

Dairy Farmers of Ontario



proAction[®]

Requirements Summary Booklet

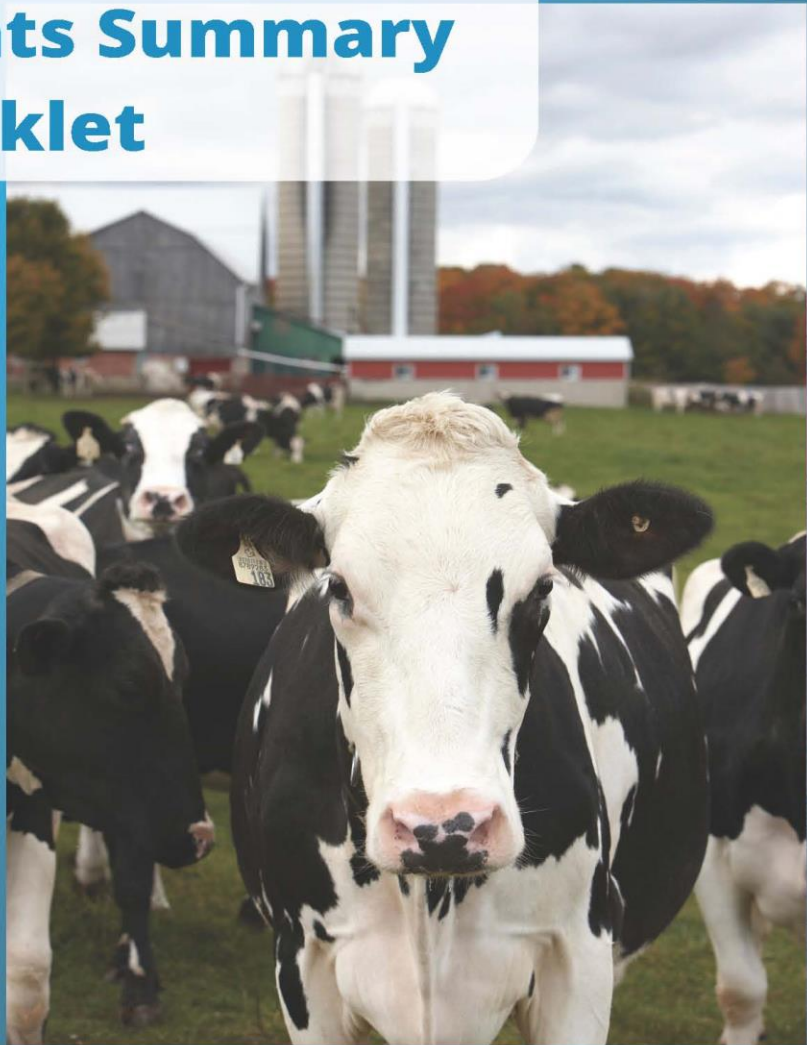
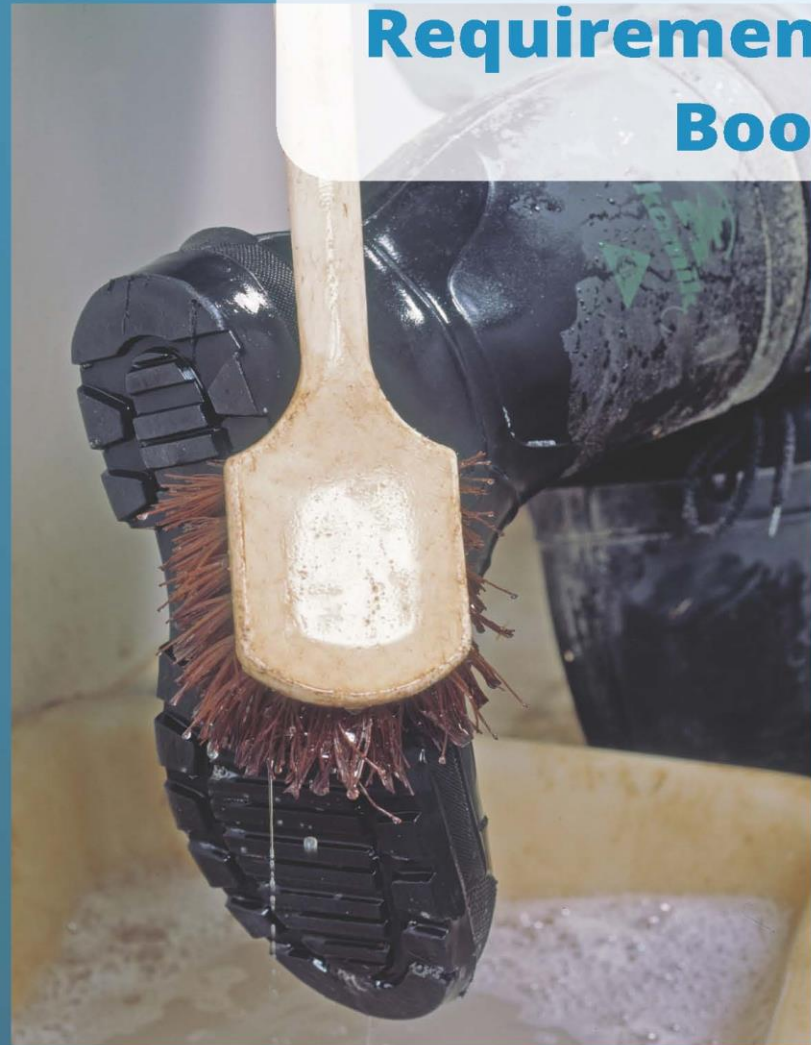


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Animal Care

What is it?

The animal care theme is based on the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle, and its criteria meets the stipulations of the National Farm Animal Care Council to demonstrate, with assessment and validation that farmers adhere to the Code of Practice on their farms. It addresses cattle housing, feed and water, animal health, handling and shipping, and staff training and communication. The Code of Practice is available at www.milk.org.

Why Animal Care?

Animal welfare is one of the most important issues for all members of the dairy supply chain. Consumers expect farmers to provide good care for the animals that produce the food they enjoy. Food manufacturers require assurance from farmers that the production of raw milk in Canada is associated with the highest standards for animal care, and this assurance must come in the form of an objective and verifiable process. The animal care theme within proAction has been developed to meet these demands.

This is a summary of requirements. For more information such as sample records, scoring charts and Best Management Practices, visit www.milk.org and consult the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual on the proAction section of the website.

Validations begin September 2017

| <i>Animal Care Requirements 1 and 2</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>Do you ensure that housing for unweaned calves and weaned heifers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allows calves/heifers to easily stand up, lie down, and adopt normal resting posture? Allows calves to turn around (180°)? b) Provides bedding? c) Permits calves/heifers to have visual contact with other cattle? d) If group housing, provides a bedded area large enough to allow all calves/heifers to rest comfortably at the same time? <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirement: Cow housing – calf pens</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Housing for unweaned calves and weaned heifers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Allow calves and heifers to easily stand up, lie down and adopt normal resting postures. Calf hutches are an acceptable housing option. ✓ Allows calves to turn around (180°). Please note that this requirement applies to unweaned calves only (not to weaned heifers). ✓ Have enough bedding to maintain clean and dry calves and heifers. Bedding is required regardless of resting surface (bare concrete is not acceptable). ✓ Allow calves and heifers to have visual contact with other cattle. ✓ If group housing: Provide a bedded area large enough to allow all calves and heifers to rest comfortably at the same time. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will visually assess calf and heifer housing, bedding provided as well as the animals themselves. If the requirements are not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of the non-compliance. Under Grade A, the FSR will assign a major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement).</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy, productive cattle require an environment that allows them to lie down and rest comfortably. • Cattle are herd animals and can become stressed if housed alone, so visual contact is necessary to minimize fear and distress. • These conditions allow unweaned calves and weaned heifers to thrive and assist in the maintenance of their health. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 3</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>Do you ensure that bull housing (if applicable to your farm):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Permits bulls to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and mount safely? b) Provides bedding? <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirement: Housing – Box stalls</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Housing must be designed and maintained to ensure bulls can easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures and mount safely. ✓ Housing must have enough bedding to maintain clean and dry bulls. Bedding is required regardless of stall surfaces. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will visually assess bull housing, bedding provided as well as the bulls themselves. If the requirements are not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of the non-compliance. Under Grade A, the FSR will assign a major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement).</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy cattle require an environment that allows them to lie down and rest comfortably. These conditions assist in the maintenance of their health. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 4</i> | Demerits |
|---|-----------------|
| <p>Do you ensure that dry cattle and lactating cattle housing provides adequate stocking densities?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirement: Cow housing – number of stalls</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cattle housing should be designed to encourage cattle to rest. For free-stall barns, the stocking density must not exceed a ratio of 1.2 mature cattle to stalls. For example, if the farmer is milking 120 cattle, there must be at least 100 stalls available to them (120 cattle / 100 stalls = 1.2 stocking density). ✓ If the farmer has a bedded-pack barn, it must provide at least 11 m² (120 ft²) per mature Holstein cow. Farmers can calculate the square footage of the bedding area and the scrape alley (length x width) and divide it by the number of cattle in the pen to determine the bedded-pack stocking density. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Farmers of Canada understands that barns used to be designed based on 100 ft²/cow. Therefore, farmers can include the scrape alley in the space calculation. • Smaller breeds (e.g. Jerseys) require 80% of the space that a mature Holstein cow requires, which is 8.8 m² (96 ft²). | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will visually assess the housing for dry and lactating cattle to ensure it meets the requirements for space. If the number of stalls is insufficient or the amount of space in the pack-barn is not enough, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits. The larger the cow/stall ratio or the less space provided, the more demerits will be assigned. Under Grade A, the FSR will assign a major (unacceptable) or a minor (needs improvement) based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle are more productive when they can rest for adequate amounts of time during the day. Therefore, cattle housing should be designed to encourage animals to rest. • Adequate space minimizes competition between cattle for lying areas, feed, and water. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 5</i> | Demerits |
|---|-----------------|
| <p>Do your animal husbandry, manure and waste management systems ensure the cleanliness of lactating cattle’s udders, legs and flanks?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirements:</i> <i>Cows – clean</i> <i>Cows – udders clean and dry</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lactating cow’s udders, legs and flanks must be clean. Under proAction, clean is defined as Scores 1 or 2, and not-clean is defined as Scores 3 and 4 in the “Cow Cleanliness Assessment” chart. This Chart can be found in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual on the DFO website. ✓ Note that cow udder cleanliness is already a requirement under the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) Program. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will visually assess the lactating herd for cleanliness. If more than 20% of the herd has a cleanliness score of 3 or 4, the FSR will assign one to five demerits based on the scores, the areas that are dirty and the percentage of dirty cows. Under Grade A, the FSR will assign a major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement). Cow cleanliness is a critical Grade A requirement. Clean udders are the first priority, then flanks and then legs.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good cow hygiene is critical for preventing diseases (e.g. mastitis) and maintaining healthy udders. • Lactating cow cleanliness is critical to ensuring high quality milk (low somatic cell count and bacteria levels). | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 6</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>Do you ensure that the calving area (prior to and after delivery of calf) is kept clean and dry?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirements:</i> <i>Cow housing – stalls clean and dry</i> <i>Cow housing – box stalls</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The calving area must have bedding and be clean. ✓ Cattle can be kept in a tie-stall to calve, as long as the gutter is covered in a manner to prevent the calf from landing in it. ✓ A temporary gated area is acceptable as a calving area, as long as it is kept clean and dry, and cattle have access to feed and water. ✓ The stocking density of the calving area should be one animal per box stall or 11 m² (120 ft²) per mature cow in a group pen. ✓ The best management practice is to have a calving area separate from the hospital area. However, if the barn cannot accommodate this, the farmer should avoid having sick cattle housed together with cattle that are calving, whenever possible. Disease transfer to the calf is the main concern. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will assess compliance by observing the calving area and interviewing the farmer. If requirements are not met, under proAction, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance. Under Grade A, the FSR will score the item as major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement).</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clean calving area minimizes risk of disease transfer to the calf from the dam and/or environment; particularly diseases transmitted through manure. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 7</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>Do you have a designated area for the segregation and treatment of sick and injured cattle?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirements:</i> <i>Cow housing – stalls clean and dry</i> <i>Cow housing – box stalls</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The designated area for sick or injured cattle must be clean and must have bedding. ✓ Cattle housed in tie-stall barns can remain in their stalls if this provides a sufficient environment for their recovery. ✓ The hospital area must provide cattle with easy access to feed and water and adequate resting space. The stocking density of the hospital area should be one animal per box stall or 11m² (120ft²) per mature cow in a group pen. ✓ The hospital area should be separate from the calving area. However, if this cannot be accommodated, the farmer should avoid having sick cattle housed together with cattle that are calving, whenever possible. ✓ | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will assess compliance by observing the sick pens or hospital areas and interviewing the farmer. If requirements are not met, under proAction, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance. Under Grade A, the FSR will score the item as major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement).</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A separate hospital area provides sick and injured animals with enough space to comfortably recover from their ailment without competition for food, water or space. Cleanliness is particularly important to help cattle recover. • A segregated area also helps prevent the spread of contagious diseases to other herdmates. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 8</i> | Demerits |
|---|-----------------|
| Tie-stall barns: Are electric trainers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Designed not to exceed 2,500 volts? b) Equipped with a height adjustment? c) Located over the chine when the animal is standing with her hind feet near the gutter curb? | |
| Requirement Explanation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Electric trainers must not exceed 2,500 volts. The voltage may be shown on the label of the energizer. If the farmer does not know the voltage of the system, they need to find out what it is (e.g. use a voltmeter to measures the voltage). If it exceeds 2,500 volts, it needs to be reduced (e.g. install an energy limiter). ✓ The trainers must have a height adjustment and be located over the chine when the animal is standing with her hind feet near the gutter curb. The chine is the region on the back just behind the shoulder and before the short ribs. Images of this are in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, which can be found on the DFO website. | |
| How will it be assessed? <p>The FSR will assess compliance through observation and interviews. If the requirement is not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| Why is this important? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrectly installed or maintained electric trainers can interfere with normal cattle behavior, such as eating, standing or showing heat. | |

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| <i>Animal Care Requirement 9</i> | Demerits |
| Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for colostrum management and calf feeding? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Every farm must establish a SOP for colostrum management and calf feeding. The SOP must contain enough information to ensure that someone feeding calves would feed them enough to maintain their health, growth and vigour. Working with a veterinarian in the development of the SOP is recommended.</p> <p>The SOP must include the following minimum requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Feed newborn calves at least 4 litres [for a 45 kg (100 lb) calf] of good quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth, with the first meal occurring as soon as possible and no more than 6 hours after birth. A newborn Jersey calf [23 kg (50 lb)] would need at least 2 litres of good quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth. <p><u>Unweaned calves</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Feed calves a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigour. ✓ Incrementally increase volume of milk fed during cold weather by about 25% (e.g. 8L increases). <p>Note: A list of Best Management Practices (recommendations) is in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, which can be found on the DFO website.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the SOP for colostrum management and calf feeding for completeness and through interviews and observation, the FSR will assess if the SOP is understood and is being followed. If any of these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calves need to receive adequate colostrum and nutrition to grow and stay healthy. • Calves' ability to absorb immunity factors from colostrum starts to decrease soon after birth, making timely delivery of colostrum (as soon as possible) imperative. | |

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|---|-----------------|
| <i>Animal Care Requirement 10</i> | Demerits |
| Do heifers receive a ration that is adequate for maintaining health, growth and vigour? | |
| Requirement Explanation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Heifers must receive a ration that meets their nutritional, developmental and growth requirements. If heifers are not thriving, farmers need to implement corrective actions. Working with their veterinarian or nutritionist is strongly recommended. ✓ Farmers can use a heifer growth chart as a tool to evaluate their heifers; however, assessing heifer body condition is not a requirement of the program. An example of a heifer growth chart for Holsteins is provided in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, which can be found on the DFO website. | |
| How will it be assessed? <p>The FSR will observe heifers and interview the farmer about the ration provided to them. If there is evidence that the requirements are not being met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| Why is this important? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heifers need to receive enough good quality feed to grow and thrive. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 11</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>Do all cattle have access to a clean water source?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirements:</i> <i>Cow housing – drinking water</i> <i>Pasture area – drinking water</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adequate access to good quality water must be provided to heifers, bulls, dry and lactating cattle. Water bowls must be kept clean and water changed as needed to ensure good quality water. Adequate access to water ensures that cattle are not limiting their water intake due to competition. ✓ Farmers must provide good quality water to calves over ten days (to encourage starter intake). ✓ Providing water to unweaned calves in winter is not required under proAction provided that milk volume is increased during periods of cold stress. ✓ Weaned calves and those in the process of being weaned need to be offered water at least twice a day in winter. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will visually assess the housing areas and interview the farmer to verify that all cattle groups have access to a clean water source as per requirement. If there is evidence that the requirement is not being met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance. Under Grade A, the FSR will score the item as major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement). Examples of non-compliances are: dirty water bowls or inadequate access to water (not enough water bowls).</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to clean water is a critical factor in maintaining health of animals, and in the case of lactating dairy cattle, productivity. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 12</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|-------------|
| Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for animal health practices (e.g. disbudding/dehorning, castration, supernumerary teat removal) and branding? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Every farm must establish a SOP for animal health practices including disbudding/dehorning, castration, supernumerary teat removal and branding. The SOP must contain enough information to ensure that persons responsible for performing these procedures are able to complete them properly while minimizing stress to the animals. The SOP must have the following required elements:</p> <p><u>Disbudding / dehorning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Properly and safely restrain the calf using halter / squeeze / other. ✓ Before dehorning, administer pain control [state what is used]. ✓ When using a Barnes type dehorner, control bleeding as required by pulling the artery with forceps or using a hot iron to cauterize the artery. <p><u>Castration:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Administer pain control [state what is used] when castrating calves older than 6 months of age (e.g. analgesic). <p><u>Supernumerary teat removal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Amputate teat with surgical scissors or a scalpel blade. <p><u>Branding (hot or freeze):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Administer pain control as recommended by a veterinarian. <p>Note: A list of Best Management Practices can be found in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual on the DFO website.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the SOP for completeness, and through observation and interviews assess if it is understood and being followed. If any of these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following appropriate practices for animal health practices and applying pain control when required helps minimize animal distress during and after the procedures. • Use of pain control when dehorning is one of the main animal welfare concerns for consumers and dairy processors. As a result, some processors have included expectations regarding this in their animal welfare policies. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 13</i> | Demerits |
|--|----------|
| Do you provide prompt medical care for cattle that are sick, injured, too thin (body condition score ≤ 2), in pain or suffering? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adequate care must be provided to cattle that are sick, injured, too thin (body condition score ≤ 2), in pain or suffering. ✓ Sick or injured cattle must receive adequate medical treatment to restore them to health. ✓ Cattle must be restrained safely so that farmers and veterinarians can handle them and conduct animal health procedures in a manner that is safe for both the animal and the handler. Some examples are: head gates on a feed alley or hospital pen, squeeze, chute, or halter. The equipment must also be designed and maintained to minimize stress and pain to the animal. ✓ Animals beyond recovery should be shipped provided they are fit for transport and human consumption OR be euthanized, whichever option is appropriate, to avoid prolonged pain and suffering. See SOP for Euthanasia. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will assess compliance through observation and interviews. If the requirement is not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of prompt medical care is important not only for the farmer to achieve the best possible outcome for the animal, but also for the industry as a whole to demonstrate to processors and consumers that animal health and welfare is a top priority. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 14</i> | Demerits |
|---|----------|
| Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for euthanasia? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Farmers must establish a documented SOP for euthanasia that contains enough information to ensure that staff can act promptly and ensure that cattle are euthanized by qualified persons in a manner that is quick and causes the least possible pain and distress. The SOP must have the following required elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Promptly euthanize cattle with untreatable conditions, not responding to treatment, or not fit for transport. ✓ Confirm death immediately by checking the animal for breathing, heartbeat and consciousness. Evaluate consciousness by touching the animal's eye (cornea) and noting if the animal blinks. Any eye movement is an indication of sustained or recovering consciousness. A lack of heartbeat and respiration for more than 5 minutes should be used to confirm death. ✓ Do not move or leave the animal prior to confirmation of death. <p>Note: A list of Best Management Practices is in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, which can be found on the DFO website.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the SOP and interview farmer and staff to assess if it is understood and is being implemented as written. If any of these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing when and how to perform euthanasia effectively is critical to animal welfare. It also helps ensure that unfit cattle are not transported to cattle sales facilities. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 15</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|-------------|
| <p>Do you evaluate the milking herd (lactating and dry cattle) for Body Condition Score; hock, knee and neck injuries and lameness and:</p> <p>a) Keep records of the results?</p> <p>b) Take corrective action if herd scores are in the yellow or red zones?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirement:</i></p> <p><i>Cows – body condition score, feet and legs</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers must have a formal third party assessment of their milking cattle for lameness, injuries and body condition score. This assessment needs to be performed once every two years, within the 12 months period leading up to the validation, as determined by the rolling 2-year validation cycle. ✓ The assessor will randomly select a sample of the milking herd and issue a report indicating the zones where each measure falls within, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue: $\geq 95\%$ acceptable for body condition score and $\geq 90\%$ acceptable for all other measures. • Green zone: Represents the results that the top 25% of herds have achieved • Yellow zone: Represents the results that the middle 50% of herds have achieved. • Red zone: Represents the results that the bottom 25% of herds have achieved. ✓ The following details apply to the first assessment for every farmer in Canada: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed by Holstein Canada classifiers, on lactating cows only, within 24 months of the validation. • Data collected during this period will be analyzed in order to determine benchmarks and expectations for corrective actions and improvement, which farmers will have to meet in subsequent years. ✓ Farmers should consider corrective actions to improve any measures that fall within the yellow zone. Farmers must document and implement a corrective action plan for any measures that fall within the red zone. <p>Note: Refer to Appendices 1 and 2 in this booklet for sample sizes and scoring charts. For more detailed information, see the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual on the DFO website.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>During the first animal care validation, the FSR will request to see the animal assessment record and documented corrective action. If the record is not available, the FSR will assign a major non-compliance. Further expectations for corrective actions and continuous improvement (where required) will be established in the near future and communicated to farmers for implementation on the second and subsequent animal care validation.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal assessments are the tool used to confirm that lactating cattle are housed and managed under conditions that minimize injuries, lameness and poor body condition. • Identifying and addressing these key indicators of animal care will improve herd performance. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 16</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|--------------------|
| Do your cattle have full tails? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Routine tail docking is not permitted. Canadian dairy farmers are required to discontinue the practice as of September 1, 2017. ✓ Farmers can only dock an animal's tail if it is medically necessary for the animal (e.g. the tail is broken or injured and is at risk of infection or further complications), and then they must record the rationale for docking the tail (tail docking log). Please see an example record in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, which can be found on the DFO website. ✓ Without a medical reason, removal of any part of the tail is not acceptable, even if it is just above the switch. ✓ If a farmer must dock a mature animal's tail for medical reasons, surgery is the preferred method. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will visually assess the cattle and may inspect some of the tails in more detail to verify that this requirement has been met. The FSR will review the tail docking log as appropriate to verify that any docked tails have been documented along with a valid medical reason. If there is evidence that the farmer has continued to dock tails routinely, the FSR will assign a major non-compliance. If the tail docking log is incomplete, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research has demonstrated that tail docking does not have a significant impact on udder health or disease transfer to people. Concerns with tail docking include chronic pain, infections, and loss of ability to exhibit natural behaviours. For a collection of research papers on tail docking published by The Journal of Dairy Science, please visit: http://www.journalofdairyscience.org/taildocking • Tail docking is one of the most important animal welfare concerns for consumers and dairy processors. Some processors have included expectations for the elimination of tail docking in their animal welfare policies. They expect tail docking as a routine practice to stop by September 1, 2017 across Canada. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 17</i> | Demerits |
|---|-----------------|
| Do you handle cattle without the use of electric cattle prods whenever possible? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers must be familiar with quiet handling techniques and train farm personnel accordingly. ✓ Electric prods should only be used in extreme situations, such as when an animal's safety is at risk. ✓ Electric prods must never be used on the face, anus or reproductive organs of dairy cattle, or calves that can be moved manually. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will discuss animal handling techniques used on the farm with the farmer and other people involved in handling, to verify that this requirement has been met. They may ask to see tools used for animal handling. If the requirement is not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle should be handled and moved in a calm manner to reduce stress to the animals. • Cattle that are handled in a consistent, calm manner will be relaxed and more productive. • Stressful handling can lead to fear responses in cattle and injuries to both cattle and animal handlers. | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 18</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|-------------|
| Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for shipping cattle? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Every farm must have a SOP for shipping cattle that contains enough information so that all farm personnel responsible for this activity can ensure that food safety risks are prevented and that cattle welfare is maintained. A list of Best Management Practices is in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual found on the DFO website. The following required elements must be included in the SOP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assess every animal prior to loading. ✓ Do not transport non-ambulatory, emaciated or weak animals, animals with severe lameness or that cannot bear weight on all four legs except to a veterinary clinic for veterinary treatment or diagnosis. ✓ Do not transport animals that are likely to give birth during the intended journey. ✓ Do not transport cattle that require hobbling in order to walk. ✓ Feed newborn calves at least 4 L [for a 45 kg (100 lb) calf] of colostrum prior to loading. ✓ Feed and water dairy cattle within 5 hours of loading, if the expected duration of the animals' confinement is longer than 24 hours from the time of loading. ✓ Only experienced and trained handlers should load cattle. Avoid the use of electric prods (only use in extreme situations when animal or human safety is at risk). ✓ Do not mix cattle during transport that will lead to fighting or injury (e.g. two bulls). <p>Note: If you have had at least one CQM validation, the requirements for shipping cattle related to Food Safety should already be included in your SOP for CQM.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the SOP for shipping cattle for completeness and through interviews and observation determine if it is understood and followed as written. If any of the requirements are not met, the FSR will assign a minor or major non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping animals that are unfit for transport is not only a risk to their welfare, but also a risk to the industry's reputation. • Cows could be in the livestock marketing system for up to nine days or even longer before slaughter, and may be sold at multiple sales facilities. Many Ontario cows are exported and slaughtered in the US, including Wisconsin, New York and Pennsylvania (1). ⁽¹⁾ <p>Source: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).</p> | |

| <i>Animal Care Requirement 19</i> | Demerits |
|---|----------|
| Do you train all animal handlers, and are they familiar with cattle behaviour and quiet handling techniques? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Farm personnel must be trained in cattle behaviour and quiet handling techniques so that they understand how to handle and move cattle quietly and with low stress.</p> <p>Information and resources on animal handling can be found on the Livestock Welfare website (www.livestockwelfare.com) and on Dr. Temple Grandin's website (www.grandin.com).</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will ask about training provided to farm personnel to assess if this requirement is met. They may interview staff to test for understanding / compliance. If the requirement is not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers can move cattle more efficiently if they remain calm, quiet, and not rush them or yell. • Causing animals stress can negatively impact their health and performance. • Farmers are accountable for ensuring that cattle are handled properly on their farm, even if handling is done by employees. Providing training is critical to ensuring everyone on the farm understands and applies proper handling techniques. | |

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| <i>Animal Care Requirement 20</i> | Major/Minor |
| Do you have a written corrective action plan on how to communicate and address downed animals? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers must have a documented corrective action plan for moving downed animals. ✓ Farmers are encouraged to work with their veterinarian to design a plan that fits the conditions on the farm and the type of equipment available to move downed animals. <p>Note: See Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual on the DFO website for recommended practices.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the corrective action plan for completeness and through interviews assess if it understood by and easily accessible to farm personnel. If any of these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite your best efforts to keep animals safe and healthy, accidents do happen. Being prepared, having a plan in place and making sure everyone is trained on how to use associated equipment and handle such situations will allow for the best chance of a positive outcome for both the animal and the farmer. | |

Livestock Traceability

What is it?

Livestock traceability is a program that ensures that dairy farmers comply with federal regulations and Canadian standards for animal traceability in the dairy sector. With a livestock traceability system, animals are permanently identified and their origin and movements between premises are known.

Why Livestock Traceability?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has identified improvements required to the current traceability system in order to ensure that it can successfully trace back livestock within 48 hours of a disease outbreak or food safety issue being identified. These improvements will be incorporated into new federal regulations.

Livestock traceability is about emergency preparedness. A livestock traceability system helps ensure that the industry can quickly respond to an emergency such as a disease outbreak or food safety issue. Traceability is also important in maintaining the trust of trading partners, keeping markets open, and gaining access to new markets.

This is a summary of requirements. For more information such as sample records, visit www.milk.org and consult the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual on the proAction section of the website.

Validations begin September 2017

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|---|--------------------|
| <i>Livestock Traceability Requirement 1</i> | Major/Minor |
| Do you have a premises identification number? | |
| Requirement Explanation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Premises are any parcel of land on which animals, plants or food are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of. Premises are defined by a legal land description of the lot, or in its absence, by its geo-coordinates. ✓ The premises identification (PID) number links livestock to land locations. | |
| How will it be assessed? <p>All licensed dairy farmers in Ontario already have a PID. It can be found by logging on to the farmer dashboard of the DFO website and looking in the upper right hand corner of the page.</p> | |
| Why is this important? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PID number is needed to report traceability events to the national database. • The PID number may be required for other purposed, for example: tag purchases, for lab samples or for funding applications. | |

| <i>Livestock Traceability Requirement 2</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|--------------------|
| <p>Do you maintain current birth records on farm (birth date, Animal ID number)?</p> <p>In the 7 days following the animal's birth or at the time the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first.</p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Animal births must be recorded within seven days of birth or at the time the animal leaves the farm. The following information is required for on-farm records: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal identification number – 15 digits • Date of animal's birth • Premises identification number where the animal was born ✓ On-farm records must be kept for a minimum of five years. ✓ The information may be recorded in an on-farm paper manifest, herd management software, electronic document, template provided in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, third party or other type of document. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review birth records to ensure that they are being kept on all animals born since September 1, 2017. If one or more of the requirement components are not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance depending on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth records facilitate complete and accurate information to be documented about an animal right from the date of birth. | |

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|---|--------------------|
| <i>Livestock Traceability Requirement 3</i> | Major/Minor |
| Are you reporting animal birth information to the national traceability database within 45 days or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ When tags are affixed to the animal's ear, they need to be reported into the national traceability database to be activated within 45 days of birth or before it leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first. ✓ The following information is required for tag activation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal identification number – 15 digits • Date of animal's birth • Premises identification number where the animal was born <p><u>Reporting livestock traceability data:</u></p> <p>In Ontario, traceability information must be reported to the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA). Reports may be done directly to the database by the farmer, an employee, a manager or by a third party that has the authority to send data into the farmer account. A third party could be a milk recording service (such as DHI), a herd management software designed to send specific traceability data to the national traceability database, a national breed association (for registered cattle) or a stakeholder that has been mandated to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For direct reporting, farmers may submit their information through web service or directly online at www.clia.livestockid.ca. • Farmers who wish to use the web service need to fill in the appropriate template (birth, move-in, etc.) and send it to the database. • For direct online access, farmers enter the required information in the web application. Prior to direct online access or web services, farmers must contact CCIA to obtain their user name and password. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will interview the farmer and review documentation to verify that births have been reported as per requirement for all animals born since September 1, 2017. If this requirement is not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This requirement ensures timely tag activation so that animals are entered in the traceability database. | |

| <i>Livestock Traceability Requirement 4</i> | Major/Minor |
|---|--------------------|
| <p>Are your dairy cattle double-tagged with approved dairy tags (NLID/ATQ)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calves must be tagged within 7 days of birth or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first. • Any calves born on farm and destined for the beef industry may be identified with a single RFID ear tag (approved beef tag). | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ All dairy calves born on or after September 1, 2017 must be identified with approved National Livestock Identification for Dairy (NLID) tags. ✓ Tags must be applied within seven days of birth or before the animal leaves the farm, whichever occurs first. ✓ The approved official tag set consists of a visual panel tag and an RFID button. One tag must appear in each ear at all times [visual panel tag and electronic (RFID) button tag]. There should never be two RFID button tags on the same animal, either in the same ear or not, even with the same ID number. ✓ Both male and female dairy cattle, whether they are registered or non-registered, can be tagged with these tag sets. ✓ Calves that will not remain in the dairy herd and therefore are destined for the beef industry may be identified with a single yellow RFID ear tag (approved beef tag). <p>Note: When a tag is lost through normal wear and tear, NLID provides replacement tags with the same ID number free of charge (upon request).</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will visually inspect the animals to verify that any calves born since September 1, 2017 have been double tagged. If the requirement is not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance depending on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching official ID with herd management ID improves record keeping. • There are many benefits from dual tagging (RFID button and visual tag) with matching unique number: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – it enhances visual recognition of animal for herd management; – it harmonizes herd management ID systems for dairy in Canada; and – it ensures a back-up in case of tag loss and provides a unique number for the animal's life. | |

| <i>Livestock Traceability Requirement 5</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|--------------------|
| <p>For animal move-in (reception of an animal at the farm, including import):</p> <p>a) Do you maintain current animal move-in records on farm</p> <p>b) Are you reporting the information to the national traceability database?</p> <p>Within 7 days of the event or before the animal leaves the farm, whichever occurs first.</p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Animal reception must be recorded and reported within seven days or before the animal leaves the farm. The following information is required for records and reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal identification number – 15 digits • Date of animal’s arrival • Premises identification number of the farm of arrival • Vehicle (single unit) or trailer (tandem unit) licence plate number • Premises identification number of the farm of departure. For animal imports, if this is not known, the farmer may report the location where the animal was kept before it was imported (e.g. address of the facility). ✓ On-farm records must be kept for a minimum of five years. ✓ Animal move-in information may be recorded in an on-farm paper manifest, herd management software, electronic document, template provided in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, third party or other type of document. <p>For how to report, refer to “reporting livestock traceability data” under Livestock Traceability Requirement 3.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will interview the farmer and review documentation to verify that data on incoming animals (new or returning) has been recorded and reported since September 1, 2017. If this requirement is not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an emergency situation such as a contagious disease outbreak, this information is used to identify exactly where the animal has been, which other animals it has been in contact with and where it is at the moment. • While not required by proAction or regulation, farmers are encouraged to record and report information on animals leaving the farm. This could help a farmer provide adequate documentation on animals shipped, should an investigation be performed by a regulatory body on issues such as inhibitor residues found on meat or an animal transport violation. | |

| <i>Livestock Traceability Requirement 6</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|--------------------|
| <p>For tag retirement (on-farm animal disposal and animal export):</p> <p>a) Do you maintain current tag retirement records on-farm?</p> <p>b) Are you reporting the event information to the national traceability database?</p> <p>Information must be recorded and reported within 7 days of the event.</p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ On-farm disposal and animal export must be recorded and reported within 7 days of animal's death or export. The following information is the minimum requirement for: ✓ Animal on-farm disposal records and reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal identification number – 15 digits • Date of animal's death • Premises identification number of the farm where the animal died ✓ Animal export records and reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal identification number – 15 digits • Date of animal's departure • Premises identification number of the farm of departure • Location to which the animals were exported (examples: address, state, country) • Vehicle (single unit) or trailer (tandem unit) licence plate number ✓ Tag retirement information (on-farm disposal and animal export) may be recorded in an on-farm paper manifest, herd management software, electronic document, template provided in the Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, third party or other type of document. It must be kept on farm for a minimum of five years for further reference. <p>For how to report, refer to “reporting livestock traceability data” under Livestock Traceability Requirement 3.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will interview the farmer and review documentation to verify that data on dead animals or exports has been recorded and reported since September 1, 2017. If these requirements are not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing when animals have left the Canadian system is important in the event of an emergency situation such as a disease outbreak. | |

Biosecurity

What is it?

Biosecurity is a series of practices designed to prevent, or reduce the risk of introduction and spread of disease among livestock.

Why Biosecurity?

Minimizing the introduction and spread of infectious diseases through good Biosecurity practices benefits the overall health of a herd. A lower disease incidence on a herd implies less use of veterinary drugs, most importantly antibiotics. This has never been more relevant, in light of antimicrobial resistance concerns surrounding livestock food production.

The global emergence and re-emergence of bovine diseases in recent years has had a major impact on the cattle industry, both within Canada and abroad. Outbreaks of contagious diseases, such as Foot and Mouth Disease and Rinderpest in cattle in other countries, have resulted in significant economic losses, as well as animal health and environmental concerns. These outbreaks serve as a warning sign of the need for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to bovine biosecurity in Canada.

Note: The following requirements are not final as the program is under development.

Validations begin September 2019

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|---|--------------------|
| <i>Biosecurity Requirement 1</i> | Major/Minor |
| In the past year, have you completed the Biosecurity Risk Assessment with a veterinarian to identify and address biosecurity risks on your farm? | |
| Requirement Explanation <p>Every farmer must complete the Biosecurity Risk Assessment in conjunction with their herd veterinarian once every year. The questions posed pertain to biosecurity practices for all types of dairy operations, and are intended to aid in assessing the farm's risk of disease introduction and spread.</p> | |
| How will it be assessed? <p>The FSR will request to see and verify that the Biosecurity Risk Assessment was completed and signed by the herd veterinarian within 12 months of the validation. If this requirement is not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| Why is this important? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates identification biosecurity risk areas. • Leads to a focused discussion with the herd veterinarian about how to reduce or manage these risks. • There may be risks that farmers may choose to accept and others that can be mitigated by altering practices on the farm. | |

| <i>Biosecurity Requirement 2</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>Do you record disease events for, at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cows with these signs: abortion, lameness, mastitis, diarrhea, pneumonia, fever and death • calves with these signs: diarrhea, pneumonia, fever and death? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers must document each time a disease event takes place. They must keep a record of any cows or calves that show any of the following signs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cows: abortion, lameness, mastitis, diarrhea, pneumonia, fever and death; and • calves: diarrhea, pneumonia, fever and death. ✓ At a minimum, each disease event must include the event (e.g. fever, diarrhea), the date, and the animal ID. ✓ Records may be kept within a herd management software, calendar and/or in conjunction with cattle treatment records, so as to not having to duplicate documentation. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will request to see and verify the disease events records. If the record is incomplete or missing, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for ongoing disease monitoring. • Identifies areas on the farm experiencing success/failure with respect to disease control. • Can be used to assess impact of changes made to animal health protocols. | |

| <i>Biosecurity Requirement 3</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|--------------------|
| Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), in consultation with your veterinarian, for vaccinating against specific disease of concern? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers are required to establish a documented SOP for vaccinating animals. The SOP must contain enough information to ensure that any staff responsible for vaccinating animals are able to do so properly. The following required elements must be documented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • products used; • specific group of animals; and • any other information that is required for the vaccination program. ✓ Farmers are encouraged to work with their veterinarian to ensure their procedures are the best fit for their farm. ✓ Vaccination is not mandatory and if this option is chosen, it must be noted in the SOP. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the SOP for completeness and through observation and interviews assess if the SOP is understood and being followed. If any these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign either a major or minor non-compliance, based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination helps avoid compromising animals when introducing new animals or returning animals back into your herd. • Vaccination also helps control the spread of diseases within a closed herd. | |

| <i>Biosecurity Requirement 4</i> | Major/Minor |
|---|--------------------|
| <p>Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), in consultation with your veterinarian, to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases when bringing new animals and/or returning animals into your facilities that have had contact with other animals?</p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>It is required that farmers establish a documented SOP for adding new animals and returning animals into their facilities. This SOP must contain enough information to ensure that any staff responsible for accepting and introducing new animals and/or returning animals is able to help minimize the biosecurity risks. Farmers are encouraged to work with their veterinarian when developing this SOP, which must contain the following required elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Observe and examine new purchases/returning cattle frequently for disease detection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observe and examine new additions at least daily • Identify and train staff who will monitor the animals in the monitoring protocol established for the farm • Respond to any abnormalities | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the vaccination SOP for completeness and through observation and interviews assess if the SOP is understood and being followed. If any these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign either a major or minor non-compliance, based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of new animals/re-introduction of animals that are returning to the farm is one of the highest biosecurity risks on a dairy farm. • Cattle may be infected with a virus or bacteria but not show signs of clinical disease. New cattle and/or cattle brought back onto the farm can therefore be a source of new pathogens that can then be transmitted to other cattle in the herd. | |

| <i>Biosecurity Requirement 5</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|--------------------|
| Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), in consultation with your veterinarian, to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by family, employees, farm visitors and service providers? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Farmers must establish and implement a SOP for biosecurity measures for the movement of people such as family, staff, visitors and service providers. The SOP must contain enough information to ensure that staff understand, follow and enforce the measures taken on the farm to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious diseases. The following required elements must be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ List biosecurity measures for visitors and service personnel to follow, depending on the level of risk that each visitor could pose. ✓ Require all visitors and service personnel to wear overshoes, clean boots (washed and disinfected) or disposable boots prior to entering the production area (either provide clothing and footwear for visitors or require new clothing and clean disinfected overshoes prior to coming onto your farm). ✓ Have designated area for the disposal of disposable coveralls, boots and gloves. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain a washing station (hands, boots) that can be used prior to entering the production unit. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the SOP for completeness and through observation and interviews assess if the SOP is understood and being followed. If any these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign either a major or minor non-compliance, based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers, visitors, and employees need to be aware of and follow the farm's biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. • Controlling traffic and visitors is an essential part of biosecurity. Pathogens can be introduced and spread by contaminated footwear, clothing, and hands, as well as on vehicles, farm machinery and other equipment. The risks of people, vehicles and equipment transmitting pathogens to cattle can be managed if those involved understand and adhere to the biosecurity measures in place on the farm. | |

| <i>Biosecurity Requirement 6</i> | Major/Minor |
|---|--------------------|
| Do you have visible signage posted on the farm informing all visitors about where to report, who to contact, and areas of restricted access upon arrival? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Post signage that is clearly visible at the main access point(s) and provides clear instructions, including information on who to contact upon arrival, where to report and what biosecurity measures need to be followed.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will check all major access points to confirm that signs are present and contain the required information. If any of these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service providers, visitors, and employees need to be aware of and follow your farm biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. | |

Environment

What is it?

The environment module of proAction is focused on ensuring adherence to environmental standards on Canadian dairy farms. This theme is largely based on the Environmental Farm Plan, and addresses four priority areas associated with the protection of water: manure storage, nutrient management, water management, and chemical use.

Why Environment?

Environmental sustainability is one of several key aspects to ensuring the longevity of Canada's dairy industry. It is about preserving the land and local environment used to farm. Focusing on the environment and minimizing impact ensures the future of dairy farming is viable for the next generation of farmers and their families. It is also about demonstrating to processors and consumers that Canadian milk is not only of high quality, but produced responsibly.

Note: The following requirements are not final as the program is under development. A two-phase implementation is being considered.

Phase 1 – requirement 1– validations begin September 2021

Phase 2 – requirements 2 to 11 may be added – validations begin September 2023

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|---|--------------------|
| <i>Environment Requirement 1 (phase 1)</i> | Major/Minor |
| Do you have a valid provincial Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) to identify and address environmental risks on your farm? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is designed as a farm self-assessment, or a third-party assessment, to increase awareness of environmental issues and provide farmers with an assessment of the potential environmental risks and strengths associated with their farm operation. ProAction requires that farmers have a valid EFP, which can be obtained following three steps:</p> <p>Step 1. Attend an EFP Workshop scheduled in the area. Farmers will be provided with instructions and help on how to progress through the risk assessment and action plan development contained in the EFP workbook.</p> <p>Step 2. Submit the EFP action plan for a confidential review by a group of locally-appointed farmers. They may be able to offer suggestions to help you achieve your environmental goals. Participants receive a certificate indicating the dates the workshop and action plan were completed.</p> <p>Step 3. Begin implementing the EFP Action Plan.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will verify that the farmer has a valid EFP. If this requirement is not met, the FSR will assign either a major or minor non-compliance depending on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An EFP provides a farm with an increased awareness of areas of potential environmental concern and of relevant legislation and regulations. It outlines site-specific, individualized plans to address, monitor or compensate for identified areas of risk. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 2 (possible phase 2)</i> | Major/Minor |
|--|--------------------|
| <p>Do you manage manure to avoid contamination of surface water and groundwater?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also refers to the following Grade A requirements:</i></p> <p><i>Manure storage – runoff control</i></p> <p><i>Manure storage – capacity</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>Farmers are required to comply with provincial regulations related to manure storage, specifically the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 and Ontario Regulation 267/03. Farmers must ensure that manure storage is properly maintained and that there is no runoff.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will observe the manure storage areas. If manure storage is not properly maintained (e.g. cracks are present) or if there is manure runoff, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity.</p> <p>Under Grade A, the FSR will assign a major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement) non-compliance if requirements are not met.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important that storage systems, as well as any management or transfer locations, be properly sited, constructed and maintained in order to reduce the risk of pollution to groundwater and surface water. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 3 (possible phase 2)</i> | Demerits |
|---|-----------------|
| Do you manage silage storage to avoid contamination of surface and groundwater? | |
| Requirement Explanation Farmers must ensure that silage storage meets provincial regulations. Silage seepage must be managed according to provincial regulation (i.e. it must not be drained directly to a field drainage system). | |
| How will it be assessed? The FSR will observe the silage storage areas and look for signs of runoff. If signs of runoff are present, the FSR will assign one to five demerits depending on severity. | |
| Why is this important? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leakage from a silo is not only a concern for the quality of the silage, where valuable nutrients are being lost, but could lead to contamination of surface water or groundwater. Silage effluent has the potential to be one of the most potent sources of pollution on a farm; it is very acidic and contains high levels of ammonia and nitrates. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 4 (possible phase 2)</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| <p>Do you avoid application of manure in winter, or on frozen or snow-covered soils, or on saturated soil?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirement: Manure storage – capacity</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers must ensure that they have sufficient manure storage capacity. ✓ Manure may not be applied in winter or on frozen or snow-covered or saturated soil, as a normal practice. This may only be done as a contingency plan, following extreme weather, such as a flood or longer-than-normal winter, or due to an emergency situation, such as a manure storage failure. For manure application, “winter conditions” are defined as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Liquid manure</u> - 5 cm (2 in.) or less of soil is frozen in top 15 cm (6 in.), or when ground is lightly snow-covered in 5 cm (2 in.) or less of snow. • <u>Solid manure</u> - less than 5 cm (2 in.) of frost in top 15 cm (6 in.) of soil OR when ground is covered in 15 cm (6 in.) of snow or less. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will interview the farmer about the manure application process. If there is evidence that it is normal practice on the farm to apply manure in winter, or on frozen or snow-covered or saturated soil, the FSR will assign one to five demerits based on severity. Under Grade A, the FSR will assign a major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement) if manure storage capacity is insufficient.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no agronomic value in applying manure on saturated soils, and the potential for surface water contamination increases significantly because the soil cannot absorb the nutrients. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 5 (possible phase 2)</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| Do you maintain setbacks from a ditch well or watercourse when applying pesticides, manure and fertilizers? If yes, what distance? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers must be aware of setback distances from a ditch, well or watercourses required by provincial regulation for application of pesticides, manure and fertilizers, and they must ensure that they are maintained. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will interview the farmer about his pesticide/manure/fertilizer application process. If the farmer is not aware of what the setback distances are and/or if there is evidence that they are not being maintained, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits based on severity.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining setback distances helps prevent contamination of water sources due to accidental application or flow of nutrients or pesticides into water. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 6 (possible phase 2)</i> | Demerits |
|---|-----------------|
| Do you have a Nutrient Management Plan (Plan Agroenvironnemental de fertilisation) for all of your fields and pasture that receive manure? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>✓ Farmers must complete the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) record for all fields and pastures that receive manure. The NMP record requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manure testing – book value or tested. • Soil analysis – tested every three years. • Matching application rates to crop requirements – based on manure analysis, soil characteristics, residual nutrient content and crop nutrient requirements. • Appropriate application method. • Associated records must be kept for a minimum of three years or the length of crop rotation, whichever is longer. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the NMP record for completeness (including associated records) and ensure it was completed within the last three years. If these requirements are not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the best agronomic use of manure and other fertilizing inputs benefits the environment by reducing nutrient losses to the atmosphere and to surface or groundwater. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 7 (possible phase 2)</i> | Major/Minor |
|---|--------------------|
| <p>Is your milkhouse centre washwater contained within proper storage or managed within approved treatment systems?</p> <p><i>Note: This requirement also relates to the following Grade A requirement: Milkhouse waste – washwater disposal</i></p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Milking centre washwater must be stored in a suitable liquid manure storage, separate storage, or runoff storage until it is spread on the land. Otherwise, it can be disposed of in a properly designed sediment tank and treatment trench system, or in an alternative approved treatment system such as a constructed wetland. ✓ Washwater must not be disposed of in field tile, in a ditch, stream or river as it violates federal Fisheries Act. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will assess through interviews and observation if the requirements are being met. If there is evidence that milking centre washwater is not properly managed, the FSR will assign a major or minor non-compliance based on severity. Under Grade A, the FSR will assign a major (unacceptable) or minor (needs improvement) if milkhouse washwater is not properly managed or disposed of.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not properly contained or managed, milking centre washwater could pollute surface and groundwater sources. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 8 (possible phase 2)</i> | Demerits |
|---|----------|
| <p>Do you restrict access of your cattle to watercourses? If no, have you implemented 2 or more of the recommended practices to mitigate the impact of cattle watercourses?</p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>✓ It is strongly recommended that pastured animals be fenced out of watercourses. Where this is not feasible, and without limiting the options at a farm's disposal, the farmer must choose two of the following practices to implement on their farm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of alternative watering systems, such as nose pumps or solar pumps, in a location that will divert animal traffic away from watercourses. • Provide solid limited access ramp to the watering point. • Fencing water access point to allow only the noses of cattle to access the water. Provide salt and shade for cattle in a location that will divert animal traffic away from watercourses. • Maintain a low density pasturing or pasture rotation. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will interview the farmer regarding practices to restrict access of cattle to watercourses. If watercourses are not accessible to the pastured animals, no demerits will be assigned. If pastured animals are not fenced out of watercourses and the farmer has not implemented two practices to mitigate the impact, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing animals into watercourses can lead to reduced water quality and erosion of stream banks. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 9 (possible phase 2)</i> | Demerits |
|---|-----------------|
| <p>Is the applicator of pesticides on your fields certified? If not, and certification is not required, have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for pesticide use on your farm?</p> | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In Ontario, any person handling pesticides must be certified through the Ontario Pesticide Education Program (OPEP). To apply Class 2 or 3 pesticides, at least one person on the farm must be a “Certified Farmer”, and all others on the farm that handle pesticides should be trained as an assistant to work under the supervision of the Certified Farmer. All Grower Pesticide Safety Course recommendations must be followed. ✓ Farmers may also choose to hire a licensed custom applicator. Because provincial regulation in Ontario requires a licence, farmers do not need a SOP for pesticide application. ✓ Grower pesticide training is offered through the University of Guelph (Ridgetown Campus) or online. For information, visit www.opep.ca. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will verify that those persons responsible for applying pesticides have a valid license. If the requirement is not met, the FSR may assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of the non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticide application certification courses provide the training required to ensure that pesticides are applied according to provincial regulation and in a manner to protect the environment. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 10 (possible phase 2)</i> | Demerits |
|--|-----------------|
| Is your fuel storage tank(s) less than 10 years old or do you follow some recommended practices to manage contamination risks? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>If the fuel storage tank is ten years or older, farmers are required to implement some of the following best management practices to manage the risk associated with fuel spills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Any changes to fuel storage should be made in consultation with the fuel supplier and the farm's insurance company. ✓ Secondary containment systems are in place, such as double tanks or a containment area capable of holding the tank's volume. ✓ A concrete pad is present below the tank. ✓ The fuel storage is surrounded by bollards to prevent accidental collisions with farm equipment. ✓ Tank and dispenser unit are ULC (Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada) or CSA (Canadian Standards Association) approved and coated with protective covering to prevent rust. ✓ Fuel storage shows no signs of rust. ✓ Fuel storage is located away from watercourses and water sources, in case of spills. ✓ Inspections for leaks are done weekly, either visually or by checking gauges against records of fuel withdrawals. ✓ Absorbents on hand. ✓ Hand dispensers or dispensers with automatic shut-off, in order to avoid spills when filling equipment fuel tanks. ✓ There is constant supervision when filling equipment fuel tanks. ✓ For safety, tanks are locked when not in use. | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>Through interviews and observation, the FSR will assess compliance with the above requirements. If the tank is less than 10 years old, no demerits will be applied. If the tank is 10 years or older, farmers are required to implement at least one of the best management practices listed above. The FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of the non-compliance if best management practices have not been implemented.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even a small petroleum fuel leak of a few litres can lead to serious contamination of surface or groundwater, which has consequences for human, animal and environmental health. | |

| <i>Environment Requirement 11 (possible phase 2)</i> | Demerits |
|---|-----------------|
| Is your emergency response plan posted and are employees aware of it? | |
| <p>Requirement Explanation</p> <p>To reduce the impact of any emergency to the farm, farmers are required to prepare an emergency response plan which includes the following as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A map, which lays out the location of hazards (hazardous materials) and of any emergency equipment. This should be communicated with the local fire department. Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to: petroleum, compressed gasses, chemicals, fertilizers and treated seeds. The map must be posted in a weatherproof container on a pole separate from the buildings or has been submitted to the fire department. ✓ A list of emergency telephone numbers – which emergency responders need to be contacted. ✓ A contact list, i.e. farm owners and employees. ✓ Written directions to the farm, which can be provided to emergency responders during an emergency. ✓ Procedures to follow in the event of an emergency situation. <p>The emergency plan must be posted where farm workers can access it, and all farm workers should be aware of its contents.</p> | |
| <p>How will it be assessed?</p> <p>The FSR will review the Emergency Response Plan for completeness and verify that it is posted in the proper location. The FSR will also interview the farmer, family members and employees to verify that they are aware of it. If any of these criteria are not met, the FSR will assign between one and five demerits to reflect the severity of the non-compliance.</p> | |
| <p>Why is this important?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While no one expects to have to deal with an emergency situation, it is very important to plan for a variety of “worst case scenarios” so that everyone is prepared and able to react quickly, minimize damages and stay safe. | |

Appendix 1

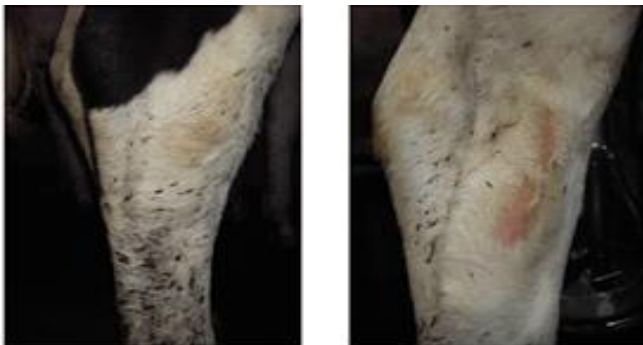





Sample Size Calculator

| Average number of cattle on milking herd | Sample size: minimum number of cattle for assessment | Approximately every __ animal |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| ≤ 20 | 14 | All to every 2 nd |
| 30 | 18 | 2 nd |
| 40 | 21 | 2 nd |
| 50 | 23 | 2 nd |
| 70 | 27 | 3 rd |
| 90 | 29 | 3 rd |
| 100 | 30 | 3 rd |
| 150 | 33 | 5 th |
| 250 | 37 | 7 th |
| 350 | 38 | 9 th |
| 450 | 39 | 12 th |
| 550 | 40 | 14 th |
| 700 | 40 | 18 th |
| ≥1,000 | 5% | 20 th |

Source: Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC), July 2015.

Appendix 2

Animal Assessments Scoring Chart

| Measure | Acceptable | | Requires corrective action | |
|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| Hock injuries |  | |  | |
| | No swelling or minor swelling (<1 cm); may have some hair loss, broken hair or bald area | | Medium or major swelling and/or lesion | |
| Knee injuries | Acceptable | | Requires corrective action | |
| |  | |  | |
| | No swelling; may have some hair loss, broken hair or bald area | | Broken skin or scab, lesion and/or swelling. May have bald area | |
| Neck injuries | Acceptable | | Requires corrective action | |
| |  | |  | |
| | No swelling, may have visible bald area | | Broken skin or scab and/or swelling. May have bald area | |
| Lameness | Acceptable | | Monitor | Requires corrective action |
| | Loose housing or gait scoring: Cows with a lameness score of 1 and 2* Tie-stall: Max. one indicator** present | | Loose housing or gait scoring: Cows with a lameness score of 3* | Loose housing or gait scoring: Cows with a lameness score of 4 and 5* Tie-stall: Two or more indicator(s)** present |
| BCS | Acceptable | | Requires corrective action | |
| | BCS is over 2 | | BCS is 2 or less | |

*Based on the five-point Gait Scoring System referenced in the Dairy Code of Practice.

**Lameness indicators: Edge, weight shift, uneven weight, uneven movement.

Source: Animal Care and Livestock Traceability Farmer Manual, Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC), July 2015.