



- As the leading dairy company in the United States, Dean Foods takes its role as a steward in the dairy industry seriously. We believe that providing for the good welfare of dairy cows is not only the right thing to do, but that the health and welfare of dairy cows is directly related to the production of high-quality milk and our products. We procure our raw milk from over 800 independent farmers and from dairy cooperatives that source from nearly 8,000 farms across the country. In addition to meeting any local or state laws, we expect all farmers to treat their cows humanely. Working with internationally recognized welfare experts, dairy farmers and customers, Dean Foods is leading the industry in developing a meaningful approach to improving the welfare of dairy cows.
  
- **Dairy Stewardship –**
  - As evidence of our commitment to animal welfare, Dean Foods created a Director of Dairy Stewardship position in 2010, staffed by Dr. Jennifer Walker, a veterinarian with advanced training in animal welfare and a passion for improving the welfare of dairy cattle.
  - Dean Foods' Animal Welfare Advisory Council (AWAC), which includes dairy farmers and experts in animal welfare such as Dr. Temple Grandin, dairy farmers and customer representatives to address emerging trends in animal welfare. In September of 2015, Dr. Walker added two members to her Dairy Stewardship team. Dr. MacGregor and Dr. Smith bring to the team a passion for animal welfare and over 20 years of experience creating positive change on the farm. The team has helped pilot test the evaluation tool and began evaluating farms in the North and South East.
  - By 2018, Dean Foods will require on-farm assessments of all farms delivering milk to our plants. The assessments will be performed by Dean Foods and the cooperatives, and will be based on industry-wide standardized guidelines outlined in the F.A.R.M. program. The frequency of each farm's assessment will be determined by greatest need for improvement, and will not extend beyond three years. All farms will meet the standards of the assessment, resolve the deficiency in an allotted time, or demonstrate adherence to a plan of action to address deficiencies. Based on industry guidelines, Dean Foods and our dairy suppliers will undergo annual third-party audits to ensure the on-farm assessments are being implemented correctly.
  
- Dean Foods promotes responsible agriculture with charitable dollars as well. The Dean Foods Foundation supports farm communities by providing grants to qualified organizations that provide educational and development opportunities.
  - Dairyland Initiative (DI) - We have supported the DI, a program through the University of Wisconsin that provides farms with information on building facilities that promotes good welfare, and have made sure every farm is given free access to the information. We are currently working with the DI to develop an online tool to help farms effectively address problems with lame cows, one of the biggest challenges the dairy industry has today.
  - FFA - We are proud to partner with the National FFA Foundation to provide educational scholarships for our agriculture leaders of tomorrow.



### **Specific Animal Welfare Issues**

#### Tail docking

- Although some dairy farmers feel that tail docking is necessary to promote milk quality or worker comfort, there is no scientific evidence demonstrating that tail docking improves udder health, cleanliness or employee safety. There is, however, evidence that tail docking is a painful procedure that may negatively affect the welfare of the cow due to chronic pain and fly irritation. For this reason, Dean Foods and its Animal Welfare Advisory Council support the positions taken by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the National Mastitis Council and will require that farmers discontinue the routine tail docking of cows according to the F.A.R.M. 2017 guidelines.

#### Responsible use of medicine

- Dean Foods believes that it is important to promote and protect the welfare of dairy cattle through both the prevention and treatment of illness. In doing so, we expect that dairy farmers follow the rules and regulations meant to ensure the safety and quality of milk. In an effort to promote proper use of all medicines in dairy cows, the Dean Foods Foundation has provided a grant to the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin Foundation to allow them to expand their successful Wisconsin drug residue prevention program to other states. Furthermore, the Dean Foods Animal Welfare Advisory Council has included guidelines on establishing proper treatment records and maintaining a valid veterinary client-patient relationship as part of the animal welfare audit currently under development.

#### Dehorning

- Dean Foods recognizes that the practice of disrupting the growth of horns is necessary to protect both cows and the people that work with them. We also recognize that the pain associated with this procedure can be minimized when done at an early age, with anesthetics and long lasting pain relief medicine. For that reason, Dean Foods and its Animal Welfare Advisory Council support animal welfare programs that promote the adoption of best management practices for “disbudding,” (stopping the growth of horn tissue before the horn bud has attached to the calf’s skull) in both the timeliness of the procedure and in providing appropriate use of analgesics and anesthetics. We also support a program that encourages the use of polled genetics into breeding programs to promote polled (naturally hornless) cattle, which may eventually eliminate or minimize the need for dehorning and disbudding. However, sound science and responsible herd management practices would encourage that any significant change in herd genetics be pursued deliberately and slowly to avoid unintended negative consequences of genetic selection focused on a single trait. Given that such progress will require a long-term outlook, we believe the responsible approach to address the issue today is to promote programs that ensure that farmers adopt best practices, minimizing the pain associated with the necessary procedure today while they work with their advisors to introduce polled genetics into their herds.

#### Undercover videos/images of cruelty

- Like you, we are appalled by the images of animal abuse depicted on the video/images. Of course we condemn the abuse of animals, but more importantly, we are committed to developing a program that strives to prevent the mistreatment of dairy cows, identifies when and if there is a problem, and takes the appropriate actions to prevent it from happening again.