

Animal Care and Welfare: National Dairy FARM Program

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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

By Roberto A. Ferdman April 21 



"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.

[HTTPS://WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM/NEWS/WONK/WP/2016/04/21/LOOK-AT-WHAT-WEVE-DONE-TO-COWS/?WPISRC=NL_RAINBOW-NONSUB](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/04/21/look-at-what-weve-done-to-cows/?WPISRC=NL_RAINBOW-NONSUB)

NATIONAL
DAIRY
FARM
PROGRAM





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



NATIONAL DAIRY FARM PROGRAM
PRE-EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Farm/Operation Site Information

Farm/Operation Site Name: _____
Premise ID/Registration Number: _____
Site Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ Mobile: _____ Fax: _____
E-Mail: _____
Farm/Operation Site Manager Name: _____ Phone: _____

Herd Profile

(1) Total animal numbers on-site: _____
(2) Milking cow numbers on-site: _____
(3) Close-up dry cow numbers on-site: _____
(4) Far-off dry cow numbers on-site: _____
(5) Calf (pre-weaned) numbers on-site: _____
(6) Heifer (post-weaned) numbers on-site: _____
(7) Bull numbers on-site: _____

Facilities

Facility Area	Description
Housing set-up (check all that apply)	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Tie Stall <input type="checkbox"/> Stanchion <input type="checkbox"/> Freestall <input type="checkbox"/> Drylot</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Pasture <input type="checkbox"/> Other (_____)</div>
Milking set-up (check all that apply)	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Parlor / Herringbone <input type="checkbox"/> Parlor / Parabone <input type="checkbox"/> Parlor / Parallel</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Flatbarn <input type="checkbox"/> Other (_____)</div>
Parlor size	<input type="checkbox"/> Total number of parlor stalls
Milking schedule	Indicate time when cows are being milked (ex: 6-9 AM/PM; 24 hr; etc.): _____

- 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?



EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Posting the names and telephone numbers of emergency contacts in a prominent place in the animal facility in employees' native languages is necessary to speed up communications in an emergency.

FARM NAME

FARM

ADDRESS

OWNER/
MANAGER

PHONE:

FOR GENERAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, CALL 9-1-1

LOCAL HERD VETERINARIAN

NAME: PHONE:

FEED DEALER

NAME: PHONE:

MILK HANDLER/FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

NAME: PHONE:

MILK HAULER

NAME: PHONE:

MILK EQUIPMENT DEALER

NAME: PHONE:

MACHINERY DEALER

NAME: PHONE:

OTHER CONTACTS

NAME: PHONE:

NAME: PHONE:

Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals to a Packing or Processing Facility

Culling and transporting decisions are an important part of dairy farming. Occasionally, an animal that is ambulatory on the farm may not be suitable for transport to a packing or processing facility. These "Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals to a Packing or Processing Facility" are designed to assist dairy producers in making the decision on the suitability for an animal to be transported.

- 1** Do not move non-ambulatory animals to market under any circumstances.
- 2** Make the decision to treat, to cull, or to euthanize animals promptly. Sick and injured animals should be segregated from the herd.
- 3** Delay transport of an animal that appears to be exhausted or dehydrated until the animal is rested, fed, and rehydrated.
- 4** Milk all cows that are still lactating just prior to transporting to a packing or processing facility.
- 5** Use a transportation company that is knowledgeable about your animal care expectations and provides for the safety and comfort of the animals during transport.
- 6** Do not transport animals to a packing or processing facility until all proper treatment withdrawal times have been followed.
- 7** Do not transport animals with a poor body condition, generally a Body Condition Score of less than 2 (1-5 scale).
- 8** Do not transport animals that require mechanical assistance to rise and are reluctant or unable to walk, except for veterinary treatment. When using any handling device, abuse must not be tolerated.
- 9** Do not transport animals with bone fractures of the limbs or injuries to the spine. Animals with a recent fracture unrelated to mobility should be culled and transported directly to a packing or processing facility.
- 10** Do not transport animals with conditions that will not pass pre-slaughter inspection at a packing or processing facility. If unsure, consult with your veterinarian before transporting an animal to a packing or processing facility.

If you would like to order up to five additional copies or would like more information on the dairy animal culling and transporting sheet, please call (703) 224-1381 or email: poster@nmpf.org.

DMG
DAIRY MANAGEMENT INC.



Las 10 consideraciones más importantes para el descarte y transporte de animales lecheros a un rastro o planta empacadora

Las decisiones de descarte y transporte son una parte importante de la producción lechera. Ocasionalmente, un animal que puede caminar en la lechería puede que no sea apto para que se le transporte a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne. Estas "10 consideraciones más importantes para el descarte y transporte de animales lecheros a un rastro o planta empacadora" están diseñadas para asistir a los productores de leche en la toma de decisiones sobre que tan listo está un animal para ser transportado.

- 1** No lleve ningún animal al matadero que no pueda caminar, bajo ninguna circunstancia.
- 2** Tome la decisión de tratar, deséchar o matar animales rápidamente. Animales enfermos y lastimados deben de ser separados del hato.
- 3** Retrase el transporte de un animal que parezca muy cansado o deshidratado hasta que el animal descanse, coma y se re-hidrate.
- 4** Ordeñe todas las vacas que están todavía dando leche justo antes de transportarlas a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne.
- 5** Use una compañía de transporte que sepa acerca de sus expectativas del cuidado de los animales y que provee seguridad y comodidad a los animales durante el transporte.
- 6** No transporte animales a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne hasta que todos los tiempos adecuados de retiro de tratamientos hayan sido seguidos.
- 7** No transporte animales con mala condición corporal, generalmente una Calificación de Condición Corporal de menos de 2 (escala de 1-5).
- 8** No transporte animales que requieran asistencia mecánica para levantarlos y los que no están dispuestos a o no pueden caminar, excepto para tratamiento veterinario. Cuando se use cualquier herramienta para mover animales, no se debe tolerar el abuso.
- 9** No transporte animales con fracturas de las piernas o heridas de la columna vertebral. Animales con una fractura reciente que no tiene nada que ver con su movilidad deben de ser descartados y transportados directamente a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne.
- 10** No transporte animales con condiciones que no los dejara que pasen la inspección pre-matanza de un rastro o planta empacadora de carne. Si no está seguro, consulte con su veterinario antes de transportar un animal a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne.

Si le gustaría ordenar un máximo de cinco copias más o le gustaría mayor información acerca de la hoja del descarte y transporte de animales lecheros, por favor llame al (703) 224-1381 o envíe un mensaje por correo electrónico a: poster@nmpf.org.

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EMPLOYEE
AGREEMENT



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 of, responsibility for and commitment to the values of the *See it? Stop it!* initiative.

Name (printed): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ACUERDO DEL
EMPLEADO



Yo confirmo mi compromiso del cuidado y protección animal a través de los estándares más altos de la iniciativa *¿Lo Ve? ¡Deténgalo!*

Conforme a los valores de la iniciativa *¿Lo Ve? ¡Deténgalo!*, estoy de acuerdo en que:

1. El maltrato, la negligencia, el daño o un mal manejo de los animales son inaceptables y no serán tolerados.
2. El cuidado apropiado de los animales es la responsabilidad de cada uno de los individuos que se encuentran con los animales inclusive, yo mismo.
3. Tengo la obligación de reportar inmediatamente cualquier señal de maltrato, negligencia, daño o mal manejo de los animales a mi supervisor o persona responsable de hacer cumplir el cuidado apropiado de los animales.

Prometo apoyar, ser responsable y comprometerme con los valores de la iniciativa *¿Lo Ve? ¡Deténgalo!*

Nombre (letra de molde): _____

Firma: _____ Fecha: _____



YOU ARE OUR BEST PROPONENT FOR PROTECTING ANIMALS.

If you witness a deliberate act of animal abuse, neglect, harm or mishandling, you have an obligation to immediately contact your supervisor or any of the following individuals.

All reports made in good faith will be thoroughly investigated, kept confidential and you will not be penalized for speaking up.

TITLE: _____
NAME: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____ - _____ - _____
TITLE: _____
NAME: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____ - _____ - _____
TITLE: _____
NAME: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____ - _____ - _____

Responsible animal care is our first priority and most important obligation. Help ensure our animals receive the best care possible.

Employers: Recommended contacts include the immediate supervisor of the barn/farm/department, the farm owner, the human resources director and/or the farm's veterinarian.

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.



USTED ES NUESTRO MEJOR PROMOTOR
PARA PROTEGER A LOS ANIMALES.

Si usted es testigo de un acto deliberado de maltrato, negligencia, daño o mal manejo de los animales tiene la obligación de ponerse inmediatamente en contacto con su supervisor o con cualquiera de las siguientes personas.

Todos los reportes realizados de buena fe serán investigados a fondo, manejados confidencialmente y usted no será castigado por haberlo reportado.

CARGO: _____
NOMBRE: _____ - _____ - _____
CARGO: _____
NOMBRE: _____ - _____ - _____
CARGO: _____
NOMBRE: _____ - _____ - _____

El cuidado animal responsable es nuestra prioridad y la obligación más importante. Ayuda a garantizar que nuestros animales reciban el mejor cuidado posible.

Empleadores: Contactos recomendados incluyendo el supervisor inmediato del edificio/granja/departamento, el propietario de la granja, el director de recursos humanos o el veterinario de la granja.

SEEITSTOPIT.ORG

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
- Euthanasia SOP
- Feed and water quality care plan
- Mortality disposal

Observations



HERD SAMPLE SIZE CHART

Herd Size		Prevalence = 50% CI=95% d=10%	
infinite population		96	
20		17	
30		23	
40		28	
50		33	
60		37	
70		41	

Herd Size		Prevalence = 50% CI=95% d=10%	
270-279		71	
280-299		72	
300-349		73	
350-399		76	
400-449		78	
450-499		79	
500-549		81	



OBSERVATION SCORE SHEET

Animal ID (optional)	Body Condition Score 1=Gaunt; no fat cover 2=Thin fat cover 3=Good condition 4=Excessive fat cover 5=Obese					Hygiene Score 1=Clean 2=Manure on lower legs 3=Manure on udder/belly 4=Alley cow				Locomotion Score 1=Sound 2=Moderately lame 3=Severely lame			Hock & Knee Lesions Score 1 =Hair loss less than a quarter; no swelling 2 = Hair loss at least the size of a quarter; no swelling 3 = Severe swelling and/or abrasion			Body Abrasion Score 1 = Any hair loss less than a quarter; no swelling 2 = Hair loss at least the size of a quarter; swelling less than the size of a quarter 3 = Severe swelling and/or abrasion S=side; N=neck; I= injection site; T=broken tail			
	SCORE>	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
1																			
2																			
3																			
4																			
5																			

- 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?



Scoring Reference Guide



Hock & Knee Lesion Score

- 1 = Any hair loss less than a quarter; no swelling
- 2 = Hair loss at least the size of a quarter; no swelling
- 3 = Severe swelling and/or abrasion

FARM Hock/Knee Lesion Goal: 95% or more of lactating and dry herd score a 2 or less on the NDFP Hock and Knee Lesion Scorecard.



Hygiene Score

- 1 = Clean
- 2 = Manure splatters on lower leg
- 3 = Manure splatters on upper leg, udder & belly area
- 4 = Manure splatters on udder/belly area & toward top of cow

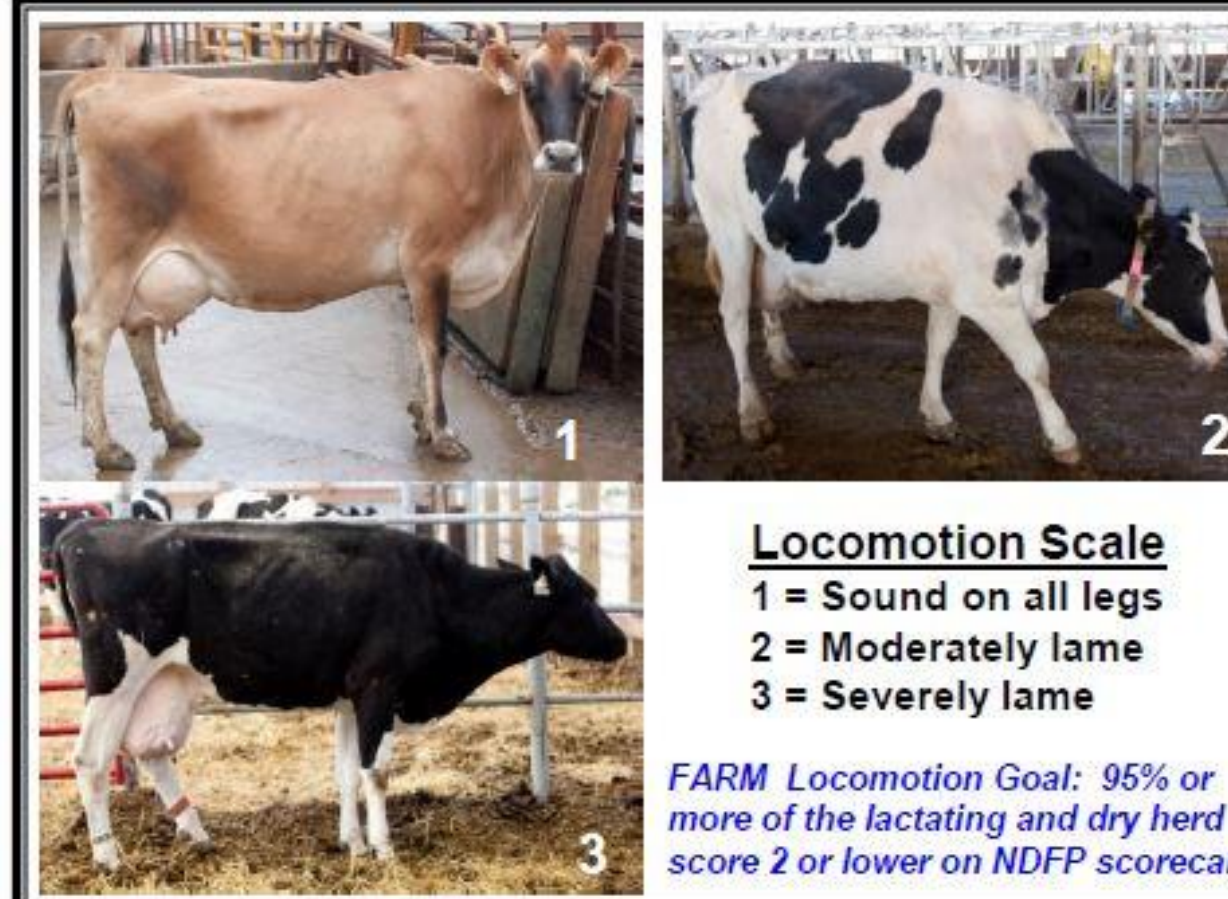
FARM Hygiene Goal: 90% percent or more of animals observed score 2 or less on the NDFP Hygiene Scorecard.

Technical support provided by:



Urbandale, IA
(515) 362-7555

Revision date: 01/17/14



Locomotion Scale

- 1 = Sound on all legs
- 2 = Moderately lame
- 3 = Severely lame

FARM Locomotion Goal: 95% or more of the lactating and dry herd score 2 or lower on NDFP scorecard.



- Body Abrasion Score**
- 1 = Any hair loss less than a quarter; no swelling
 - 2 = Hair loss at least the size of a quarter; swelling less than a quarter
 - 3 = Swelling larger than a quarter and/or abrasion

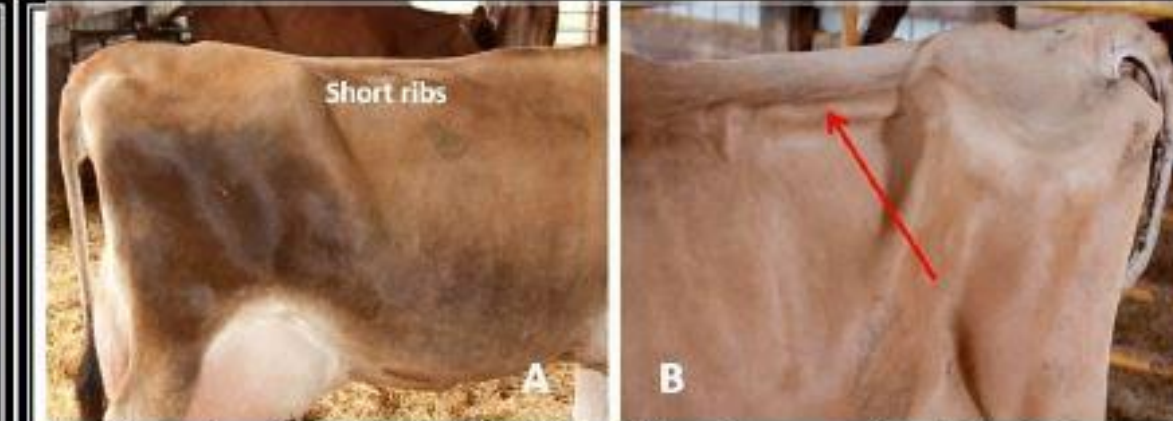
FARM Body Abrasion is for informational purposes only



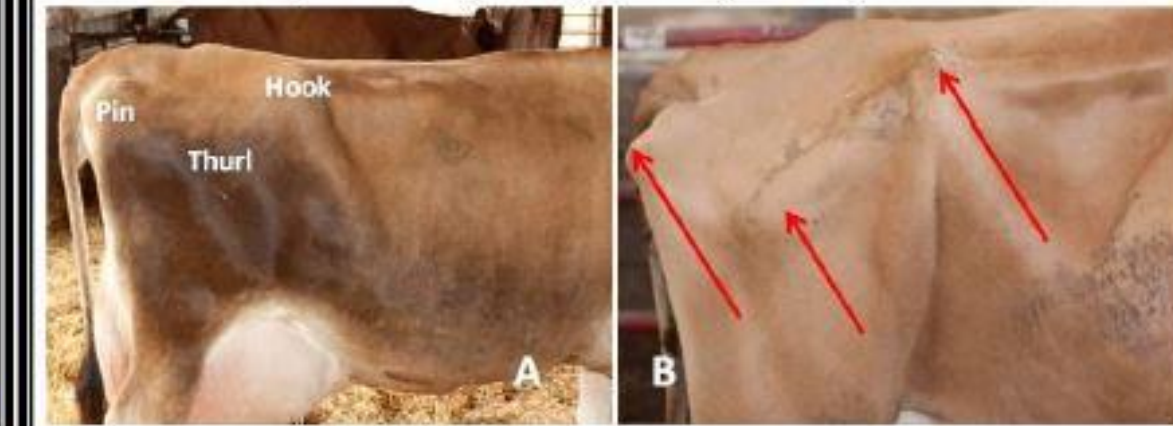
Site ID

- S = Side
- N = Neck
- I = Injection site
- T = Broken tail

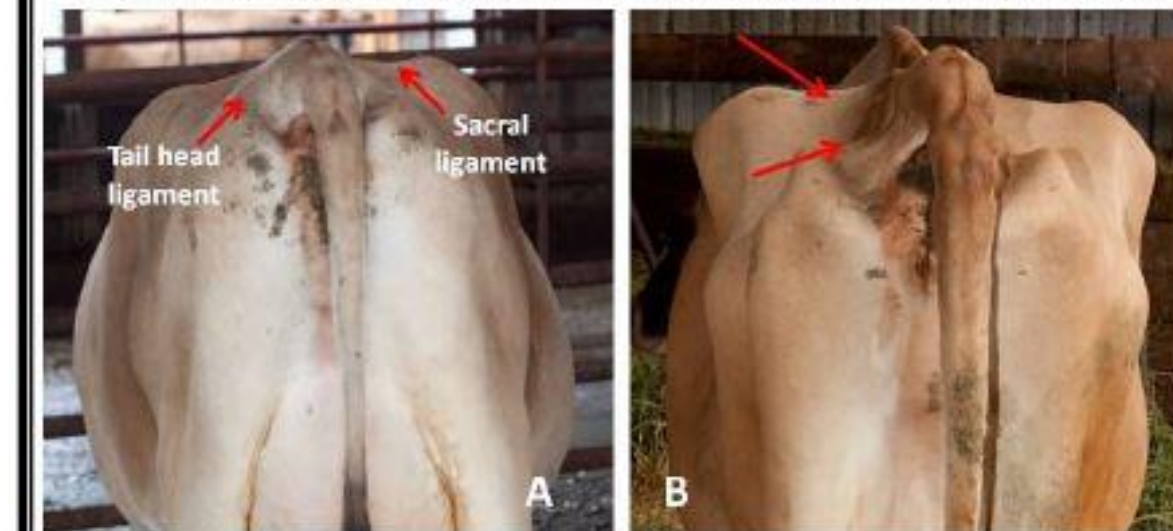
FARM BCS Goal: 99% or more of animals must have a BCS of 2.0. or more on NDFP BCS Scorecard.



Short ribs = If individually visible, with no fat cover, then BCS <2.0.



Hook-thurl-pin = If section is bony and devoid of fat cover, then BCS <2.0.



Sacral, tail head ligaments = If bony with no fat cover, then BCS <2.0.

Body Condition Scoring

- 1 = No fat cover over tail head, short ribs, hooks or pins
- 2 = Thin; shallow cavity around tail head
- 3 = Good condition
- 4 = Heavy fat cover over tail head, short ribs, hooks & pins
- 5 = Obese

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

FARM Action Plan		Revision Date: 03/08/13 Page 1 of 1	
Site: _____		Evaluation Date: _____	
Producers will complete an Action Plan for any area identified in need of improvement at the conclusion of a Second-party Evaluation. The Action Plan identifies opportunity areas for improving animal care, specific actions to implement the improvement and a schedule for completion. The producer will work with the herd veterinarian or another qualified professional to complete the Action Plan. The Action Plan may include a recommendation for a re-evaluation by a specified time to assess progress.			
Questionnaire Number	Opportunity for Improvement	Specific Action (What, How, Who)	Schedule for Completion (Implementation Date)
	•	•	•
	•	•	•
	•	•	•
	•	•	•
	•	•	•
	•	•	•



NATIONAL DAIRY FARM PROGRAM ANIMAL CARE EVALUATION

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 on-farm 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. I further understand that the information collected will be held in confidence except that FARM may provide the collected data where applicable to my co-operative and may use the data in aggregated 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) _____

Questions?

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402.472.6065