AMERICAN HUMANE CERTIFIED FARM ANIMALS

A Program of American Humane Society

Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle

with Appendices
A: Farm Manual,
B: Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool, and
C: References

American Humane
Farm Program
www.HumaneHeartland.org

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Animal Welfare Standards Guidelines

American Humane Farm Program
American Humane Certified™
Beef Cattle
Animal Welfare Standards Audit
Introduction

The ***American Humane Farm Program (American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards)*** is the product of over 140 years of applied experience in farm animal welfare. Since its beginning in 1877, American Humane has had a long history with the humane treatment of farm animals. In its work to improve the treatment of working animals and livestock in transit, American Humane has been involved in almost every major advancement in improving the welfare of animals, including an instrumental role in the enactment of the 28 Hour Transportation Law. In 1916, the U.S. Secretary of War asked American Humane to help with the rescue of horses and other animals on the battlefields of World War I. The program that followed became Red Star Emergency Services program, which continues to this day to rescue and shelter animals involved in disasters throughout the country.

Given its history, it was natural that American Humane would create the first farm animal welfare audit program. In 2000, American Humane pioneered the first third party audit and certification program in the United States to encourage and support the humane treatment of animals used for food. Organized as the Free Farmed® certification program, the first ***Animal Welfare Standards*** were based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' ***Welfare Standards***, the Federation of Animal Science Societies' ***FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching***, and the governing principles first developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) known as the "Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare":

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
- Freedom from fear and distress
- Freedom to express normal behaviors

Since its origins, American Humane's farm animal welfare standards have been and continue to be a living document. The standards and the audit process are continually reviewed and updated, using the expertise of the American Humane Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee of internationally renowned animal scientists and veterinarians advances new science and regularly evaluates the standards to ensure that the American Humane Certified™ program incorporates the best and current knowledge of humane practices.

American Humane collaborates with institutions and organizations on independent research in animal behavior as well as new handling and housing applications. The program incorporates the practical, hands-on experience of farmers and ranchers, and ensures that new technology and knowledge from veterinarians and animal research experts are shared with producers. Third-party audits help to educate, encourage, and support producers in adopting humane practices. The program promotes clear, reasoned communication with consumers and retailers about the meaning and value of humanely raised food and the benefits not only to animals but also to people.

*Note: Please refer to Appendix C of the full **Animal Welfare Standards** for a list of additional References consulted in the development of these standards.*

THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Registration

Before their products bear the American Humane Certified™ mark or label, producers show their commitment to the welfare of their animals by meeting the American Humane Certified™ standards and participating in a comprehensive certification program. When applying for the certification program, each producer provides accurate information regarding farm management, the number of cows, bulls, the birthing percentage and weaning weight of calves, replacement heifers, cull cows and cattle finished with monthly number of pounds of beef sold. They provide the physical address of the farm along with the name of the farm manager and detailed phone/email contact information, and they report records of production. The American Humane Certified™ program keeps record of each farm's animal housing system information. Producers provide source information for replacement animals as well as the name of the animal welfare trained transport agent used when cattle are moved from the farm for any reason. They report the name of their marketing or producer group and any other quality assurance programs to which they belong. They report any animal welfare, biosecurity, and health-related issues or events that arise during the year.

Certification & Verification

In order to receive certification from the American Humane Certified™ program, each site is audited by a trained, independent auditor to ensure that animals are housed in environments conducive to their welfare and in compliance with the program standards. The stockpersons participate in ongoing humane training and each operation is audited and certified annually, to ensure that humane husbandry is practiced daily and is a part of the overall site management plan. Producers using the American Humane Certified™ mark or label on their product packaging or promotional materials stipulate and verify that their animals are from sites participating in the American Humane Certified™ program.

ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS GUIDELINES

Office Records/ Management

A high degree of caring and responsible management and stockmanship is vital to ensure good animal welfare. Managers and stockpersons must be thoroughly trained, skilled, and competent in animal husbandry and welfare. They must have a good working knowledge of their system and the cattle under their care.

The following records and documentation must be made available to the auditor at the time of the audit. These are to be maintained in the form of a Farm Manual. Ranches may use their own forms or they may use the Farm Manual template forms provided in Appendix A.

Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct

Company Policy

The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy, which must include as a minimum an emphasis of the company's commitment to providing an environment which promotes high standards of animal welfare; the inclusion of a "zero-tolerance" policy which states that willful acts of abuse towards the animals will not be tolerated and upon the discretion of the company, are grounds for dismissal, including but not limited to beating or slamming gates on the cattle, using any prod inappropriately (on sensitive areas of the animal) and/or using the electric prod when neither the welfare of the animal or of the handler is in immediate jeopardy, using electric immobilization for any reason, driving the animals atop one another, and goading or dragging a downer animals; and the implementation of an animal welfare "whistle blower" policy that protects employees who report animal welfare issues.

American Humane recommends that the producer implement an incentive policy which rewards stockpersons/ crews for excellence in humane husbandry.

Employee Code of Conduct

An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct, which must include as a minimum statements that: all personnel are expected to handle the cattle in a positive and compassionate manner at all times; each worker has the responsibility for and is expected to contribute to upholding high standards of animal welfare at all times as they perform their own duties; in addition to the worker's assigned duties, each also must be cognizant that the basic requirements such as adequate feed, water, and biosecurity must be provided to the cattle daily, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities are lacking; and all personnel have access to the ***Animal Welfare Incident Report*** or a similar company document or company protocol for reporting incidences, and personnel must be instructed to complete and submit this document whenever they observe incidences related to animal welfare that cause them concern.

Office Records & Documentation

Records of Production

Each producer must maintain and make available comprehensive production records for at least one year in electronic, graphic, or tabular form, recording performance parameters including but not limited to: animal movement logs (incoming and outgoing cattle); numbers and ages (i.e. life cycle- calf, heifer, etc.) of mortalities (with reasons stated, if known); numbers and ages of cull cattle (with reasons stated); and numbers and ages of downer cattle.

Site Checklists

Records must be available for at least one year for each site with the following information for all cattle previously and currently maintained on that site: numbers of calves bought and calves sold; numbers of stockers bought and stockers sold; number of finished stock; total square feet of bedding/ loafing area; number of free-stalls or bedded (loafing) area; total square feet available to livestock; total grazing acres available where applicable; and site capacity in relation to age, weight, feeding and drinking, and bedding space.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be available as regularly updated, comprehensive written instructions, in workers' native language, relating to daily, weekly, and monthly activities and procedures. Examples include but are not limited to: protocols for required periodic inspections of animals and facilities; protocols of inspections of equipment, routine maintenance and cleaning, and back-up protocols; any biosecurity protocols (e.g. maintaining fences, checking rodent bait, etc.); SOPs for calves & weaning; SOPs for humane handling; SOPs for care & handling of sick or injured animals; SOPs for identification; SOPs for transportation; SOPs for slaughter; and any additional procedures to maintain compliance with any applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Emergency Response Plan

The Emergency Response Plan must be available at the main office. This plan must include contingency plans and precautions to cope with emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals, and the procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc.; procedures to ensure that responsible individuals (and alternates, if necessary) can be notified. This should include primary and alternate contact numbers for the individual(s) responsible for reacting to emergencies, i.e. stockpersons/ managers, family members, and/or owner as appropriate. Note: it is recommended to provide contact numbers for at least three responsible stockpersons and/or family members when possible, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary. The ERP should also include emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. site address and other relevant information, contacts for the fire department, local utilities, etc.

Nutrition, Lighting, & Herd Health Plans

Nutrition Plan

A Nutrition Plan must be available at the main office. This plan must include certification or proof that the diet has been developed in consultation with a qualified cattle nutritionist OR in consultation with the veterinarian or other qualified individual using commercially mixed feed. Documentation (such as a letter from the beef cattle nutritionist/ other qualified individual) must be available which demonstrates that the diet conforms to the following requirements: The diet has been developed in accordance with guidelines provided by the most recently published National Research Council (NRC) standards. Feedstuffs do not contain ruminant-derived protein sources with the exception of milk and milk products. Growth hormones/ growth promoters are not used as additives to the feed in the stated formulation for the stated producer. Neither in-feed antibiotics nor anti-parasitic agents are used in the stated formulation for the stated producer, except and unless for permitted therapeutic reasons as prescribed by an attending veterinarian and as documented in the Herd Health Plan.

The Nutrition Plan must also provide specifications for a diet which is adjusted as appropriate to the age and breed of the cattle in order to promote balanced nutrition. In all cases, nutritional maintenance through feeding of quality forage, mineral concentrates, etc. is provided to maintain good health. Cattle must not be maintained in an environment that is likely to predispose them to nutrient deficiency. Managers must be aware of any mineral deficiencies to correct these as appropriate. Changes to the type and quantity of feed diet must be introduced gradually in order to limit the risks of digestive problems such as acidosis. Adult cattle must be provided with a supplemental source of fiber to promote rumination. The fiber must be of such quality and length at to stimulate rumination and help avoid acidosis by aiding in proper digestion.

As a part of the Nutrition Plan, feed records that have been retained for at least one year, including identification of feed mills and whether these are major or minor source of feed; the feed constituents/ feed concentrates (minerals/amino acids, etc.) used at each site; a written record of the feed ingredients, and the inclusion rate of compound feeds and feed supplements; and records from the feed supplier with a statement of compliance that feed ingredients meet all FDA requirements for feed safety.

Lighting

Adequate lighting, whether natural or artificial, fixed or portable, must be available to enable cattle and facilities/equipment to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

Herd Health Plan

A written Herd Health Plan (HHP) must be available at the main office. This plan must include:

- ❑ Certification or proof that the HHP has been developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian:
    - The herd veterinarian must sign and date the HHP; and
    - The HHP must be annually updated;
- ❑ Records of vaccination protocols and any vaccinations;
- ❑ Records of treatment protocols and any treatments, including:
- ❑ Identification of the animal(s);
- ❑ The type of treatment and reason for the treatment;
- ❑ Dates of treatment;
- ❑ The types/route of administration and quantities of medications used;
- ❑ Details of the therapeutic use, defined as treatment, prevention and control, as allowed by current laws, of any antibiotics (including ionophores), antiparasitics, and antifungals, which includes the requirements that antibiotics, antiparasitics, and antifungals must only be used therapeutically as prescribed by the herd veterinarian;
- ❑ Therapeutic use must be for individual animals OR for specific groups of animals only when specified by the herd veterinarian through determination that the entire group is at high risk of contracting disease;
- ❑ Therapeutic use is in conformance with the latest edition of the FDA ***Judicious Use of Antimicrobials for Beef Cattle Veterinarians*** and complies with withdrawal periods;
- ❑ Records of any surgical procedures;
- ❑ Tolerance levels for overall herd performance;
- ❑ Causes of morbidity and mortality where known; and
- ❑ Targets for other aspects of herd health.
- ❑ Neither beta-agonists nor antibiotics (except ionophores) may be used to increase feed efficiency or growth.

NOTE: Treatment must never be withheld to maintain an antibiotic-free production policy. Animals must be given appropriate treatment, including antibiotics, if prescribed by the flock veterinarian, regardless of antibiotic-free production policy.

The Herd Health Plan must also include:

- ❑ Management plans for the prevention of physical maladies;
- ❑ Although foot problems are rare in extensively raised beef cattle, attention must be given to the condition of the feet of breeding cattle depending on their pasture or pen conditions:
    - If a problem is identified, a foot care plan must be implemented as specified in the HHP, using methods that are appropriate to the condition or the animals and the individual farm;
- ❑ Action plans for the mitigation/ prevention of recurring injuries to suggest that there is a common cause and that is attributable to physical features of the environment or handling procedure;
- ❑ Practical measures that are in place to prevent or control external and internal parasitic infestations;
- ❑ Procedures to be followed in the event of an outbreak of abnormal behavior, including appropriate and immediate changes in the system of management: if abnormal behavioral activities develop repeatedly and inhibit normal functioning of the animal in any particular pen, a program of modification and enrichment must be

agreed upon together with the farm veterinarian. This excludes the repeated rubbing of brushes designed for that purpose.
    - *For observation purposes the following possible repetitive abnormal behavioral patterns may include repeated rubbing in the absence of disease, tongue rolling/aerophagia, bar biting/chewing, pica (licking/chewing solid objects), eating soil/sand/dirt, navel sucking, ear sucking, urine drinking, and/or persistent bellowing. Observations are made over an extended period of time.*
    - *Excessive mounting within feedlots may be indicative of Buller Steer Syndrome (BSS). In this case the buller steer must be removed from the pen. Although the precise cause of BSS is not known studies indicate high stocking densities are a contributing factor;* and
- ❑ The program adopted and followed for the prevention and control of organisms that cause food safety concerns.

Herd Performance Parameters

Tolerance limits for herd performance must be established. The herd must be continually monitored for herd performance parameters including production diseases, infectious diseases, and injury as a result of housing/ husbandry/ and handling.

- *This includes, for example: metabolic disorders (hypocalcaemia, hypomagnesaemia, ketosis, displaced abomasum, laminitis, bloat, acidosis), septicemia, enteritis, problems at calving, repetitive physical injury, respiratory diseases, body condition, and/or non-ambulatory animals.*

The monitoring of Herd Performance Parameters must include observations made during inspections, and the monitoring of specific health conditions by stockpersons and by the herd veterinarian.

Other aspects of herd health, such as causes of morbidity and mortality where known. All sudden deaths, disease outbreaks, and incidences where cattle are humanely euthanized must be recorded and investigated in consultation with the herd veterinarian when necessary.

When any herd performance parameter falls below the tolerance limits established by the producer and the herd veterinarian in the Herd Health Plan, or if the numbers of casualty or culled animals exceeds the parameters in the HHP, the veterinarian must be informed and management practices adjusted until the problem has been resolved.

Biosecurity Plans

Biosecurity Plan, Structural/Access

The structural biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum the maintenance of perimeter fencing for the exclusion of other livestock. For off-range facilities, such as feedlots if applicable, structural biosecurity must include policies and procedures for the exclusion of unapproved visitors and the management of all approved visitors.

Biosecurity Plan, Operational

The operational biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum: The biosecurity precautions that are taken to prevent the introduction of disease when new animals are brought to the cow/calf operation. This should include control methods/ health certificates/ or quarantine of the new animals away from other cattle for 15 to 30 days or other time by instruction of the herd veterinarian:

- ❑ Managers must be provided appropriate treatment and vaccination records by vendors when new stock is brought onto the site,
- ❑ Isolation facilities must be provided to observe and test new animals before integration with the rest of the herd, and/or the new stock must be appropriately treated (for endo/ectoparasite control), and
- ❑ Hired bulls must only be used when no alternative is available. The hired bull must be screened for its potential disease status prior to its introduction; and

Protocols to avoid cross-contamination (such as shovels not used for both manure and feed, etc.).

For off-range facilities, such as feedlots if applicable, structural biosecurity must include policies and procedures which include but are not limited to:

- ❑ Maintenance of pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping;
- ❑ Bulk feed and emergency water sources are covered and protected, and other potential attractants of pests, rodents, mold, etc. are removed;
- ❑ Facility/ equipment cleaning/sanitizing protocols and schedules; and
- ❑ (if applicable) restrictions on access of domestic or wild animals.

Waste Disposal Plan

Each location must maintain a Waste Disposal Plan which details protocols for the safe and proper disposal of medical waste, sharps, carcasses, and other waste that poses a potential threat to animal and human health and safety.

SOPs for Calves & Weaning

Colostrum for Calves

For both heifer and bull calves: it is vital that each new-born calf receives adequate, quality colostrum (2-4 quarts) from its dam, from another fresh cow, or from a frozen or dried colostrum source as soon as possible after birth, and no later than within the first 6 to 8 hours of life. The frozen or dried colostrum source must supply a minimum of 100 grams of IgG per dose. Records must show that purchased calves have received colostrum as set out above.

Thermal Environment

Proper precautions must be taken to prevent and manage hypothermia in young calves. *While healthy young calves can tolerate low air temperatures, newborn animals, calves that have been transported or deprived of food, and sick calves are all particularly susceptible to hypothermia.* Hypothermia and additional stress must be avoided in well-ventilated, unheated buildings by the use of thick, dry bedding and by preventing drafts. Sick individuals must be provided artificial heat if ambient conditions warrant. If calving on pasture, pastures must provide cows with a dry calving environment and access to natural or artificial shelter as weather conditions dictate.

Where there is a high risk of infectious disease, consideration must be given to the individual quarantining of calves for the initial rearing period up to as much as 5 weeks.

Weaning in Ranch Settings

Calves must not be weaned earlier than 3 months of age. It is recommended that calves be allowed to suckle for up to 6 months of age. Calves must be weaned with consideration given to limiting stress on the animals, for example, by weaning them into a familiar environment, by using fenceline weaning and plastic nose tabs, and/or by mixing them with heifers during the weaning process. Calves must be weaned and vaccinated no sooner than 30-45 days prior to being transported. Freshly weaned calves must never be transported. The vocalizations of freshly weaned calves must never be heard in a transport environment.

SOPs for Handling

Cattle must be handled quietly at all times, and efforts must be made to accustom/ familiarize the cattle to contact with stockpersons (handlers). *At no time are the cattle to be yelled at or screamed at. In all cases care, must be taken to avoid unnecessary pain or distress.*

Sticks and flags must be used only as benign handling aids (i.e., as extensions of the arm):

- ❑ Sticks must not be used for hitting, beating, or poking the cattle.
- ❑ Electric prods must not be used except where animal and/or human safety is in jeopardy and it is the means of last resort.
- ❑ Electric prods must not be carried by stock-keepers as a matter of course.
- ❑ Handlers must use tails gently if necessary to direct the animal's movement.

Cattle must not be driven unless the exit or the way forward for the lead cow is clear. Cattle must not be rushed or run along alleyways, passageways, or through gateways.

A cattle-handling unit must be available, comprised of a collecting system and a method of restraint, appropriate to the type, temperament, and numbers of stock to be managed.

Use of Restraints
Cattle must not be closely restrained (i.e. tethered or stanchioned) except in the following circumstances, and then for not more than 4 hours. Cattle must not be deprived of water for more than 2 hours and sooner if the cattle are outside and/or if conditions are hot. Close restraint is permitted only for the following circumstances:

- For the duration of any examination, routine test, blood sampling, veterinary treatment.
- While they are being fed.
- For the purpose of marking, washing, or weighing.
- While facilities are being cleaned.
- During artificial insemination.
- During hoof-trimming.
- Awaiting loading for transportation.

Immobilization of Cattle
Tranquilizers (chemical immobilizations) may be used only when mechanical restraint is not an option (such as to immobilize an aggressive animal), and are only to be administered by the farm veterinarian and only at his or her discretion. Tranquilizers must not be used in any situation where the animal may injure itself, such as near open water, on steep slopes, etc. The animal must be closely monitored until it has recovered and is no longer at risk of injury to itself or from other individuals. Electric immobilization is not permitted for use under any situation.

Use of Dogs
Dogs, including working dogs, must be properly trained, must not cause injury or distress to cattle, and must be kept under control at all times.

SOPs for Care & Handling of Sick or Injured Animals

All efforts must be made to ensure the rapid diagnosis, immediate treatment, and optimized recovery for any sick or injured animal. If an animal does not respond to treatment, it must be humanely euthanized. If an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain, it must be humanely and immediately euthanized. No live animal may leave the farm unless it can walk unassisted, except as noted below.

Non-Ambulatory ("Downer") Cattle
Care must be taken to avoid causing unnecessary pain or distress to a sick or injured animal that is unable to move. Animals are not moved by hoisting by chain, dragging, or lifting without complete body support. Moving by means that can cause further physical or psychological damage is prohibited. *Refer to the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) guidelines for acceptable methods of moving non-ambulatory cattle.*

> Non-ambulatory animals must not be moved by hoisting by chain, dragging, or lifting without complete body support; doing so is considered a willful act of abuse. See P/F1 also.

The use of hip-lifters is permitted only for emergency, short-term assistance. Cattle must not be left unattended when hip-lifters are in use. Hind-leg hobbles ("splitters") may be used only when necessary to prevent cattle from becoming non-ambulatory.

Medical breakthroughs in the treatment of cattle have made it possible to assist downer cattle to regain health and productivity.

Where the farm veterinarian determines that a downer animal may be successfully moved with limited levels of pain and distress, and where the veterinarian determines that the downer is a good candidate for treatment, it may be humanely transported from the farm to a medical facility using approved methods. If the farm veterinarian determines that an animal cannot be successfully transported or treated, it must be euthanized humanely and immediately. The transportation, treatment or euthanasia of the animal must be documented in the health care records in the American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual. *Refer to UC Davis "Care for the Downer Cow" for additional recommendations.*

Segregation and Care of Sick and Injured Animals
Provisions must be made for the segregation and care of sick and injured animals.

- ❑ Any animal suffering from illness or injury must be segregated and treated without delay, and veterinary advice must be sought when needed.
- ❑ If the animal does not respond to treatment or is in severe pain or suffering, and the veterinarian determines that the animal is unlikely to recover, that animal must be euthanized humanely and immediately.
- ❑ If used, hospital/ isolation pens must be of a size that is appropriate for the age, size, and breed of the animal.
- ❑ Animals in hospital pens must be able to stand up, turn around, lie down, rest, and groom themselves without hindrance.
- ❑ Water and feed must be readily accessible even to non-ambulatory animals.
- ❑ Urine and feces from hospital pens for sick and injured animals must be disposed without the risk of spreading infection to other stock.
- ❑ Pens must be constructed to facilitate effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and the possible removal of a carcass from the area.

SOPs for Identification

Where neckbands, tail-bands, ear tags, leg-bands, or RFIDs are used for identification purposes, they must be fitted with care and adjusted as required to avoid unnecessary pain or distress (for example by being too tight, etc.)

Cattle marking must be performed by trained personnel quickly, expertly, and with the proper equipment in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress. The following methods of identification are NOT permitted for use in cattle identification: Brands, jaw-brands, and ear-notching; or ear-splitting, wattling, and other surgical alterations for identification.

Livestock markers for the temporary marking of livestock (i.e., crayons, chalk, and paints) must be especially developed for that purpose and must be non-toxic.

Records of Stockperson Training

The continuing education of personnel who have day-to-day contact with the cattle is one of the most important ways to ensure behaviors that support and promote animal welfare. It is important to have documentation confirming personnel training in aspects of herd welfare appropriate to the level of operation (videos, manuals, SOPs).

Training Documentation

Documentation must be available confirming stockperson training at orientation, as well as yearly updates/refresher courses (and opportunities for continuing education and professional development) and specialized training, in aspects of animal welfare appropriate to the level of operation.

For all training of personnel: training must be presented in the workers' native language if necessary. Training may include videos, manuals, classroom settings, online instruction, etc. and/or SOPs, and must include 'hand's-on' experience and evaluations. Training must include review of the ***American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards.*** Training records must clearly define what is expected of each stockperson so that each is fully aware of their duties and responsibilities. Training records must be signed by both the trainer and the trainee, and include the training topic and date of: orientation, yearly update/ refresher course, or specialized training.

Training for All Stockpersons

Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of livestock, all stockpersons must be properly trained. As a minimum, the training program for all stockpersons in direct contact with the animals must include review of the following topics:

- ❑ Training and validation in the safe, correct and approved methods of cattle handling and use of cattle-handling units in a manner which minimizes unnecessary stress to the cattle, including:
  - understanding the behavioral characteristics of cattle and the likely stress factors that cattle may be subjected to, how cattle react towards other cattle, towards man, and to strange noises, sights, sounds, and smells;
  - using visual fields (i.e. cattle have a wide field of vision but have a blind spot behind them, which handlers should avoid entering) and flight zones (an imaginary area which if handlers enter will make the animal want to move away. Handlers control an animal's movement by understanding the flight zone);
  - lighting (as cattle prefer to move from the dark into the light); and
  - when and how to use such things as sticks and other implements;
- ❑ Knowing the normal behavior of cattle and of the herd and to recognize the signs that indicate good health and welfare so that in the eventuality of an impending problem arising they are able to recognize it at the earliest stages;
- ❑ Recognizing readily apparent behavioral actions of the cattle which indicate an inability of the animals to thermoregulate (such as heavy panting and head-bobbing) and the actions that must be taken to provide relief to the cattle, especially when immediate actions are required;
- ❑ Having a basic knowledge of what constitutes proper nutrition in cattle;
- ❑ Having knowledge of normal body conditions in cattle and the necessary steps to be taken if problems arise;
- ❑ Recognizing the signs of abnormal behavior and fear;
- ❑ Recognizing deviations from normal cattle activity;

- ❑ Understand the physical and environmental requirements for cattle throughout each season and especially during breeding, calving, weaning, etc.;
- ❑ Having a basic knowledge of the signs of common diseases, illnesses, and injuries and knowing when either direct action is required or when the responsible personnel must be notified; and
- ❑ Knowing the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, i.e. the Emergency Response Plan.

Specialized Training of Stockpersons
Documentation must be available for the training of stockpersons who are responsible for performing specialized duties, with emphasis on animal welfare, minimizing pain and distress to the animals, and optimizing health. Specialized training includes but is not limited to:

- ❑ the specific training in routine monitoring of individual cow health; recognizing unusual conditions or behaviors; recognizing signs for the early detection of injuries and lameness, sickness, and disease and the appropriate and timely remedial actions to be taken, either by the direct action of the stockperson or through the notification of the responsible personnel;
- ❑ specific training and orientation for personnel responsible for any equipment which impacts animal welfare, such as crowd gates, squeeze chutes, restraining equipment, downer handling equipment, etc., including proper use of the equipment, performing routine maintenance to ensure that the equipment is kept in good working order, recognizing common signs of malfunction, and knowing actions to be carried out in the event of equipment failure.
- ❑ understanding the fundamental principles of cattle breeding and genetics;
- ❑ training in the processes during breeding, particularly the selection of suitable bulls, semen, and embryos for use in heifers;
- ❑ training in procedures for calving and the care of the newborn calf;
- ❑ training in the functional anatomy of the normal hoof, and its care and treatment; and
- ❑ training in the functional anatomy of the normal teat and udder.

Further Training of Stockpersons
Prior to performing procedures that have the potential to cause suffering (e.g. injections, oral-dosing, foot-trimming, disbudding/ dehorning, castration, identification, etc.), the stockperson must be able to demonstrate to the trainer that they are proficient in performing those procedures, with emphasis on animal welfare, minimizing pain and distress to the animals, and optimizing recovery. Further training includes but is not limited to:

- ❑ recognizing cull cows and downer cows, determining whether and animal needs to be euthanized and who is responsible for making the decision;
- ❑ specific training and certification of the approved stockpersons' proficiency in approved techniques for euthanasia;
- ❑ training and certification in approved husbandry procedures and protocols; and
- ❑ training in the proper methods of marking/ identifying cattle in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress.

Training of Outside Workers
Workers outside of the ranch's control, such as foot trimmers, transport companies, etc., must be familiar with and conform to all requirements in these standards related to their duties, including but not limited to approved handling and moving of cattle including downers, approved protocols for the transport of cattle, and performing their duties proficiently and in a manner that minimizes undue stress to the animals etc.

Documentation must be available confirming the qualifications of any outside employees, such as training records, a Certificate of Conformance, etc.

Inspections of Livestock

Daily inspections encompass the monitoring of animals' body condition and feed/water consumption; signs of lameness; condition of the coat and leg; cleanliness of the animals; and any signs of disease. All cattle must be inspected and monitored regularly to confirm animal health and for the early detection of injuries and early signs lameness, sickness, and disease so that appropriate and timely actions may be taken.

For indoor housing, managers must inspect their livestock including all facilities (i.e. calving areas, hospital pens, bull pens, etc.) at least daily. For open range or pasture, efforts must be made to track the location of the herd and check on its condition not less than once per week or more often during extreme weather, or as soon as possible after a severe weather event such as a blizzard. During calving, more frequent inspections must be performed, including inspections of heifers for signs of impending parturition. Weather conditions must be taken into account when determining frequency of monitoring during calving season, i.e. for inclement weather, rates of inspections must increase. It is recommended that first calf heifers be kept in separate pastures from the adult cow herd.

Records must be on file at the office for a minimum of one year of the following circumstances at a minimum: records of mortalities, including the date, the age of the animal and the cause if known; and records of culls, including the date, the age of the animal and the reason for culling. Carcasses must be removed away from live animals as soon as practical after discovery, and disposed of promptly thereafter.

The stockperson performing the inspections must proceed in a careful, deliberate manner to avoid frightening the animals unnecessarily, and must follow a path that allows them to see each animal. During inspections or at any other time, if the stockperson observes any animal which appears to be behaving in an unusual manner, the stockperson must immediately notify the responsible personnel who will determine whether remedial actions are required.

Producer Observations and Scoring
Records must be on file for a minimum of one year showing that properly trained farm personnel have performed the following health observations and scoring, at least monthly for feedlots and twice per year for ranches, and including but not limited to:

- ❑ Body Condition Scoring;
- ❑ Cattle Exiting the Squeeze Chute;
- ❑ Vocalizations During Procedures;
- ❑ Slips and Falls Scoring;
- ❑ Lameness/ Locomotion Scoring;
- ❑ Leg Condition Scoring;
- ❑ Coat Condition Scoring; and
- ❑ Mud Scoring.

These records must be filed as part of the Animal Health Plan. Where scoring falls outside of the acceptable limits noted in the Herd Performance Parameters, records must document the actions taken and that subsequent scoring was within acceptable limits. *Note: Specifications for sample size and performance criteria are listed in the 'Environment' section.*

Records must indicate that when welfare issues are noted during inspections, i.e. when Animal Performance data are outside of the limits defined in the HHP, then the rate of inspections has been increased until parameters return to acceptable levels.

Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment

Equipment Inspections
Stockpersons must inspect all equipment on which the livestock rely on a daily basis, such as water troughs and feeding facilities and whether the equipment is manual or automatic. Stockpersons must also perform routine, scheduled maintenance as defined in the SOPs. Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time): It must be rectified immediately; or if the defect cannot be rectified immediately, the stockperson must follow measures as specified in the SOPs or take other action in order to safeguard the animals from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect. These measures must be maintained until the defect has been rectified. Routine maintenance must be performed per the equipment manufacturer's recommendations.

Inspections and Maintenance of Water Systems
Water systems must be inspected and maintained daily to confirm that clean, fresh water is readily available to the cattle: water availability must be checked daily; water delivery must be monitored to make sure water is provided at all times; that is, the water delivery system must keep pace with the demand of the maximum number of cattle who are able to drink at the same time; all water sources must be checked for contaminants such as elevated levels of feed, algae, manure, nitrates, pathogens, etc.; and samples of water must be taken and recorded periodically to ensure that water quality is acceptable for cattle. *State or local water quality requirements must be followed.*

Inspections and Maintenance of Water in Range/Pasture Conditions
In addition to the above, where cattle are kept primarily on pasture: during the winter, the water source must be kept clear of ice; the area around the water troughs must be managed to avoid excessive wetting and, if necessary, water troughs must be placed on concrete aprons to limit mud or sodden ground; periodic review of streams and ponds must be done and corrected where deemed incompatible with the animals' ability to stay hydrated; the potential contamination of rivers, ponds, or streams with cattle feces must be considered; and local, state, and federal laws regarding cattle access to running or still water resources must be followed. *The type of terrain and the weather conditions will dictate where water resources must be located. Wherever possible, troughs and gateways must be sited away from the bottom of slopes and dips in the ground. This will ensure better drainage and will allow areas of deep mud to be avoided. If necessary, troughs should be placed on concrete aprons.*

Inspections and Maintenance of Auxiliary Power Supply:
Where the cattle are dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed: An auxiliary power supply (such as a standby generator), must be available and tested and maintained at least yearly or per manufacturer recommendations. The auxiliary power supply must have sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, water pumps, and lights for at least 24 hours. *An auxiliary power supply is not required on ranches where the cattle are not dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water in feed.*

Ventilation & Environmental Controls for Indoor Facility
Maximum and minimum temperatures must be recorded daily. Ventilation equipment must be checked daily and maintained for proper operation. Ventilation rates must be monitored daily, and adjustments made in order to maintain minimum ventilation requirements and to maintain air quality parameters.

Monitoring of Air Quality for Enclosed Environments
Where cattle are housed in an enclosed environment, ammonia levels, measured monthly at the height of the animals at multiple locations in the facility, are ideally less than 10 ppm but in any case, must not exceed 25 parts per million. Inhalable dust must not exceed 10 mg/m^3. If a monthly test result exceeds either limit, a program of mitigation must be adopted with records kept, and testing must be performed weekly until level return to acceptable limits. *Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer.*

Inspections and Maintenance of Fencing
All fencing must be adequately inspected and maintained and be free of sharp projections, protuberances, and other surfaces that may cause injury to the animals. Electric fences must be designed, installed, used, and maintained so that contact with them does not cause more than momentary discomfort to the cattle.

SOPs for Husbandry and Other Procedures

Husbandry Procedures

Where necessary, producers must use only approved, humane husbandry procedures accepted by the American Humane Certified™ program. Husbandry procedures must be performed at the earliest possible age. These practices must not be performed on sick or injured animals. All of these practices must be performed by trained and competent personnel or the herd veterinarian using appropriate, well-maintained equipment in a way which minimizes suffering and optimizes recovery.

Teat Removal:

- ❑ Removal of supernumerary teats is not permitted unless their presence interferes with the suckling of the regular teats. In these cases, removal of supernumerary teats must be performed within 4 months under local anesthesia.
- ❑ If removal of supernumerary teats is necessary for calves or heifers older than 4 months of age, the procedure must be performed under local anesthesia by a veterinarian.

  Note: The removal of supernumerary teats is a rare procedure for beef cattle.

Disbudding/Dehorning:

- ❑ The cautery paste method of disbudding is permissible for use only for calves less than 7 days of age.
- ❑ The hot iron method of disbudding is permissible for use only for calves less than 30 days of age and must be performed under local anesthesia.
- ❑ After 30 days of age, if dehorning is determined to be necessary, the procedure must be performed by a veterinarian under local anesthesia and the calves must be given NSAID treatment for post-procedure pain management. Efforts must be made to avoid dehorning older cattle unless they prove to be dangerous to herd-mates or human handlers.

  Note: The use of polled breeds minimizes the need to disbud.

Castration:

- ❑ Castration must be performed at the earliest possible age. Castration through the application of a band (rubber ring) to restrict blood flow to the scrotum is permissible after 24 hours of age and up through 4 days of age.
- ❑ Where this is not possible, after 24 hours of age and up to 2 months of age, castration through use of a Burdizzo clamp, or surgical castration performed by the veterinarian under anesthesia, are permissible.
- ❑ After 2 months of age, castration must be performed surgically by the veterinarian under local anesthesia with provisions made to control bleeding.

Surgical Procedures:

- ❑ Surgical procedures such as Caesarian-sections must be performed by a qualified veterinarian.

Induction of parturition must not be used as a routine management procedure, but is only permissible per a veterinarian's recommendation. Non-veterinarians performing per-rectum pregnancy detection must have received appropriate training. Calving aids must only be used to assist a delivery and not to produce a calf as quickly as possible. Before any type of calving aid is used, the cow must be examined to ensure that the calf is of a size where natural delivery can be reasonably expected without causing undue pain and distress to either the dam or the offspring.

Euthanasia Policy

The Euthanasia Policy includes provisions for routine euthanasia (culls). Euthanasia and disposal of carcasses must be consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely, routine and emergency, euthanasia. This policy must include:

- ❑ Only properly trained farm personnel or the herd veterinarian are to perform euthanasia.
- ❑ Training records which identify: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training; the name of the trainer; the specific method(s) of euthanasia covered in the training; confirmation that the trainees' competence in performing the procedure was validated by the trainer, including proper techniques and proper use of any equipment; and the date(s) that the training occurred.
- ❑ Procedures stating that:
    - If there is any doubt as to whether euthanasia is required: the herd veterinarian or properly trained personnel must be called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible; OR
    - If the herd veterinarian or properly trained personnel determine that an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain or is unable to move on its own accord, then the animal must be promptly and humanely euthanized to prevent further suffering.
- ❑ For euthanasia equipment: records showing that equipment has been maintained per the manufacturer's recommendations and that it is stored securely, protected from the elements, and kept clean.
- ❑ The approved methods of euthanasia that are to be used for each age group of animals and under what circumstances. These methods must be performed promptly to prevent further suffering and must be approved by and comply with the latest edition of the American Veterinary Medical Association's ***AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.***
- ❑ Procedures stating that the persons performing euthanasia must verify that each animal has been properly euthanized through the absence of breathing for five minutes; a heartbeat for five minutes; and/ or a corneal reflex (i.e. blinking reflex upon touching the eye.) If the animal is not successfully euthanized, the same or an alternate method is performed immediately to ensure that the animal does not suffer.
- ❑ Logs stating the reason for euthanasia, the date, the competent personnel performing the euthanasia, the numbers of animals euthanized, and the procedure used.
- ❑ Procedures for the proper disposal of carcasses, and records of the name of the outlet through which all such carcasses are disposed, unless carcasses are disposed of on-farm, in which case records are kept of the disposal method. Disposal must meet all state, local, and/or federal regulations.

Nothing stated here is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment of any ill or injured animal.

On-Site/ Food & Water

Livestock must have freedom from hunger, thirst, and malnutrition by providing ready access to fresh water and a diet that maintains full health and promotes a positive state of well-being. Feed and water must be distributed in such a way that livestock can eat and drink without undue competition.

Food

Body Condition Score

All cattle whether in ranch conditions or at the feedlot must be fed a wholesome and appropriate diet for their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity so that they sustain full health and normal reproductive capability over their maximum foreseeable lifespan. Cattle must have daily access to food, unless otherwise required by a veterinarian.

Body Condition Score (BCS) must be assessed during regular observation periods such as weaning, 30 days post-weaning, 90 days before calving, at calving, and at the beginning of breeding season. 98% of cattle and calves must have a BCS of 3 or above on a 9-point scale. (There must be less than 2% with a BCS less than 3.) Note: Any animal with a BCS of less than 3 must be under individual treatment and nutritional care in order to bring BCS back to acceptable levels. 95% of cattle and calves must have a BCS of 7 or less on a 9-point scale. (There must be less than 5% with a BCS of 8 or 9.) Note: any animal with a BCS of 8 or 9 must have a documented nutrition plan in concert with the nutritionist and veterinarian in order to bring BCS back to acceptable levels. *Note: Body Condition Score is considered a Core Criterion as evidence of animal health. Unacceptable BCS at the site may result in probation from the American Humane Certified™ program.*

Feeder Space

Feed availability and feeder space must be provided such that cattle do not need to compete for food. See Supplement, Table 1 at the end of the ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** for Feeder Space recommendations. Extra trough space must be made available if a restricted diet is applied. Troughs must be kept clean and stale food removed on a daily basis. Automatic feeding equipment must be kept clean and free of stale feed and be maintained in good working order.

All stored feed must be free of bird or rodent feces and vermin. Non-feed items/products (such as herbicides and pesticides, chemicals, machinery oil, etc.) must not be stored in the feed mixing or ingredient and supplement storage areas. Control practices must be in place to minimize access to poisonous plants and unsuitable feedstuffs.

Water

Access to Water

All cattle, including calves older than 1 day and cattle in confinement, must be provided with continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day, except when otherwise required by the attending veterinarian. The availability of water, which includes the flow rate of the water delivery systems, must meet the demands of the herd: at least 10% of the herd must be able to drink at any one time; the line of animals waiting to drink at water stations must be no more than three animals deep; and water tanks, troughs, etc. must be full when not being used, and must not completely drain when cattle are drinking. Waterers must be placed at a height appropriate to the size and age of the cattle.

For indoor housing cattle, must have access to water at all times. All waterers must be kept thoroughly clean, and watering equipment is designed, constructed, placed, and maintained so that contamination of the animals' water is minimized. Water troughs must not leak resulting in wetting/fouling of the bedded areas. *The area surrounding water tanks, troughs, etc. should be on concrete where possible.*

When cattle are kept primarily on pasture, clean, fresh water must always be available, and must meet the requirements for 'Access to Water' noted above. During winter, the water supply must be kept clear of ice. The area around the water troughs must be managed to avoid excessive wetting/ sodden ground and mud. Local, state, and federal laws regarding access to running or still water resources must be followed. *If necessary, water troughs should be placed on concrete aprons to limit mud or sodden ground.*

Emergency Water Supply

Provisions must be in place to ensure an emergency supply of suitable drinking water in case normal supplies fail (e.g., due to freezing, drought, power failure, well malfunction, etc.) for at least 24 hours.

On-Site/ Environment

The environment in which livestock are kept must take into account their welfare needs and provide the best husbandry approaches; must meet all industry standards and governmental regulations; must be designed to protect them from physical and thermal discomfort, fear, and distress; and must allow them to perform their natural behaviors. All equipment and fixtures must be selected, installed, and maintained to optimize the well-being of the cattle. The animals must be protected from pain, injury, and disease, and their environment must be conducive to good health.

Sites

A copy of the current ***American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle*** must be available on-site as a reference for all stockpersons.

Biosecurity, Structural/Access

Structural biosecurity must be demonstrated at a minimum through proper maintenance of perimeter fencing for the exclusion of other livestock.

For off-range facilities such as feedlots, if applicable, structural biosecurity must be demonstrated by: any physical methods (i.e. secured or restricted access to facilities, signs posted at facility entrances, etc.) for the exclusion of unapproved visitors; signs posted at the facility which provide instructions and information for approved visitors regarding biosecurity procedures; and logging of all approved visitors. Non-farm personnel are not permitted on the site except by approval from site managers, and unless appropriate precautions have been taken to prevent contamination between farms.

Biosecurity, Operational

For off-range facilities such as feedlots, if applicable, operational biosecurity must be demonstrated at a minimum by: the maintenance of pest and predator control methods such as baiting and trapping; if appropriate, the protection of bulk feed and emergency water sources, and the removal of other potential attractants of pests, rodents, and predators; and evidence that facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules are being followed.

Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact Information, in worker's native language, must be available at the main office. This must include: emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc. and site address; primary and alternate contact numbers for the notification of individual(s) responsible for reacting to emergencies, i.e. stockpersons/ managers, family members, and/or owner as appropriate. *Note: it is recommended to provide contact numbers for at least three responsible farm workers and/or family members when possible, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary;* and procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc., and contingency plans and precautions to cope with emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals.

Environmental Safety

Environmental Safety

There must be no physical features of the external or internal environment which cause recurring injuries to cattle. *Injury is defined as damage severe enough for the formation of granular scar tissue that is to an extent significantly greater than would be caused by accidental bumps and scratches. Excessive occurrence of the following may be indicators of a poor environment: neck calluses; knee and/or hock swellings/calluses; teat/udder injuries; broken tails; hematomas; chronic scar tissue; soft hooves; inter-digital infections; laminitis; abscesses; and/or bruised soles.*

The interior of any building, including the floor and all internal fittings/surfaces to which livestock have access, must be designed, constructed, maintained, and regularly inspected to ensure that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury or distress to the animal. This includes the provisions of adequate and safe holding and handling facilities (whether indoors or outdoors) as well as to transportation vehicles. Particular attention must be paid to handling pens. Floors must be made of non-slip material or must be maintained to reduce the risk of slipping (sand, mats, or other materials are applied when necessary). Floors must not be so rough as to cause hoof damage. *Lesions and wounds on animals along with lameness are indicators of building conditions which needs immediate remediation. See also "Lameness/Locomotion Score" below.*

Except where preservatives with an insecticidal role are used, cattle or calves must not come into contact with toxic fumes from chemicals. All electrical installations must be inaccessible to cattle, well-insulated, safeguarded from rodents, properly grounded, and regularly tested for stray voltage. Building alleyways, passages, or gateways must be maintained in order to prevent injury to the animals. Passages such as gates or alleys must be of such a design and width, and so constructed, to allow two animals to pass freely (except in chutes or races). Chutes and races must be designed to prevent balking and permit cattle to move smoothly through the system in a single line. Care must have been taken to minimize, and ideally exclude, the number of blind alleyways in the buildings, in order to avoid the incidences of bullying by dominant animals. Internal surfaces of housing and pens must be made of materials which can readily be cleansed and disinfected or easily be replaced when necessary. Where used, euthanasia equipment must show no obvious signs of neglect, i.e. rust, dirt and grime, and must be stored in a secure location protected from the elements.

Auxiliary Power Supply

Auxiliary Power Supply

Where cattle rely on mechanical ventilation or electricity for water or feed, an auxiliary power supply, such as a standby generator, must be available and functional. A stockperson must demonstrate to the auditor that the auxiliary power supply is available and functional. *An auxiliary power supply is not required on ranches where the cattle are not dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed.*

Thermal Environment & Ventilation

The thermal environment within buildings which cattle are housed must not be so hot or so cold as to cause distress. Pasture or range conditions must allow cattle access to features that allow relief during severe thermal swings. When cattle are kept in partially roofed units they must be provided with effective shelter from the wind and a dry, comfortable lying area.

For all cattle, an assessment of their surrounding environmental temperature and air movement (draft) must be undertaken, taking into account breed hardiness, age of stock, foreseeable climatic conditions, and natural shelter/shade.

Effective ventilation of buildings must be provided, permitting air movement at low velocity while avoiding drafts and ingress of rain and snow. Building ventilation must achieve a relative humidity below 80% when ambient conditions allow. System must provide adequate ventilation to remove the moisture produced by the stock and to reduce the number of airborne pathogens being passed from animal to animal. Ventilation system must include sufficient and correctly positioned air inlets/ outlets and correct air inlet-outlet height differential. A professional must be consulted to rectify ventilation problems, including modifications to the ventilation rates and/or equipment.

Where the automatic equipment includes a ventilation system, the system must contain an alarm which will give adequate warning of the failure of that system to function properly, and which will operate even if the principal electricity supply to it has failed; and additional equipment or means of ventilation (whether automatic or not) which, in the event of such a failure of the ventilation system, will provide adequate ventilation so as to prevent the livestock from suffering unnecessary distress as a result of the failure.

When cattle are housed in an enclosed environment, provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer as specified by Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA standards for particulates. Specifically, ammonia levels measured by the auditor in enclosed locations must not exceed 25 ppm.

Lighting

For fully enclosed housing, artificial lighting must be provided as needed to supplement natural light. The daytime light levels must be bright enough to allow facilities and animals to be inspected and workers to perform their duties without additional portable lighting (such as a flashlight, portable lamp, etc.)

Adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable must be available to enable the cattle to be thoroughly inspected at any time.

Lying Area/ Space Allowances

Cattle must have access at all times to a lying area which is well-drained or well-maintained with dry bedding, and which is of sufficient size to accommodate all cattle lying down together in normal resting posture. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations, see Supplement, Table 1.

A building or pen must provide adequate space such that all cattle at all times have sufficient freedom of sideways movement to be able to groom themselves without difficulty, and sufficient room to lie down and freely stretch their limbs and to rise. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations see Supplement, Table 1.

Hard-surfaced pens must be made from materials that are impervious to water and urine. Surfaces must be slip resistant (grooved or scored) but not abrasive to cattle's feet. Diamond grooves are preferred with a depth X length of 0.5 inches x 4 inches. Hard-surfaced pens used for resting, recovery, or calving must be properly bedded with moisture-absorbent bedding or rubber mats. Manure-handling systems must be considered when using hard-surfaced flooring systems. Acceptable hard floors include grooved or unfinished concrete, partial concrete slats, plastic covered expanded metal, or rubber mats.

Open-housed growing cattle must be grouped according to size and age. Where cattle are maintained in feedlots, open feedlots must be sloped to promote proper drainage away from resting/loafing areas, water supply, feed troughs/bunks, and fence lines. All local, state, and federal environmental regulations must be adhered to.

The following slope and space allowances are typical of Midwest feedlots:

Slope (%)	Space per Animal (ft^2)
2%	400-800 ft^2
2-4%	250-400 ft^2
4%	150-250 ft^2

Note: space and slope will change with drier or wetter climates, the seasons, and different soil types.

The space allowance for cattle housed in groups must be calculated in relation to the whole environment, the age, sex, live weight, and behavioral needs of the stock, taking account of the presence or absence of horns and the size of the group. Every animal must have sufficient access to water and feed, a resting area. Cattle must remain reasonably clean. (See E51 “Mud Score”) When loose-housed, polled and horned cattle must not be grouped together, except where a social group exists. Precautions must be taken to prevent injury when mixing cattle.

Special holding areas must be available for use during calving season, especially for first calf heifers or cows experiencing calving problems.

All cattle must have freedom of movement to be able to groom themselves without difficulty and must be provided sufficient room to lie down, stretch their limbs, and to rise.

Calving Environment

Calving pens or lots must have a bedded resting area, of such a size and with close access to a means of restraint (e.g., chute, head gate) as to permit a person to safely attend the cows and their calves. Cows must have free access to water and cows that are ready to birth must be kept separate from the rest of the herd and from other species of livestock.

The heating and ventilation of the building (including insulation) must ensure that the air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative humidity, and gas concentrations are kept within limits that are not harmful to calves. This is confirmed by no evidence of condensation, no odor issues, and no visible dust. The dimensions of holding areas or indoor accommodations must be in conformance with Supplement, Table 1. Internal surfaces of indoor calving and hospital pens must be constructed of materials which can be easily cleaned.

Bull Pens

Bull pens must be sited to allow the bull sight, sound, and odor of other cattle and general farm activity. Individual accommodation for an adult bull of average size must include a bedded sleeping area and loafing area as noted in the Supplement, Table 1 at the end of the audit tool. Bull pens must be safe for the stockpersons tending them. Adequate restraining facilities and an escape route for stockpersons must be provided. The service area must have a non-slip surface.

Handling & Treatment Facilities

All handling facilities such as veterinary facilities and loading ramps must have non-slip flooring and must be constructed of materials which are easily cleaned. Internal walls of hospital boxes must be smooth and impervious to water and must be made of materials which are easily cleaned.

Alleyways and Gates

Alleyways and gates must be designed and operated so as not to impede the movement of cattle. Alleyways and gates must be free from protrusions or other hazards which have the potential to injure the animals. When operating gates and catches, effort must have been made to reduce excessive noise that may cause distress to the animals, and if necessary, noise reduction mechanisms have been fitted to gates. Gates must open and swing smoothly, and close securely.

Squeeze Chutes

Hydraulic or manual restraining (squeeze) chutes must be properly adjusted for the size of the cattle. Regular cleaning and maintenance of all working parts is imperative to proper working of the system and safety of the cattle and handlers. Hydraulic restraint systems must have their pressure relief valves adjusted to avoid excessive pressure applied to cattle during restraint: The pressure level setting of the squeeze chutes must be set so that it automatically stops squeezing before the animals show any signs of distress such as bellowing, straining, or difficulty breathing.

Loading Areas
Loading facilities must provide a ramp of no more than 20% incline. Loading ramps and tail boards must be fitted with fences or rails to prevent the cattle from slipping and falling off. Ramps may be of concrete or earth and, where concrete, are fitted with appropriately designed and spaced foot cleats/ battens, stair-steps, or other flooring surface that prevents slipping. A loading bay and/or ramp must have been provided, and must be well lit to enable animals to walk straight into or out of the vehicle on a level or slight gradient. *Note: It is generally recommended that solid sides are used in races, chutes, crowding pens, and loading ramps to avoid distraction and balking in cattle. Solid sides provide the greatest advantages where there are many distractions, such as vehicles, moving equipment, and people walking by.*

Wind Breaks, Sun Shade, & Sprinklers

Cattle kept on pasture/ range grazing conditions must be provided with shelter, shade, and windbreaks to allow them the opportunity to thermo-regulate and to mitigate welfare risks in adverse weather. *Shelter, shade, and windbreaks can be provided by geographical features such as well-drained hills and canyons, natural vegetation (such as shrubs and tree belts), or manmade structures that are strategically placed to block prevailing winds.*

All facilities must provide cattle with the opportunity to properly thermo-regulate. Cattle must be provided with adequate space to perform behavioral adjustments important to thermoregulation and have access to facilities or natural shelters or barriers. *A one- or two-sided structure with a roof can provide shelter to cattle during periods of intense cold. Structures should be built with the open sides facing south or east (depending on prevailing winds) to maximize effects of solar radiation during the winter.*

When cattle are kept confined in partially roofed units (open fronted shed, covered feeding areas, etc.) they must be provided with effective protection from the wind and a comfortable, dry lying area.

High Heat and Humidity Conditions
Cattle must have the opportunity to thermoregulate. The combination of high temperature and humidity can contribute to heat stress. During hot weather, cattle must have access to heat abatement. In all circumstances but especially in feedlots, cattle must be monitored for signs of heat stress, especially dark-colored and the heavier animals. When cattle show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief. Also, see “Considerations for Feedlots.”

Cattle not conditioned to extreme conditions may suffer heat stress and die. The provisions of shade can make a difference under extreme conditions. In the Southwest U.S. shades, should be 12 to 14 ft. high and in the Eastern U.S. 7 to 9 ft. high. The amount of shade provided depends on the size and number of cattle. A rule of thumb for young stock is 7.5 to 13 ft^2 per animal and for adult cattle 19.4 to 27 ft^2 per animal. During periods of extreme heat the use of water can assist in preventing heat stress through evaporative cooling. Cattle can also be cooled by water cannon, sprinklers or other appropriate devices.

Winter/ Cold or Wet Conditions
For winter/ cold or wet conditions, shelters and windbreaks must be provided to the cattle to mitigate wind chill and hypothermia. *Windbreaks can consist of natural tree belts, fences, or manmade structures that are strategically placed to block prevailing winds. Natural geographic features such as hills or canyons may be used in pasture range grazing conditions. Windbreaks are recommended in mounded south-sloping feedlots in the northern part of the U.S. A 10-ft. minimum is the recommended height and can cut wind speed by half for 150 ft. downwind, or a 13-ft. windbreak can cut the wind speed in half for 200 ft. downwind. Windbreaks can also serve as snow control during the winter months.*

Considerations for Feedlots
Open dirt feedlots must be mounded to provide dry resting areas for cattle and must meet EPA Standards for control of dust. During periods of prolonged wetness, mud must be managed so the depth of mud in the loafing area is not excessive or cause for difficult travel by cattle to and from feeding and watering areas. Mud over ankle depth must not be allowed to persist for long periods.

Cattle, especially dark and heavier animals, must be continuously monitored for signs of heat stress during period of extreme heat and humidity, and must be provided with immediate relief as needed. When cattle show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief.

Auditor Evaluations of Livestock

The auditor shall make the following observations of the cattle during the audit. Refer to the ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** for a complete description.

- ❑ Tail Condition
- ❑ Electric Prod Use
- ❑ Cattle Exiting the Squeeze Chute
- ❑ Vocalizations During Handling
- ❑ Incidence of Cattle Running into Gates or Fences
- ❑ Incidence of Slips and Falls Score
- ❑ Lameness/Locomotion Score
- ❑ Leg Condition Score
- ❑ Coat Condition
- ❑ Mud Score

Transport

Animal transport systems must be designed and managed to ensure that animals are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport of animals must be accomplished in the shortest time possible and handling must be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in transport, including outside employees, must be thoroughly trained and competent in their duties and must use appropriate equipment and vehicles.

Transport SOPs

All individuals involved in the handling and transport of cattle, including outside employees, must be trained and knowledgeable about cattle behavior and animal welfare and in the proper protocols for transport, i.e. the Transport SOPs. This must be demonstrated through Certificates of Conformance (COCs) and documentation of appropriate training.

Transport SOPs

The producer shall maintain Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Transport. The Transport SOPs as a minimum must: address steps that are taken to protect the animals during periods of inclement weather; and outline protocols and contingency plans to be taken in the event of an emergency, such as vehicle break-down, accidents, road closures, etc.

All animals must be examined and shown to be fit and healthy for transport. The following animals must not be transported, except in emergencies or for medical treatment as approved by the veterinarian: Animals which are unable to walk unassisted or stand on all four limbs; Fatigued, sick, or injured animals; Pregnant cows that are expected to give birth within 21 days (unless special consideration is made for time in transport and comfort of the cow); and/ or Unweaned and newly-weaned (within 10 days) calves and their dams.

Cattle must not be kept in holding areas for more than 12 hours prior to loading. Feed and water must be available up to 4 hours prior to loading.

Loading & Transport of Animals

Stock-keepers must know the behavioral characteristics of animals and how to handle animals during loading and unloading, including using visual fields (i.e. cattle have a wide field of vision but have a blind spot behind them, which handlers should avoid entering) and flight zones (an imaginary area which if handlers enter will make the animal want to move away. Handlers control an animal's movement by understanding the flight zone); lighting (as cattle prefer to move from the dark into the light); and
when and how to use such things as sticks and other implements. Handlers must use only the minimal amount of force to maintain control of the animals and ensure the welfare of the animals and of the handlers. When the welfare of the handler or of the animals is in jeopardy, sticks or electric prods may be used on the hindquarters of animals capable of moving, and only on cattle over the age of six months. Electric immobilization is not permitted for any reason. Noise levels, sudden movements, and flashes of light must be minimized during loading and transport.

Every effort must be made to ensure that journeys are completed without unnecessary delays, that drivers are familiar with the route and are aware of any potential traffic problems, and that they plan their journey accordingly.

Cattle must be loaded and unloaded using suitable and adequately-sized ramps, bridges, gangways, or mechanical lifting gear, operated so as to prevent injury or unnecessary suffering to any animal. Ramps, bridges, gangways, and loading platforms must have a fence or rail on each side that is of sufficient strength, length and height to prevent any animal from falling or escaping; and is positioned so that it will not result in injury. Loading and transport equipment must be kept in good repair and is free of projections and gaps that are of a size whereby the animal could become trapped. The flooring of the loading and transport equipment must be constructed to prevent slipping. The incidences of slips and or falls that occur during the loading and unloading process must be recorded and scored. Where slips or falls occur in excess of 1%, measures are taken to mitigate the problem.

Animals which are ambulatory, that is, capable of walking unassisted, must not be suspended by mechanical means, nor lifted or dragged by the head, horns, legs, or tails. Non-ambulatory animals may be moved from the farm only if a veterinarian determines that the animal can be successfully treated at a medical facility; and must be moved or hoisted in containers or slings in which their bodies are fully supported and which cause no pain or distress to the animal. The transportation of any animal to a medical facility for treatment must be documented in the health care records in the American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual.

During transport cattle, must have sufficient room for all individuals. Space per animal must be provided in conformance with the transportation space guidelines in the latest edition of the ***FASS Ag Guide***. Additional space must be provided to allow the cattle to spread apart during hot weather. Cattle must have sufficient head clearance to stand comfortably without touching the ceiling of the transport equipment. For partial loads, the transport vehicle must be sub-divided to account for the size of the group being transported.

Transport vehicles must provide adequate ventilation while avoiding drafts. For transport during cold weather, cattle must be protected from drafts and the ingress of rain and snow. For transport during hot weather where possible, animals must be transported at night or in the coolest part of the day; animals must be protected from direct sunlight; the transport vehicle must be equipped with a means to provide effective ventilation; the transport vehicle must have air-conditioning and/or the animals must be regularly sprayed with water to help them keep cool; and the transport vehicle must not be kept stationary or parked in the sun for long periods. If it is unavoidable for the transport vehicle to be kept stationary, care must be taken to park the vehicle in shade, and inspections of the cattle must be increased to ensure the animals are not showing signs of heat stress.

Cattle must be inspected immediately after loading and thereafter a minimum of every 4 hours, or more often during inclement weather. If any animal shows signs of distress including cold or heat stress, immediate remedial action must be taken.

If an animal goes down in transport and cannot be successfully treated, it must be humanely euthanized on the spot or upon arrival at a medical facility per American Humane Certified™ standards. Where mortalities during transport are traceable to a single cause, prompt action must be taken to prevent further deaths, injury, or suffering from occurring. Where high levels of transport mortality (in excess of 1%) from any single source in any three-month period occur, a veterinary investigation must be performed, mitigating actions taken, and the results reported to the American Humane Certified™ program.

All loading and transport equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after the completion of transport.

Slaughter

The American Humane Certified™ program adheres to the ***Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide*** published by the North American Meat Institute Foundation for humane slaughtering and processing practices.

Slaughter practices and facilities must be audited annually to demonstrate compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices as part of this audit, unless audited by an outside audit group.

Where slaughter practices and facilities are audited for compliance to NAMI by an outside audit group, documentation must be available which: identifies the auditor and audit group, name and location of slaughter facilities, the date of the audit, and the results of the audit including any non-conformances, the corrective action that was taken, and the date of completion of the corrective action.

Complete the following to confirm compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices:

- ❑ Name of auditor and audit group: _____
- ❑ Name and location of slaughter facility: _____
- ❑ Date of annual audit: _____
- ❑ Results of audit: _____
- ❑ List all non-conformances, corrective actions, and corrective action completion dates:_____

The NAMI guide is available at animalhandling.org.

Pass/Fail Auditor Evaluations

No Instances of Willful Acts of Abuse
Throughout the course of the audit, the auditor must not have observed farm personnel committing willful acts of abuse, which include but are not limited to beating the cattle or breaking tails; slamming gates on the cattle; using the electric prod inappropriately (on sensitive areas of the animal) and/ or using the electric prod when neither the welfare of the animal or of the handler is in jeopardy; using electric immobilization for any reason; driving the animals atop one another; and goading a downer animal.

Willful acts of abuse are severe non-conformances and will not be tolerated. An investigation will be made to assess the incident and to determine whether remedial actions are required. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on probation from the program if the incident is determined to be severe. Producers that are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies that to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated.

Body Condition Score
At a minimum, at least 98% of the herd MUST have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 3 or above on a 9-point scale. See FW1: “Body Condition Score.”

It is a severe non-conformance for a cattle operation to maintain more than 2% of the herd with unacceptably low BCS scores. If this occurs, an investigation will be made to access the circumstances for the low BCS scores and the corrective actions that the producer proposes to take. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on immediate probation, or in extreme cases, suspension from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue. The cattle operation must pass a follow-up audit, which at the program’s discretion will include an acceptable threshold for BCS that must be met prior to the cattle operation being reinstated.

Lameness/ Locomotion Score
At a minimum, at least 95% of the herd MUST have a Lameness/ Locomotion (L/L) Score of 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale. See E48: “Lameness/ Locomotion Score.”

It is a severe non-conformance for a cattle operation to maintain more than 5% of the herd with unacceptable L/L scores. If this occurs, an investigation will be made to access the circumstances for the low L/L scores and the corrective actions that the producer proposes to take. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on immediate probation, or in extreme cases, suspension from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue. The cattle operation must pass a follow-up audit, which at the program’s discretion will include an acceptable threshold for L/L that must be met prior to the cattle operation being reinstated.

Core Criteria

Items which are essential to the "Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare" are scored higher than other questions in the audit. "Core Criteria" are scored either 25 or 50 points and must be satisfactorily addressed in order to pass the audit. These items are listed below (refer to ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** following for full descriptions):

M1: Company Policy

The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

M2: Employee Code of Conduct

An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all workers, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

M11: Herd Health Plan

A Herd Health Plan (HHP) must be available at the main office. The HHP must document the activities affecting animal health for the year's cycle of production. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

M17: Colostrum for Calves

For both heifer and bull calves it is vital that each new-born calf receives adequate, quality colostrum (2-4 quarts) from its dam, from another fresh cow, or from a frozen or dried colostrum source as soon as possible after birth, and no later than within the first 6 to 8 hours of life.

M20: Weaning in Ranch Settings

Calves must not be weaned earlier than 3 months of age. It is recommended that calves be allowed to suckle for up to 6 months of age. Calves must be weaned with consideration given to limiting stress on the animals, for example, by weaning them into a familiar environment, by using fenceline weaning and plastic nose tabs, and/or by mixing them with heifers during the weaning process. Calves must be weaned and vaccinated no sooner than 30-45 days prior to being transported. Freshly weaned calves must never transported. The vocalizations of freshly weaned calves must never be heard in a transport environment.

M22: Handling Aids

Sticks and flags must be used only as benign handling aids (i.e., as extensions of the arm). Sticks must not be used for hitting, beating, or poking the cattle. Electric prods must not be used except where animal and/or human safety is in jeopardy and it is the means of last resort. Electric prods must not be carried by stock-keepers as a matter of course. Handlers must use tails gently if necessary to direct the animal's movement.

M29: Non-Ambulatory ("Downer") Cattle
Care must be taken to avoid causing unnecessary pain or distress to a sick or injured animal that is unable to move. Moving by means that can cause further physical or psychological damage is prohibited. *Refer to the North American Meat Institute guidelines for acceptable methods of moving non-ambulatory cattle.* (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

M30: Segregation and Care of Sick or Injured Animals
Provisions must be made for the segregation and care of sick and injured animals. Any animal suffering from illness or injury must be segregated and treated without delay, and veterinary advice must be sought when needed.

M32: Identification
Cattle marking must be performed by trained personnel quickly, expertly, and with the proper equipment in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress.

M46: Monitoring of Air Quality for Enclosed Environments
Where cattle are housed in an enclosed environment, dust and ammonia be maintained at acceptable levels. *Note: Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer.* Inhalable dust must not exceed 10 mg/m^3. Ammonia levels must be monitored by the producer and maintained ideally at less than 10 ppm, but should never exceed 25 ppm.

M48: SOPs for Husbandry and Other Procedures
Where necessary, producers must use only approved, humane husbandry procedures accepted by the American Humane Certified™ program. Husbandry procedures must be performed at the earliest possible age. These practices must not be performed on sick or injured animals. All of these practices must be performed by trained and competent personnel using appropriate, well-maintained equipment in a way which minimizes suffering. Procedures include supernumerary teat removal, disbudding/ dehorning, castration, and other surgical procedures. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

M52: Euthanasia Policy
A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely euthanasia. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards*** for full description.)

FW1: Body Condition Score
All cattle whether in ranch conditions or at the feedlot must be fed a wholesome and appropriate diet for their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity so that they sustain full health and normal reproductive capability over their maximum foreseeable lifespan. Body Condition Score (BCS) must be assessed during regular observation periods such as weaning, 30 days post-weaning, 90 days before calving, at calving, and at the beginning of breeding season. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** for full description.)

FW3: Freshness of Feed
Troughs must be kept clean and stale food removed on a daily basis. Automatic feeding equipment must be kept clean and free of stale feed and be maintained in good working order. All stored feed must be free of bird or rodent feces and vermin.

FW6: Access to Water
All cattle, including calves older than 1 day and cattle in confinement, must be provided with continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day, except when otherwise required by the attending veterinarian.

E5: Environmental Safety
There must be no physical features of the environment which cause recurring injuries to cattle. (See ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** for full description.)

E16: Ammonia
When cattle are kept in an enclosed environment, provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer as specified by Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA standards for particulates. Ammonia levels measured by the auditor should be less than 10 ppm but must not exceed 25 ppm.

E19: Lying Area
Cattle must have access at all times to a lying area which is well-drained or well-maintained with dry bedding, and which is of sufficient size to accommodate all cattle lying down together in normal resting posture. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations, see Supplement, Table 1 at the end of the ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool.***

E39: High Heat Conditions and Humidity Conditions
Cattle must have the opportunity to thermoregulate. The combination of high temperature and humidity can contribute to heat stress. When cattle show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief.

Core Criteria
(Note: see the ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** for full descriptions.)

E42: Tail Condition

E43: Electric Prod Use

E44: Cattle Exiting the Squeeze Chute

E45: Vocalizations during Handling

E46: Incidence of Cattle Running into Gates or Fences

E47: Incidence of Slips and Falls Score

E48: Lameness/ Locomotion Score

E49: Leg Condition Score

E50: Coat Condition

E51: Mud Score

T16: Space Allowance during Transport

During transport cattle, must have sufficient room for all individuals per the FASS transportation space guidelines. Additional space must be provided to allow the cattle to spread apart during hot weather. Cattle must have sufficient head clearance to stand comfortably without touching the ceiling of the transport equipment. For partial loads, the transport vehicle must be sub-divided to account for the size of the group being transported.

T24: Slaughter

The American Humane Certified™ program adheres to the ***Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide*** published by the North American Meat Institute Foundation for humane slaughtering and processing practices. *Check one of the following:*

Slaughter practices and facilities must be audited annually to demonstrate compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices as part of this audit, unless audited by an outside audit group.

Pass/Fail Audit Items

The following items must be satisfied in order to pass the audit. Failure of these items will result in failure of the audit, and may result in the farm or ranch being suspended from the program.

P/F 1: No Instances of Willful Acts of Abuse

P/F 2: Body Condition Score

P/F 3: Lameness/ Locomotion Score

Appendix A

Farm Manual

American Humane
Farm Program

American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual Beef Cattle

The purpose of assembling a Farm Manual is to facilitate the audit process by aiding the producer in organizing and gathering the required information so that is ready for review at the time of the audit. Please complete the Farm Manual Information/ Checklist form on Page 2 that lists the required policies and procedures needed and where we may quickly find this information for your individual farm.

If this information is available in your own farm manual, you may include a copy of that and simply note the page number or section where the information can be found in the checklist on Page 2 of this document. If you do not already have a farm manual, you may fill out the manual template that follows the checklist. **You are not required to submit both.**

If you have questions as you fill out your responses to the standards or the required Farm Manual information, please call the American Humane Certified™ Program at FarmAnimalProgram@AmericanHumane.org. Thank you for participating in the American Humane Certified™ program.

American Humane Farm Program

Farm Manual Checklist

Farm Manual Information/ Checklist Please Complete This Checklist	Producer's Farm Manual Section/ Page # Attached	American Humane Certified™ Template Forms Attached
Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct		
Company Policy (p. 4)		
Employee Code of Conduct (p. 4)		
Animal Welfare Incident Report (p. 5)		
Office Records & Documentation		
Records of Production (pp. 6-8)		
Building Checklists (p. 9)		
Emergency Response Plan (p. 10)		
Nutrition, Lighting, Herd Health Plans		
Nutrition Plan (pp. 11-12)		
Herd Health Plan (pp. 13-18)		
Biosecurity Plans		
Biosecurity Plan, Structural/ Access (p. 19)		
Biosecurity Plan, Operational (pp. 20-21)		
Waste Disposal Plan (p. 22)		
SOPs for Calves & Weaning (p. 23)		
SOPs for Handling (p. 24)		
SOPs for Care & Handling of Sick or Injured Animals (p. 25)		
SOPs for Identification (p. 26)		
Records of Stockperson Training		
Training of all Stockpersons (p. 27)		
Further Training (p. 28)		
Training of Outside Workers (p. 29)		
Inspections of Livestock (pp. 30-31)		
Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment		
Equipment Inspections (p. 32)		
Inspections of Water Systems (p. 32)		
Inspections of Auxiliary Power Supply (p. 32)		
Ventilation & Environmental Controls (p. 33)		
Monitoring of Air Quality (p. 33)		
Inspections of Fencing (p. 33)		
SOPs for Husbandry & Other Procedures (pp. 34-35)		
Euthanasia Policy (pp. 36-38)		

American Humane
Farm Program

American Humane Certified™
Farm Manual Templates

Note: The following templates are provided for your convenience and to assist you in assembling your Farm Manual. You may use either the forms provided, or you may substitute forms from your own farm manual/ farm management software. You do not need to submit both.

Note: These templates do not address all required documentation. Additional documentation may be required that is not listed in the following templates. Refer to the *Animal Welfare Standards* for all required documentation.

American Humane
Farm Program

Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: this form or a similar company document must be provided to employees in their native language as needed, and must be signed by all employees.*

Company Policy

- As a participant in the American Humane Certified™ program, this company is committed to providing an environment which promotes high standards of animal welfare, through adherence to the requirements of the ***American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards*** and participation in the American Humane Certified program.
- This company has implemented a "zero-tolerance" policy regarding willful acts of abuse towards the animals, and personnel in violation of this policy are subject to dismissal. Willful acts of abuse include but are not limited to: beating the cattle, slamming gates on the cattle, using any type of prod inappropriately, using the electric prod when neither the welfare of the animal or the handler are in immediate jeopardy, driving the animals atop one another, and goading or dragging a downer animal. If it is determined that any employee has engaged in willful acts of abuse towards the animals, the employee may be immediately dismissed.
- This company has implemented a "whistle-blower" policy. Any employee who reports animal welfare issues to his or her superiors will not be retaliated against.

Employee Code of Conduct

- All personnel are expected to handle the cattle in a positive and compassionate manner at all times.
- Each worker has the responsibility for, and is expected to contribute to, upholding high standards of animal welfare always as each performs his or her duties.
- In addition to the worker's assigned duties, each worker must also be aware that the basic requirements such as adequate feed, water, etc. must be provided to livestock at all times, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities is lacking.
- All personnel have access to the ***Animal Welfare Incident Report*** or a similar company document or company protocol for reporting incidences. Personnel must complete and submit this document or otherwise report whenever they observe incidences related to animal welfare which cause them concern.

- I, the undersigned employee, have read and understand my responsibilities under the Company Policy and the Employee Code of Conduct stated above.

Employee Name _____ Date_____

Employee Signature_____ Supervisor _____

American Humane Farm Program

Animal Welfare Incident Report

Farm Name _____ Location _____ Date of Report _____

Form to be filled out by witness. Please print.

Please list all animal welfare infractions witnessed including date, time, location of incident(s), incident details and employees involved. Be specific and include reference to the ***American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** item # (example: M15) if possible. Use back of form or additional paper if necessary and attach any relevant backup documentation.

- I, the undersigned, witnessed the above animal welfare infractions.

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: This form may be submitted in confidence to: **American Humane Farm Program, 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 360, Washington, DC 20036** or fax: **202-450-2335**. Questions in regards to reporting farm animal welfare issues may be directed to: **800-227-4645.**

IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

I received the above report from _____ on _____
(witness) (date)

Printed name of supervisor _____ Signature _____

Copy of report signed by supervisor and witness to be returned to witness.

American Humane Farm Program

Records of Production
Animal Movement Logs

Name of Producer: _____

Site Name: _____

Date	# of Stock	Incoming/ Outgoing	Source	Any Treatment or Quarantine on Arrival?

This form is provided for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

American Humane
Farm Program

Records of Production (cont.)
Numbers of Mortalities

Name of Producer: _____

Site Name: _____

Date	ID Number	Calf/Cow/ Bull/ etc.	Cause of Death (if known)	Necropsy Performed?
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N
				Y N

This form is provided for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

American Humane
Farm Program

Records of Production (cont.)
Herd Culling Record

Name of Producer: _____

Site Name: _____

Date	ID No.	Calf/Cow/ Bull/ etc.	Reason(s) for Culling	Method Used	Name of Trained/ Approved Worker

This form is provided for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

American Humane Farm Program

Building Checklist / Farm Data

PRODUCER:

AUDIT FARM LOCATION:

AUDIT FARM:	**FARM MANAGER:**	**STOCKPERSON:**
Address:	**Email:**	**Email:**
City:	**Office #:**	**Office #:**
State:	**Cell #:**	**Cell #:**
ZIP:	**Alt #:**	**Alt #:**
Country:	**Fax #:**	**Fax #:**

FARM DATA:

MAIN PREMISES	**SECONDARY PREMISES** *(Only if applicable)*
Type of Housing: *(barn / outside / both)*	**Type of Housing:** *(barn / outside / both)*
Audited Housing Space (ft^2): *(Only if applicable)*	**Audited Housing Space (ft^2):** *(Only if applicable)*
Audited Grazing Space (acres): *(Only if applicable)*	**Audited Grazing Space (acres):** *(Only if applicable)*
FOR MAIN PREMISES ONLY:	***FOR SECONDARY PREMISES ONLY:***
Calves Bought:	**Calves Bought:**
Calves Sold:	**Calves Sold:**
Stockers Bought:	**Stockers Bought:**
Stockers Sold:	**Stockers Sold:**
Finished Stock:	**Finished Stock:**

List of Quality Assurance Programs:

This form is provided for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

Emergency Response Plan

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: Keep a copy of the Emergency Response Plan at the Main Office.*

- What are the contingency plans and precautions to cope with severe events/ emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals, and the procedures to be followed by responsible personnel in the event of severe events/ emergencies such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, interruption of supplies?

- Personnel responsible for reacting to emergencies (and if necessary, a "telephone tree" for notifying individuals):

Emergency Contact	Telephone #	Alternate #
1.		
2.		
3.		

- Local emergency service numbers:

Emergency Service	Telephone #
Local fire department:	
Emergency water supplies:	
Local Utility:	

American Humane
Farm Program

Nutrition Plan

Name of Producer: _____Site Name(s):_____

Herd ID: _____ Diet Formulation/ ID: _____

Nutritionist (or other qualified individual): _____

- *Note: Any evidence to confirm the following statements are acceptable, such as providing a letter from the nutritionist or other qualified individual stating that they have been consulted to develop an appropriate diet for the producer that meets the requirements below; having the nutritionist or other qualified individual sign below that the following statements are true for the specified producer, sites, herds, and diet formulations; providing documentation from the feed mill which establish that the following statements are true; etc.*

  - The diet noted above has been developed in accordance with the guidelines provided by the most recently published National Research Council (NRC) standards.
  - Feedstuffs do not contain ruminant-derived protein sources with the exception of milk and milk products.
  - Growth hormones/ growth promoters are not used as additives to the feed in the stated formulation for the stated producer.
  - Neither in-feed antibiotics nor anti-parasitic agents are used in the stated formulation for the stated producer, except and unless for therapeutic reasons as prescribed by the attending veterinarian and as documented in the Herd Health Plan.

The Nutrition Plan must also include as a minimum:

- Specifications for a diet that is adjusted as appropriate to the age and breed of the cattle in order to promote balanced nutrition. In all cases, nutritional maintenance through feeding of quality forage, mineral concentrates, etc. must be provided to maintain good health.
- Cattle must not be maintained in an environment that is likely to predispose them to nutrient deficiency. Managers must be aware of any mineral deficiencies to correct these as appropriate.
- Specifications that changes in the type and quantity of feed must be introduced gradually in order to limit the risks of digestive problems such as acidosis.
- Adult cattle must be provided with a supplemental source of fiber to promote rumination. The fiber must be of such quality and length as to stimulate rumination and help avoid acidosis by aiding in proper digestion.

Cattle Nutritionist _____
(or qualified individual/ feed mill)

Signature_____ Date_____

Nutrition Plan (cont.)

Feed Suppliers:

Name:
Address:
Telephone #:
Mills used:
Major source / minor source (*circle one*)

Name:
Address:
Telephone #:
Mills used:
Major source / minor source (*circle one*)

Feed Documentation

Are feed documents available for at least one year? **Y** **N**
(Keep a representative tag for each ingredient used,
Replacing old with current tags as rations change)

Are there records of feed constituents? **Y** **N**

Describe feed storage: _____

Number of days' supply of feed is available on the farm: _____

Is feed free from all ruminant protein? **Y** **N**
(with the exception of milk and milk products)

Body Condition Scoring

When are stock body conditions scored and by whom?

Does supplier carry out any tests and/or safeguards
on raw materials or finished feed? **Y** **N**

American Humane Farm Program

Herd Health Plan

Name of Producer: _____

Location(s): _____

- *Note: attach a copy of the Herd Health Plan. This plan reviewed yearly (no less than once per year) and updated in consultation with the herd veterinarian, with whom the producer has a valid Veterinarian Client-Patient Relationship:*

- Name of Veterinarian: _____
- Do the producer and the veterinarian have a valid Veterinarian Client- Patient Relationship? *(Attach VCPR- refer to AVMA)* **Y** **N**
- Has the HHP been reviewed at least yearly and updated as needed? **Y** **N**
- Are records of vaccination protocols and vaccinations available? *(see following)* **Y** **N**
- Are records of treatment protocols and treatments available? *(see following)* **Y** **N**
- Are records of surgical procedures available? **Y** **N**

Herd Health Plan (cont.)
Vaccination Program

(calves <6 months; young stock 6-12 months; cows/steers/bulls = >12 months)

Vaccination Program

Calves (<6 months)

Age	Vaccinating for:	Age	Vaccinating for:

Young Stock (6 – 12 months)

Age	Vaccinating for:	Age	Vaccinating for:

Cows/Steers/Bulls (>12 months)

Age	Vaccinating for:	Age	Vaccinating for:

Herd Health Plan (cont.)

Medication Inventory (for reference only)

Name of Producer: _____

Herd Veterinarian: _____ Herd Manager: _____

Medication	Rx by Vet?	Indication	Dose	Milk Withhold (days)	Slaughter Withhold (days)

This form is for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

American Humane
Farm Program

Herd Health Plan (cont.)
Medication/ Treatment Records

Name of Producer: _____

Herd Veterinarian: _____ Herd Manager: _____

Dates	ID Number	Reason for Treatment/ Diagnosis	Medication/Treatment (incl. route of admin/ qty)	Rx?	Responsible Person	Date of W/D

This form is for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

Herd Health Plan (cont.)
Action & Management Plans

- *The following may be used as a framework to which information can be added in order to help with creating written Action and Management Plans and for training personnel:*

Physical Maladies

- Are responsible personnel trained in the prevention of physical maladies? **Y** **N**

Foot Care

- Is there a plan in place for the monitoring cattle for acute foot conditions? (I.e. such as for signs of abnormal wear, infection, excessive growth?) **Y** **N**
- If a problem was identified, describe the plan that was used to mitigate the foot condition?

Common Diseases

- Are responsible personnel trained in the prevention, detection, and methods of control for common diseases? **Y** **N**

  Is there a policy in place for when quarantine of animals is required? **Y** **N**

Internal Parasite Control Program & De-Worming

- What are the methods used to prevent, detect, and control internal parasites?
- What are the policies for control of internal parasites for each age:

<u>Calves (<6 months)</u>

Age Parasite/Application: Age Parasite/Application:

<u>Young Stock (6 – 12 months)</u>

Age Parasite/Application: Age Parasite/Application:

<u>Cows/Steers/Bulls (>12 months)</u>

Age Parasite/Application: Age Parasite/Application:

Herd Health Plan (cont.)
Action & Management Plans (cont.)

External Parasite Control Program

- What are the methods used to prevent, detect, and control external parasites?
- What are the policies for control of internal parasites for each age:

Calves (<6 months)

Age	Parasite/Application:	Age	Parasite/Application:

Young Stock (6 – 12 months)

Age	Parasite/Application:	Age	Parasite/Application:

Cows/Steers/Bulls (>12 months)

Age	Parasite/Application:	Age	Parasite/Application:

Recurring Injuries

- Are all animals monitored for signs of recurring injuries that suggest there is a common cause attributable to physical features of the environment? **Y** **N**

Abnormal Behaviors

- If abnormal behavioral activities develop repeatedly and inhibit normal functioning of the animal in any particular area, a program of modification and enrichment must be developed and agreed upon together with the farm veterinarian. (This excludes the repeated rubbing of brushes designed for that purpose.)
    - *For observation purposes the following possible repetitive abnormal behavioral patterns may include repeated rubbing in the absence of disease, tongue rolling/aerophagia, bar biting/chewing, pica (licking/chewing solid objects), eating soil/sand/dirt, navel sucking, ear sucking, urine drinking. Observations are to be made over an extended period of time.*

Biosecurity Plan, Structural

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: provide details of the Biosecurity Plan, Structural:*

Biosecurity Plan, Structural/Access
The structural biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum the maintenance of perimeter fencing for the exclusion of other livestock.

For off-range facilities, such as feedlots if applicable, structural biosecurity must include policies and procedures for the exclusion of unapproved visitors and the management of approved visitors."

If applicable:

Are vehicles disinfected/ cleaned prior to entering the site?	**Y**	**N**
Is access restricted to any specific areas of site?	**Y**	**N**
Are there policies/ procedures in place for excluding unapproved visitors?	**Y**	**N**
Are there policies/ procedures in place for managing approved visitors?	**Y**	**N**

Describe any other structural/ access biosecurity plans and procedures used.

Biosecurity Plans, Operational

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: provide details of the Biosecurity Plan, Operational:*

For all facilities:

- Policy for animals coming from other farms:
  - Do new animals have appropriate treatment and vaccination records from the vendor prior to the new stock being brought on site? **Y** **N**
  - If applicable, what is the timeframe for the segregation/ isolation of new animals prior to integration with the rest of the herd?
  - Describe quarantine and processing of newly purchased stock:
  - Describe the isolation facility:
  - Are hired bulls used on the farm? **Y** **N**
    - If so, are the bulls screened for potential diseases?
- Describe procedures used to minimize risk associated with farm/ranch visitors and/or entry of delivery vehicles (feed, dead stock or manure trucks, etc.)
- If applicable, describe any other policies or procedures for maintaining biosecurity:

For off-range facilities such as feedlots:

- Pest Control Policy: List whether any methods/products are used for control:

<u>Rodents</u>

traps	**Y**	**N**
bait	**Y**	**N**
limited access	**Y**	**N**
covered feed storage	**Y**	**N**

<u>Flies</u>

bait	**Y**	**N**
environmental control (e.g., frequent cleaning)	**Y**	**N**

<u>Predators</u>

bait	**Y**	**N**
fences	**Y**	**N**
covered feed storage	**Y**	**N**
noise or visual deterrents	**Y**	**N**

Biosecurity Plans, Operational (cont.)

Name of Producer: _____

- Feed and Water

  Commodity feed area

  - Is feed fresh/ i.e. not stale or moldy or contaminated? **Y** **N**
  - Are commodity storage areas cleaned between loads of feed? **Y** **N**
  - Describe commodity/feed storage:

    separate or mixed

    covered or uncovered
  - How often are feed bunks/troughs cleaned, and by whom?

  Water

  - How often are water troughs cleaned, and by whom?
  - Are water troughs monitored to limit elevated levels of contaminants such as feed, algae, manure, pathogens, etc.? **Y** **N**

    How frequently?
  - Are samples of water taken and tested and recorded periodically to ensure water quality is acceptable for cattle? **Y** **N**

    If yes, please list test performed:

    How frequently?

- Routine Cleaning (and Sanitation, if Required) of Equipment and Implements
  - Are equipment and implements routinely cleaned (and sanitized, if required), and by whom?
  - Are "clean to dirty" work routines used? **Y** **N**
- Manure Removal
  - How often are pens/corrals scraped? (*applicable to feedlot or penned animals*)
    - Summer:
    - Winter:
  - How is manure disposed of?

    composting

    lagoon

    spread on land

    other

Are there policies and procedures in place for restricting domestic or wild animals?

American Humane Farm Program

Waste Disposal Plan

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: provide details of the Waste Disposal Plan, which must include as a minimum the following provisions:*

"Each farm must maintain a Waste Disposal Plan which details protocols for the safe and proper disposal of medical waste, sharps, carcasses, and other waste that poses a potential threat to animal and human health and safety."

- How is medical waste (needles, scalpel blades, medicine containers, syringes, etc.) disposed of?

  Are sharps containers used? **Y** **N**

- Has farm completed a formal training program in waste management? **Y** **N**

  Type of training:

  Date of completion:

American Humane Farm Program

SOPs for Calves & Weaning

Name of Producer: _____

- *Attach SOPs for Calves & Weaning, which must include all provisions noted in the **Animal Welfare Standards** as a minimum.*

Colostrum

Is a source of colostrum available for calves that may need it?	**Y**	**N**
If colostrum is given to a calf, when is it given? _____		
Method used (bottle, tube): _____		
Volume administered: _____		
If frozen or dried, does the colostrum source provide a minimum of 100 grams of IgG per dose?	**Y**	**N**

Environment

Are calves maintained in a suitable environment and/or provided bedding and if needed artificial heat to prevent hypothermia?	**Y**	**N**
If calving on pasture, are cows provided a dry calving environment and access to natural or artificial shelter?	**Y**	**N**
Are calves given appropriate natural or artificial light?	**Y**	**N**

Quarantine

Where there is a high risk of infection, are calves quarantined? For how long?	**Y**	**N**

Weaning in Ranch Settings

Are calves at least 3 months old prior to weaning? *(It is recommended that calves be allowed to suckle for up to 6 months.)*	**Y**	**N**

Calves must be weaned with consideration given to limiting stress on the animals, for example, by weaning them into a familiar environment, by using fenceline weaning and plastic nose tabs, and/or by mixing them with heifers during the weaning process.

Are calves not transported for at least 30-45 days after being weaned and vaccinated?	**Y**	**N**

American Humane Farm Program

SOPs for Handling

Name of Producer: _____

- *The following may be used as a framework to which information can be added in order to help with creating written SOPs for Handling, and for training personnel.*

Stockpersons/ handlers must take care to avoid causing unnecessary pain or distress towards the cattle. Cattle must be handled calmly at all times, and at no time are the cattle to be yelled at or screamed at. Cattle must be handled with the least amount of force needed. Efforts must be made to accustom/ familiarize the cattle to contact with stockpersons/ handlers.

Use of Handling Aids

- ❑ Sticks and flags must be used only as benign handling aids (i.e., as extensions of the arm).
  - ❑ Sticks must not be used for hitting, beating, or poking the cattle.
  - ❑ Electric prods must not be used except where animal and/or human safety is in jeopardy and it is the means of last resort.
  - ❑ Electric prods must not be carried by stock-keepers as a matter of course.
- ❑ Handlers must use tails gently only if necessary to direct the animal's movement.
- ❑ Cattle must not be driven unless the exit or the way forward for the lead cow is clear.
- ❑ Cattle should be moved at a walk and must not be rushed or run along alleyways, passageways, or through gateways.

Cattle-Handling Unit

A cattle-handling unit must be available, comprised of a collecting system and a method of restraint, appropriate to the type, temperament, and numbers of stock to be managed.

Use of Restraints

Cattle must not be closely restrained (i.e. tethered or stanchioned) except in the following circumstances, and then for not more than 4 hours. Cattle must not be deprived of water for more than 2 hours and sooner if the cattle are outside and/or if conditions are hot. Close restraint is permitted only for the following circumstances:

- For the duration of any examination, routine test, blood sampling, or veterinary treatment.
- While they are being fed.
- For the purpose of marking, washing, or weighing.
- While facilities are being cleaned.
- During artificial insemination.
- During hoof-trimming.
- Awaiting loading for transportation.

Immobilization of Cattle

- ❑ Tranquilizers (chemical immobilizations) may be used only when mechanical restraint is not an option (such as to immobilize an aggressive animal), and are only to be administered by the farm veterinarian and only at his or her discretion.
  - ❑ Tranquilizers must not be used in any situation where the animal may injure itself, such as near open water, on steep slopes, etc.
  - ❑ The animal must be closely monitored until it has recovered and is no longer at risk of injury to itself or from other individuals.
- ❑ Electric immobilization is not permitted for use under any situation.

Use of Dogs or Other Animals

Dogs or other animals, including working dogs must be properly trained, must not cause injury or distress to cattle, and must be kept under control at all times.

American Humane Farm Program

SOPs for the Care & Handling of Sick or Injured Animals

Name of Producer: _____

- *The following may be used as a framework to which information can be added in order to help with creating written SOPs for the Care and Handling of Sick or Injured Animals, and for training personnel.*

- ❑ All efforts must be made to ensure the rapid diagnosis, immediate treatment, and optimized recovery for any sick or injured animal.
- ❑ If an animal does not respond to treatment, or if it is in severe, uncontrollable pain, it must be humanely euthanized.
- ❑ No live animal may leave the farm unless it can walk unassisted, except as noted below.

Non-Ambulatory ("Downer") Cattle

- ❑ Care must be taken to avoid causing unnecessary pain or distress to a sick or injured animal that is unable to move. Moving by means that can cause further physical or psychological damage is prohibited. *Refer to the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) guidelines for acceptable methods of moving non-ambulatory cattle.*

  Non-ambulatory animals must not be moved by hoisting by chain, dragging, or lifting without complete body support- doing so is considered a willful act of abuse.

- ❑ The use of hip-lifters is permitted only for emergency, short-term assistance. Cattle must not be left unattended when hip-lifters are in use.
- ❑ Hind-leg hobbles ("splitters") may be used only when necessary to prevent cattle from becoming non-ambulatory.
- ❑ Where the farm veterinarian determines that a downer animal may be successfully moved with limited levels of pain and distress, and where the veterinarian determines that the downer is a good candidate for treatment, it may be humanely transported from the farm to a medical facility using approved methods.
- ❑ If the farm veterinarian determines that an animal cannot be successfully transported or treated, it must be euthanized humanely and immediately.
- ❑ The transportation, treatment or euthanasia of the animal must be documented in the health care records maintained in the farm manual.

Refer to UC Davis "Care for the Downer Cow" for additional recommendations.

Reference: Stull, Berry, Reynolds, and Payne. 2008. Care for the Downer Cow. (Small placard published by UC Davis.)

Facilities for the Segregation and Care of Sick and Injured Animals

Provisions must be made for the segregation and care of sick and injured animals.

- ❑ Any cow or calf suffering from illness or injury must be segregated and treated without delay, and veterinary advice must be sought when needed.
- ❑ If the cow or calf does not respond to treatment or is in severe pain or suffering, and the veterinarian determines that the animal is unlikely to recover, that animal must be euthanized humanely and immediately.
- ❑ Hospital/ isolation pens must be clean, be provided with dry bedding, and be of a size which is appropriate for the age, size, and breed of the animal.
- ❑ Animals in hospital pens must be able to stand up, turn around, lie down, rest, and groom themselves without hindrance.
- ❑ Water and feed must be readily accessible even to non-ambulatory animals.
- ❑ Urine and dung from hospital pens for sick and injured animals must be disposed without the risk of spreading infection to other stock.
- ❑ Pens must be constructed to facilitate effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and the possible removal of a carcass from the area.

American Humane Farm Program

SOPs for Identification

Name of Producer: _____

- *The following may be used as a framework to which information can be added in order to help with creating written SOPs for Identification of animals, and for training personnel.*

Where neckbands, tail-bands, ear tags, leg-bands, or RFIDs are used for identification purposes, they must be fitted with care and adjusted as required to avoid unnecessary pain or distress (for example by being too tight, etc.)

Cattle marking must be performed by trained personnel quickly, expertly, and with the proper equipment in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress.

The following methods of identification are NOT permitted for use in cattle identification:

- Brands.
- Jaw-brands or ear-notching.
- Ear-splitting, wattling, or any other surgical alterations for identification.

Livestock markers for the temporary marking of livestock (i.e., crayons, chalk, and paints) must be especially developed for that purpose and must be non-toxic.

_____Method(s) of identification used.

American Humane
Farm Program

Records of Stockperson Training
Training of All Stockpersons

Name of Producer: _____

Type of Training: _____
(if applicable, attach documents/ description)

Name of Trainer: _____ Date of Training: _____

- I, the undersigned employee, have attended the provided training and understand how it is relevant to my duties and responsibilities.

Name of Employee/ Trainee	Signature of Employee/ Trainee	Date

This form is for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

American Humane
Farm Program

Records of Stockperson Training (cont.)
Further Training

Name of Producer: _____

- Employee: By signing below, you are confirming that you have received training which includes "hands-on" instruction in the topic noted & your proficiency has been confirmed by the trainer.
- Trainer: By initialing below, you are confirming the employee's proficiency in the training topic through your direct observation.

Training Topic(s)	Name of Trainer	Initials of Trainer	Name of Employee/ Trainee	Signature of Employee/ Trainee	Date

This form is for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

Records of Stockperson Training (cont.)
Training of Outside Workers

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: provide documentation conforming to the **Animal Welfare Standards** for the training of outside workers.*

American Humane
Farm Program

Inspections of Livestock

Name of Producer: _____

Facility ID: _____

- *If mortalities are found, animals are required to be culled, or for any other pertinent observations, record here:*

Date/ Time	Insp. By	Mortalities (and cause, if known)	Culls (and reason)	Remarks

This form is for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted

American Humane
Farm Program

Equipment Inspections and Maintenance

Name of Producer: _____

Site ID: _____

- *The following may be used as a framework to aid in developing written SOPs surrounding Equipment Maintenance and Inspections and for training personnel.*

Equipment Inspections and Maintenance
Stockpersons must inspect all equipment on which the livestock rely on a daily basis, such as water troughs, feeding facilities, fans, and especially the milking equipment, whether the equipment is manual or automatic. Stockpersons must also perform routine, scheduled maintenance as defined in the SOPs. Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time):

- ❑ It must be rectified immediately; or
- ❑ If the defect cannot be rectified immediately, the stockperson must follow any measures specified in the SOPs or take other actions to safeguard the animals from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect. These measures must be maintained until the defect has been rectified.
- ❑ Routine maintenance must be performed per the equipment manufacturer's recommendations.

Inspections and Maintenance of Water Systems
Water systems must be inspected and maintained daily to confirm that clean, fresh water is readily available to the cattle:

- ❑ water availability must be checked daily;
- ❑ water delivery must be monitored to make sure water is provided at all times, that is, the water delivery must keep pace with the demand of the maximum number of cows who are able to drink at the same time;
- ❑ the water source must not contain contaminants such as elevated levels of feed, algae, manure, pathogens, nitrates, etc.; and
- ❑ samples of water must be taken and recorded periodically to ensure that water quality is acceptable for cattle. *State or local water quality requirements must be followed.*

Inspections and Maintenance of Water in Range/Pasture Conditions
In addition to the above, where cattle are kept primarily on pasture:

- ❑ During the winter, the water source must be kept clear of ice;
- ❑ The area around the water troughs must be managed to avoid excessive wetting and, if necessary, water troughs must be placed on concrete aprons to limit mud or sodden ground;
- ❑ Periodic review of streams and ponds must be done and corrected where deemed incompatible with the animals' ability to stay hydrated;
- ❑ The potential contamination of rivers, ponds, or streams with cattle feces must be considered; and
- ❑ Local, state, and federal laws regarding cattle access to running or still water resources must be followed.

Note: The type of terrain and the weather conditions will dictate where water resources must be located. Wherever possible, troughs and gateways must be sited away from the bottom of slopes and dips in the ground. This will ensure better drainage and will allow areas of deep mud to be avoided. If necessary, troughs should be placed on concrete aprons.

Equipment Inspections and Maintenance (cont.)

Name of Producer: _____

Site ID: _____

Inspections and Maintenance of Auxiliary Power Supply:
Where the cattle are dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed:

- ❑ An auxiliary power supply (such as a standby generator), must be available and tested and maintained at least yearly or per manufacturer recommendations.
- ❑ The auxiliary power supply must have sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, water pumps, and lights for at least 24 hours.

An auxiliary power supply is not required on ranches where the cattle are not dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed.

Ventilation & Environmental Controls for Indoor Facilities

- ❑ Maximum and minimum temperatures must be monitored daily.
- ❑ Ventilation equipment must be checked daily and maintained for proper operation.
- ❑ Ventilation rates must be monitored daily, and adjustments made in order to maintain minimum ventilation requirements and to maintain air quality parameters.

Monitoring of Air Quality for Enclosed Environments
Where cattle are housed in an enclosed environment:

- ❑ Ammonia levels, measured monthly at the height of the animals at multiple locations in the house, are ideally less than 10 ppm but in any case, must not exceed 25 parts per million.
- ❑ Inhalable dust must not exceed 10 mg/m^3.
- ❑ If a monthly test result exceeds either limit, a program of mitigation must be adopted with records kept, and testing must be performed weekly until level return to acceptable limits.

Note: Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer.

Inspections and Maintenance of Fencing

- ❑ All fencing must be regularly inspected and maintained and be free of sharp projections, protuberances, and other surfaces that may cause injury to the animals.
- ❑ Electric fences must be designed, installed, used, and maintained so that contact with them does not cause more than momentary discomfort to the cattle.

American Humane Farm Program

SOPs for Husbandry and Other Procedures

Name of Producer: _____

- *Attach the SOPs for Husbandry and Other Procedures and applicable records, which must as a minimum conform to the following provisions:*

"Where necessary, producers must use only approved, humane husbandry procedures accepted by the American Humane Certified™ program. Husbandry procedures must be performed at the earliest possible age. These practices must not be performed on sick or injured animals. All of these practices must be performed by trained and competent personnel using appropriate, well-maintained equipment in a way which minimizes suffering.

Teat Removal:

- ❑ Removal of supernumerary teats is not permitted unless their presence interferes with the suckling of the regular teats. In these cases, removal of supernumerary teats must be performed within 4 months under local anesthesia.
- ❑ If removal of supernumerary teats is necessary for calves or heifers older than 4 months of age, the procedure must be performed under local anesthesia by a veterinarian.

  Note: The removal of supernumerary teats is a rare procedure for beef cattle.

Disbudding/Dehorning:

- ❑ The cautery paste method of disbudding is permissible for use only for calves less than 7 days of age.
- ❑ The hot iron method of disbudding is permissible for use only for calves less than 30 days of age and must be performed under local anesthesia.
- ❑ After 30 days of age, if dehorning is determined to be necessary, the procedure must be performed by a veterinarian under local anesthesia and the calves must be given NSAID treatment for post-procedure pain management. Efforts must be made to avoid dehorning older cattle unless they prove to be dangerous to herd-mates or human handlers.

  Note: The use of polled breeds minimizes the need to disbud.

Castration:

- ❑ Castration must be performed at the earliest possible age. Castration through the application of a band (rubber ring) to restrict blood flow to the scrotum is permissible after 24 hours of age and up through 4 days of age.
- ❑ Where this is not possible, after 24 hours of age and up to 2 months of age, castration through use of a Burdizzo clamp, or surgical castration performed by the veterinarian under anesthesia, is permissible.
- ❑ After 2 months of age, castration must be performed surgically by the veterinarian under local anesthesia with provisions made to control bleeding.

Surgical Procedures:

- ❑ Surgical procedures such as Caesarian-sections must be performed by a qualified veterinarian."

American Humane Farm Program

SOPs for Husbandry Procedures
Records

Individuals Trained and Approved to Perform Husbandry Procedures:

The individuals listed have been trained in the specific husbandry procedures noted. The trainer has confirmed and validated the trainee's competence in performing the procedure(s) noted, and records of this training have been kept on file:

Date	Name of Trainee/ Stockperson	Name of Trainer	Husbandry Procedures

This form is for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

American Humane Farm Program

Euthanasia Policy

Name of Producer: _____

- *Note: "The Euthanasia Policy includes provisions for routine euthanasia (culls). Euthanasia and disposal of carcasses must be consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations."*
- *Attach the Euthanasia Policy and applicable records, which must as a minimum conform to the following provisions:*

- ❑ "Only properly trained farm personnel or the herd veterinarian are to perform euthanasia. *A trained handler should demonstrate proper use of the euthanasia equipment to the auditor.*
- ❑ Training records which identify: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training; the name of the trainer; the specific method(s) of euthanasia covered in the training; confirmation that the trainees' competence in performing the procedure was validated by the trainer, including proper techniques and proper use of any equipment; and the date(s) that the training occurred.
- ❑ Procedures stating that:
    - If there is any doubt as to whether euthanasia is required: the veterinarian or properly trained personnel is to be called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible; OR
    - If the veterinarian or properly trained personnel determine that an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain, then the animal must be promptly and humanely euthanized to prevent further suffering.
- ❑ For euthanasia equipment: records showing that equipment has been maintained per the manufacturer's recommendations and that it is stored securely, protected from the elements, and kept clean.
- ❑ The approved methods of euthanasia that are to be used for each age group of animals and under what circumstances. These methods must be approved by, and comply with, the latest edition of the American Veterinary Medical Association's ***AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.***
- ❑ Procedures stating that the persons performing euthanasia must verify that each animal has been properly euthanized through the absence of:
    - Breathing for five minutes;
    - A heartbeat for five minutes; and/ or
    - A corneal reflex (a blinking reflex upon touching the eye)
- ❑ If the animal is not successfully euthanized, the same method or an alternate method is performed immediately.
- ❑ Logs stating the reason for euthanasia, the date, the competent personnel performing the euthanasia, numbers of animals euthanized, and the procedure used.
- ❑ Procedures for the proper disposal of carcasses, and records of the name of the outlet through which all such carcasses are disposed, unless carcasses are disposed of on-farm, in which case records are kept of the disposal method. Disposal must meet all state, local, and/or federal regulations.

Nothing stated here is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment of any ill or injured animal."

American Humane Farm Program

Euthanasia Policy
Records

Individuals Trained and Approved to Perform Euthanasia:

The individuals listed have been trained in the specific method(s) of euthanasia noted. The trainer has confirmed and validated the trainee's competence in performing the procedure(s) noted, and

Date	Name of Trainee/ Stockperson	Name of Trainer	Method(s) of Euthanasia

records of this training have been kept on file:

This form is for your use. Farm records with this information may be substituted.

Euthanasia Policy (cont.)
Records (cont.)

Approved Methods of Euthanasia:

Stage of Production	Euthanasia Method of Choice	Alternate Euthanasia Method
Calves		
Young Stock		
Adult Cattle		

- Emergency Euthanasia Plan (by age group) – **Post in visible location**.

  Business name:

  Veterinarian name and phone number:

  Rendering or disposal service:

  Producers must keep a copy of the ***AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals*** with their herd plans.

- Carcass Disposal Policy

  Method of carcass disposal (if rendering company or dead hauler used, list name and number):

  Method used to restrict access/viewing of the public to carcasses present on farm/ranch:

  Method used to reduce fly and odor nuisance:

Appendix B

Animal Welfare Standards
Audit Tool

American Humane™ Farm Program

American Humane Certified™

Beef Cattle

Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool

Introduction

The ***American Humane Farm Program (American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards)*** is the product of over 140 years of applied experience in farm animal welfare. Since its beginning in 1877, American Humane has had a long history with the humane treatment of farm animals. In its work to improve the treatment of working animals and livestock in transit, American Humane has been involved in almost every major advancement in improving the welfare of animals, including an instrumental role in the enactment of the 28 Hour Transportation Law. In 1916, the U.S. Secretary of War asked American Humane to help with the rescue of horses and other animals on the battlefields of World War I. The program that followed became Red Star Emergency Services program, which continues to this day to rescue and shelter animals involved in disasters throughout the country.

Given its history, it was natural that American Humane would create the first farm animal welfare audit program. In 2000, AH pioneered the first third party audit and certification program in the United States to encourage and support the humane treatment of animals used for food. Organized as the Free Farmed® certification program, the first ***Animal Welfare Standards*** were based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' ***Welfare Standards***, the Federation of Animal Science Societies' ***FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching***, and the governing principles first developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) known as the "Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare":

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
- Freedom from fear and distress
- Freedom to express normal behaviors

Since its origins, American Humane's farm animal welfare standards have been and continue to be a living document. The standards and the audit process are continually reviewed and updated, using the expertise of the American Humane Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee of internationally renowned animal scientists and veterinarians advances new science and regularly evaluates the standards to ensure that the American Humane Certified™ program incorporates the best and current knowledge of humane practices.

American Humane collaborates with institutions and organizations on independent research in animal behavior as well as new handling and housing applications. The program incorporates the practical, hands-on experience of farmers and ranchers, and ensures that new technology and knowledge from veterinarians and animal research experts are shared with producers. Third-party audits help to educate, encourage, and support producers in adopting humane practices. The program promotes clear, reasoned communication with consumers and retailers about the meaning and value of humanely raised food and the benefits not only to animals but also to people.

*Note: Please refer to Appendix C of the full **Animal Welfare Standards** for a list of additional References consulted in the development of these standards.*

Core Criteria

Items that are essential to the "Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare" are scored higher than other questions in the audit. "Core Criteria" are scored either 25 or 50 points and must be satisfactorily addressed in order to pass the audit. These items are listed below (refer to ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** following for full descriptions):

M1: Company Policy
The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language. Personnel must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy.

M2: Employee Code of Conduct
An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all personnel, in their native language. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct.

M11: Herd Health Plan
A Herd Health Plan (HHP) must be available at the main office. The HHP must document the activities affecting animal health for the year's cycle of production.

M17: Colostrum for Calves
For both heifer and bull calves it is vital that each new-born calf receives adequate, quality colostrum from its dam, from another fresh cow, or from a frozen or dried colostrum source as soon as possible after birth, and no later than within the first 6 to 8 hours of life.

M20: Weaning in Ranch Settings
Calves must be weaned with consideration given to limiting stress on the animals, for example, by weaning them into a familiar environment, by using fenceline weaning and plastic nose tabs, and/or by mixing them with heifers during the weaning process. Freshly weaned calves must never transported. The vocalizations of freshly weaned calves must never be heard in a transport environment.

M22: Handling Aids
Sticks and flags must be used only as benign handling aids (i.e., as extensions of the arm). Sticks must not be used for hitting, beating, or poking the cattle. Electric prods must not be used except where animal and/or human safety is in jeopardy and it is the means of last resort. Electric prods must not be carried by stock-keepers as a matter of course. Handlers must use tails gently if necessary to direct the animal's movement.

M29: Non-Ambulatory ("Downer") Cattle
Care must be taken to avoid causing unnecessary pain or distress to a sick or injured animal that is unable to move. Moving by means that can cause further physical or psychological damage is prohibited. *Refer to the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) guidelines for acceptable methods of moving non-ambulatory cattle.*

M30: Segregation and Care of Sick or Injured Animals
Provisions must be made for the segregation and care of sick and injured animals. Any animal suffering from illness or injury must be segregated and treated without delay, and veterinary advice must be sought when needed.

M32: Identification
Cattle marking must be performed by trained personnel quickly, expertly, and with the proper equipment in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress.

M46: Monitoring of Air Quality for Enclosed Environments
Where cattle are housed in an enclosed environment, dust and ammonia be maintained at acceptable levels. *Note: Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer.* Inhalable dust must not exceed 10 mg/m^3. Ammonia levels must be monitored by the producer and maintained ideally at less than 10 ppm, but should never exceed 25 ppm.

M48: SOPs for Husbandry and Other Procedures
Where necessary, producers must use only approved, humane husbandry procedures accepted by the American Humane Certified™ program. Husbandry procedures must be performed at the earliest possible age. These practices must not be performed on sick or injured animals. All of these practices must be performed by designated, trained and competent personnel or the herd veterinarian using appropriate, well-maintained equipment in a way which minimizes suffering and optimizes recovery. Procedures include supernumerary teat removal, disbudding/ dehorning, castration, and other surgical procedures.

M52: Euthanasia Policy
A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely euthanasia.

FW1: Body Condition Score
All cattle whether in ranch conditions or at the feedlot must be fed a wholesome and appropriate diet for their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity so that they sustain full health and normal reproductive capability over their maximum foreseeable lifespan. Body Condition Score (BCS) must be assessed during regular observation periods such as weaning, 30 days post-weaning, 90 days before calving, at calving, and at the beginning of breeding season.

FW3: Freshness of Feed
Troughs must be kept clean and stale food removed on a daily basis. Automatic feeding equipment must be kept clean and free of stale feed and be maintained in good working order. All stored feed must be free of bird or rodent feces and vermin.

FW6: Access to Water
All cattle, including calves older than 1 day and cattle in confinement, must be provided with continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day, except when otherwise required by the attending veterinarian.

E5: Environmental Safety
There must be no physical features of the environment which cause recurring injuries to cattle.

E16: Ammonia
When cattle are kept in an enclosed environment, provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer as specified by Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA standards for particulates. Ammonia levels measured by the auditor should be less than 10 ppm but must not exceed 25 ppm.

E19: Lying Area
Cattle must have access at all times to a lying area which is well-drained or well- maintained with dry bedding, and which is of sufficient size to accommodate all cattle lying down together in normal resting posture. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations, see Supplement, Table 1 at the end of the ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool.***

E39: High Heat and Humidity Conditions
Cattle must have the opportunity to thermoregulate. The combination of high temperature and humidity can contribute to heat stress. When cattle show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief.

Core Criteria
(Note: see the ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** for full descriptions.)

E42: Tail Condition

E43: Electric Prod Use

E44: Cattle Exiting the Squeeze Chute

E45: Vocalizations during Handling

E46: Incidence of Cattle Running into Gates or Fences

E47: Incidence of Slips and Falls Score

E48: Lameness/ Locomotion Score

E49: Leg Condition Score

E50: Coat Condition

E51: Mud Score

T16: Space Allowance during Transport
During transport cattle, must have sufficient room per the FASS transportation space guidelines. Additional space must be provided to allow the cattle to spread apart during hot weather. Cattle must have sufficient head clearance to stand comfortably without touching the ceiling of the transport equipment. For partial loads, the transport vehicle must be sub-divided to account for the size of the group being transported.

T24: Slaughter
The American Humane Certified™ program adheres to the ***Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide*** published by the North American Meat Institute Foundation for humane slaughtering and processing practices.

Slaughter practices and facilities must be audited annually to demonstrate compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices as part of this audit, unless audited by an outside audit group.

Pass/Fail Audit Items

The following items must be satisfied in order to pass the audit. Failure of these items will result in failure of the audit, and may result in the farm or ranch being suspended from the program.

P/F 1: No Instances of Willful Acts of Abuse

P/F 2: Body Condition Score

P/F 3: Lameness/ Locomotion Score

Audit Scoring

Score Process

There are 136 audit items for 1432 total points possible on the ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool for Beef Cattle***. 31 audit items, totaling 900 points, are related to Core Criteria items on this audit- these Core Criteria questions have score values of 25 or 50 points. In order for a farm to be certified by the ***American Humane Certified™*** program, each site must meet an audit score of 85% based on the score of Total Points Achieved versus Total Points Achievable score. Additionally, there are 3 Pass/Fail audit items. These three audit items MUST be addressed satisfactorily in order to pass the audit.

Since not every audit item may apply to every farm, some items will be considered Not Applicable (NA). It is necessary to remove these NA questions from the overall count. An example of this process has been provided below:

a.) Total Points Possible			**b.) Total NA's**	**c.) Adjusted Points Achievable**	**d.) Total Points Achieved**	**Overall Audit Percentage**
Items	Value	Points	Example	Example	Example	
5	50	250	(*core*)	250	250	
26	25	650	(*core*)	650	650	
31	10	310	1 @ 10	300	290	
74	3	222	4 @ 3	210	201	
A.) Total Points Possible =1432			**B.) Total NA's =22**	**C.) Total Points Achievable = A.-B. =1432-22 =1410**	**D.) Total Points Achieved =1391**	**D./C. = Overall Audit Percentage Example= 1391/1410=98%**

Step 1- Count the Total Points Possible for all items on the scored ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool.***
Step 2- Count the number of Total Not Applicable (NA) audit items. Subtract the Total NA's from the Total Points Possible for all items. This will give you the Adjusted Points Achievable for the audit.
Step 3- Count up the Total Points Achieved in the audit. These are the audit items that were in conformance.
Step 4- Divide the Total Points Achieved by the adjusted Total Points Achievable to find the Overall Audit Percentage.

- Each site must have an Overall Audit Percentage of 85% or above and each of the Pass/Fail items must be addressed satisfactorily in order for a site to pass the audit.

Non-Conformances

All welfare issues identified with a loss of points during an audit are discussed in the exit interview by the auditor and will be described on the ***Non-Conformance Report***. The ***Non-Conformance Report*** will list out the non-conformances found by the auditor and must be signed by both the manager and auditor. All corrective actions agreed upon at the exit interview must be corrected even if your farm receives certification.

Corrective Action Plan

A Corrective Action Plan is submitted online to American Humane within 10 days of the Non-Conformance Report date. The Corrective Action Plan describes the items identified through the audit process and the corrective actions that will be taken by the producer.

Corrective Action Completion

The Corrective Action Plan is completed within 90 days and a Corrective Action Completion form is submitted online with supporting documentation. Producers are subject to a re-audit at the discretion of the American Humane Certified™ program after plan completion. Variances are permitted through submission to the American Humane Certified™ program and upon approval. Producers are encouraged to report to the American Humane Certified™ program on their progress on corrective actions throughout the correction period.

Farms in the American Humane Certified™ program are expected to maintain high welfare standards throughout the term of their certification. If it is determined after an audit that a farm in the American Humane Certified™ program has fallen out of compliance, the farm is immediately suspended from the program. Suspended farms must verify correction of the non-conformances and pass a new audit before being reinstated. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to perform spot checks at any time during the certification period.

American Humane
Farm Program

American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool Beef Cattle

- *Auditor note: the following information should be completed in full (unless N/A) and reported to the American Humane Certified™ program with submission of the audit.*

AUDITOR:	AUDIT DATE: From: To:	AUDIT SCORE:

LICENSE HOLDER:

PRODUCER:	**LICENSE MANAGER:**
Address:	**Email:**
City:	**Office #:**
State:	**Cell #:**
ZIP:	**Alt #:**
Country:	**Fax #:**

AUDIT FARM LOCATION:

AUDIT FARM:	**FARM MANAGER:**	**STOCKPERSON:**
Address:	**Email:**	**Email:**
City:	**Office #:**	**Office #:**
State:	**Cell #:**	**Cell #:**
ZIP:	**Alt #:**	**Alt #:**
Country:	**Fax #:**	**Fax #:**

CATTLE SUPPLIER:	TRANSPORTER:	PROCESSOR:
NAME:	**NAME:**	**NAME:**
Address:	**Address:**	**Address:**
City:	**City:**	**City:**
State:	**State:**	**State:**
ZIP:	**ZIP:**	**ZIP:**
Country:	**Country:**	**Country:**
Contact:	**Contact:**	**Contact:**
Contact #:	**Contact #:**	**Contact #:**

FARM DATA:
(Audited location only)

	MAIN PREMISES	SECONDARY PREMISES *(Only if applicable)*
Type of Housing: *(barn / outside / both)*		
Audited Housing Space (ft^2): *(Only if applicable)*		
Audited Grazing Space (acres): *(Only if applicable)*		
FOR MAIN PREMISES ONLY:		***FOR SECONDARY PREMISES ONLY:***
Calves Bought:		
Calves Sold:		
Stockers Bought:		
Stockers Sold:		
Finished Stock:		

For more locations, provide the same details as above for other sites on a separate attached piece of paper.

Name of Producer Group if under Forward Contract (OPTIONAL):

List of Quality Assurance Programs:

Audit Notes

- *The American Humane Certified™ standards are written to cover facilities in varying geographic and temperature regions and facilities utilizing different systems. Therefore, not all sections in these standards apply to every facility. Farmers must comply with any local, state or federal mandates for handling and processing Beef cattle that affect the environment or safety of their product.*
- *If an outside company is used for other processes such as marking/ identification or slaughter, documentation must be available showing that the individuals are properly trained in these areas. This can be accomplished through training documents and/or the Certificate of Conformances.*
- *If the auditor observes willful acts of abuse towards the animals during the course of the audit, s/he must suspend the audit and notify the manager, their audit company, and the American Humane Certified™ program immediately. An investigation will be made to assess the incident and to determine whether remedial actions are required. If the incident is determined to be severe, the producer may be placed on probation from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit. (See also "Pass/Fail Auditor Observations" at the end of the audit.)*

Office Records/ Management

A high degree of caring and responsible management and stockmanship is vital to ensure good animal welfare. Managers and stockman must be thoroughly trained, skilled, and competent in animal husbandry and welfare and must have a good working knowledge of their system and the livestock under their care.

The following records and documentation must be made available to the auditor at the time of the audit. These are to be maintained in the form of a Farm Manual. Ranches may use their own forms for records or they may use the template forms which are provided in Appendix A of the full **Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle.**

Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct

		Selection	Score
M1	**Company Policy** The Company Policy must be available to all personnel, in their native language. Personnel must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy, which must include as a minimum: ❑ Emphasis of the company's commitment to providing an environment which promotes high standards of animal welfare; ❑ The implementation of a "zero-tolerance" policy which states that willful acts of abuse towards the animals will not be tolerated and, upon the discretion of the company, these actions are grounds for immediate dismissal. Acts of abuse include but are not limited to: ○ beating the cattle, ○ slamming gates on the cattle, ○ using any type of prod inappropriately (on sensitive areas of the animal) and/or using the electric prod when neither the welfare of the animal or of the handler is in immediate jeopardy, ○ using electronic immobilization for any reason, ○ driving the animals atop one another, and ○ goading or dragging a downer animal; ❑ The implementation of a "whistle blower" policy that protects employees who report animal welfare issues. *American Humane recommends that the producer implement an incentive policy which rewards stockpersons/ crews for excellence in humane husbandry.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
M2	**Employee Code of Conduct** An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all personnel, in their native language. Personnel must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct, which must include as a minimum: ❑ All personnel are expected to handle the cattle in a positive and compassionate manner at all times; ❑ Each worker has the responsibility for and is expected to contribute to upholding high standards of animal welfare at all times as they perform their own duties; ❑ In addition to the worker's assigned duties, each also must be cognizant that the basic requirements such as adequate feed, water, and environment must be provided to the cattle at all times, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities are lacking; and ❑ All personnel have access to the ***Animal Welfare Incident Report*** or a similar company document or company protocol (such as an 800 number) for reporting incidences. Personnel must complete and submit this document or otherwise report whenever they observe incidences related to animal welfare that cause them concern.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

Office Records & Documentation

M3	**Records of Production** Comprehensive production records must be available for at least one year in electronic, graphic, or tabular form for each species, recording performance parameters including but not limited to: ❑ Animal movement logs (incoming and outgoing stock); ❑ Numbers and ages (i.e. calf, heifer, etc.) of mortalities (with reasons stated, if known) and date; ❑ Numbers and ages of cull cattle (with reasons stated) and date; and ❑ Numbers and ages of downer cattle and date.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/10**
M4	**Site Checklists** Records must be available for at least one year for each site with the following information for all cattle previously and currently maintained on that site: ❑ Numbers of calves bought and calves sold; ❑ Numbers of stockers bought and stockers sold; ❑ Numbers of finished stock; ❑ Total square feet of bedding / loafing area; ❑ Number of free-stalls or bedded (loafing) area; ❑ Total square feet available to livestock; ❑ Total grazing acres available where applicable; and ❑ Site capacity in relation to age, weight, feeding and drinking, and bedding space.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/10**
M5	**Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** SOPs must be available in regularly updated, comprehensive written instructions, in workers' native language, relating to daily, weekly, and monthly activities and procedures. Examples may include but are not limited to: ○ Protocols for routine inspections of animals; ○ Protocols for routine inspection, maintenance and cleaning of equipment; ○ Any biosecurity protocols (if applicable, e.g. maintaining fences, checking rodent bait, etc.); ○ SOPs for Calves & Weaning; ○ SOPs for Handling; ○ SOPs for Care & Handling of Sick or Injured Animals; ○ SOPs for Identification; ○ SOPs for transportation; ○ SOPs for slaughter; and ○ Any additional procedures to maintain compliance with any applicable local, state, and federal regulations. ➢ *Auditor note: mark "Yes" if SOPs for miscellaneous activities and procedures are available; mark "No" if they are not.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/10**

M6	**Emergency Response Plan** An Emergency Response Plan must be available at the main office. This plan must include: ❑ Contingency plans and precautions to cope with severe events/ emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals, and the procedures to be followed by responsible personnel in the event of severe events/ emergencies such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, interruption of supplies, etc. ❑ Procedures to ensure that responsible individuals (and alternates, if necessary) can be notified. This should include primary and alternate contact numbers for the individual(s) responsible for reacting to emergencies, i.e. stockpersons/ managers, family members, and/or owner as appropriate. *Note: it is recommended to provide contact numbers for at least three responsible stockpersons and/or family members when possible, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary*. Note: The ERP should also include emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. site address and other relevant information, contacts for fire department, local utilities, etc.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/10**

Nutrition, Lighting, & Herd Health Plans

M7	**Nutrition Plan** A Nutrition Plan must be available at the main office. This plan includes: ❑ Certification or proof that the diet has been developed in consultation with a qualified cattle nutritionist OR in consultation with the veterinarian or other qualified individual using commercially mixed feed. ❑ Demonstration that the diet conforms to the following requirements (such as a letter from the nutritionist/ other qualified individual or other evidence which confirms the following): ❑ The diets for each age group have been developed in accordance with the nutritional guidelines provided by the most recently published National Research Council (NRC) standards; ❑ Feedstuffs do <u>not</u> contain ruminant-derived protein sources with the exception of milk and milk products; ❑ Growth hormones/ growth promoters including but not limited to beta agonists are not used as additives to the feed in the <u>stated formulation</u> for the <u>stated producer</u>; and ❑ In-feed antibiotics or anti-parasitic agents are not used in the <u>stated formulation</u> for the <u>stated producer</u>, except and unless for permitted therapeutic reasons as prescribed by the attending veterinarian and as documented in the Herd Health Plan.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/10**

M8	The Nutrition Plan must also include: ❑ Specifications for a diet that is adjusted as appropriate to the age and breed of the cattle in order to promote balanced nutrition. In all cases, nutritional maintenance through feeding of quality forage, mineral concentrates, etc. must be provided to maintain good health. ❑ Cattle must not be maintained in an environment that is likely to predispose them to nutrient deficiency. Managers must be aware of any mineral deficiencies to correct these as appropriate. ❑ Specification that changes in the type and quantity of feed must be introduced gradually in order to limit the risks of digestive problems such as acidosis. ❑ Adult cattle must be provided with a supplemental source of fiber to promote rumination. The fiber must be of such quality and length as to stimulate rumination and help avoid acidosis by aiding in proper digestion.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/3**
M9	The Nutrition Plan must also include: ❑ Feed records that have been retained for at least one year, including: ❑ Identification of feed mill and whether major or minor source of feed; and ❑ Feed constituents/ feed concentrates (minerals/amino acids, etc.) used at each site. ❑ A written record of the feed ingredients, and the inclusion rate of compound feeds and feed supplements; ❑ Records from the feed supplier with a statement of compliance that feed ingredients meet all FDA requirements for feed safety.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/3**
M10	**Lighting** Adequate lighting, whether natural or artificial, fixed or portable, must be available to enable cattle and facilities/equipment to be thoroughly inspected at any time.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/3**

M11	**Herd Health Plan** A written Herd Health Plan (HHP) must be available at the main office. This plan must include: ❑ Certification or proof that the HHP has been developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian: o The herd veterinarian must sign and date the HHP; and o The HHP must be annually updated; ❑ Records of vaccination protocols and any vaccinations; ❑ Records of treatment protocols and any treatments, including: ❑ Identification of the animal(s); ❑ The type of treatment and reason for the treatment; ❑ Dates of treatment; ❑ The types/route of administration and quantities of medications used; ❑ Details of the therapeutic use, defined as treatment, prevention and control, as allowed by current laws, of any antibiotics (including ionophores), antiparasitics, and antifungals, which includes the requirements that antibiotics, antiparasitics, and antifungals must only be used therapeutically as prescribed by the herd veterinarian; ❑ Therapeutic use must be for individual animals OR for specific groups of animals only when specified by the herd veterinarian through determination that the entire group is at high risk of contracting disease; ❑ Therapeutic use is in conformance with the latest edition of the FDA ***Judicious Use of Antimicrobials for Beef Cattle Veterinarians*** and complies with withdrawal periods; ❑ Records of any surgical procedures; ❑ Tolerance levels for overall herd performance; ❑ Causes of morbidity and mortality where known; and ❑ Targets for other aspects of herd health. ❑ Neither beta-agonists nor antibiotics (except ionophores) may be used to increase feed efficiency or growth. NOTE: Treatment must never be withheld to maintain an antibiotic-free production policy. Animals must be given appropriate treatment, including antibiotics, if prescribed by the flock veterinarian, regardless of antibiotic-free production policy.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

M12	The Herd Health Plan must also include: ❑ Management plans for the prevention of physical maladies; ❑ Although foot problems are rare in extensively raised beef cattle, attention must be given to the condition of the feet of breeding cattle depending on their pasture or pen conditions: o If a problem is identified, a foot care plan must be implemented as specified in the HHP, using methods that are appropriate to the condition or the animals and the individual farm, ❑ Action plans for the mitigation/ prevention of recurring injuries to suggest that there is a common cause and that is attributable to physical features of the environment or handling procedure; ❑ Practical measures that are in place to prevent or control external and internal parasitic infestations; ❑ Procedures to be followed in the event of an outbreak of abnormal behavior, including appropriate and immediate changes in the system of management. If abnormal behavioral activities develop repeatedly and inhibit normal functioning of the animal in any particular pen, a program of modification and enrichment must be agreed upon together with the farm veterinarian. This excludes the repeated rubbing of brushes designed for that purpose. o *For observation purposes the following possible repetitive abnormal behavioral patterns may include repeated rubbing in the absence of disease, tongue rolling/aerophagia, bar biting/chewing, pica (licking/chewing solid objects), eating soil/sand/dirt, navel sucking, ear sucking, urine drinking, and/or persistent bellowing. Observations are made over an extended period of time.* o *Excessive mounting within feedlots may be indicative of Buller Steer Syndrome (BSS). In this case the buller steer must be removed from the pen. Although the precise cause of BSS is not known studies indicate high stocking densities are a contributing factor;* and ❑ The program adopted and followed for the prevention and control of organisms that cause food safety concerns.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
M13	**Herd Performance Parameters** ❑ Tolerance limits for herd performance must be established. The herd must be continually monitored for herd performance parameters including: production diseases, infectious diseases, and injury as a result of housing/ husbandry/ and handling. o *This includes, for example: metabolic disorders (hypocalcaemia, hypomagnesaemia, ketosis, displaced abomasum, laminitis, bloat, acidosis), septicemia, enteritis, problems at calving, repetitive physical injury, respiratory diseases, body condition, and/or non-ambulatory animals.* ❑ The causes of morbidity and mortality where known and other aspects of herd health: all sudden deaths, disease outbreaks, and incidences where cattle are humanely euthanized must be recorded and investigated in consultation with the herd veterinarian when necessary. ❑ Where any herd performance parameter falls below the tolerance limits established by the producer and the herd veterinarian in the Herd Health Plan, or if the numbers of casualty or culled animals exceeds the parameters in the HHP, the veterinarian must be informed and management practices adjusted or a program of mitigation adopted until the problem has been resolved.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

Biosecurity Plans

M14	**Biosecurity Plan, Structural/Access** The structural biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum the maintenance of perimeter fencing for the exclusion of other livestock. For off-range facilities, such as feedlots if applicable, structural biosecurity must include policies and procedures for the exclusion of unapproved visitors and the management of approved visitors.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M15	**Biosecurity Plan, Operational** The operational biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum: ❑ Biosecurity precautions that are taken to prevent the introduction of disease when new animals are brought to the cow/calf operation. This should include control methods/ health certificates/ or quarantine of the new animals away from other cattle for 15 to 30 days or other time by instruction of the herd veterinarian: ❑ Managers must be provided appropriate treatment and vaccination records by vendors when new stock is brought onto the site, ❑ Isolation facilities must be provided to observe and test new animals before integration with the rest of the herd, and/or the new stock must be appropriately treated (for endo/ectoparasite control), and ❑ Hired bulls must only be used when no alternative is available. The hired bull must be screened for its potential disease status prior to its introduction; and ❑ Protocols to avoid cross-contamination (such as shovels not used for both manure and feed, etc.). For off-range facilities, such as feedlots if applicable, structural biosecurity must include policies and procedures which include but are not limited to: ❑ Maintenance of pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping; ❑ Bulk feed and emergency water sources are covered and protected, and other potential attractants of pests, rodents, mold, etc. are removed; ❑ Facility/ equipment cleaning/sanitizing protocols and schedules; and ❑ (if applicable) restrictions on access of domestic or wild animals.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
M16	**Waste Disposal Plan** Each location must maintain a Waste Disposal Plan which detail protocols for the safe and proper disposal of medical waste, sharps, carcasses, and other waste that poses a potential threat to animal and human health and safety.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

SOPs for Calves & Weaning

M17	**Colostrum for Calves** For both heifer and bull calves: ❑ It is vital that each new-born calf receives adequate, quality colostrum (2-4 quarts) from its dam, from another fresh cow, or from a frozen or dried colostrum source as soon as possible after birth, and no later than within the first 6 to 8 hours of life. ❑ The frozen or dried colostrum source must supply a minimum of 100 grams of IgG per dose. ❑ Records must show that purchased calves have received colostrum as set out above.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/25**
M18	**Thermal Environment** Proper precautions must be taken to prevent and manage hypothermia in young calves. *While healthy young calves can tolerate low air temperatures, newborn animals, calves that have been transported or deprived of food, and sick calves are all particularly susceptible to hypothermia.* ❑ Hypothermia and additional stress must be avoided in well-ventilated, unheated buildings by the use of thick, dry bedding and by preventing drafts. ❑ Sick individuals must be provided artificial heat if ambient conditions warrant. ❑ If calving on pasture, pastures must provide cows with a dry calving environment and access to natural or artificial shelter as weather conditions dictate.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/3**
M19	Where there is a high risk of infectious disease, consideration must be given to the individual quarantining of calves for the initial rearing period up to as much as 5 weeks.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/3**
M20	**Weaning in Ranch Settings** ❑ Calves must not be weaned earlier than 3 months of age. It is recommended that calves be allowed to suckle for up to 6 months of age. ❑ Calves must be weaned with consideration given to limiting stress on the animals, for example, by weaning them into a familiar environment, by using fenceline weaning and plastic nose tabs, and/or by mixing them with heifers during the weaning process. ❑ Calves must be weaned and vaccinated no sooner than 30-45 days prior to being transported. ❑ <u>Freshly weaned calves must never be transported- the vocalizations of freshly weaned calves must never be heard in a transport environment</u>.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

SOPs for Handling

M21	Cattle must be handled quietly at all times, and efforts must be made to accustom/ familiarize the cattle to contact with stockpersons (handlers). At no time are the cattle to be yelled at or screamed at. Cattle must be handled with the least amount of force needed. In all cases care, must be taken to avoid unnecessary pain or distress.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M22	**Use of Handling Aids** ❑ Sticks and flags must be used only as benign handling aids (i.e., as extensions of the arm). ❑ Sticks must not be used for hitting, beating, or poking the cattle. ❑ Electric prods must not be used except where animal and/or human safety is in jeopardy and it is the means of last resort. ❑ Electric prods must not be carried by stock-keepers as a matter of course. ❑ Handlers must use tails gently if necessary to direct the animal's movement. ➢ *Note: See "P/F1" below also.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
M23	❑ Cattle must not be driven unless the exit or the way forward for the lead cow is clear. ❑ Cattle must not be rushed or run along alleyways, passageways, or through gateways.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M24	A cattle-handling unit must be available, comprised of a collecting system and a method of restraint, appropriate to the type, temperament, and numbers of stock to be managed.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M25	**Use of Restraints** Cattle must not be closely restrained (i.e. tethered or stanchioned) except in the following circumstances, and then for not more than 4 hours. Cattle must not be deprived of water for more than 2 hours and sooner if the cattle are outside and/or if conditions are hot. Close restraint is permitted only for the following circumstances: o For the duration of any examination, routine test, blood sampling, veterinary treatment. o While they are being fed. o For the purpose of marking, washing, or weighing. o While facilities are being cleaned. o During artificial insemination. o During hoof-trimming. o Awaiting loading for transportation.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M26	**Immobilization of Cattle** ❑ Tranquilizers (chemical immobilizations) may be used only when mechanical restraint is not an option (such as to immobilize an aggressive animal), and are only to be administered by the farm veterinarian and only at his or her discretion. ❑ Tranquilizers must not be used in any situation where the animal may injure itself, such as near open water, on steep slopes, etc. ❑ The animal must be closely monitored until it has recovered and is no longer at risk of injury to itself or from other individuals. ❑ Electric immobilization is not permitted for use under any situation.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M27	**Use of Dogs** Dogs, including working dogs, must be properly trained, must not cause injury or distress to cattle, and must be kept under control at all times.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

SOPs for Care & Handling of Sick or Injured Animals

M28	❑ All efforts must be made to ensure the rapid diagnosis, immediate treatment, and optimized recovery for any sick or injured animal. ❑ If an animal does not respond to treatment, it must be humanely euthanized. ❑ If an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain, it must be humanely and immediately euthanized. ❑ No live animal may leave the farm unless it can walk unassisted, except as noted below.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/3**
M29	**Non-Ambulatory ("Downer") Cattle** ❑ Care must be taken to avoid causing unnecessary pain or distress to a sick or injured animal that is unable to move. Moving by means that can cause further physical or psychological damage is prohibited. *Refer to the North American Meat Institute guidelines for acceptable methods of moving non-ambulatory cattle.* Non-ambulatory animals (and ambulatory animals) must not be moved by hoisting by chain, dragging, or lifting without complete body support- doing so is considered a willful act of abuse. See P/F1 also. ❑ The use of hip-lifters is permitted only for emergency, short-term assistance. Cattle must not be left unattended when hip-lifters are in use. ❑ Hind-leg hobbles ("splitters") may be used only when necessary to prevent cattle from becoming non-ambulatory. *Medical breakthroughs in the treatment of cattle have made it possible to assist downer cattle to regain health and productivity.* ❑ Where the farm veterinarian determines that a downer animal may be successfully moved with limited levels of pain and distress, and where the veterinarian determines that the downer is a good candidate for treatment, it may be humanely transported from the farm to a medical facility using approved methods. ❑ If the farm veterinarian determines that an animal cannot be successfully transported or treated, it must be euthanized humanely and immediately. ❑ The transportation, treatment or euthanasia of the animal must be documented in the health care records in the American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual. *Refer to UC Davis "Care for the Downer Cow" for additional recommendations.* *Reference: Stull, Berry, Reynolds, and Payne. 2008. Care for the Downer Cow. (Small placard published by UC Davis.)*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/50**
M30	**Segregation and Care of Sick and Injured Animals** Provisions must be made for the segregation and care of sick and injured animals. ❑ Any animal suffering from illness or injury must be segregated and treated without delay, and veterinary advice must be sought when needed. ❑ If the animal does not respond to treatment or is in severe pain or suffering, and the veterinarian determines that the animal is unlikely to recover, that animal must be euthanized humanely and immediately. ❑ If used, hospital/ isolation pens must be maintained in a clean condition and be of a size which is appropriate for the age, size, and breed of the animal. ❑ Animals in hospital pens must be able to stand up, turn around, lie down, rest, and groom themselves without hindrance. ❑ Water and feed must be readily accessible even to non-ambulatory animals. ❑ Urine and feces from hospital pens for sick and injured animals must be disposed without the risk of spreading infection to other stock. ❑ Pens must be constructed to facilitate effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and the possible removal of a carcass from the area.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/25**

SOPs for Identification

M31	Where neckbands, tail-bands, ear tags, leg-bands, or RFIDs are used for identification purposes, they must be fitted with care and adjusted as required to avoid unnecessary pain or distress (for example by being too tight, etc.)	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M32	Cattle marking must be performed by trained personnel quickly, expertly, and with the proper equipment in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress. <u>The following methods of identification are NOT permitted for use in cattle identification</u>: ❑ Brands, jaw-brands, and ear-notching. ❑ Any surgical alterations for identification, such as ear-splitting, wattling (cutting strips of skin from the animal), etc. Livestock markers for the temporary marking of livestock (i.e., crayons, chalk, and paints) must be especially developed for that purpose and must be non-toxic. _____ Method(s) of identification used.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

Records of Stockperson Training

The continuing education of personnel who have day-to-day contact with the cattle is one of the most important ways to ensure behaviors that support and promote animal welfare. It is important to have documentation confirming personnel training in aspects of herd welfare appropriate to the level of operation.

M33	**Training Documentation** *Note: applies to <u>all training</u> in this section "Records of Stockperson Training"* Stockpersons must be provided training at orientation, as well as yearly updates/ refresher courses (and opportunities for continuing education and professional development) and specialized training in aspects of animal welfare appropriate to the level of operation. For all training of personnel: ❑ Training must be presented in the workers' native language. ❑ Training may include company SOPs, videos, manuals, classroom settings, online instruction, etc. as appropriate. ❑ Training <u>must</u> include 'hand's on' experience and evaluations. ❑ Training must include review of the ***American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards.*** ❑ Training must clearly define what is expected of each stockperson so that each is fully aware of their duties and responsibilities. ❑ Training records must be signed by both the trainer and the trainee, and include the training topic and date of: orientation, yearly update/ refresher course, or specialized training.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

M34	**Training for All Stockpersons**
	Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of livestock, all stock persons must be properly trained. As a minimum, the training program for all stockpersons in direct contact with the animals must include the following topics:
	❑ Training and validation in the safe, correct and approved methods of cattle handling and use of cattle-handling units in a manner which minimizes unnecessary stress to the cattle, including:
	  ❑ Understanding the behavioral characteristics of cattle and the likely stress factors that cattle may be subjected to, how cattle react towards other cattle, towards man, and to strange noises, sights, sounds, and smells;
	  ❑ Using visual fields (i.e. cattle have a wide field of vision but have a blind spot behind them, which handlers should avoid entering) and flight zones (an imaginary area which if handlers enter will make the animal want to move away. Handlers control an animal's movement by understanding the flight zone);
	  ❑ Lighting (as cattle prefer to move from the dark into the light); and
	  ❑ When and how to use such things as sticks and other implements;
	❑ Knowing the normal behavior of cattle and of the herd and to recognize the signs that indicate good health and welfare so that in the eventuality of an impending problem arising they are able to recognize it at the earliest stages;
	❑ Recognizing readily apparent behavioral actions of the cattle which indicate an inability of the animals to thermo-regulate (such as heavy panting and head-bobbing) and the actions that must be taken to provide relief to the cattle, especially when immediate actions are required;
	❑ Having a basic knowledge of what constitutes proper nutrition in cattle;
	❑ Having knowledge of normal body conditions in cattle and the necessary steps to be taken if problems arise;
	❑ Recognizing the signs of abnormal behavior and fear;
	❑ Recognizing deviations from normal cattle activity;
	❑ Understand the physical and environmental requirements for cattle throughout each season and especially during breeding, calving, weaning, etc.;
	❑ Having a basic knowledge of the signs of common diseases, illnesses, and injuries and knowing when either direct action is required or when the responsible personnel must be notified; and
	❑ Knowing the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, i.e. the Emergency Response Plan.
		❑ **Yes**
		❑ **No**
		❑ **N/A**
			/10

M35	**Specialized Training of Stockpersons** Documentation must be available for the training of stockpersons who are responsible for performing specialized duties, with emphasis on animal welfare, minimizing pain and distress to the animals, and optimizing health. Specialized training includes but is not limited to: ❑ the specific training in routine monitoring of individual cattle health; recognizing unusual conditions or behaviors; recognizing signs for the early detection of injuries and lameness, sickness, and disease and the appropriate and timely remedial actions to be taken, either by the direct action of the stockperson or through the notification of the responsible personnel; ❑ specific training for personnel responsible for any equipment which impacts animal welfare, such as crowd gates, squeeze chutes, restraining equipment, downer handling equipment, etc., including: ❑ proper use of the equipment, ❑ performing routine maintenance to ensure that the equipment is kept in good working order, ❑ recognizing common signs of malfunction, and ❑ knowing actions to be carried out in the event of equipment failure; ❑ understanding the fundamental principles of cattle breeding and genetics; ❑ training in the processes during breeding, particularly the selection of suitable bulls, semen, and embryos for use in heifers; ❑ training in procedures for calving and the care of the newborn calf; ❑ training in the functional anatomy of the normal hoof, and its care and treatment; and ❑ training in the functional anatomy of the normal teat and udder.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
M36	**Further Training** Prior to performing procedures that have the potential to cause suffering (e.g. injections, oral-dosing, foot-trimming, disbudding/ dehorning, castration, identification, etc.), the stockperson must be able to demonstrate to the trainer that they are proficient in performing those procedures, with emphasis on animal welfare, minimizing pain and distress to the animals, and optimizing recovery. Further training includes but is not limited to: ❑ Specific training in recognizing cull and downer cattle, determining whether an animal needs to be euthanized and who is responsible for making the decision, and determining whether transport of downers is appropriate; ❑ specific training and certification of the approved stockpersons' proficiency in approved techniques for euthanasia; ❑ specific training and certification in approved husbandry procedures and protocols; and ❑ training in the proper methods of marking/ identifying cattle in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
M37	**Training of Outside Workers** Workers outside of the ranch's control, such as foot trimmers, transport companies, etc., must be familiar with and conform to all requirements in these standards related to their duties, including but not limited to approved handling and moving of cattle including downers, approved protocols for the transport of cattle, and performing their duties proficiently and in a manner that minimizes undue stress to the animals etc. Documentation must be available confirming the qualifications of any outside employees, such as training records, a Certificate of Conformance, etc.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

Inspections of Livestock

M38	Daily inspections encompass the monitoring of animals' body condition and feed/water consumption; signs of lameness; condition of the coat and leg; cleanliness of the animals; and any signs of disease. All cattle must be inspected and monitored regularly to confirm animal health and for the early detection of injuries and early signs lameness, sickness, and disease so that appropriate and timely actions may be taken.
	
	❑ For indoor housing, managers must inspect their livestock including all facilities (i.e. calving areas, hospital pens, bull pens, etc.) at least daily.
	❑ For open range or pasture, efforts must be made to track the location of the herd and check on its condition not less than once per week or more often during extreme weather, or as soon as possible after a severe weather event such as a blizzard.
	❑ During calving, more frequent inspections must be performed, including inspections of heifers for signs of impending parturition.
	❑ Weather conditions must be taken into account when determining frequency of monitoring during calving season, i.e. for inclement weather, rates of inspections must increase.
	❑ It is recommended that first calf heifers be kept in separate pastures from the adult cow herd.
	❑ Records must be kept on file for a minimum of one year of the following circumstances at a minimum:
	  ❑ records of mortalities, including the date, the age of the animal and the cause if known; and
	  ❑ records of culls, including the date, the age of the animal and the reason for culling.
	  ❑ <u>Carcasses must be removed away from live animals as soon as practical after discovery, and disposed of promptly thereafter.</u>
	
	❑ The stockperson performing the inspections must proceed in a careful, deliberate manner to avoid frightening the animals unnecessarily, and must follow a path that allows them to see each animal.
	❑ During inspections or at any other time, if the stockperson observes any animal which appears to be behaving in an unusual manner, the stockperson must immediately notify the responsible personnel who will determine whether remedial actions are required.
		❑ **Yes**
		❑ **No**
		❑ **N/A**
			/10

M39	**Producer Observations and Scoring** Records must be on file for a minimum of one year showing that properly trained farm personnel have performed the following health observations and scoring, at least monthly for feedlots and twice per year for ranches, and including but not limited to: ❑ Body Condition Scoring; ❑ Cattle Exiting the Squeeze Chute; ❑ Vocalizations During Procedures; ❑ Slips and Falls Scoring; ❑ Lameness/ Locomotion Scoring; ❑ Leg Condition Scoring; ❑ Coat Condition Scoring; and ❑ Mud Scoring. These records must be filed as part of the Herd Health Plan. Where scoring falls outside of the acceptable limits noted in the Herd Performance Parameters, records must document the actions taken and that subsequent scoring was within acceptable limits. *Note: Specifications for sample size and performance criteria are listed in the 'Environment' section.* ➢ *Auditor note: Where scores have been identified be outside of acceptable parameters, records must show that a program of corrective action was implemented and maintained until scores returned to acceptable levels.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
M40	When welfare issues are noted during inspections, i.e. when herd performance data are outside of the limits defined in the HHP, then the rate of inspections must be increased until parameters return to acceptable levels.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment

M41	**Equipment Inspections and Maintenance** Stockpersons must inspect all equipment on which the livestock rely on a daily basis, such as water troughs and feeding facilities and whether the equipment is manual or automatic. Stockpersons must also perform routine, scheduled maintenance as defined in the SOPs. Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time): ❑ It must be rectified immediately; or ❑ If the defect cannot be rectified immediately, the stockperson must follow the measures as specified in the SOPs or take other actions in order to safeguard the animals from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect. These measures must be maintained until the defect has been rectified. ❑ Routine maintenance must be performed per the equipment manufacturer's recommendations.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M42	**Inspections and Maintenance of Water Systems** Water systems must be inspected and maintained daily to confirm that clean, fresh water is readily available to the cattle: ❑ Water availability must be checked daily; ❑ Water delivery must be monitored to make sure water is provided at all times; that is, the water delivery system must keep pace with the demand of the maximum number of cattle who are able to drink at the same time; ❑ All water sources must be checked for contaminants such as elevated levels of feed, algae, manure, nitrates, pathogens, etc.; and ❑ Samples of water must be taken and recorded periodically to ensure that water quality is acceptable for cattle. *State or local water quality requirements must be followed.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M43	**Inspections and Maintenance of Water in Range/Pasture Conditions** In addition to the above, where cattle are kept primarily on pasture: ❑ During the winter, the water source must be kept clear of ice; ❑ The area around the water troughs must be managed to avoid excessive wetting and, if necessary, water troughs must be placed on concrete aprons to limit mud or sodden ground; ❑ Periodic review of streams and ponds must be done and corrected where deemed incompatible with the animals' ability to stay hydrated; ❑ The potential contamination of rivers, ponds, or streams with cattle feces must be considered; and ❑ Local, state, and federal laws regarding cattle access to running or still water resources must be followed. *Note: The type of terrain and the weather conditions will dictate where water resources must be located. Wherever possible, troughs and gateways must be sited away from the bottom of slopes and dips in the ground. This will ensure better drainage and will allow areas of deep mud to be avoided. If necessary, troughs should be placed on concrete aprons.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

M44	**Inspections and Maintenance of Auxiliary Power Supply:** Where the cattle are dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed: ❑ An auxiliary power supply (such as a standby generator), must be available and tested and maintained at least yearly or per manufacturer recommendations. ❑ The auxiliary power supply must have sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, water pumps, and lights for at least 24 hours. ➢ *Auditor note: An auxiliary power supply is not required on ranches where the cattle are not dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed. For these settings only, this item should be marked "N/A."*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M45	**Ventilation & Environmental Controls for Indoor Facilities** ❑ Maximum and minimum temperatures must be monitored daily. ❑ Ventilation equipment must be checked daily and maintained for proper operation. ❑ Ventilation rates must be monitored daily, and adjustments made in order to maintain minimum ventilation requirements and to maintain air quality parameters.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
M46	**Monitoring of Air Quality for Enclosed Environments** Where cattle are housed in an enclosed environment: ❑ Ammonia levels, measured monthly at the height of the animals at multiple locations in the house, are ideally less than 10 ppm but in any case, must not exceed 25 parts per million. ❑ Inhalable dust must not exceed 10 mg/m^3. ❑ If a monthly test result exceeds either limit, a program of mitigation must be adopted with records kept, and testing must be performed weekly until level return to acceptable limits. *Note: Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
M47	**Inspections and Maintenance of Fencing** ❑ All fencing must be regularly inspected and maintained and be free of sharp projections, protuberances, and other surfaces that may cause injury to the animals. ❑ Electric fences must be designed, installed, used, and maintained so that contact with them does not cause more than momentary discomfort to the cattle.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

SOPs for Husbandry and Other Procedures

Note: All local and/or state regulations must be followed.

M48	**Husbandry Procedures** Where necessary, producers must use only approved, humane husbandry procedures accepted by the American Humane Certified™ program. Husbandry procedures must be performed at the earliest possible age. These practices must not be performed on sick or injured animals. All of these practices must be performed by designated, trained and competent personnel or the herd veterinarian using appropriate, well-maintained equipment in a way which minimizes suffering and optimizes recovery. ➢ *Auditor note: Check only the boxes that are applicable*: Teat Removal: ❑ Removal of supernumerary teats is not permitted unless their presence interferes with the suckling of the regular teats. In these cases, removal of supernumerary teats must be performed within 4 months under local anesthesia. ❑ If removal of supernumerary teats is necessary for calves or heifers older than 4 months of age, the procedure must be performed under local anesthesia by a veterinarian. *Note: The removal of supernumerary teats is a rare procedure for beef cattle.* Disbudding/Dehorning: ❑ The cautery paste method of disbudding is permissible for use only for calves less than 7 days of age. ❑ The hot iron method of disbudding is permissible for use only for calves less than 30 days of age and must be performed under local anesthesia. ❑ After 30 days of age, if dehorning is determined to be necessary, the procedure must be performed by a veterinarian under local anesthesia, and the calves must be given NSAID treatment for post-procedure pain management. Efforts must be made to avoid dehorning older cattle unless they prove to be dangerous to herd-mates or human handlers. *Note: The use of polled breeds minimizes the need to disbud.* Castration: ❑ Castration must be performed at the earliest possible age. Castration through the application of a band (rubber ring) to restrict blood flow to the scrotum is permissible after 24 hours of age and up through 4 days of age. ❑ Where this is not possible, after 24 hours of age and up to 2 months of age, castration through use of a Burdizzo clamp, or surgical castration performed by the veterinarian under anesthesia, are permissible. ❑ After 2 months of age, castration must be performed surgically by the veterinarian under local anesthesia with provisions made to control bleeding. Surgical Procedures: ❑ Surgical procedures such as Caesarian-sections must be performed by a qualified veterinarian.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
M49	Induction of parturition must not be used as a routine management procedure, but is only permissible per a veterinarian's recommendation.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
M50	Non-veterinarians performing per-rectum pregnancy detection must have received appropriate training.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

M51	Calving aids must only be used to assist a delivery and not to produce a calf as quickly as possible. Before any type of calving aid is used, the cow must be examined to ensure that the calf is of a size where natural delivery can be reasonably expected without causing undue pain and distress to either the dam or the offspring.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Euthanasia Policy

The Euthanasia Policy includes provisions for routine euthanasia (culls). Euthanasia and disposal of carcasses must be consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

M52	**Euthanasia Policy** A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely euthanasia. This policy must include: ❑ Only properly trained farm personnel or the herd veterinarian are to perform euthanasia. *A trained handler should demonstrate proper use of the euthanasia equipment to the auditor.* ❑ Training records which identify: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training; the name of the trainer; the specific method(s) of euthanasia covered in the training; confirmation that the trainees' competence in performing the procedure was validated by the trainer, including proper techniques and proper use of any equipment; and the date(s) that the training occurred. ❑ Procedures stating that: o If there is any doubt as to whether euthanasia is required: the veterinarian or properly trained personnel must be called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible; OR o If the veterinarian or properly trained personnel determine that an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain, then the animal must be promptly and humanely euthanized to prevent further suffering. ❑ For euthanasia equipment: records showing that equipment has been maintained per the manufacturer's recommendations and that it is stored securely, protected from the elements, and kept clean. ❑ The approved methods of euthanasia that are to be used for each age group of animals and under what circumstances. These methods must be approved by, and comply with, the latest edition of the American Veterinary Medical Association's ***AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia.*** ❑ Procedures stating that the persons performing euthanasia must verify that each animal has been properly euthanized through the absence of: o Breathing for five minutes; o A heartbeat for five minutes; and/ or o A corneal reflex (a blinking reflex upon touching the eye) ❑ If the animal is not successfully euthanized, the same method or an alternate method must be performed immediately. ❑ Logs stating the reason for euthanasia, the date, the competent personnel performing the euthanasia, numbers of animals euthanized, and the procedure used. ❑ Procedures for the prompt, proper disposal of carcasses, and records of the name of the outlet through which all such carcasses are disposed, unless carcasses are disposed of on-farm, in which case records are kept of the disposal method. Disposal must meet all state, local, and/or federal regulations. **<u>Nothing stated here is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment of any ill or injured animal.</u>**	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/50**

On-Site/ Food & Water

Livestock must have freedom from hunger, thirst, and malnutrition by ready access to fresh water and a diet designed to maintain full health and promote a positive state of well-being. Feed and water must be distributed in such a way that livestock can eat and drink without undue competition.

Food

<table>
<tr><th></th><th></th><th>Selection</th><th>Score</th></tr>
<tr><td>FW1</td><td>
Body Condition Score
❑ All cattle whether in ranch conditions or at the feedlot must be fed a wholesome and appropriate diet for their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity so that they sustain full health and normal reproductive capability over their maximum foreseeable lifespan.
❑ Cattle must have daily access to food, unless otherwise required by a veterinarian.
❑ Body Condition Score (BCS) must be assessed during regular observation periods such as weaning, 30 days post-weaning, 90 days before calving, at calving, and at the beginning of breeding season.
❑ At the time of the audit, 98% of cattle and calves must have a BCS of 3 or above on a 9-point scale. (There must be less than 2% with a BCS less than 3.)
❑ Note: Any animal with a BCS of less than 3 must be under individual treatment and nutritional care in order to bring BCS back to acceptable levels.
❑ <u>Note: See “P/F2” below also.</u>
❑ 95% of cattle and calves must have a BCS of 7 or less on a 9-point scale. (There must be less than 5% with a BCS of 8 or 9.)
❑ Note: any animal with a BCS of 8 or 9 must have a documented nutrition plan in concert with the nutritionist and veterinarian in order to bring BCS back to acceptable levels.

<u>Note: Body Condition Score is considered a Core Criterion as evidence of animal health. Unacceptable BCS at the site may result in probation from the American Humane Certified</u>™ <u>program</u>
<table>
<tr><th>Score</th><th>Appearance</th><th>Condition</th></tr>
<tr><td>1</td><td>emaciated</td><td>skeletal</td></tr>
<tr><td>2</td><td>poor</td><td>very thin with bony protuberance</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>thin</td><td>thin fat cover cut off for certification, under fails</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>borderline</td><td>light fat cover over ribs, muster, hip</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>moderate</td><td>light fat cover over all body parts</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>good</td><td>medium fat cover</td></tr>
<tr><td>7</td><td>very good</td><td>frame fat cover is balanced</td></tr>
<tr><td>8</td><td>fat</td><td>fat deposits, tailhead, dewlap</td></tr>
<tr><td>9</td><td>obese</td><td>excessive fat deposits, tailhead, etc.</td></tr>
</table>
➢ Auditor note: Record all cattle and calves with BCS less than 3 or greater than 7 and compare to the total number of cattle and calves.

_____ Percentage of cattle and calves with BCS of 3 or above.
_____ Percentage of cattle and calves with BCS of 7 or less.
➢ Auditor note: See “P/F 2” below also.
</td><td>❑ Yes
❑ No
❑ N/A</td><td>/50</td></tr>
</table>

FW2	**Feeder Space** ❑ Feed availability and feeder space must be provided such that cattle do not need to compete for food. See Supplement, Table 1 at the end of this audit tool for Feeder Space recommendations. ❑ Extra trough space must be made available if a restricted diet is applied.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/10**
FW3	❑ Troughs must be kept clean and stale food removed on a daily basis. ❑ Automatic feeding equipment must be kept clean and free of stale feed and be maintained in good working order. ❑ All stored feed must be free of bird or rodent feces and vermin.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/25**
FW4	Non-feed items/products (such as herbi- and pesticides, chemicals, machinery oil, etc.) must not be stored in the feed mixing or ingredient and supplement storage areas.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/3**
FW5	Control practices must be in place to minimize access to poisonous plants and unsuitable feedstuffs.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/3**

Water

FW6	**Access to Water**
	❑ All cattle, including calves older than 1 day and cattle in confinement, must be provided with continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day, except when otherwise required by the attending veterinarian.
	❑ The availability of water, which includes the flow rate of the water delivery systems, must meet the demands of the herd:
	  ❑ at least 10% of the herd must be able to drink at any one time;
	  ❑ the line of animals waiting to drink at water stations must be no more than three animals deep; and
	  ❑ water tanks, troughs, etc. must be full when not being used, and must not completely drain when cattle are drinking.
	❑ Waterers must be placed at a height appropriate to the size and age of the cattle.
		❑ **Yes**
		❑ **No**
		❑ N/A
			/50

FW7	For indoor housing: ❑ Cattle must have access to water at all times. ❑ All waterers must be kept clean, and watering equipment is designed, constructed, placed, and maintained so that contamination of the animals' water is minimized. ❑ Water troughs must not leak resulting in wetting/fouling of the bedded areas. *The area surrounding water tanks, troughs, etc. should be on concrete where possible.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
FW8	When cattle are kept primarily on pasture: ❑ Clean, fresh water must always be available, and must meet the requirements for 'Access to Water' noted above. ❑ During winter, the water supply must be kept clear of ice. ❑ The area around the water troughs must be managed to avoid excessive wetting/ sodden ground and mud. ❑ Local, state, and federal laws regarding cattle access to running or still water resources must be followed. *If necessary, water troughs should be placed on concrete aprons to limit mud or sodden ground.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
FW9	**Emergency Water Supply** Provisions must be in place to ensure an emergency supply of suitable drinking water in case normal supplies fail (e.g., due to freezing, drought, power failure, well malfunction, etc.) for at least 24 hours.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ N/A	**/10**

On-Site/ Environment

The environment in which livestock are kept must take into account their welfare needs and provide the best husbandry approaches; must meet all industry standards and governmental regulations; must be designed to protect them from physical and thermal discomfort, fear, and distress; and must allow them to perform their natural behaviors. All equipment and fixtures must be selected, installed, and maintained to optimize the well-being of the cattle. The animals must be protected from pain, injury, and disease, and their environment must be conducive to good health.

Sites

		Selection	Score
E1	A copy of the current ***American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle*** must be available on-site as a reference for all stockpersons.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E2	**Biosecurity, Structural/Access** Structural biosecurity must be demonstrated at a minimum through proper maintenance of perimeter fencing for the exclusion of other livestock. For off-range facilities such as feedlots, if applicable, structural biosecurity must be demonstrated by: ❑ Any physical methods (i.e. secured or restricted access to facilities, signs posted at facility entrances, etc.) for the exclusion of unapproved visitors; ❑ Signs posted at the facility which provide instructions and information for approved visitors regarding biosecurity procedures; and ❑ Logging of all approved visitors. Non-farm personnel are not permitted on the site except by approval from site managers, and unless appropriate precautions have been taken to prevent contamination between farms.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E3	**Biosecurity, Operational** For off-range facilities such as feedlots, if applicable, operational biosecurity must be demonstrated at a minimum by: ❑ The maintenance of pest and predator control methods such as baiting and trapping; ❑ If appropriate, the protection of bulk feed and emergency water sources, and the removal of other potential attractants of pests, rodents, and predators; and ❑ Evidence that facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules are being followed.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
E4	**Emergency Contact Information** Emergency Contact Information, in worker's native language, must be available at the main office. This must include: ❑ Emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc. and site address; ❑ Primary and alternate contact numbers for the notification of individual(s) responsible for reacting to emergencies, i.e. stockpersons/ managers, family members, and/or owner as appropriate. *Note: it is recommended to provide contact numbers for at least three responsible farm workers and/or family members when possible, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary;* and ❑ Procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc., and contingency plans and precautions to cope with emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Environmental Safety

E5	**Environmental Safety** There must be no physical features of the external or internal environment that cause recurring injuries to cattle. *Injury is defined as damage severe enough for the formation of granular scar tissue that is to an extent significantly greater than would be caused by accidental bumps and scratches. Excessive occurrence of the following may be indicators of a poor environment: neck calluses; knee and/or hock swellings/calluses; teat/udder injuries; broken tails; hematomas; chronic scar tissue; soft hooves; inter-digital infections; laminitis; abscesses; and/or bruised soles.* ❑ The interior of any building, including the floor and all internal fittings/surfaces to which livestock have access, must be designed, constructed, maintained, and regularly inspected to ensure that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury or distress to the animal. This includes the provisions of adequate and safe holding and handling facilities (whether indoors or outdoors) as well as to transportation vehicles. Particular attention must be paid to handling pens. ❑ Floors must be made of non-slip material or must be maintained to reduce the risk of slipping (sand, mats, or other materials are applied when necessary). ❑ Floors must not be so rough as to cause hoof damage. *Lesions and wounds on animals along with lameness are indicators of building conditions which needs immediate remediation. See also "Lameness/Locomotion Score" below.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E6	Except where preservatives with an insecticidal role are used, cattle or calves must not come into contact with toxic fumes from chemicals.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E7	All electrical installations must be inaccessible to cattle, well-insulated, safeguarded from rodents, properly grounded, and regularly tested for stray voltage.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E8	❑ Building alleyways, passages, or gateways must be maintained in order to prevent injury to the animals. ❑ Passages such as gates or alleys must be of such a design and width, and so constructed, to allow two animals to pass freely (except in chutes or races). ❑ Chutes and races must be designed to prevent balking and permit cattle to move smoothly through the system in a single line. ❑ Care must have been taken to minimize, and ideally exclude, the number of blind alleyways in the buildings, in order to avoid the incidences of bullying by dominant animals.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E9	Internal surfaces of housing and pens must be made of materials which can readily be cleansed and disinfected or easily be replaced when necessary.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E10	Where used, euthanasia equipment must show no obvious signs of neglect, i.e. rust, dirt and grime, and must be stored in a secure location protected from the elements.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Auxiliary Power Supply

E11	**Auxiliary Power Supply:** Where cattle rely on mechanical ventilation or electricity for water or feed, an auxiliary power supply, such as a standby generator, must be available and functional. ➢ *Auditor note: a stockperson must demonstrate that the auxiliary power supply is available and functional.* ➢ *Auditor note: An auxiliary power supply is not required on ranches or other settings where the cattle are not dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed. For these settings only, this item should be marked "N/A."*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

Thermal Environment & Ventilation

E12	❑ The thermal environment within buildings which cattle are housed must not be so hot or so cold as to cause distress. ❑ Pasture or range conditions must allow cattle access to features that allow relief during severe thermal swings. ❑ When cattle are kept in partially roofed units they must be provided with effective shelter from the wind and a dry, comfortable lying area. ➢ *Auditor note: the cattle must not show signs of either heat or cold stress.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
E13	For all cattle, an assessment of their surrounding environmental temperature and air movement (draft) must be undertaken, taking into account breed hardiness, age of stock, foreseeable climatic conditions, and natural shelter/shade.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E14	❑ Effective ventilation of buildings must be provided, permitting air movement at low velocity while avoiding drafts and ingress of rain and snow. ❑ Building ventilation must achieve a relative humidity below 80% when ambient conditions allow. ❑ System must provide adequate ventilation to remove the moisture produced by the stock and to reduce the number of airborne pathogens being passed from animal to animal. ❑ A professional must be consulted to determine adequacy of design and to rectify ventilation problems, including modifications to the ventilation rates and/or equipment.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
E15	Where the automatic equipment includes a ventilation system, the system must contain additional equipment or means of ventilation (whether automatic or not) which, in the event of such a failure of the ventilation system, will provide adequate ventilation so as to prevent the livestock from suffering unnecessary distress as a result of the failure.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E16	**Ammonia and Dust in Enclosed Environments** When cattle are kept in an enclosed environment, provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer as specified by Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA standards for particulates. Specifically, ammonia levels measured by the auditor in enclosed locations must not exceed 25 ppm. ➢ *Auditor note: for all enclosed locations, ammonia levels are to be measured at the height of the animals. List location and result of ammonia test in the "Notes" below.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

Lighting

E17	For fully enclosed housing, artificial lighting must be provided as needed to supplement natural light. The daytime light levels must be bright enough to allow facilities and animals to be inspected and workers to perform their duties without additional portable lighting (such as a flashlight, portable lamp, etc.)	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E18	Adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable must be available to enable the cattle to be thoroughly inspected at any time.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Lying Area/Space Allowances

E19	**Lying Area** Cattle must have access at all times to a lying area which is well-drained or well- maintained with dry bedding, and which is of sufficient size to accommodate all cattle lying down together in normal resting posture. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations, see Supplement, Table 1.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E20	A building or pen must provide adequate space such that all cattle at all times have sufficient freedom of sideways movement to be able to groom themselves without difficulty, and sufficient room to lie down and freely stretch their limbs and to rise. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations see Supplement, Table 1.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
E21	❑ Hard-surfaced pens must be made from materials that are impervious to water and urine. ❑ Surfaces must be slip resistant (grooved or scored) but not abrasive to cattle's feet. Diamond grooves are preferred with a depth X length of 0.5 inches x 4 inches. ❑ Hard-surfaced pens used for resting, recovery, or calving must be properly bedded with moisture-absorbent bedding or rubber mats. ❑ Manure-handling systems must be considered when using hard-surfaced flooring systems. ❑ Acceptable hard floors include grooved or unfinished concrete, partial concrete slats, plastic covered expanded metal, or rubber mats.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E22	❑ Open-housed growing cattle must be grouped according to size and age. ❑ Where cattle are maintained in feedlots, open feedlots must be sloped to promote proper drainage away from resting/loafing areas, water supply, feed troughs/bunks, and fence lines. ❑ All local, state, and federal environmental regulations must be adhered to. ❑ The following slope and space allowances are typical of Midwest feedlots: Slope (%) — Space per Animal (ft^2) 2% — 400-800 ft^2 2-4% — 250-400 ft^2 4% — 150-250 ft^2 *Note: space and slope will change with drier or wetter climates, the seasons, and different soil types.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
E23	The space allowance for cattle housed in groups must be calculated in relation to the whole environment, the age, sex, live weight, and behavioral needs of the stock, taking account of the presence or absence of horns and the size of the group. ❑ Every animal must have sufficient access to water and feed, a resting area. ❑ Cattle must remain reasonably clean. (See E51 "Mud Score")	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

E24	❑ When loose-housed, polled and horned cattle must not be grouped together, except where a social group exists. ❑ Precautions must be taken to prevent injury when mixing cattle.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E25	Special holding areas must be available for use during calving season, especially for first calf heifers or cows experiencing calving problems.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E26	All cattle must have freedom of movement to be able to groom themselves without difficulty and must be provided sufficient room to lie down, stretch their limbs, and to rise.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Calving Environment

E27	Calving pens or lots must have a bedded resting area, of such a size and with close access to a means of restraint (e.g., chute, head gate) as to permit a person to safely attend the cows and their calves. ❑ Cows must have free access to water; and ❑ Cows that are ready to give birth must be kept separate from the rest of the herd and from other species of livestock.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
E28	The heating and ventilation of the building (including insulation) must ensure that the air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative humidity, and gas concentrations are kept within limits which are not harmful to calves. ➢ *Auditor note: This is confirmed by no evidence of condensation, no odor issues, and no visible dust.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**
E29	The dimensions of holding areas or indoor accommodations must be in conformance with Supplement, Table 1.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E30	Internal surfaces of indoor calving and hospital pens must be constructed of materials which can be easily cleaned.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Bull Pens

E31	❑ Bull pens must be sited to allow the bull sight, sound, and odor of other cattle and general farm activity. ❑ Individual accommodation for an adult bull of average size must include a bedded sleeping area and loafing area as noted in the Supplement, Table 1 at the end of the audit tool. ❑ Bull pens must be safe for the stockpersons tending them. Adequate restraining facilities and an escape route for stockpersons must be provided. ❑ The service area must have a non-slip surface.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

Handling & Treatment Facilities

E32	❑ All handling facilities such as veterinary facilities and loading ramps must have non-slip flooring and must be constructed of materials which are easily cleaned. ❑ Internal walls of hospital boxes must be smooth and impervious to water and must be made of materials that are easily cleaned.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E33	**Alleyways and Gates** Alleyways and gates must be designed and operated so as not to impede the movement of cattle. ❑ Alleyways and gates must be free from protrusions or other hazards which have the potential to injure the animals. ❑ When operating gates and catches, effort must have been made to reduce excessive noise which may cause distress to the animals, and if necessary, noise reduction mechanisms have been fitted to gates. ❑ Gates must open and swing smoothly, and close securely.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E34	**Squeeze Chutes** ❑ Hydraulic or manual restraining (squeeze) chutes must be properly adjusted for the size of the cattle. ❑ Regular cleaning and maintenance of all working parts is imperative to proper working of the system and safety of the cattle and handlers. ❑ Hydraulic restraint systems must have their pressure relief valves adjusted to avoid excessive pressure applied to cattle during restraint: The pressure level setting of the squeeze chutes must be set so that it automatically stops squeezing before the animals show any signs of distress such as bellowing, straining, or difficulty breathing.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E35	**Loading Areas** ❑ Loading facilities must provide a ramp of no more than 20% incline. ❑ Loading ramps and tail boards must be fitted with fences or rails to prevent the cattle from slipping and falling off. ❑ Ramps may be of concrete or earth and, where concrete, are fitted with appropriately designed and spaced foot cleats/ battens, stair-steps, or other flooring surface that prevents slipping. ❑ A loading bay and/or ramp must have been provided, and must be well lit to enable animals to walk straight into or out of the vehicle on a level or slight gradient. *Note: It is generally recommended that solid sides are used in races, chutes, crowding pens, and loading ramps to avoid distraction and balking in cattle. Solid sides provide the greatest advantages where there are many distractions, such as vehicles, moving equipment, and people walking by.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Wind Breaks, Sun Shade, & Sprinklers

E36	Cattle kept on pasture/ range grazing conditions must be provided with shelter, shade, and windbreaks to allow them the opportunity to thermo-regulate and to mitigate welfare risks in adverse weather. *Shelter, shade, and windbreaks can be provided by geographical features such as well-drained hills and canyons, natural vegetation such as shrubs and tree belts, or manmade structures that are strategically placed to block prevailing winds.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E37	All facilities must provide cattle with the opportunity to properly thermo-regulate. Cattle must be provided with adequate space to perform behavioral adjustments important to thermoregulation and have access to facilities or natural shelters or barriers. *A one- or two-sided structure with a roof can provide shelter to cattle during periods of intense cold. Structures should be built with the open sides facing south or east (depending on prevailing winds) to maximize effects of solar radiation during the winter.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E38	When cattle are kept confined in partially roofed units (open fronted shed, covered feeding areas, etc.) they must be provided with effective protection from the wind and a comfortable, dry lying area.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
E39	**High Heat and Humidity Conditions** Cattle must have the opportunity to thermoregulate. The combination of high temperature and humidity can contribute to heat stress. During hot weather, cattle must have access to heat abatement, which can include: ❑ Natural or artificial shade with space sufficient for all cattle, ❑ Access to buildings with space sufficient for all cattle, and ❑ Water cannons, sprinklers, or other similar devices. In all circumstances but especially in feedlots, cattle must be monitored for signs of heat stress, especially dark-colored and the heavier animals. When cattle show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief. Also, see "Additional Considerations for Feedlots." *Cattle not conditioned to extreme conditions may suffer heat stress and die. The provisions of shade can make a difference under extreme conditions. In the Southwest U.S., shades should be 12 to 14 ft. high and in the Eastern U.S. 7 to 9 ft. high. The amount of shade provided depends on the size and number of cattle. A rule of thumb for young stock is 7.5 to 13 ft^2 per animal and for adult cattle 19.4 to 27 ft^2 per animal. During periods of extreme heat the use of water can assist in preventing heat stress through evaporative cooling. Cattle can also be cooled by water cannon, sprinklers or other appropriate devices.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E40	**Winter/ Cold or Wet Conditions** For winter/ cold or wet conditions, shelters and windbreaks must be provided to the cattle to mitigate wind chill and hypothermia and allow the cattle the opportunity to thermoregulate. *Windbreaks can consist of natural tree belts, fences, or manmade structures that are strategically placed to block prevailing winds. Natural geographic features such as hills or canyons may be used in pasture range grazing conditions.* *Windbreaks are recommended in mounded south-sloping feedlots in the northern part of the U.S. A 10-ft. minimum is the recommended height and can cut wind speed by half for 150 ft. downwind, or a 13-ft. windbreak can cut the wind speed in half for 200 ft. downwind. Windbreaks can also serve as snow control during the winter months.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

E41	**Additional Considerations for Feedlots** ❑ Open dirt feedlots must be mounded to provide dry resting areas for cattle and must meet EPA Standards for control of dust. ❑ During periods of prolonged wetness, mud must be managed so the depth of mud in the loafing area is not excessive or cause for difficult travel by cattle to and from feeding and watering areas. Mud over ankle depth must not be allowed to persist for long periods. ❑ Cattle, especially dark and heavier animals, must be continuously monitored for signs of heat stress during period of extreme heat and humidity, and must be provided with immediate relief as needed. When cattle show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief. ➢ *Auditor note: Mud must not be deeper than the top of the hoof (or about 4 inches.)* ➢ *Auditor note: If any animals are displaying signs of moderate to severe heat stress, the manager must be notified and remedial actions must be taken immediately.* ➢ *Auditor note: The feedlot must be provided with adequate shade and shelter as noted in the rest of this section.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/10**

Auditor Evaluations of Livestock

- *Auditor note: Unless noted otherwise, score all animals.*

E42	**Tail Condition** No less than 98% of the cattle may have undamaged, unbroken tails. *Broken tails sometimes result from accidents; however, cattle must not have damaged or broken tails that point to the use of excessive force by the handlers.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E43	**Electric Prod Use** ❑ Handlers must not carry electric prods as a matter of course, and electric prods must not be used in the crowd pen. ❑ 98% or more of the cattle must have been moved through the system without the handlers using an electric prod. ➢ *Auditor Note: electric prods must only be used as a method of last resort when animal or handler health of safety is in jeopardy.* ➢ *Score one group as it is being moved.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E44	**Cattle Exiting the Squeeze Chute** Cattle must be exiting the chute calmly: ❑ 90% or more of the cattle must be observed to exit the chute at a walk or a trot. ❑ 98% or more of the cattle must not fall when exiting the squeeze chute. *Note: The pressure level setting of the squeeze chutes must be set so that it automatically stops squeezing before the animals show any signs of distress such as bellowing, straining, or difficulty breathing.* *Note: Bars should not be closed against the animal's face. It should be possible to put fingers between the squeeze and the body. The animal should not be caught in the gate.* ➢ *Auditor Note: score one group of cattle as they are being moved through the squeeze chute. Score similar to a horse's gait for walks, trots, and runs. The animal is considered to 'fall' if its body touches the ground.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E45	**Vocalizations During Handling** ❑ No more than 3% of the cattle may vocalize within one second in direct response to being caught or upon entry to the squeeze chute or a restraining device. *Note: If more than 3% vocalize, the chute or restraining device must be adjusted accordingly. This does not include vocalizations caused by a procedure, or vocalizations in response to the animal being touched on the head or ear.* ➢ *Auditor Note: score one group of cattle as they are being moved through the squeeze chute or are being restrained.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E46	**Incidence of Cattle Running into Gates or Fences** ❑ No more than 1% of the cattle are observed to run into gates or fences.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

E47	**Incidence of Slips and Falls Score** The incidences of slips and/or falls in traffic areas and handling area must be evaluated and scored per the method NAMI "Scoring of Slipping and Falling" (including the size of the sample set.) During handling in squeeze chute facility, loading trucks, or sorting: ❑ The incidence of falls (where the animal's body touches the ground) must not exceed 1%. ❑ The incidence of slips must not exceed 3% ➢ *Auditor Note: score one group of cattle as they are being moved.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E48	**Lameness/Locomotion Score** Lameness/ Locomotion Score must be scored for heavy, market-ready animals (cows and bulls): ❑ 95% of the herd must have a Lameness/Locomotion (L/L) Score 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale: 1. The animal walks with a normal gait. 2. The animal walks with normal gait but back is slightly arched. 3. A lame animal is still fully mobile and can keep up with the herd but is walking with obvious limp. 4. The animal is no longer able to keep up with the herd but is still mobile and walking with an obvious limp. 5. The animal walks with great difficulty and is not able to keep up with the herd. *Note: Lameness/Locomotion Score is considered a Core Criterion as evidence of animal health. Unacceptable L/L may result in probation from the American Humane Certified™ program. See "P/F 3" below also.* ➢ *Auditor note: Score all market-ready animals using sample with 95% confidence and 5% margin of error.* _____ Percentage of the herd with L/L score of 1 or 2. ➢ *Auditor Note: See "P/F3" below also.* *"Keeping up with the herd" is assessed when the cattle are moved as a group from one location to another.* *Reference: Steven L. Berry, DVM, MPVM; Univ of Davis, CA, and Zinpro® Corporation 1997, in J Hulsen, Cow Signals*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

E49	**Leg Condition Score** Leg Condition Score must be scored in confined feeding situations: ❑ 98% of the herd must have a Leg Condition Score of 0 or 1 on a 0 - 3-point scale: 0 – No hair loss on hock 1 – Hock hair loss only 2 – Leg swelling but smaller than a baseball (cannot exceed 2% of the herd) 3 – Severe leg swelling larger than a baseball or open cuts with oozing (animals in this condition MUST be under the care of the herd veterinarian.) ❑ Cattle with leg conditions must be under treatment per the direction of the herd veterinarian in the Herd Health Plan. ➢ *Auditor note: Score all cattle.* *Reference: W.K. Fulwider, et al.* ***Influence of Free-Stall Base on Tarsal Joint Lesions and Hygiene in Dairy Cows****. Journal of Dairy Science, V.90 pp.3560-6.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E50	**Coat Condition** 98% of the cattle must have no bald spots on their coat. *Bald spots may be indicative of external parasites such as lice and ringworm. Affected animals must be treated without delay.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**
E51	**Mud Score** ❑ 90% of the cattle must have a Mud Score of 1 - 2 out of 4, scored using the Temple Grandin ***Cattle Mud Score*** for scoring: 1. Clean animal with some mud on feet and ankles. 2. Mud on legs above the knees. Sides and belly are clean. 3. Belly of the animal has mud caked on it. Sides are clean. 4. Belly and sides of the animal has mud caked on them. ❑ 95% of calves must have a Mud Score of 1 - 2 using the same scoring. ➢ *Auditor note: Mud must be scored for all cattle and calves. Record all cattle and calves that do not have acceptable mud scores and compare to the total group size.* _____ Percentage of cattle with mud score of 1-2 out of 4. _____ Percentage of calves with mud score of 1-2 out of 4. *Reference: Temple Grandin. 2011.* ***Audit Form- Welfare of Cattle in Feedlots (Updated July 2011).*** *Accessed December 12, 2011. http://www.grandin.com/beef.feedlot.welfare.form.html*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

Transport

- *Auditor note: <u>This section must be scored for all audits</u>.*

Transport SOPs

Animal transport systems must be designed and managed to ensure that animals are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport of animals must be accomplished in the shortest time possible and handling must be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in transport, including outside employees, must be thoroughly trained and competent in their duties and must use appropriate equipment and vehicles.

		Selection	Score
T1	All individuals involved in the handling and transport of cattle, including outside employees, must be trained and knowledgeable about cattle behavior and animal welfare and in the proper protocols for transport, i.e. the Transport SOPs. This must be demonstrated through Certificates of Conformance (COCs) and documentation of appropriate training.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T2	**Transport SOPs** The producer shall maintain Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Transport. The Transport SOPs as a minimum must: ❑ address steps that are taken to protect the animals during periods of inclement weather; and ❑ outline protocols and contingency plans to be taken in the event of an emergency, such as vehicle break-down, accidents, road closures, etc.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T3	❑ All animals must be examined and shown to be fit and healthy for transport. ❑ The following animals must not be transported, except in emergencies or for approved medical treatment: o Animals which are unable to walk unassisted or stand on all four limbs. o Fatigued, sick, or injured animals unless approved by the veterinarian for movement to a treatment facility. o Pregnant cows that are expected to give birth within 21 days (unless for short distances and where special consideration has been made). o Unweaned and newly-weaned (within 10 days) calves and their dams.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T4	❑ Cattle must not be kept in holding areas for more than 12 hours prior to loading. ❑ Feed and water must be available up to 4 hours prior to loading.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Loading & Transport of Animals

T5	Stock-keepers must know the behavioral characteristics of animals and how to handle animals during loading and unloading, including: ❑ using visual fields (i.e. cattle have a wide field of vision but have a blind spot behind them, which handlers should avoid entering) and flight zones (an imaginary area which if handlers enter will make the animal want to move away. Handlers control an animal's movement by understanding the flight zone); ❑ lighting (as cattle prefer to move from the dark into the light); and ❑ when and how to use such things as sticks and other implements.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

T6	Handlers must use only the minimal amount of force to maintain control of the animals and ensure the welfare of the animals and of the handlers. When the welfare of the handler or of the animals is in jeopardy, sticks or electric prods may be used on the hindquarters of animals capable of moving, and only on cattle over the age of six months. Electric immobilization is not permitted for any reason.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T7	Noise levels, sudden movements, and flashes of light must be minimized during loading and transport.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T8	Every effort must be made to ensure that journeys are completed without unnecessary delays, that drivers are familiar with the route and are aware of any potential traffic problems, and that they plan their journey accordingly.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T9	Cattle must be loaded and unloaded using suitable and adequately-sized ramps, bridges, gangways, or mechanical lifting gear, operated so as to prevent injury or unnecessary suffering to any animal.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T10	Ramps, bridges, gangways, and loading platforms must have a fence or rail on each side that is of sufficient strength, length and height to prevent any animal from falling or escaping; and is positioned so that it will not result in injury.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T11	Loading and transport equipment must be kept in good repair and is free of projections and gaps that are of a size whereby the animal could become trapped.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T12	❑ The flooring of the loading and transport equipment must be constructed to prevent slipping. ❑ The incidences of slips and or falls that occur during the loading and unloading process must be recorded and scored. Where slips or falls occur in excess of 1%, measures must be taken to mitigate the problem.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T13	Animals which are ambulatory, that is, capable of walking unassisted, must not be suspended by mechanical means, nor lifted or dragged by the head, horns, legs, or tails.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T14	Non-ambulatory animals: ❑ may be moved from the farm only if a veterinarian determines that the animal can be successfully treated at a medical facility; and ❑ must be moved or hoisted in containers or slings in which their bodies are fully supported and which cause no pain or distress to the animal.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T15	The transportation of any animal to a facility for medical treatment must be documented in the health care records in the American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T16	**Space Allowance in Transport** During transport: ❑ Cattle must have sufficient room for all individuals. Space per animal must be provided in conformance with the transportation space guidelines in the latest edition of the ***FASS Ag Guide***. ❑ Additional space must be provided to allow the cattle to spread apart during hot weather. ❑ Cattle must have sufficient head clearance to stand comfortably without touching the ceiling of the transport equipment. ❑ For partial loads, the transport vehicle must be sub-divided to account for the size of the group being transported. *References:* *Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS). 2010.* ***Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching,*** *3rd Ed. Table 5-2, p. 53.* *NAMI Foundation. 2012.* ***NAMI Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide.***	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/25**

T17	Transport vehicles must provide adequate ventilation while avoiding drafts.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T18	For transport during cold weather, cattle must be protected from drafts and the ingress of rain and snow.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T19	For transport during hot weather: ❑ Where possible, animals must be transported at night or in the coolest part of the day. ❑ Animals must be protected from direct sunlight. ❑ The transport vehicle must be equipped with a means to provide effective ventilation. ❑ The transport vehicle must have air-conditioning and/or the animals must be regularly sprayed with water to help them keep cool. ❑ The transport vehicle must not be kept stationary or parked in the sun for long periods. If it is unavoidable for the transport vehicle to be kept stationary, care must be taken to park the vehicle in shade, and inspections of the cattle must be increased to ensure the animals are not showing signs of heat stress.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T20	Cattle must be inspected immediately after loading and thereafter a minimum of every 4 hours, or more often during inclement weather. If any animal shows signs of distress including cold or heat stress, immediate remedial action must be taken.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T21	If an animal goes down in transport and cannot be successfully treated, it must be humanely euthanized on the spot or upon arrival at a medical facility per American Humane Certified™ standards.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T22	❑ Where mortalities during transport are traceable to a single cause, prompt action must be taken to prevent further deaths, injury, or suffering from occurring. ❑ Where high levels of transport mortality (in excess of 1%) from any single source in any three-month period occur, a veterinary investigation must be performed, mitigating actions taken, and the results reported to the American Humane Certified™ program.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**
T23	All loading and transport equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after the completion of transport.	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/3**

Slaughter

T24	The American Humane Certified™ program adheres to the ***Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide*** published by the North American Meat Institute Foundation for humane slaughtering and processing practices. Slaughter practices and facilities must be audited annually to demonstrate compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices as part of this audit, unless audited by an outside audit group. Where slaughter practices and facilities are audited for compliance to NAMI by an outside audit group, documentation must be available which: identifies the auditor and audit group, name and location of slaughter facilities, the date of the audit, and the results of the audit including any non-conformances, the corrective action that was taken, and the date of completion of the corrective action. *Complete the following to confirm compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices:* ❑ Name of auditor and audit group: _____ ❑ Name and location of slaughter facility: _____ ❑ Date of annual audit: _____ ❑ Results of audit: _____ ❑ List all non-conformances, corrective actions, and corrective action completion dates:_____ *The NAMI guide is available at animalhandling.org.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No** ❑ **N/A**	**/50**

Pass/Fail Auditor Evaluations

P/F1	**No Instances of Willful Acts of Abuse** Throughout the course of the audit, the auditor must not have observed any farm personnel committing willful acts of abuse, which include but are not limited to: ○ beating the cattle or breaking tails; ○ slamming gates on the cattle; ○ using the any type of prod inappropriately (on sensitive areas of the animal); ○ using the electric prod when neither the welfare of the animal or of the handler is in immediate jeopardy; ○ using electronic immobilization for any reason; ○ driving the animals atop one another; and ○ goading or dragging a downer animal. ➢ *Auditor note: this item has no point value:* ○ *A mark of "Yes" indicates that the auditor did NOT observe willful acts of abuse by farm personnel towards the animals.* ○ *A mark of "No" indicates that the auditor believes that willful acts of abuse towards the animals have been committed. The auditor must document the incident observed and s/he must inform farm management, their audit company, and the American Humane Certified™ program immediately. Upon the discretion of the American Humane Certified™ program, the audit may be suspended. See below.* ➢ *Willful acts of abuse are severe non-conformances and will not be tolerated. An investigation will be made to assess the incident and to determine whether remedial actions are required. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on probation from the program if the incident is determined to be severe. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies that to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated in the program.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No**	**/-**

P/F2	**Body Condition Score** At a minimum, at least 98% of the herd MUST have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 3 or above on a 9-point scale. See FW1: "Body Condition Score" above. ➢ *Auditor note: this item has no point value:* o *Mark "Yes" to this item if 98% or more of the herd have a BCS of 3 or above on a 9-point scale.* o *Mark "No" to this item if less than 98% of the herd have a BCS of 3 or above on a 9-point scale, and see below:* ➢ *<u>It is a severe non-conformance for a cattle operation to maintain more than 2% of the herd with unacceptably low BCS scores.</u> If this occurs, an investigation will be made to access the circumstances for the low BCS scores and the corrective actions that the producer proposes to take. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on immediate probation, or in extreme cases, suspension from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue. The cattle operation must pass a follow-up audit, which at the program's discretion will include an acceptable threshold for BCS that must be met prior to the cattle operation being reinstated.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No**	**/-**
P/F3	**Lameness/ Locomotion Score** At a minimum, at least 95% of the herd MUST have a Lameness/ Locomotion (L/L) Score of 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale. See E48: "Lameness/ Locomotion Score" above. ➢ *Auditor note: this item has no point value:* ➢ *Mark "Yes" to this item if 95% or more of the herd have an L/L of 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale.* ➢ *Mark "No" to this item if less than 95% of the herd have an L/L of 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale, and see below:* ➢ *<u>It is a severe non-conformance for a cattle operation to maintain more than 5% of the herd with unacceptable L/L scores.</u> If this occurs, an investigation will be made to access the circumstances for the low L/L scores and the corrective actions that the producer proposes to take. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on immediate probation, or in extreme cases, suspension from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies that to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue. The cattle operation must pass a follow-up audit, which at the program's discretion will include an acceptable threshold for L/L that must be met prior to the cattle operation being reinstated.*	❑ **Yes** ❑ **No**	**/-**

Audit Completion

To be signed at the end of the on-site audit:

Information in the completed *Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool* and attached *Non-Conformance Report* and Farm Manual documentation is complete, correct, and has been verified by the auditor. All corrective actions agreed upon at the exit interview must be corrected even if the farm receives certification.

Farm Owner/ Manager	**Date**
Auditor	**Date**

American Humane Certified™
Notification of Non-Conformance

Form to be filled out by Auditor and signed at the exit interview. One copy should be left with Producer and one copy should be retained for American Humane.

Auditor: _____

Producer Name:	
Farm Name:	Building ID:
On Farm Contacts: Manager Caregiver Others	
Cell Phone:	Email:

The following non-conformances were found during the American Humane Certified™ audit on _____. Within 10 days, you must submit a Corrective Action Plan that includes the corrective action to be taken, and the person responsible for the correction, and the date the correction will be completed. After correction, submit a Corrective Action Completion Report with supporting documentation to the American Humane Certified™ program. Documentation may include pictures, copies of daily reports, training records, veterinary health plan adjustments, etc. Producers/ managers are encouraged to submit progress reports as corrective actions are taken. All corrections must be made within 90 days and reports should be submitted electronically.

Notes should include each non-conformance item (for example: FW3, H12) and details of infraction. Attach additional pages as needed.

Auditor signature: _____ Date:_____

I, the undersigned, agree to submit a Corrective Action Plan within 10 days. All corrections will be made within 90 days. I will submit a Corrective Action Completion Report and agree to additional audits to maintain certification.

Producer signature: _____ Date:_____

Supplement

Table 1. Floor or Ground Area and Feeder Space Recommendations for Cattle

Area or space [a, b, c]	Calves (400 to 800 lb)	Finishing Cattle (800 to 1200 lb)	Bred heifers (800 lb)	Cows (1000 lb)	Cows (1300 lb)	Bulls (1500 lb)
	(ft^2)	(ft^2)	(ft^2)	(ft^2)	(ft^2)	(ft^2)
Floor or ground area						
Open lots (no barn)						
Unpaved lots with mound (includes mound space)	150-300	250-500	250-500	200-500	300-500	500
Mound space, 25% slope	20-25	30-35	30-35	40-45	40-45	50-60
Unpaved lot, 4-8% slope, no mound	300-600	400-800	400-800	350-800	350-800	800
Paved lot, 2-4% slope	40-50	50-60	50-60	60-75	60-75	100-125
Barns (unheated cold housing)						
Open front with lot	15-20	20-25	20-25	20-25	25-30	40
Enclosed, bedded pack	20-25	30-35	30-35	35-40	40-50	45-50
Enclosed, slotted floor	12-18	18-25	18-25	20-25	22-28	30
	(in)	(in)	(in)	(in)	(in)	(in)
Feeder space when fed						
Once daily	18-22	22-26	22-26	-----	-----	-----
Twice daily	9-11	11-13	11-13	-----	-----	-----
Free choice grain	3-4	4-6	4-6	-----	-----	-----
Self-feed roughage	9-10	10-11	11-12	-----	-----	-----
Feeder space when fed						
Once daily, limited feed access	-----	-----	-----	24-30	26-30	30-36
Twice daily, limited feed access	-----	-----	-----	12-15	12-15	-----
High concentrate diet, ad libitum	-----	-----	-----	5-6	5-6	-----
High forage diet, ad libitum	-----	-----	-----	12-13	13-14	-----

[a] Primarily based on MWPS (1987) and adapted from *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching*, FASS (1999).

[b] Values are on a per animal basis in a pen environment.

[c] In favorable (e.g., dry) climates, area accommodations may be less than indicated in this table.

Appendix C

References

References

The American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards are the product of over 140 years of applied experience in farm animal welfare. American Humane has a long history of humane treatment of animals, beginning in 1877 and its work to champion the humane treatment of working animals and livestock in transit, and on to the illustrious work by its Red Star program and animal rescue in the battlefields of the First World War.

Continuing in the year 2000, American Humane gathered a team of agricultural scientists to develop the first certification program in the United States to ensure the humane treatment of animals used for food. First formalized as the Free Farmed® certification program, we are now called the American Humane Certified™ program. Our Animal Welfare Standards audit process has been updated, using the knowledge of our scientific committee to reflect the most current scientific methodology for assessing humane treatment that contributes to healthy, stress-free animals. This version cross-references the most comprehensive evaluations of all standards of humane care across continents.

Today, the American Humane Certified™ program continues its work by incorporating the practical, hands-on experience of the producers and handlers, and by ensuring that new technology and knowledge from veterinarians and animal research experts are shared. Our third-party evaluations of production systems in animal agriculture educates, encourages, and supports producers to adopt humane practices, and our program promotes clear, reasoned communication of the best welfare practices to the public. Our producers take pride in being a part of the original and most effective animal welfare certification program available – one that is: Good for Animals, Good for People, and Good for Business.

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