Animal Welfare – International Standards Coming?

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Why might Standards be coming?

- Consumer desire to purchase food from sources that care for animals based on their perception and values
- Consumer desire for ‘transparency’ of production system
- Consumer desire for verification of implementation of production practices
- Food is an “International” business

Types of Animal Welfare Standards

Performance Standards

- Tend to be based on principles and outcomes
- Can be difficult to 'audit'
- World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has animal welfare guiding principles and 'performance' standards for over 10 years

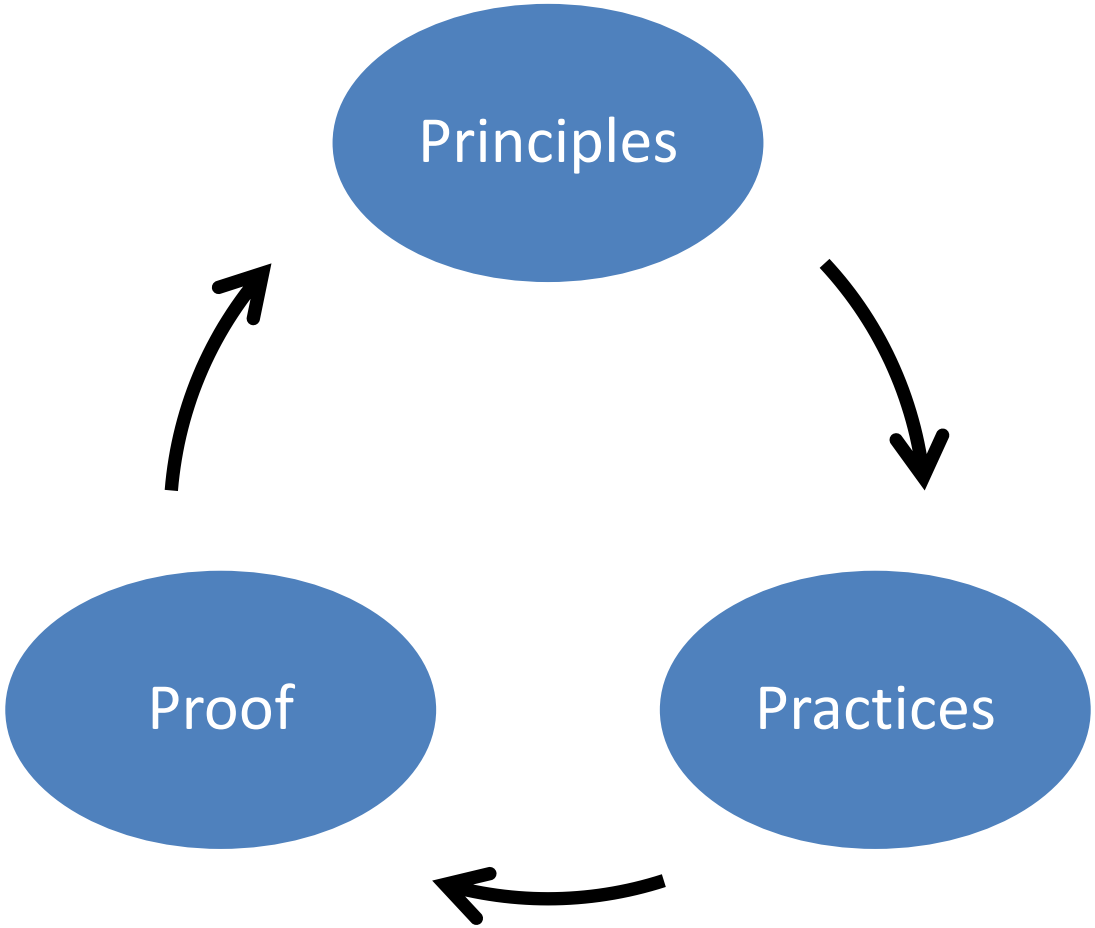
Prescriptive Standards

- Tend to be based on existence of facilities and practices
- Tend to be easy to 'audit'
- In some cases have been used to differentiate production systems for marketing advantage of product

Animal Welfare Standards currently have a Major Dilemma

- OIE has had Animal Welfare Standards for a while but not well recognized, accepted, and/or adopted by some groups.
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standards well recognized, accepted and adopted by groups worldwide.
- Current desire by some groups to develop an ISO Standard based on OIE to gain better implementation worldwide
- However, some groups want an animal welfare ISO Management System Standard and not a 'basic' ISO Standard based on OIE principles.

Building TRUST



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Quality Assurance Process – Animal Welfare

Best Practices

Establish and continuously review best practices as the foundation for responsible farming methods.

Training & Certification

Formal process of delivering industry recognized best practices to the farm; administered by independent, trained advisors.

Ongoing Assessment

Assess effective implementation of food safety and animal care practices; identify areas of noncompliance.

Compliance Verification

Third party evaluation of quality assurance implementation and certified practices

Challenges with Developing PROOF

Assessments

- First or second party
- Educational/benchmarking
- Consultative
- NO Pass/Fail
- Continuous Improvement

Audits/Verifications

- Third party
- Objective checklist
- NO consultation
- Provides credibility
- Measure of effectiveness

So, can an International Animal Welfare Standard be developed that is not so prescriptive that market access is limited by some production systems but also has ‘auditable’ aspects to provide the desired ‘proof’ to consumers?

Maybe FARM can serve as a place to start

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Our Mission

To demonstrate and verify that U.S. milk producers are committed to providing the highest standards of animal care and quality assurance.

- **Consumers want to purchase food from sources they know will take care of animals, and operate in a way that is consistent with their values and expectations.**
- **Dairy farmers have a longstanding commitment to doing what is right.**
- **The National Dairy FARM Program: Farmers Assuring Responsible Management™ provides consistency and uniformity to best practices in animal care and quality assurance in the dairy industry.**
- **The National Dairy FARM Program™ is a nation-wide, verifiable program that addresses animal well-being. Third-party verification ensures the validity and the integrity of the program to our customers and consumers.**

Management and SOPs

The dairy has a Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship.

Documentation exists of employee training for new and existing employees at least on an annual basis.

SOPs are readily available, and in many cases posted, in the native languages of employees assigned animal care responsibilities.

An emergency plan is readily available to address animal care needs arising from unique circumstances such as a fire or natural disaster.

Each animal is permanently identified and an effective record keeping system is employed for animal care and management decision-making.

A specific milking routine, procedures, and actions are followed to ensure cow comfort and well-being.

Calves-Nutrition

Calves receive colostrum or colostrum replacer soon after birth.

Calves are fed milk or milk replacer until weaned.

Calves without continuous access to water are provided water at least twice per day or as necessary to maintain proper hydration.

Calf rations should provide the required nutrients or maintenance and growth as found in references such as the National Research Council, 2001.

Calves-Health & Management

The dairy has a Herd Health Plan, developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian (or other knowledgeable professional such as cooperative extension agents), which includes specific areas pertaining to newborn animals:

Navels are dipped in an effective antiseptic solution as soon as possible.

Animal identification and animal health records are maintained.

Vaccinations for common diseases are administered for disease prevention.

Medical procedures are performed as soon as possible and with appropriate use of analgesics and/or anesthetics.

Calves-Environment & Facilities

A clean, dry, well-lit, well-ventilated calving area is used.

Calves are housed in a clean, dry area with adequate space to stand, lie down, and turn around without difficulty.

Calves are protected from extreme temperatures, wind drafts, and precipitation during seasonal weather extremes.

Calves: Handling, Movement, & Transportation

Calves are moved by lifting or walking.

Personnel are trained to handle and restrain calves with a minimum of stress to the animal.

Vehicles used to transport calves are clean, properly designed, and maintained.

Cows- Water

Water is tested periodically if recommended by the Herd Health Plan (for example, nitrates, pathogens, minerals).

Water is protected from freezing.

Procedures are in place for regular cleaning of waterers.

All animals without continuous access to water are provided water at least twice per day, or as necessary to maintain proper hydration.

Waterers are positioned at a convenient height.

Watering locations prevent a dominant animal from limiting water to other animals.

Cows- Nutrition

Rations should provide the required nutrients for maintenance, growth, and lactation for the appropriate physiological life-stage as found in references such as the National Research Council, 2001.

Cows are not restricted from feed for more than four hours at one time.

Feed equipment is washed and disinfected after being used for non-feed purposes.

Feed for other species is never mixed with dairy animal feed.

Home-grown or purchased feeds and commodities are checked for nitrates, mycotoxins, or other soil- or climate induced problems, as recommended by the Herd Health Plan.

Cows- Herd Health

Veterinarian/Client/Patient Relationship.

Vaccination protocols.

Daily observation of all cattle for injury or signs of disease.
Protocols for newborn calf management (see Chapter 4 text boxes for additional details).

Protocols for cattle that develop disease or are injured.

Protocols for prevention, detection and action for common diseases and parasite and pest control.

Cows- Herd Health (cont.)

Protocols for non-ambulatory animal management (see Chapter 9 text box).

Protocols for euthanasia (see Appendix B).

Protocols to ensure food safety.

Training programs for family members and employees involved in detecting disease and injury, reporting the cases and actions to be taken.

Each individual animal should be permanently identified and an effective record keeping system employed for animal care and management decision-making.

Cows- Animal Monitoring

Animals are observed daily to assess the following items:

Hair coat

Behavior changes (includes vocalization)

Abnormal respiration

Feed and water consumption

Nasal or ocular discharges

Abdominal fill

Manure consistency

Locomotion

Milk abnormalities

Cows- Animal Health

SANITATION: *Ninety percent or more of animals in all pens or groups should score less than 3 on the NDFP Hygiene Scorecard SM (1 is clean; 4 is dirty).*

LOCOMOTION: *Ninety percent or more of the herd score 2 or lower on the locomotion scorecard (1-normal gait, 5-refuses to bear weight on one leg).*

BODY CONDITION SCORING: *Ninety percent or more of the dairy animals should have a body condition score between 2.0 and 4.0 with no more than five percent of the dairy animals below 2.0.*

HOCK LESIONS: *Ninety percent of cows score 1 and 99 percent score 2 or less utilizing the NYSCHAP "Hock Assessment Chart for Cattle" assessment (1 - no swelling, 3 - swelling evident).*

Animal Environment

Practices are in place to minimize the impact of heat and cold stress due to extremes in temperature; tools include the use of sunshades, sprinklers, misting fans, dietary alterations, wind breakers.

Airborne particles are minimized as a way to reduce odors and dust.

Adequate lighting is in place to allow inspection of animals and to provide safe working conditions.

Quick movements and alarming sounds are avoided while working around animals.

Animal Facilities

Routine observation of facilities includes monitoring and taking action for:

Manure removal.

Moisture collection on roof or walls or frequent condensation on other metal surfaces.

Certain parts of building where animals refuse to rest or sleep.

Slips and falls, including installing nonslip walkways or alleys. Cleaning all fans regularly.

Facility sanitation and waste management programs that result in clean animals (90 percent of all animal pens or groups score less than 3).

Animal Facilities (cont.)

Stanchion/Tie Stalls

Animals are turned out daily for exercise (weather permitting).

Animals have room to stand and lie down (see specific guidelines for breed, size).

Animals have room to stretch, eat, drink, and discharge comfortably.

Manure is removed on a routine basis.

Open Lot and Pastures

Management practices are implemented promptly so animals can avoid standing in mud after rains.

Animals can access shade during periods of heat stress or windbreaks during periods of cold stress.

Animal Facilities (cont.)

Free Stalls

Bedding is refreshed (remove soiled sand or other bedding material) and fresh bedding is added on a routine basis.

Stalls provide appropriate space to match size/breed of animal.

Water space, feed space, and shelter are provided for each animal housed.

Stocking rates allow for adequate time per animal for rest, exercise, and feed and water consumption.

Lunge space is provided to aid animal movement.

Air movement and/or cooling systems are provided.

Animal Handling, Movement, Transportation

Individuals working in animal movement are trained on the principles of flight zones and flight distances to know the importance of controlling the animal movement in lanes, alleyways, and other parts of the complex. (See Appendix F in the Animal Care Manual)

The dairy uses the "Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals" in handling and transportation decision-making. (See Appendix G in the Animal Care Manual)

Special Needs Animals

NUTRITION:

Special-needs animals are not restricted from feed and water for more than four hours.

Special-needs animals' rations should provide the required nutrients for maintenance and growth and lactation for the appropriate physiological life-stage.

NON-AMBULATORY

Proper movement to avoid dragging the animal.

Husbandry and nursing care that provides shelter, water, feed, isolation from other animals, and protection from predators.

Prompt medical care.

Euthanasia if warranted.

Special Needs Animals

EUTHANASIA:

Training of staff on the need for and recognition of animals to be euthanized.

Designated employees trained in proper technique(s).

Confirmation of death.

Record keeping of euthanized animals.

Disposal of carcasses in compliance with local regulations.

Special Needs Animals

ENVIRONMENT& FACILITIES:

Facilities are provided to segregate sick or injured animals.

Self-locking stalls provide an emergency release for non-ambulatory animals when necessary.

HANDLING< MOVEMENT & TRANSPORTATION

Timely and prompt marketing of animals is part of the management plan.

Designated staff members have been trained and proper equipment is available to move downer animals.

Equipment for injured or non-ambulatory animals is available.

Trained personnel are available when sick, injured, non-ambulatory or dead animals must be moved.

Dairy Beef

The dairy uses the "Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals" in culling, handling, and transportation decision-making.

DAIRY BULL CALVES AND FREEMARTIN HEIFERS

Calves receive colostrum or colostrum replacer soon after birth.

Calves are fed milk or milk replacer until marketed.

If these calves are kept on farm after weaning, they should be fed rations that provide the required nutrients for maintenance and growth.

Calves have continuous access to fresh water or are provided water at least twice a day, or as needed to maintain proper hydration.

To learn more about the National Dairy FARM Program, log on to
www.nationaldairyfarm.com

or call the National Milk Producers Federation at
(703) 243-6111.

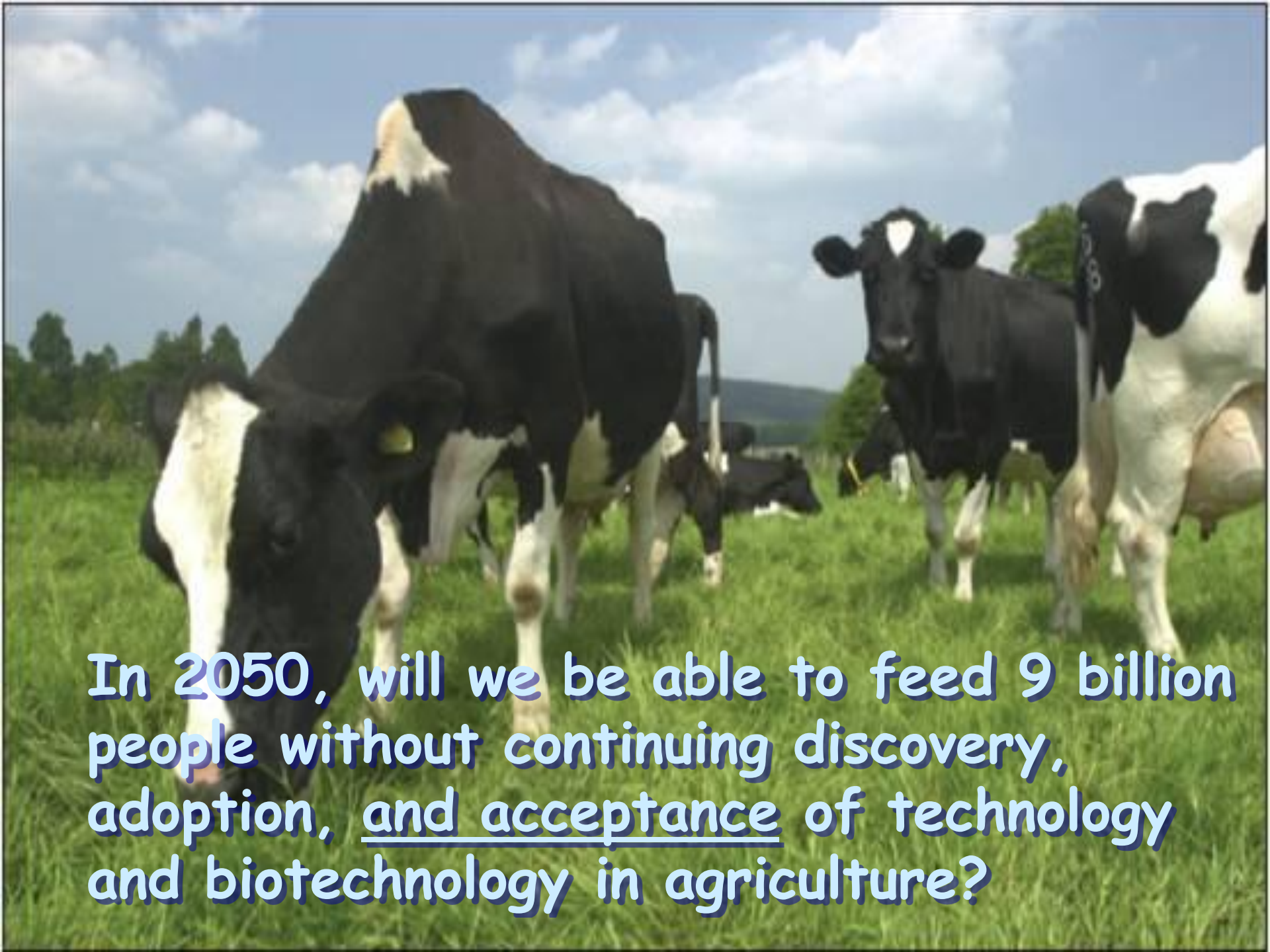
27th ADSA Discover Conference
Strategies for Improving US Dairy Cattle Welfare

May 27-30, 2014
Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca, Illinois
Hosted by American Dairy Science Association®

http://adsa.org/Meetings/DiscoverConferences/27thDiscoverConference.aspx

Conference Objective

The objective of this proposed Discover Conference on Strategies for Improving US Dairy Cattle Welfare is to engage the US dairy industry in a conversation of the growing importance of addressing key welfare concerns industry-wide.


In 2050, will we be able to feed 9 billion people without continuing discovery, adoption, and acceptance of technology and biotechnology in agriculture?