

VQA EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR CERTIFICATION

The following pages summarize the Expected Outcomes for VQA Certification. The farm's veterinarian should assess if the outcomes are being met -- Yes or No -- or if improvements are needed.

Yes No Needs Improvement (NI)



CHAPTER 2 ANIMAL HEALTH

Y N NI **ESTABLISH A VETERINARIAN-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP (VCPR)**
OUTCOME: Establish a VCPR

Y N NI **HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN**
OUTCOME: In consultation with your veterinarian, develop and follow a Health Management Plan that includes written protocols and records for the following areas:

Y N NI **ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION**
OUTCOME: All animals are identified with an easily visible tag, preferably an RFID tag.

Y N NI **MEDICATIONS AND IMMUNIZATIONS**
a. Stewardship and Residue Prevention
OUTCOME: Facility-specific antibiotic stewardship practices are outlined and implemented to prevent, detect and when needed, treatment of common diseases is managed promptly and properly to optimize health outcomes and prevent residues.

Y N NI **b. Treatment and Health Records**
OUTCOME: Permanent drug treatment records are maintained including date of treatment, animal ID, disease or condition, drug, dosage and administration route, person administering the treatment, injection method and site, duration of treatment and specific withdrawal time. FDA regulations require records to be kept for a minimum of two years.

Y N NI **OUTCOME:** Health records document type and severity of disease, date of diagnosis, action taken and outcomes including recovery or death.

Y N NI **c. Storage and Disposal**
OUTCOME: Medications are properly stored at the correct temperature and discarded based on specific label instructions.

Y N NI **d. Procedures and Administration Methods**
OUTCOME: Medications are administered using the approved route, dose, and duration.

Y N NI **e. Immunization**
OUTCOME: A vaccination program in consultation with the VOR considers diagnostic laboratory information to tailor the selection and timing of vaccines to prevent diseases.



BIOSECURITY AND SANITATION

OUTCOME: Facility-specific biosecurity and sanitation measures are documented and implemented to prevent the spread of disease.



MONITORING MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY

OUTCOME: Health records are summarized to describe overall health trends. Veal calves are monitored, assessed and managed to ensure that risk factors are reduced, and mortality and morbidity are prevented.



NON-AMBULATORY ANIMALS

OUTCOME: Detection, movement, housing, treatment, care and decision-making details ensure calves are managed in a safe and timely manner.



EUTHANASIA

OUTCOME: For animals identified to be euthanized, the euthanasia technique and disposal of euthanized animals reflect guidelines approved by AABP and/or AVMA.



ASSESSING FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT

OUTCOME: Calves are assessed for fitness before being transported and non-ambulatory animals are never shipped to market.

CHAPTER 3 CALF CARE AND HANDLING

WATER



OUTCOME: All calves should have continuous access to fresh water to maintain proper hydration. If water is subject to freezing in winter, water needs to be accessible at a minimum of twice a day.



OUTCOME: All devices and equipment used to provide water to the calves are monitored, cleaned and repaired as needed.



OUTCOME: Water quality is tested by a third party (as advised by your nutritionist, veterinarian or feed service representative) at least once each year.

FEED AND NUTRITION



OUTCOME: Calves are fed milk formula daily and have access to feed as outlined in written protocols by your feed service representative or nutritionist at levels sufficient to meet requirements for health, growth and vigor.



OUTCOME: All caretakers/employees are trained to follow the written protocol for daily feeding requirements.



OUTCOME: Facilities are designed to provide enough feeding space to mitigate competition.

BODY CONDITION, PERFORMANCE AND ANIMAL INJURIES

- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Veal calves exhibit growth between arrival at the facility and each week that follows until reaching market weight.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** 95% of calves at the facility have an ideal body score of 3 (on a scale of 1 to 5) or higher during the finishing phase of production.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** 95% of calves at the facility are free from hock, knee, tail and/or other physical injuries.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Measures are taken to ensure injuries are minimized or eliminated, this can include routine facility maintenance, appropriate handling and training, optimal stocking density, evaluating housing areas to identify areas of potential injury, and providing a clean resting area.

HANDLING AND MOVEMENT

- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Implement cattle handling protocols which cover all aspects of handling and ensure all caretakers are trained to provide quiet, low-stress handling, and always employ these techniques.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Caretakers should ensure the least amount of prodding is used to move animals while ensuring the safety of all employees and other calves. All animal caretakers should understand that calves are observant creatures capable of learning from and remembering events in their environment.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** No animals should be processed/treated in an unsecured or uncomfortable position. Animals that are mis-caught should be allowed to readjust their position or released and restrained appropriately for processing/treatment.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Less than 5% of animals vocalize while being restrained for animal health processing and/or treatments.

TRANSPORTATION AND FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT

(Responsibility of this outcome is that of the veal company that purchases the calves and delivers them to the veal farm and then ultimately to the plant for harvest.)

- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** A transportation plan is developed, documented and followed to help mitigate thermal distress, dehydration, interruptions in routine feeding, physical exertion, exposure to pathogens and stress.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** All animals are assessed for fitness before being transported.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY

- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** The farm owner/manager has in place a zero-tolerance policy and enforcement plans on animal abuse and neglect for all staff.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Employees and others who handle and/or observe animals at the farm are aware of how they can confidently report instances of abuse and neglect.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** There are zero instances of animal abuse or neglect on the farm.

CHAPTER 4 FACILITIES

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP HOUSING CONSIDERATIONS
















- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** State laws outlining space requirements and any other designations for veal calves are met as specified for selling/marketing veal for consumption within the implied state. This OUTCOME supersedes other VQA housing outcomes.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** The space and stocking density where animals are raised should enable each calf to comfortably rest, easily stand, move about freely, turn around fully, and socialize with other animals.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Calves are in group pens of two or more by 10 weeks of age, unless it is for health purposes, and animals are never tethered at any age.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Calves have a comfortable, dry and sanitary place to rest. Most desirable is rubber-coated flooring that maintains comfort for the animals, provides a skid-resistant surface and enhances the cleanliness of the animal.

BIOSECURITY AND SANITATION

- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** A hospital pen has been designated to isolate sick or injured animal(s) from others until they have regained their health.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Pens are routinely cleaned, and all parts of the facility/barn are thoroughly cleaned, sanitized and dried between groups of calves to reduce the possibility of bacterial growth.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** A pest control plan is in place to manage and eliminate pests and employees are trained to manage and implement pest control practices.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Only sufficiently cleaned and disinfected equipment is shared between farms. For example, loaders, carts, buckets, calf feeding tubes.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** The number of people with direct contact with the veal calves is limited to the number of people to efficiently complete serve the needs of the farm.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** Handwashing is conducted between working with groups of calves and before leaving the barn to minimize the spread of pathogens. Caretakers should have access to water, soap and towels in the barns.
- Y** **N** **NI** **OUTCOME:** A visitor policy is in place to ensure visitors do not introduce contamination or disease to the farm or barns and all employees are trained to follow procedures for visitors.




CHAPTER 4 FACILITIES

FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS







-    **OUTCOME:** Facilities are properly ventilated, and protocols are in place to minimize airborne particles to reduce odors, dust and/or noxious gases to help maximize animal health and comfort and provide a safer work environment for farmers and employees.
-    **OUTCOME:** All classes of calves are provided with protection from predators and extreme weather conditions. Facilities are adequately insulated to keep barns warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
-    **OUTCOME:** Facilities provide natural and/or overhead lighting during regular daytime hours
-    **OUTCOME:** All facility elements such as flooring, fans, waterers, windows, curtains, gates and fences are in good condition, and fixed or replaced as needed.
-    **OUTCOME:** A manure management plan is in place outlining measures to contain, control and then remove animal manure from the farm annually following state and local guidelines when applicable.

CHAPTER 5 GENERAL MANAGEMENT

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

-    **OUTCOME:** All individuals (family and hired caretakers) responsible for animal care, feeding and handling at the farm receive training annually related to their specific responsibilities and demonstrate their commitment to VQA principles.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

-    **OUTCOME:** Develop, review, and update annually , a written emergency preparedness plan to effectively manage emergencies or crisis situations that could occur
-    **OUTCOME:** Complete the emergency contact form and make it accessible to all animal caretakers and post it in a prominent location in the languages understood by workers to facilitate quick communication in the event of an emergency