Animal Care & Farm Practices

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Farm practices and animal care

This topic is higher profile than ever before
Topics to cover

• Background on programs
• Current initiatives
• Refresher on FARM/Gold Standard
• Changes to come
• Resources
• Customer and consumer interests
• Risk and opportunity
Reduced health and equipment issues + better cow comfort = Improve quality and profitability that’s the goal
Some want to attack us
And/or disparage what we do

Cow’s Milk: A Cruel and Unhealthy Product

Debunking The Milk Myth: Why Milk Is Bad For You And Your Bones
We are in the news

FDA ANALYSIS DEMONSTRATES U.S. MILK SUPPLY IS SAFE FROM DRUG RESIDUES

GOURMET NEWS
Study: FDA Testing Finds Small Incidence of Antibiotic Residues in Dairy Milk

TIME
Illegal Antibiotics Could Be in Your Milk, FDA Finds

Is this good news, or bad?

More Cooperative.
What’s Dairy Cattle care and wellness?

Animal care and wellness refers to the state of the animal?

- Dairy cattle care and wellness means how an animal is coping with the conditions and environment in which it lives.
Five Freedoms:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behavior
5. Freedom from fear and distress
Behavioral observations / sanitary inspection / resource and management
There is more interest in what you do, and how you do it, than ever before
Customer/consumer perceptions of dairy farmers

• Producer of food
• Supplier of ingredients
• Caretaker of animals
Why people and companies care about what you do

• **Impact on the food people eat**
  – Is the food I eat produced in a manner consistent with my value system?

• **Impact on the brands companies market**
  – Does using this cheese have risk to our pizza brand, and ultimately, our sales?

• **Impact on companies supply chain**
  – Does using this milk impact our ability to sell our dairy products to our customers?
Categories of interest

• Companies looking to “check a box” or complete a form requested by one of their customers

• Companies with a single focus area (tail docking, pasture, dehorning, VCPR)

• Companies looking to impact/change their supply chain
Our customers are defining where they stand

Walmart Animal Welfare Position

Sustainable Products of Walmart and Sam’s Club: Our Pledge to Customers/Members

Our customers and members count on Walmart and Sam’s Club to deliver affordable products in a way that is sustainable to the people and the planet. To meet those needs, we work with partners all along the supply chain to improve the sustainability of products we sell. We do this while working to offer quality products, competitive prices and putting customers in charge of their food choices by helping provide clear, accurate information about food origins and production.

Farm Animal Welfare

Farm animals provide an important and nutritious source of protein. There is growing public interest in how food is produced and customers have questions and concerns about whether current practices meet their values and expectations about the well-being of farm animals. Animal welfare sets a vertical size in guiding business practices, but does not always provide clear direction. Increasingly, animal welfare decisions are being considered through a combination of efficiency and ethics.

Walmart U.S. and Sam’s Club U.S. Position

We recognize that our actions play an important role in providing nutritious, meat, dairy and eggs to our customers and members. We believe that farm animals in our supply chain should be treated humanely throughout their lives, and that the welfare of farm animals should be considered in the context of agricultural production systems, practices and technologies. Walmart U.S. and Sam’s Club U.S. are committed to continuous improvements in the welfare of farmed animals in our supply chain.

First, we expect that our suppliers will not tolerate animal abuse of any kind.

Second, we support the globally recognized Five Freedoms[2] of animal welfare as an expansion for animal welfare in our supply chain.

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst—by providing ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
2. Freedom from Discomfort—by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease—by ensuring prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to Express Natural Behavior—by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the same or different species.
5. Freedom from Fear and Dignity—by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Third, we will work with our supply chain partners to implement practices consistent with the Five Freedoms of animal welfare.

Animal Welfare Policy

Saputo believes that care given to animals should be consistent with the needs and characteristics of the species. Therefore, we will use our best efforts to ensure that all animals be treated in a manner that is consistent with their needs and characteristics.

Leprino Foods®

Leprino Quality Animal Care (LQAC) Policy

Ensuring ample supply of the highest quality milk, Leprino Foods’ Kombucha for making superior quality cheese and dairy products. In our business, it all starts with the milk. Healthy, comfortable cows that are well fed, maintained, and cared for will always be the best and most productive source of milk. Great farmers, the only kind we work with, clearly see the benefit of humane animal care and farm animal welfare policies. These animals are typically larger, leaner, and more productive. The cows do not need to eat as much food or as often, which saves money and reduces waste.

To this end, Leprino Foods recognizes the internationally accepted “Five Freedoms” as applied to animals:

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst
2. Freedom from Disease
3. Freedom from Pain, Suffering
4. Freedom from Fear and Dignity
5. Freedom to Engage in Natural Behavior

Leprino Foods will support training initiatives and workshops on the “Five Freedoms” and farm animal welfare issues. Leprino Foods will support training initiatives and workshops on the “Five Freedoms” and farm animal welfare issues. Leprino Foods will support training initiatives and workshops on the “Five Freedoms” and farm animal welfare issues.

Specifically, Leprino Foods commits to:

1. Legal Compliance

All materials derived from animals, which are used in the manufacture of products sold by Leprino Foods shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations on farm animal care.

Leprino Foods will also develop an implementation science-based standards and guidelines that are consistent with the International Standards of OIE, Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM®) and the Red Tractor® scheme.
Brand engagement

- **Field To Market®** is a multi-stakeholder alliance strongly promoted by Walmart
- Created to identify opportunities across the agricultural supply chain for continuous improvements in productivity, environmental quality, and human well-being

- In August, **Nestlé** announced a major pledge to improve the welfare of farm animals in its supply chain, following the signature of a partnership agreement with NGO World Animal Protection
- Third-party audits completed on several U.S. farms already
Do we see an opportunity?
The FARM Program is a cornerstone of how the industry and DFA communicates with customers and the public and will continue to grow in importance.
Background

• NMPF FARM program
  – Started in 2010 as a national program for the U.S. dairy industry
  – Science based, industry developed and managed

• The FARM program goes through a full revision process every three years. The current revision process is working to develop the third version of the FARM program, which will start being implemented late in 2016
NMPF FARM Program

• The revision process started early in 2015 when the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy established an Animal Care committee. Part of the work of that committee was to get broad industry consensus on the FARM program, and to address ways to bring some level of accountability into the program.

• 94 percent of U.S. milk production supports the program
  – New policy in regard to 100 percent participation
  – Overall, good support from industry, but common view that the program will have to continue to evolve
FARM program Technical Writing Group

• From June 2015 through October 2015 the FARM program Technical Writing Group reviewed the current FARM program animal care reference manual, and proposed edits to the document.
• The Technical Writing Group consisted of 16 individuals, with representation from dairy producers, veterinarians, dairy cooperatives and academics.
• From the Technical Writing to NMPF’s Animal Health Committee for review
Current FARM program strengths

- Producer support
- Technical writing team
- 6 years of progress
- Large foundation of participation
- Recognition throughout the supply chain
- Widespread adoption
Addressing FARM program challenges

• Over the last 2 to 3 years, a primary challenge to the FARM program has been accountability, and being able to communicate what the FARM program means for those that use it.

• In the current and previous versions, producers enrolled in the FARM program by opting into third party verifications, but did not have to do any of the specific guidelines in the program.
Future FARM program scope

• Mandatory Corrective Action Plans will be required for farms that do not meet Phase One priority areas. These include:
  – The dairy has a written Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship, signed by the farm owner/manager and Veterinarian of Record that is updated annually, or more often as needed.
  – All employees with animal care responsibilities have signed a Dairy Cattle Care and Ethics Training Agreement.
  – Tail docking stopped by January 1, 2017 and no new animals docked after that date entering the herd.

• Continuous improvement plan items
  • Written protocols for newborn and milk-fed dairy calves
  • Written protocols for pain management
  • Written protocols and training for non-ambulatory animal management
  • Written protocols for euthanasia
  • Animal observation guidelines for locomotion, body condition and hock and knee scores
Tail docking background

- 2004 – American Association of Veterinary Medicine announced opposition to tail docking
- 2009 – California passed state law, banning tail docking as of 2010
- 2010 – American Association of Bovine Practitioners announced opposition to tail docking
- 2011 – Ohio passed state law, banning tail docking as of 2018
- 2011 – National Mastitis Council announced opposition to tail docking
- 2012 – NMPF passed a resolution to phase out tail docking in 2022
- 2014 – Leprino Foods issued an animal care policy requiring no tail docking beginning in 2017
- 2014 – Great Lakes Cheese issued an animal care policy requiring no tail docking beginning in 2018
- 2015 – NMPF passed a resolution to phase out tail docking in 2017
FARM updates

• 94% of the total milk in the US is enrolled as of Jan 2016
  – NMPF, along with DFA, continues to work across the dairy industry to maintain and grow support for the FARM program.
  – In some cases, producers have concerns of the program moving too far. At the other end, some customers have concerns about the program not moving far enough. We are continually working to maintain a balance that the industry can support.
Animal care policies

• Companies that have published new animal care policies in the last 12 months
Animal care policies

• Companies that are developing new animal care policies

• “The humane treatment of animals is an ethical and moral imperative.”
  
  HAMDI ULUKAYA
  
  CHOBANI FOUNDER AND CEO.
We have to be willing to move forward
Animal care and farm practices

• The FARM program addresses animal care at an industry level versus individual supply chains

• “Brands” are more concerned about the practices/risks of their supply chain than about program participation
Risk and opportunity

• DFA has invested in programs and resources to work with members on areas of farm practices
• We have stood up for Dairy producers when incidents have occurred
• We need members to be vigilant in their approach to farm practices to protect yourself and the industry.
Protect your farm

- Established relationship with your herd veterinarian
- Written herd health plan with your veterinarian
- Animal care policy for your farm that employees sign
- Clear communication about what to do if someone sees abuse
- Video surveillance systems for your dairy
Identify risks

• Follow and update legally relevant protocols
  – Antibiotic withholding periods
  – CAFO & CNM plans

• Develop relationships and communication channels with neighbors

• Perform your own audit with the help of expertise personnel and find resources to help assess areas that need improvement
Business Risk Reality

We are only one smart phone picture away
Farm evaluations, development of protocols and training
What are the proper procedures when assisting animals?

• Down cow protocols:

• Calving protocols:
Continuous Improvement

• There are terrible situations and they are NOT tolerated
• We may not have this problem in many farms, we have to continue with the promotion and understanding of cattle care and wellness on daily basis.
Areas to be most aware of

- Crowded areas
- Trailers
- Concreted areas and walking alleys
- Changes in the flooring or resting areas due to environment extremes
- Times when people are in a hurry
Animal measurement

Current welfare status of animals

• Body condition scores
• Locomotion, lameness
• Health assessment including nasal discharges, coughing, ocular damage or discharge, diarrhea, vulvar discharge or injuries, SCC, mortality, dystocia, down cows, unexplained injuries.
• Managerial activities including dehorning, tail docking, etc.
• Human – animal relationship!!!
Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals to a Packing or Processing Facility

1. Do not move your dairy animals to market under any circumstances.

2. Cull and transport an animal that appears to be exhausted or emaciated with the animal in an open, well-ventilated enclosure.

3. Use a transportation company that is knowledgeable about your animal care expectations and has a history of providing the highest quality of care.

4. Do not transport animals to a packing or processing facility until all proper treatment and care have been administered.

5. Do not transport animals with bone fractures or other serious injuries.

6. Do not transport animals with symptoms that will not permit them to be adequately maintained until they arrive at the treatment facility. If necessary, consult with your veterinarian before transporting an animal to a packing or processing facility.

7. Keep your animals healthy and happy with proper nutrition and care.

8. Do not transport animals with symptoms of infectious diseases.

9. Do not transport animals in extreme temperatures, especially in hot or cold weather.

10. Do not transport animals in overcrowded conditions that do not provide adequate space for movement and care.

If you would like to learn more or have any questions, please contact us at 888-254-1381 or email: info@DeMooreRanch.com.
Existing resources on my DFA
Business risk assessment

• What’s the risk of:
  – Not having employee training programs?
  – Not having treatment protocols in herd management software?
  – A manure spill?
  – Employee accidents?
  – Not understanding insurance coverage?
How to wash a cat
At the end, we are all in this together

Dairy Farming

What my friends think I do.
What my neighbors think I do.
What society thinks I do.
What animal rights people think I do.
What I think I do.
What I actually do.

Dairy producers
Cooperatives
Customers
Final points

• There is significant interest in what you do, and how farmers produce food
• In today’s environment of instant communication and social media, business risks have expanded, and are amplified
• We have to be willing to move the bar, or it will be set for us
• There is commitment from the broad dairy industry to work on solutions
Questions? Comments?

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