

Animal Care



Farmer Requirements

Cattle Housing

Animal Care (AC) 1: Do you ensure that housing for unweaned calves:

- a) Allows calves to easily stand up, lie down, turn around (180°) and adopt normal resting postures?
- b) Provides bedding?
- c) Permits calves to have visual contact with other cattle?
- d) If group housing, provides a bedded area large enough to allow all calves to rest comfortably at the same time?

AC2: Do you ensure that housing for weaned heifers:

- a) Allows heifers to easily stand up, lie down, and adopt normal resting postures?
- b) Provides bedding?
- c) Permits heifers to have visual contact with other cattle?
- d) If group housing, provides a bedded area large enough to allow all heifers to rest comfortably at the same time?

AC3: Do you ensure that bull housing (if applicable to your farm):

- a) Permits bulls to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and mount safely?
- b) Provides bedding?

AC18: Do you ensure that dry cattle housing:

- a) Allows cattle to easily stand up, lie down, and adopt normal resting postures?
- b) Provides bedding?

AC4: Do you ensure that dry cattle and lactating cattle housing provides adequate stocking densities? (Free-stall: does not exceed 1.2 mature cows per usable stall. Bedded-pack pens: provide 11 m² (120 ft²) per mature Holstein cow.)

AC19: Do your animal husbandry, manure and waste management systems ensure the cleanliness of lactating cattle's udders, legs and flanks?

AC 5: Do you ensure that the calving area (prior to and after delivery of calf) is kept clean and dry?

AC6: Do you have a designated area for the segregation and treatment of sick and injured cattle?

AC7: Tie-stall Barns: Are electric trainers:

- a) Designed to not exceed 2500 volts?
- b) Equipped with a height adjustment?
- c) Located over the chine when the animal is standing with her hind feet near the gutter curb?

Feed and Water

AC8: Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for colostrum management and calf feeding? (SOP 8)

AC9: Do heifers receive feed that is adequate for maintaining health, growth and vigour?

AC10: Do all cattle have access to a clean water source?

Biosecurity and Animal Health

AC11: Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for animal health practices (e.g. disbudding/dehorning, castration, supernumerary teat removal) and branding that includes appropriate pain control where required? (SOP 9)

AC12: Do you provide prompt medical care for cattle that are sick, injured, too thin (BCS ≤ 2), severely lame, in pain or suffering?

AC20: Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for managing down cattle? (SOP 10)

AC13: Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for euthanasia? (SOP 11)

AC14: Have you:

- a) Had a cattle assessment conducted by an independent assessor on your milking herd for Body Condition Score; hock, knee and neck score; and mobility score? (Record 7)
- b) Documented and implemented an appropriate corrective action plan for results in the red zones to meet the program's timelines for continuous improvement? (Record 7b)

AC15: Do your cattle have full tails?

Handling and Shipping Animals

AC 16: Do you handle cattle without the use of electric cattle prods whenever possible?

Food Safety (FS) 40: Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for shipping cattle? (SOP 6)

Staff Training and Communication

AC17: Do you train all animal handlers, and are they familiar with cattle behaviour and quiet handling techniques?