

SELF- ASSESSMENT



**CALF CARE &
QUALITY
ASSURANCE**

CALF CARE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CCQA) SELF-ASSESSMENT

Calf Care & Quality Assurance (**CCQA**) self-assessment serves as a starting point for farms to self-evaluate their operations against the recommendations of the current assurance program for the U.S. calf-raising sector. The CCQA self-assessment focuses on four main areas: Calf Health, Animal Handling and Stockmanship, Management and Care, and Employee Training & Continuing Education and Emergency Preparedness. The goal of this self-assessment is to identify strengths, weaknesses, goals, and priorities of each individual operation to ultimately lead to furthering the health, welfare, and productivity of calves.

This questionnaire should be completed by those that are involved in the day-to-day operations of the farm including managers and owners. The self-assessment is for internal use only. Farms are encouraged to be as honest as possible in their self-assessment as it serves to guide areas where changes in management could be completed.

Following the completion of the self-assessment, look at the answers where there was a “no”. These are the areas where changes in management could be prioritized. In addition, it is important to note that this self-assessment is meant to support the [CCQA manual](#). So, in each area of the self-assessment, there is a corresponding section in the manual, which can be reviewed to determine the reasons for the recommendation and how to meet the desired outcomes.

PROTOCOL TEMPLATES, FORMS AND SCORING GUIDES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [HTTPS://WWW.CALFCAREQA.ORG/RESOURCES](https://www.calfcareqa.org/resources).

MANUAL SECTION	2. CALF HEALTH	YES	NO	COMMENTS
2.1 Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship	Do you have an established veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR)* with a veterinarian or veterinary clinic? <i>*A VCPR is defined as having established a partnership with a trusted veterinarian that is in the best interest of your herd and business</i>			
	Who is the veterinarian or veterinary clinic of record?			
	What is the date the VCPR was signed?			
	Has your veterinarian of record visited* your facility within the past 12 months? <i>*The intent of this visit is for the veterinarian to develop a thorough knowledge of the facility and be an active part of the management of your herd</i>			



2.2 Health Management Plan	Have you developed a health management plan with your veterinarian?			
	Does your health management plan include the following fundamental elements?			
	A written protocol for prevention and identification of common diseases, including:			
	Diarrhea			
	Pneumonia			
	Umbilical infections			
	Lameness			
	Treatment of common diseases, including:			
	Diarrhea			
	Pneumonia			
	Umbilical infections			
	Lameness			
	Vaccinations that include:			
	Age(s) of animals that receive the vaccine			
	Product used			



	Storage method and conditions			
	Dosage administered			
	Route of administration			
	Withdrawal times			
	Biosecurity for pathogen prevention and control			
	Caring for non-ambulatory calves that includes:			
	How non-ambulatory calves are detected			
	How non-ambulatory calves are moved			
	Where non-ambulatory calves are housed			
	How non-ambulatory calves are cared for			
	When and what treatments are used for non-ambulatory calves			
	How euthanasia decisions are made			
	Euthanizing animals that include:			
	Criteria for the identification of animals to be euthanized, and			



	Euthanasia techniques approved by the AABP and/or the AVMA			
	Carcass disposal using an appropriate method			
	How calves are assessed to be fit for transport			
	How performance or average daily gain of calves is monitored			
	Permanent (written or electronic, maintained for at least two years) drug treatment records that include:			
	Date of treatment			
	Person administering the treatment			
	Animal ID			
	Disease or condition name			
	Drug name			
	Route of administration			
	Injection site			
	Whether a needle was broken			
	Duration of treatment			



	Specified withdrawal times			
	Individual calf health records (written or electronic) that include:			
	Diagnosis			
	Date of diagnosis			
	Severity of disease			
	Treatments administered			
	Outcome (recovery or death)			
2.2.1 Individual Animal Identification	Do all animals have a permanent, easily visible individual identification using an approved method (RFID tags, brite tags, vaccination tags, dangle tags, button tags, tattoos, hot or freeze iron brand with ranch and animal number)?			
2.2.9 Monitoring Production and Performance	Are young calves demonstrating a positive weight gain between arrival and one week following arrival at the facility?			
2.2.10 Lameness and Locomotion	Are 95% or more of the calves at the facility sound, with normal locomotion and bearing weight evenly on all limbs? (Number of calves with lameness/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % with lameness			
2.3 Checklist of Desired Outcomes	Are all staff trained in the protocols and actions listed within the Health Management plan?			



MANUAL SECTION	3. ANIMAL HANDLING AND STOCKMANSHIP	YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
3.1 Basic Handling, Movement, Restraint	Are all family and non-family employees with animal care responsibilities trained in quiet, low-stress handling techniques and employ these techniques at all times?				
3.2 Animal Handling and Processing Measures	Are animals handled using quiet, low-stress handling techniques?*				
	* Listed below are a series of benchmarks that could be assessed in your facility by observing a sample of calves to determine if animal handling and processing is minimizing stress:				
	< 10% of animals require use of an electric prod (Number of calves with prodded/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % prodded				
	No animals are miscaught* and processed/treated in an unsecure or uncomfortable position in a chute or other restraining device (e.g. halters, headlocks) <i>*Miscaught is defined as an animal being in any position other than with its head fully outside of the device</i>				
Upon entry and exit of restraint device, < 25% of animals run or jump (Number of calves that run or jump/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % that run or jump					



	<p>Upon entry and exit of restraint device, < 10% of animals stumble or slip</p> <p>(Number of calves that stumble or slip/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % that stumble or slip</p>				
	<p>Upon entry and exit of restraint device, < 2% of animals fall</p> <p>(Number of calves that fall/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % that fall</p>				
3.3 Broken Tails	<p>Do 95% or more of the calves at the facility have unbroken tails?</p> <p>(Number of calves that have unbroken tails/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % that have unbroken tails</p>				
	<p>Are measures being taken to ensure broken tails and tail tip injuries/necrosis are minimized or eliminated?</p>				
3.4 Tail Docking	<p>Does your facility adhere to a ban on routine tail docking?</p>				
3.5 Animal Abuse and Neglect	<p>Is a zero-tolerance policy on animal abuse and neglect for all family and non-family employees enforced?</p>				

MANUAL SECTION	4. MANAGEMENT AND CARE	YES	NO	COMMENTS
4.1.1 Drinking Water	Do all animals have access to clean, fresh drinking water within 24 hours of birth or arrival to the facility?			
4.1.2 Nutrition	Are animals fed colostrum, milk, and/or starter feed at levels sufficient to meet requirements for health, growth, and vigor?			



	Is there a written protocol for colostrum and milk feeding and transitioning your calves to starter feed?			
4.1.3 Body Condition	Do 99% of calves at the facility have an acceptable body condition score (equivalent to a score of ≥ 3 out of 5 for dairy cattle or score of ≥ 5 out of 9 for beef cattle)? (Number of calves with an acceptable body condition score/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % that had acceptable body condition score			
4.2.1 Hygiene and Cleanliness	Do 90% of calves at the facility have a hygiene score of 2 or less on a 3-point scale? (Number of calves with an acceptable hygiene score/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % that had acceptable hygiene score			
4.2.2 Hock and Knee Injuries	Do 95% of calves at the facility have normal hocks and knees, with no hair loss or swelling present? (Number of calves with normal hock and knees/total calves observed) x 100 = _____ % with normal hock and knees			
4.3 Environment Quality	Are calf housing and facilities designed to provide:			
	Shelter from the elements and predators			
	Protection from heat and cold for typical climatic conditions			
	Bedding*			



	<i>* Should be appropriate for climatic conditions, and sufficient to cover feet and legs / enable nesting during cold weather</i>			
	Adequate ventilation			
	Adequate lighting			
	Clean, well-drained, and dry resting areas			
	At least 35 square feet for every animal in a group housing environment			
	Segregated area for animals recovering from illness or injury			
	A lying area that allows all animals to easily stand, lie down, adopt normal resting and grooming behavior, turn 360°, and allow for visual contact with other cattle			
4.4 Social Contact	Do calf housing and facilities provide at a minimum visual contact with other calves?			
4.5 Exercise and Freedom of Movement	Are calves not tethered at any age?			
	If no, does the tether allow all animals to easily stand, lie down, adopt normal resting and grooming behavior, turn 360°, and allow for visual contact with other cattle?			
4.6.1 Disbudding and Dehorning	Is there a dehorning and disbudding protocol developed with the veterinarian of record?			
	Does the protocol outline how and when the procedure will be administered, and that pain control will be provided?			



	Does the protocol follow methods and standards of care as outlined by the AABP and/or AVMA?			
4.6.2 Castration	Is there a castration protocol developed with the veterinarian of record?			
	Does the protocol outline how and when the procedure will be administered, and that pain control will be provided?			
	Does the protocol follow methods and standards of care as outlined by the AABP and/or AVMA?			
4.6.3 Supernumerary Teat Removal	Is there a supernumerary teat removal protocol developed with the veterinarian of record?			
	Does the protocol outline how and when the procedure will be administered, and that pain control will be provided?			
	Does the protocol follow methods and standards of care as outlined by the AABP and/or AVMA?			

MANUAL SECTION	5. FAMILY AND NON-FAMILY EMPLOYEE TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	YES	NO	COMMENTS
5.1 Employee Training and Continuing Education	Are all family and non-family employees with animal care responsibilities trained in proper stockmanship on an annual basis or more frequently?			
	Do all family and non-family employees with animal care responsibilities have a record that they have been trained in proper stockmanship within the past 12 months?			
	Are all family and non-family employees trained on specific topics related to their responsibilities at the facility on an annual basis or more frequently?			



	Do all family and non-family employees with animal care responsibilities have a record that they have been trained on specific topics related to their responsibilities at the facility within the past 12 months?			
	Have all family and non-family employees signed an agreement outlining their commitment to upholding the animal care expectations established for your facility?			
5.2 Emergency Preparedness	Is there a written Emergency Action/Crisis Plan to effectively manage emergencies or crisis situations that could occur?			
	Are emergency contact name(s) and number(s) and the site address posted in a prominent location in the languages understood by workers?			

