




<h2 style="text-align: center;">Animal Welfare Standards at a Glance: Dairy Cattle</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Comparison of Canadian Organic Standards, SPCA Certified Standards and the Code of Practice for Dairy Cattle</p>			
	Code of Practice (2009)	SPCA Certified (2012)	Canadian Organic Standards (2015)
Feed, Water & Calf Nutrition	 <p>“Cattle must receive a diet that is adequate for maintaining health and vigour.” “Cattle must have access to palatable and clean water in quantities to meet their needs.”</p> <p>No specifics about the feeding of mammalian- or avian-derived proteins to dairy cattle.</p> <p>Use of salt licks, vitamins and mineral supplements not required.</p> <p>No specific prohibition on the use of antibiotics in feed or water, or to improve growth or feed efficiency.</p> <p>Calves must receive at least 4L of good quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth, with the first meal occurring as soon as possible and no more than 6 hours after birth. Calves must receive a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigour.</p> <p>No minimum weaning age specified.</p>	 <p>Feed and water available at all times, is of optimal quality, and is tested annually. Cattle must not have to walk more than 1 mile (1.6 km) to access water.</p> <p>Feed must not contain mammalian or avian-derived protein, with the exception of milk and milk-products for nursing young.</p> <p>Salt licks/mineral supplements required.</p> <p>Use of antibiotics and/or hormones to enhance animal performance is prohibited.</p> <p>Calves must receive at least 4L of good quality colostrum (>50 mg/mL of immunoglobulins – testing required) within 12 hours of birth. A daily ration of whole milk or equivalent replacer must be made available to calves until 28 days of age. Must have <i>ad libitum</i> access to fresh water and solid feed (roughage and concentrate) by 2 weeks of age.</p> <p>Minimum weaning age: 7 weeks. Gradual weaning over minimum of 5 days.</p>	 <p>Clean, fresh water must be available on demand; annual water testing required.</p> <p>Feed that contains mammalian or avian slaughter by-products are prohibited.</p> <p>Provision of a feed ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements required.</p> <p>Feed medications or veterinary drugs, including hormones and prophylactic antibiotics, to promote growth are prohibited.</p> <p>For young mammals, rations shall take into account the need for natural milk, including colostrum within the first day of life. Colostrum for calves is needed within the first day of life.</p> <p>Calves must receive milk until 3 months of age.</p>

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Housing & Environment	Code of Practice:	SPCA Certified:	Organic:
	<p>Tie-stall style housing allowed.</p> <p>Housing cattle on slatted concrete floors is allowed. Bare concrete platforms without mats or bedding are “unacceptable surfaces” for housing cows.</p> <p>Calf housing must allow calves to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and have visual contact with other calves. Minimum space allowances not prescribed.</p> <p>No specified requirements for air quality or lighting.</p> <p>Outdoor access is not required.</p> <p>No specifics on fencing requirements.</p> <p>Daily removal of cow patties and use of generous amounts of bedding required.</p>	<p>Tie-stall style housing prohibited.</p> <p>Housing cattle on fully slatted floors or bare concrete is prohibited.</p> <p>Enriched calf housing required; includes bedding, socialization opportunities, and increased space. In individual calving pens 15m² is required. The tethering of calves is prohibited.</p> <p>Effective ventilation programs and maintenance of barn conditions such that ammonia concentrations are < 25 ppm at cattle head height. Ammonia levels must be measured and recorded monthly.</p> <p>Lighting programs must allow cattle to access normal periods of daylight and darkness. Natural daylight is required.</p> <p>Animals must have access to an outdoor area/environment that provides good footing and is well maintained for a minimum of 150 days per year, 4 hours per day. Bare concrete not permitted.</p> <p>Electrified barbed wire fencing is prohibited.</p> <p>Facilities housing cattle must be cleaned between occupants/groups. Daily removal of cow patties and use of generous amounts of bedding (> 8cm) required.</p>	<p>Organic producers are allowed to use tie stalls for lactating dairy cattle in existing barns, but not new constructions unless an exemption is granted.</p> <p>Fully slatted floors prohibited (minimum 30% solid floor required).</p> <p>Calves may be housed in individual pens until 3 months of age; individual pens must be at least 2.5m². Tethering of calves is prohibited. Calves shall be group-housed after weaning.</p> <p>Humidity, dust and ammonia levels shall not impair the well-being of animals; ammonia levels not to exceed 25ppm.</p> <p>Access to fresh air and natural daylight must be provided.</p> <p>Pasture access during the grazing season and to the open air at other times, weather permitting. Calves over nine months of age shall have access to pasture. Exceptions allowed for breeding males and young animals when their health and welfare are jeopardized.</p> <p>No specifics on fencing requirements.</p> <p>Housing, pens, runs... shall be properly cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross infection and build-up of disease-carrying organisms.</p>

	Code of Practice:	SPCA Certified:	Organic:
Indoor Stocking Density	<p>Minimum 1.2 cows per stall in free-stall housing (cows can share stalls).</p> <p>Housing must allow cattle to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and have visual contact with other cattle.</p> <p>Resting areas must provide 11m²/mature cow in bedded-pack pens.</p>	<p>Minimum of 1 free-access stall per cow required in the indoor environment, if used.</p> <p>Minimum of 11m²/head for mature cows and 18m²/bull in the indoor housing environment.</p> <p>In calving pens, 15m²/cow must be provided.</p>	<p>Tie-stalls permitted: Stall sized must be appropriate for size of cow.</p> <p>Bedded pack (for groups): 11m²/head</p> <p>Maternity pens: 11m²/head (group pens); 15m²/head (individual pens, 1 pen per 35 cows recommended)</p> <p>Calves & young cattle: 2.5m²/head for young calves; 5m²/head for growing steers and heifers (12 months old).</p>
Health & Biosecurity	<p>Daily observation of cattle not required.</p> <p>“Feet and claws must be inspected and trimmed as required to minimize lameness.” Cows that cannot walk must be diagnosed early and either treated, culled or euthanized.</p> <p>Sick, injured or cattle that are in pain must receive prompt medical care or be euthanized.</p> <p>No specific prohibition on the use of antibiotics to improve growth or feed efficiency. Permitted to treat injuries and illnesses.</p> <p>No specifics on the use of hormones.</p> <p>Canadian Codes of Practice do not require record keeping or a formalized Health or Biosecurity plan.</p>	<p>Animals must be observed at least once daily, monitoring for signs of injury, disease, abnormal behaviour, etc.</p> <p>The herd is closely monitored for leg injuries and walking ability (lameness). Cattle with mild lameness must not exceed 13% of the herd; cows with severe lameness must not exceed 1% within entire herd. Vet follow up required if limits exceeded.</p> <p>Cattle that are sick, injured, in pain or suffering must be provided immediate medical care or be euthanized.</p> <p>Use of antibiotics and/or hormones to enhance animal performance is prohibited.</p> <p>A Herd Health Plan, Biosecurity Plan and on-farm record keeping such as feed and water tests, treatment and mortality records, etc. must be submitted.</p>	<p>Daily observation of cows not required.</p> <p>Prompt treatment of animals with detectable diseases and injuries required. Total herd lameness not observed.</p> <p>Injured, diseased or sick animals shall receive individual treatment designed to minimize pain and suffering, which may include euthanasia.</p> <p>Dairy cattle may receive antibiotics. If they receive over 2 treatments, they are no longer organic and must undergo a 12-month transition period to regain organic status.</p> <p>Hormones for growth promotion are prohibited.</p> <p>Health records are required.</p>

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	Code of Practice:	SPCA Certified:	Organic:
Management	<p>For cattle identification, branding (except to the face) is permitted, but pain control is required. Ear notching/wattling not discussed.</p> <p>Emergency management protocols are not required.</p> <p>Areas must be provided to segregate and treat sick and injured cattle.</p> <p>No discussion about managing heifers near calving or re-breeding interval.</p> <p>No requirements for pest or predator control.</p>	<p>For cattle identification, branding, ear notching and ear wattling are prohibited.</p> <p>Farm facility must have emergency back-up systems and evacuation plans.</p> <p>Cows being treated for a disease must be identified and milked separately from the healthy herd.</p> <p>Handlers must be knowledgeable of heifers nearing calving and be ready to provide proper assistance if necessary. Cows must not be re-bred for at least 6 weeks after calving.</p> <p>Cattle must have means of protection from pests and predators; humane methods of pest/predator control must be used (examples given).</p>	<p>For cattle identification, branding is allowed as per the Code of Practice. Ear notching and wattling are not discussed.</p> <p>Emergency procedures allow temporary feeding of non-organic feed during catastrophic events.</p> <p>Products from sick animals or those undergoing treatment with restricted substances shall not be organic or fed to organic livestock. Cattle identification must clearly separate organic animals from non-organic animals.</p> <p>No discussion about managing heifers near calving or re-breeding interval.</p> <p>Organic livestock operations must have a plan to minimize pest and parasite problems.</p>
Surgical Procedures	<p>Pain medication (not specific) must be used when disbudding or dehorning. Bleeding control must be used when dehorning. Age limits for the procedure not discussed.</p> <p>Pain control (not specific) must be used when castrating cattle. Age limits for the procedure not discussed.</p> <p>Tail docking is prohibited.</p>	<p>Disbudding must occur before 3 weeks of age. Pain control must include a local anesthetic in combination with a post-procedure pain killer. Dehorning (past 3 weeks of age) is prohibited. Producers urged to select breeds that do not grow horns.</p> <p>Castration: must use local anesthetic and/or post-op pain killers (required use of both depends on the method of castration).</p> <p>Tail docking is prohibited.</p>	<p>Permitted as common practice, but must follow the Code of Practice for age and pain control requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dehorning - Disbudding - Castration <p>Tail docking is permitted when necessary to treat an injury.</p>

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Transport & Handling	<p>Personnel transporting and handling animals are expected to adhere to the Health of Animals Regulations.</p> <p>Every animal must be assessed before being transported. Animals that cannot walk, emaciated and weak animals must not be transported unless to a vet for treatment or diagnosis.</p> <p>Calves must have received adequate colostrum before being transported (can be transported at any age).</p> <p>Cattle must be fed and watered within 5 hours before being loaded if the trip is over 24 hours. Milking cattle should not be deprived of feed and water for over 12 hours. Unweaned calves must receive feed and water at least every 18 hours.</p> <p>Ensure cattle that are incompatible are segregated. Appropriate stocking densities are listed as requirements in the Transport Codes of Practice.</p> <p>Total transport time: 48 hours; 12 hours for lactating dairy cattle; 18 hours for nursing calves; 12 hours for calves on special diets</p> <p>Electric cattle prods allowed for use in emergency situations, but must not be used on genitals, face, udder or anus.</p>	<p>Any personnel involved in the transport and handling of animals must adhere to provincial and federal transport regulations, as well as the SPCA Certified Standards. Handlers must move cattle in a way that imposes the minimum possible stress.</p> <p>Every animal must be assessed before being transported. Animals too sick or injured to be transported must be treated immediately or euthanized on site.</p> <p>Calves must not be transported prior to 7 days of age.</p> <p>Cattle must have access to feed until 5 hours before loading. Water must be provided to cattle up until they are loaded onto the transport vehicle.</p> <p>Cattle must be transported using the loading densities prescribed in the Transport Codes of Practice. Measures must be taken to shelter cattle from unfavourable environmental conditions (wind, rain, heat or cold) during transport. During hot or humid weather, cattle must be transported at night, during the coolest part of the day, or at 20% lower stocking density.</p> <p>Total transport time for dairy cattle must not exceed 24 hours.</p> <p>Electric cattle prods prohibited.</p>	<p>Livestock shall be managed responsibly with care and respect. Stress shall be minimized in all handling practices.</p> <p>Farmer must assess fitness of animals for transport prior to loading. Unfit animals must not be transported.</p> <p>No age-based requirements for transport of cattle.</p> <p>No specifications regarding feed or water withdrawal prior to transport.</p> <p>Stocking density within transport vehicles must follow the Codes of Practice.</p> <p>Animals must have shelter against inclement weather (e.g. wind, rain, excessive heat and cold).</p> <p>Duration of transportation shall be “as short as possible”. If journey is over 5 hours, farmers are encouraged to follow the Transport Code of Practice RE: recommended rest times, feed and water provision (see far left column). If the recommendations are not followed, justification is required.</p> <p>Electrical stimulation prohibited.</p>