



## **Animal Welfare Approved Standards for Beef Cattle and Calves**

Farmers in this program will be distinguished by a humane and conscientious attitude toward the animals in their care as well as by housing and husbandry that meet the *Animal Welfare Approved* standards.

Farmers in the program agree to a minimum of one visit a year from *Animal Welfare Approved* staff or agents, with the possibility of additional visits if deemed necessary, to confirm compliance with the standards during various seasons and to allow observation of animals in different phases of life. Participation in the program is on an annual basis and participation must be renewed each year.

The *Animal Welfare Approved* program must be informed immediately of any deviations from the standards. Temporary deviations will be taken into consideration when unexpected circumstances that are not under the control of the farmer arise. All other deviations from the *Animal Welfare Approved* standards can be cause for reconsideration of the farmer's participation or removal from the *Animal Welfare Approved* program and use of its seal, in conjunction with that farmer's products.

The premise of the *Animal Welfare Approved* standards is that animals must be allowed to behave naturally. The following required criteria allow cattle and calves the opportunity to perform natural and instinctive behaviors essential to their health and well-being. Provisions are made to ensure social interaction, comfort, and physical and psychological well-being.

*The Animal Welfare Approved* standards do not supersede national government or state legislation.

### **1.0 OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION**

1.0.1 Each farm must be an independent family farm<sup>\*</sup>, that is, one on which a family or individual:

1.0.1.1 Owns the animals.

1.0.1.2 Participates in the day to day physical labor to manage the farm and its animals.

1.0.1.3 Derives a share of his/her/their livelihood from the farm.

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<sup>\*</sup> *Exceptions may be permitted for farms that serve an educational purpose or demonstrate exceptionally high animal welfare.*

1.0.2 The family or individual may participate in family farm networks, as long as all other requirements listed in these standards are adhered to by every member of the network.

1.0.3 The family or individual must employ the *Animal Welfare Approved* Standards for all of their cattle and calves. Farmers must not use "split" or "dual" systems, in which some animals are simultaneously kept in systems that do not meet *Animal Welfare Approved Standards for Beef Cattle and Calves*.

## **2.0 BREEDS AND ORIGIN OF ANIMALS**

### **2.1 Genetic selection**

2.1.1 Cattle who have undergone genetic selection to the point that their welfare is negatively affected are prohibited.

2.1.2 Cattle must be chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in the prevailing climatic conditions of the farm, in pasture-based, free range, outdoor systems.

2.1.3 The ability to successfully calve independently must be taken into account in modifications over time to herd genetics.

2.1.4 Cloned or genetically engineered animals, breeding stock, semen and/or embryos are prohibited.

2.1.5 Selection for double-muscled animals that require routine caesarean sections is prohibited.

### **2.2 Breeding herd**

2.2.1 The farmer is responsible for ensuring that any cow, heifer or bull brought on to the farm as a breeder animal is suitable for the *Animal Welfare Approved* program. A record of the source, date of purchase and number of animals must be kept. (See section 10.0.1)

2.2.2 Artificial insemination is permitted.

2.2.3 Embryo transfer and knowingly using the progeny of animals produced by embryo transfer is prohibited.

## **3.0 HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

It is recognized that proper health and management planning increases both positive welfare and productivity.

3.0.1 Each farmer in the *Animal Welfare Approved* program must establish contact with a veterinarian familiar with beef cattle and the health requirements in the state to maximize animal health and the welfare of the herd. An *Animal Welfare Approved* beef cattle advisor can also be consulted for further assistance.

3.0.2 A health plan emphasizing prevention of illness or injury must be prepared in consultation with the farm's veterinarian to promote positive health and limit the need for treatment. (See section 10.0.2) It must address:

- 3.0.2.1 Avoidance of physical, nutritional or environmental stress.
- 3.0.2.2 Climatic considerations.
- 3.0.2.3 Vaccinations and other methods to cope with prevailing disease challenges.
- 3.0.2.4 Bio-security measures.
- 3.0.2.5 Nutrition.
- 3.0.2.6 Environmental impacts, including manure management and run-off.
- 3.0.2.7 Pasture management.
- 3.0.2.8 Exclusion of predators and control of rats and mice.
- 3.0.2.9 Euthanasia.

3.0.3 All animals must be thoroughly inspected at least once per 24 hours. During this inspection, the welfare of each animal must be observed. If any cattle or calf is not in a state of well-being, the animal must be cared for immediately and corrective measures must be taken. During a time of increased risk to health and welfare, inspections must be increased as necessary to protect the animal's well-being.

*Note: Derogation may be granted for operations that can show, in extensive systems, welfare would not be compromised by fewer inspections.*

3.0.4 Vaccines must be used where appropriate to decrease the incidence or risk of disease on farm.

*Note: In order to help eliminate or reduce the cattle or calves' vulnerability to disease and the need for antibiotics at therapeutic levels, Animal Welfare Approved encourages the appropriate use of vaccines on an individual or group basis for prevention of disease.*

3.0.5 Any sick or injured animals on the farm must be treated immediately to minimize pain and distress. This must include veterinary treatment if required.

3.0.5.1 Homeopathic, herbal or other non-antibiotic alternative treatments are recommended.

3.0.5.2 If alternative treatments are not suitable or not effective or if a veterinarian has recommended antibiotic treatment, this must be administered.

3.0.5.3 Withholding treatment in order to preserve an animal's eligibility for market is prohibited.

3.0.5.4 Animals treated with an antibiotic must not be slaughtered for the *Animal Welfare Approved* program for a period of time that is at least twice the licensed withdrawal period of the antibiotic used.

*Note: Animal Welfare Approved auditors, at inspection, will note body condition, gait and obvious signs of untreated clinical illness and injuries. Depending on severity or if withholding of treatment has been deliberate, finding untreated injured or ill animals may be grounds for suspension from the program.*

3.0.6 A safe place must be provided for sick or injured animals to recover, free of competition.

3.0.7 Injured animals must only be kept separate from the herd until such time they can rejoin the herd without adversely affecting either the health or welfare of the individual or the herd.

3.0.8 The non-therapeutic use of antibiotics, or any other medicines, to control or prevent disease or promote growth, is prohibited.

3.0.9 Implanted or injected growth hormones or the use of any other substances promoting weight gain are prohibited.

3.0.10 Routine use of substances to induce estrus (heat) is prohibited.

3.0.11 Records must be kept of the administration of veterinary medical products. (See section 10.0.3)

3.0.11.1 Date of purchase.

3.0.11.2 Name of product.

3.0.11.3 Quantity purchased.

3.0.11.4 Identity of the animals treated.

3.0.11.5 Reason why animals were treated.

3.0.11.6 Number of animals treated.

3.0.11.7 Date when treatment started and finished.

3.0.12 Regular pasture rotations and proper bedding management and removal must be the primary method of preventing parasitical infestations.

3.0.13 If prevention has not been effective, medicine regimens must be implemented to effectively control worms, lice, mange and any other parasites.

3.0.14 The use of organophosphates is prohibited.

*Note: An exception to the standard above may be considered if other treatments have been shown to be ineffective.*

### **3.1 Temporary separation**

3.1.1 Cattle and calves must not be kept in isolation unless briefly required, for veterinary procedures or to recover from an illness or injury.

3.1.2 The primary enclosure for temporarily single-housed cattle must be of such a size to allow the animals to comfortably turn around, stand up and lie down fully without touching the enclosure.

*Note: See the specified space allowances in the housing section.*

3.1.3 Temporarily single-housed cattle should have visual and auditory contact with other cattle.

3.1.4 At minimum, pens used for the treatment of sick animals must be cleaned between each use.

### **3.2 Euthanasia**

3.2.1 Cattle and calves experiencing pain or suffering from which they are unlikely to recover must be immediately and humanely euthanized on the farm.

3.2.2 Euthanasia must be carried out in a manner that renders the animal immediately insensible to pain.

*Note: Please contact Animal Welfare Approved if further information on appropriate methods of euthanasia is required.*

3.2.3 Euthanizing cattle and calves in a way that poses unnecessary pain or suffering is prohibited. Prohibited methods include:

- 3.2.3.1 Electrocution.
- 3.2.3.2 Suffocation.
- 3.2.3.3 Exsanguination without prior unconsciousness.
- 3.2.3.4 Blow to the head by blunt instrument.

3.2.4 When local or national authorities order the killing of a herd of cattle or calves or if any large-scale euthanasia is about to take place to eradicate disease, the *Animal Welfare Approved* program must be notified immediately. Such an event must be supervised by a veterinarian, government authority, cattle expert, and/or official representative of the *Animal Welfare Approved* program, to ensure that the proper euthanasia protocol and humane handling procedures are being followed.

## 4.0 EMERGENCIES

4.0.1 A plan to care for or house animals in emergency situations must be prepared and be understood by all of those working with the cattle and calves. (See section 10.0.4)

4.0.1.1 The plan must consider the welfare of the animals during a fire. In shelters or housing with restricted access (a single door or doorways), a fire plan must be established with escape routes to the outdoors, available from the interior of the shelter, to allow all animals to be evacuated quickly. In shelters or housing with restricted access, a method to extinguish the fire (fire extinguisher, water source) must be readily accessed. Animals must be kept from direct access to electrical wiring and heat sources as a fire prevention measure.

4.0.1.2 The plan must ensure welfare of the animals is maintained in any potential climatic extreme such as floods, snow storms, or drought.

4.0.1.3 The plan must ensure welfare of the animals is maintained during any potential disruption of services or mechanical breakdown, such as water supply cutoff and breakdown of feeding or ventilation machinery.

4.0.1.4 The plan must ensure the welfare of animals is maintained during transport to include actions to be taken in the event of an accident or vehicle breakdown.

## 5.0 HERD MANAGEMENT

5.0.1 Records must be kept of the purchase, sale or transfer of *Animal Welfare Approved* animals on or off the farm. (See section 10.0.5):

*Note: For animals to be sold with the Animal Welfare Approved label or logo records must show that they have been slaughtered at Animal Welfare Approved slaughter plants. Animal Welfare Approved recommends that even if animals or animal products are not sold under the label or logo they are sold to other Animal Welfare Approved farms and slaughtered at Animal Welfare Approved slaughter plants.*

5.0.2 Feeder or store beef cattle must only be obtained from farms following the *Animal Welfare Approved* standards.

5.0.3 Records must be kept of mortalities and morbidity including cause where known. (See section 10.0.6)

5.0.4 Records must be kept of the number and reasons for animals being culled. (See section 10.0.6)

5.0.5 Action must be taken to treat lameness and to remove any causes of lameness.

5.0.6 All classes of cattle must be kept in stable groups; mixing animals from different groups should be avoided.

5.0.7 All groups of animals must be age, size, and behaviorally sorted to ensure the welfare of less dominant animals.

5.0.8 All cattle and calves must be maintained at body score 4 or above on a 1-9 scale or body score 2 or above on a 1-5 scale.

5.0.9 Breeding cows and bulls must not exceed body score 7 on a 1-9 scale or body score 4 on a 1-5 scale.

5.0.10 Heifers must not calve before the age of two years.

*Note: Heifers may reach puberty before the optimal age of first service. Bulls must be managed carefully within the cow-calf operation to ensure heifers are not accidentally served too young.*

5.0.11 Outdoor calving on pasture is recommended where weather conditions permit. When indoor calving is necessary, a clean environment with proper bedding and sufficient space must be provided.

5.0.12 Bedding must be provided if calving occurs anywhere else but on non-denuded pasture.

5.0.13 A competent person must be available at calving time to assist if problems are anticipated at delivery.

5.0.14 All fencing must be maintained such that cattle and calves do not escape.

5.0.15 All facilities, equipment, fittings and pasture used by cattle and calves must be free of debris. In addition, they must be designed and maintained in such a way that they do not pose a risk, or inflict injury or damage to the animals.

## **5.1 Provisions for calves**

5.1.1 Calves must be provided with colostrum within the first six hours of birth.

5.1.2 Milk replacer containing antibiotics, growth promoters and/or any animal by-products aside from milk protein, is prohibited.

5.1.3 All calves must have continuous access to high quality forage from seven days of age onwards.

*Note: Access is recommended from day one.*

5.1.4 Any bunk feed provided must take into account the growing use of the feed by calves as they mature.

5.1.5 After separation, cows and calves must either be kept in adjacent pens where they can see, hear and sniff/lick each other or be completely out of sight and hearing of each other in order to reduce stress.

## **5.2 Weaning**

5.2.1 *Animal Welfare Approved* highly recommends husbandry systems that allow calves to remain in the herd with their mothers until weaning occurs naturally.

5.2.2 In cases where natural weaning is not practical, weaning methods must be designed to cause as little stress as possible to the calf and the cow.

5.2.3 The average weaning age of calves in the herd must be eight months.

5.2.4 Weaning calves less than six months of age is prohibited.

*Note: When the health and welfare of the calf or the cow would otherwise be compromised, calves may be weaned before six months of age, but a record must be kept of how many calves and the reasons for this early weaning. (See section 10.0.7)*

5.2.5 Newly weaned calves should be kept in groups of familiar animals.

### **5.3 Castration**

5.3.1 Calves may be castrated. The procedure must be carried out by a competent person.

5.3.2 If calves are castrated using rubber rings or bands, these must be applied only to calves that are one week old or less.

5.3.3 Castration of calves after two months of age is only permitted when accompanied by sedation and appropriate anesthetic.

5.3.4 Physical castration is the only acceptable method.

*Note: Immunocastration and other forms of chemical (synthetic or natural) castration or testosterone production limiting methods must receive prior written consent from the Animal Welfare Approved program.*

### **5.4 Physical alteration**

5.4.1 Tail docking is prohibited.

5.4.2 Dehorning is prohibited. Horns may be tipped as long as the living tissue inside the horn is not being cut.

5.4.3 Spaying of heifers is prohibited.

5.4.4 Disbudding of calves after two months of age is prohibited.

5.4.5 Calves, two months or younger, may be disbudded using hot iron cauterization by a person who is proficient in the process. Hot iron cauterization must be preceded by administration of a sedative (xylazine) and local anesthetic.

*Note: Derogation to this standard will only be granted if the farmer can show that they cannot legally obtain sedatives and local anesthetics.*

5.4.6 Caustic paste may be used to disbud calves who are no older than seven days. The paste must be applied by a person who is proficient in the process.

*Note: Great care must be taken in applying the paste: hair around the horn bud must be clipped, paste must be applied only to the horn bud and rubbed in well, and petroleum jelly must be applied in a ring around the horn bud to prevent the paste running. It is not recommended to carry this procedure out in wet conditions.*

5.4.7 Choosing polled breeds, which avoids the need to disbud animals, is recommended.

## **5.5 Identification**

5.5.1 The recommended method for permanent identification is Sub-Cutaneous Radio Frequency Identification.

5.5.2 The recommended method of temporary identification is non-toxic paints or dyes.

5.5.3 Ear tagging and tattooing are permitted methods of identification.

5.5.4 Ear-marking by cutting/notching the ears with a knife or cutting of dewlaps is prohibited.

5.5.5 Hot branding and freeze branding are prohibited.

*Note: Flank or rump branding may be carried out when required by state law or by financial institutions or breed societies. If both hot iron and freeze branding are permitted, freeze branding must be used. Please contact the Animal Welfare Approved office to discuss any requirement to brand.*

## **6.0 FOOD AND WATER**

6.0.1 Cattle and calves must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times.

6.0.2 Cattle and calves must have a feeding plan that will guarantee a varied, well-balanced and wholesome nutritional regime appropriate for their age. (See section 10.0.8 and 10.0.9)

6.0.3 Food and water must be distributed in a way that minimizes any competition.

6.0.4 A significant and consistent roughage component must be provided in the diet through all stages of an animal's life to ensure proper rumen function. The minimum requirement is 70 percent long fiber roughage/forage on a daily dry matter basis from weaning onwards.

6.0.5 Any changes in diet must be carried out gradually to minimize rumen problems.

6.0.6 A pasture management plan and nutritional regime must take into account the added nutritional requirements of lactating cattle.

6.0.7 Feeding meat or animal by-products is prohibited.

6.0.8 *Animal Welfare Approved* requires that wherever possible, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or derivatives of GMOs, including GMO feed and veterinary and health care products containing GMOs or their derivatives as well as the growing of genetically engineered crops, be avoided.

## **6.1 Finishing systems**

6.1.1 Feedlots and other types of confinement feeding operations are prohibited.

6.1.2. Where finishing systems involve grain feeding for the final fattening stage, access to pasture for cattle to engage in normal foraging and grazing behaviors and sufficient dry matter forage in the diet to maintain proper rumen function are required.

## **7.0 HOUSING AND SHELTER**

Shelter may be provided by natural features such as shade, trees, or by buildings. Housing may also be used as shelter.

7.0.1 Cattle and calves must have continuous access as required to housing or shelter that protects them from weather extremes, including high winds, sleet and heavy snows, and sun in climatic regions where high temperatures may negatively impact their welfare. Housing or shelter must also provide:

7.0.1.1 Sufficient space for all animals in the herd to lie down and move around without touching each other if they choose and find shelter at the same time, respecting the social hierarchy of the herd.

7.0.1.2 A means for feeding cattle and providing water in a sheltered environment in extreme weather.

7.0.1.3 Entrances sufficiently large that animals can exit and enter at will without the risk of dominant animals stopping lower ranking individuals from using the house or shelter.

7.0.1.4 All flooring used by the cattle must provide good traction, be well drained, and kept clean and free of ice in the wintertime.

*Note: Some areas of flooring may get additional wear and therefore may require additional attention.*

7.0.1.5 In housing and shelter the following space requirements are recommended.

Minimum indoor bedded lying area:

Calves up to 220lbs (100kg)	16 sq. feet	1.5 sq. meters
Cattle between 220-440lbs (100-200kg)	27 sq. feet	2.5 sq. meters
Cattle between 440-770lbs (200-350kg)	43 sq. feet	4.0 sq. meters
Cattle between 770-1100lbs (350-500kg)	54 sq. feet	5.0 sq. meters
Cattle over 1100lbs (500 kg)	11 sq. ft per 100kg live weight	1.0 sq. meters per 100kg live weight

Minimum additional loafing area – that need not be under cover or bedded:

Calves up to 220lbs (100kg)	12 sq. feet	1.1 sq. meters
Cattle between 220-440lbs (100-200kg)	20 sq. feet	1.9 sq. meters
Cattle between 440-770lbs (200-350kg)	32 sq. feet	3.0 sq. meters
Cattle between 770-1100lbs (350-500kg)	40 sq. feet	3.8 sq. meters
Cattle over 1100lbs (500 kg)	8 sq. ft per 100kg live weight	0.75 sq. meters per 100kg live weight

7.0.2 The roof and sides of housing and shelter must provide a barrier to predators.

7.0.3 Shelters and housing must be well ventilated and allow fresh air and natural light to enter.

7.0.4 Shelters and housing must have solid floors.

*Note: Floors may be natural - the surface of the ground or pasture - or artificial. An area of wire or slat under a drinker will be deemed drainage not a floor. Standard does not apply to range, pasture or forage area, unless the area is covered by a house or designated as a shelter area.*

7.0.5 Cattle at all times must have an area available that provides dry footing so they are not forced to stand in mud or manure.

7.0.6 Inspection of cattle and calves must be possible at any time day or night.

7.0.7 Manure must be removed from housing or shelters on a regular basis. The farmer must monitor the house or shelter to avoid odor, dampness and mold.

7.0.8 Liquefaction of manure and liquefied manure handling systems are prohibited.

7.0.9 Any close confinement in crates or tethering is prohibited. Temporary close confinement, which may be required for vaccination, weighing, feeding, marking or

veterinary procedures, is permitted as long as the animal is not confined for more than ½ hour.

*Note: Exceptions will be granted to specific veterinary procedures.*

7.0.10 Accommodations must be constructed so that they can be easily and effectively cleaned.

7.0.11 Maintenance and housekeeping routines must be in place to minimize any potential problems from rats or mice.

## **7.1 Housing for bulls**

7.1.1 When a bull is kept separately from cows he should either be kept with at least one other compatible animal or share a common fence with other cattle with which he can have at least nose-to-nose contact.

7.1.2 When temporarily not on pasture, bulls must be kept in housing or shelter of sufficient size to accommodate their resting and exercise needs.

7.1.3 Housing used for accommodating bulls must be bedded with sufficient bedding to provide a dry clean area for the bull to lie on and must open onto a well-fenced in pasture to which bulls have access.

7.1.4 Lying areas in accommodation for bulls of average size should be at least 180 sq. feet (16.72 sq. meters) and for bulls weighing 2000 lbs (909.09 kg) or more, 225 sq. feet (20.90 sq. meters).

7.1.5 For bulls who must be accommodated for a longer period or if cows are serviced in the bull accommodation, an exercise/service area should be provided that is at least twice the size of the lying area.

## **7.2 Bedding**

7.2.1 In housing, bedding must be available to cattle and calves at all times.

7.2.2 Bedding must be clean, dry, and mold-free and replenished as needed.

7.2.3 Bedding with straw or cornstover is recommended.

7.2.4 Bedding from timber-based products sourced from chemically treated wood is prohibited.

7.2.5 Bedding must be provided in sufficient quantities to ensure the comfort of cattle and calves.

## **8.0 PASTURE AND OUTDOOR ACCESS**

8.0.1 Continuous outdoor pasture access is required for all cattle and calves.

8.0.2 Both extensive grazing and rotational grazing systems are permitted.

8.0.3 The amount of outdoor area must be such that the health of the cattle and calves and pasture quality is maintained. *Animal Welfare Approved* recommends that range areas be used in rotation.

8.0.4 A pasture management plan must be in place that addresses the specific farm site. (See section 10.0.10) It must ensure that:

- 8.0.4.1 The nutritional requirements of the animals can be adequately met through grazing and appropriate supplementation.
- 8.0.4.2 The composition of the pastures does not create health problems for cattle.
- 8.0.4.3 Cattle and calves are able to graze fresh, clean pasture that has not become polluted with manure.
- 8.0.4.4 Pastures are not denuded by overgrazing and other management techniques.
- 8.0.4.5 Appropriate paddock size and grazing frequency is assured.
- 8.0.4.6 The location of water, shelter, and feeding bunks is addressed.
- 8.0.4.7 Non-point pollution and other local environmental standards are being met.
- 8.0.4.8 Pasture areas on which cattle have been out-wintered or that are otherwise worn out or denuded are restored.

8.0.5 Periodic testing of pasture nutritional content to determine how the nutrient value varies with the weather, age of the plant and overall condition of the pasture must be conducted as necessary and a record kept.

8.0.6 Cattle grazing pasture with high levels of clover and other legumes must be managed to avoid bloat.

8.0.7 Cattle and calves must have access to a rich variety of vegetation including green plants that are rich in calcium and other minerals.

8.0.8 Cattle and calves must have unobstructed access to land that is well drained, clean, varied and has properly managed vegetation and species-suitable herbaceous matter so that the herd's food-seeking behaviors can be satisfied. The animals must be able to explore the ground and their natural environment, as well as be able to exercise and engage in social interactions.

8.0.9 The application of pesticides and herbicides on areas being grazed by cattle is prohibited.

*Note: In the event that pesticides are used, a minimum interval of 21 days is required between such application of pesticides and the resumption of grazing.*

8.0.10 Cattle who have been properly selected for the specific climate conditions will voluntarily choose to go outdoors in all but the most extreme weather. Therefore, a properly designed system for out-wintering cattle must be in place. Such a system must have the following components:

- 8.0.10.1 Cattle must be fed from bunks, hay feeders, or uncontaminated groundcover on pasture lands or in a sheltered area, in all but the most severe weather conditions. Sufficient access to the feeding area must be provided to allow group feeding and availability to all members of the herd regardless of their position in the social hierarchy.
- 8.0.10.2 In the absence of natural barriers for providing protection from the wind, an artificial wind break must be provided around the feeding bunks.
- 8.0.10.3 The feeding area must be rotated around the out-wintering paddock to prevent damage to the pasture and ensure a safe and hygienic turf for cattle standing around the bunk.
- 8.0.10.4 The paddock will be left unpopulated the season after being used for out-wintering to allow the pasture to recover or be reseeded if it was damaged.

*Note: For new farmers entering the program that do not currently out-winter their cattle, a period of 12 months will be provided to assess their breeds and their farm for suitability of out-wintering and to provide a timeline for this where appropriate. The Animal Welfare Approved consultancy team will be able to assist in this process.*

## **8.1 Exclusion from pasture**

8.1.1 Cattle may only be removed from pasture and housed in an emergency situation or extreme weather conditions, when their welfare would otherwise be affected.

8.1.2 Cattle may be housed in an emergency with no pasture access for a maximum of 28 days.

8.1.3 If local climatic conditions mean that cattle are likely to be housed with no access to pasture for more than 28 days, the farmer must have a plan for their management that applies from day one of housing. (See section 10.0.4) It includes:

8.1.3.1 Triggers for housing such as temperature, precipitation or soil condition.

8.1.3.2 Space available to each housed animal.

8.1.3.3 Facilities available to house the animals. These must include laying areas, loafing areas, feeding areas and space to enable animals to fulfill their behavioral needs.

8.1.3.4 Triggers for cattle to be returned to pasture.

*Note: It is not acceptable to use a particular date during the year as a trigger for either housing or return to pasture. Triggers should relate to the identified risk to the welfare of the animals under certain climatic or environmental scenarios.*

8.1.4 If temporarily kept indoors, cattle and calves must not be subjected to dim and/or continuous lighting or kept in permanent darkness.

8.1.5 In the daytime, the animals must always be able to see each other, their food and water sources, as well as their surroundings clearly.

## **9.0 PROTECTION FROM PREDATORS AND CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE**

9.0.1 Cattle and calves must be protected from predators.

9.0.2 In the event that exclusion is unsuccessful and predation remains an issue, live trapping may be used. (Please contact *Animal Welfare Approved* for guidance.)

9.0.3 Live traps must be checked twice daily.

9.0.4 All other forms of traps are prohibited.

9.0.5 All snares and leghold traps are prohibited.

9.0.6 The use of poisons against predators is prohibited.

9.0.7 If live trapping is not possible or is not successful, lethal control of specific animals may be carried out.

9.0.8 All lethal control/euthanasia of predators must result in instantaneous irreversible unconsciousness and death.

9.0.9 If a predatory animal has been euthanized to protect the animals on the farm, there must be records kept of the species in question, number of animals, and euthanasia method. (See section 10.0.11)

9.0.10 Glue boards for the control of rats and mice are prohibited.

9.0.11 Licensed rodenticides placed such that non-target species have no access to them may be used for the control of rats or mice.

## **10.0 RECORDS AND RECORD-KEEPING**

This section lists the records that must be maintained on farm.

10.0.1 Records of the source, date of purchase, and number of animals in the breeding herd.

10.0.2 Records of a health plan.

- 10.0.3 Records of the administration of veterinary medical products.
- 10.0.4 Records of an emergency plan.
- 10.0.5 Records of purchase, sale or transfer of *Animal Welfare Approved* animals on or off the farm.
- 10.0.6 Records of mortality, morbidity and culling.
- 10.0.7 Records of any calves weaned prior to the age specified in standard 5.2.4 including reason for early weaning.
- 10.0.8 Records of a feeding plan including nutritional regime.
- 10.0.9 Records of ingredients of feed for each class of stock, proportion of the constituents to the total feed on a dry matter basis, and/or sources of the constituent parts.
- 10.0.10 Records of a pasture management plan.
- 10.0.11 Records of predatory animals who have been euthanized to protect the animals on the farm.
- 10.0.12 Records of a plan for transporting animals.

*Note: For new farmers entering the program a period of 12 months will be provided to put the program plan and documents in place. The Animal Welfare Approved consultancy team will be able to assist in this process. The Animal Welfare Approved program will also provide templates for record-keeping upon request.*

## **11.0 HANDLING**

- 11.0.1 Efforts must be made to develop positive relationships between the farmer and animals through gentle handling.
- 11.0.2 The use of hot prods or electric shocks is prohibited.
- 11.0.3 Abuse or maltreatment of animals is prohibited.
- 11.0.4 All cattle must be moved in a calm and consistent manner. Stress from loud noises and rapid movements must be minimized.
- 11.0.5 All chutes and other facilities for loading cattle must be designed to minimize stress to the animal and ensure that animals can breathe normally as they proceed through the loading process.
- 11.0.6 All flooring used by the cattle must provide good traction, be well drained and kept clean and free of ice in the wintertime.
- 11.0.7 The use of herding dogs is permitted as long as they are well trained.

## 12.0 TRANSPORT

12.0.1 A plan must exist to ensure that welfare of the animals is maintained during transport both around the farm and off the farm. (See section 10.0.12)

12.0.2 No downed animals may be transported to slaughter.

12.0.3 All cattle must be healthy, ambulatory and uninjured to be transported unless they are being transported to receive veterinary treatment.

12.0.4 The person transporting the animals must ensure they are transported without delay to their destination.

12.0.5 The person in charge of the cattle being transported must ensure that the animals are not caused any injury or suffering while waiting to be loaded on to the transport vehicle, during transport, or after they have been unloaded.

12.0.6 Farmers who are not doing the handling and/or transporting of animals themselves are responsible for selecting responsible and conscientious handlers and truckers who will adhere to *Animal Welfare Approved* requirements and prohibitions during loading, transport and unloading at the destination.

12.0.7 Hired handlers and truckers with sole responsibility should have completed training on humane methods of cattle transport. The *Animal Welfare Approved* program recommends the *National Beef Quality Trucker* training program, but will consider equivalent programs on a case-by-case basis.

12.0.8 Cattle must not be transported during extreme weather conditions. If delays during transport or unloading upon arrival at destination are anticipated, loading and transport must not commence until those complications are resolved.

12.0.9 During transport, all cattle must be protected from harm or stress. They must not be exposed to drastic temperature changes or hot or cold thermal stress.

12.0.10 In the event that any cattle suffer injury or are in stress during transport, the driver must take the animals to the nearest suitable destination where individual animals can be handled, treated or euthanized as necessary.

*Note: In some instances there will not be a suitable point nearer than the final destination for the driver to take the cattle to. In this instance the driver must call ahead to ensure the animals can be cared for immediately that upon arrival at the final destination.*

12.0.11 Proper ventilation while animals are on the transport vehicle is required.

12.0.12 Floors in the transport vehicle must have a non-slip surface.

12.0.13 Overcrowding of cattle during transport is prohibited.

12.0.14 *Animal Welfare Approved* recommends that an animal not be transported in isolation.

12.0.15 The transportation vehicle must be thoroughly cleaned and dried prior to loading.

12.0.16 All cattle must have continuous access to water until the moment of loading.

12.0.17 Injured or lame animals may not be sold at auctions but must be sold directly to slaughter.

*Note: Lame animals sold at auctions frequently become non-ambulatory and as a result suffer greatly.*

12.0.18 Injured or lame animals who are able to travel must not be sent to slaughter in the same compartment as healthy animals.

12.0.19 Any cattle from different farms must be separated in transport.

12.0.20 Any cattle from different social groups (pens) should be separated in transport.

### **12.1 Transporting calves**

12.1.1 Calves should not be moved from their birth farm until they are at least six weeks old.

12.1.2 Calves must not be moved from their birth farm until they are at least one week old.

12.1.3 Calf health status must be sufficiently stable to survive the transportation process and handling by people in strange environments without trauma.

12.1.4 Calves must be sold directly to the farm where they will be raised.

*Note: For new farmers entering the program a period of 12 months from the first audit will be given to achieve compliance with 12.1.4.*

12.1.5 Calves must not be sold more than once during their "fattening" period.

*Note: The Animal Welfare Approved program recommends that calves are reared on their farm of birth.*

### **13.0 SLAUGHTER**

13.0.1 On-farm slaughter is recommended.

13.0.2 Slaughterhouses receiving animals in the *Animal Welfare Approved* program, or the process of slaughtering on-farm, must be reviewed by the *Animal Welfare Approved* program and pass an audit for pre-slaughter handling, stunning, and killing in compliance with *American Meat Institute* guidelines, with the further *Animal Welfare Approved* prohibition on the use of electric prods.

13.0.3 *Animal Welfare Approved* recommends that the person delivering the animals to slaughter stay with them to ensure that they are slaughtered according to *Animal Welfare Approved* guidelines in 13.0.2.

13.0.4 Downed animals must be euthanized *where they lie* in a manner that renders them immediately insentient to pain

*Note: Please contact Animal Welfare Approved if further information on appropriate methods of euthanasia is required.*

13.0.5 Meat from downed animals that have been euthanized must not carry the *Animal Welfare Approved* seal.

13.0.6 The routine use of stockyards and auction houses to sell animals is prohibited.

*Note: Due to vertical integration and consolidation in the agriculture industry there are, at this time, a limited number of compliant slaughter houses available within the transport distances that we would like to recommend. Therefore, we will allow some flexibility in terms of transport times as long as the farm and transport requirements are otherwise fulfilled. Ultimately we anticipate that we will establish set limits on the transportation times.*

## **14.0 DEROGATIONS**

14.0.1 If, in the opinion of the Animal Welfare Approved Standards Board, a system meets all of the principles of the program but does not pass a specific standard or standards, derogation may be granted.

14.0.2 In order for a derogation to be granted, an inspection report must be submitted stating the deviation from the published standard, the reason for this deviation, the length of time this deviation from standards will occur and the welfare outcome should the derogation be granted.