



Dairy Production Evaluation Tool

To be used in conjunction with the Food Alliance Whole Farm Evaluation Tool

Operation Name:	
Address:	
Evaluation Date:	
Evaluator/Inspector:	

Scoring System

Compliance with the Food Alliance Dairy Production standard includes the following:

1. Full compliance with all fixed evaluation criteria.
2. Average scores of 3.0 (75%) or above in each of the following evaluation areas:
 - a. Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock
 - b. Other Product Specific Evaluation Criteria

Instructions for Use

1. **Scored Criteria:** Using the performances indicators listed in Levels 1-4 of each of the scored evaluation criteria, assign a score for each criterion. Level 1 is worth 1 point; Level 2 is worth 2 points, and so on. Scoring half points is allowed. Example: All Level 2 requirements and half of Level 3 requirements are met. In this instance, a score of 2.5 may be assigned. Fixed Criteria: Indicate whether the operation complies with the requirements of each fixed criterion, and verification method(s) used.
2. **Inspectors:** In the NOTES section at the end of each criterion, include any pertinent additional information which was considered in determining the score. These notes will provide important background that will be carefully considered in the final certification decision. As applicable, please include reference to documents which were reviewed to verify compliance with requirements.
3. **Completion:** At the end of each set of evaluation criteria, complete the scoring table and calculate the final percentage score. Points for non-applicable criteria are not included in the final percentage score.

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Fixed Criteria

No Non-Therapeutic (Feed Additive) Antibiotics Used

Check the following as applicable:

- Non-therapeutic antibiotics are not used on the operation.
- Non-therapeutic antibiotics are used on the operation but not for dairy cattle.
- Producer/manager can demonstrate the procedures used to isolate milk from cows treated for illness with antibiotics.
- Therapeutic antibiotics are used on the farm. If checked, please list antibiotics here and how they are administered:
- Other (please specify):

Check all verification methods used:

- Feed and/or veterinary records demonstrate no antibiotics used.
- Visual inspection of storage area/buildings confirms no feed additive (non-therapeutic) antibiotics used.
- Producer/manager attests to production without non-therapeutic antibiotics during interview.
- A policy detailing the procedures used to separate animals is shown to the inspector.
- Other (please specify):

NOTES:

No Growth Promotants (rBST or other) Used

Check the following as applicable:

- Growth-promotants are not used on the operation.
- Growth-promotants are used on the operation.
- Other (please specify):

Check all verification methods used:

- Veterinary and production records are complete and show no use of growth promoting hormone implants or other growth promotants.
- Visual inspection of storage area/buildings and animals confirms no use of growth promoting hormone implants or other growth promotants.
- Other (please specify):

NOTES:

No GMO Breeds Used

Check the following as applicable:

- There are no GMO plants or animals intentionally produced on the farm.
- GMO plants or animals are intentionally produced on the farm, but they are not produced or sold as a Food Alliance-Approved product.
- If GMO plants or animals are intentionally produced on the farm, please list them here:

Check all verification methods used:

- Records show the plant varieties grown and/or breeds produced. These are non-GMO varieties/breeds.
- There are currently no GMO varieties for the crops grown or breeds produced.
- Producer/manager describes GMO use (if any) and labeling/marketing during interview.
- Other (please specify):

NOTES:

Scored Criteria

Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock

Animal Nutrition

Level 1: Basic necessities and all legal requirements, for water and feed supply quantity and quality are met. No stress from competition for food is seen. Check off all the following:

- Manager is aware of legal requirements.
- Manager can describe visible signs of stress stemming from food and water deficiency.
- Water supplies are freely available on a daily basis.
- Feed and water supplies are fresh and clean.
- Competition is not evident among feeding/watering animals.
- Livestock appear well fed with good body fitness.
- Records indicate breeding stock experience normal reproductive potential and life span for the species and region.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: As per Level 1, plus food and water supplies are adequately managed to preserve feed quality. Animals are given mineral and vitamin supplements, if needed. Check off the following as applicable:

- Forage on grazing land is of good quality and quantity, as demonstrated by test results.
- Mineral supplements (salt licks) are available.
- Food stores are at proper temperature and moisture to maintain optimum quality.
- Food stores appear free of mold, and insect, bird and rodent infestation.
- Veterinary records show vitamins and supplements administered.
- Purchased feed has documentation demonstrating nutritive value.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 1, and all feed rations are balanced by regular testing and monitoring of animal health. Check off all of the following as applicable:

- Producer can explain how various ration fractions are provided.
- Records are kept/available on rations.
- Purchased or off-farm rations have documentation of nutritive value and method of ration balancing.
- All rations meet NRC guidelines for dairy cattle nutrition.
- Producer is aware of the age-specific nutrition requirements.
- Equipment is present (bottles, etc.) to provide for special needs of newborn calves.
- Separate feeding facilities are present where necessary.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and all livestock feed is sustainably raised and certified by the Food Alliance or another sustainable/organic certifier. Check off as applicable:

- Food Alliance certification.
- Other certification program:
- Animals are raised on pasture when season permits.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Animal Health

Level 1: All legal requirements for livestock health are met. Check off all of the following:

- Manager is aware of legal requirements.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.
- Livestock appear healthy and free of disease and parasites.
- Records indicate compliance with legal requirements for vaccinations, administration of medicines and recordkeeping.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: As per Level 1, and livestock are regularly monitored for injury, disease or abnormal behaviors. Any indications are addressed promptly and adequately, including isolation, professional veterinary assistance, and correction of causal factors when necessary. Check off all of the following:

- Health data is recorded by individual animal, including milk productions, body condition, vaccinations, medicines, etc.
- No evidence of unresolved health issues.
- Facilities for isolating sick animals are available and adequate to allow normal movement.
- Urine and feces from infected animals are handled without spreading the infection.
- Records indicate veterinary consultation occurs when appropriate.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and facilities are well designed and maintained to promote health and reduce injuries. Check off the following indicators (as applicable) to provide evidence:

- Records indicate newly acquired animals are screened for health issues and/or quarantined before being added to stock.
- Facilities design allows for effective cleaning of surfaces.

- Potentially slippery surfaces are grooved or otherwise provided with traction.
- Equipment and surfaces are well maintained to avoid sharp edges, protruding nails or other sources of injury.
- Producer works with veterinarian and others to determine causes of sub-optimal health issues and implement preventative measures.
- Animal identifiers (e.g., bands, tags) are applied carefully by trained personnel and checked regularly to avoid animal discomfort.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, a written health plan is implemented and proven effective; livestock health and fitness appear excellent and animals appear calm. The plan contains the following:

- Policies/practices for low-stress handling and use of preventative health measures.
- Justification for stressful or potentially injurious, procedures such as tail docking, castration, weaning, etc.
- Discussion of ways to make the above less stressful or least likely to cause injury.
- Policy calling of regular maintenance and repair of facilities to prevent injury.
- Policy and procedures to regularly evaluate and monitor herd health.
- Tabulation of written records show low incidence of injury or disease, or need for veterinary intervention.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Living Conditions

Level 1. All legal requirements and industry association standards (if any) are met for space/stocking rate, and size and configuration of indoor shelter and/or confinement areas. Check off all of the following:

- Manager is aware of legal requirements/industry standards.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: As per Level 1, and animals are provided bedding. In addition, manure collection and storage is separate from housing area. Facilities are checked regularly to maintain good living conditions. Check off as applicable:

- Outdoor shelters and bedding are clean and dry.
- Animals appear free from sores and abscesses attributed to inadequate bedding.
- Fences and shelters are checked regularly for broken sections or sharp objects to prevent injury.
- Handlers are scheduled to check on animals at appropriate intervals to detect and resolve problems before undue stress occurs.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and free ranging in pasture is provided when seasonably appropriate. If cattle are wintered outside, check off as applicable:

- Care is taken to prevent frostbite and thermal stress.
- Cattle are dry when turned out from milking.
- Rations are adjusted to meet increased caloric demand.
- Extra, dry bedding is provided.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and cattle are raised utilizing a management intensive grazing system (i.e., intensive rotational grazing, etc.). Cattle spend most of the season on pasture, continually moved to fresh grazing areas. Moves to new pasture take place frequently, with great care to prevent “overgrazing” of pasture and ensure even distribution of manure.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Off- Farm Transportation

Level 1: Transportation equipment is in good repair to prevent injury and comply with regulations. Loading and equipment set-up is managed to prevent injury.

- Truck floors are leak-proof to prevent urine and manure from dripping onto the highway.
- Height between levels is sufficient to prevent back injuries.
- Overloading or underloading will injure animals and is prohibited.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: As per Level 1, and temperature and weather conditions are factored into transportation to reduce thermal stress.

- If the temperature is over 80 degrees F (27 C), effort is made to keep trucks

- moving for ventilation purposes; short distances and no stops.
- When the temperature is below 60 degrees F (15 C), holes may be plugged to keep excess wind out.
- When temperatures are freezing, no transportation occurs when raining or snowing, in order to keep animals from getting wet.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and all of the following are met:

- Loading densities are closely managed to prevent overloading using the following guidelines: 650 pounds/running foot for 96" wide trailer; 750 pounds/running foot for 102" wide trailer.
- Temperature and weather conditions are factored into transportation in order to reduce thermal stress.
- Cattle handlers and truck drivers are educated on cattle behavior.

Level 4: Transportation is eliminated from the farming system. Replacement heifers are raised on- farm.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Cattle Handling

Level 1: Animals are handled using strong actions and/or voices to compel livestock movement.

Level 2: Some consideration is given to cattle's natural reaction to movements and herd social behavior. Check as applicable:

- Sticks, if used, are extensions of the arms only, and are not used to strike animals.
- Electric prods or goads are not used.
- If stock dogs are used to move cattle, the dogs are under control and do not cause injury or undue stress to the cattle.

Level 3: Handler training and facility maintenance and design are effective in matching animals' natural behaviors and reducing fear and stress. No evidence of raised voices or aggressive actions evident during inspection. All of the following must apply:

- Animals are not showing fear or stress, e.g., rushing to escape or running into each other during handling or transport operations, excessive vocalization, etc.
- People appear calm.
- Animal movement is directed based on cattle's natural action and reaction to

the situation.

- Livestock move with little excitement and largely on their own, mostly walking.
- No bolting by individuals or groups.
- People and/or horses move slowly.
- No strong action is required to get cattle moving, only gentle prodding to get livestock to conform.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per level 3, and animal handlers are well-trained and understand the natural behaviors and factors that cause stress or injury to the livestock under his or her care.

All of the following must apply:

- Handler can discuss natural behaviors to consider, for example: balking at shadows, changes in flooring, trash in ramps and chutes, “the flight zone”, movement towards light, balking at flapping objects like a shirt hanging on a fencepost, etc.
- Handler can discuss stress factors to watch out for, such as: agitated movements, vocalizations and fear.
- Handler can discuss facility maintenance and design such as cleanliness, protruding sharp edges, slippery flooring, etc. that may result in injury to animals.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Handling Facilities

Level 1: Handling areas are maintained in good repair.

Level 2: Per Level 1, facilities are designed to reduce stress and injury. Check all that apply:

- Fences, gates, and chutes have smooth or padded surfaces.
- Adequate clean bedding is provided.
- Feeders and waterers are clean.
- Outdoors shelters are sufficient in number and area, and are cleaned regularly.

Level 3: As per Level 2 and handling areas, include some design features allowing for normal social behaviors.

Level 4: As per Level 3 and handling and transport facilities, include design features to match natural behaviors of the animals and handler can discuss the features. Check off as applicable:

- Lighting in indoor facilities (if any) to prevent shadows.
- Lighting in rooms at ends of any indoor chutes to draw animals in.
- Curved chutes, with smooth edges and solid sides.
- Uniform flooring to prevent balking.
- Quiet fans, pumps, etc. to prevent high pitch noise.
- Rubber stops on gates to prevent noise when closing.
- No hanging chains, clothing or other objects,
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Slaughter

Level 1: All legal requirements for on-farm casualty and harvested animal slaughter and disposal are met. All of the following must apply:

- Animals are rendered insensible to pain before being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast away, or cut.
- Insensibility must come from a single blow, gunshot, electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid and effective.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: As per Level 1, and handler can discuss assessment of insensibility to ensure animals are in fact rendered insensible during on-farm slaughter. Check off as applicable for indicators:

- Handler discusses methods of testing for insensibility, such as limp tongue, blank stare, limp back, no rhythmic breathing (gasping OK), no response to painful stimulus, no vocalizations, etc.
- Handler discusses optimum location on the head for applying captive bolt (placed on the middle of the forehead on an "X" formed between the eyes and the base of the horns).
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and handler can discuss guidelines for deciding when a casualty animal should be treated vs. slaughtered. All of the following must apply:

- Handler can explain decision making regarding casualty animals, including examples of actual cases.
- Non-ambulatory, dying, diseased and disabled animals are separated from healthy animals and provided with a covered pen sufficient to protect them from temperature stress while awaiting disposition.
- Non-ambulatory animals are never dragged to slaughter.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and careful records are kept of casualty slaughter incidents and causes, and effective corrective measures are put in place to minimize reoccurrence.

Check off as applicable:

- Records of casualty slaughter including cause, procedures and disposition of carcass are legible and complete.
- Handler can report corrective actions taken.
- Animal casualty rate is very low or non-existent.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Food Safety and Bio-security

Level 1: All legal requirements are met for food safety and bio-security, including hygiene and sanitation; fuel, pesticide and medicine use and storage; and access to facilities and livestock.

- Manager is aware of legal requirements.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: As per Level 1, and a policy addressing procedures and materials for cleaning and disinfecting facilities and equipment and personal protective equipment, and for limiting risks from contamination and disease spread is in place.

- Signage listing procedures and precautions is present where appropriate, e.g., fuel, pesticide, medicine storages; toilet facilities; feed stores.
- Cleaning and disinfecting products are used properly, i.e., anti-microbial disinfectants are not used where cleaning products are appropriate.
- Handlers use clean and appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, hairnets, boots).
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and access to facilities, equipment, and medicine, fuel and pesticide stores is limited to appropriate persons.

- Medicine, pesticide and fuel storage is locked.
- Entrances to farm and facilities are appropriately marked and secured to discourage/prevent unauthorized entry and/or movement of disease or contaminants into sensitive areas.
- Pesticide, medicine and/or fuel use is tracked such that unauthorized use or spillage is detectable.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and on-farm storage of hazardous materials is minimal.

- Animal health and preventative pest management is adequate such that very little medicine or pesticide is present on farm.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Other Product Specific Evaluation Criteria

Dairy Management and System

Lactations

Level 1: Producer does not monitor the number of lactations per cow.

Level 2: Producer monitors the number of lactations per cow as an indicator of animal health and husbandry. The farm's herd averages less than 3 lactations per cow.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and the herd averages between 3 and 5 lactations per cow.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and the herd averages greater than 5 lactations per cow.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Milk Quality

Level 1: Milk quality is not monitored on the farm.

Level 2: Milk quality is monitored and recorded periodically on the farm. Temperatures and bulk tank levels are checked. Somatic cell counts (SCC) are used as one of the

indicators of milk and animal health. Producer can relate how he/she uses milk quality (particularly SCC) as an indicator of animal health. Average monthly SCC is less than 400,000.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and SCC counts are monitored and recorded regularly. Average monthly SCC is less than 250,000.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and average monthly SCC are less than 150,000.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Dairy System: Confinement

Level 1: All animals confined* >95% of the time.

Level 2: All animals confined* <65% of the time.

Level 3: All animals confined* <35% of the time.

Level 4: All animals confined* <10% of the time.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

* Use proper discretion here. Confinement where animals are not showing fear or stress, e.g., rushing to escape or running into each other or excessive vocalization, etc. and floor and bedding are clean, cows have space to lay down to rest, air quality and temperature is adequate and flies/pest are at a minimum is a satisfactory method of raising cows in confinement.

Dairy System: Feed Source

Level 1: >95% of the feed needed for the herd is purchased.

Level 2: <65% of the feed needed for the herd is purchased.

Level 3: <35% of the feed needed for the herd is purchased.

Level 4: <10% of the feed needed for the herd is purchased.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Water Usage

Level 1: Water use is not monitored or planned, leaking water tanks/systems are present.

Level 2: Water use is monitored.

Level 3: Water use is monitored and reported to workers and managers with suggestions for moderating/minimizing use.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and a comprehensive water use budget has been created in writing. The plan includes action items such as (check off as applicable):

- Improvements for water use efficiency.
- Runoff and/or erosion prevention.
- Monitoring of water use in wash down and milking equipment.
- Monitoring of drinking water.
- Monitoring of cooling.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Milk Waste

Level 1: Milk waste is always poured down a drain that enters septic or municipal sewage system.

Level 2: Milk waste is occasionally poured down a drain that enters septic or municipal sewage system.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and the first milk line rinse is fed to calves (provided disease issues are addressed) or used as fertilizer.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and all waste milk is fed to calves (provided disease issues are addressed, if appropriate), used as fertilizer, or added to animal waste storage system.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Structure Drainage

Level 1: Structures do not have drainage systems.

Level 2: Structures have gutters and downspouts directing rooftop precipitation away from areas contaminated with manure (e.g., barnyards, entryways).

Level 3: As per Level 2, and drainage systems prevent clean ground runoff from entering contaminated areas.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and precipitation falling on areas contaminated with manure is not allowed to contaminate adjacent areas (e.g., collect and use as fertilizer).

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Feed Production and Land Management

Confinement Areas: Exercise Yards; Feedlots; Holding Pens; Over wintering Sites; Supplemental Feed, Water and Shelter Sites (for pasture paddocks, Pasturing)

Level 1: Confinement areas are within 50 feet of surface water (including irrigation canals), wells or untreated drainage systems. Clean runoff flows through the area.

Level 2: Confinement areas are greater than 100 feet from surface water (including irrigation canals), wells or untreated drainage systems. Clean runoff rarely flows through the area.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and drainage systems prevent clean runoff from flowing through contaminated areas. Filter strips are utilized if necessary.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and confinement areas are never subject to flooding, or are down slope of and/or sufficient distance from surface water, wells or untreated drainage systems to prevent contamination in the event of flooding.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Riparian Zones

Level 1: Pastures and confinement areas are less than 50 feet from Ordinary High Water Mark (OHM) of surface waters. Cattle access to surface water sites is not restricted or monitored.

Level 2: Pastures and confinement areas are at least 50 feet from Ordinary High Water Mark (OHM) of surface waters. Cattle access to surface water sites is restricted by fencing or vegetation. In controlled watering sites, measures have been taken to reduce erosion, sedimentation, and manure deposition.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and riparian buffer zones are present and vegetated without visible erosion. Cattle access to surface water sites is restricted to ensure healthy stream bank vegetation, adequate bank angles and natural water habitat conditions. If in-stream crossings for cattle are used, they are graveled or otherwise constructed to prevent erosion and sedimentation.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and watering sites are developed and located away from stream courses, cattle are not allowed direct access to streams. Riparian zones are managed to maintain or enhance fish habitat and provide Properly Functioning Condition (PFC) where applicable.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Feed Storage

Level 1: Feed storage is not covered or managed to prevent contaminated water from leaving the storage site.

Level 2: Feed storage is isolated to prevent contaminated water from leaving the storage site.

Level 3. As per Level 2, and the storage site is lined with or located on an impervious surface to prevent infiltration of nutrients and bacteria into groundwater.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and feed storages are never subject to flooding, or are down slope of and/or sufficient distance from surface water, wells, or untreated drainage systems to prevent contamination in the event of flooding.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Fertilizer Usage

Level 1: Fertilization for forage crops is part of the farm's manure management plan. Manure fertilization is credited according to typical values for similar, local farms, or by actual testing and analysis.

Level 2: As per level1, and previous crops, cover crops, and manure applications are credited when fertilizing. Producer can describe how their operation recycles nutrients, and how their operations balance nutrient inputs with nutrient use.

Level 3: As per level 2, and one of the following three nutrient requirements is met exclusively with organic sources: Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), or Potassium (K).

Level 4: As per level 2 and for at least half of the rotation two of the three nutrient requirements are met exclusively with organic sources.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Crop/Pasture Insect Pests

Level 1: Labeled pesticides are applied on a regular schedule.

Level 2: Labeled pesticides are applied only when pest populations are over threshold as indicated by sampling. Pesticide applications are timed according to degree-days, trapping or other monitoring technique (Integrated Pest management, IPM).

Level 3: As per Level 2, and when present, beneficial organisms are also sampled, and pesticides are applied only when beneficial organisms are too few to effect control of the pest. Pesticide programs for other pests are selected to minimize impact on beneficial organisms. Pesticides labeled "Danger" or "Warning" are not used.

Level 4: When pests are over threshold, only biopesticides, horticultural oils or soaps, or beneficial organisms are applied. Ground cover in and around crop or pasture areas is managed to maximize beneficial populations.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Crop/Pasture Plant Diseases

Level 1: Fungicides are applied on a regular schedule; transplant treatments are used on a routine basis or no management plan is implemented for the disease.

Level 2: Fields are scouted to detect disease and permit early corrective action. Chemical pesticides are applied when over threshold, when conditions favor disease development or in areas with a history of the disease. Strategies are employed to delay pest resistance to pesticides.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and at least one non-chemical strategy is used such as sanitation. IPM utilized. Pesticides are selected to minimize environmental and applicator risk.

Level 4: No chemical pesticides are applied for plant diseases. Resistant varieties, sanitation or other appropriate cultural controls and preventative strategies are used.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Weed Management & Herbicide Usage

Level 1: No weed management planning exists for the farm.

Level 2: Farmer communicates a weed management plan for the farm. Weeds are managed predominantly with synthetic herbicides.

Level 3: An integrated weed management plan is communicated, including use of mechanical and cultural controls in conjunction with synthetic herbicides. Herbicides are banded, spot-applied, or otherwise applied at reduced rates. Herbicide use is clearly recorded.

Level 4: As per level 3, and a written weed management plan exists, including charts and/or maps. Weeds may be managed solely with mechanical, cultural, and biological controls.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Manure Management

Manure Management Plan

Level 1: All legal requirements are met for collection, storage, treatment and application of manure.

- Manager is aware of legal requirements.
- Manager can explain how operation meets those requirements.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: As per Level 1, and no liquid manure is generated. Solid manure is managed to minimize risks to surface water and wells, and animal health. All of the following must be performed (where applicable):

- Manure is not spread within 50 ft. of surface water, or within 100 ft. of streams or wells used for domestic water supplies (or farther if required by law).
- Manure is not applied to frozen ground.
- Manure is not spread on steep slopes, saturated ground, or areas with standing water.
- Livestock are effectively excluded from manure storage areas.
- Excess manure is not allowed to accumulate in confinement or feeding areas.
- Manure is removed from confinement areas weekly or more often.
- Other (please specify):

Level 3: As per Level 2, and manure is managed without pest or nuisance odor problems. Check off as applicable:

- Nuisance level manure odors are not detectable in neighboring off-farm locations where people are present.
- Fly populations are at acceptable levels both on and off-farm, without use of insecticides labeled "Warning" or "Danger."
- Manure application is made by pastured animals, which are rotated among locations to maintain appropriate application rates.
- Manure from the operation is not present on public ways around the farm,

- e.g., no manure in roadway.
- A well-designed and maintained carbon-based (e.g., straw) low or no-odor system is used.
- Exhaust fans, if present, direct discharge away from sensitive areas.
- Manure is stored downwind of sensitive areas.
- Manure is spread early in the day, and not on weekends or holidays or when wind conditions are likely to move odors to sensitive areas.
- Other (please specify):

Level 4: As per Level 3, and manure resources are used to close the nutrient cycle on the farm, but only to the extent that overall nutrient levels are adequate and not excessive. Excess manure, if any, is put to good use off farm.

- A written nutrient management plan documents need based on soil or manure testing, cropping history, and state agency/Extension recommended nutrient application rates.
- Manure application records are legible and complete.
- Fields manured in summer or fall are in plant cover.
- Application equipment is in good condition.
- The application equipment is calibrated in order to accurately calculate nutrient application rates.
- Other (please specify):

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Manure Storage

Level 1: Liquid manure is stored in lagoons or other type of above ground storage.

Level 2: Solid manure is generated, and storage is temporary (less than 6 months), and greater than 100 yards from surface water (or farther if required by law/local ordinance) and not in areas subject to flooding. Storage is adequate to contain manure production when application is not appropriate.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and some portion of the farm's stored manure is composted away from surface waters. Compost is mixed and a proper blend of Carbon and Nitrogen sources is available for microbial action.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and all the farm's stored manure is composted away from surface waters. Compost is mixed and a proper blend of Carbon and Nitrogen sources is

available for microbial action.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Fertilizer and Manure Applications

Level 1: Fertilizers are applied on a regular schedule or routine basis, without regard to nutrient testing of soil or crop plant foliage.

Level 2: Soil and nutrient tests are performed (annually for nitrogen/nitrate and every 3 years for other nutrients) records are kept, and fertilizers and manure are applied according to test results for all major plant nutrients. Testing frequency and nutrients analyzed should be determined in consultation with a local agronomist or fertility expert.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and fertilizer/nutrient materials, application rates and soil condition (e.g., not applied to saturated or frozen soil) are consistent with the Farm Plan guidelines or other applicable, local information and applied to prevent degradation of surface and ground waters. Applications are timed to optimize effectiveness at the lowest possible rates, and application records are kept.

Level 4: Fertilizers are applied as per Level 3, and soil quality, including organic matter content, is established at planting and maintained at optimum levels to minimize commercial fertilizer needs. All manure produced on the farm is used as fertilizer and applied at agronomic rates specified in the DNMP to protect surface and groundwater quality. Off-farm applications are under control of the farmer or a manure agreement that guide application, and Level 3 conditions are met.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Application Equipment

Level 1: Fertilizer and manure application equipment is not calibrated or maintained to prevent spillage.

Level 2: Application equipment is designed and maintained to prevent spillage.

Application equipment is calibrated to deliver desired amount of material.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and filling sites are designed and maintained to allow effective spill cleanup. Spills are cleaned promptly.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and manure is not tracked onto public ways by equipment.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Animal Pest Management

Flies

Level 1: Fly control occurs on an ongoing basis, regularly scheduled basis. Check method of application:

- Insecticide ear tags.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: As per Level 1, but thresholds for treatment are established. Fly control appears adequate.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and insecticide use is reduced by employing cultural controls such as: movement of feeding sites, trapping, sanitation, and manure composting. Fly control appears good.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and fly control relies on trapping, sanitation, composting, parasites, barriers, and feed and animal movement in lieu of insecticides. No insecticides are used.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

External Parasites

Level 1: External parasites are treated for on a regular schedule whether identification of an infestation has been made. Check method of application:

- Insecticide ear tags.
- Other (please specify):

Level 2: Livestock insect and mite pests are correctly identified. Insecticides are properly selected and used only when the target pest is over acceptable levels. Sick, overheated or stressed (recent transport, castration, weaning) animals are not treated

with insecticides.

Level 3: As per Level 2 and insecticide use is reduced by segregating and treating purchased feeder animals before introduction to the herd, or by running a closed herd such that no new pests are introduced.

Level 4: As per level 3, and preventative measures and/or cultural controls are used in lieu of insecticides and miticides (e.g. movement of hogs, sanitation, composting, parasites, closed herds). Animals are free to choose and move to habitats that are most comfortable (e.g., shady areas, windy spots, wallows).

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Internal Parasites

Level 1: Internal parasites are treated for on a regular schedule whether identification of an infestation has been made.

Level 2: Treatments for internal parasites are made as needed.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and insecticide use is reduced by segregating and treating purchased feeder animals before introduction to the herd, or by running a closed herd such that no new pests are introduced.

Level 4: Parasites are controlled using preventative measures, cultural controls, and nutritional controls. Where beneficial, fecal tests are used to monitor parasites and to develop an effective control program.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Rodents

Level 1: Rodent control is ongoing, whether or not rodent populations are at a high level.

Level 2: Rodenticides are used only when rodents are over acceptable levels.

Level 3: As per Level 2, and bait stations are employed to reduce the use of broadcast rodenticides.

Level 4: As per Level 3, and rodents are suppressed by traps, barriers and/or encouraging predators in lieu of rodenticides.

Score:

Verification methods and notes:

Scorecard

CRITERIA	SCORE/LEVEL
Healthy and Humane Care for Livestock	
Animal Nutrition	
Animal Health	
Living Conditions	
Transportation	
Cattle Handling	
Handling Facilities	
Slaughter	
Food Safety and Bio-security	
(1) TOTAL POINTS EARNED =	
Total Points Available	32
- Minus Total Points Not Applicable	
(2) TOTAL APPLICABLE POINTS=	
(3) AVERAGE SCORE=	

CRITERIA	SCORE/LEVEL
Other Product Specific Evaluation Criteria	
Dairy Management and System	
Lactations	
Milk Quality	
Dairy System: Confinement	
Dairy System: Feed Source	
Milk Waste	
Structure Drainage	
Confinement Areas	
Feed Production and Land Management	
Riparian Zones	
Feed Storage	
Fertilizer Usage	
Crop/Pasture Insect Pests	
Crop/Pasture Diseases	
Weed Management & Herbicide Usage	
Manure Management	
Manure Management Plan	
Manure Storage	
Manure and Fertilizer Applications	
Application Equipment	
Animal Pest Management	
Flies	
External Parasites	
Internal Parasites	
Rodents	
(1) TOTAL POINTS EARNED =	
Total Points Available	88
- Minus Total Points Not Applicable	
(2) TOTAL APPLICABLE POINTS=	
(3) AVERAGE SCORE=	

Acknowledgements

1. Animal Welfare Information from website: www.grandin.com produced by Dr. Temple Grandin.
2. Website: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/congress/hh_att4.htm. "Comparison of USDA and Industry Humane Slaughter Requirements". USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, August 2001.
3. Midwest Food Alliance Dairy Standards / Evaluation Criteria, test-market draft.