



Animal Welfare Review Dairy Audit Standards

EVALUATION OF MATURE CATTLE

1. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

- a. Herd lameness: <5% of cattle score ≥ 3.0 on observation
- b. Body condition score: <3% of cattle score <2.0 on observation
<10% score >4.0 on observation

2. FEED & WATER ACCESS AND QUALITY

- a. Feed is available to cows that are locked up or isolated in treatment pens longer than 4 hours
- b. Water is positioned around dairy to allow ad lib access to drinking water

3. HERD HEALTH PROGRAM

- a. Facility has written herd health plan (including vaccination plans, parasite control, mastitis control, foot care, calf care, parasite control, etc.)

4. FACILITIES

- a. Footing evaluation: <1% of animals observed fall
<4% of animals observed slip
- b. General facilities are maintained to prevent animal injury
- c. Animal hygiene: <10% of cattle score >2.0 on observation
- d. Facility provides lighting for observation, examination and movement of cattle
- e. Pest control program (flies, birds, rodents, etc.)
- f. Housing air flow controls moisture (condensation) and odor (ammonia)
- g. Housing provides comfort during heat stress
- h. Visitor entry controlled

5. HOUSING

- a. Animals have access to exercise
- b. Stalls are the correct size (according to)

Breed size	Weight (lbs)	Width x Length*
Small	1,000	4'0" x 5'0"
Medium	1,300	4'3" x 5'6"
Large	1,600	5'0" x 6'0"

Reference: NRAES/NDPC-37

Animal weight (lbs)	Freestall width (in)	Freestall length	
		Side lunge	Forward lunge
800 – 1200	42 to 44	6'- 6"	7'-6" to 8'-0"
1200 – 1500	45 to 48	7'- 0"	8'-0" to 8'-6"
Over 1500	48 to 52	7'- 6"	8'-6" to 9'-0"

Reference: MWPS-7, 2000

- c. Stalls maintained to provide cow comfort
- d. Stocking rate maintained less than 120% (1.2:1) animal: stall
- e. Dry lot surfaces, traffic lanes, and dry lot/pasture mounds maintained

6. PARLOR MANAGEMENT

- a. Milking equipment has been tested in the past 6 months
- b. Wait times in the parlor/holding pen less than 5 hr/pen/24 hr
- c. Parlor behavior: average score of three parlor turns is ≤ 2.0

7. SPECIAL NEEDS MANAGEMENT

- a. Clean and dry calving area provided to allow for ready assistance if needed
- b. Record keeping current and accessible to employees for animal treatments
- c. Animals in the hospital pens monitored daily
- d. Protocol includes euthanasia for animals with less than 2.0 BCS and not responding to treatment
- e. Protocol exists to minimize animal discomfort and optimize animal recovery following surgery, illness or injury (including care for downer animals)
- f. Surgical techniques done by a vet or under the supervision of a vet
- g. Personnel trained to move downer animals
- h. Proper equipment (sled, bucket-loader; must be large enough to accommodate animal and not allow body contact with ground) available to move downer animals
- i. Care provided to downer animals similar to that provided to other hospitalized animals
- j. Employees trained in proper euthanasia techniques
- k. Euthanasia equipment is in good working order
- l. Animals in extreme distress (and the condition is obviously irreversible) are euthanized

8. HANDLING & TRANSPORTATION

- a. Employees are trained in animal handling
- b. Animals move calmly throughout facility
- c. Loading facilities are safe
- d. Prods (electric or otherwise) used only in emergencies to move animals

EVALUATION OF REPLACEMENT CATTLE & CALVES

1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT

- a. Calves are born in a clean, dry environment
- b. Heifer calves receive colostrum at birth
- c. Bull calves either receive colostrum or are humanely euthanized at birth

2. CARE

- a. Calves observed daily for health issues; protocol exists for flagging & treating sick heifers
- b. Calves eating dry feed (calf starter) for 3 or more consecutive days prior to weaning
- c. All calves (heifers & bulls) receive similar care at weaning

3. HOUSING

- a. Calf housing is dry, clean, adequately ventilated
- b. Shade is provided to calves younger than 5 months of age

4. HEALTH PROGRAM

- a. Calves are vaccinated according to vet or industry recommendations
- b. Calves are castrated by 4 months of age; if older, anesthetic is used
- c. Calves are dehorned between 2 and 10 weeks of age; if older, anesthetic is used
- d. Supernumerary teats are removed by 4 months of age; if older, anesthetic is used
- e. Protocol for terminally sick or severely injured (and not treatable) calves includes being euthanized

EVALUATION OF MANAGEMENT & FARM AUDIT PROCEDURES

1. MANAGEMENT

- a. Mission statement includes animal care
- b. Personnel are trained in their job responsibilities regarding animal care (flight zones, movement, etc.)
- c. Protocols are written & posted in native worker language
- d. Farm has a written emergency action plan (emergency phone contacts, directions to the hospital, full address of the property or 911 address, etc.)