

Food Marketing Institute

Evaluation of Animal Welfare Guidelines

The following evaluation of the animal welfare guidelines established by various meat and poultry commodity associations was performed by the Food Marketing Institute's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. This committee is comprised of animal scientists and veterinarians from the fields of academia and veterinary medicine.

Key:

Checkmark (x): element is present in the commodity's recommended guidelines

Box left blank: element is not found in the commodity's recommended guidelines

N/A: element is "not applicable" to the particular commodity

Food Marketing Institute Animal Welfare Guideline Evaluation

Practice	Commodity Group								
	American Meat Institute	Milk & Dairy Beef	The Pork Board	National Chicken Council	National Cattlemen's Beef Association	National Turkey Federation	American Sheep Industry Association	American Veal Association	United Egg Producers
Guideline development process									
Guidelines reflect transparent decision - making process	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Guidelines reflect broad based input	X		X	X	X		X		X
Scheduled review and revision mechanism	X			X		X			X
Guideline elements									
Handling methods	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Husbandry procedures ¹	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Environmental considerations ²	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Health program based on veterinary guidance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Behavioral management ³	X			X			X		X

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Facility/equipment maintenance & design	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Emergency preparedness ⁴	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Transportation procedures	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	N/A
Slaughter procedures	X	N/A		X		X	N/A		N/A
Euthanasia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Inspection procedures and rate of inspection	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Elements of training Programs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Documentation and assessment of training	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Biosecurity of premises ⁵			X	X	X	X		X	X
Record keeping requirements ⁶	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Special agricultural practices ⁷	X	X		N/A		X			X

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Guideline implementation									
Auditable guidelines or self-assessment (with performance outcomes or design criteria)	X		X	X	X	X			X
Audit or self-evaluation mechanism									X

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Footnotes

¹Food water, space allocation, bedding condition, etc., as applicable

²Ventilation, air quality, temperature

³Includes identifying and minimizing behavioral problems and/or opportunities to minimize

⁴Power outages, weather emergencies, fire

⁵Standards established to control/mitigate potential of diseases brought onto farm

⁶Includes minimum required data to assure compliance with the guidelines

⁷Management procedures that could cause pain or distress (ex: castration, dehorning, beak-trimming, molting)