



# Animal Welfare Institute

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August 4, 2022

FARM Animal Care Task Force  
Animal Health & Well-Being Committee  
National Milk Producers Federation

Re: Version 5.0 FARM Animal Care Standards

On behalf of the staff and supporters of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), we wish to submit comments on Version 5 of the FARM Animal Care standards. Although we understand that the public comment period for Version 5 has not yet begun, we believe that information gleaned through recent consumer perception surveys commissioned by AWI, as well as our recommendations, will be helpful for NMPF to consider before the draft revisions are finalized.

We offer the following recommendations for how Version 5 can improve upon current standards to maximize the welfare of dairy cattle. The *Animal Care Reference Manual Version 4 2020-2022* states, “As science and best practices evolve alongside public attitudes and perceptions, the dairy industry must continue to show customers and consumers that we’re holding ourselves to the highest standards of animal care.” To achieve this goal, NMPF must take into consideration the most recent research and welfare standards adopted by international bodies, such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), to ensure FARM’s standards are meaningful, defensible, and up-to-date.

## Facilities

### **Housing of Pre-weaned Calves**

Version 4 of the FARM Animal Care standards requires that “[a]ll age classes of animals have housing that allows for the ability to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures and have visual contact with other cattle without risk of injury.”

**Recommendation:** We ask that FARM, given the benefits of group/social housing of calves and the relatively few, if any, benefits of individual housing, begin requiring a transition toward social housing. This could be achieved by including a standard requiring at least paired housing for calves, enforceable through a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). Alternatively, it could be included as a standard without enforcement mechanism in Version 5 and upgraded to a CIP in the next iteration of FARM’s standards in order to give producers time to adjust their operations.

**Rationale:** It is clear from FARM’s *Calf Care & Quality Assurance Animal Care Reference Manual* that the program recognizes the benefits of social housing for calves. The biological benefits include, but are not limited to, increased intake of solid feed and body weight gain, especially during the pre-weaning phase.<sup>1</sup> Further benefits include calves exhibiting less fearfulness and greater ability to adjust and cope with novel situations.<sup>2</sup> Concerns about cross

suckling and disease transfer that usually justify individual calf housing can be mitigated by changing the management practices related to colostrum administration, space, nutritional management, staff training, and provision of slow-flow teat buckets or other means of suckling.<sup>3,4</sup>

It is for these reasons that WOAHA allows individual calf housing only for “very young calves,” and recommends that “replacement stock should then be reared in groups ... of similar age and physical size.”<sup>5</sup> Additionally, the Dairy Cattle Welfare Council recommends social housing in pairs or groups, starting from 1-4 days of age.<sup>6</sup>

Consumers are also skeptical of individual calf housing. In a public survey on common dairy industry practices commissioned by AWI in July 2022 (see Attachment 1), 49% of consumers indicated it was “totally unacceptable” to house calves individually for the first several months of their lives without contact with other calves; a further 16% found it “somewhat unacceptable.” Additionally, 36% of consumers surveyed indicated they were “much less likely” to purchase a dairy product if they learned that it came from a cow who, as a calf, was housed individually with no ability to socialize with other calves. A further 38% stated they were “somewhat less likely” to purchase the product.

### **Outdoor Exercise Requirement**

Version 4 of the standards states that “all age classes of animals have a method of daily exercise (weather permitting, if outdoors).” However, this standard is only a suggestion and lacks any enforcement mechanism. Also, as worded, the standard indicates that outdoor access is not required.

**Recommendation:** AWI recommends the following standard: “All age classes of animals are permitted outdoor exercise daily, weather permitting. The outdoor area provides a smooth, natural walking surface with limited concrete or asphalt.” We also recommend that this standard be one that triggers a Mandatory Corrective Action Plan (MCAP) or, at minimum, a CIP if unmet. If FARM declines to require outdoor access, it should at the very least make the current daily exercise requirement enforceable through an MCAP.

**Rationale:** Science is clear about the benefits of exercise and outdoor access for cows, especially those that are primarily confined to stanchions or tie stalls. Studies have shown that dairy cattle welfare is “significantly better” in tie-stall operations that allow exercise than those that do not<sup>7</sup> because the expression of natural behaviors is severely impaired by tie stalls.<sup>8</sup> For this reason, the WOAHA Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems standards provide that “cows kept in tie stall housing should be allowed sufficient untethered exercise to prevent welfare problems” and warn that producers “should be aware of the higher risks of welfare problems where cattle are tethered.”<sup>9</sup> Tie stall and stanchion housing also prevent cows from engaging in important social interaction with other cows.<sup>10</sup>

Continuous or near-continuous confinement of dairy cattle is contrary to what consumers approve of or expect. The ability of dairy cattle to interact socially is perceived by consumers as the most important factor for ensuring their welfare.<sup>11</sup> According to AWI’s July 2022 survey, 52% of consumers indicated that housing cows for a majority of the time in tie-stalls was totally

unacceptable, and another 19% found it somewhat unacceptable. When asked the same question about stanchions, 56% said the practice was totally unacceptable, and 16% said it was somewhat unacceptable. Also, 56% of consumers indicated it was totally unacceptable and 16% indicated it was somewhat unacceptable for a producer to never provide cows kept in tie stalls or stanchions an opportunity to exercise. Finally, 40% of consumers stated they were much less likely to purchase a dairy product if they learned that it came from a cow confined to a tie stall or stanchion without release for exercise or socialization, while 34% stated they were somewhat less likely to purchase the product.

Although daily exercise is essential, access to the outdoors is also important—it is associated with lower mortality of tied cattle, decreased prevalence of injuries, and fewer treatments for bloat.<sup>12</sup> To ensure that the standard is successful in enhancing animal health and welfare, we recommend adding a minimum exercise period, along with provisions that address the quality of the outdoor area. Outdoor surfaces made from hard materials, such as concrete or asphalt, negate many of the benefits of outdoor exercise.<sup>13</sup>

Finally, constant confinement and lack of outdoor access are contrary to what consumers approve of or expect. Research demonstrates that consumers express an increase in willingness to pay for cheese from cows with pasture access.<sup>14</sup> According to AWI's survey, 56% of consumers stated that a failure to allow cows access to the outdoors was totally unacceptable, while an additional 17% called it somewhat unacceptable. When asked if they would purchase a dairy product after learning that it came from a cow with no access to the outdoors, 40% indicated they would be much less likely, and 34% answered that they would be somewhat less likely.

## Pain Relief

### **Disbudding/Dehorning**

Version 4 of the standards requires that “all calves are disbudded before 8 weeks of age,” which is enforceable through an MCAP, and that “pain mitigation for disbudding is provided,” enforceable through a CIP.

**Recommendation:** “All calves are disbudded before 8 weeks of age, and pain mitigation is provided during and after disbudding.” AWI also recommends that the requirement for pain management for disbudding be elevated to an MCAP if unmet.

**Rationale:** There is no question that disbudding, regardless of method, is significantly painful for calves and can cause acute and long-lasting pain regardless of the calf's age.<sup>15</sup> FARM recognizes this fact in its manuals. However, despite Version 4 standards requiring pain management for disbudding, a recent study indicates that use of analgesia for dehorning or disbudding is low. A 2021 survey by Coetzee et al. of cattle veterinarians and producers (both beef and dairy industry) found that, of producers that dehorn or disbud<sup>16</sup> calves under 2 months of age, 52% report “never” using local analgesia, and 58% report never using systemic analgesia, such as NSAIDs.<sup>17</sup>

Consumers also expect that pain mitigation be provided. In a survey commissioned by AWI in June 2022 regarding common physical alterations in farm animals (see Attachment 2), 81% of consumers find it “very” or “somewhat” important that pain relief be provided when disbudding

or dehorning cattle.<sup>18</sup> Further, as to whether they would purchase a food product if they learned it came from an animal that had significantly painful procedures performed without pain relief, 31% stated they were much less likely, and 43% stated they were somewhat less likely.<sup>19</sup> In order for producers to meet the expectations of consumers, holistic pain relief must be both required and enforced.

### **Castration**

Version 4 of the standards provides that “pain mitigation for castration is provided in accordance with the signed protocol by the Veterinarian of Record,” but enforcement of the standard is not required.

**Recommendation:** AWI recommends that this standard be enforceable through an MCAP, or a CIP at minimum.

**Rationale:** It is widely recognized that castration, like disbudding, is a significantly painful procedure. Accordingly, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners encourages providing pain management during all castration procedures, regardless of the animal’s age. In the 2021 Coetzee et al. survey, however, the results were similar to those regarding disbudding: 62% of producers who castrate calves under two months of age said they never use local analgesia, and 71% said they never use systemic analgesia (e.g., NSAIDs).<sup>20</sup>

Again, consumers expect pain mitigation to be provided. According to AWI’s June 2022 survey, 83% indicated it was “very” or “somewhat” important that pain relief be provided when castrating cattle.

### **Branding**

Version 4 of the standards states that “pain mitigation for branding is provided in accordance with the signed protocol by the Veterinarian of Record,” but enforcement of the standard is not required.

**Recommendation:** “Freeze or hot iron branding are used only when required by law. When used, short- and long-term pain mitigation is provided in accordance with the signed protocol by the Veterinarian of Record.” The requirement should be enforced, at minimum, through a CIP.

**Rationale:** Version 4 acknowledges that branding is painful in the short and long term regardless of the use of pain relief. Accordingly, Version 4 encourages the “least invasive method of identification be used” and that freeze and hot iron branding are avoided where alternative identification methods exist.” Because there are readily available, less invasive alternatives to branding, FARM should require that those methods be used unless branding is required by law.

## Other Standards

### **Fitness for Transport**

Currently, Version 4 of the standards requires only that the producer has a written protocol that defines eligibility of animals for fitness to transport. While FARM provides guidance on factors affecting fitness in its care manuals, these are nonmandatory and unenforceable.

**Recommendation:** AWI recommends that FARM develop specific requirements for fitness to travel, rather than merely requiring a written protocol. Specifically, FARM should adopt the international fitness-to-transport requirements from Chapter 7.3: Transport of Animals by Land of WOA’s *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.<sup>21</sup> Transport is a time when calves and cull cattle are particularly vulnerable to severe deteriorations in welfare, particularly when they face journeys longer than their physiologic condition permits.

**Rationale: calves**

Studies have reported a strong negative correlation between a cow’s age at transport and mortality. Calves often die within a few weeks after transport from secondary infections resulting from lowered immune system function caused by transport stress.<sup>22</sup> Stressors include handling during loading/unloading and thermal stress from environmental conditions, which are further exacerbated by hunger and dehydration.<sup>23</sup>

Infection of the navel or umbilicus is one of the main causes of calf mortality within the first three weeks after transport.<sup>24</sup> Accordingly, regulations concerning animal welfare, including those adopted by WOA, use calf age or stage of navel healing as an indicator of fitness to travel. Specifically, to be fit, calves must be at least 3 weeks old—the approximate time required for the umbilicus to heal—before they are transported off the farm. Dairy consumers are also cognizant of the welfare issues of transporting young calves. In AWI’s July 2022 survey, 64% of consumers answered that it was “totally” or “somewhat” unacceptable for young calves to be transported off the farm before 3 weeks of age without their mothers.

If FARM declines to adopt WOA fitness-to-travel standards, it should create, at the very least, a standard stating that calves under 3 weeks of age are unfit to transport and make such a standard enforceable by an MCAP.

**Rationale: cull cows**

Cows are culled due to low milk production, poor fertility, or a number of health issues that have major implications for fitness to travel, such as mastitis and lameness. Currently, there is little financial incentive for producers to refrain from transporting compromised dairy cattle, so the practice is common.<sup>25</sup> One study showed that cull cows spend an average of 82 hours in transport between farm and slaughter, usually suffering from painful conditions and with limited access to food and water.<sup>26</sup> For cows in already weakened states, this is a serious welfare issue. Adopting strong standards for fitness to travel and on-farm euthanizing of cattle unfit for transport will mean fewer cows languish in the marketing system.

**Emergency Preparedness**

Version 4 of the standards requires that each facility have “a written emergency action/crisis plan to effectively manage emergencies or crises that may occur.”

**Recommendation 1:** In order to maximize preparedness, FARM should require written emergency plans or protocols for specific common emergencies or events. First, a detailed plan should be required for the care of cows during extreme weather events that includes provision of

food, water (including the location of an emergency water source), and adequate shelter for cows and calves housed outdoors.

**Rationale:** Though some deaths from adverse weather are unavoidable, every precaution should be taken to ensure that dairy cattle—calves, in particular—are safe from extreme weather events. This is especially important, as extreme weather events are likely to become more frequent as climate change progresses. According to AWI’s July 2022 survey, 51% of consumers think it is totally unacceptable, and 18% think it is “somewhat” unacceptable for a calf to be housed individually in hutches outdoors in extreme weather.

**Recommendation 2:** Producers should be required to prepare an emergency plan specifically for barn fires. AWI also recommends that FARM require producers to adopt preventative measures to reduce the risk of barn fires. *NFPA 150: Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities Code*<sup>27</sup> is a good starting point. At the very least, annual inspections by fire safety experts should be required.

**Rationale:** According to data collected by AWI between 2018 and 2021, barn fires are most often caused by heating devices or other electrical malfunction.<sup>28</sup> Barn fire protocol should not only address the steps employees are to follow in the event of a fire to ensure the safety of animals, but also include best practices for diminishing the risk. At the very least, annual inspections by fire safety experts should be required—because preemptively identifying problems, such as malfunctioning or misplaced heat lamps, buildup of dust or debris near light sources, and faulty electrical wires can drastically reduce the occurrence of barn fires. Barn inspections are a simple step farmers can take to prevent fires and are recommended by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin-Madison Agriculture Extension, and Iowa’s Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, among others.<sup>29</sup>

### **Humane Handling-Broken Tails**

Version 4 of the standards requires that 95% of lactating cows observed do not have broken tails at the time of audit.

**Recommendation:** AWI recommends that Version 5 standards require that producers have less than 1% broken tails among cows observed at audit and that this standard be enforceable through a MCAP.

**Rationale:** It is generally understood that broken tails are caused either by forceful manipulation of the tail by workers to compel movement or by being stepped on by other cows.<sup>30</sup> Broken tails are painful. They are commonly acknowledged as an easily visible indicator of poor welfare and inhumane handling, because the amount of force required to break a tail significantly exceeds the amount of pressure required to move a cow—any breaks caused by handling are unlikely to be accidental.<sup>31,32</sup>

A worker applying enough force to break a cow’s tail constitutes willful mistreatment. If this were to occur in a federally inspected slaughter plant, a complete shutdown of the plant for an egregious humane handling violation would result. Allowing continued certification of producers

with more than a negligible number of broken tails in their herds is contrary to FARM's purported commitment to stopping willful mistreatment of dairy cows.

We understand that it may be impossible to achieve 0% broken tails because there are occasions when the cause of a broken tail is something other than inhumane handling. However, the 1% margin should account for accidental breaks caused by equipment or other animals. Producers may be concerned about auditors "double counting" cows with broken tails when evaluating the herd. However, because the FARM standards also require that each animal be permanently identified, it should be easy for auditors to determine if any observed broken tails are new or existing.

This low threshold is also in line with what consumers expect. According to AWI's July 2022 survey, 50% "strongly agree" that inhumane handling of cows—such as twisting an animal's tail so hard that it breaks— should result in immediate expulsion of a producer from a dairy industry trade group's animal care certification program. An additional 29% of respondents answered that they "somewhat agree."

### Enforcement of All Standards

FARM does not currently enforce a significant number of standards, even through a CIP. AWI recommends that FARM make all its animal welfare standards enforceable. This is a necessary step if consumers are to have confidence that the dairy industry holds itself to the highest standards of animal care, rather than merely aspiring to high standards. Unsurprisingly, in AWI's July 2022 survey, 49% of consumers strongly agreed and 34% somewhat agreed that if a dairy industry trade group provides certifications to producers based on standards related to animal welfare, producers should be required to meet all standards before receiving certification.

AWI thanks FARM for its continued commitment to improving the welfare of dairy cattle. We hope that you will give our recommendations serious consideration. If you require additional information or clarification, please contact us by phone at (202) 446-2153, or by email at [adrienne@awionline.org](mailto:adrienne@awionline.org).

Sincerely,



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- <sup>1</sup> De Paula Vieira A., et al. (2010) Effects of pair versus single housing on performance and behavior of dairy calves before and after weaning from milk. *J Dairy Sci.* 93: 3079-3085; Bernal- Rigoli et al. (2012) Effects of housing and feeding systems on performance of neonatal Holstein bull calves. *J Animal Sci.* 90: 2818-2825; Babu et al. (2009) Hemato-biochemical changes, disease incidence and live weight gain in individual versus group reared calves fed on different levels of milk and skim milk. *J Animal Sci.* 80:149-156.
- <sup>2</sup> Costa, J.H.C. et al. (2016) Invited review: Effects of group housing of dairy calves on behavior, cognition, performance, and health. *J Dairy Sci.* 99: 2453-2467.
- <sup>3</sup> S. Godden & W. Knauer (2021) Management considerations to prevent respiratory disease in group-housed preweaned dairy calves. *American Associate of Bovine Practitioners 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings* (available at <https://bovine-ojs-tamu.tdl.org/bovine/index.php/AABP/article/view/8338>).
- <sup>4</sup> Salter, R. S. et al (2021) Milk- and starter-feeding strategies to reduce cross sucking in pair-housed calves in outdoor hutches. *Journal Dairy Sci.* 104: 6096–6112.
- <sup>5</sup> World Organization for Animal Health, Ch. 7.11 *Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems* (available at [https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahc/2018/en\\_chapitre\\_aw\\_dairy\\_cattle.htm](https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/2018/en_chapitre_aw_dairy_cattle.htm).)
- <sup>6</sup> Dairy Cattle Welfare Council, *Social Housing of Dairy Calves* (2021) (available at <https://www.dwcouncil.org/node/4017>).
- <sup>7</sup> Popescu, S. et al. (2013) Dairy cows welfare quality in tie-stall housing system with or without access to exercise. *Acta veterinaria Scandinavica* 55:43.
- <sup>8</sup> Beaver, A. et al. (2021) Invited review: The welfare of dairy cattle housed in tiestalls compared to less-restrictive housing types: A systematic review. *J Dairy Sci.* 104:9383-9417.
- <sup>9</sup> World Organization for Animal Health, Ch. 7.11 *Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems* (available at [https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahc/2018/en\\_chapitre\\_aw\\_dairy\\_cattle.htm](https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/2018/en_chapitre_aw_dairy_cattle.htm).)
- <sup>10</sup> Beaver, A. et al. (2021) Invited review: The welfare of dairy cattle housed in tiestalls compared to less-restrictive housing types: A systematic review. *J Dairy Sci.* 104:9383-9417.
- <sup>11</sup> Widmar, N. et al. (2017) US Resident Perceptions of Dairy Cattle Management Practices. *Agricultural Sciences* 8: 645-656.
- <sup>12</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>13</sup> Smid, A-M. et al. (2020) The Influence of Different Types of Outdoor Access on Dairy Cattle Behavior, *Frontiers in Veterinary Medicine.* *Front. Vet. Sci.* 7:257.
- <sup>14</sup> Bir, C. et al. (2020) US respondents' willingness to pay for Cheddar cheese from dairy cattle with different pasture access, antibiotic use, and dehorning practices. *J Dairy Sci.* 103: 3234-3249.
- <sup>15</sup> Kleinhenz, M. et al. (2021) Invited Review: On-farm pain management of food production animals. *Applied Animal Sci.* 37:77-87.; Adcock, S., & Tucker, C. B. (2018) The effect of disbudding age on healing and pain sensitivity in dairy calves. *J Dairy Sci.* 101:10361–10373.
- <sup>16</sup> Note, this study did not distinguish between de horning and disbudding. We assume dehorning under two months of age means disbudding.
- <sup>17</sup> Coetzee, J. et al. (2021) Current attitudes of veterinarians and producers regarding the use of local and systemic analgesia in beef and dairy cattle in the United States. *J American Veterinary Medical Assn.* 258:197–209.
- <sup>18</sup> This survey was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute from June 9-13, 2022, among 2,021 adults ages 18+. The sampling precision of Harris online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval. For this study, the sample data is accurate to within  $\pm 2.8$  percentage points using a 95% confidence level.
- <sup>19</sup> Coetzee, J. et al. (2021) Current attitudes of veterinarians and producers regarding the use of local and systemic analgesia in beef and dairy cattle in the United States. *J American Veterinary Medical Assn.* 258:197–209.
- <sup>20</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>21</sup> World Organization for Animal Health, Ch. 7.3 *Transport of Animals By Land* (available at [https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahc/2018/en\\_chapitre\\_aw\\_land\\_transpt.htm](https://www.woah.org/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/2018/en_chapitre_aw_land_transpt.htm))
- <sup>22</sup> Roccaro, M. et al. (2022) Navel Healing and Calf Fitness for Transport. *Animals (Basel)* 12:358.
- <sup>23</sup> Shivley, C.B. et al. (2019) Management of preweaned bull calves on dairy operations in the United States. *J Dairy Sci.* 102:4489-4497.
- <sup>24</sup> Roccaro, M. et al. (2022) Navel Healing and Calf Fitness for Transport. *Animals (Basel)* 12:358.
- <sup>25</sup> Edwards-Callaway, L. N. et al. (2019) Culling Decisions and Dairy Cattle Welfare During Transport to Slaughter in the United States. *Frontiers in Veterinary Sci.* 5:343.
- <sup>26</sup> Stojkov, J. et al. (2020) Management of cull dairy cows: Culling decisions, duration of transport, and effect on cow condition. *J. Dairy Sci.* 103: 2636-2649.



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<sup>27</sup> National Fire Protection Association, *NFPA 150 Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities Code* (available at <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=150>)

<sup>28</sup> Animal Welfare Institute, *Barn Fires: A Deadly Threat to Farm Animals* (Jan. 2022) (available at [https://awionline.org/sites/default/files/publication/digital\\_download/22-Barn-Fire-Report.pdf](https://awionline.org/sites/default/files/publication/digital_download/22-Barn-Fire-Report.pdf))

<sup>29</sup> Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, *Barn Fire Prevention* (available at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/barnfire/fireprevention.htm>). Wilkinson, T. et al. University of Wisconsin Extension, *Farm Hazard Inspection Checklist* (available at <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/A3619.pdf>); Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health, *Farm Fire Prevention Guide* (available at <https://icash.public-health.uiowa.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Fire-Safety-trifold-brochure-FINAL.pdf>).

<sup>30</sup> Zurbrigg, D. et al. (2004) Tie-Stall Design and its Relationship to Lameness, Injury, and Cleanliness on 317 Ontario Dairy Farms. *J Dairy Sci.* 88:3201-3210.

<sup>31</sup> Laven, R.A. & Jermy, M.C. (2020) Measuring the torque required to cause vertebral dislocation in cattle tails. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* 68:107-111.

<sup>32</sup> Grandin, T. (2017) On-farm conditions that compromise animal welfare that can be monitored at the slaughter plant. *Meat Sci.* 132: 52-58.

## **Attachment 1**

**AWI Survey of Consumer Attitudes about Common Dairy Industry Practices**

**July 2022**



# Animal Welfare Institute

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## Survey of Consumer Attitudes about Common Dairy Industry Practices

In July 2022, the Animal Welfare Institute commissioned a national web-based survey, conducted by The Harris Poll, of adult American dairy consumers' (i.e., those who ever purchase dairy products) attitudes towards different practices that are common to the dairy industry. The following are among our findings:

1. Dairy consumers were asked whether they found the following common practices of dairy producers totally unacceptable, somewhat unacceptable, somewhat acceptable, totally acceptable or didn't know.

- a. Housing cows for a majority of the time in "tie stalls" where they are tethered by the neck to the stall and are only able to stand up and lay down.

Totally unacceptable	52%
Somewhat unacceptable	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70%</b>

- b. Housing cows for a majority of the time in a "stanchion," where they are restrained to an individual stall by two rails that close around the neck and prevent them from adopting a natural lying posture.

Totally unacceptable	56%
Somewhat unacceptable	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>71%</b>

- c. Housing calves, after separating them from their mother at birth, in individual hutches or pens for the first several months of their life without contact with other calves.

Totally unacceptable	49%
Somewhat unacceptable	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>68%</b>

- d. Housing calves, after separating them from their mother at birth, in individual hutches or pens for the first several months of their life outdoors, even in extreme weather.

Totally unacceptable	51%
Somewhat unacceptable	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>69%</b>

- e. Housing calves, after separating them from their mother at birth, in individual hutches which severely restrict normal movements, such as turning around.

Totally unacceptable	55%
Somewhat unacceptable	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70%</b>

- f. Never providing the opportunity for exercise to cows kept in "tie stalls" or "stanchions," where they are restrained by the neck to the stall and are only able to stand up and lay down.

Totally unacceptable	56%
Somewhat unacceptable	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72%</b>

- g. Not allowing cows access to the outdoors.

Totally unacceptable	56%
Somewhat unacceptable	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73%</b>

- h. Transporting calves off the farm before 3 weeks of age without their mothers.

Totally unacceptable	46%
Somewhat unacceptable	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>64%</b>

- 47% of dairy consumers report that **considerations of a cow's quality of life had a major impact on their view of common dairy industry practices**, while 39% say it had a minor impact.
- 40% of dairy consumers are much less likely and 34% are somewhat **less likely to purchase a dairy product if they learned that it came from a cow that had no access to the outdoors**.
- 36% of dairy consumers are much less likely and 38% are somewhat **less likely to purchase a dairy product if they learned that it came from a cow who, as a calf, was housed individually with no ability to socialize with other calves**.
- 40% of dairy consumers are much less likely and 34% are somewhat **less likely to purchase a dairy product if they learned that it came from a cow that is confined to a tie stall or stanchion without release for exercise or socialization**.
- 49% of dairy consumers strongly agree and 34% somewhat **agree that if a dairy industry trade group provides certifications to producers based on standards related to animal**

**welfare, producers should be required to meet all standards before receiving certification.**

7. 50% of dairy consumers strongly agree and 29% somewhat **agree that the dairy industry trade group's animal care certification program should include a requirement that inhumane handling of cows, such as twisting an animal's tail so hard that it breaks, results in immediate rejection of that dairy producer from the program.**

This survey was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of Animal Welfare Institute from July 19-21, 2022, among 2,030 adults ages 18+, of whom 1,991 ever purchase dairy products. The sampling precision of Harris online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval. For this study, the sample data is accurate to within + 2.8 percentage points using a 95% confidence level. For complete survey methodology, including weighting variables and subgroup sample sizes, please contact [dena@awionline.org](mailto:dena@awionline.org).

## **Attachment 2**

### **AWI Survey of Consumer Attitudes about Pain Relief for Physical Alterations in Farm Animals**

**June 2022**



# Animal Welfare Institute

900 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003

## Survey of American Attitudes about Pain Relief for Physical Alterations of Farm Animals

In June 2022, the Animal Welfare Institute commissioned a national web-based survey, conducted by The Harris Poll, of adult American attitudes towards the use of pain relief before or after the performance of painful physical alterations on Cows, Pigs, Chickens, and Turkeys. The findings follow:

1. 49% of Americans **do not know that significantly painful physical procedures are routinely performed on farm animals**. 14% incorrectly believe this is not true, and 35% are not sure.
2. 37% of Americans **incorrectly believed pain relief is usually given to farm animals before or after significantly painful physical procedures**, while 22% believe pain relief is not usually given, and 41% are not sure.
3. An overwhelming majority of Americans agree that if scientific research demonstrates that certain physical procedures cause significant pain to farm animals, then the procedure should only be performed with appropriate pain relief.

Strongly agree	56%
Somewhat agree	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>87%</b>

Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13%</b>

4. Large majorities of Americans felt it was important that pain relief be provided to farm animals for specific physical procedures if research shows they cause significant pain in animals.
  - **77%** find it very or somewhat important that **pain relief be provided for partial removal of the beaks of turkeys and egg-laying hens**
  - **76%** find it very or somewhat important that **pain relief be provided when cutting off the tails of piglets**

- **80%** find it very or somewhat important that **pain relief be provided when castrating piglets**
- **81%** find it very or somewhat important that **pain relief be provided when removing the horns or horn buds of cattle**
- **83%** find it very or somewhat important that **pain relief be provided when castrating cattle**

5. A majority of consumers\* (74%) say they would be less likely to purchase a food product if they learned it came from animals who had significantly painful procedures performed without any pain relief.

Much less likely	31%
Somewhat less likely	43%
No less likely	26%

6. The survey also found that Americans held the following beliefs:

a. Industry trade associations (such as the National Chicken Council or National Pork Producers Council) should strongly recommend pain relief for significantly painful physical procedures in their voluntary animal welfare guidelines.

Strongly agree	50%
Somewhat agree	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84%</b>
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16%</b>

b. Food retailers (such as grocery stores and restaurants) should require that their meat, dairy, and egg suppliers do not perform significantly painful physical procedures on animals without pain relief.

Strongly agree	42%
Somewhat agree	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>77%</b>
Somewhat disagree	15%
Strongly disagree	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23%</b>

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\* Question limited to respondents (n=1,953) who indicated they purchase food products made from farm animals.



- c. Producers advertising a meat, dairy, or egg product as “humanely raised” or another welfare-related claim should be required to provide pain relief for significantly painful procedures.

Strongly agree	50%
Somewhat agree	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>83%</b>
Somewhat disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17%</b>

- d. Legislation should be passed to require pain relief for significantly painful physical procedures in farm animals.

Strongly agree	46%
Somewhat agree	34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>79%</b>
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21%</b>

This survey was conducted online within the United States by The Harris Poll on behalf of **Animal Welfare Institute** from June 9-13, 2022, among 2,021 adults ages 18+. The sampling precision of Harris online polls is measured by using a Bayesian credible interval. For this study, the sample data is accurate to within  $\pm 2.8$  percentage points using a 95% confidence level. For complete survey methodology, including weighting variables and subgroup sample sizes, please contact [dena@awionline.org](mailto:dena@awionline.org).