Background

- B.S. & M.Ag. From UNL
- 4 ½ years working for a commodity group as director of biofuels and education
- Consumer relationships and understanding of agriculture and the food supply
Current Role

- Dairy Extension Educator
- Communications and program planning for all Nebraska’s dairies
- Areas of expertise: Corn milling co-products (distillers grains) & animal care
Consumer expectations

- Today’s consumers want – and deserve – safe, wholesome, abundant, quality food from animals that receive quality care and from farms that care about animal care and welfare, are open to questions, and are protecting the environment.
Consumer perception & concerns

- “Big is Bad”
- Transparency builds trust
- 62% concerned about food safety (more women concerned than men)
- 53% concerned about having enough food to feed the U.S.
- 47% concerned about the humane treatment of farm animals
Why a top animal science expert is worried about the milk industry

"I call them the bad dairies," Grandin said. "They make up most of the farms in the United States, and their cows are so wrecked by the time they stop milking they can barely be used for beef."

The problem, she says, is not only a question of animal welfare—although that is certainly an important component. It’s also compounded by the shortsightedness of the industry. Grandin believes the "bad dairies" are so obsessed with production that they are failing to properly consider the larger picture. Smaller cows might not produce as much milk as their larger counterparts, but they tend to live longer and be more fertile. Shifting away from the jacked up cows, in other words, could be better for both the farms and their animals.
National Dairy FARM Program

- Farmers Assuring Responsible Management
- The program sets the highest standards when it comes to animal care and wholesome milk
- Open to all dairy farmers, co-ops, processors
- EVALUATION tool for continuous improvement in the dairy industry
- Consumers want to know how it’s produced, who’s producing and how food animals are raised
- FARM shows consumers the dairy industry is holding themselves to the highest standard
Who participates in the program?

- More than 90% of the U.S. milk supply comes from farms participating in the FARM program
- More than 82 co-ops and processors participate in the program, too
Recent changes to the FARM program

- Vet Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) form signed and on file
- Dairy cattle care ethics and training agreement
- No docking tails after January 1, 2017
- Herd Health Plans: protocols for newborn calf care, pain management, training on non-ambulatory animals, and euthanasia
Evaluation process

- Pre-checklist for producers to complete
- In-person entrance interview with producer
- Evaluation and observations
- Closing meeting
- Action plan
Pre-check list for producers

- Map of the operation and label each building and housing with pen identification (calf, maternity, heifers, etc.)
- Mortality & morbidity rates
- Percentage of calves that die
- Written protocols or SOPs
- Somatic Cell Count (yearly, high and low)
- Employee training documentation
- Herd profile
- Facilities
Entrance Interview

- VCPR
- Trainings for new and existing employees
- SOPs
- Emergency contacts
- Identification and record keeping
- Milking procedures
- Newborn calf care
- Do you work with a nutritionist?
- Herd health plan – ask about specific SOPs
- Handling, movement and transportation
- Does the farm representative agree to have the farm listed in the random sampling pool for third-party verification?
**Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals to a Packing or Processing Facility**

1. Do not allow any odors or smells to linger or enter the facility. Make sure the area is well-ventilated and clean.
2. Ensure that all personnel involved in the transport are adequately trained and experienced.
3. Use a transportation vehicle that is appropriate for the type of animal being transported.
4. Ensure that the animal’s health and well-being are monitored throughout the transport.
5. Use a transportation vehicle that is properly equipped and maintained.
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10. Ensure that the animal’s health and well-being are monitored throughout the transport.
I confirm my commitment to the highest standards of animal care and protection through the See It? Stop It! initiative.

In accordance with the See It? Stop It! values, I agree that:

1. Animal abuse, neglect, harm and mishandling are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
2. Proper animal care is the responsibility of every individual who is around animals, including me.
3. I have an obligation to immediately report any signs of deliberate animal abuse, neglect, harm or mishandling to a supervisor or other individual responsible for enforcement of proper animal care.

I pledge my support for and commitment to the values of the See It? Stop It! initiative.

Name (printed):

Signature: __________________________ Date: __________________________

EMPLOYERS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO:

- Provide education and promote the importance of proper and responsible animal care.
- Encourage and enable employees to immediately report any signs of animal abuse, harm, neglect or mishandling.
- Provide accessible and reliable contacts that have immediate authority to address reports of animal care concerns.
- Take swift action to correct all instances of inappropriate animal care.
- Ensure employees who raise concerns in good faith are not penalized.
Suggested SOPs

- Expectations of herd manager
- Record keeping procedures
- Equipment, machinery, vehicle, and tool use protocols
- Calving management
- Calf and heifer management
- Handling and transportation
- Herd health plan
- Parlor management procedures
Herd Health Plan

- Biosecurity measures
- Receiving and administering animal health products
- Sick cow treatments
- Non-ambulatory animal care procedures
- Euthanisia SOP
- Feed and water quality care plan
- Mortality disposal
Observations

HERD SAMPLE SIZE CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herd Size</th>
<th>Prevalence (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infiniti population</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
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<td>70</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Herd Size</th>
<th>Prevalence (%)</th>
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<td>270-279</td>
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<td>450-499</td>
<td>79</td>
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<td>500-549</td>
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OBSERVATION SCORE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Body Condition Score</th>
<th>Hygiene Score</th>
<th>Locomotion Score</th>
<th>Hock &amp; Knee Lesions Score</th>
<th>Body Alteration Score</th>
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- Are SOPs posted in appropriate places?
- Are the SOPs being followed?
- Are milking procedures being followed?
- Is there access to fresh, palatable feed and water?
- Is there sufficient bunk space for quantities of feed?
- Hygiene – how do the observed cows score, on average?
- Locomotion – do 95% of the cows observed score a 2 or less on locomotion?
- Body condition scoring – do 99% of animals have a BCS of 2 or more?
- Hock/knee lesions – do 95% of the animals observed score a 2 or less on the assessment?
Observations

• Are protocols in place to minimize airborne particles?
• Are slips and fall monitored and action taken?
• Are animals protected from the heat and cold?
• Does housing allow the animal to easily stand up, lie down, and have contact with other cattle?
• Are facilities provided to separate the sick or injured animals?
Closing meeting

- State the areas/observations that were excellent and the farm is doing well
- How can the farm make improvements?
- Signed pledge of participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questionnaire Number</th>
<th>Opportunity for Improvement</th>
<th>Specific Action (What, How, Who)</th>
<th>Schedule for Completion (Implementation Date)</th>
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PLEDGE OF PARTICIPATION

I hereby agree to abide by the requirements for membership in the FARM Program, including, but not limited to meeting all animal and farm maintenance guidelines set forth in the FARM Manual. I recognize that my farm will be subject to unannounced evaluations and may be subject to approved third-party verification that I am meeting FARM guidelines. I hereby grant permission to FARM to carry out such approved third-party verification as described in the "Program Integrity Through Third-Party Verification" section of the FARM Manual. Furthermore, the information collected will be held in confidence except that FARM may provide the collected data where applicable to my cooperation and may use the data in aggregate form in a manner that does not disclose the identity of my farm.

Evaluator Signature: _____________________________ Date: _____________________________
Evaluator Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____________________________

Owner/Farm Representative Signature: _____________________________ Date: _____________________________
Owner/Farm Representative Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____________________________

Farm Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____________________________

NATIONAL DAIRY FARM PROGRAM
ANIMAL CARE EVALUATION

EXTENSION
Questions?

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