

Food Labeling Program Standards for Dairy Cattle

Animal Welfare Standard	Industry Guideline	USDA Certified Organic Program	Certified Humane Program	American Humane Certified Program	Animal Welfare Approved Program
Antibiotics	Permitted	Prohibited	Permitted for treatment of disease only	Permitted for treatment of disease only	Permitted for disease treatment only
Growth Hormones	Permitted	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Housing	Tie-stall housing permitted but animals should be turned out daily for exercise	Opportunity to exercise and access to outdoors must be provided	Confinement for more than 4 hours prohibited; 4 hours outdoor exercise required daily	Voluntary access to pasture or exercise lot at least 4-5 hours daily, weather permitting	Continuous outdoor access required
Ammonia Levels	Recommended be kept below allowable levels	Shelter to be designed for ventilation and air circulation	Not to exceed 25 ppm	Not to exceed 25 ppm	Shelters must be well ventilated
Bedding	Dry, clean bedding recommended; no quantity specified	Clean, dry bed required; no depth specified	Adequate, clean bedding required 3 inches in depth	Adequate, clean bedding required 3 inches in depth	Sufficient quantities of clean, dry bedding required
Calf Housing	No limit on confinement of calves; tethering not prohibited	Not addressed but exercise and freedom of movement required	Calves must be able to stand, turn around, lie, rest, groom; tethering prohibited	Calves must be able to stand, turn around, lie, rest, groom	Calves must be able to lie down and move around; tethering prohibited
Minimum Weaning Age	No limit	Not addressed	5 weeks	5 weeks	6 weeks
Dietary Fiber for Calves	Some dry grain before 4 weeks recommended	Not addressed	Required for calves over 30 days of age	Required for calves over 14 days of age	High quality forage required from 7 days
Tail Docking	Switch trimming preferred; docking allowed after pregnant	Physical alterations must be performed as needed to ensure animal welfare	Prohibited; switch trimming permitted	Prohibited; switch trimming permitted	Prohibited
Removal of Horns	Cautery method recommended; anesthesia recommended for older calves	Physical alterations to be performed in a manner that minimizes pain & stress	Cautery method approved; paste & scoop methods prohibited; anesthesia required for older calves	Cautery method approved; scoop method on animals over 4 months must be done by vet with local anesthetic	Cautery method approved for calves 2 months & younger with local anesthetic; prohibited after 2 months of age