

Veal Cattle Animal Welfare Assessment

Standards for Assessment from
"Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Veal Cattle" (2017)





Housing

| | YES | No | NA |
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| <p>Required space in pens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For individual pens built or renovated after July 1, 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calves are able to turn completely around without assistance, groom, adopt sternal and lateral resting postures, and easily stand up and lie down. For individual pens built or renovated before July 1, 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow calves to groom, adopt a sternal resting posture, and easily stand up and lie down. For group pens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle must be able to easily stand up and lie down, turn around, groom, adopt sternal and lateral resting postures and rest on the enclosure floor at the same time. <p>Please see <i>Recommended Practices for Care and Handling of Veal Cattle</i> for more detailed information on housing.</p> | | | |
| <p>Calves are able to lay lateral, sternal, and turn around unassisted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lateral: a resting position in which an animal lies on either side of the body with legs extended. Sternal: resting upright on the chest with legs tucked under the body. | | | |
| Housing allows easy visual inspection of animals. | | | |
| Shelter and protection from extreme weather is provided in outdoor penning. | | | |
| <p>Proper facilities for calving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If calves are born off the farm, the veal producer works with the dairy producer to verify that calving is managed in accordance with the <i>Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle</i>. | | | |
| No sharp or protruding objects in animal housing areas. | | | |
| No place where animals can get limbs or head stuck. | | | |
| <p>Pens are clean and dry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kneel in bedding for 30 seconds. If knees get wet, the pen is not dry. | | | |
| No calves are tethered. | | | |
| Non-slip flooring throughout areas the calves move around in. | | | |



Housing

| | YES | No | NA |
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| Hot water source is present for mixing milk replacer. | | | |
| <p>Adequate ventilation/good air quality (indoor housing):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calves have a minimum air space of 10 m³/100 kg (353 ft³/220 lb) live weight. Facilities follow minimum air exchange rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In cold weather, at least 0.28 m³/min/calf (10 ft³/min/calf) for calves less than 56.7 kg (125 lbs) In cold weather, at least 0.34 m³/min/calf (12 ft³/min/calf) for calves greater than 56.7 kg (125 lbs) In warm weather, 5 m³/min/calf (177 ft³/min/calf) Humidity is between 40 – 60 per cent. If ammonia smell is uncomfortable to humans, air quality is poor. | | | |
| Backup system for ventilation in place (indoor housing). | | | |
| <p>Adequate lighting provided (indoor housing):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cattle must receive a light period (for at least eight hours) and a dark period every day. In barns without natural light, supplemental artificial lighting must be provided daily for at least eight hours. Light intensity, whether natural or artificial, must permit housed cattle to navigate their surroundings, feed, rest and be monitored. Lighting (whether fixed or portable) must be available to enable detailed inspection of cattle at any time. | | | |
| Fire detectors are present in barns. | | | |
| Isolation area is present for new stock. | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
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Nutrition

| | YES | No | NA |
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| Potable water accessible and available daily in proper amounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potable water is ice-free, uncontaminated, and fit for animal consumption. • Water is analyzed twice per year to ensure it is safe for livestock consumption. Corrective action is taken if an issue is found. • Ice and snow are not suitable as a sole source of water. | | | |
| Feed is clean and mould free. | | | |
| A balanced diet, developed with a nutritionist, is provided to cattle. | | | |
| Feedstuff properly stored and unspoiled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed storage areas free of vermin and flies. | | | |
| Adequate colostrum provided at proper intervals including within six hours of birth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If calves are born off the farm, the veal producer works with the dairy producer to verify that calving is managed in accordance with the "Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle". | | | |
| Adequate space provided for number of animals utilizing feed source. | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
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Animal health

| | YES | No | NA |
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| All animals have proper identification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cattle must have a CCIA RFID button tag (yellow). • If used, management identification tags or collars must be lightweight and safe. | | | |
| Active disease prevention program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed and implemented in consultation with the herd veterinarian. | | | |
| All sick or injured animals have been treated or euthanized. | | | |
| Sick pens available and properly managed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronically ill calves are isolated in a separate room or treatment area. • Air movement does not flow from ill cattle toward healthy cattle. | | | |
| Animals that meet the criteria for euthanasia have all been euthanized. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for euthanasia include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failing to respond to treatment(s) and recovery protocols. • Showing signs of chronic, severe or debilitating pain or distress. • Unable to stand or walk. • Show marked weight loss/loss of body condition. • Are unfit for transport (or are likely to be condemned) and it has been decided that treatment will not be provided. | | | |
| Acceptable euthanasia tools available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penetrating captive bolt (must be followed by a secondary step to ensure death, such as bleeding out or pithing). • Gunshot (appropriate to calf/cattle size – e.g. cattle less than 180 kg - .410 shotgun with #4 or #6 shot or 1/5 slug, cattle over 180 kg – 20 or 12 gauge shotgun with #4 or #6 shot). • Overdose of barbiturates (can only be administered by a veterinarian). | | | |
| When necessary, euthanasia is carried out properly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See "Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Veal Cattle" for details. | | | |
| All animals under treatment are exhibiting signs of recovery. | | | |
| Indicators of sickness not present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Veal Farmers of Ontario "Calf Management: Detecting Calf Disease Early" for signs of sickness. | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
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Transportation

| | YES | No | NA |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| All animals have required identification: • All cattle must have a CCIA RFID button tag (yellow). | | | |
| Loading/unloading area of proper design for veal and bob calves: • Loading and unloading of cattle must be overseen by a competent handler. • Personnel involved in loading and unloading must be trained and knowledgeable in the provincial and federal regulations for the movement and transport of animals. • The requirements for loading and unloading procedures and equipment as described in the <i>Health of Animals Regulations</i> must be complied with. • Handling of cattle during loading and unloading must comply with handling standards of this assessment. | | | |
| Transport vehicle of proper design for animal being transported: • Sides of vehicle are strong, secure, and high enough to prevent calves from jumping, falling, or being pushed out. | | | |
| Vehicle provides protection from extreme weather: • Openings allowing drafts, freezing rain, and snow to enter the vehicle should be covered. • Ventilation is adjusted to the weather. • Calves and ventilation are checked at least every two hours. • Bedding is provided | | | |
| Vehicle is clean: • Vehicle was cleaned and disinfected after the last load and fresh bedding was added. | | | |
| No sharp or protruding objects. | | | |
| Non-slip flooring: • Straw or other bedding can be used to provide traction on smooth floors. | | | |
| Animals are loaded at proper density: • See " <i>Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation</i> " for loading density recommendations. | | | |
| Only animals fit to transport are loaded - including appropriate age: • Calves less than eight days of age are not transported. • An animal that is sick, injured, disabled, fatigued, or cannot be moved without causing suffering is not transported without special precautions. | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
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Handling

| | YES | No | NA |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Animals handled in a quiet and calm manner: • Animal handlers must be knowledgeable in cattle behaviour and quiet handling techniques either through training, experience or mentorship. • Abusive handling is unacceptable. This includes but is not limited to kicking, beating, dragging or slamming gates on cattle. | | | |
| Electric prod use is avoided: • Electric prods must not be used except when animal or human safety is at risk and as a last resort when all humane alternatives have failed and only when cattle have a clear path to move. • Electric prods must never be used on calves that are less than three months of age. • Electric prods must never be used on sensitive areas (genitals, face or anal areas) or repeatedly on the same animal. | | | |
| When restraint is required, it is minimal in time and degree. • Farms must have the ability to safely restrain cattle. • Cattle must only be restrained for as long as necessary to carry out the procedure. • Restraint equipment must be kept in good repair. • Corrective action must be taken if the equipment or method of restraint causes injury to cattle. | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
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Documentation

| | YES | No | NA |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| <p>All staff have received training in animal handling and management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managers must ensure that personnel receive training and supervision. Personnel working with cattle must have access to a copy of the <i>Code of Practice for Care and Handling of Veal Cattle</i> and be familiar with, and provide, the basics of care as stated in the Code. Staff signs off when they have received training on a specific standard operating procedure. | | | |
| <p>Emergency plans in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency procedures, relevant to the farm's location and housing system(s), must be developed and communicated to personnel. For cattle that are reliant on electricity for ventilation or the provision of feed or water, alternative means of temperature regulation, ventilation, feeding and/or watering must be available and implemented in the event of a power failure, mechanical breakdown or other emergency situation. Alarms and fail-safe devices, including an on-farm alternate power supply, must be tested at least annually and corrected if a defect is found. | | | |
| <p>Emergency information posted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evacuation plan in place (for people and cattle) A list of important telephone numbers is posted, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinarian After hours veterinarian Local police Provincial Ministry of Agriculture Canadian Food Inspection Agency Insurance Company Hospital Near-by slaughter plant Emergency transportation and housing arrangements in place. | | | |
| <p>Animal welfare policy signed by all staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the <i>Producer Declaration</i> page at the end of this assessment. | | | |
| <p>Health records, including treatments, kept on all animals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure treatment records include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The animal(s) treated Date Reason for treatment Dosage Withdrawal time Outcomes of the treatment (e.g. recovery, cull, mortality, adverse reaction) | | | |



Documentation

| | YES | No | NA |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| <p>Record of animal mortality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The record must contain the species and age of the animal, animal weight (at time of disposal), date, time, and cause of death (if known), the date, time, method, and place of disposal, and the date on which the record was made. For more information on deadstock disposal, call the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300, email ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca or visit www.ontario.ca/omafra. O. Reg. 106/09: Disposal of dead farm animals can be found at https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/090106#BK35 | | | |
| <p>Biosecurity measures in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest control practices are in place. Personnel avoid contact with calves from outside premises, or change clothing and use a foot bath or foot covering between barns. Visitors to the barn are minimized and visitors are given protective clothing. Needles, syringes, and other medical devices are used and disposed of carefully to minimize danger to humans, calves, or other animals. | | | |
| Veterinary Client Professional Relationship (VCPR) in place. | | | |
| Maintenance Log for facilities in place. | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
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Animal Indicators

| | YES | No | NA |
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| Animals are inspected on a regular daily basis: • Neonatal calves must be assessed at least twice daily for general health and well-being and all other cattle at least once daily. | | | |
| Practices in place to reduce cross-sucking and urine drinking: • If a significant number of cattle are performing oral stereotypies or showing signs of ruminal acidosis, the feeding program must be adjusted in terms of provision of fibre and/or method of milk delivery to reduce these issues. | | | |
| No cross-sucking or urine drinking observed. | | | |
| All sick or injured animals identified. | | | |
| No dead animals found in pens or stalls. | | | |
| Animals have company of other animals or visual contact. | | | |
| Animals do not exhibit flight response to handler: • Animals do not run away when people walk by or enter pens. | | | |
| Animals are showing no signs of heat or cold stress. • Signs of cold stress in cattle can include: • Shivering (cattle may stop shivering if severely cold stressed) • Huddling or crowding • Low core body temperature (normal body temperature for cattle is 38-39.3°C [100.4-102.7°F]; take action before body temperature falls to 37.5°C [99.5°F]). • Intervention is required before signs of hypothermia are observed, which include: • Low core body temperature • Cold mouth • Inability to get up • No suckling reflex (in unweaned calves) • Signs of heat stress in cattle include: • Sweating • Increased respiration rate • Reduced feed intake • Increased water intake • Open mouth breathing • Increased body temperature | | | |
| Comments: | | | |
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Producer Declaration

Producer Declaration

As an Ontario veal producer, I raise veal cattle according to the standards set out by the National Farm Animal Care Council's "Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Veal Cattle." I understand the importance of following this code to promote health and wellbeing of the cattle I care for.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Assessor Declaration

This assessment has been completed in full and accurately reflects the care provided to veal cattle on this farm.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Employee Declaration

_____ is committed to responsible farm animal care and handling.

Farm name
This means animals in our care deserve to be healthy, safe, and well cared for. Every one of our employees is required to handle and treat animals with respect and in accordance with _____
Farm name
policies and rules as well as the federal, provincial and municipal regulations under which we operate. Any employee who is responsible for, observes or receives any information that alleges an animal on our property or in our care is being mistreated, mishandled or treated or handled in a way that is contrary to our animal care policy/guidelines must report that information to _____
Point person name and phone number
immediately so that the situation can be corrected.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



Your calf care partners

Veal Farmers of Ontario provides leadership to promote industry growth and viability through collaboration, innovation, marketing and education.

Acknowledgements

Veal Farmers of Ontario wishes to thank all those who contributed to this important industry initiative. Your expertise and willingness to help are greatly appreciated.

Project contributors:

Veal Farmers of Ontario staff
Jennifer Woods, M. Sc.


Photographs:

Courtesy of Melissa Speirs, with an additional thank you to all the farms and businesses that helped with the photography for this project.

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