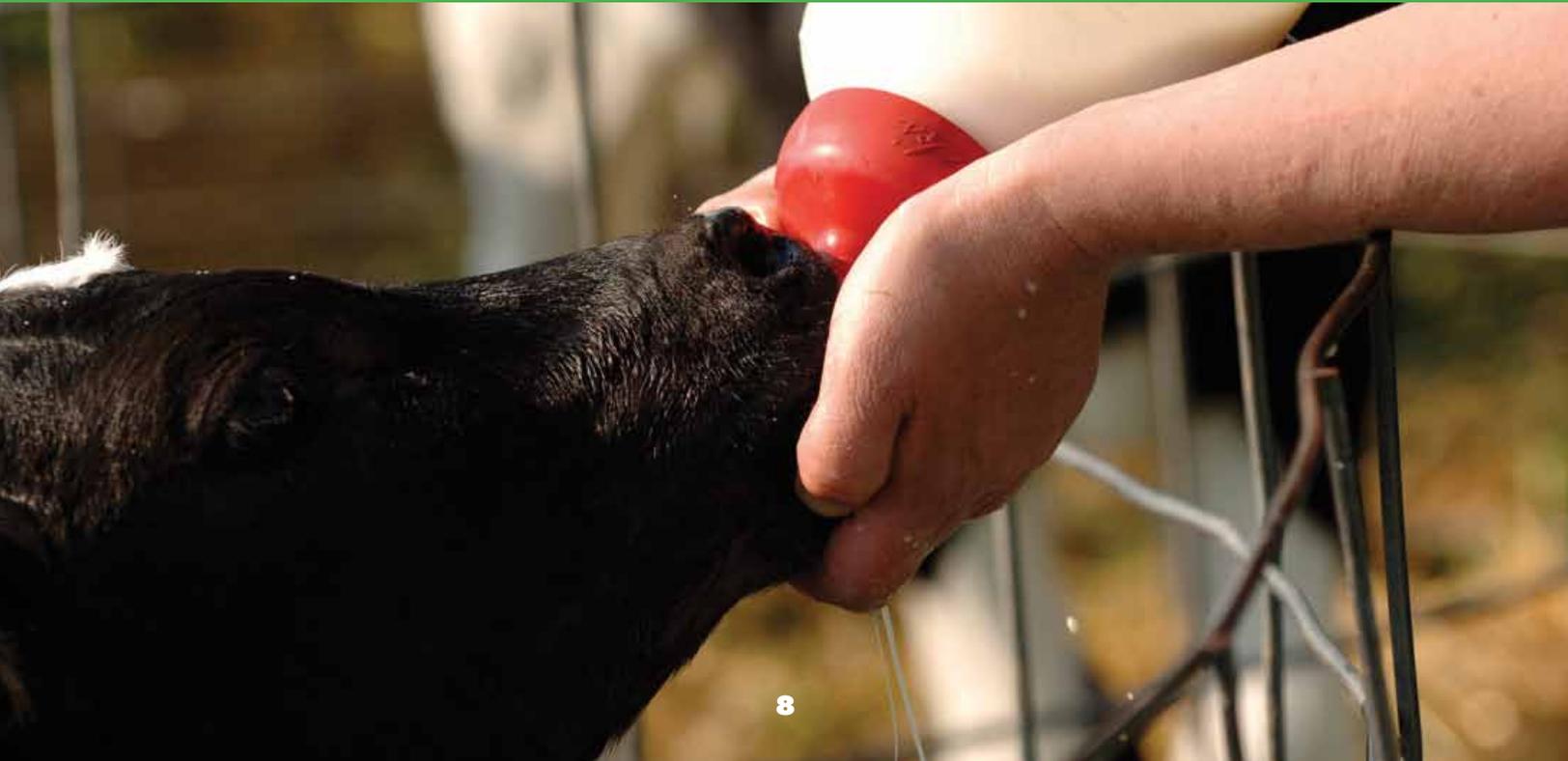
Cows are not restricted from feed for more than four hours at one time. (pg. 21)

Feed equipment is washed and disinfected after being used for non-feed purposes. (pg. 21)

Feed for other species is never mixed with dairy animal feed. (pg. 21)

Homegrown or purchased feed ingredients and commodities are checked for nitrates, mycotoxins, or other soil- or climate-induced problems, as recommended by the Herd Health Plan. (pg. 21)

See “Specific Lifecycle Considerations” in *Chapter 5* of the *Animal Care Manual* for more information on newborns, growing animals, milking cows, dry cows, and mature bulls.



Chapter 6 Animal Health

HERD HEALTH An effective Herd Health Plan emphasizes prevention, rapid diagnosis, and quick decision-making on necessary treatment of sick or injured dairy cattle. A licensed veterinarian, or other appropriately trained consultant, can help producers develop and implement a routine Herd Health Plan. While a Herd Health Plan can be verbal, a written Herd Health Plan is preferred for clarity. A sample Herd Health Plan is available at www.nationaldairyfarm.com.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<i>The dairy has a Herd Health Plan, developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian (or other knowledgeable professional such as a cooperative extension agent), to prevent common diseases such as mastitis, lameness, metritis, metabolic diseases, displaced abomasums, and infectious diseases such as pneumonia and infectious diarrhea. Should these conditions occur rapid diagnosis and treatment is instituted. The Herd Health Plan should include: (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship. (See Appendix I in Animal Care Manual Manual) (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Vaccination protocols. (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Daily observation of all cattle for injury or signs of disease. (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Protocols for newborn calf management. (See Chapter 4 in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Protocols for cattle that develop disease or are injured. (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Protocols for prevention, detection, and action for common diseases, and parasite and pest control. (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Protocols for non-ambulatory animal management. (See Chapter 9 in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Protocols for euthanasia. (See Appendix B in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Protocols to ensure food safety. (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Training programs for family members and employees involved in detecting disease and injury, and reporting the cases and actions to be taken. (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Each animal should be permanently identified and an effective record keeping system employed for animal care and management decision-making. (pg. 11)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ANIMAL MONITORING Even with the best prevention programs, animals can become sick or injured. Observation is key to identifying health issues early in order to provide effective treatment.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<i>Animals are observed daily to assess the following items:</i>			
<i>Hair coat (pg. 25)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chapter 6 Herd Health (continued)



- Behavior changes (includes vocalization)* (pg.25)
- Abnormal respiration* (pg. 25)
- Feed and water consumption* (pg. 25)
- Nasal or ocular discharges* (pg. 25)
- Abdominal fill* (pg. 25)
- Manure consistency* (pg. 25)
- Locomotion* (pg. 25)
- Milk abnormalities* (pg. 25)

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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SANITATION Proper sanitation and waste management keep animals dry, and clean and free of manure, and provide them with comfortable, healthful surroundings. The goals of sanitation for animal facilities are to minimize animal disease, pests and parasites, spread of pathogens, and generation of odors and dust. Basic sanitation practices include keeping the interiors, corridors, and storage spaces of animal facilities clean, cleaning waste removal implements frequently, and emptying waste containers. Facilities should be free of standing water, excess manure, unnecessary farm items, and clutter.

Sanitation may be achieved by heat, chemicals, or high-pressure washing, or by manually scrubbing equipment and surfaces in the facilities with appropriate detergents and disinfectants. Manure should be removed regularly from facilities and free stalls. At least daily scraping or flushing of traffic areas and walkways improves sanitation and traction. Individual free stalls should be cleaned and groomed daily. Sand or other products provide excellent materials for maintaining sanitation of animals.

Ninety percent or more of animals in all pens or groups should score less than 3 on the NDFP Hygiene ScorecardSM (1 is clean; 4 is dirty). (See Appendix C in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 26)

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

LOCOMOTION Foot care is important to the well-being of all cows. Lameness will interfere with movement to the milking, feeding, and watering areas, limit the exhibition of estrus, and influence general health. Routine examination and trimming of hooves can help prevent foot problems and infections. Whenever lameness (measured by locomotion scoring of 4 or 5) exceeds three percent of a herd, measures should be implemented. These may include footbaths, more frequent inspection, and hoof trimming as recommended by the herd veterinarian. Locomotion scoring on a regular basis is recommended.

Ninety percent or more of the herd score 2 or lower on the locomotion scorecard (1-normal gait, 5-refuses to bear weight on one leg). (See Appendix D in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 26)

YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chapter 6 Herd Health (continued)

BODY CONDITION SCORING Achieving growth targets for heifers and monitoring change in body condition during gestation and lactation are very important. Body condition can change rapidly at and after calving and should be used to guide ration changes. Body condition scoring for dairy cattle is an important management tool for optimizing milk production and reproductive efficiency while reducing the incidence of metabolic and other peripartum diseases.

Ninety percent or more of the dairy animals should have a body condition score between 2.0 and 4.0 with no more than five percent of the dairy animals below 2.0 (1.0 is thin and 5.0 is over-conditioned). (See Appendix A in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 27)

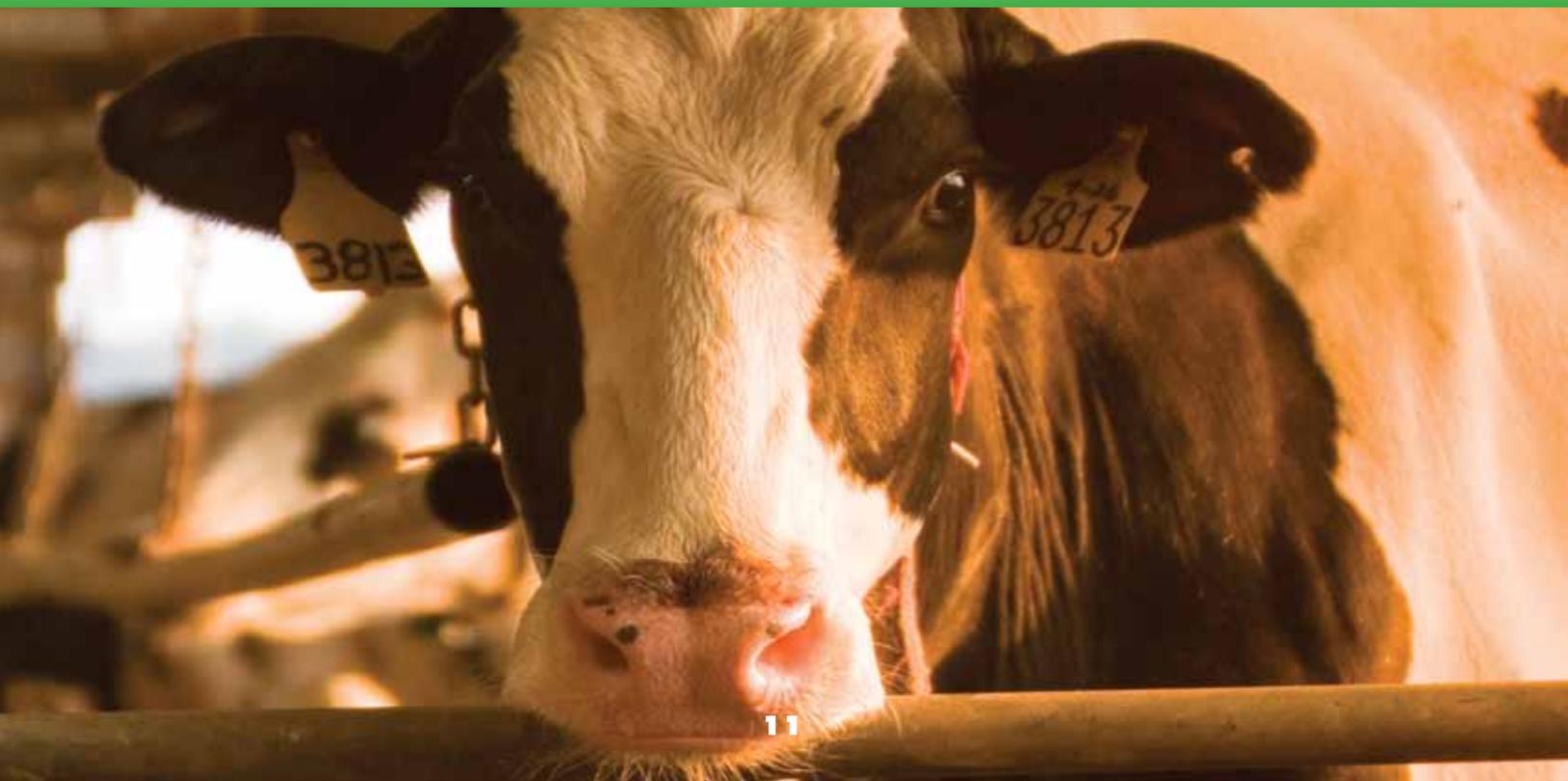
YES NO DON'T KNOW

HOCK LESIONS Hock lesions (swelling, abrasion, and even ulceration) are an important indication of inadequate bedding and lack of animal comfort. Dairy farms with a higher prevalence of hock lesions also tend to have a higher number of lame cows. A healthy hock is free from hair loss (the hair coat is smooth and continuous with the rest of the leg) and swelling.

Ninety percent of cows score 1 and 99 percent score 2 or less utilizing the NYSCHAP “Hock Assessment Chart for Cattle” assessment (1 - no swelling, 3 - swelling evident). (See Appendix E in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 27)

YES NO DON'T KNOW

See “Specific Lifecycle Considerations” in Chapter 6 of the *Animal Care Manual* for more Herd Health Plan information on growing animals, breeding heifers, springing heifers, and mature bulls.



Chapter 7 Environment and Facilities

ANIMAL ENVIRONMENT Environmental temperature affects an animal's comfort which, in turn, affects an animal's behavior, metabolism, and performance. The temperature that the animal experiences and the effect on the animal is the net result of air temperature, humidity, air movement, shade, insulating effects of the surroundings, and the animal's age, sex, weight, adaptation status, activity level, posture, stage of lactation, body condition, and diet. Air temperature, humidity, quality, and movement should be monitored carefully, especially during seasonal changes, to ensure animal comfort and prevent diseases.

Air quality affects the health and well-being of the animal and its caretakers. Quality is typically defined in terms of the air's content of certain gases, particulate matter, and liquid aerosols. Adequate ventilation, be it natural or mechanical, helps prevent respiratory and other diseases by removing heat, water vapor, air pollutants, and odors from an enclosed animal facility at the same time that it introduces fresh air.

Lighting should allow inspection of animals and provide safe working conditions. Avoid quick movements and alarming sounds while working around animals.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
<i>Practices are in place to minimize the impact of heat and cold stress due to extremes in temperature; tools include the use of sunshades, sprinklers, misting fans, dietary alterations, and windbreaks. (pg. 31)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Airborne particles are minimized as a way to reduce odors and dust. (pg. 31)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Adequate lighting is in place to allow inspection of animals and to provide safe working conditions. (pg. 32)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Quick movements and alarming sounds are avoided while working around animals. (pg. 33)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

FACILITIES To make all facilities safe and comfortable for the animals, there should be adequate space or floor area per cow, proper maintenance to remove any sharp or broken objects that may cause injuries, clean and dry bedding (if used), and non-slip flooring with minimal, if any, mud. An adequate amount of space helps prevent injury, unhygienic conditions, and behavioral problems. Producers need to assure that the animals have enough room to stand, lie down, stretch their legs, eat, drink, and eliminate comfortably. When animals lie down, their hind legs should not extend into common traffic areas, curbs, or gutters. For appropriate freestall and stanchion/tie-stall dimensions, refer to Chapter 7 of the Animal Care Manual.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Routine observation of facilities includes monitoring and taking action for: <i>Manure removal. (pg. 33)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Moisture collection on roof or walls or frequent condensation on other hard surfaces. (pg. 33)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Chapter 7 Environment and Facilities (continued)

Certain parts of building where animals refuse to rest or sleep. (pg. 33)

Slips and falls, including installing nonslip walkways or alleys. (pg. 33)

Cleaning all fans regularly. (pg. 33)

Facility sanitation and waste management programs that result in clean animals (90 percent of all animal pens or groups score less than 3). (See Appendix C in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 33)

Slips and falls, including installing nonslip walkways or alleys. (pg. 33)

Stanchion/Tie Stalls

Animals are turned out daily for exercise (weather permitting). (pg. 33)

Animals have room to stand and lie down. (See Chapter 7 in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 33)

Animals have room to stretch, eat, drink, and eliminate comfortably. (pg. 33)

Manure is removed on a routine basis. (pg. 33)

Freestalls

Bedding is refreshed (remove soiled sand or other bedding material) and fresh bedding is added on a routine basis. (pg. 33)

Stalls provide appropriate space to match size/breed of animal. (pg. 33)

Water space, feed space, and shelter are provided for each animal housed. (pg. 33)

Stocking rates allow for adequate time per animal for rest, exercise, and feed and water consumption. (pg. 33)

Lunge space is provided to aid animal movement. (pg. 33)

Air movement and/or cooling systems are provided for animal comfort. (pg. 33)

Open Lot and Pastures

Management practices are implemented promptly so animals can avoid standing in mud after rains. (pg. 33)

Animals can access shade during periods of heat stress or windbreaks during periods of cold stress. (pg. 33)

See “Specific Lifecycle Considerations” in Chapter 7 of the *Animal Care Manual* for more information on housing dry cows, new animals, and mature bulls.

Chapter 8 Handling, Movement and Transportation

Cattle are to be handled in a calm, controlled, and gentle manner. Employees should be properly trained in animal handling and the consequences of inhumane handling should be known and enforced. Handlers should be assessed and retrained on a regular basis.

Animals should be handled by equipment appropriate for the procedure. Prods, canes, and other extreme cattle handling aids should only be used in situations that may potentially cause harm to the handler or the animals. Use of flags, plastic paddles, and a stick with ribbon attached are appropriate for handling animals that refuse to move through facilities, but only if minimal force is applied. Any force used must be applied calmly. In all cases, use the least amount of force necessary to control the animal and still ensure the safety of herdsmates and caretakers.

Cattle should be moved in a manner that reduces the risk of slips and falls. Animals should be loaded and unloaded for transit in a manner that minimizes stress and anxiety. Transportation factors related to animal well-being include: facilities that are safe and comfortable to the animal, in-transit care provided by knowledgeable crews and drivers, uniformity of the animals loaded, and duration of the trip.

Individuals working in animal movement are trained on the principles of flight zones and flight distances to know the importance of controlling the animal movement in lanes, alleyways, and other parts of the complex. (See Appendix F in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 38)

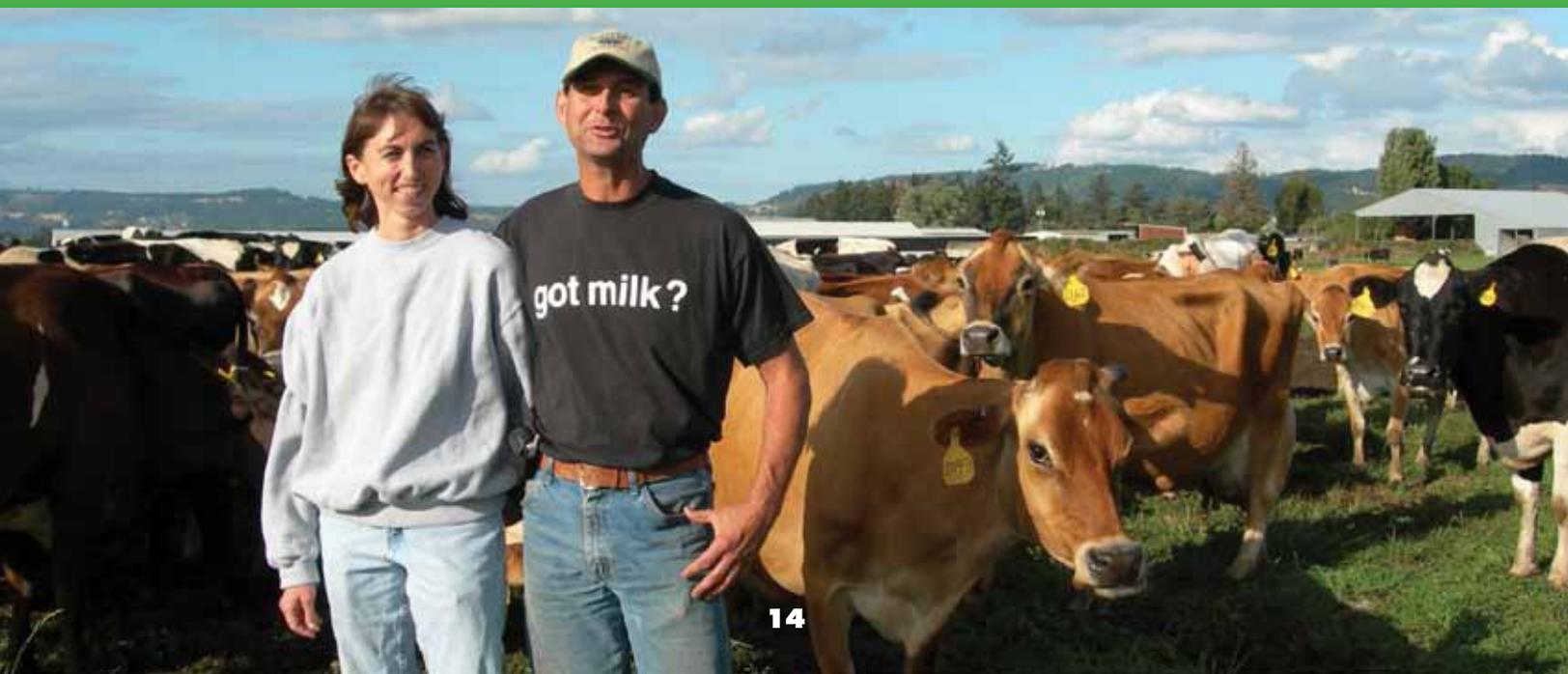
YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

The dairy uses the “Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals” in handling and transportation decision-making. (See Appendix G in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 39)

See “Specific Lifecycle Considerations,” in Chapter 8 of the *Animal Care Manual* for more information on handling, moving, and transporting transition cows and milking cows.



Chapter 9 Special-needs Animals

Even with the best care and adherence to the Herd Health Plan, animals can become ill, require medical treatment or euthanasia, or die. If an animal becomes sick, non-ambulatory, or dies, it is critical to protect the other animals from potential diseases and to provide special care for the sick or recovering animal. Management on dairy farms should be prepared to handle these conditions through proper employee training, segregation, and prompt decision-making to treat, market, or euthanize an animal. To reduce the likelihood of transmitting disease, avoid going from sick animal facilities to healthy animal facilities.

NUTRITION When an animal becomes sick or injured requiring separation from the herd for medical treatment (special-needs animal), the recovery of that animal is enhanced through appropriate nutrition.

Special-needs animals are not restricted from feed and water for more than four hours. (pg. 42)

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

Special-needs animals' rations should provide the required nutrients for maintenance, growth and lactation for the appropriate physiological life-stage as found in references such as the National Research Council, 2001. (pg. 42)

ANIMAL HEALTH Prompt decisions and actions are necessary if an animal becomes non-ambulatory. The producer or person in charge must determine immediately whether the injured animal is otherwise healthy and can be nursed back to health or cannot be saved. If the non-ambulatory animal can be nursed back to health, protect it from further injury, provide it with shelter, food, and water, and give it care to minimize its pain and discomfort during the recovery process. The use of flotation tanks should be considered.

Euthanasia is appropriate when an animal's quality of life is decreased or when pain and suffering cannot be alleviated. Dead animals, either euthanized or expired from natural causes, are potential sources of infection. They should be disposed of promptly by a commercial rendering service or other appropriate means (e.g., burial, composting, or incineration) in accordance with applicable ordinances.

The dairy has a Herd Health Plan, developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian (or other knowledgeable professional such as a cooperative extension agent), which includes specific areas for non-ambulatory animal management: (pg. 42)

YES

NO

DON'T KNOW

Proper movement to avoid dragging the animal. (pg. 42)

Husbandry and nursing care that provides shelter, water, feed, isolation from other animals, and protection from predators. (pg. 42)

Prompt medical care. (pg. 42)

Euthanasia if warranted. (pg. 42)

Chapter 9 Special-needs Animals (continued)

The dairy has a Herd Health Plan, developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian (or other knowledgeable professional a cooperative extension agent), which includes specific protocols for euthanasia consistent with recommendations from the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. (See Appendix B in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 42)

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Training of staff on the need for and recognition of animals to be euthanized. (pg. 42)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Designated employees trained in proper technique(s). (pg. 42)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Confirmation of death. (pg. 42)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Record keeping of euthanized animals. (pg. 42)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Disposal of carcasses in compliance with local regulations. (pg. 42)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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ENVIRONMENT AND FACILITIES A hospital or sick pen isolates the animal(s) from the herd and makes treatment easier; it is important that the pen be equipped to maximize animal comfort. It should provide adequate shade, bedding, air movement, and accessibility to feed and water.

Facilities are provided to segregate sick or injured animals. (pg. 43)

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Self-locking stalls provide an emergency release for non-ambulatory animals when necessary. (pg. 43)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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HANDLING, MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION Non-ambulatory cattle that cannot be carried should be moved with an appropriate sled, sling, or bucket with the exception of cases where an animal must absolutely be moved a short distance before an appropriate movement aid can be used (e.g. if a cow becomes non-ambulatory in a parlor). Prevention, preparation, and prompt action are keys to their proper handling. A commitment to prevent animal injuries should include shipping promptly. Clearly defined policies requiring appropriate handling practices should be established and followed, and caretakers should be trained and supervised in proper animal handling, especially during parturition.

Timely and prompt marketing of animals is part of the management plan. (pg. 43)

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Designated staff members have been trained and proper equipment is available to move downer animals. (pg. 43)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Special equipment for injured or non-ambulatory animals is available. (pg. 43)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Trained personnel are available when sick, injured, non-ambulatory or dead animals must be moved. (pg. 43)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Chapter 10 Dairy Beef

Marketing a dairy animal as beef is an important part of dairy farming. A producer must ensure the appropriateness of transitioning a dairy animal to the beef sector.

The dairy uses the “Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals” in culling, handling, and transportation decision-making. (See Appendix G in Animal Care Manual) (pg. 46)

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

DAIRY BULL CALVES AND FREEMARTIN HEIFERS All calves, whether to be raised as a replacement heifer, veal, or dairy steer, should receive colostrum or colostrum replacer and be fed in a way that promotes health and reduces the risk of disease. Please refer to Chapter 4 in the Animal Care Manual for additional information on newborn calf animal care practices.

Calves receive colostrum or colostrum replacer soon after birth. (pg. 46)

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Calves are fed milk or milk replacer until marketed. (pg. 46)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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If these calves are kept on farm after weaning, they should be fed rations that provide the required nutrients for maintenance and growth as found in references such as the National Research Council, 2001. (pg. 46)

<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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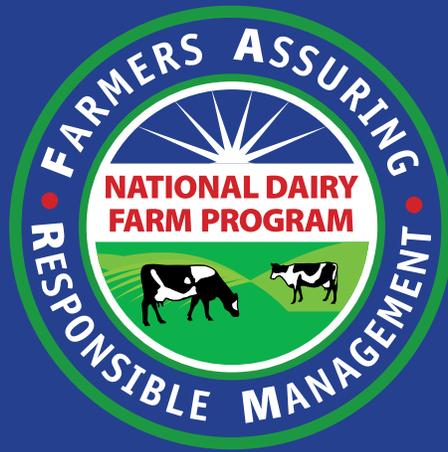
Calves have continuous access to fresh water or are provided water at least twice a day, or as needed to maintain proper hydration. (pg. 46)

Chapter 11 Third-Party Verification

Proper animal care is an expectation of all participating producers. Through a statistical sampling, an appropriate number of dairy farms participating in the National Dairy FARM Program will be randomly selected for third-party verification. The third-party verification will be administered at the randomly selected sites, and is not intended to imply preference for those operations or give them permission to use the verification as an advantage over other operations.

As part of the National Dairy FARM Program, the evaluated farm will participate in the random statistical sampling third-party verification program. (pg. 48)

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



To learn more about the National Dairy FARM Program, log on to
www.nationaldairyfarm.com

or call the National Milk Producers Federation at
(703) 243-6111.