



FARM Version 5 Development Memo

October - January

VERSION 5 DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS: FALL/WINTER 2021

The National Farmers Assuring Responsible Management Program (FARM) Animal Care Task Force (ACTF) has made continual progress towards reviewing considerations for Version 5 of the Animal Care component of the FARM program. The ACTF held 2 meetings in the fall of 2021, on November 8th and November 29th. The November meetings presented results from the nation-wide survey that was available for response by all industry stakeholders from Sept. 22 – Nov. 1, 2021. Key findings from this survey were presented at both the November 8th and 29th meetings, including respondent demographics, suggestions for program changes, and major themes of discussion. Members of the ACTF discussed the survey findings, presented any comments or questions, and reviewed major topics of discussion and revision consideration for Version 5. All ACTF members were encouraged to suggest items to be considered for Version 5 of the Animal Care component of the FARM Program, as well as to indicate their perspective on the importance of issues that had been presented to the group in previous meetings. The November 29th meeting closed with a discussion of next steps and priorities, as well as a reminder to register for FARM's Industry Town Hall that was held on December 14th. Key results from the industry-wide survey were presented at the virtual Industry Town Hall. A [recording](#) of this presentation, [full slide deck](#) and [survey report](#) is available for viewing.



JANUARY 2022

To start off 2022, the FARM Farmer Advisory Council also had the opportunity to review the survey results on January 13th. Additionally, the ACTF held its first meeting of the year on January 18th. Current data from Version 4 of the FARM Animal Care program were analyzed and presented to the group. ACTF members had the opportunity to ask questions about the data analysis and findings,

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propose additional statistical analyses to be run, and provide additional feedback and comments. Following this, the ACTF reviewed the suggested standards and items that were presented for revision at the 2021 fall meetings related to animal-based standards. Meeting attendees discussed their perspectives on issues, such as the body condition scoring system for animals, hospital pen evaluations on farm, and the evaluation benchmark for broken tails. The meeting was adjourned with the promise to continue discussion in future meetings on issues of importance and consideration for Version 5.

LOOKING AHEAD

The FARM Animal Care Task Force has scheduled its next meeting for February 14th, 2022. At this time, discussion will continue on potential areas of change for the 5th version of the FARM Animal Care program standards. An additional progress update will be presented to the National Milk Producers Federation Animal Health and Well Being Committee and the NMPF March Board Meeting and for the full industry in a virtual Industry Town Hall that will be held on **March 31st, 2022 at 1:00pm 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



ANIMAL CARE VERSION 5

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