



Dairy Details

July 2019

Editor: Lindsey Borst DVM

NORTHERN VALLEY DAIRY PRODUCTION MEDICINE CENTER

Cattle Welfare: Do your employees buy into it?

We've all seen or heard about the recent undercover video at Fair Oaks Farms. It's a very difficult thing to watch and has rightly upset both consumers and dairy producers. And it certainly doesn't help a struggling dairy industry. The first thing I thought of when I saw the video was what steps can we take to make sure this never happens on our farm? And, what can my clients do to make sure this doesn't happen to them?

Discuss What Happened

I plan to have all our employees watch the video and ask for their thoughts. I am very confident that none of our employees would treat an animal that way, but I'm guessing Fair Oaks thought the same about their guilty employees. That's why discussing this type of behavior will hopefully make it clear that anything remotely close to this is not tolerated.

See it, Say it

All our employees sign an agreement saying that they will report any kind of animal abuse to management immediately. We review this agreement in detail with each individual employee and discuss examples of what we consider animal abuse.

Cattle Handling Review

Our employees go through Merck's Dairy Care365 cattle handling videos when they are hired. These are a great teaching tool and I highly recommend them. Employees are to review these videos on an annual basis. Doing a review on proper, calm cattle handling and what to do in a down cow situation will also help confirm to our employees how we expect our animals to be treated.

Oversight

Whose job is it to make sure training in cattle handling and welfare are continuously being done and reviewed? I'll fully admit, that some of this training falls through the cracks at our farm. In today's world it's imperative that a manager on the dairy has this responsibility. Management's emphasis on animal care affects the culture on your farm and everyone's attitude towards cattle welfare.

There are a lot of great resources available to help with this type of training. Feel free to ask one of our veterinarians to provide hands on training if you feel like you need guidance. This is an area that all of us are very vested in and passionate about.

CHECK US OUT ON [FACEBOOK](#) AND [DAIRYMED.COM!](#)

Northern Valley Dairy Production Medicine Center

Milk Culture Lab Update

If you submit milk cultures to our lab, you may have noticed some new “bugs” that we have started reporting. We have added tests to our lab to allow us to differentiate Strep. Uberis, Lactococcus and Enterococcus. Differentiating these organisms will help you make better treatment decisions. Strep. Uberis and Lactococcus are treatable with Cephalosporin antibiotics (Spectramast LC and Today), while Enterococcus organisms are resistant to cephalosporins antibiotics.

June Dairy Days a Success!

We were very fortunate to have beautiful weather and a great turn out to our customer appreciation lunch! Thanks to everyone who attended!



CHECK US OUT ON [FACEBOOK](#) AND [DAIRYMED.COM!](#)

Northern Valley Dairy Production Medicine Center