

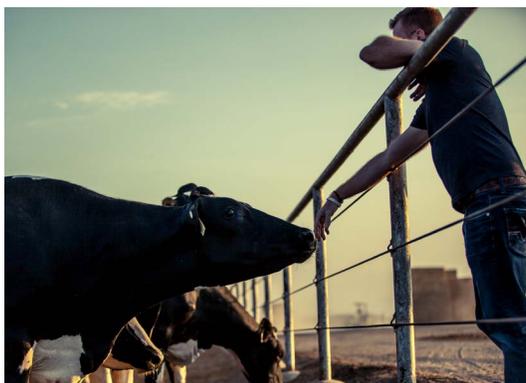
CDQAP Quality Assurance Update - November 2020

New FARM Animal Care Standards

Annual training for specialized jobs

By Dr. Michael Payne, UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and Director, CDQAP

Every three years, to reflect evolving practices and science, the [National Dairy FARM Animal Care Program](#) is updated. The program checks in with California producers (via local cooperative/processor staff), opening discussions on how to maximize comfort and continually improve on-farm animal care.



While this version's of FARM standards contains [a number of changes](#), most will have little impact on our state's producers. New standards prohibit tail docking, a practice that was banned in California in 2010. Similarly, the new requirement for exercise of "all age classes" does not apply to hutch calves that can stand up, turn around, and lay down in their hutches.

For many California producers, the biggest change will be the phasing in of pain management for cauterization or paste disbudding. Covered in CDQAP's February [newsletter](#), producers will have up to three years, depending on their milk marketer, to develop a program with their veterinarian, which could include either [nerve blocks or pain medications](#).

Finally, the previous standards that required annual training for employees have been expanded to include family/owner staff as well. Regardless of whether they are family or non-family, employees working in different care areas should have annual training/continuing education specific for those activities. These areas include moving animals (stockmanship), calf care, handling non-ambulatory cows, euthanasia, and fitness for culling transport.

Continued on next page

To Avoid Carcass Confusion, Don't Use An Orange "B"

As covered in our August CDQAP newsletter, veterinarians using [barbiturates](#) to euthanize livestock must mark the forehead with an orange "B." Producers will sometimes use paint stick "B" in a variety of colors to indicate a beef cow, bucket cow or Banamine etc. Recently, at least one dead hauler has refused to pick up mortalities with orange "B"s anywhere on the carcass, not just those marked on the forehead. Producers wanting to avoid confusion with rendering pickup should avoid using "B" in orange paint-stick anywhere on the carcass. Alternatively producers could switch to another letter like "C" for cull or "M" for medicated.

Interested in Moving More Manure Off-farm?

Interested in Vacuum Technology?

Listen to dairy producers talk about they use vacuums on their dairies and how vacuums have helped improve their manure management program

Managing Manure: Complimenting Flush Systems to Manage Solids & Increase Solids Exports

Date: Thursday, December 10

Time: 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Registration Required

Producer registration is FREE, \$10 for others



Keep Your Eyes Open for Salt Program Letters

By J.P. Cativiela, Administrator, Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program

It's been a long five months since June. As a reminder, some 720 Central Valley dairies in Priority 1 groundwater basins received a certified letter from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board informing them of the need to comply with the Board's new Nitrate Control Program. For dairies who received the letter, it signals the need to join your local Nitrate Management Zone.

For dairies who are members of the Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program (CVDRMP), there is good news: Members who need to join Local Management Zones will be automatically enrolled through CVDRMP. This will result in increases in member fees in 2021; to learn more visit www.cvdrmp.org, or read your CVDRMP member newsletter carefully when it arrives in January. Even though CVDRMP member dairies will be automatically enrolled in their Management Zones, you may still want to learn more about your local Management Zone and participate in public meetings and review information about how yours will work. You can learn more and find contact information about your local Nitrate Management Zones [here](#).

The Regional Board also has adopted a new Salt Control Program and will be sending certified letters (Notices to Comply) to ALL Central Valley dairies in early January. Again, the news is good for CVDRMP members – they will be automatically enrolled in the program through CVDRMP. Information about this will also be mailed to dairies in January by CVDRMP, and dairies can [learn more about the program](#).

New FARM Animal Care Standards (continued)

Strictly from a return-on-investment standpoint, a regular refocus and retraining on animal comfort is warranted. University research suggests “rough handling” (handling animals that raises their stress level) can result in a measurable decrease in milk production, increased retained milk, and decreased conception.

A [fact sheet](#) provided by the FARM Program describes the multiple ways training can be accomplished. Producers can decide how and when the annual discussion and training will take place. Options include employees watching online videos, reviewing printed materials or posters, direct training from the herd veterinarian or extension specialist, attending continuing education meetings, or even simply shadowing experienced workers. Many training resources are available on the FARM Program [Resource Library](#), a webpage which allows you to select not only the topic but also the format of the training materials, such as posters or videos.

Annual FARM Training Requirement

Stockmanship – All employees with hands-on animal care responsibilities must have documentation of animal movement training. For many farms, the most efficient way to meet the requirement is to have employees view the FARM program’s [livestock handling videos](#) in either English or Spanish. All eight short videos have also been collected into a single 27-minute video entitled Dairy Stockmanship. Alltech® has also produced a poster on the 5 Simple Rules for Moving Cattle in both [English](#) or [Spanish](#). CDQAP has also collected a variety of training resources on its webpage, [How stockmanship training for employees can improve your bottom line](#).

Calf Care – There is a rich selection of print and video training materials available for employees providing calf care. Many are available in both English and Spanish and have been collected by the FARM program on its Animal Care [Training Resources webpage](#). Two videos focusing on calf care can also be accessed from Merck’s [Dairy Care365 program](#).

Non-Ambulatory Cows – Quick, effective action for non-ambulatory cattle is essential since every hour an adult cow remains down on a hard surface dramatically reduces her chances of recovery. CDQAP has collected information on the causes, prevention, and treatment of these cattle on its webpage, [Economics and the Non-Ambulatory Cow](#). Specialized training is required for employees caring for down cows. A colorful, [employee-friendly poster](#) describing care for the non-ambulatory cow is available from UCD in both English and Spanish. A [similar poster](#) is available from the FARM Program. Additional information with pictures illustrating how to move down animals is found in Chapter 8 of the FARM [Reference Manual](#). A video introducing both producers and employees to the prevention and care of non-ambulatory cows has been produced by Colorado State University, available in both [English](#) and in [Spanish](#).



Euthanasia – The tools used to humanely end suffering, such as firearm and captive bolt, are inherently dangerous to the employees using them. This liability dictates that on-farm euthanasia should be performed only by the most senior and experienced employees. Comprehensive information on euthanasia is found in Chapter 9 of the FARM [Reference Manual](#). The FARM program has also created a poster decision-tree for cow euthanasia in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). The University of California has produced a very simple pocket guide covering field euthanasia and market cow transport in both English and Spanish. CDQAP has produced a dairy [euthanasia SOP template](#).

Culling Transport – A cow that is refused at the sale barn or slaughter facility will ultimately cost the producer more money than on-farm euthanasia and disposal. Employees making culling decisions need to be confident that a cull cow being shipped will arrive standing and will not be rejected for fever or residues. Comprehensive information can be found in Chapter 10 of the FARM [Reference Manual](#). A simple colorful, employee-friendly [poster](#) describing a Cull Cow Transport Checklist is available from UCD in both English and Spanish. A similar detailed poster is also available from the FARM program in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

We hope you and your family had a

Thanksgiving ^{HAPPY}