About FARM Animal Care

Consumers today are more interested than ever before in their food: how it’s produced, its safety and wholesomeness, who is producing it and how animals are treated. The National Dairy FARM Program: Farmers Assuring Responsible Management is earning the trust of everyone who makes dairy a part of their day by setting the highest standards when it comes to animal care, workplace settings, and environmental and antibiotic stewardship. Open to all farms, milk processors and cooperatives, FARM helps ensure the success of the entire industry by demonstrating to our customers and consumers that U.S. dairy farmers are committed to producing the best milk with integrity.

National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) with support from Dairy Management, Inc., established the FARM Program in 2009. Through the Innovation Center for US Dairy, the dairy community has aligned behind FARM as the industry-wide social responsibility program.

The FARM Animal Care Program demonstrates that dairy producers are committed to taking excellent care of their animals and producing safe, wholesome milk by:

- Detailing science-based animal care guidelines that evolve with the latest dairy research
- Providing on-farm evaluations by trained evaluators who work with farmers to identify strengths and, if necessary, outline improvements
- Ensuring the integrity of the program with third-party verification by qualified dairy experts who evaluate a representative percentage of farms each year to demonstrate that FARM is working as intended

FARM Animal Care Guidelines

The National Dairy FARM Animal Care Program standards are formally revised every three years through a strenuous, year-long process.

Who Drafts and Approves FARM Animal Care Program Guidelines?

- **Guidance, Input & Ambassadorship**
- **Approval**
- **Recommendations**
- **Farmer Representation within Group**

**Farmer Advisory Council**
Dedicated producers serving a three-year term who provide guidance and input for consideration in FARM’s ongoing and future development. Members work to champion FARM within other organizations, communities and throughout the industry.

**NMPF Animal Care Technical Writing Group**
Dairy farmers, Farmer Advisory Council chairperson and vice chairperson, and veterinarian membership representation who review the latest research and aggregated FARM Animal Care Program data, and provide recommendations to the NMPF Animal Health & Well-Being Committee and NMPF Board of Directors.

**NMPF Animal Health & Well-Being Committee**
Members are appointed by interested National Milk Producers Federation member cooperatives. The committee coordinates NMPF’s participation in animal health contingencies, including development of animal health research priorities, and provides oversight for the FARM Animal Care Program.

**NMPF Board of Directors**

| Innovation Center Animal Care Committee | 25% |
| Open Comment Period | > 370 Comments Received | 25% |
| NMPF Board of Directors | 60% |

FARM Animal Care **DOES:**

- Create a framework and foundation for on-farm animal care
- Create a culture of continuous improvement
- Is a snapshot of farm management practices
- Require producer monitoring, oversight and active on-farm participation
- Rely on science, and is facility and size neutral

FARM Animal Care **DOES NOT:**

- Ensure a certain on-farm culture
- Replace supervision and management of employees
- Guarantee perfection or that best management practices are followed
- Eliminate challenges
- Eliminate threats to consumer trust
**Second-Party Evaluation**
A Second-Party Evaluation is an external review and assessment of on-farm animal care practices for a participating dairy farm facility based on the National Dairy FARM Program guidelines. Facilities participating in FARM Animal Care Program must undergo a Second-Party Evaluation at least once every three years. Evaluations are not to be conducted unannounced.

**What Facilities Complete Second-Party Evaluations?**
Second-Party Evaluations are conducted on each dairy facility with lactating dairy cows that is a member, patron, contractor or direct shipper of any organization that has signed a FARM Animal Care Participation Agreement.

**Who Conducts Second-Party Evaluations?**
Second-Party Evaluations are conducted by certified individuals who complete and pass annual in-person training.

Before attending a training, Second-Party Evaluators are required to meet minimum prerequisites including a combination of five years of education and/or on-dairy farm industry experience, a written application and completion of an in-depth interview. To read more about the evaluator process, visit the FARM website: nationaldairyfarm.com

**Third-Party Verification**
All facilities that have had a Second-Party Evaluation are subject to Third-Party Verification. Contracted with the FARM Animal Care Program, Third-Party Verifiers conduct verifications on a representative percentage of participating facilities each year to provide statistically valid data regarding adherence to FARM Program guidelines. This process demonstrates the program’s integrity by program participants ensuring Second-Party Evaluators consistently implement the FARM Program. Third-Party Verifiers conduct their assessment utilizing the same standards as Second-Party Evaluators. Verifications are not to be conducted unannounced.

**Where are Third-Party Verifications Conducted?**
Every six months, a random sample of all eligible facilities is selected from a pool of the facilities that were evaluated during the previous six months.

**Who Conducts Third-Party Verifications?**
The National Dairy FARM Program contracts with an auditing firm to facilitate the FARM Animal Care Program verification process. Individuals approved to conduct verifications must meet the outlined requirements for Second-Party animal care evaluators in addition to having an extensive auditor background. All Third-Party Verifiers must complete annual in-person training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>During an Evaluation a Certified Second-Party Evaluator will:</th>
<th>During a Verification a Certified Third-Party Verifier will:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review</strong></td>
<td><strong>Review</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Continuing education records</td>
<td>• Continuing education records</td>
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<td>• Signed veterinarian documentation</td>
<td>• Signed veterinarian documentation</td>
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<td>• Written protocols</td>
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<td>• Cow treatment records</td>
<td>• Cow treatment records</td>
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<td><strong>Observe</strong></td>
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<td>• Animals</td>
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<td>• Facilities</td>
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<td><strong>Verify</strong></td>
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<td>• Observed actions are consistent with written records and</td>
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<td>protocols</td>
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<td><strong>Create</strong></td>
<td><strong>Create</strong></td>
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<td>• If required, corrective action plans if certain standards</td>
<td>• Any corrective action plans if certain standards are not</td>
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<tr>
<td>are not met</td>
<td>met*</td>
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*Verifiers are ONLY permitted to create required action plans outlined in the FARM Animal Care Program Version 4 guidelines.*
After the Evaluation or Verification

Evaluation or Verification Feedback
The FARM Program values feedback from the dairy community as it influences future standards and programmatic processes. After participating in a Second-Party Evaluation or Third-Party Verification, we encourage all dairy producers and managers to complete a feedback form found on the FARM Program website: nationaldairyfarm.com/evaluationfeedback.

FARM Database Access
All dairy facilities have access to review their completed evaluations, verifications, and active and past corrective action plans within the password-secured FARM database. Facility representatives in need of creating an account within the FARM database should reach out to their FARM Second-Party Evaluator.

Completing Corrective Action Plans
If during an evaluation or verification any corrective action plans were created, dairy facility representatives should work closely with a Second-Party Evaluator to adhere to any timelines to complete any identified actions.
FARM Animal Care Program Version 4 Standards

Documentation
To be reviewed during a Second-Party Evaluation or Third-Party Verification

☐ Signed Cow Care Agreements†
   ☐ Non-Immediate Family Members# One signed agreement from each employee who is 18 years or older with animal care responsibilities documented annually.
   ☐ Immediate Family Members† One signed agreement from each employee who is 18 years or older with animal care responsibilities documented annually OR a document signed by a family representative taking responsibility for explaining animal care expectations to remaining family members who are 18 years or older.

   Immediate family member is defined as a grandparent, parent, in-law, spouse, partner, sibling, child or grandchild of the legal guardian(s) or legal owner(s) of the dairy operation.

☐ Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship#
   VCPR to be signed annually by facility representative and Veterinarian of Record.

☐ Continuing Education Records†
   Job-specific continuing education for non-family# and family† employees if they have animal care responsibilities that include:
   ☐ Stockmanship
   ☐ Pre-weaned calf care
   ☐ Non-ambulatory animals
   ☐ Euthanasia
   ☐ Determining animals are fit to transport

☐ Permanent Written or Electronic Drug Treatment Records are Maintained†
   ☐ Date of treatment
   ☐ Animal treated identification
   ☐ Name of treatment
   ☐ Disease/condition being treated
   ☐ Dosage administered
   ☐ Route of administration
   ☐ Duration of treatment
   ☐ Specified withdrawal times for milk and meat to ensure food safety

Reviewed Protocols and Verified Effective Actions
The facility will be evaluated for the presence of the following written protocols as well as their effectiveness in action. All written protocols should be translated as needed into a language understood by all individuals with assigned animal care responsibilities.

Herd Health Plan
Reviewed annually by the Veterinarian of Record#

☐ Pre-Weaned Calves Protocol including:
   ☐ How calves are moved#
   ☐ How colostrum is provided#
   ☐ How milk/milk replacer is provided#
   ☐ Feed and water are provided by day three#
   ☐ Disbudding of calves prior to 8 weeks of age#
   ☐ Pain mitigation used for disbudding†
      - Pain mitigation is expected to be used when disbudding calves for any method (cautery, paste, etc.)
      - It is expected that producers work with their veterinarians to determine the appropriate pain mitigation to use for disbudding

☐ Difficult Calving (Dystocia) Protocol

☐ Non-Ambulatory Animals Protocol including:
   ☐ How non-ambulatory animals are moved#
   ☐ What prompt medical care is provided#
   ☐ Outlines that non-ambulatory animals are provided with access to feed, water, protection from heat and cold for typical climatic conditions, isolation from other ambulatory animals and protection from predators#

☐ Treatment of Common Diseases
   ☐ Mastitis
   ☐ Metritis
   ☐ Milk fever
   ☐ Ketosis
   ☐ Displaced abomasum
   ☐ Pneumonia
   ☐ Diarrhea

☐ Euthanasia Protocol including:
   ☐ Criteria for the identification of animals to be euthanized#
   ☐ Euthanasia techniques that follow the approved methods of AABP and/or AVMA#
   ☐ How carcass disposal is conducted using an appropriate method#

☐ Vaccination Protocols that specify:
   ☐ Age(s)/stage when vaccination given
   ☐ Product used
   ☐ Dosage administered
   ☐ Route of administration
   ☐ Withdrawal times

☐ Milking Procedure Protocol

☐ Emergency Action or Crisis Plan
   Examples: employee injury, biosecurity, natural disasters, temperature extremes, contagious disease outbreak, power failure, manure spills, etc.

☐ Biosecurity Protocol

☐ Pest, Fly and Parasite Control
Animal Observations

During the evaluation, the following animal observations will be conducted by the evaluator.

All Age Classes

- No routine tail docking
- Each animal is identified with a tamper-resistant individual animal ID

Outcomes-Based Animal Observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hygiene</th>
<th>Body Condition Score†</th>
<th>Locomotion†</th>
<th>Hock†</th>
<th>Kneest†</th>
<th>Broken Tails†</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benchmark to Meet</strong></td>
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<td>90% or more observed animals score 2 or less on the FARM Program Hygiene Scorecard</td>
<td>99% or more of observed animals have a body condition score of 2 or greater on FARM Body Condition Scorecard</td>
<td>95% or more of the lactating herd score 2 or less on the FARM Locomotion Scorecard</td>
<td>95% or more of the lactating herd score 2 or less on the FARM Hock Scorecard</td>
<td>95% or more of the lactating herd score 2 or less on the FARM Knee Scorecard</td>
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Lactating Cows

Pre-Weaned Calves (heifers, bulls, steers) 99% or more of the lactating herd score 2 or less on the FARM Locomotion Scorecard

Post-Weaned Heifers

Pre-Fresh Cows and Heifers/Dry Cows

Facility Observations

During the evaluation, the following facility observations will be conducted by the evaluator.

- Posted Emergency Contact Information

Facility Design

- Clean, soft, dry, well-lit and well-ventilated calving area
- Method of daily exercise for all age classes
- Protection from heat and cold for typical climatic condition
- Housing allows all age classes of animals to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures and have visual contact with other cattle without risk of injury
- Resting area for all age classes of animals that is clean, dry, provides traction at all times when away from the milking facility and does not pose risk of injury
- Facilities designed to prevent injuries, slips and falls of animals

Please reference Second-Party Evaluator, FARM Animal Care Program Manual and/or FARM website to confirm if any continuing education, documentation, protocol or action meets the outlined standard.
**Corrective Action Plans**
Failing to meet certain FARM Animal Care Program Version 4 standards will trigger one of the following corrective actions plans.

**FARM Program Second-Party Evaluation Conducted**

**Immediate Action Plans | IAP**

*Standard must be met immediately*

Immediate Action Plans require that the standard is met immediately. Failure to meet this standard will result in the facility being placed on Conditional Certification for 48 hours or less once the standard is met. If after the 48-hour Conditional Certification the facility continues to not meet the standard, the facility will be Conditionally Decertified until the standard is met.

The program participant (the co-op or processor through which the farm is participating) will be delisted from FARM if they continue to procure milk from a Conditionally Decertified facility. If the facility is placed on Conditional Certification for an IAP, there is the expectation that the facility is followed up with at one-week, one-month and three-month intervals to ensure the standard is met.

**Mandatory Corrective Action Plans | MCAP**

*Requires that the standard is met within nine months or less*

Mandatory Corrective Action Plans require that the standard is met within nine months or less as determined by the program participant. Failure to meet these standards within this allotted timeframe will result in the facility being placed on Conditional Certification leading to Conditional Decertification if standards are not met after the designated timeframe. The program participant (the co-op or processor through which the farm is participating) will be delisted from FARM if they continue to procure milk from a Conditionally Decertified facility.

**Continuous Improvement Plans | CIP**

*Requires that improvement toward meeting the standard must be met within three years or less*

Continuous Improvement Plans require that action has been taken to meet the standard within a minimum of three years or less as determined by the program participant. Failure to meet this standard within this allotted timeframe will result in the facility being placed on Conditional Certification leading to Conditional Decertification if standards are not met after the designated timeframe. The program participant (the co-op or processor through which the farm is participating) will be delisted from FARM if they continue to procure milk from a Conditionally Decertified facility. FARM Animal Care Program evaluators may create CIPs for additional areas beyond the Version 4 standards if deemed necessary.
Resources

The FARM Program works closely with industry stakeholders to curate and develop on-farm animal care resources in order to meet FARM Animal Care Program standards.

To learn more about the FARM Program, access protocol templates or training aids, visit the FARM website: www.nationaldairyfarm.com