



Calf Management

These standards have been proposed for FARM Animal Care Version 4.0. Currently, FARM is operating under Version 3.0 which remain in effect until they are replaced by action of the NMPF Board of Directors (“Board”). Proposed standards for Version 4.0 will be presented to the Board for its consideration and approval at its meeting in June 2019, and FARM will not operate under Version 4.0 until approval by the Board and January 1, 2020



All calves are moved from the maternity area by lifting, walking or the use of clean, properly designed mechanical transport devices.

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Proper movement of calves ensures animal care and health.

Corrective Action

None

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All calves (heifers and bulls) receive volume and quality of colostrum or colostrum replacer within 12 hours after birth, even if immediately transported off of the farm.

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Providing colostrum/colostrum replacer ensures animal health.

Corrective Action

None

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All calves (heifers and bulls) have access to clean, fresh water

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Water is required to maintain animal health and care.

Corrective Action

None

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All calves (heifers and bulls) receive a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigor until weaned or marketed

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Sufficient volume and quality of milk or milk replacer is required to maintain animal health and care.

Corrective Action

None

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All calves (heifers and bulls) are offered fresh, palatable starter feed to maintain health, growth and vigor

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Water is required to maintain animal health and care.

Corrective Action

None

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All calves are disbudded before 8 weeks of age

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Robust scientific body of work supporting disbudding before 8 weeks of age to minimize pain associated with practice.

Corrective Action

MCAP

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Pain mitigation for disbudding is provided in accordance to the signed protocol by the Veterinarian of Record

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Robust scientific body of work supporting pain mitigation to minimize pain associated with disbudding. Due to extra label nature of pain mitigation in US, herd veterinarian prescription is necessary. Interest in gathering data to determine prevalence of use in today's industry.

Corrective Action

None

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Pain mitigation for castration is provided in accordance to the signed protocol by the Veterinarian of Record

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Science supports pain mitigation to minimize pain associated with castration. Due to extra label nature of pain mitigation in US, herd veterinarian prescription is necessary. Interest in gathering data to determine prevalence of use in today's industry.

Corrective Action

None

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Pain mitigation for branding is provided in accordance to the signed protocol by the Veterinarian of Record

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Science supports pain mitigation to minimize pain associated with branding. Due to extra label nature of pain mitigation in US, herd veterinarian prescription is necessary. Interest in gathering data to determine prevalence of use in today's industry.

Corrective Action

None

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Pain mitigation for teat removal is provided in accordance to the signed protocol by the Veterinarian of Record

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Science supports pain mitigation to minimize pain associated with branding. Due to extra label nature of pain mitigation in US, herd veterinarian prescription is necessary. Interest in gathering data to determine prevalence of use in today's industry.

Corrective Action

None

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The written herd health plan has a written protocol for calf care that includes language specific to areas of newborn and milk-fed dairy calf management;

- calves (heifers and bulls) receive a volume and quality of colostrum or colostrum replacer within 12 hours after birth, even if immediately transported off of the farm
- calves (heifers and bulls) receive a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigor until weaned or marketed
- calves (heifers and bulls) have access to clean, fresh water
- calves (heifers and bulls) offered fresh, palatable starter feed to maintain health, growth and vigor
- calves disbudded before 8 weeks of age
- language specific to pain mitigation provided for disbudding
- language specific to pain mitigation provided for castration
- language specific to pain mitigation provided for branding
- language specific to pain mitigation provided for teat removal

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. A written protocol for calf care management ensures consistent training to the protocol and enhanced animal health and care.

Corrective Action

CIP (all components need to be present within protocol)

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Individuals with newborn and milk-fed dairy calf management responsibilities have been trained annually on written protocol for newborn and milk-fed dairy calves.

Rationale

Maintaining consistency of standard from previous versions. Training individuals with calf care responsibilities to a written protocol for calf care management ensures consistent training to and implementation of the protocol and enhanced animal care.

Corrective Action

MCAP – *Employees*
CIP – *Family*

Calf Management