

National Dairy FARM Animal Care Program Corrective Actions Standards Change - Version 3 to Version 4

Version 4 January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022		Version 3 January 1, 2017 – January 2019		Change
Standard	Corrective Action	Standard	Corrective Action	
Veterinarian Review				
The facility has a written Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) that is signed by the farm owner and Veterinarian of Record annually.	Mandatory Corrective Action	The facility has a written Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) that is signed by the farm owner and Veterinarian of Record annually.	Mandatory Corrective Action	No Change
The written herd health plan is reviewed annually by the Veterinarian of Record.	Mandatory Corrective Action	New Standard		New Standard
Animal Management				
Written Protocols				
The facility has a written protocol for fitness to transport that includes the definition of animals that are eligible to be marketed and outlines adherence to milk and meat withdrawal times.	Mandatory Corrective Action	New Standard		New Standard
Actions				
The facility complies with the ban on routine tail docking.	Immediate Corrective Action	The facility complies with the ban on routine tail docking.	Mandatory Corrective Action	Immediate action category created, tail docking elevated from MCAP to Immediate Action Plan
All age classes of animals have access to clean water appropriate for climatic conditions.	Mandatory Corrective Action	Access to Water for All Age Classes	Continuous Improvement Plan	Elevated from CIP to MCAP, Access defined, age for access for calves updated
All age classes of animals have access to sufficient quantities of feed for maintenance, health and growth.	Mandatory Corrective Action	Access to Feed for All Age Classes	Continuous Improvement Plan	Elevated from CIP to MCAP, Access defined, age for access to calves updated
Outcomes-Based Animal Observations				
99% or more of pre-weaned calves (>2 days old), post-weaned heifers and lactating cows observed have a body condition score of 2 or greater on FARM Body Condition	Continuous Improvement Plan	99% or more of the animals have a Body Condition Score of 2 or more	Continuous Improvement Plan	Adjusted to score only pre- weaned calves (>2 days old), post- weaned heifers and lactating cows
95% or more of lactating cows observed do not have broken tails.	Continuous Improvement Plan	New Standard		New Standard
95% or more of the lactating cows observed score 2 or less on the FARM Knee Scorecard.	Continuous Improvement Plan	95% or more of the lactating herd score 2 or less for Hock/Knee Lesions	Continuous Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjusted to score only lactating cows Separated hocks and knees into two different benchmarks
95% or more of the lactating cows observed score 2 or less on the FARM Hock Scorecard.	Continuous Improvement Plan		Continuous Improvement Plan	
95% or more of the lactating cows observed score 2 or less on the FARM Locomotion Scorecard.	Continuous Improvement Plan	95% or more of the lactating and dry dairy herd score a 2 or less for Locomotion	Continuous Improvement Plan	Adjusted to score only lactating cows

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Pre-Weaned Calves				
Written Protocols				
The written herd health plan has a written protocol for pre-weaned calf care that includes language specific to the areas listed below of pre-weaned calf management:		The Written Herd Health Plan include written protocols for specific areas of newborn and milk-fed dairy calf management including the following elements:		
Calves are moved from the maternity area by lifting, walking or the use of clean, properly designed mechanical transport	MCAP if any component of protocol listed below is missing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calves are disbudded/dehorned before 8 weeks of age or earlier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain mitigation provided for disbudding/dehorning in accordance with recommendation of the herd veterinarian All other planned medical procedures including castration and extra teat removal, performed at the earliest age possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All other planned medical procedures performed using pain mitigation in accordance with recommendation of the herd veterinarian 	Continuous Improvement Plan	Elevated from CIP to MCAP, specific components adjusted
All pre-weaned calves (heifers and bulls) receiving volume and quality of colostrum or colostrum replacer within 6 hours after birth, even if immediately transported off of the farm				
All pre-weaned calves (heifers and bulls) having access to clean, fresh water by day 3				
All pre-weaned calves (heifers and bulls) receiving a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigor until weaned or marketed				
All calves (heifers and bulls) being offered fresh, palatable starter feed to maintain health, growth and vigor				
Calves being disbudded before 8 weeks of age				
Pain mitigation provided for disbudding	Continuous Improvement Plan	New Standard		New Standard
Actions				
Calves are moved from the maternity area by lifting, walking or the use of clean, properly designed mechanical transport	Mandatory Corrective Action			New Standard
All pre-weaned calves (heifers and bulls) receiving volume and quality of colostrum or colostrum replacer within 6 hours after birth, even if immediately transported off of the farm	Mandatory Corrective Action			New Standard
All pre-weaned calves (heifers and bulls) have access by day 3 to clean, fresh water appropriate for climatic conditions	Mandatory Corrective Action	Access to Water for All Age Classes	Continuous Improvement Plan	Elevated from CIP to MCAP, Access defined, age for access for calves updated
All pre-weaned calves (heifers and bulls) receiving a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigor until weaned or marketed?	Mandatory Corrective Action			New Standard
All pre-weaned calves (heifers and bulls) are offered fresh, palatable starter feed by day 3 to maintain health, growth and vigor	Mandatory Corrective Action	Access to Water for All Age Classes	Continuous Improvement Plan	Elevated from CIP to MCAP, Access defined, age for access for calves updated
All calves are disbudded before 8 weeks of age	Mandatory Corrective Action			Previously only protocols were reviewed. Now Verification of practices, confirmation of matching what is outlined in protocol is required.
Pain mitigation for disbudding is provided	Continuous Improvement Plan			Previously only protocols were reviewed. Now Verification of practices, confirmation of matching what is outlined in protocol is required.

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Non-Ambulatory Cows				
Written Protocol				
The written herd health plan has a written protocol for non-ambulatory animal management that includes language specific to the areas listed below of non-ambulatory animal management:		The Written Herd Health Plan include written protocols and training for non-ambulatory animal management that includes the following elements:		
Proper movement of non-ambulatory animals, including the use of special equipment	MCAP if any component of protocol listed below is missing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper movement, including the use of special equipment • Husbandry that provides access at all times to feed, water, shelter/shade, isolation from other animals, and protection from predators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt medical care • Euthanasia in a timely manner, if warranted 	Continuous Improvement Plan	Elevated from CIP to MCAP, specific components adjusted
Husbandry for non-ambulatory animals that provides prompt medical care				
Husbandry for non-ambulatory animals that provides feed, water, protection from heat and cold for typical climatic conditions, isolation from other ambulatory animals, and protection from predators				
Actions				
Non-ambulatory animals are moved using proper methods including the use of special equipment.	Mandatory Corrective Action		New Standard	Previously only protocols were reviewed. Now Verification of practices, confirmation of matching what is outlined in protocol is required.
Non-ambulatory animals are provided prompt medical care.	Mandatory Corrective Action		New Standard	Previously only protocols were reviewed. Now Verification of practices, confirmation of matching what is outlined in protocol is required.
Non-ambulatory animals are provided access to feed, water, protection from heat and cold for typical climatic conditions, isolation from other ambulatory animals and protection from predators.	Mandatory Corrective Action		New Standard	Previously only protocols were reviewed. Now Verification of practices, confirmation of matching what is outlined in protocol is required.

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Euthanasia				
Written Protocols				
Does the written herd health plan-euthanasia protocol include language specific to the areas listed below:				
Criteria used to identify animals that are to be euthanized and outlines the immediate action of euthanasia when the criteria are met	MCAP if any component of protocol listed below is missing	The Written Herd Health Plan includes written protocols and training for euthanasia that align with the methods approved by the AABP and/or AVMA and include the following elements? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated employees trained to recognize animals to be euthanized and trained on proper euthanasia techniques • Carcass disposal in compliance with local regulations • A record of mortalities and their causes (e.g. euthanasia, toxic mastitis, pneumonia, etc.) 	Continuous Improvement Plan	Elevated from CIP to MCAP, specific components adjusted
Euthanasia method that aligns with the approved methods of AABP and/or AVMA				
Carcasses are disposed of using appropriate method				
Actions				
Criteria for identification of animals to be euthanized are established	Mandatory Corrective Action		New Standard	Previously only protocols were reviewed. Now Verification of practices, confirmation of matching what is outlined in protocol is required.
Euthanasia techniques follow the approved methods of AABP and/or AVMA.	Mandatory Corrective Action		New Standard	Previously only protocols were reviewed. Now Verification of practices, confirmation of matching what is outlined in protocol is required.
Carcass disposal is conducted using the appropriate method.	Mandatory Corrective Action		New Standard	Previously only protocols were reviewed. Now Verification of practices, confirmation of matching what is outlined in protocol is required.

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Continuing Education				
All family and non-family employees with animal care responsibilities sign a cow care agreement annually.	MCAP – Nonfamily Labor CIP – Family Labor	Employees with animal care responsibilities sign a Dairy Cattle Care Ethics Agreement on an annual basis	Mandatory Corrective Action	Specifies non-family employees as an MCAP and family labor as a CIP
All family and non-family employees with animal care responsibilities are trained annually in proper stockmanship.	MCAP – Nonfamily Labor CIP – Family Labor	Employees with animal care responsibilities must complete basic stockmanship training on an annual basis	Mandatory Corrective Action	Specifies non-family employees as an MCAP and family labor as a CIP and job specific areas
Family and non family employees with pre- weaned calf management responsibilities have been trained annually on written protocol for pre-weaned calf management.	MCAP – Nonfamily Labor CIP – Family Labor		New Standard	New Standard
Family and non family employees with non- ambulatory animal management responsibilities have been trained annually on written protocol for non-ambulatory animal	MCAP – Nonfamily Labor CIP – Family Labor		New Standard	New Standard
Family and non-family employees with euthanasia responsibilities have been trained annually on written protocol for euthanasia.	MCAP – Nonfamily Labor CIP – Family Labor		New Standard	New Standard
Family and non-family employees with determining fitness to transport responsibilities have been trained annually on written protocol for fitness to transport.	MCAP – Nonfamily Labor CIP – Family Labor		New Standard	New Standard