

# Dairy animal welfare audit

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## Evaluation of mature cattle

1. Animal management
  - a. Herd lameness
  - b. Body condition score
  - c. Tail docking: Not practiced on farm; preference placed on purchasing replacement animals with full tails
2. Feed and water access and quality
  - a. Feed is available to cows that are locked up or isolated in treatment pens longer than four 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, and so forth)
4. Facilities
  - a. General facilities are maintained to prevent animal injury
  - b. Animal hygiene observation
  - c. Lighting for observation, examination, and movement of cattle
  - d. Pest control program (flies, birds, rodents, and so forth)
  - e. Housing provides comfort during heat stress
  - f. Visitor entry controlled
5. Housing
  - a. Animals have access to exercise
  - b. Stalls are the correct size
  - c. Stalls are maintained to provide cow comfort
  - d. Stocking rate
  - e. Dry lot surfaces, traffic lanes, and dry lot/pasture mounds are maintained
6. Parlor management
  - a. Milking equipment has been tested in the past six months
  - b. Wait times in the parlor/holding pen
  - c. Parlor behavior
  - d. Crowd gates are not used aggressively, and animals in holding pen are calm
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 exists to minimize animal discomfort and optimize animal recovery following surgery, illness, or injury (including care for downer animals)
  - e. Personnel trained to move downer animals
  - f. Proper equipment (sled, bucket-loader; must be large enough to accommodate animal and not allow body contact with ground) available to move downer animals
  - g. Care provided to downer animals similar to that provided to other hospitalized animals
  - h. Employees trained in proper euthanasia techniques
  - i. Euthanasia equipment is in good working order
8. Handling and 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 and 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 are observed daily for health issues; protocol exists for flagging and treating sick heifers
  - b. All calves (heifers and 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

## Evaluation of management and 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, and so forth)
  - c. Protocols are written and posted in native worker language