



# Animal Care in the Dairy Industry

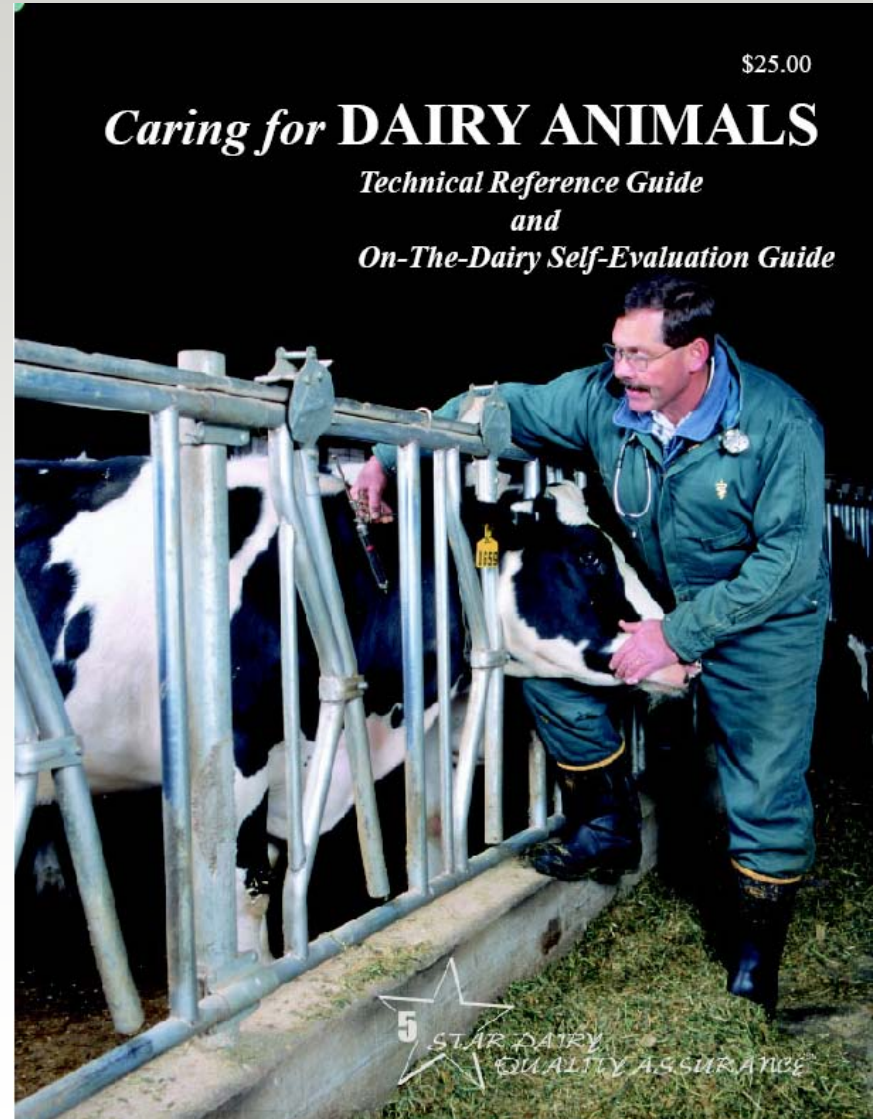
**Jamie Jonker – Director, Regulatory Affairs  
National Milk Producers Federation**

2008 NASDA Annual Meeting



# Dairy Industry Animal Care Efforts

- Caring for Dairy Animals
- Widespread use in industry
- Producer friendly



# DQA Caring for Dairy Animals

- Comprehensive set of dairy animal well-being guidelines
- Recommends best management practices based on the most current science
- Voluntary self-audit in a checklist format completed by producers
- Third party on-farm verification



# DQA Caring for Dairy Animals



- Joint effort of the Dairy Quality Assurance Center and National Milk Producers Federation
- Developed by scientific advisory board using the most current animal well-being research
- Endorsed by:
  - American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP)
  - Food Marketing Institute
  - National Council of Chain Restaurants
- Guidelines distributed widely in industry:
  - Dairy Farmers
  - Dairy Nutritionists
  - Veterinarians
  - Milk Cooperative Field Staff
  - Other Dairy Consultants

# DQA Caring for Dairy Animals

Reciprocal recognition with American Humane Certified program

*“Certification by American Humane Certified and DQA assures consumers they are buying high-quality dairy products that are from humanely treated animals.”*

- Marie Belew Wheatley, President and CEO of American Humane (September 9, 2008)



# DQA Caring for Dairy Animals 10 Tenets



1. Producer and Employee Attitudes including training employees and family members; emergency, weekend, and holiday care; monitoring the care provided to animals; and visitors
2. Evaluating Animal Health Care including establishing a herd health program; udder health; breeding; sanitation and waste management; hygiene and locomotion scoring; parasites; pest control; animal identification and health records; husbandry practices; and administration of medication
3. Environment for Dairy Animals including environmental temperature; monitoring air temperature, humidity, quality, and movement; heat stress; lighting; noise; animal activity; and stray voltage

# DQA Caring for Dairy Animals 10 Tenets



4. Facilities Provided for Dairy Animals including floor space; bedding; flooring; mud; social environment; hospital facilities; breeding facilities; restraint facilities (gates and fences)
5. Dairy Nutritional Care including water and waterers; feed nutritional quality; feeders or feed bunks; feed storage; and sanitation of eating areas
6. Milking Procedures and Equipment including milking facility; milking equipment; and udder sanitation
7. Transporting and Handling Animals including animal handling; restraint equipment; loading and unloading; transportation factors; vehicles; in-transit care; and flight zone

# DQA Caring for Dairy Animals 10 Tenets



8. Birth and Management of Calves including calving area; navel care; nutritional care of calves; marketing and transportation; and body condition scoring
9. Sick, Hospitalized, Nonambulatory, and Dead Animals including sick and injured animals; prevention of and care for nonambulatory animals; euthanasia; and dead animals and disposal
10. Annual Evaluation including self-evaluation; HACCP principle review; and Dairy Quality Assurance walk-through and verification

# Culling and Transporting Dairy Cattle



- NMPF/DMI/AABP joint effort
- Top 10 culling and transportation decision list
- Distributed widely
  - All dairy producers through cooperatives, proprietary processors, and producer requests – Ad in Hoard's Dairyman
  - Livestock Marketing Association
  - American Association of Bovine Practitioners
  - others

# Top 10 Culling & Transporting List

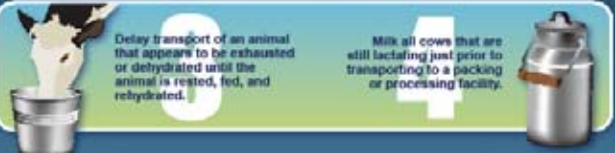


## Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals to a Packing or Processing Facility


Culling and transporting decisions are an important part of dairy farming. Occasionally, an animal that is ambulatory on the farm may not be suitable for transport to a packing or processing facility. These "Top 10 Considerations for Culling and Transporting Dairy Animals to a Packing or Processing Facility" are designed to assist dairy producers in making the decision on the suitability for an animal to be transported.


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**1** Do not move non-ambulatory animals to market under any circumstances.

Make the decision to treat, to cull, or to euthanize animals promptly. Sick and injured animals should be segregated from the herd.
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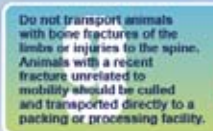
**2** Delay transport of an animal that appears to be exhausted or dehydrated until the animal is rested, fed, and rehydrated.


Milk all cows that are still lactating just prior to transporting to a packing or processing facility.
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**3** Use a transportation company that is knowledgeable about your animal care expectations and provides for the safety and comfort of the animals during transport.
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**4** Do not transport animals to a packing or processing facility until all proper treatment withdrawal times have been followed.
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**5** Do not transport animals with a poor body condition, generally a Body Condition Score of less than 2 (1-5 scale).
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**6** Do not transport animals that require mechanical assistance to rise and are reluctant or unable to walk, except for veterinary treatment. When using any handling device, abuse must not be tolerated.
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**7** Do not transport animals with bone fractures of the limbs or injuries to the spine. Animals with a recent fracture unrelated to mobility should be culled and transported directly to a packing or processing facility.
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**8** Do not transport animals with conditions that will not pass pre-slaughter inspection at a packing or processing facility. If unsure, consult with your veterinarian before transporting an animal to a packing or processing facility.

If you would like to order up to five additional copies or would like more information on the dairy animal culling and transporting sheet, please call (703) 224-4381 or email: [poster@nmpf.org](mailto:poster@nmpf.org).



## Las 10 consideraciones más importantes para el descarte y transporte de animales lecheros a un rastro o planta empacadora

Las decisiones de descarte y transporte son una parte importante de la producción lechera. Ocasionalmente, un animal que puede caminar en la granja puede que no sea apto para que se le transporte a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne. Estas "10 consideraciones más importantes para el descarte y transporte de animales lecheros a un rastro o planta empacadora" están diseñadas para asistir a los productores de leche en la toma de decisiones sobre que tan listo está un animal para ser transportado.


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**1** No lleve ningún animal al matadero que no pueda caminar, bajo ninguna circunstancia.


Tome la decisión de tratar, desochar o matar animales rápidamente. Animales enfermos y lastimados deben de ser separados del hato.
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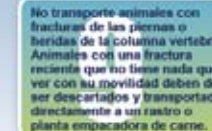
**2** Retraso el transporte de un animal que parece muy cansado o deshidratado hasta que el animal descanse, coma y se re-hidrate.


Ordeño todas las vacas que están todavía dando leche justo antes de transportarlas a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne.
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**3** Use una compañía de transporte que sepa acerca de sus expectativas del cuidado de los animales y que provee seguridad y comodidad a los animales durante el transporte.
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**4** No transporte animales a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne hasta que todos los tiempos adecuados de retiro de tratamientos hayan sido seguidos.
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**5** No transporte animales con mala condición corporal, generalmente una Calificación de Condición Corporal de menos de 2 (escala de 1-5).
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**6** No transporte animales que requieran asistencia mecánica para levantarse y los que no están dispuestos a o no pueden caminar, excepto para tratamiento veterinario. Cuando se use cualquier herramienta para mover animales, no se debe tolerar el abuso.
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**7** No transporte animales con fracturas de las piernas o heridas de la columna vertebral. Animales con una fractura reciente que no tiene nada que ver con su movilidad deben de ser descartados y transportados directamente a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne.
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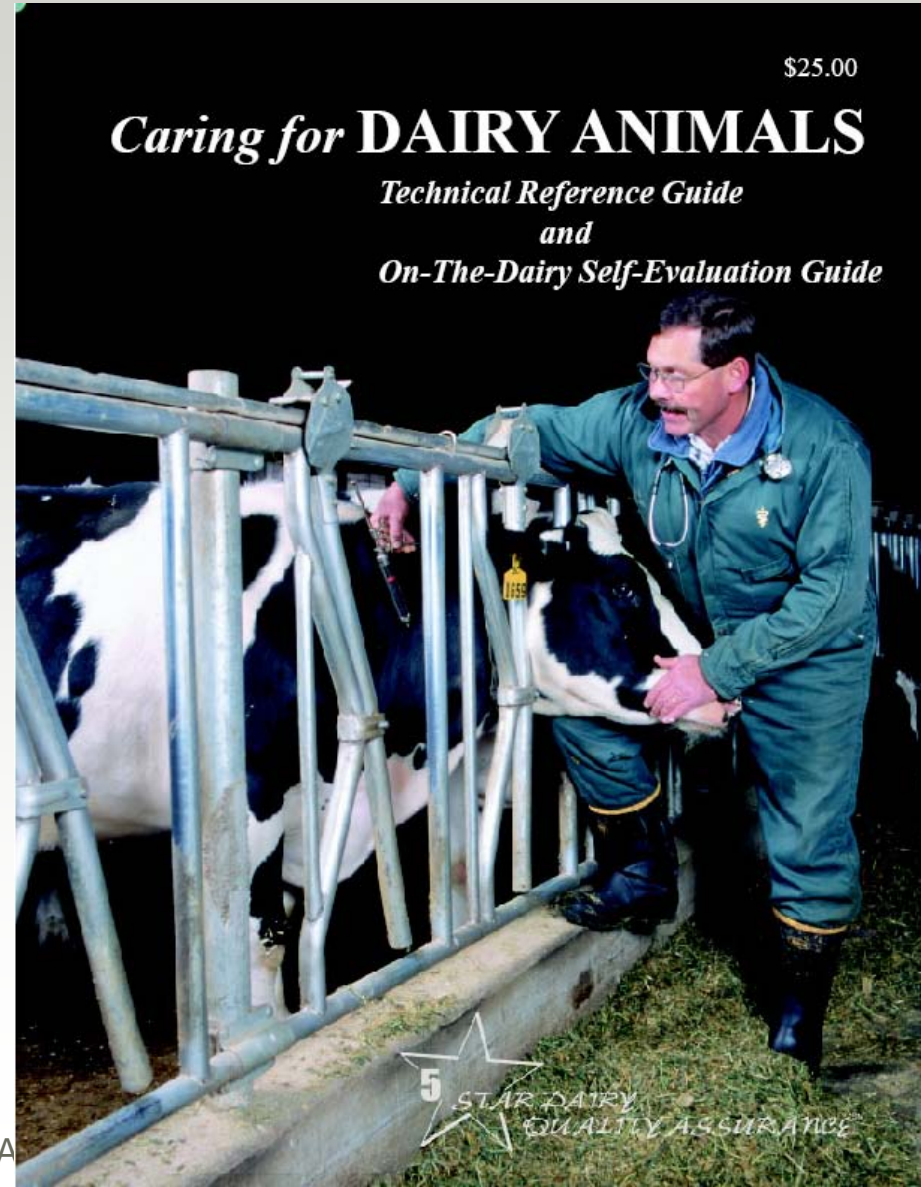
**8** No transporte animales con condiciones que no los dejara que pasen la inspección pre-matanza de un rastro o planta empacadora de carne. Si no está seguro, consulte con su veterinario antes de transportar un animal a un rastro o planta empacadora de carne.

Si le gustaría ordenar un máximo de cinco copias más o le gustaría mayor información acerca de la hoja del descarte y transporte de animales lecheros, por favor llame al (703) 224-4381 o envíe un mensaje por correo electrónico a: [poster@nmpf.org](mailto:poster@nmpf.org).



# NMPF/DMI /DQA Center

- Future efforts
- Establish National Dairy Quality Assurance Program
- Adopt program to cooperative and producer needs





# Questions?

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