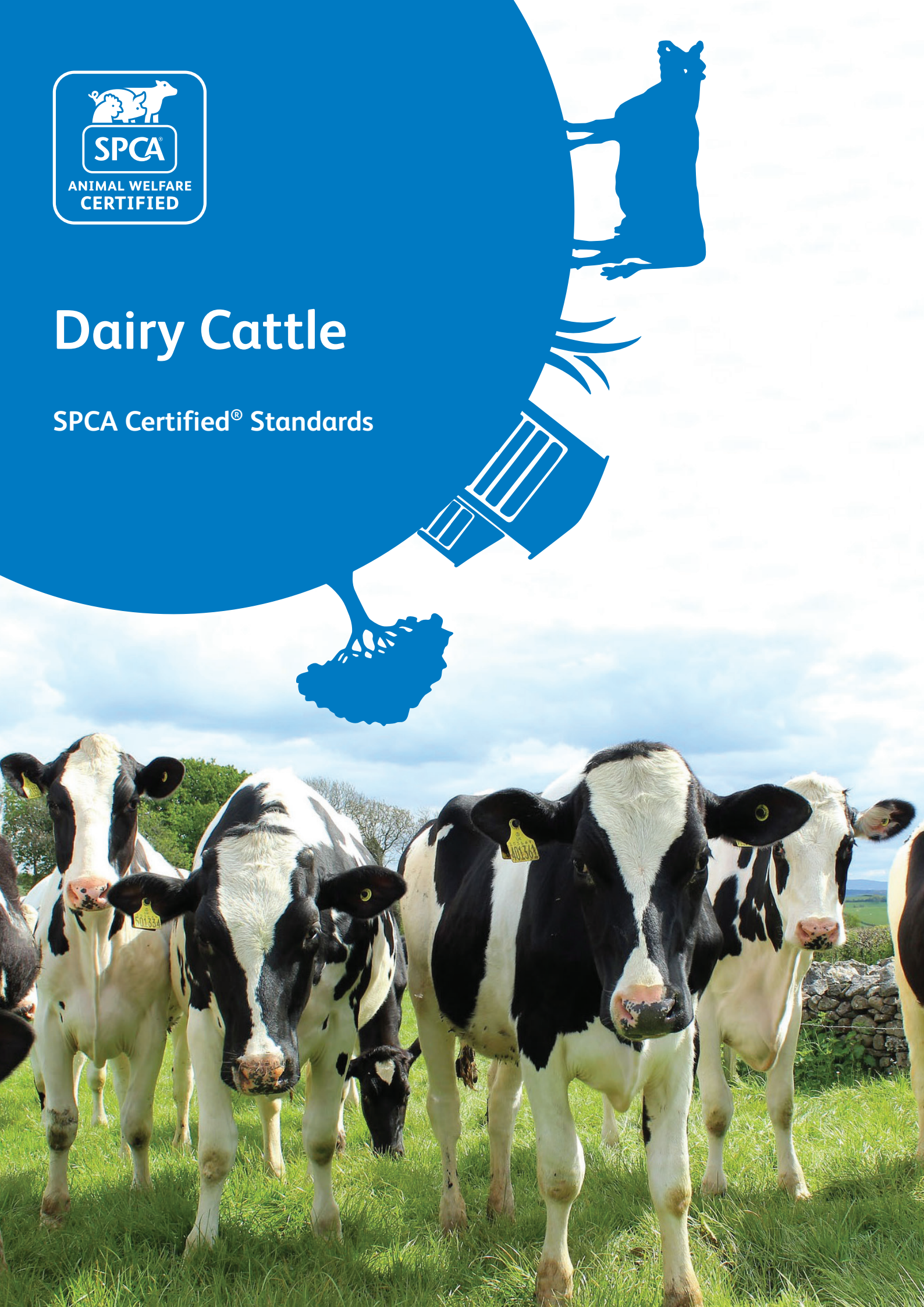




# Dairy Cattle

SPCA Certified® Standards



# SPCA Certified Standards for Dairy Cattle

Version 1 – 2021



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# SPCA Certified Standards for Dairy Cattle

## Overview of SPCA Certified

SPCA Certified is a certification system designed to celebrate good farming and raise animal welfare above current legal requirements. Its overarching goal is to improve the lives of as many animals as possible, through a process of increasing uptake and continual improvement over time. As such, SPCA Certified standards for dairy cattle allow participants to demonstrate that they apply a high level of animal welfare to their farming operations.

Certification is given to participants, which may include farmers, distributors, retailers and companies, through a legal contract, following a successful initial assessment and subsequent welfare audit of compliance with the SPCA Certified standards.

***SPCA Certified standards for dairy cattle apply to cows that are bred, grown and cared for either outdoors on pasture, or with a free choice between housing and pasture, where they have a degree of autonomy over diet selection, water consumption and access to shade and shelter. The temporary use of housing for limited periods, e.g. during extreme weather events, when an animal is sick/injured or during calf rearing, is acceptable when it is done in the best interests of the animal, however, permanent housing without access to pasture is not acceptable under any circumstances.***

***IMPORTANT: SPCA does not support the routine killing of surplus calves, either on-farm or as bobby calves. Such animals must be reared for beef production (dairy beef) instead, either on the home farm or on another SPCA Certified property.***

In terms of the welfare outcomes they achieve, SPCA Certified standards are intended to go beyond the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and relevant Codes of Welfare. They are informed by animal behaviour and welfare science, consultation with stakeholders, and the values of SPCA. All farm staff, operators and owners should be aware of, and compliant with the standards, as well as the legal requirements relating to the animals in their care.

SPCA Certified standards are intended to be used alongside existing industry programmes and practices on farm, and should be read in association with the following documents:

- Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018.
- Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2019.
- Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2018.
- Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2018.
- Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2018.



## Framework of the SPCA Certified Standards

Previous iterations of SPCA Standards (Blue Tick) were based on the 'Five Freedoms' framework, which focuses on freedom from negative states, e.g. hunger, fear and injury, in order to achieve good welfare. However, with the recognition that animals can experience positive, as well as negative emotions and the acknowledgement of sentience<sup>1</sup> in the amended Animal Welfare Act 1999, the time has come for a new approach.

As a result, the framework for the SPCA Certified standards has been derived from the Five Domains model of animal welfare, developed by New Zealand Professor David Mellor<sup>2</sup>. The Five Domains model is a holistic assessment of animal welfare, which addresses both minimising suffering and promoting positive emotional states.

### The Five Domains are:

- nutrition;
- physical environment;
- health;
- behavioural interactions; and
- mental state.

Each of the four physical domains contribute to the provision of opportunities for positive mental experiences, as evaluated in the fifth domain.



<sup>1</sup> Sentience is the ability to feel, perceive or experience things subjectively (i.e. from one's own perspective), rather than objectively (i.e. from an external perspective).

<sup>2</sup> Mellor, D. J., Beausoleil, N. J., Littlewood, K. E., McLean, A. N., McGreevy, P. D., Jones, B., & Wilkins, C. (2020). The 2020 five domains model: Including human–animal interactions in assessments of animal welfare. *Animals: an open access journal from MDPI* 10(10): 1870

## Scope

SPCA Certified standards for dairy cattle apply from the moment that an animal arrives, or is born, on the farm, until the time that they leave the farm or are euthanased.

All transport, including transport to and from the farm, and all slaughter processes, are covered by the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and relevant Codes of Welfare. It is the responsibility of the member (farmer/licensee<sup>3</sup>) to ensure that transport operators, contractors and slaughter facilities comply with the law and ideally follow all best practice recommendations.

## Traceability and Integrity

SPCA Certified endeavours to inspire best practice animal welfare within the dairy industry and to ensure transparency in animal welfare. To protect the integrity of SPCA Certified and the participating farmers, distributors, retailers and companies who use the brand, it is important that all SPCA Certified members clearly demonstrate product traceability throughout their supply chains.

SPCA Certified also uses independent audits, including unannounced audits, to maintain the integrity of the scheme and ensure that participants are meeting its standards. As a result, products carrying the SPCA Certified logo allow consumers to identify dairy (and dairy beef) products that have come from cattle farmed to a higher standard of animal welfare than is currently required by law.

For more information about SPCA Certified, including types of membership, procedures and the independent auditing process, please refer to the SPCA Certified Farmed Animals Operations Manual.

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<sup>3</sup> See the SPCA Certified Farmed Animals Operation Manual for more information.

# SPCA Certified Standards for Dairy Cattle

## Important notes:

- Section titles and their accompanying descriptions are taken from the Five Domains.
- Unless stated otherwise, all standards apply equally to adult cattle, bulls and calves.
- Information presented in ***bold italic*** type is either a standard explanation, a recommendation, an area of concern, or an indication of where a standard is likely to be reviewed in the future.
- In order to avoid unnecessary duplication, existing information/records from other sources can be used to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of a standard. Electronic records are acceptable, as long as they can be accessed by SPCA Certified during assessments/audits.

## Note on working dogs


The requirements of the Code of Welfare for Dogs (2018) apply to working dogs and must be followed at all times. Farmers using dogs to manage stock must ensure that they are properly fed and watered, well exercised, kept in good overall condition and provided with suitable accommodation that is kept clean and habitable.

If working dogs are observed to be in poor condition or housing is deemed to be unacceptable, this will be noted during the assessment/audit and followed up by SPCA Certified. Failure to remedy the situation may lead to removal from the programme.

## Positive Mental Experience



**Provide safe, congenial and species-appropriate opportunities to have pleasurable experiences**

The dairy cow icon  indicates those standards that provide positive mental experiences for dairy and dairy beef cattle.



# Good Nutrition



**Provide ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour**

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## Feed

- N1 Pasture must be capable of providing for the nutritional requirements of cattle at all stages of life and production. Where pasture is of low quality or quantity, additional forage or feed supplementation is required.
- N2 Crops may be fed to cattle but cattle must not be grazed permanently on crops.
- N3 Management practices must be in place to ensure there is enough pasture/feed if the weather is very wet or the pasture becomes trampled and muddy.
- N4 Where supplementary feed is required, it must be introduced gradually and provided in a manner that avoids unnecessary competition for access between animals.
- N5 In the case of concentrates, these must be introduced slowly and with palatable, fibrous feed, in order to ensure normal rumen function is maintained. In addition, a letter or nutritional breakdown, guaranteeing that the feed is free from mammalian, avian and fish by-products/proteins, must be available for inspection.
- N6 Palm Kernel Extract (PKE) and fodder beet must not be fed to cows.
- N7 Where feed is stored, practices must be in place to ensure that it does not become contaminated or unsuitable for cattle to eat.
- N8 A trace element/mineral supplementation programme, with appropriate monitoring, must be in place. Records must be available for inspection on request.
- N9 A written plan to adequately manage feed supply and pasture is required for periods when there may be limited feed, such as drought, extreme winter conditions or dry summers, and during different physiological stages of the life cycle, e.g. during the transition period and at calving.
- N10 Cow body condition must be managed between BCS 4 - 6 (on a scale of 1 – 10). Where the body condition score of any adult animal drops below 4, immediate corrective action must be taken.
- N11 Body condition must be assessed and recorded at least twice each year for the entire herd by a certified assessor. Particular attention must be paid to scoring at calving and before mating.

***It is recommended that the farm establishes a good working relationship with a specialist in cattle nutrition.***

***SPCA Certified recommends supplementing the soil to address trace element/mineral deficiencies in cattle.***

## Water

- N12 All cattle, including unweaned calves, must have access to a freely available supply of clean, fresh drinking water, at all times.
- N13 The number and size of troughs and drinkers, and their water flow rate, must be sufficient to allow all calves and cattle to access water during peak drinking times.
- N14 Troughs and drinkers must be provided at a height that allows calves and cattle to drink using a normal, comfortable drinking posture.
- N15 Where electric fences are used, they must be placed so as not to discourage cattle from easily accessing troughs or drinkers.
- N16 The area surrounding troughs and drinkers must be actively managed, in order to ensure it does not become flooded or excessively muddy.
- N17 Troughs and drinkers must be cleaned, as required, in order to maintain good quality, clean, palatable water. Any faecal matter that is seen in a drinking trough must be removed immediately and the water replaced.
- N18 Water sources, e.g. streams, ponds and dams, must be fenced off to prevent cattle from accessing them.
- N19 Water at both the trough and source must be tested every year for salinity, bacterial load and mineral content. All water quality records must be kept, including the alternative measures used, if/when problems are discovered.
- Each separate water source must be tested.
- N20 Each new water source must be tested before cattle are given access to it, in order to ensure that it is:
- potable; and
  - that mineral and microbial contamination levels are acceptable.
- N21 In the event of a major incident in the surrounding area, e.g. an earthquake or flood, the water supply must be tested within two weeks (if safe to do so), for potability and potential contamination.
- N22 An alternative source of potable water to the primary source must be available in the event of an emergency and identified on the emergency preparedness plan (see standard E77).

## Calving and weaning

***Note: Standards N23 – N28, N30, N33 & N34 and N36 & N37 apply to calves that are not kept with their mothers and weaned naturally.***

- N23 Colostrum or colostrum substitute, equivalent to a minimum of 10 % of body weight, must be given warm as soon as possible after birth and ideally within the first four to six hours of life.
- This equates to around 4 L for Holstein type breeds and 3 L for Jersey breeds, and may be divided into two feeds, as long as both are given warm within the first twelve hours of life.
- A further 2 L of colostrum must be given warm to all calves during the second twelve hours of life.
- N24 Colostrum for newborn calves must be at a brix of 22 % or higher and must not be mixed with older colostrum.
- N25 If colostrum is being stored, it must be kept in a clean container with a lid and either refrigerated, frozen or preserved, in order to maintain its quality.
- N26 Colostrum, milk, or milk replacer, must be offered warm at a rate of 15 – 20 % of bodyweight per day during the first week after birth, ideally ad libitum, or divided into at least four feeds per day.
- N27 Tube feeding of colostrum (by a competent person) is only permitted when teat feeding methods have failed.
- N28 After the first week of life, calves must be offered milk or milk replacer warm at a rate of 20 % of bodyweight, divided into at least four feeds per day for the first month of life, then at least three feeds per day after the first month.
- N29 A minimum of 12 calves must be tested for failure of passive transfer of immunity (FPT) within seven days of birth at the start of calving and a further 12 tested at the same age at peak calving. If one or more calves test positive for FPT at either time, veterinary advice must be obtained.
- N30 Calves must not be bucket fed milk.
- N31 Calves must have access to fibrous feed from birth, in order to encourage normal rumen development.
- N32 Calves must be fed at a rate which meets their physical, health and behavioural needs and that enables them to achieve standard target live weights.
- N33 All equipment used to feed calves, including storage containers and preparation equipment, must be cleaned after each use.
- N34 Disinfectants must be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations after cleaning feeding equipment, in order to ensure that correct dilution, contact and drying times are observed.
- N35 Milk from animals receiving medical treatment, especially antibiotics, must not be fed to calves.
- N36 Calves must not be weaned off milk before twelve weeks of age, or until they have achieved 2.5 times their birth weight, whichever comes later. The only exception to this is when acting under veterinary advice, in which case the reason must be recorded.

- N37 Calves must be weaned gradually over a 7-10 day period with a minimum of stress. This can include keeping calves in stable groups, with access to solid feed that they are already familiar with. 🐮
- N38 Calves must be weaned in an area where they have access to both shade and shelter, and appropriate feed and water, according to these standards.

***It is strongly recommended that calves are kept with their mothers until natural weaning occurs. Future versions of this standard will likely require this as a mandatory requirement.***

***If there is evidence of 'Mycoplasma bovis' (M. bovis), Johnes disease or any other infection that can potentially be spread to calves on the farm, then steps must be taken (including the use of a good quality colostrum replacer), to avoid the risk of transmitting that infection to the calves.***

***Calves should be provided with milk/milk replacer on an 'ad libitum' basis, to encourage growth, health and welfare.***

## Good Physical Environment



**Provide shade/shelter, suitable housing, good air quality and comfortable resting areas**

### Site plans

- E1 A detailed site plan must be kept on farm, showing the layout and dimensions of:
- all buildings, yards and pasture areas (including paddock numbers);
  - sanitary facilities for visitors/staff;
  - isolation/quarantine areas;
  - all natural and/or artificial shelter and shade provisions;
  - stand-off/loafing/feed pads (if used);
  - the milking shed;
  - any fenced waterways, ponds, etc.;
  - access roads, laneways and raceways; and
  - waste disposal areas.

### Fencing

- E2 All fencing must be designed, constructed, and actively maintained, to minimise the risk of injury to animals and to ensure that they are securely contained.
- E3 The use of barbed wire fencing, whether electrified or not, is prohibited.
- E4 Where electric fences are in operation; an electric fence tester must be used to measure

voltage levels running through the fence line. Any faults detected must be promptly rectified.

- E5 All fencing and gates must be visually checked:
- each time cattle enter or leave a new paddock, or
  - daily, where they are used to contain calves.

## Shade and shelter

- E6 Cattle must have access to shade and shelter at all times, in order to let all of them manage their temperature and avoid the impact of extreme weather (both hot and cold). If natural shade/shelter is provided, provision must be made to control flies. 🦟
- E7 Cattle showing signs of heat or cold stress, e.g. panting or shivering, especially young, sick, heavily pregnant or calving individuals, must be attended to and rectified immediately .
- E8 Cattle must be checked at least twice each day during extreme weather (both hot and cold), to ensure that the shade and shelter provided is appropriate. If it is not, remedial action must be taken.

Activities such as prolonged yarding, mustering and droving must also be avoided during these periods.

- E9 Cows close to calving or those with newborn calves must be provided with an environment that affords both the dam and newborn calf adequate protection from adverse climatic conditions. This includes the provision of suitable shade/shelter.
- E10 Calves that are not kept with their mothers, must be provided with shelter and a substantial amount of suitable bedding material, in order to keep them warm and dry (see appendix 2). Bedding must be maintained in a clean/dry condition and topped up/cleaned out as necessary.
- E11 During winter, cattle must be regularly dirt scored, in order to check that their lying areas are comfortable and dry. If dirty animals are seen, the reasons for this need to be investigated and remedied.

**Free access to shade and shelter is important for animals to manage their temperature and overall wellbeing. It can also provide health, productivity and comfort benefits. 🦟**

**For most grazing livestock in New Zealand, when the air temperature rises above 25°C, welfare and productivity begins to decline as animals use energy to stay cool.**

**Shade and shelter can include natural and artificial structures, including windbreaks, treed areas, shade sails, lean-to structures and shelterbelts.**

**In holding areas, cooling systems, such as sprinklers and fans can be used to maintain cow comfort when the weather is hot.**

**Please visit [www.dairynz.co.nz](http://www.dairynz.co.nz) for access to useful resources concerning shade and shelter provision for dairy cattle, and a dirt scoring system for housed cows.**

## Feed pads and stand-off areas

- E12 Feed pads must not be used for standing cattle off pasture for more than two hours per day, during supplementary feeding before milking.
- E13 Stand-off areas may only be used during periods of extreme weather and must not be used routinely. Where stand-off pads are used, SPCA Certified must be notified and the period that the cattle are kept off pasture recorded.
- E14 Stand-off areas must be well drained, provide shade/shelter and a minimum space allowance of 11 m<sup>2</sup>/cow.
- E15 Stand-off areas must be covered with a soft surface, e.g. woodchip, bark or sand, for cow comfort and hoof health.
- E16 Bare concrete stand-off areas are not permitted.

## Temporary Housing

- E17 Dairy cattle must not be permanently housed without free access to pasture under any circumstances. Where cattle are housed for temporary periods, they must have free access to a comfortable outdoor area (not bare concrete) where they can perform a range of natural behaviours including, but not limited to, lying, ruminating and socialising with herd-mates.
- E18 All use of housing for cattle must be pre-approved by SPCA Certified before being used.
- E19 If cattle are housed for any reason; this must be documented. Details must include:
  - the date of being housed;
  - the duration of housing;
  - the number/ID of animals being housed;
  - the date of access/return to the paddock (or movement off-farm/euthanased); and
  - the reason for housing.
- E20 All housing must allow cattle to easily and comfortably stand up, turn around, lie down, stretch out, and groom themselves, using natural postures. In addition, sufficient space must be provided to allow subordinate cattle to remove themselves from dominant animals if they need to.
- E21 Housing must be made out of materials that are easily cleaned and can be replaced when necessary. There must be no features that are likely to cause injury, distress or disease to the cattle.
- E22 Facilities must be maintained in good working order and allow ease of cow movement.
- E23 Housing must provide a dry, draught-free and thermally comfortable environment for the animals being housed. Floors must be solid and of non-slip construction.
- E24 Housing must provide appropriate ventilation, so that inside air quality provides for good respiratory health and welfare of the cattle inside.



Ammonia levels must not be allowed to build up to the point where they are aversive, i.e. above 10ppm. If ammonia can be smelled at cow height, then remedial action must be taken.

- E25 Artificial or natural lighting of at least 200 lux at animal eye level must be provided during normal daylight hours, in order to enable cattle to see each other and to be inspected.

Supplementary lighting, e.g. torches, must also be available to enable animal inspections at night, where these are necessary.

- E26 All housed cattle must have access to a suitable lying area, which has enough dry, friable bedding for cows to lie down comfortably and topped up as necessary. All cattle must have sufficient space to lie down and rest at the same time. 🐮
- E27 Any areas of bedding that become irreparably fouled or wet must be removed and replaced immediately.
- E28 Food and water must be provided in a way that does not cause unnecessary competition between animals and drinkers must not be situated over, or close to, areas of bedding.
- E29 Fixed or rotating brushes must be provided, in order to enable cows and calves to groom themselves. 🐮
- E30 Individual housing for sick animals must be constructed and sited in a way that allows the affected animal to see and hear other cattle. The only exceptions to this are when acting on veterinary advice or when dealing with a disease/situation that requires the animal to be isolated.
- E31 Calves must not be housed in groups larger than 15 individuals and all animals must be of a similar age. Each calf must have a minimum of 3.3 m<sup>2</sup> space.
- E32 The housing environment must be designed to enable cattle to be moved or released quickly and with a minimum of stress in the event of an emergency.

## Milking

- E33 Cows must not be walked more than 3.0 km daily to or from the milking shed and water troughs must be provided along the way.
- E34 Tracks, raceways and laneways leading to and from the milking shed must be well maintained, well fenced and wide enough, in order to maintain good foot health and allow the herd to move freely and easily.
- Particular attention must be paid to high traffic areas and race junctions to minimise the risk of lameness.
- E35 Holding yards must allow sufficient space for all cows to move comfortably and safely.
- E36 Holding yards must have a safe and durable surface, which provides adequate footing and is easily cleaned.

- E37 Holding yards must provide appropriate shade and shelter for the animals, in order to minimise the risk of heat/cold stress.
- E38 Backing gates must never be used to physically push cows and must be fitted with a bell or buzzer, so that cows know when it is moving.
- E39 Backing/top gates that use an electric shock to encourage cow movement are prohibited.
- E40 The area around the milking shed must be kept clean and free of contaminants, including effluent, that could attract pests or disease.
- E41 Feeders, troughs and feed storage bins inside the milking shed must be kept clean and be situated where they cannot cause injury to animals or people.
- E42 Water used in the milking shed must be tested for *E. coli* contamination and clarity at least annually. If *E. coli* are detected, i.e. one or more bacteria per 100 mL of sample water, then immediate remedial action is required.
- E43 Hot water supplies must never be used directly on animals, e.g. for teat washing, without first being cooled to around body temperature (37-40°C).
- E44 All pharmaceuticals that are held in the milking shed must be kept in secure, lockable storage. In addition, a list of all pharmaceuticals used on the farm must be kept in the milking shed and made available for inspection during audit.
- E45 All electrical equipment within the milking shed must be safety checked by a qualified electrician at least once each year. The safety check must include an assessment of 'stray voltage' in the shed and surrounding area, including raceway entry/exit points.
- E46 Milking machinery must be used and maintained properly at all times and must be serviced/ tested at least annually by a qualified milking machine technician, in order to ensure effective operation. 🐮
- E47 Teat liners must be long enough to fully collapse beneath the teat during pulsation, regularly checked and replaced according to the manufacturer's recommendations (at least annually) or when they become cracked or damaged.
- E48 Cups must be placed on the teats with care and never be removed without first cutting the hose vacuum. In addition, pulsation rates must be regularly checked, in order to avoid under or over-milking the cows. 🐮
- E49 Once milking has been completed, all equipment used in the process must be thoroughly cleaned, in order to minimise the risk of bacterial contamination in the milking shed.
- E50 The cleaning process must be incorporated into a routine maintenance and cleaning plan, which incorporates daily, weekly and monthly checks. The plan must be prominently displayed in the milking shed, so that all staff are aware of the requirements.
- E51 Where any abnormalities are observed as part of the routine maintenance and cleaning procedure, immediate corrective action is required.
- E52 Where more than one person is involved in the milking process, training plans must be in place, in order to ensure that consistent milking routines are followed.

- E53 There must be a plan put in place and implemented for familiarising heifers with the milking system prior to their first lactation. 🐮
- E54 Oxytocin must not be used to induce milk let down.
- E55 Sick, lame or treated cows must be brought into the milking shed last and be marked, recorded, treated and kept separate from the main milking herd, in paddocks close to the dairy shed, in order to enable regular monitoring to occur.

**SPCA Certified recommends regularly teat scoring cows, in order to detect and address any problems as soon as they occur.**

**Useful information about maintaining teat health can be found at: <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/cow-health/mastitis/tools-and-resources/healthy-udder/>**

**Reward-based training using positive reinforcement, e.g. food rewards, should be used as part of introducing heifers to the milking system. Training should occur for 7-10 days, in order to allow the heifers to overcome any fear they have of the system.**

## Transport

- E56 Before loading, cattle must be assessed, in order to ensure that they are fit for transport and able to withstand the entire journey without suffering pain or distress. The assessment must take into consideration:
- the health condition of the animal;
  - its body condition score (no less than 4);
  - its age;
  - the duration of the trip; and
  - the likely weather/temperature conditions.
- If there is any question about whether an animal is fit for transport or not, a veterinarian must be consulted.
- E57 All cattle must be free from signs of injury or disease, in order to be eligible for transport.
- Cattle that are unfit for transport must be given immediate veterinary care or else euthanased without delay.
- E58 Where animals have undergone a painful husbandry procedure, e.g. castration or disbudding, they must not be transported for at least three weeks after the procedure.
- E59 Holding and loading facilities must be designed to facilitate ease of movement and reduce handling stress for cattle and stock people.
- E60 Cattle must not be stood-off on concrete prior to transport.
- E61 Prior to transport, cattle must be allowed enough time (approximately 20 minutes) to settle on arrival into the yards, before further drafting or moving.
- E62 Cattle must be kept off green feed for a minimum of four and maximum of six hours before transport. The only exception to this is where cattle are being transported short distances,

no longer than fifteen minutes by road, to a run-off facility.

During this period, access to good quality roughage must be given.

E63 Cattle must be provided with free access to clean water until immediately before loading. Water must be given in a way that avoids unnecessary competition between animals.

E64 Holding yards must provide enough shade and shelter to cover all animals contained. Where signs of thermal stress (hot or cold) are evident, during either lairage or transport, immediate remedial action must be taken.

There must be enough space to allow all animals to be able to stand up, lie down and remain in their original social groups.

E65 Unfamiliar animals must not be mixed before transport.

E66 Stationary periods during loading, transport or before unloading must be minimised, as heat and humidity build-up during this time is a major contributor to heat stress in cattle.

E67 Areas of high use, e.g. ramps, must have surfaces that are non-slip, easily cleaned and regularly maintained.

E68 Bumpers or buffer pads must be provided between the loading ramp and transport vehicle, in order to prevent bruising and injuries to cattle.

E69 Where adjustable or portable ramps are used, they must be able to firmly attach to the transport vehicle, to prevent ramp movement during loading and unloading.

E70 All transport vehicles and equipment must be appropriately designed and have non-slip surfaces.

E71 The angle of the ramp must not exceed 20 degrees for adult cattle.

E72 Cattle must be allowed to load at their regular walking speed, without unnecessary force or noise.

E73 The use of electric prodders is not permitted and either the owner or person in charge of the animals must be present at all times during loading.

E74 Transport of cattle must not exceed eight hours, starting from when the first animal is loaded into the transport vehicle and ending when the last animal is unloaded.

E75 Transport must be managed to avoid the risk of heat/cold stress occurring. Where transport during high risk periods cannot be avoided, stocking densities on the vehicle must be adjusted accordingly.

E76 When dealing with animals being sent for slaughter, the closest slaughterhouse must be used, so that animals are transported for the least amount of time. Where the closest slaughterhouse is not used, a justifiable reason for this must be recorded as part of the transport records.

E77 The timing of moving cattle into the yards for transport must be planned between the

farmer, transporter and slaughterhouse, in order to minimise waiting times.

- E78 Transport records must be kept on farm and must include:
- the name and address of all transit destinations (including slaughterhouses);
  - the name of the transport company used for each journey;
  - the number of, and approximate age of, the cattle being transported for each journey;
  - the time the cattle last had access to water and green feed;
  - the time the cattle arrived into the yards on-farm and when they were loaded onto the vehicle;
  - a signed declaration stating that the animals were fit for transport and that electric prodders were not used;
  - the number of animals found unfit for transport and the reasons why; and
  - the time the vehicle left the farm.
- E79 Transport operators must have contingency plans in place, in order to ensure the welfare of the cattle in their care, in the case of an emergency, e.g. vehicle delay, mechanical breakdown, major accident/weather event. Copies of these contingency plans must be provided to the farm, for viewing during audit.

***Transport is a highly stressful experience for most animals, including dairy cattle. Careful planning is therefore required before transport, in order to minimise the risk of distress and injury.***

***It is recommended that all stockpersons involved in the dairy cattle transportation process have formal training in animal handling.***

***DairyNZ has detailed information available on selecting animals for transport (<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/transporting-stock/>).***

## Emergency preparedness

- E80 An emergency preparedness (contingency) plan must be created and all staff must be familiar with it.

The plan must detail how the health and welfare of the cattle will be ensured in an emergency, e.g. drought, flood, fire, storm and biosecurity breach, and what everyone's roles and responsibilities are.

The emergency preparedness plan must be reviewed annually and updated where major changes in management practices have occurred or where a new emergency has been encountered and resolved.

- E81 All emergencies and corrective actions taken must be recorded.

# Good Health



**Prevent or rapidly diagnose and treat disease and injury, and foster good muscle tone, posture and cardiorespiratory function**

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## Animal health plan

- H1 The farm must have a good working relationship in place with an experienced large animal veterinarian.
- H2 A farm specific animal health plan must be created and maintained in conjunction with a registered veterinarian and all other relevant personnel. The plan must include:
- a preventative disease and parasite management plan, e.g. vaccinations and drench programmes;
  - a procedure for dealing with cows going down both in the paddock and milking shed;
  - monitoring of mineral status;
  - management of all common diseases/disorders; and
  - monitoring of issues associated with parturition and reproduction.
- In addition, animal movement records and farm of origin, body condition scores, births (including stillbirths) and deaths (including euthanasia) must be recorded.
- H3 The health details of all incoming cattle must be checked and recorded.
- H4 All farm records concerning animal health and welfare, as well as any associated corrective actions taken, must be kept for a minimum of three years.
- H5 The animal health plan must be updated annually, after any major health or welfare incident, e.g. a disease outbreak, or following significant changes to the production system.
- In the case that a notifiable disease is discovered on the farm, it must be reported to the relevant authorities and SPCA Certified within 24 hours.
- H6 Each farm must have a euthanasia plan that describes the euthanasia process in detail, including the equipment used and the staff who are permitted to conduct the procedure.
- H7 A treatment/monitoring plan must be put in place immediately for any animals identified with health or welfare concerns and these animals monitored at least twice a day.

***The animal health plan referred to in this document may come from various sources, e.g. the farm diary, and is not intended to duplicate existing information.***

***The use of automatic technologies, e.g. cow collars, is encouraged by SPCA Certified, but is not a replacement for need to closely monitor animals, especially those that may be undergoing or recovering from treatment.***



## Bull management

- H8 Upon arrival at the farm, new bulls must be:
- unloaded carefully into the yards;
  - held in a separate area to the main herd for a minimum of 7 days, with feed and water available at all times;
  - observed for any disease, injury or walking defects prior to use on the farm;
  - familiarised with the area and facilities prior to mating; and
  - in good body condition when they arrive on the farm and prior to mating, with a recommended BCS of between 6 – 7.
- H9 Bulls must be monitored daily during mating to detect potential issues. If any problems are observed, e.g. lameness or abnormal behaviour during mounting, the bull must be removed for treatment and the corrective action taken, documented.

***The selection of bulls for calving ease and polled genetics is recommended for the welfare of the cow and resulting calf.***

## Breeding

- H10 All breeding on the farm must make use of trait selection that improves animal welfare. This may include cattle temperament, calving ease, dam factors and the use of polled genetics.
- H11 All assisted calvings must be recorded, along with their severity, e.g. 'Unassisted', 'Easy pull', 'Hard pull', or 'Vet assistance required'.
- H12 Only natural breeding and artificial insemination (AI) are permitted for breeding purposes. AI must only be done by a certified technician or other fully trained person.
- H13 Calving aids must only be used where the size or presentation of the calf requires it and are restricted to manual methods only, not motorised ones.
- H14 Caesarean sections must not be used routinely and must only be performed by a registered veterinarian.
- H15 Use of the Blocky test or any other adverse serving capacity test for bulls, which uses restrained heifers or cows, is prohibited.

## Pharmaceutical use

- H16 Induction may only be used in exceptional circumstances, where the health/welfare of the cow or calf is at risk of serious compromise. In such cases, the procedure must be performed by a registered veterinarian and the following details documented:
- date;
  - time;
  - attending veterinarian;

- reason for treatment;
- number of animals treated; and
- the outcome of treatment.

H17 Staff involved in the administration of pharmaceuticals must be trained and competent to do so and only do so under veterinary guidance.

H18 No prophylactic pharmaceuticals are to be used.

H19 Routine use of pharmaceuticals for the induction of parturition is prohibited.

H20 Therapeutic antibiotics must only be used where they have been prescribed by a registered veterinarian for the treatment of a specific, diagnosed condition, disease or injury.

H21 Pharmaceuticals must be stored correctly, be in-date, licensed for use in New Zealand and only administered as per the manufacturer's guidelines on the label.

Pharmaceuticals may only be used 'off-label' with prior veterinary approval. Such approval must follow the relevant Ministry for Primary Industries guidelines<sup>4</sup> and be accompanied by a signed and dated declaration from the veterinarian that 'off-label' use was justified.

In the case of 'off-label' antibiotic use in lactating animals, it is up to the veterinarian to determine an appropriate withholding period.

H22 All pharmaceutical treatments must be safely discarded after their expiration date.

H23 Up-to-date records must be kept of all treatments administered to cattle, including:

- pharmaceutical name, administration method and dose rate;
- reason for administration and the result of treatment;
- date(s) administered;
- withholding period; and
- animal identification.

***The animal health plan should include protocols addressing the usage, storage and monitoring of antibiotic treatments and a strategy for the reduction of their use. Protocols should be in line with the recommendations of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) policy on judicious use of antimicrobials.***

***Establishing an antimicrobial stewardship plan for the farm, in conjunction with a registered veterinarian, is highly recommended.***

***As a guiding principle, SPCA Certified recommends the use of pain relief when dealing with painful health conditions including, but not limited to dystocia, lameness, mastitis and metritis.***

## Surgical husbandry procedures

H24 Animals must be given pre- and post-operative pain relief, regardless of their age, in order to minimise pain and distress.

- H25 Surgical husbandry procedures must only be performed by a registered veterinarian, or by trained and competent staff who have been approved by a registered veterinarian and only then in accordance with the relevant regulations.
- Staff training records must record the necessary veterinary approvals that have been issued.
- H26 Staff undertaking any surgical husbandry procedure must be trained to recognise the early signs of distress, injury or ill-health in the animal(s) being handled.
- H27 Surgical husbandry procedures must not be performed on animals less than 24 hours old and the procedures must only be conducted where animals can be expected to make a full recovery, without experiencing unnecessary pain or distress.
- H28 Animals must be humanely restrained and appropriately sedated (if required), so that they do not injure themselves or other cattle while surgical husbandry procedures are being performed.
- H29 All equipment used for surgical husbandry procedures must be clean, well-maintained, in full working order and appropriate for the procedure being undertaken.
- H30 Records must be kept of all surgical procedures carried out. Records must include:
- the type of procedure performed;
  - the date performed;
  - the animal ID;
  - the type(s) of pain relief provided;
  - the initials of the person performing the procedure; and
  - the reason why the procedure was medically necessary.
- H31 Once the procedure is complete, animals must be visually assessed at least four times during the 24 hours' post-surgery. Further additional checks must be made, and remedial action taken, if any concerns are noted.

***It is recommended to seek advice from your veterinarian concerning new pain relief options and methods available for minimising the impact of painful husbandry practices in dairy cattle.***

## Tail docking and claw amputation

- H32 Tail docking or claw amputation are not permitted, unless it is deemed medically necessary by a registered veterinarian.
- H33 Tail docking or claw amputation may only be performed by a veterinarian (or a veterinary student under direct veterinary supervision), using appropriate pre- and post-operative pain relief, e.g. NSAIDs and local anaesthetic.
- H34 A record of all tail docking or claw amputation operations must be kept.
- H35 All cows with pre-existing broken or docked tails must be notified to SPCA Certified when applying for membership of the programme.

- H36 A tail audit must be conducted for the entire herd at least once each year, with the results recorded and any damaged/injured tails promptly attended to.

## Disbudding

- H37 Disbudding must be performed before calves reach six weeks of age, using thermal cautery and sedation. Pre- and post-operative pain relief must also be used.
- H38 Disbudded calves must be inspected daily, for a minimum of two weeks after the procedure and any infected wounds must be treated and recorded.
- H39 Disbudding using caustic chemicals, scooping or amputation is prohibited.
- H40 Where polled cattle are not already used, disbudding should be done in preference to dehorning.
- H41 Routine horn tipping is not allowed and may only be performed by a registered veterinarian (or a veterinary student under direct veterinary supervision).
- H42 Dehorning may only be performed in exceptional circumstances, where the horn is likely to cause injury or damage to the animal itself. Dehorning must only be conducted by a registered veterinarian (or a veterinary student under direct veterinary supervision) and must be done using appropriate pain relief.
- H43 All instances of dehorning must be recorded.

***SPCA strongly encourages the use of polled breeds of cattle, to reduce the need for subsequent disbudding.***

## Castration

- H44 Where castration is performed, it must be done using rubber rings designed for the purpose, within the first month of life, ensuring the calf is healthy and gaining weight.
- H45 Pre- and post-pain relief for castration, e.g. NSAIDs and local anesthetic, must be used, regardless of calf age.

## Mastitis

- H46 Mastitis is painful for cattle and must be treated as soon as it is detected.
- H47 Any animal showing signs of mastitis, e.g. a red, hot or uneven udder or milk that is watery or contains flakes, clots or pus, must be separated from the herd, recorded, marked and immediately treated.
- H48 Udders must be regularly inspected for signs of dirt and damage, and cleaned/treated as necessary, in order to minimise suffering and the risk of infection. 🐮

H49 All cows must be teat sprayed or dipped using an appropriate disinfectant/iodine solution immediately after milking, in order to maintain hygiene and reduce the risk of bacterial infection.

Individual cows and their treatment/management plan must be recorded, including the date(s) drugs were administered, the type of therapy used and the withholding period. Blanket dry-off is not permitted.

H50 To avoid the risk of spreading infection, staff involved in the milking process must follow good hygiene practices. These include:

- Milking any cows undergoing treatment last.
- Wearing disposable gloves during milking.
- Using disposable towels to clean the udder and stimulate milk let down, prior to putting cups on, if pre-dipping is practiced.

H51 Daily Bulk Milk Somatic Cell Counts (BMSCC) must be maintained below 400,000 cells/mL, with the seasonal herd average not exceeding 150,000 cells/mL.

If these levels are exceeded, then immediate action must be taken to identify and treat the affected animals. This may involve consultation with a registered veterinarian, in order to identify the type of infection and best treatment method.

H52 Herd tests must be done at least twice each year and the results recorded.

If teat damage is seen on multiple animals, the milking machine must be checked, in order to determine that it is working effectively.

H53 A drying-off plan must be in place and must detail:

- how milk yields will be reduced prior to drying off;
- what steps will be taken to reduce the risk of mastitis; and
- how udder health will be monitored (observations should continue for at least 3 weeks after drying off).

Any sudden and unexpected increase in the BMSCC must be investigated as a priority.

H54 Dry off dates must be calculated to allow cows to be dry for at least 8 weeks before their calculated calving date.

H55 Drying off must not be done abruptly.

H56 All staff involved in the drying off process must be trained and competent in the correct application of teat sealant.

***The 'Rapid Mastitis Test' (RMT) is acceptable for determining the presence/absence of infection, but is not an acceptable substitute for regular somatic cell counting. In addition, SPCA Certified strongly recommends that on-farm/veterinary diagnostic testing (such as milk culturing) is done for all mastitis cases, in order to encourage appropriate treatment and reduce unnecessary/inappropriate antibiotic use.***

***Targeted 'Dry Cow Therapy', involving antibiotic use and teal sealant is recommended for clinically infected animals or those with damaged teat ends, while teat sealant only, can be used for animals with no/low levels of mastitis. In all cases, it is vital that the teat end is kept clean during treatment, in order to avoid introducing environmental bacteria into the teat canal, which can subsequently lead to severe infection.***

***A calm, gentle and consistent milking routine is essential for minimising stress, inducing milk let down and maintaining good udder health. In addition, foremilk stripping can help stimulate milk let down and is a good way of detecting clinical cases of mastitis.***

## Recumbent animals (downer cows)

- H57 Hip clamps are not to be used unless under direct veterinary supervision.
- H58 If hip clamps are to be used, they must be padded, fitted with a breast strap and not cause unnecessary pain or distress to the animal.
- H59 Lifting equipment must only be used to assist the cow into a standing position and must not be used to suspend or transport an animal that is unable to stand.
- H60 Where it is necessary, on veterinary advice, to move a recumbent animal, this must be performed using a sled or by gently rolling the animal into the bucket of a front-end loader. Regardless of the method used, the animal must be adequately restrained, in order to prevent further injury or distress.
- H61 Recumbent animals must be moved to an area containing clean, dry, soft bedding, with a non-slip floor. Feed and water must be made freely available to the affected animal. If the animal is unable to be moved safely, a suitable sheltered area may be built up around it, e.g. by using hay bales.
- H62 Recumbent animals must be frequently inspected, kept in sternal recumbency (upright) and gently shifted from side to side as often as possible.
- H63 Recumbent animals that do not respond to treatment after twelve hours must either receive veterinary attention or be euthanased.

***The use of an aqua-therapy floatation tank to aid in the accurate diagnosis and treatment of recumbent cows is highly recommended.***

## Inspection of animals

- H64 Cattle must be inspected at least daily, in order to detect signs of lameness, injury, disease, distress, abnormal behaviour, aggression, loss of body condition or other issues of concern.



- H65 Staff conducting herd inspections must be trained and competent to perform such inspections in a careful and respectful manner, which allows them to observe cattle without the animals becoming distressed.
- H66 All abnormalities observed during animal inspections must be documented, along with the remedial action that was taken.
- H67 Inspections must increase to at least every six hours where cattle are within four days of their expected calving date, unless automated calving monitors are used, in which case every 12 hours is sufficient.
- H68 During the first week post-calving, cows and heifers must be inspected at least twice each day, more frequently if they are compromised. Milk-fed and newly weaned calves must also be inspected twice each day.
- H69 All calving issues, e.g. dystocia, must be recorded if they occur and a vet must be contacted at the earliest sign of complications for births.
- H70 Animal inspections must occur at least twice each day during severe environmental conditions, or where animal welfare issues have been identified. Such inspections must continue until conditions have returned to normal.

## Animal identification

- H71 Animal identification procedures must be performed by a registered veterinarian, or by trained and competent staff, using equipment that is clean, well-maintained, in full working order and appropriate for the task.
- H72 NAIT identification requirements must be followed.
- Ear marking or notching/splitting is not an acceptable form of permanent identification, neither is freeze branding, hot branding, face branding or any other form of surgical/non-surgical alteration.
- H73 Following SPCA Certification, no animal born on the farm is to be ear marked/notched/split, branded or otherwise surgically altered for identification purposes. SPCA Certified must be informed before any branded or otherwise altered animals are brought onto an SPCA Certified farm.
- H74 Temporary identification methods, e.g. paints, dyes and wax markers, may be used to identify animals, providing that they are specially formulated for use on animals.

## Euthanasia and mortality

- H75 All cases of death must be investigated and recorded.

For death, the details recorded must include:

- the animal's identification (if available);

- the time and date when the animal was discovered; and
- the cause of death

H76 For euthanasia, the details recorded must include:

- the animal's identification (if available);
- the reason for, and method of, euthanasia;
- the time and date when the animal was discovered, when euthanasia was performed and whether death was immediate;
- the veterinarian's advice regarding euthanasia (if this was needed);
- the staff involved and their role in the process; and
- the method used to restrain animal (if required).

Where practical, steps must be taken to prevent the issue from occurring again.

H77 If there is any question as to whether euthanasia is required, a registered veterinarian must be contacted immediately to advise whether treatment is possible.

If the veterinarian cannot provide advice within 2 hours of the question arising, then the animal must be euthanased, in order to avoid unnecessary suffering.

H78 Euthanasia must only be performed by trained staff or a registered veterinarian. Staff responsible for conducting euthanasia must be competent for the role and named in the animal health plan.

H79 There must be a minimum of one person on the farm at all times, who is trained and competent in performing euthanasia.

H80 All equipment used for euthanasia, must be maintained in correct working order and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In addition, it must be made available for inspection during audit, if requested.

H81 All cattle must be handled, restrained and euthanased in a manner that does not cause additional, unnecessary pain, fear or distress to them.

Where there is no risk to human safety, animals must be euthanased where they are found and must not be dragged, pulled, lifted or otherwise moved while still alive.

H82 Acceptable methods of euthanasia must ensure a rapid and humane death. They include:

- captive bolt, followed within fifteen seconds, by pithing or bleeding out; or
- gunshot to the head, followed within fifteen seconds, by bleeding out.

NB. The choice of method used will vary depending on factors such as animal age and sex, e.g. shotguns are not suitable for use on adult animals.

H83 Blunt force trauma is not permitted.

H84 Cattle must be immediately rendered insensible and must remain this way until death occurs.

The signs of an effective stun include:

- immediate animal collapse;
- a lack of normal, rhythmic breathing or vocalization;
- eyes fixed forward with a glazed expression;
- a lack of corneal reflex (no blinking when the eye is touched);
- no attempt to lift the head; and
- no attempt to regain an upright position.

If an animal shows any sign of regaining consciousness, it must be immediately re-stunned, and the effectiveness of the re-stun confirmed.

- H85 Where captive bolt guns are used, they must be positioned correctly for stunning to be effective and the operator must assess the effectiveness of the stun before bleeding out or pithing occurs.

Where firearms are used, the muzzle of the weapon must never be held against the animal's head and the operator must be confident of causing death on the first shot.

- H86 When done, pithing must be conducted using a strong, flexible rod, inserted into the hole in the animal's head and moved vigorously around, in order to destroy the tissue in the animal's brain, brainstem and spinal cord. Animals that have been pithed are not to be used for human consumption.

- H87 Staff conducting the euthanasia process must remain with the animal until death is confirmed. The signs of death in cattle include:

- a complete lack of the corneal reflex;
- a complete lack of breathing for five minutes;
- a complete lack of heartbeat for five minutes;
- a relaxed jaw, with a floppy tongue;
- dilated pupils;
- no response when the nose is firmly pinched;
- a change in the colour of the mucous membranes, from pink to grey; and
- the onset of rigor mortis.

- H88 The carcasses of all euthanased animals and any animals found dead, must be disposed of in accordance with the relevant local Council regulations and in a manner that does not put other animals or people at risk of disease.

***Nothing outlined in this section is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and treatment of any sick or injured cattle.***

***When used, euthanasia must ensure a rapid, humane death. It must be undertaken where:***

- ***there is likely to be an unacceptable delay in treating an animal's source of suffering;***
- ***the animal is failing to respond to treatment;***

- ***the source of suffering is unknown, untreatable or severe; or***
- ***where transporting the animal for any reason would aggravate the condition or cause unnecessary pain or distress.***

***It is recommended that all staff are familiar with the contents of the Humane Slaughter Information Pack, available from DairyNZ ([www.dairynz.co.nz](http://www.dairynz.co.nz)).***

## Biosecurity

H89 Where animals are brought into the herd, whether purchased or temporarily kept on the farm, they must:

- be sourced from low risk herds (ideally ones that are SPCA Certified);
- be the minimum number required, based on the feed that is available; and
- be kept in a separate area to the main herd for a minimum of 7 days, to allow for health checking, drenching and any vaccinations to occur.

In addition, the source of the animals must be recorded, in case health or welfare issues arise and it becomes necessary to trace animals back to the farm of origin.

H90 A detailed biosecurity plan must be created, followed and available to view on the farm. Staff must be familiar with and able to access this information. As a minimum, the plan must address the following requirements:

- the identification of all farm visitors, e.g. through a sign in book;
- the provision of Personal Protective Equipment for staff and visitors;
- sanitary facilities, including hand washing facilities, a foot bath with disinfectant, and a dedicated scrubbing brush for boot cleaning;
- the provision of a designated area for the entry of incoming stock, visitors, trucks and equipment, which is separate from the area where cattle are kept;
- the pest control procedures in place and location of relevant equipment; and
- the cleaning, sanitation, waste and carcass removal procedures.

H91 All pest control programmes must be humanely managed. Preferable methods of pest control include:

- physical exclusion methods;
- removal of elements in the vicinity that may encourage rodents and other pest species; and
- ensuring facilities are maintained in a clean and tidy condition, in order to reduce the risk of rodent and pest animal movement.

Where lethal control is used, the extent of the pest problem must be assessed at least annually, in order to ensure that lethal control is still warranted, and that it meets the requirements of the relevant regulatory authority.

***To minimise the risk of disease, it is recommended that farms operate as a closed herd, with no incoming animals and no shared pastures or facilities. If this is not possible, then strict quarantine and record keeping is essential.***

# Appropriate Behavioural Interactions



**Provide sufficient space, proper facilities, congenial company and appropriately varied conditions**

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## Low stress handling of cattle

- B1 All dairy cattle operations must have access to equipment and/or facilities for the safe handling, restraint, treatment, segregation, loading and unloading of cattle. This includes facilities for the safe conduct of AI and veterinary interventions. Painful husbandry procedures must not be carried out in the milking shed. Other, non-surgical treatment procedures are permitted.

Facilities must be constructed, operated and maintained in a way that minimises the risk of illness, injury or distress to both cattle and staff. This includes ensuring that noise from equipment or other workers is kept to a minimum during handling and movement.

- B2 Low-stress handling and husbandry techniques must be used when handling and moving cattle. 🐮
- B3 The use of electric prodders or goads, twisting tails for moving cattle and using vehicles to physically move cattle is prohibited.
- B4 Cattle must be moved at a pace of the slowest animal and allow them to adopt a 'head down' posture, so that they can see where their feet are placed. 🐮
- B5 Dogs must not be used in yards. Where they are used on the farm, they must be kept under control at all times and must not be permitted to cause physical injury to cattle.
- B6 Cows, including calves, must never be handled roughly or be dragged or pulled by any part of their body.

***SPCA Certified recommends that dogs are not used on dairy cattle.***

## Social environment

- B7 With the exception of the initial farm set up, sourcing of calves or cattle from saleyards is prohibited. In addition, the selling of surplus animals through saleyards is also prohibited.
- B8 With the exception of calves kept with their mothers, cattle must be kept in stable groups with others of a similar size/age/stage of production. 🐮
- B9 Unnecessary mixing of cattle must be avoided.

***Cows and calves should be kept in stable groups at all times. Where movement between groups is unavoidable, pairs or small groups of animals must be moved, rather than individual animals. \****

***SPCA Certified recognises that it is sometimes necessary to sell animals in order to manage the farm effectively, however, as a guiding principle, SPCA Certified would prefer to see all cattle only leaving the farm at the end of their productive lives.***

## Behavioural enrichment

- B10 All pastures must contain objects on which cattle can scratch or groom themselves, e.g. trees, brushes, posts or scratching frames. See standard E27 for enrichment requirements during temporary housing. 🐮
- B11 Prior to and during weaning, calves that are not kept with their mothers, must be provided with access to a dry teat, in order to provide an outlet for any non-nutritive sucking that may occur. 🐮
- B12 Calves must be provided with enough space to allow them to exhibit play behaviour, e.g. jumping. 🐮
- B13 Calves that do not have access to a paddock must be given palatable forage in racks, e.g. chopped hay, in addition to their bedding material. 🐮

## Managers, stock-keepers and other staff

- B14 Manager(s) must ensure that all staff directly involved with cattle have access to, are familiar with, and adhere to the relevant regulations, Codes of Welfare and the most recent version of this document.
- B15 The farm must have a written policy of what actions will be taken should an employee be found to have been negligent in their role and responsibilities, in relation to animal welfare.
- B16 If one does not already exist, a policy that allows staff to report any concerns they have regarding cattle health and welfare, must be developed.

Where concerns are raised, an immediate investigation must be conducted by the owner, in order to ensure problems are rectified without delay.

- B17 Formal animal welfare, health and husbandry training, e.g. technical training programmes and workshops, must be offered for up-skilling staff. Staff must also be trained in low-stress animal handling procedures.

Training records must be available to view on request.

- B18 Staff who are undergoing training, must work in conjunction with fully trained, competent and experienced stock-keeper(s), until they are fully competent themselves. Members of staff or external workers must not carry out tasks that they have not been trained in or are not competent in performing.

- B19 Cattle must be cared for by a sufficient number of staff, in order to ensure that their needs are met in a compassionate manner. 🐮

***The initial and continued training of staff working with dairy cattle is important in promoting a high standard of animal welfare, as is the ability to demonstrate and practice positive and compassionate animal handling. 🐮***

## END OF STANDARDS



# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Records required

Records	Standard(s)	Description
<b>Seasonal</b>		
Body Condition Score	<b>N10 &amp; N11</b>	Score at least twice each year. Note areas of concern and remedial action taken.
Daily		
Inspections	<b>H65</b>	Record all abnormalities and action taken during daily herd inspections.
Weekly		
Milking machine cleaning plan	<b>E49 &amp; E50</b>	Include daily, weekly and monthly requirements for milking machine cleaning. Retain for inspection.
<b>Annual</b>		
Animal health plan	<b>H2</b>	Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a preventative disease and parasite management plan, e.g. vaccinations and drench programmes;</li> <li>• a procedure for dealing with cows going down both in the paddock and milking shed;</li> <li>• monitoring of mineral status;</li> <li>• management of all common diseases/disorders; and</li> <li>• monitoring of issues associated with parturition and reproduction.</li> </ul>
Biosecurity plan	<b>H89</b>	Review annually and update as necessary.
Breeding plan	<b>H11</b>	Record number of assisted calvings and review programme if needed.
Electrical safety test	<b>E45</b>	Certificate of compliance for milking shed equipment.
Emergency preparedness plan	<b>E80</b>	Review annually and update as necessary.

Feed supply plan	<b>N9</b>	Plan in place and available for inspection.
Milking machine test	<b>E46</b>	Retain results of annual milking machine test.
Pest control plan	<b>H91</b>	Review at least annually where lethal control options are used, otherwise keep for inspection if requested.
Trace element supplementation programme	<b>N8</b>	Review annually and update as necessary.
Water quality	<b>N20</b>	<i>E. coli</i> , clarity and bacterial load. Retain lab reports for inspection.
<b>Every year</b>		
Water quality	<b>N20</b>	Salinity, bacteria and mineral content. Retain lab reports for inspection.
<b>Other</b>		
Animal welfare policy	<b>B17</b>	Policy in place.
Bull management	<b>H9</b>	Record corrective action taken for any bull with problems during mating.
Calving issues (every occurrence)	<b>H69</b>	Record all calving issues that occur.
Drying off plan	<b>H53</b>	Plan in place and available for inspection.
Euthanasia & mortality (every occurrence)	<b>H6, H75 &amp; H76</b>	Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• animal ID;</li> <li>• reason and method;</li> <li>• time and date;</li> <li>• time of death;</li> <li>• vet advice (if given);</li> <li>• staff involved; and</li> <li>• any restraint used.</li> </ul> For mortality, record cause of death if known.
Feed declaration	<b>N5</b>	Statement of compliance regarding absence of mammalian, avian and fish by-products/proteins.
Heifer familiarisation plan	<b>E53</b>	Plan in place and available for inspection.

Housing of cattle (every occurrence)	<b>E19</b>	Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• date;</li> <li>• duration;</li> <li>• number of animals;</li> <li>• reason; and</li> <li>• date housing ended.</li> </ul>
Inductions (every occurrence)	<b>H16</b>	Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• date;</li> <li>• time;</li> <li>• vet attending;</li> <li>• reason;</li> <li>• number of animals induced; and</li> <li>• the outcome of treatment.</li> </ul>
Mastitis records	<b>H52</b>	Herd test results at least twice each year. Provide results of RMT/culture tests, where available.
Off-label drug use (every occurrence)	<b>H21</b>	Retain veterinary declaration for each off-label use.
Pharmaceutical use (every occurrence)	<b>H23</b>	Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• drug name;</li> <li>• administration method;</li> <li>• dose;</li> <li>• reason for treatment;</li> <li>• date(s) of treatment;</li> <li>• result of treatment;</li> <li>• withholding period; and</li> <li>• animal ID.</li> </ul>
Site plan	<b>E1</b>	Must be available for inspection.
Staff training (every occurrence)	<b>B17 &amp; B18</b>	Record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name of staff member;</li> <li>• date and type of training; and</li> <li>• any qualification received.</li> </ul> Retain training records for inspection.

Surgical procedures (every occurrence)	<b>H30</b>	<p>Record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name of procedure;</li> <li>• date;</li> <li>• animal ID;</li> <li>• name (and signature) of operator; and</li> <li>• the reason for performing the procedure.</li> </ul>
Transport records (every occurrence)	<b>E78</b>	<p>Record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name and address of destination/slaughterhouse;</li> <li>• name of transport company;</li> <li>• number and age of cattle;</li> <li>• time when food/water was withdrawn;</li> <li>• time of yarding and loading;</li> <li>• number of animals unfit for transport (and reason why); and</li> <li>• time of departure.</li> </ul> <p>Also include a signed 'Fitness for Transport' and 'no prodder use' declaration.</p>
Welfare reporting policy	<b>B15</b>	Policy in place.

## Appendix 2

### Washington State calf assessment

Score	Description
1	Most of calves appear to lie on top of bedding with legs exposed.
2	Nestled slightly into bedding, part of legs visible above bedding.
3	Nestled deeply, legs not visible.

*Adapted from the Washington State calf assessment, 2010*



## **Contact**

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