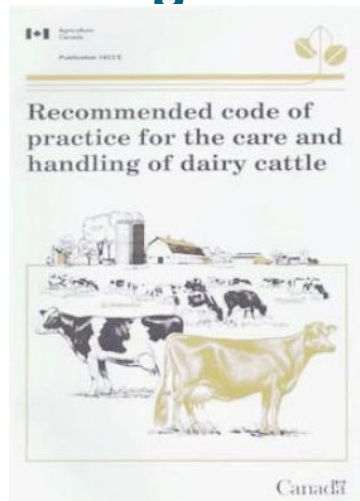


The Code of Practice



Original Dairy Code: 1990



- An educational tool in the promotion of sound husbandry and welfare practices
- Not a production manual
- Recommendations to assist farmers to compare and improve their own management practices

The revision process

- Dairy Farmers of Canada were the first to undertake this review under a new process
- Four dairy farmers on the Code Development Committee, chaired by farmer
- Collaborative effort with participation from diverse stakeholders (veterinarians, researchers, government, humane societies, transporters, processors & restaurant sector)
- For dairy farmers to use on farm

Check list for self-assessment on farm

- To help farmers assess their practices and encourage the implementation of animal care requirements, DFC has prepared a checklist for producers to use.
- Consists of highlights from the Code, made practical for farmers to use in evaluating their practices on the farm.

www.dairyfarmers.com

Dairy Animal Welfare: On-Farm Assessment

The following are requirements of the Code of Practice and farmers are expected to adhere to these practices. This checklist is intended for farmers to use in evaluating their practices and the environment they provide their calves and cows.

The numbers for each requirement links back to the section of the Code of Practice where the requirements and best practices are outlined.

You can choose N/A when a situation does not apply to your particular farm (for bull or farm, no branding, etc.)

CALVES			
CALF BARN			
1.1.1	Calves have a bed that provides comfort, insulation, warmth, dryness and traction: bare concrete is not acceptable as a resting surface.	YES	NO
	Housing allows calves to easily stand up, lie down, turn around and adopt normal resting postures.	YES	NO
	Calves have visual contact with other calves.	YES	NO
	The bedded area for group-housed calves is large enough to allow all calves to rest comfortably at the same time.	YES	NO
		YES	N/A
CALF HANDLING			
4.3	Disbudding and Dehorning Pain control is used when disbudding or disbudding. (It is recommended to disbud before calf is 3 weeks of age.) Blinding control is used when disbudding.	YES	NO
		YES	N/A
4.4	Identification All cattle are identified using an approved ear tag as stipulated by regulation. Pain control is used if branding is necessary. Face branding is prohibited.	YES	NO
		YES	N/A

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On my farm...

- Use the checklist with veterinarian to assess the status of animal welfare
- Changes made: training one specific person on dehorning calves using pain control
- Veterinarian appreciative of checklist because it gives him tool to discuss animal care concerns with other farmers / clientele
- Use the code as training tool when questioned as to why we are doing things the way we do.

What's in the Dairy Code?

Four types of information to improve animal care on dairy farms:

- **Regulatory requirements**
- Industry standards
- Recommended Best Practices
- Appendices



ACCOMMODATION, HOUSING, AND HANDLING FACILITIES

HOUSING SYSTEMS: UNWEANED CALVES

- Calves must have a bed that provides comfort, insulation, warmth, dryness and traction.
- Bare concrete is not acceptable as a resting surface.
- Housing must allow calves to easily stand up, lie down, turn around, adopt normal resting postures, and have visual contact with other calves.
- The bedded area for group-housed calves must be large enough to allow all calves to rest comfortably at the same time.



ACCOMMODATION, HOUSING, AND HANDLING FACILITIES – *CONT'D*

HOUSING SYSTEMS: HEIFERS, MILKING COWS AND DRY COWS

- Housing must allow cattle to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and have visual contact with other cattle.
- Cattle must have a bed that provides comfort, insulation, warmth, dryness and traction.
- Bare concrete is not acceptable as a resting surface.

BREEDING BULLS

- Housing must allow bulls to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and mount safely.
- Bulls must have a bed that provides comfort, insulation, warmth, dryness and traction.

ACCOMMODATION, HOUSING, AND HANDLING FACILITIES - CONT'D

FACILITIES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

- Special needs facilities must provide comfort, insulation, warmth, dryness and traction.
- Bare concrete is not acceptable as a resting surface.
- Areas must be provided to segregate and treat sick and injured cattle.

SPACE ALLOWANCES

- Stocking density must not exceed 1.2 cows per stall in a free stall system.
- Resting areas must provide 120ft² (11m²) per mature cow in bedded-pack pens.
- Provide adequate linear feed bunk space to meet the animals' nutritional needs.

ACCOMMODATION, HOUSING, AND HANDLING FACILITIES - CONT'D

STALL DESIGN

- Build stalls to minimize hock and knee injuries and to allow cows to rise and lie down with ease.

BEDDING MANAGEMENT

- Bare concrete platforms or hard rubber mats without bedding are unacceptable surfaces for the humane housing of cows.
- Daily removal of cow patties and use of generous amounts of bedding assures cleanliness of cows kept in bedded-pack pens.



HANDLING FACILITIES

- All dairy operations must be equipped for the safe restraint and handling of animals.

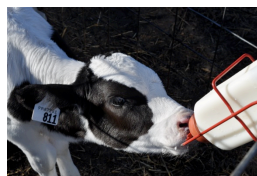
FEED AND WATER

BODY CONDITION SCORING

- Producers must take corrective action for animals at a BCS of 2 or lower.

NUTRITION AND FEED MANAGEMENT: HEIFERS, DRY COWS & TRANSITION COWS

Cows must receive a ration that is adequate for maintaining health and vigor.



NUTRITION AND FEED MANAGEMENT: UNWEANED CALVES

- Calves must receive at least four liters of good quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth, with the first meal occurring as soon as possible and no more than six hours after birth.

WATER

- Cattle must have access to palatable and clean water in quantities to meet their needs.

HEALTH AND WELFARE MANAGEMENT

VETERINARY CARE AND HERD HEALTH MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

- Producers must establish a working relationship with a practicing veterinarian (VCPR).

LAMENESS

- Lameness must be diagnosed early and either treated, culled or euthanized.

HEALTH CONDITIONS AROUND CALVING

- The calving area must be kept clean prior to, and after, delivery of the calf to minimize the risk of disease or bacterial challenges to the calf's immune system.

MANURE MANAGEMENT AND CLEANLINESS SCORING

- Producers must remove manure from alleys and beds to keep cows clean.

HEALTH AND WELFARE MANAGEMENT

SICK, INJURED AND CULL ANIMALS

- Cattle that are sick, injured, in pain or suffering must be provided prompt medical care or be euthanized.
- Cattle with untreatable conditions, not responding to treatment, or not fit for transport must be promptly euthanized.
- Appropriate authorities must be advised of any suspect or confirmed cases of reportable disease.

ELECTRIC TRAINERS IN TIE-STALL BARNES

- Energizers for electric trainers must not exceed 2500 volts.
- Electric trainers must have a height adjustment.

HUSBANDRY PRACTICES

HANDLING, MOVING, RESTRAINING, AND TREATING ANIMALS

- Electric cattle prods must only be used in extreme situations, such as when animal or human safety is at risk, and must never be used on the face, anus or reproductive organs of dairy cattle.
- Electric prods must not be used on calves that can be moved manually.
- Animal handlers must be familiar with cattle behavior and quiet handling techniques either through training, experience or mentorship.

DISBUDDING AND DEHORNING

- Pain control must be used when dehorning or disbudding.
- Bleeding control must be used when dehorning.

TAIL DOCKING

- Dairy cattle must not be tail docked unless medically necessary.

TRANSPORTATION

PRE-TRANSPORT DECISION MAKING: PREPARING CATTLE FOR TRANSPORT

- Calves must have received adequate colostrum before being transported.
- Dairy animals must be fed and watered within five hours before being loaded, if the expected duration of the animal's confinement is longer than 24 hours from the time of loading.

LOADING AND RECEIVING

- Electric cattle prods must only be used in extreme situations, such as when animal or human safety is at risk
- Electric prods must not be used on calves that can be moved manually.
- Health of Animals Regulations must be complied with.
- Ensure cattle that are incompatible are segregated.

EUTHANASIA

ON-FARM EUTHANASIA PROTOCOLS

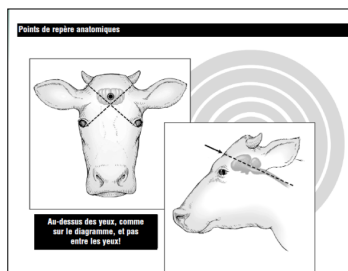
- Cattle with untreatable conditions, not responding to treatment, or not fit for transport must be euthanized promptly.

METHODS

- An acceptable method for euthanizing cattle must be used.
- The method to euthanize cattle must be quick and cause the least possible pain and distress.

EVIDENCE OF DEATH

- Confirm death immediately and before moving or leaving the animal.



Public Pressures are there!

- From animal welfare activists, consumers and retailers
 - HSUS, PETA, WSPA, SPCA
 - *"Consumers Name HSUS Most Credible Farm-animal Care Information Source"*
 - *"Whole Foods Adds Animal Welfare Ratings to Meat Labels"*
 - Global TV special *"Revealed: No Country for Animals"*
- From lawmakers
 - European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs
 - California Bill SB 135 passed in 2009 banning tail-docking in dairy cattle

Public Pressures & Responses

- The US Dairy industry has implemented a FARM program with 3rd party validation in the last year
- Lots of EU programs address animal welfare, but leads to public confusion
- Our Code and code process are clear and have several interested parties working together to improve farm animal welfare
- Next step is developing a made-in-Canada approach to assessment and DFC is piloting process and developing a dairy assessment tool based on Code

DFC Activities

- NFACC is developing an Assessment Model (ACAM) to guide farm assessment programs in Canada
- DFC gathering a team to develop a dairy assessment program, based on ACAM
 - Develop program – October 2011 to Sept 2012
 - Test it on farms – Sept 2012 to March 2013
 - Finalize program – April 2013- Nov 2013

DFC Activities re: Animal Care

DFC strongly supports science related to animal care:

- One example project (under the dairy research cluster): to identify factors that reduce cow comfort, and ultimately develop intervention tools to help farmers adopt new technology to improve cow comfort and longevity.
- Continue to develop relationships with extension service providers



Thank You!