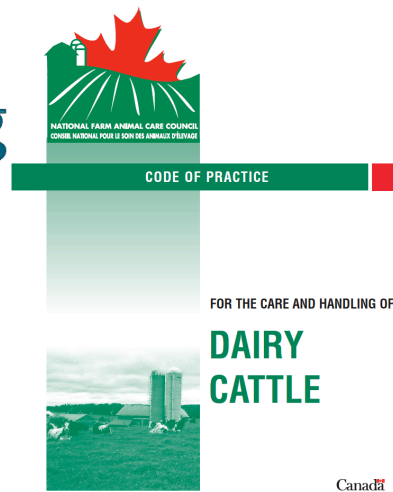


# Implementing a Code of Practice



## Why a Code of Practice for the care and handling of dairy cattle?

- Position Canada's dairy industry as active leader in animal care improvement
- Contribute to improvements in dairy animal care
- Provide information and guidance on dairy management and welfare practices that are based on sound science
- Promote a national understanding of dairy care requirements and recommended best practices
  - Requirements are either legal or industry standard
  - Best management practices encourage improvement

## Promoting the Dairy Code

- DFC distributed the dairy code to all dairy farmers in 2009
- Presenting dairy code to dairy farmers in various conferences & publications, as well as on DFC website



## Quick Checklist

- Checklist of requirements sent to all farmers with Action+ July 2010 & on dairyfarmers.ca
- Precursor to the assessment tool that will be developed in 2011-13
- Piloting the model (ACAM) which is developed by NFACC.

**Checklist for Dairy Animal Welfare on Farms**

The following are requirements of the Code of Practice and farmers are expected to adhere to these practices. This checklist is intended for farmers to use in evaluating their practices and the environment they provide their calves and cows.

The numbers for each requirement link back to the section of the Code of Practice where the requirements and best practices are outlined.

You can choose N/A when a situation does not apply to your particular farm (no bull on farm, no branding, etc...)

CALVES			
CALF BARN			
1.1.1	Calves have a bed that provides comfort, insulation, warmth, dryness and traction: bare concrete is not acceptable as a resting surface.	YES	NO
	Housing allows calves to easily stand up, lie down, turn around and adopt normal resting postures.	YES	NO
	Calves have visual contact with other calves.	YES	NO
	The bedded area for group-housed calves is large enough to allow all calves to rest comfortably at the same time.	YES	N/A
CALF HANDLING			
4.3	<b>Disbedding and Dehorning</b> Pain control is used when dehorning or disbudding. (It is recommended to disbud before calf is 3 weeks of age.) Blinding control is used when dehorning.	YES	NO N/A
4.4	<b>Identification</b> All cattle are identified using an approved ear tag as stipulated by regulations. Pain control is used if branding is necessary. Face branding is prohibited.	YES	NO N/A

## On my farm...

- Use the checklist with veterinarian to assess the status of animal welfare
- Changes made: training one specific person on dehorning calves using pain control
- Veterinarian appreciative of checklist because it gives him tool to discuss animal care concerns with other farmers / clientele
- Use the code as training tool when questioned as to why we are doing things the way we do.

## Are farmers using the Code?

- We're doing Benchmarking research to find out!
  - Do farmers know about Code, do they adopt, etc
  - Ongoing initiative is spearheaded by University of Calgary
  - Results expected in fall 2012
  - Findings will:
    - Identify areas/ topics where farmers want more information
    - Inform our communication and extension strategies going forward
    - Help with the development of assessment tool or program

## Activities Related to Animal Care

DFC strongly supports science related to animal care:

- Example, a research project under the dairy research cluster to identify factors that reduce cow comfort, to ultimately develop intervention tools to help farmers adopt new technology to improve cow comfort and longevity.
- Continue to develop relationships with extension service providers

## Making it all Relevant

- NFACC is developing an Assessment Model (ACAM) to guide farm assessment programs in Canada
- DFC gathering a team to develop a dairy assessment program, based on ACAM
  - Develop program – October 11 to Sept 12
  - Test it on farms – Sept 12 to March 13
  - Finalize program – April 13- Nov 13

## Adoption by End-Users

- What do we need to favour acceptance and adoption of assessment by farmers?
  - A credible program and framework (model)
  - Extension will be crucial, essential and complementary to any assessment program
  - Need to communicate reasons why farmers should continue to improve animal welfare
  - Common overall approach and strategy for communicating animal welfare issues to all farmers
- This is still one big question mark with no magical answer!

**Thank You!**