# ASSESSOR'S GUIDE
# TO A
# BQA FEEDYARD ASSESSMENT

This guide is written to help the individual(s) conducting a feedyard assessment complete the assessment and associated assessment form(s) accurately and efficiently. There are multiple variations of assessment forms available and the form(s) used depends upon the individual assessor and the operation being assessed. All forms have a common framework, they list the following:

- Major category (ex: Protocols/Records)
- Category Point, a specific component of a major category, (ex: Training)
- Measure, how the category point is evaluated (ex: Is there a protocol in place?)
- Result, (4 choices, select one)
    - Acceptable/Yes – This point/measure was satisfied appropriately
    - Requires action – This point/measure was somewhat satisfied but could use improvement, requires the comment field to be filled out
    - Unacceptable/No – This point/measure was not met satisfactorily, requires the comment field to be filled out
    - Not Applicable – This point does not apply in this operation/situation, comment section may be completed to explain why
- Comments, area for comments on that category point including commentary on why a measure was recorded as it was and advise for improving that point in the future (Optional for "Acceptable" result)

The content of this guide includes all assessment categories and points as well as a short explanation of how to complete the measure for category points. If the version of the assessment form the assessor is using is not the complete version simply skip over the areas in the guide that do not apply to the situation.

**When should animals be assessed?**
An assessment should only be conducted when the site is operating under normal conditions. For example, do not perform an assessment during a period of disease-outbreak or when another serious factor or factors may be impacting the operation (ex: extreme weather conditions, natural disaster, etc.).

**Forms**
The forms have been designed in an assessment-flow pattern to help the assessor eliminate backtracking and/or moving inside/outside/inside, etc. However, these forms cannot account for all situations and the assessment-order is only a suggested order, the assessment may be completed in any order as deemed appropriate by the assessor.

**Emergency Action Plan**
In case of an emergency it is important for communication to occur quickly and efficiently. The operation should have a written emergency action plan (EAP) that can be implemented for a variety of situations. The EAP should be posted at various locations throughout the operation and include, at a minimum, telephone numbers of the owner, veterinarian, equipment supplies and fire and police departments.

**Choosing Pens to Assess**

This table is a list of unique randomized numbers from 1-250 for use when selecting pens to evaluate for mud score, water trough and feed bunk cleanliness, etc. A minimum of ten pens must be selected for assessment.

1) Establish the number of pens onsite, add 1, and find that target number in the table.
2) Next, move to the right from the target number and continue moving right until you find the first number lower than the target number, this will be your first "sample" pen.
3) Continue to move to the right, and downward when the right side of a row is found, selecting every number that is less than the target number until you have a minimum of ten pens selected. Move to the top of the table if the bottom is reached without sufficient pens being selected.

204 051 077 116 065 217 011 014 006 030 141 174 208 104 167 163 241 008 022 231 102 175 139 063 226 237
086 223 245 062 045 212 027 149 150 031 072 132 017 112 012 128 214 088 215 019 240 078 247 106 028 080
108 089 145 227 048 085 092 137 001 118 127 033 064 156 195 144 047 024 026 018 151 079 147 105 101 179
130 143 103 113 164 109 207 161 117 183 233 087 219 010 070 205 050 200 066 152 210 153 111 199 185 216
046 084 165 170 023 076 189 098 239 221 002 094 133 083 235 206 230 158 125 159 055 184 114 191 209 222
182 053 192 090 013 243 188 036 196 229 228 166 218 129 213 039 232 220 190 124 097 107 178 249 155 202
177 069 234 081 173 146 095 041 043 035 060 238 134 197 193 020 038 052 169 093 005 003 025 242 057 180
061 168 162 042 224 244 049 203 058 176 138 119 007 181 122 148 157 160 186 225 120 123 115 250 068 100
131 091 211 034 248 172 096 082 171 154 071 136 009 140 126 121 073 074 099 187 198 004 194 201 246 110
236 142 015 054 135 016 075 056 029 067 040 037 021 044 032 059

Once the pens for assessment have been selected they may be evaluated in any order to allow for the best use of time and resources.

If a selected pen is empty (or not suitable for assessment for other defensible purposes, ie. disease outbreak, etc.) select the next pen in the order and assess it as a replacement.

For subsequent assessments the assessor should utilize a new random number list, such as one generated from a spreadsheet, so that the same pens are not assessed each time.

If pens are not numbered numerically, obtain or draw a "site map" showing all of the pens and number them beginning with number 1 in the NW corner of the site moving East across the first row, then move to the second row of pens and continue numbering from West to East until you reach the extreme SW corner and the last pen.

*Example shown using the table below:*

1) If you have 65 pens onsite you would add 1 making your "target" number equal to **66**.
2) Moving to the right, then down a row starting over on the left-hand side, the first sample pen would be **46**.
3) The subsequent pens would be, **23, 2, 13, 36, 39, 41, 43, 35** and **60**

204 051 077 116 065 217 011 014 006 030 141 174 208 104 167 163 241 008 022 231 102 175 139 063 226 237
086 223 245 062 045 212 027 149 150 031 072 132 017 112 012 128 214 088 215 019 240 078 247 106 028 080
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236 142 015 054 135 016 075 056 029 067 040 037 021 044 032 059

**Background information**
The following section provides content from *The Cattle Industry's Guidelines for the Care and Handling of Cattle* to provide additional background material for the assessor and/or assessment team as well as a reference and review opportunity for interactions with the feedyard operator(s).

## THE CATTLE INDUSTRY'S GUIDELINES FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF CATTLE

### Introduction

Cattlemen have long recognized the need to properly care for livestock. Sound animal husbandry practices, based on decades of practical experience and research, are known to impact the well-being of cattle, individual animal health and herd productivity. Cattle are produced in very diverse environments and geographic locations in the United States. There is not one specific set of production practices that can be recommended for all cattle producers. Personal experience, training and professional judgment can serve as a valuable resource for providing proper animal care.

### Producer Code of Cattle Care

Beef cattle producers take pride in their responsibility to provide proper care to cattle. The Code of Cattle Care below lists general recommendations for care and handling of cattle:

- Provide necessary food, water and care to protect the health and well-being of animals.
- Provide disease prevention practices to protect herd health, including access to veterinary care.
- Provide facilities that allow safe, humane, and efficient movement and/or restraint of cattle.
- Use appropriate methods to humanly euthanize terminally sick or injured livestock and dispose of them properly.
- Provide personnel with training/experience to properly handle and care for cattle.
- Make timely observations of cattle to ensure basic needs are being met.
- Minimize stress when transporting cattle.
- Keep updated on advancements and changes in the industry to make decisions based upon sound production practices and consideration for animal well-being.
- Persons who willfully mistreat animals will not be tolerated.

### Feeding and Nutrition

Diets for all classes of beef cattle should meet the recommendations of the National Research Council (NRC) and/or recommendations of a feed consultant.

- Cattle must have access to an adequate water supply**.** Estimated water requirements for all classes of beef cattle in various production settings are described in the NRC *Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle**.***
- Provide adequate feed. Avoid feed and water interruption longer than 24 hours.
- Feedstuffs and feed ingredients should be of satisfactory quality to meet nutritional needs.
- Under certain circumstances (e.g., droughts, frosts, and floods), test feedstuffs or other dietary components to determine the presence of substances that can be detrimental to cattle well-being, such as nitrate, prussic acid, mycotoxins, etc.
- Producers should become familiar with potential micronutrient deficiencies or excesses in their respective geographical areas and use appropriately formulated supplements.
- Use only USDA, FDA and EPA approved products for cattle. These products must be used in accordance with the approved product use guidelines.

*Feeding Guidelines for Beef Cows*

Body condition scoring of beef cows is a scientifically approved method to assess nutritional status. Body condition scores (BCS) range from 1 (emaciated, skeletal) to 9 (obese).

- A BCS of 4-6 is most desirable for health and production. A BCS of 2 or under is not acceptable and immediate corrective action should be taken**.**

- During periods of prolonged drought and widespread shortages of hay and other feedstuffs, the average BCS of cows within a herd may temporarily decline. This is not desirable, but may be outside the cattle owner's control until drought relief is achieved.
- During periods of decreasing temperature, feeding plans should reflect increased energy needs.

*Feeding Guidelines for Stocker Cattle*

Stockers are raised on a wide variety of forages (native pasture, annuals, improved pasture) with minimal additional nutrient supplementation.

- On growing forages, stocking rates should be established that meet production goals for growth and performance.
- On dormant pastures, supplement cattle as needed to meet maintenance or growth requirements for the animal's weight, breed, and age as established by NRC guidelines and targeted production goals of the operation.

*Feeding Guidelines for Feeder Cattle*

Feedyard cattle can eat diverse diets, but the typical ration contains a high proportion of grain(s) (corn, milo, barley, grain by-products) and a smaller proportion of roughages (hay, straw, silage, hulls, etc.). The NRC lists the dietary requirements of beef cattle (based on weight, weather, frame score, etc.) and the feeding value of various commodities included in the diet

- Consult a nutritionist (private consultant, university or feed company employee) for advice on ration formulation and feeding programs.
- Avoid sudden changes in ration composition or amount of ration offered.
- Monitor changes in feces, incidence of digestive upsets (acidosis or bloat) and foot health to evaluate the feeding program.
- A small percentage of cattle in feedyards develop laminitis or founder. Mild cases do not affect animal welfare or performance; however, hooves that are double their normal length compromise movement. Extreme cases should be provided appropriate care and marketed as soon as possible.

**Disease Prevention Practices and Health Care**

Like other species, cattle are susceptible to infectious diseases, metabolic disorders, toxins, parasites, neoplasia and injury. Control programs should be based on risk assessment and efficacy of available products. Economic losses are reduced by early intervention through health management programs. Healthy herds are more productive.

- The producer should work with a veterinarian and/or nutritionist to determine the risk of infectious, metabolic and toxic diseases and to develop effective management programs when designing a herd health plan.
- Producers and their employees should have the ability to recognize common health problems and know how to properly utilize animal health products and other control measures.
- When prevention or control measures are ineffective, the producer should promptly contact a veterinarian for a diagnosis and treatment program to reduce animal suffering and animal losses.

*Cows*

- It is desirable for cows to have a BCS of at least 4 before the calving season.
- During calving season, cows should be checked regularly for calving difficulties. First-calf heifers may require more frequent observation and care.
- Producers should consider contacting a veterinarian for advice or assistance if cows or heifers have calving difficulties that cannot be corrected by the producer within a reasonable amount of time.
- Cows with mild lameness, early eye problems such as ocular neoplasia, mastitis or loss of body condition should be examined to determine well-being, and in some cases be promptly marketed.

*Calves*

- Castration and dehorning are done for the protection of the animal, other cattle in the herd and people who handle the cattle. Castration prior to 120 days of age or when calves weigh less than 500 pounds is strongly recommended.

- When horns are present, it is strongly recommended that calves be dehorned prior to 120 days of age. Dehorning should be done before the diameter of the horn base grows to one-inch in diameter or more.
- Weaning can be less stressful by castrating and dehorning calves early in life, vaccinating against respiratory diseases prior to weaning, and providing proper pre-weaning nutrition.

*Stocker and Feeder Cattle*

- All incoming stocker and feeder cattle should be vaccinated against BRD. Stocker cattle that will be grazing rangeland or pasture should be vaccinated against clostridial diseases. The use of other vaccines and parasite control should be based on risk assessment and efficacy of available animal health products.
- **It is strongly recommended that a local anesthetic (cornual nerve block) be used when the horn base is one-inch or more in diameter.**
- A local anesthetic should be used when heifers are spayed using the flank approach.
- High risk cattle should be checked at least daily for illness, lameness or other problems during the first 30 days following arrival.
- Pregnancy in immature heifers can result in calving difficulties and subsequent trauma to the birth canal, paralysis or death of the heifer. For these reasons it is often more humane to abort pregnant heifers. This should be done under the direction of a veterinarian.
- If heifers in the feedyard or a stocker operation deliver a full-term, healthy calf, it should be allowed to nurse to obtain colostrum. At all times, these calves must be handled humanely and provided proper nutrition. Compromised calves or fetuses should be promptly euthanized and disposed of according to local regulations.
- "Bulling" is a term to describe aggressive riding of a steer by one or more penmates. Bullers should be promptly removed from the pen to prevent serious injury.

**Identification**

- If cattle are branded, it should be accomplished quickly, expertly and with the proper equipment.
- Feeder cattle should not be re-branded when entering a feedlot unless required by law.
- Brands should be of appropriate size to achieve clear identification.
- Jaw brands should not be used.
- Ear notching may be used to identify cattle.
- Wattling, ear splitting and other surgical alterations for identification are strongly discouraged.

**Shelter and Housing**

- Cattle in backgrounding facilities or feedyards must be offered adequate space for comfort, socialization and environmental management.
- Pen maintenance, including manure harvesting, will help improve pen conditions.
- Mud is more of a problem in the winter with low evaporation rate or improper drainage conditions. Pens should provide a dry (pen surface soil does not coat the animals hair with mud when the animal rise for a resting position) area for cattle to lay down of not less than 18 $ft^2$/1000 lbs occupancy. Additionally cattle should have access to feed and water without being required to wade through mud above mid canon bone (metacarpus/metatarsus). Accumulation of mud on cattle can be monitored but may relate to recent weather conditions**.**
- Feedyards should use dust reduction measures to improve animal performance.
- Floors in housing facilities should be properly drained and barns and handling alleys should provide traction to prevent injuries to animals and handlers.
- Handling alleys and housing pens must be free of sharp edges and protrusions to prevent injury to animals and handlers.
- Design and operate alleys and gates to avoid impeding cattle movement. When operating gates and catches, reduce excessive noise, which may cause distress to the animals.
- Adjust hydraulic or manual restraining chutes to the appropriate size of cattle to be handled. Regular cleaning and maintenance of working parts is imperative to ensure the system functions properly and is safe for the cattle and handlers.
- Mechanical and electrical devices used in housing facilities must be safe.

**Cattle Handling**

- Abuse of cattle is not acceptable under any circumstances.
- Avoid slippery surfaces, especially where cattle enter a single file alley leading to a chute or where they exit the chute. Grooved concrete, metal grating (not sharp), rubber mats or deep sand can be used to minimize slipping and falling. Quiet handling is essential to minimize slipping. Under most conditions, no more than 2% of the animals should fall outside the chute. A level of more than 2% indicates a review of the process may be of value, including asking questions such as: is this a cattle temperament issue, has something in the handling area changed that is effecting cattle behavior, etc.
- Take advantage of cattle's flight zone and point of balance to move them. For safety and welfare reasons, minimize the use of electric prods. Non-electric driving aids, such as plastic paddles, sorting sticks, flags or streamers (affixed to long handles) should be used to quietly guide and turn animals. When cattle continuously balk, cattle handlers should investigate and correct the reason rather than resort to overuse of electric prods.
- Under desirable conditions, ninety percent or more of cattle should flow through cattle handling systems without the use of electric prods.
- When cattle prods must be used, avoid contact with the eyes, rectum, genitalia and udder.
- Driving aids powered by AC current should never be used unless manufactured and labeled specifically for that purpose.
- Some cattle are naturally more prone to vocalize, but if more than 5% of cattle vocalize (after being squeezed but prior to procedures being performed) it may be an indication that chute operation should be evaluated.
- If more than 25% of cattle jump or run out of the chute there should be a review of the situation and questions asked such as: is this a result of cattle temperament or prior handling issues, was the chute operating properly etc. Evaluate procedures to determine if cattle handling practices need to be improved.
- Properly trained dogs can be effective and humane tools for cattle handling. Insure that rough handling, barking, or impeding cattle flow is minimized.

**Marketing Cattle**

The overwhelming majority of cattle are marketed in good health and physical condition. Some compromised cattle should not enter intermediate marketing channels because of animal welfare concerns. Instead, these cattle should be sold directly to a processing plant or euthanized (see Euthanasia section), depending upon the severity of the condition, processing plant policy, and state or USDA regulations.

**Transportation**

- Cattle sorting and holding pens should allow handling without undue stress, be located near the loading/unloading facility and be suitable for herd size.
- Provide properly designed and maintained loading facilities for easy and safe animal movement. Proper design of loading chutes as well as personnel that are knowledgeable of their proper use can assure the safety of both cattle and cattle handlers. Ramps and chutes should be strong and solid, provide non-slip footing, and have sides high enough to keep cattle from falling or jumping off. A ramp angle of 25 degrees or less will improve cattle movement.
- All vehicles used to transport cattle should provide for the safety of personnel and cattle during loading, transporting and unloading.
- Strictly adhere to safe load levels with regard to animal weight and space allocation.
- Producers hauling cattle in farm and ranch trailers must ensure that adequate space is provided so that cattle have sufficient room to stand with little risk of being forced down because of overcrowding.
- Cattle that are unable to withstand the rigors of transportation should not be shipped.
- When the vehicle is not full, safely partition cattle into smaller areas to provide stability for the cattle and the vehicle.
- Knowingly inflicting physical injury or unnecessary pain on cattle when loading, unloading or transporting animals is not acceptable.
- No gap which would allow injury to an animal should exist between the ramp, its sides, and the vehicle.
- Vehicle doors and internal gates should be sufficiently wide to permit cattle to pass through easily without bruising or injury.

- Cattle should be loaded, unloaded, and moved through facilities with patience and as quietly as possible to reduce stress and injury.

**Non-Ambulatory (Downer) Cattle**

- A prompt diagnosis should be made to determine whether the animal should be humanely euthanized or receive additional care.
- Provide feed and water to non-ambulatory cattle at least once daily.
- Move downer animals very carefully to avoid compromising animal welfare. Dragging downer animals is unacceptable. Likewise, animals should not be lifted with chains onto transportation conveyances. Acceptable methods of transporting downers include a sled, low-boy trailer or in the bucket of a loader. Animals should not be "scooped" into the bucket, but rather should be humanely rolled into the bucket by caretakers.
- When treatment is attempted, cattle unable to sit up unaided (i.e. lie flat on their side) and refuse to eat or drink should be humanely euthanized within 24-36 hours of initial onset.
- **Cattle that are non-ambulatory must not be sent to a livestock market or to a processing facility.**
- Marketing cattle promptly, before this issue occurs, will promote better quality of life for the animal and economic benefit for the operation.

**Euthanasia**

Euthanasia is humane death occurring without pain and suffering. The decision to euthanize an animal should consider the animal's welfare. The producer will most likely perform on-farm euthanasia because a veterinarian may not be immediately available to perform the service. When euthanasia is necessary, an excellent reference is the *Practical Euthanasia of Cattle* guidelines developed and published by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners.

Reasons for euthanasia include:

- Severe emaciation, weak cattle that are non-ambulatory or at risk of becoming downers
- Downer cattle that will not sit up, refuse to eat or drink, have not responded to therapy
- Rapid deterioration of a medical condition for which therapies have been unsuccessful.
- Severe, debilitating pain
- Compound (open) fracture
- Spinal injury
- Central nervous system disease
- Multiple joint infections with chronic weight loss

**Heat Stress Procedures**

- During periods of high heat and humidity and little wind, actions should be taken to minimize the effects of heat stress as cattle are processed.
- Provide adequate water.
- If possible, avoid handling cattle when the risk of heat stress is high. The final decision must consider temperature, humidity, wind speed, phenotype and cattle acclimation. If cattle must be handled, a general rule is to work them before the Temperature Humidity Index (THI) reaches 84 if possible. As an example, when the temperature is 98$^{o}$ F and the humidity is 30%, the THI is 83. At a constant temperature, the THI increases as the relative humidity increases. Each one mile per hour increase in wind speed decreases the THI by approximately one. More information can be found in NebGuide G00-1409-A (www.gpvec.unl.edu).
- Work cattle more prone to heat stress first, earlier in the day or later if conditions moderate. For example, larger cattle should be processed during lower stress times of the day.
- Limit the time cattle spend in handling facilities where heat stress may be more significant.
- Heat management tools, such as shades and sprinklers, should be considered if sufficient natural shade is not available.

**Pasture Cattle Heat Stress Procedures**

- During the summer the THI in the southeastern United States can be high.
- Breeding programs in the southeast consider cattle's heat tolerance and ability to adapt to their regional environment.
- Trees are abundant on most farms and ranches in the southeast, providing natural shade and relief from heat. Cattle instinctively use shade and ponds for cooling when the THI is high.
- When heat stress is extreme:
    1. Ensure adequate drinking water is available.
    2. Move or process cattle during the cooler part of the day.
- Heat management tools, such as shades and sprinklers, should be considered if sufficient natural shade is not available.

**Training and Education for Maintaining and Improving Cattle Care and Handling Implementation and Review Programs**

Management practices should be informally assessed every day to ensure that animal welfare is not compromised. Regardless, producers are encouraged to implement a system to verify efforts directed towards animal care and handling. This can be accomplished by:

- Establishing a network of resources on cattle care
- Following the Cattle Care and Handling Guidelines
- Keeping track of training and education activities
- Conducting self-audits of animal care and handling procedures

Informal self-reviews should be periodically conducted by those involved with cattle feeding and care.

Training of those who handle cattle should include:

- An understanding of the animal's point of balance and flight-zone
- Avoiding sudden movement, loud noises or other actions that may frighten cattle
- Proper handling of aggressive/easily excited cattle to ensure the welfare of the cattle and people
- Proper use of handling and restraining devices
- Recognizing early signs of distress and disease
- How to properly diagnose common illnesses and provide proper care
- Administration of animal health products and how to perform routine animal health procedures
- Recognizing signs associated with extreme weather stress and how to respond with appropriate actions
- Basic feeding/nutritional management of beef cattle

Management programs should be science-based and common-sense driven.

# BQA Feedyard Assessment

Operation Name: Location:
Date: Operation contact Name/Phone:
Assessor Name/Phone:

| Category Point | Measure | Acceptable/Yes | Requires Action* | Unacceptable/No* | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ADMIN** | | | | | |
| " Requires Action" or "Unacceptable" items require a description to be placed in the "Comments" field (Comments are optional for "Acceptable" markings.) | | | | | |
| Abuse/Neglect | Willful abuse is defined as acts outside of normally accepted production practices that intentionally cause pain, injury or suffering including, but not limited to:<br>• Intentionally applying any type of driving aid to a sensitive part of the animal including, but not limited to: eye, ear, nose, rectum or genetalia<br>• Malicious hitting or beating of an animal<br>• Movement of non-ambulatory cattle in a manner inconsistent with BQA recommendations<br><br>If no abuse was witnessed mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, make an appropriate mark and fill out the comments section. | | | | |
| | Animal Abuse: No animal abuse was observed during assessment. | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | |
| | Animal neglect is defined as purposely not providing adequate amounts of feed, water or other necessary care, which results in significant harm or death of an animal.<br><br>If an adequate amount of feed, water or other necessary care was provided mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, make an appropriate mark and fill out the comments section. | | | | |
| | Animal Neglect: Feed, water and other necessary care was available during assessment. | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | |
| Withdrawal/Residue Avoidance | Management techniques must be in place, and are currently being utilized, to prevent cattle that have been treated from being marketed until the withdrawal time has been completed and there is no risk of an animal being marketed with a violative residue level.<br><br>If management techniques to avoid violative residue are in place and are being utilized mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, make an appropriate mark and fill out the comments section. | | | | |
| | Residue Avoidance: Provisions are in place to monitor withdrawal times and prevent cattle with potentially violative residue from being marketed. | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | |
| Protocols/Records | Protocols, procedures or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be provided and documented for the following category points, and when specifics are described that protocol must contain each of the item(s) noted within the measure.<br><br>If the measure is fully met mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, make an appropriate mark and fill out the comments section. | | | | |
| | Training: Is a documented training program in place that follows BQA Animal Care and Handling Guidelines and includes: Animal handling, non-ambulatory animals, euthanasia, hospital management, medication and treatment, castration[2], dehorning[2] and residue avoidance?<br>*[2]When applicable* | | | | |
| | Pen Maintenance: Is a documented protocol in place for pen maintenance? | | | | |
| | Euthanasia: Is there a documented euthanasia protocol in place that meets AABP guidelines? | | | | |
| | Non-ambulatory Cattle: Are documented protocols in place for dealing with non-ambulatory cattle? | | | | |
| | Health: Are documented health protocols in place that address disease prevention, management and treatment? | | | | |

| | Category Point | Measure | Acceptable/Yes | Requires Action* | Unacceptable/No* | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Biosecurity | Is there a documented biosecurity protocol in place that addresses: Visitor logs, staff training, physical security and a current biosecurity plan? | | | | |
| | Animal Disposal | Is there a documented animal disposal protocol in place that meets federal, state and local disposal regulations? | | | | |
| | Medication Receiving, Storage, Handling | Are documented protocols available for receiving, handling and storing pharmaceuticals including: inventory records, expiration dates, and disposal? | | | | |
| | Broken Needles | Is there a documented broken needle protocol? | | | | |
| | Medicated Feed | Is a documented protocol in place for medicated feed? | | | | |
| | Feed Quality | Is a documented protocol in place for feed quality which includes consultation with a nutritionist including the need to collect, store and analyze feed samples, especially related to potential quality issues such as aflatoxin and/or pesticide residue? | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| Protocols/Records | Protocols or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be provided and documented for the following category points, and when specifics are described that protocol must contain each of the item(s) noted within the measure.<br>If the measure is fully met mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, make an appropriate mark and fill out the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Receiving/ Processing | Is a documented protocol available for receiving/processing cattle including: processing crew responsibilities, number of cattle received, proper use of implants, processing map and animal/group ID? | | | | |
| | Shipping | Is a documented protocol available for shipping cattle including: withdrawal verification, safe-to-ship documents and staff-verified shipping records? | | | | |
| | Emergency Action Plan (EAP) | Is an Emergency Action Plan readily accessible? | | | | |
| | Feed Delivery Records | Are feed delivery records available? | | | | |
| | Supplements | Is there documentation that no ruminant-derived proteins are being received nor fed? | | | | |
| | Veterinary/ Client/ Patient Relationship (VCPR) | Is there documentation of a VCPR? Documentation may be items such as: visit reports, billing records, etc. | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| CATTLE | Evaluate a minimum of 100 head of cattle, if the pen does not contain 100 head evaluate all cattle in the pen. | | | | | |
| Chutes | Use* of electric prods should be minimized. Record the number or cattle on which an electric prod is used. Calculate the percentage that are prodded and record the percentage. Number of cattle prodded ÷ Total cattle observed x 100 = ____% prodded<br><br>If 10% or more of the cattle are prodded mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section.<br><br>*Use is defined as discharging electric current while in contact with the animal. | | | | | |
| | Driving aides[1] | Is an electric prod used on < 10% of cattle? _____% (Acceptable is <10.0%) | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | Cattle should not fall* upon release from the chute. Record the number or cattle that fall. Calculate the percentage that fall and record the percentage. Number of cattle that fall ÷ Total cattle observed x 100 = ____% falling<br><br>*Falling is defined by the animal's torso/belly touching the ground.<br><br>If 2% or more of the cattle fall mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |

| | Category Point | Measure | Acceptable/Yes | Requires Action* | Unacceptable/No* | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cattle falling[1] | Falling ____% (Acceptable is <2.0%) | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | Cattle should not stumble/trip* upon release from the chute. Record the number of cattle that stumble following release from the chute. Calculate the percentage that stumble/trip and record the percentage. Number of cattle that stumble ÷ Total cattle observed x 100 = ____% stumbling/tripping<br><br>*Stumbling/tripping is defined as an animal contacting the ground with a knee.<br><br>If 10% more of the cattle stumble/trip mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Cattle stumbling/tripping | Stumbling/tripping ____% (Acceptable is <10.0%) | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | Most cattle will not vocalize when in the chute, following restraint but prior to occurrence of a procedure. Record the number or cattle that vocalize following restraint but prior to occurrence of a procedure. Calculate the percentage that vocalize and record the percentage. Number of cattle that vocalize ÷ Total cattle observed x 100 = ____% vocalizing<br><br>If 5% more of the cattle vocalize following restraint but prior to occurrence of a procedure mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Cattle vocalizing[1] | Vocalizing ____% (Acceptable is <5.0%) | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | Most cattle will not jump or run* out of the chute following release. Record the number or cattle that jump or run upon release. Calculate the percentage that jump or run and record the percentage. Number of cattle that jump or run ÷ Total cattle observed x 100 = ____% jumping or running<br><br>*Do not count a trotting/loping as running.<br><br>25% or more of the cattle jump or run upon release from the chute mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Cattle jumping or running[1] | Jumping or running ____% (Acceptable is <25.0%) | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| Chute Operation | Chutes should be operated such that the position of the animal is readjusted if it is improperly caught*. Record the number or cattle that are miscaught. Calculate the percentage that are miscaught and record the percentage. Number of cattle that are miscaught ÷ Total cattle observed x 100 = ____% miscaught.<br><br>*Miscaught is defined as the animal being in any position other than with its head fully outside of the chute and the balance of the body within the chute, or if an animal is caught in the tail/back gate and not released.<br><br>If any cattle are miscaught and not readjusted mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Chute operation / Miscaught[1] | Miscaught ____% (Acceptable is 0.0%) | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |

| | Category Point | Measure | Acceptable/Yes | Requires Action* | Unacceptable/No* | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stocking Rate/Space | Is adequate space* available for cattle to be able to stand up, lie down, move freely and allow for feedyard environmental management? Evaluate a minimum of 10 pens of cattle and evaluate the stocking. Calculate the percentage that have sufficient space and record the percentage. Number of pens that have sufficient space ÷ Total pens observed x 100 = ____% with sufficient space.<br><br>If **all** of the pens have sufficient space mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Stocking rate / space | Cattle can stand up, lie down and move freely? | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| Mud Score | Cattle should have a dry (pen surface soil does not coat the animals hair with mud when the animal rise for a resting position) area to lay down and rest. Additionally, they should be able to get to feed and water without being required to wade through mud more than four inches above their fetlock or mid canon bone.<br><br>If 70% or more of pens or less provide comfortable pen space less for cattle to rest and have comfortable access to feed and water, and no preparations or current efforts are in place to manage muddy conditions, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Mud score | Do cattle have adequate space to lay down and rest without being required to lay in the mud (a re-evaluation is required if weather conditions in the previous 14 days influence this evaluation)? Acceptable/Yes, Requires Action or Unacceptable/No | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| FEEDING/WATER | | | | | | |
| Water | Clean and clear water should be available at all times. Tanks should not have manure, buildup of algae or other foreign material. Evaluate a minimum of 10 tanks. Calculate the percentage that have clean and clear water and record the percentage. Number of tanks with clean and clear water ÷ Total tanks observed x 100 = ____% with clean and clear water.<br><br>If 70% or more of the tanks have clean and clear water mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Water access / cleanliness | Adequate, clean and clear water supply (i.e. no long term build-up of manure, algae, etc.) | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| MAINTENANCE | | | | | | |
| | Feed bunks should be accessible for cattle and they should be clean and free of spoiled, moldy, sour, packed or unpalatable feed. Evaluate a minimum of 10 bunks. Calculate the percentage that are clean and free of spoiled, moldy, sour, packed or unpalatable feed and record the percentage. Number of bunks clean ÷ Total bunks observed x 100 = ____% clean bunks.<br><br>If 70% or more of the bunks are clean and free of spoiled, moldy, sour, packed or unpalatable feed mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Feed bunks | Are feed bunks clean and accessible? | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | The unloading area should be well-maintained, have non-slip footing and be free of potentially harmful items.<br><br>If the unloading area meets the above criteria mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Unloading area | Well-maintained, non-slip footing, no broken gates/fencing/etc. | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | The loading area should be well-maintained, have non-slip footing and be free of distractions and potentially harmful items.<br><br>If the loading area meets the above criteria mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |

| | Category Point | Measure | Acceptable/Yes | Requires Action* | Unacceptable/No* | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Loading area | Well-maintained, non-slip footing, no broken gates/fencing/etc. | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | The processing area should be well-maintained, have non-slip footing and be free of distractions and potentially harmful items.<br><br>If the processing area meets the above criteria mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Processing area | Well-maintained, non-slip footing, no broken gates/fencing/etc. | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| Maintenance | The hospital area should be well-maintained, have non-slip footing and be free of distractions and potentially harmful items.<br><br>If the hospital area meets the above criteria mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Hospital area | Well-maintained, non-slip footing, no broken gates/fencing/etc. | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | Euthanasia equipment should be maintained in good repair and available to trained personnel at all times or ready access should be available to veterinary services.<br><br>If euthanasia equipment is in good repair and accessible, or veterinary access is readily available, mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Euthanasia area | Is euthanasia equipment available and in good repair, or veterinary access is readily available? | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |
| | Machinery should be cleaned when different materials are to be contacted. (i.e. use for mortalities vs. manure vs. feed)<br><br>If machinery is cleaned when use is changed mark Acceptable/Yes. If not, mark Unacceptable/No and complete the comments section. | | | | | |
| | Machinery | Are trucks and loader buckets cleaned between use? | | | | |
| | Comments: | | | | | |

# Cattle Handling Observation Scoresheet

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| TO - Total Observed _____ | Max. less than | P / F |
| E - Electric Prod used ___ / TO x 100 = % | 10% | P / F |
| F - Fell upon release from chute ___ / TO x 100 = % | 2% | P / F |
| S - Stumbled / Tripped when released ___ / TO x 100 = % | 10% | P / F |
| V - Vocalized in chute before procedures ___ / TO x 100 = % | 5% | P / F |
| J - Jumped or Ran when released ___ / TO x 100 = % | 25% | P / F |
| M - Miscaught and not readjusted ___ / TO x 100 = % | 0% | P / F |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |
| 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 |
| 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 |
| 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 |
| 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 |
| 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 |
| 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
| 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 |

Comments

## Pen/Equipment Observation Scoresheet

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| TO - Total Observed _____ | | Min. = | | P / F |
| S - Stocking Rate/Space is o.k. ___ / TO x 100 = | | 0% | | P / F |
| PM - Pen/Mud is o.k. ___ / TO x 100 = % | | 70% | | P / F |
| W- Water is accessible/clean ___ / TO x 100 = % | | 70% | | P / F |
| F - Feedbunks accessible/clean ___ / TO x 100 = % | | 70% | | P / F |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

Comments

References

[1] Grandin, T., 2006, Audit Form – Welfare of Cattle in Feedlots, http://lamar.colostate.edu/~grandin/beef.feedlot.welfare.form.html, accessed July 8, 2008