



## FARM Version 5 Development Memo

*July - September*

### WHERE ARE WE WITH VERSION 5 DEVELOPMENT?

The National Farmers Assuring Responsible Management Program (FARM) Animal Care Task Force (ACTF) has initiated the revision process that will inform the development of a new version (5) of the Animal Care component of the FARM program. To date, the ACTF has held meetings on July 12 and Sept. 13, to discuss and review the progress that has been thus far in Version 4. The July meeting acted as a kick-off event, with discussions focusing on management and administrative topics. Upcoming meetings and relevant events were highlighted for the group and a review of the governance scope was provided. The communication strategy between all governance committees of the FARM Program was coordinated to ensure a comprehensive understanding of how information will be shared going forward. To close this meeting, next steps were discussed, and the focus groups and survey were highlighted as a next priority.

### FOCUS GROUPS

In the last three weeks of August, Acer Consulting Group facilitated focus groups with approximately 10 members from each of the following industry stakeholders: veterinarians, farmers, researchers, cooperatives/processors. The focus groups asked participants to describe what they felt were high-priority animal care topics, what aspects of Version 4 should be changed or updated, and what they would like to see included in Version 5 of FARM Animal Care. The feedback gathered from the focus groups was used to develop the industry-wide feedback survey.



**National Dairy FARM Program**

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Version 5 revisions facilitated by Acer Consulting



## SURVEY

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The results of these focus groups were summarized at the September ACTF meeting and the November NMPF Animal Health and Well-Being Committee (AHWB) meeting. Common themes from the results were discussed and ACTF and AHWB members were given the opportunity to ask questions, give suggestions, and provide feedback. The meetings closed with a review of the development and distribution of a nation-wide survey for relevant stakeholders to provide feedback. The survey response period was from Sept. 22 – Nov. 1 and allowed farmers, veterinarians, cooperatives/processor staff and other industry stakeholders the opportunity to provide their feedback and suggestions for the FARM governance structure to consider as they look to the new version.

Preliminary results of the survey will be shared with the National Milk Producers Federation Board of Directors in mid-November, as part of the National Dairy Board/National Milk Producers Federation/United Dairy Industry Association’s Annual Meeting’s Town Hall and for the full industry in a virtual Industry Town Hall to be held on **December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1 ET**. [Registration](#) for this webinar is now open.

For more information on the development of FARM Animal Care Version 5 please visit our website <https://nationaldairyfarm.com/farm-animal-care-version-5-development/>

**Have questions? Please contact:** [dairyfarm@nmpf.org](mailto:dairyfarm@nmpf.org)



## ANIMAL CARE VERSION 5