



# CEDAR GROVE VETERINARY SERVICE NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2019

## F.A.R.M. PROGRAM: WHAT IS IT AND WHAT CHANGES ARE COMING FOR 2020

Whether the dairy industry likes it or not, consumers today are more interested than ever before in their food. This includes consumers wanting to know how it is produced, if it is safe, who is producing it, and how animals are treated. As a result of these changes, the National Dairy FARM (Farmers Assuring Responsible Management) program was created to provide assurances that US dairy farmers are trying to do right by their animals, consumers and the planet.

The National FARM program is open to all dairy producers in the US. The program was created by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) along with Dairy Management Inc. The FARM program has four main programs, but the aspect of the FARM program that most dairy farmers are familiar with are the Animal Care guidelines. These guidelines promote practices for the welfare of the cattle.

Implementation of the FARM program requires that the farm has familiarity with the FARM Animal Care Reference manual that

includes best practices that farmers must follow for every cow and calf on the farm. Additionally, farm assessments are done by trained evaluators to assure that those best practices are being utilized by farms seeking certification as Certified FARM program farms. Finally, several farms each year are evaluated by qualified third-party evaluators to assure the integrity of the overall program.

The Animal Care part of the FARM Program standards are revised every three years to reflect the most current science and best management practices within the dairy industry. The standards, rationale, and accountability measures are reviewed and revised by the FARM Technical Writing Group and National Milk Producers Federation Animal Health and Well-Being Committee. After they propose items, they are presented for consideration with an open public comment period.

This revision period has just finished, and farmers should be aware of the changes made for

### TEST YOUR DAIRY FARMING KNOWLEDGE

- 1) How many jobs in the candy, chocolate, gum and mint manufacturers depend on the dairy industry?
  - a) 100
  - b) 250
  - c) 500
  - d) 850
- 2) What is the minimum percent of milk that must be added to chocolate for it to be considered milk chocolate?
  - a) 10%
  - b) 12%
  - c) 14%
  - d) 16%
- 3) Which of the following was NOT in the top 10 most popular Halloween costumes in 2018?
  - a) Cows
  - b) Flamingos
  - c) Cosmic Fairy
  - d) Black Cat

*Answers on back*

### **WANTED!**

Cedar Grove Veterinary Services is currently missing one of their electric dehorers. The dehorner is made by the Stone Manufacturing Company and has dual irons on the end. If you appear to have an extra dehorner that you don't think is yours, we would appreciate it if it could be returned to the clinic.

the National Dairy FARM Program Animal Care Version 4.0. These standards will be in place from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022. Therefore, if a farm has had a recent FARM program evaluation, it may be possible that the next one may require new changes in management practices. Below you will see some of the most important changes for FARM 4.0. All these changes are listed as "Mandatory Corrective Actions" meaning that if these are not currently being done on the farm, they need to be changed before the farm can be certified. They are not just suggestions.

**The written herd health plan needs to be reviewed by the herd veterinarian each year.** Working with the herd veterinarian and processing plants will be very important with the new version.

**Farms are required to have a written protocol for fitness to transport animals. This includes the definition of animals that are eligible to be marketed and outlines adherence to milk and meat withdrawal times.** Therefore, farmers will need to define the animals that will be eligible to be sold to market (for example, the cow has to be able to rise and stand for at least an hour to qualify to be sold) and the specific way in which farms will assure that these eligible animals are adhering to all withhold times (leg bands, records, employee training, etc.)

**Complete ban on tail docking.**

The FARM program will not tolerate any tail docking being performed on any farm aside for health and welfare needs as indicated by a veterinarian.

**95% or more of lactating cows observed do not have broken tails.**

Management practices, employee training, and changes to the environment will need to be made to make sure there are not and abundance of broken cow tails on farms.

**Pain mitigation provided for disbudding and all calves are disbudded before 8 weeks of age.**

Some form of pain relief must be provided for disbudding. At the least, this would require the use of corneal neve blocks with lidocaine prior to hot iron dehorning. It may also require using anti-inflammatory drugs such as Banamine or meloxicam. Farmers that are unaware or uncomfortable with using lidocaine nerve blocks should talk with their veterinarian since this will be a highlight of the new FARM 4.0 program. Any farm using paste for dehorning should be unaffected by this change unless new research indicates that paste also require pain mitigation using anti-inflammatories.

**Non-ambulatory animals are moved using proper methods including the use of special equipment. Non-ambulatory animals are provided prompt medical care. Non-ambulatory**

**animals are provided access to feed, water, protection from heat and cold for typical climatic conditions, isolation from other ambulatory animals and protection from predators.**

In the prior form of the FARM program, only protocols were required for down cows. The new version will require verification that these practices are taking place on farm.

**Criteria for identification of animals to be euthanized are established. Euthanasia techniques follow the approved methods of AABP and/or AVMA. Carcass disposal is conducted using the appropriate method.** Like the down cow changes, the prior form of the FARM program only required protocols for euthanasia. In the new version will require verification that these practices are taking place on farm.



Dairy Farming Knowledge Answers  
 1) D                      2) B                      3) D



