The National Dairy FARM Program

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**Program Goal**
Assure consumers & customers that dairy farmers care for their animals, workforce and land in a humane and ethical manner.

**Program Mission**
To aid dairy farmers and cooperatives/processors in assuring consumers and customers that dairy farmers manage their animals, workforce and land in a responsible manner through science-driven methods and a commitment to continuous improvement.
Program History

The dairy industry, through National Milk Producers Federation with support from Dairy Management, Inc. initiated a voluntary program named FARM: Farmers Assuring Responsible Management in 2009. Through the Innovation Center, the dairy community has aligned behind FARM as the industry-wide social responsibility program.
Program Structure

SCIENCE-BASED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

ON-FARM EVALUATION

3rd PARTY VERIFICATION
Animal Care By the Numbers

130 PARTICIPANTS

100% OF THE UNITED STATES DOMESTIC MILK SUPPLY IN 49 STATES

>60,000 2ND PARTY EVALUATIONS COMPLETED TO DATE

~200 CERTIFIED FARM ANIMAL CARE EVALUATORS
FARM Animal Care Version 4 Priorities

- No routine tail docking
- Veterinarian review
  - VCPR
  - Herd health plan
- Pre-weaned calf practices & protocol
  - Disbudding prior to 8 weeks of age
- Non-ambulatory practices & protocol
- Euthanasia practices & protocol
- Fitness of transport protocol
- Feed & water access
- Continuing education for family and non-family employees
- Animal observations benchmark
  - Body condition score
  - Hock/Knee
  - Locomotion
  - Hygiene
  - Broken tails
- Pain management for disbudding
- Written drug treatment records available for review by veterinarian of record
Animal Welfare Indicators & Technology

• Body Condition → Nutrition
• Hock & Knee Lesions → Resting area conditions
• Locomotion → Hoof and Leg Health
• Hygiene → Sanitation and Cleanliness
• Broken Tails → Stockmanship

Image Source: University of Kentucky
Thank You

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