proAction in Ontario

Created by Drs. Steven Roche & Kelly Barratt

What is proAction?

National Quality and Customer Assurance Program for Canada

Led by DFC and supported by provinces

“by farmers, for farmers”

What is proAction?

Nationally comprised of six themes:

1. Milk Quality
2. Food Safety
3. **Animal Care**
4. **Livestock Traceability**
5. **Biosecurity**
6. **Environment**

Timelines

- **Milk Quality:** Already implemented
- **Food Safety:** Already implemented
- **Animal Care and Livestock Traceability:** Sept. 2017
- **Biosecurity:** Sept. 2019
- **Environment:** Sept. 2021

Roles & Responsibilities

Dairy Farmers of Ontario

- Administer proAction in Ontario
- Make training available for farmers to prepare
  - *proAction advisors (vets) training producers*

Roles & Responsibilities

Dairy Farmers of Ontario

Farmers

- Understand and comply with requirements
- Take accountability and demonstrate continuous improvement

Roles & Responsibilities

Dairy Farmers of Ontario

Farmers

Veterinarians

- Become a trained “proAction Advisor” and instruct classroom sessions

- Be knowledgeable about the program and provide on farm guidance as part of professional services

Role of ‘Advisors’

- Transfer knowledge about requirements to producers
- Inform producers about how they will be validated
- Coach producers to address barriers to pass validation and continuously improve

Implementation & Scoring

Compliance

- Themes of proAction rolling out in stepwise manner:

Milk Quality & Food Safety: Already in place

Animal Care & Livestock Traceability: September 2017

Biosecurity: September 2019

Environment: September 2021

All producers must be compliant on these dates regardless of validation date

Compliance

- Themes of proAction rolling out in stepwise manner:

- DFO Field Service Reps will validate compliance
  - Validation will follow existing CQM schedule

  - First on-farm CQM date on/after Sept. 2017, producers will be evaluated for:
    - Milk Quality,
    - Food Safety,
    - Animal Care, and
    - Livestock Traceability

Scenarios

Producer A: CQM Validation date of August 2017

- **Aug. 2017:** Receive Grade A inspection and CQM validation

Scenarios

Producer A: CQM Validation date of August 2017

- **Aug. 2017:** Receive Grade A inspection and CQM validation
- **Aug. 2018:** CQM self-declaration

Scenarios

Producer A: CQM Validation date of August 2017

- **Aug. 2017:** Receive Grade A inspection and CQM validation
- **Aug. 2018:** CQM self-declaration
- **Aug. 2019:** Grade A, CQM, Animal Care and Livestock Traceability will be assessed.

At the Aug. 2019 validation, producer A must be able to provide evidence of compliance as of Sept. 2017 (e.g. records dating back to Sept. 2017).

Scenarios

Producer B: CQM Validation date of November 2017

- **Nov. 2017:** Receive Grade A inspection and validation for CQM, Animal Care and Livestock Traceability requirements.

Scenarios

Producer B: CQM Validation date of November 2017

- **Nov. 2017:** Receive Grade A inspection and validation for CQM, Animal Care and Livestock Traceability requirements.
- **Nov. 2018:** CQM/Animal Care/Traceability self-declaration

Scenarios

Producer B: CQM Validation date of November 2017

- **Nov. 2017:** Receive Grade A inspection and validation for CQM, Animal Care and Livestock Traceability requirements.
- **Nov. 2018:** CQM/Animal Care/Traceability self-declaration
- **Nov. 2019:** The validation will include Biosecurity requirements in addition to the requirements validated in 2017.

At the Nov. 2017 validation, producer B must be able to provide evidence of compliance with all requirements as of Sept. 2017.

Scoring

- Similar to the CQM system, with requirements graded as:
  - Compliant

    OR

  - Non-Compliant
    - Major/Minor
      - For mandatory requirements, grade depends on severity and extent of non-compliance
    - Demerits
      - Given when not in compliance with non-mandatory requirements
      - Range from 1 to 5, with a higher number indicating more severe non-compliance

Resources

Dairy Farmers of Canada

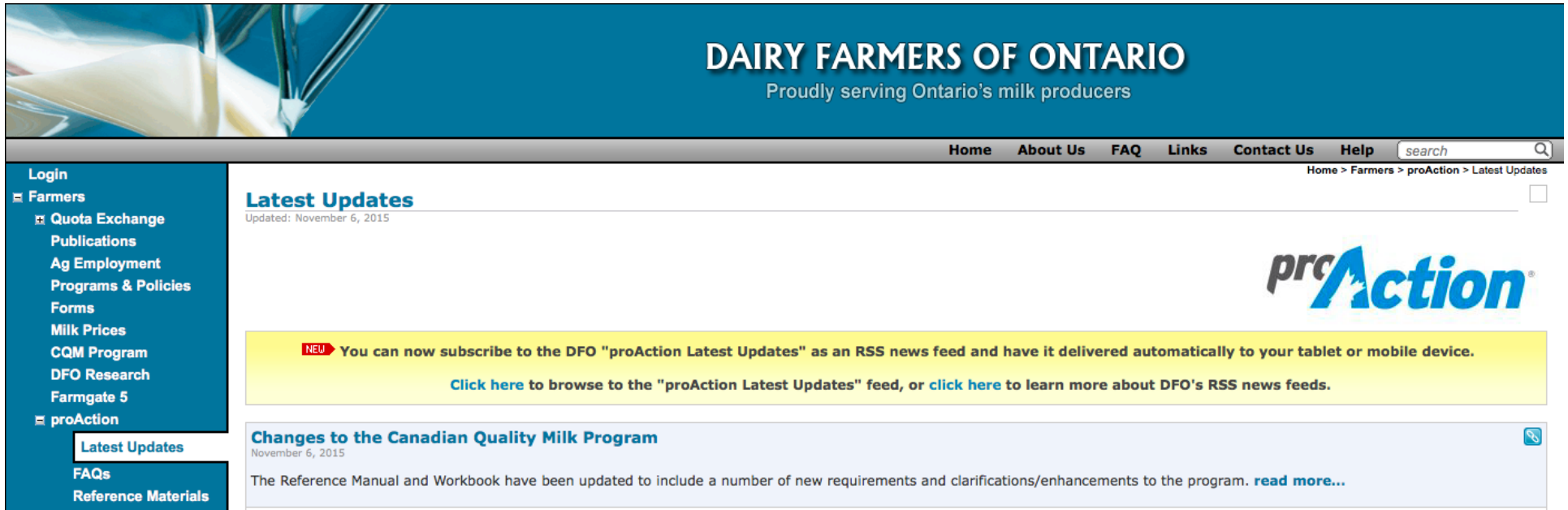
www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction

Resources

Dairy Farmers of Ontario

www.milk.org

+Farmers → +proAction



Milk Quality

Business as usual in Ontario

(Grade A & Milk Quality Testing)

Currently implemented

Why Milk Quality?

- This theme builds on Ontario policies and regulations to make sure Ontario milk is of high quality.

- Follows the Raw Milk Quality program, under the Ontario Milk Act.

At the end of the day, good-quality raw milk is essential to make good-quality dairy products.

Milk Quality

- In Ontario, Milk Quality refers to:
  - Milk quality testing (4 key areas)
    - Bacteria, SCC, freezing point and inhibitors

Milk Quality

- In Ontario, Milk Quality refers to:
  - Milk quality testing (4 key areas)
    - Bacteria, SCC, freezing point and inhibitors

  - Grade A Inspections
    - Evaluates 14 areas of dairy farms (109 items):
      - External, milkhouse, milkhouse waste, cooling equipment, milking equipment, milking parlour, holding area, cow housing, barn yard, manure storage, cows, inhibitors, pasture areas, and miscellaneous.

Food Safety

Business as usual in Ontario

(Canadian Quality Milk (CQM))

Currently implemented

FOOD SAFETY

Why Food Safety?

- This theme is all about helping producers prevent and reduce food safety hazards and risks on their farms.

- CQM is a science-based, preventative approach to monitor all steps involved in the production of milk.

This theme assures consumers that Canadian dairy farmers do their part in ensuring that dairy products are safe to consume.

FOOD SAFETY

Food Safety

CQM Largely unchanged:

- 66 requirements across 8 categories & 3 CCPs:
    1. Dairy facilities, pesticides and nutrient management
    2. Feed
    3. Animal Health and Biosecurity
    4. Medicines and chemicals used on livestock
    5. Milking management
        - CCP 1: Milking treated animals
        - CCP 2: Cooling and storage of milk
    6. Facility and equipment sanitation
    7. Use of water for cleaning milk contact surfaces
    8. Staff training and communication
- CCP3 3: Shipping of treated animals

FOOD SAFETY

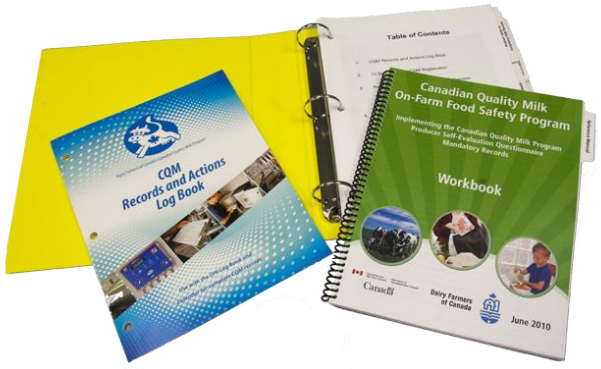
Food Safety

CQM Largely unchanged:

- 66 requirements across 8 categories & 3 CCPS:

- Newest version available here: www.milk.org

  +Farmers → +CQM Program



Animal Care

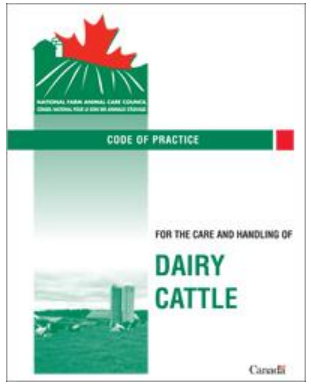
Implementation in September 2017

Why Animal Care?

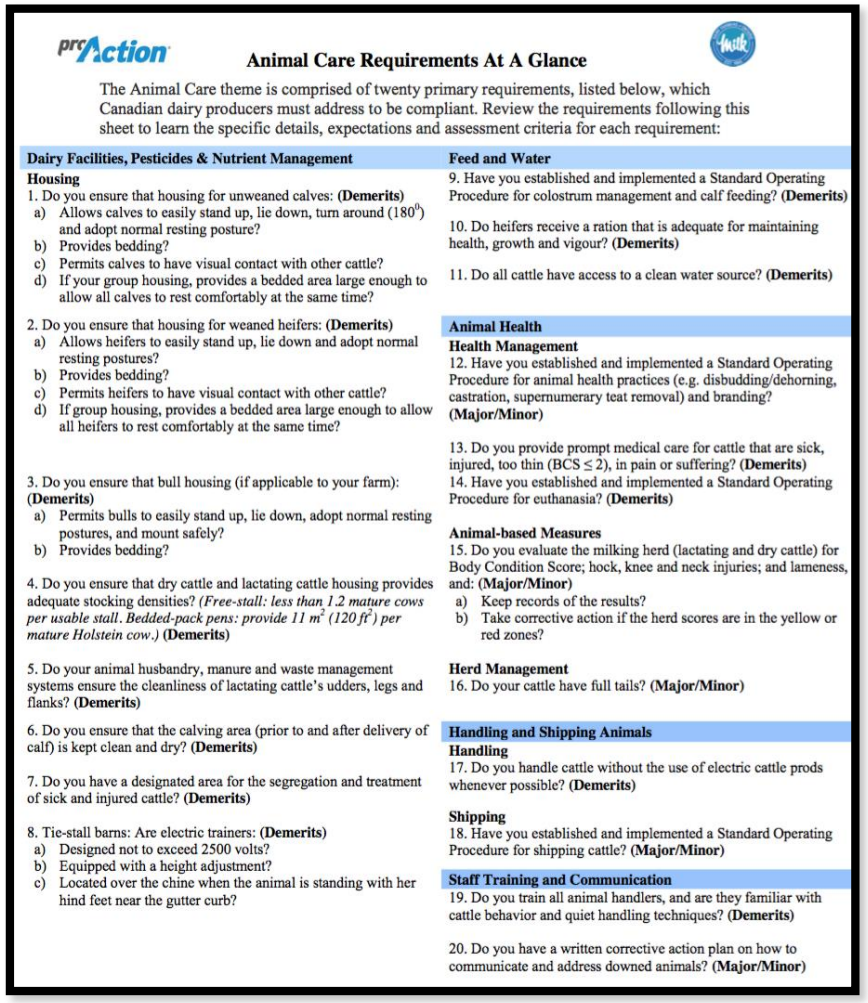
- This theme is based on the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle.

- By following the Code of Practice, Canadian dairy farmers demonstrate that they are committed to animal care.

This process assures consumers, processors and all other stakeholders that the production of raw milk in Canada meets the highest standards for animal care .



Animal Care At A Glance



Animal Care Requirements At A Glance

The Animal Care theme is comprised of twenty primary requirements, listed below, which Canadian dairy producers must address to be compliant. Review the requirements following this sheet to learn the specific details, expectations and assessment criteria for each requirement:

Dairy Facilities, Pesticides & Nutrient Management

Housing

1. Do you ensure that housing for unweaned calves: **(Demerits)**
   a) Allows calves to easily stand up, lie down, turn around (180°) and adopt normal resting posture?
   b) Provides bedding?
   c) Permits calves to have visual contact with other cattle?
   d) If your group housing, provides a bedded area large enough to allow all calves to rest comfortably at the same time?

2. Do you ensure that housing for weaned heifers: **(Demerits)**
   a) Allows heifers to easily stand up, lie down and adopt normal resting postures?
   b) Provides bedding?
   c) Permits heifers to have visual contact with other cattle?
   d) If group housing, provides a bedded area large enough to allow all heifers to rest comfortably at the same time?

3. Do you ensure that bull housing (if applicable to your farm): **(Demerits)**
   a) Permits bulls to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and mount safely?
   b) Provides bedding?

4. Do you ensure that dry cattle and lactating cattle housing provides adequate stocking densities? *(Free-stall: less than 1.2 mature cows per usable stall. Bedded-pack pens: provide 11 m² (120 ft²) per mature Holstein cow.)* **(Demerits)**

5. Do your animal husbandry, manure and waste management systems ensure the cleanliness of lactating cattle's udders, legs and flanks? **(Demerits)**

6. Do you ensure that the calving area (prior to and after delivery of calf) is kept clean and dry? **(Demerits)**

7. Do you have a designated area for the segregation and treatment of sick and injured cattle? **(Demerits)**

8. Tie-stall barns: Are electric trainers: **(Demerits)**
   a) Designed not to exceed 2500 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?

Feed and Water

9. Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for colostrum management and calf feeding? **(Demerits)**

10. Do heifers receive a ration that is adequate for maintaining health, growth and vigour? **(Demerits)**

11. Do all cattle have access to a clean water source? **(Demerits)**

Animal Health

Health Management

12. Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for animal health practices (e.g. disbudding/dehorning, castration, supernumerary teat removal) and branding? **(Major/Minor)**

13. Do you provide prompt medical care for cattle that are sick, injured, too thin (BCS ≤ 2), in pain or suffering? **(Demerits)**

14. Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for euthanasia? **(Demerits)**

Animal-based Measures

15. Do you evaluate the milking herd (lactating and dry cattle) for Body Condition Score; hock, knee and neck injuries; and lameness, and: **(Major/Minor)**
   a) Keep records of the results?
   b) Take corrective action if the herd scores are in the yellow or red zones?

Herd Management

16. Do your cattle have full tails? **(Major/Minor)**

Handling and Shipping Animals

Handling

17. Do you handle cattle without the use of electric cattle prods whenever possible? **(Demerits)**

Shipping

18. Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for shipping cattle? **(Major/Minor)**

Staff Training and Communication

19. Do you train all animal handlers, and are they familiar with cattle behavior and quiet handling techniques? **(Demerits)**

20. Do you have a written corrective action plan on how to communicate and address downed animals? **(Major/Minor)**

Addresses:

- Housing
- Feed and water
- Animal health
- Handling and shipping
- Staff training and communication

Scoring (20 requirements total)

- 5 Major/Minor Requirements
- 15 Demerit-based Requirements

On Farm Assessment

Comprised of three main elements

1. Visual assessment, observation and interviews

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1. Visual assessment, observation and interviews

1. Standard Operating Procedures:
    - Colostrum management & calf feeding
    - Animal health practices & branding
        - Disbudding/dehorning, castration, supernumerary teat removal
    - Euthanasia
    - Shipping cattle

On Farm Assessment

Comprised of three main aspects

1. Visual assessment, observation and interviews

1. Standard Operating Procedures:

1. Animal-Based Measures
    - Assessing injuries (hocks, knees, neck), BCS, lamness
    - Holstein Canada Classifiers are ‘assessors’
    - Must be complete 12-months prior to validation date
        - Within 24 months for first 2 years
    - Validator (FSR) will look for completion and score

First two years are a data collection phase;
producers must simply complete the assessment

Animal Care Req. 1

Do you ensure that housing for unweaned calves: **(Demerits)**

a) Allows calves to easily stand up, lie down, turn around (180^0), and adopt normal resting posture?

a) Provides bedding?

a) Permits calves to have visual contact with other cattle?

a) If group housing, provides a bedded area large enough to allow all calves to rest comfortably at the same time?

ANIMAL CARE

Animal Care Req. 2

Do you ensure that housing for weaned heifers: **(Demerits)**

a) Allows heifers to easily stand up, lie down, and adopt normal resting posture?

a) Provides bedding?

a) Permits heifers to have visual contact with other cattle?

a) If group housing, [illegible] to all[illegible] me time?

Animal Care Req. 3

Do you ensure that bull housing (if applicable): **(Demerits)**

a) Permits bulls to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures and mount safely?

a) Provides bedding

ANIMAL CARE

Animal Care Req. 4

Do you ensure that dry cattle and lactating cattle housing provides adequate stocking densities? **(Demerits)**

Free stall: Must not exceed 1.2 mature cows per useable stall

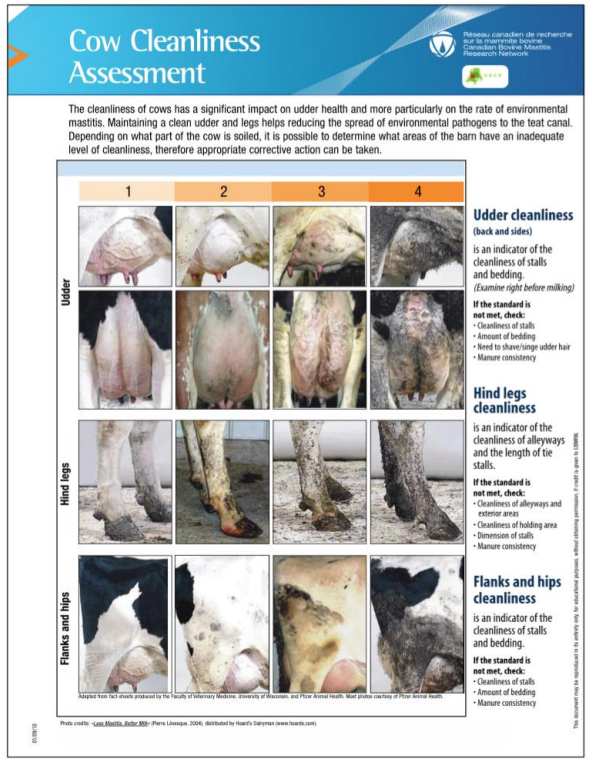
Stocking Density = # mature cows / # usable stalls

Bedded pack: Provide 11m^2 (120ft^2) per mature Holstein cow

Square footage of bedding area and scrape alley / # cattle in pen

Animal Care Req. 5

Do your animal husbandry, manure and waste management systems ensure the cleanliness of lactating cattle's udders, legs, and flanks? **(Demerits)**



Clean is defined as Scores 1 or 2

Demerits assigned if >20% of herd scores 3 or 4

Animal Care Req. 6

Do you ensure that the calving area (prior to and after delivery of calf) is kept clean and dry?
(Demerits)

Tie-stall calving acceptable if grate covered

Stocking density of 11m^2 (120ft^2) should be maintained

Animal Care Req. 7

Do you have a designated area for the segregation and treatment of sick and injured cattle?
(Demerits)

Animal Care Req. 8

Tie-stall barns: Are electric trainers: **(Demerits)**

a) Designed not to exceed 2500 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?

120 cm (48 inches)

5 cm (2 inches) for training

10 cm (4 inches) normally

Animal Care Req. 9

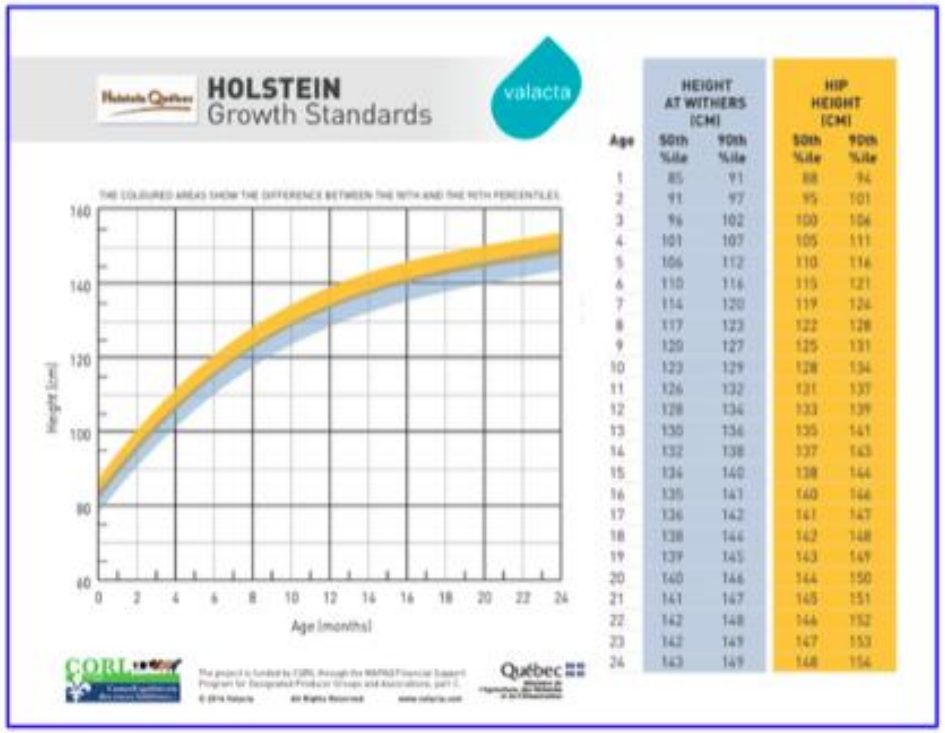
Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for colostrum management and calf feeding? **(Demerits)**

Three required elements

SOP wizard to be made available…

Animal Care Req. 10

Do heifers receive a ration that is adequate for maintaining health, growth and vigour? **(Demerits)**



www.dairyfarmers.ca

Animal Care Req. 11

Do all cattle have access to a clean water source? **(Demerits)**

Animal Care Req. 12

Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for animal health practices (e.g. disbudding/dehorning, castration, supernumerary teat removal) and branding? **(Major/Minor)**

Disbudding/dehorning:
- 3 required elements

Castration
- 1 required element

Supernumerary teat removal
- 1 required element

Branding
- 1 required element

Animal Care Req. 13

ANIMAL CARE

Do you provide prompt medical care for cattle that are sick, injured, too thin (BCS ≤ 2), in pain or suffering? **(Demerits)**

Animal Care Req. 14

Have you established a Standard Operating Procedure for euthanasia?
(Demerits)

Three required elements

Animal Care Req. 15

Do you evaluate the milking herd (lactating and dry cattle) for Body Condition Score; hock, knee and neck injuries and lameness and: **(Major/Minor)**

a) Keep records of the results?

a) Take corrective action if herd scores are in the yellow or red zones?

Assessment Logistics

- Assessment must be complete within 12-months prior to on-farm validation
  - May be within 24 months for first 2 years
  - Not needed for self-declaration years

Assessment Logistics

- Assessment must be complete within 12-months prior to validation

- Holstein Canada completing assessments (First 2 years)
  - Will evaluate:
    - Hock, knee, neck injuries
    - BCS
    - Lameness

Assessment Logistics

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  - Must be a random sample
    - See sample size chart

Assessment Logistics

- Assessment must be complete within 12-months prior to validation

- Holstein Canada completing assessments (First 2 years)
  - Will evaluate:
    - Hock, knee, neck injuries
    - BCS
    - Lameness

  - Must be a random sample
    - See sample size chart

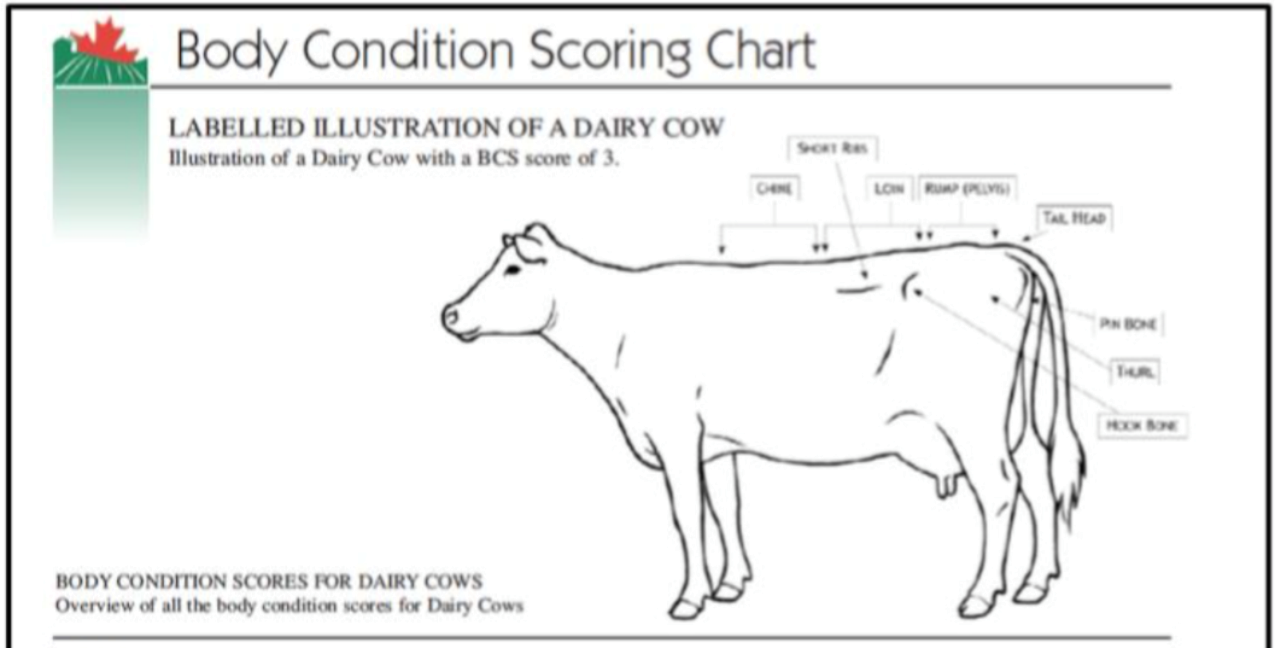
  - Cost:
    - Free for existing classifying clients, OR
    - $100 call fee + $6/cow assessed for non-classifying clients

Assessment Logistics

- Assessment must be complete within 12-months prior to validation
- Holstein Canada completing assessments (1st two year)
- First 2 years to establish benchmarks

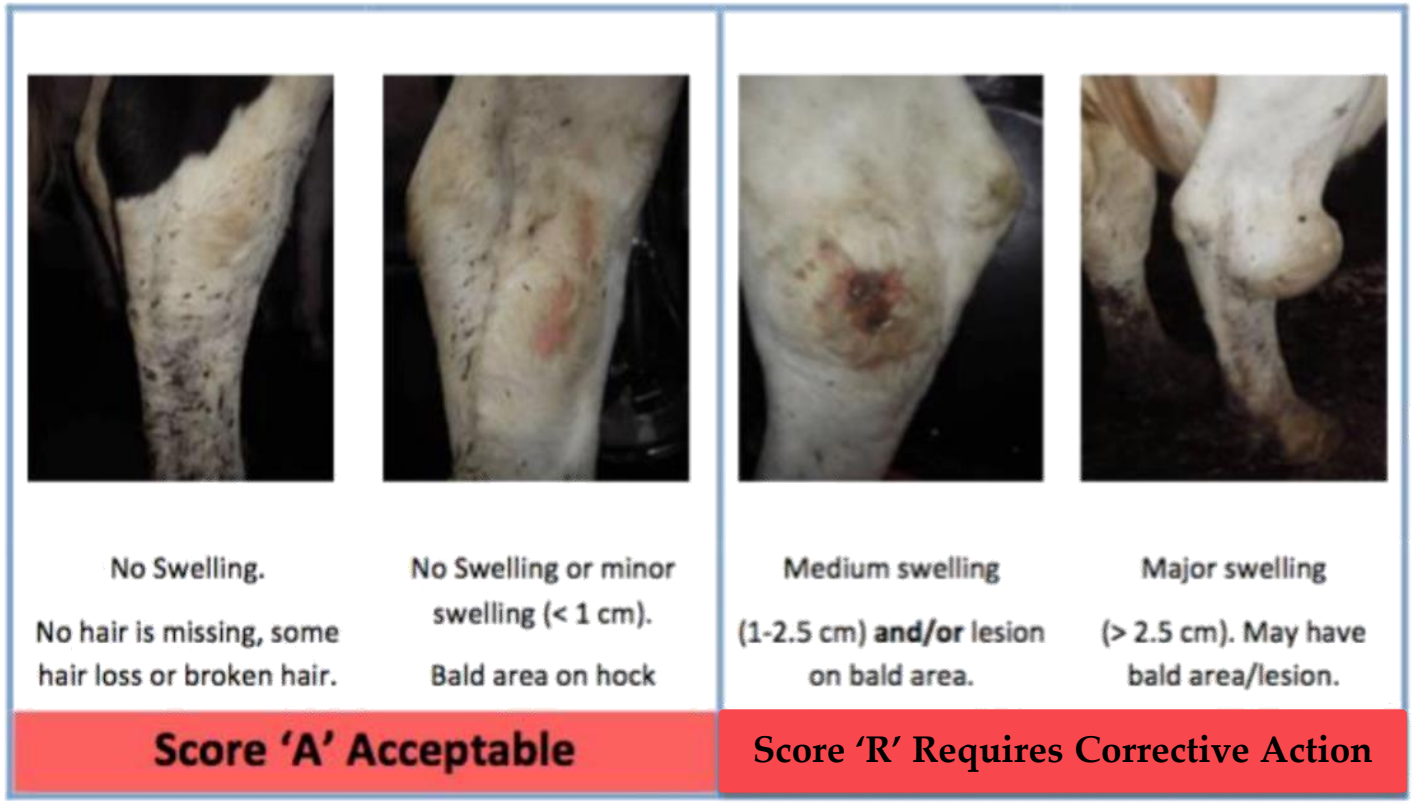
Body Condition

- Acceptable animals score >2 using the BCS Chart



Injuries: Hocks

- L and R hock of each animal assessed – worst score recorded



Injuries: Knees

- L and R knee of each animal assessed – worst score recorded

Score 'A' Acceptable

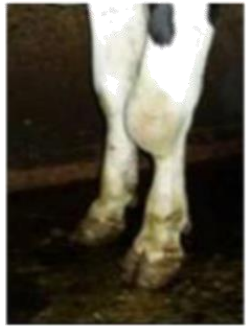
No Swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair.

No Swelling. Bald area.

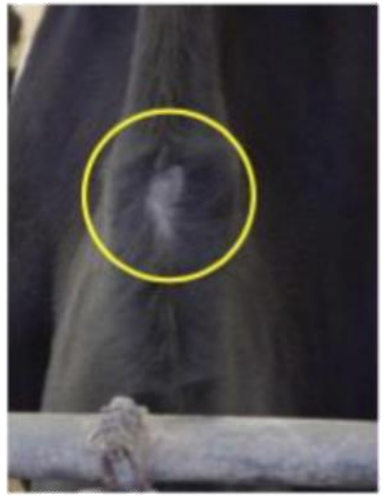
Score 'R' Requires Corrective Action

Broken skin **or** scab **and/or** swelling (< 2.5 cm). May have bald area

Major swelling (≥ 2.5 cm). May have bald area/lesion.



Injuries: Neck

Score 'A' Acceptable		Score 'R' Requires Corrective Action
		
No swelling. No hair is missing, some hair loss or broken hair.	No swelling. Bald area visible	Broken skin or scab and/or swelling. May have bald area

Lameness

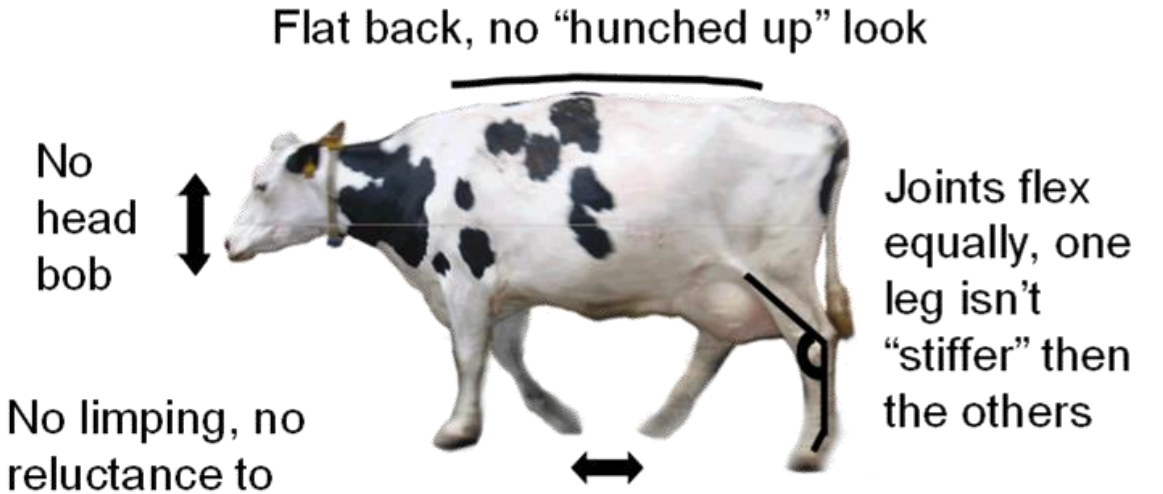
- In-Stall Lameness Assessment
  - Presence of 2 or more behavioural indicators

    - Indicators include:
      - Standing on edge
      - Weight shift
      - Uneven weight (resting)
      - Uneven movement

Video resources available soon

Lameness

- Gait/Locomotion Scoring



Flower and Weary 2006

Lameness

- Locomotion Scoring
  - Acceptable = No obvious limp present
  - Monitor = Mild or moderate limp present
  - Requires Corrective Action = Obvious or severe limp present

  - Not always obvious
    - Video resources available separately

Assessor Training

- Assessor training being developed
  - Holstein classifiers received training in June, 2016.
  - Clemence Nash, on behalf of DFC, to run

Clemence Nash, PhD(c)

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Assessor Training

- Assessor training being developed
  - Holstein classifiers received training in June, 2016.
  - Clemence Nash, on behalf of DFC, to run

- Webinars made available to veterinarians
  - Tuesday, July 19th: 7 – 9pm
  - Monday, July 25th: 7 – 9 pm
  - Recorded webinar available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5R4Rsja_53I

ANIMAL CARE

Recap

Req. 15 – Assess & keep records of animal-based measures

- Animal-based measures include:
  - Injuries (hocks, knees, neck)
  - Body condition
  - Lameness

- Completed by Holstein Canada in first 2 years

- Must be completed (that's it) within

  24 months prior to validation date