

Industry achievements: SANS 1694 The welfare of dairy cattle

SASDT March 2022



The Rotterdam Dairy Declaration

- The Dairy Declaration was launched at the IDF World Dairy Summit in Rotterdam, October 2016.
- Included proof points from global dairy leaders and from the Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the contribution of the dairy sector to the achievement of key Sustainable Development Goals such as ending poverty and hunger, and protecting the environment.
- SDG 12 – “responsible consumption and production”



The Rotterdam Dairy Declaration

- The Declaration was signed by International Dairy Federation (IDF) and Food & Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (FAO).
- The declaration aims to reiterate the integrated approach that the dairy sector takes to enhance its sustainability.
- The annual Summit, a grand assembly of the dairy world was attended by around 1200 participants from 64 countries.
- It supports the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as overarching framework that guides our actions towards sustainable development from a social, environmental, economic and health perspective



SDG's and SA fundamental dairy sustainability commitments

- ensuring best care for all our animals;
- reducing our environmental impact;
- providing profitable nutritious and safe products; and
- creating a rewarding livelihood for those that work in the industry.



Dairy Animal welfare in the context of sustainability

In the dairy value chain:

- the importance of dairy animal welfare in the context of sustainability is not always fully understood
- lack of understanding that **sustainability is linked to interactive elements** such as the economy, the environment, **animal welfare** and social well being
- measures regarding sustainability are not always risk based with a tendency to be rather reactive at a cost than proactive



Why should we be so concerned

A major event relating to poor animal welfare have the potential to trigger systemic risks and draws the attention of:

- public health at large via the media
- Impact the stability of the entire dairy industry as role-player in the agro processing sector
- Have a negative effect on the integrity of dairy as a whole

Stakeholders have a moral and legal obligation to mitigate systemic risk caused by interdependencies and among participants



SA Dairy supply chain interdependency and shared responsibility



Animal welfare in the context of sustainability

- According to the World Organization for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties 2013) an animal is in a good state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express its innate behaviour, and is not suffering from negative states such as pain, fear and distress.
- Good animal welfare requires amongst other disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling, transport and eventually, humane slaughter.



Animal welfare in the context of sustainability

While this definition is accepted internationally, what people perceive to be acceptable animal welfare practises are influenced by many factors - personal values, religion, nationality, gender, previous experiences, age, socio-economic status and education.



Animal welfare in the context of sustainability

Animal welfare is part of good animal and farm management, paying close attention to day-to-day management and the five internationally acknowledged freedoms are the most important factors when determining acceptable welfare:

- free from thirst, hunger and malnutrition;
- freedom from discomfort;
- freedom from pain, injury and disease;
- freedom to express normal behaviour and;
- freedom from fear and distress.



Animal welfare in the context of sustainability

- Stressors that become chronic have a severe impact on animals and their health as part of sustainable livestock production systems
- Public perceptions of farm animal welfare issues have the potential to significantly affect the security/sustainability of the dairy industry.
- Nationally and internationally, these societal pressures are playing increasing roles in determining how dairy animals are managed and products are marketed, **while scientific findings assist development of welfare assessment, practice and improvement.**



Dairy animal welfare assessment

- As responsible role-player in the agricultural sector, the SA organised dairy industry is committed to implementation of best practices to ensure animal welfare based on scientific evidence.
- Developing assessment criteria through an industry stakeholder consultation process:
 - SA Acts and regulations
 - IDF Guide to Good Animal Welfare in Dairy Production
 - ISO/TS 34700:2016 – Animal welfare management
 - SANS 1694:2018 - The welfare of dairy cattle
 - DSA Code of Practice for Milk Producers



Dairy animal welfare and development of welfare criteria measure measurement

The aim:

- developed a set of auditable criteria to measure compliance with relevant animal welfare standards at milk production level.
- The purpose of this outcome based driven auditable and assessment criteria to assist dairy farmers in the process of identification of risk areas, to evaluate the risks and to implement management practises regarding improvement of the welfare of dairy cattle.



SANS 1694: The Welfare of Dairy Cattle

Risk Index Key

I	5	5	10	15	20	25
M	4	4	8	12	16	20
P	3	3	6	9	12	15
A	2	2	4	6	8	10
C	1	1	2	3	4	5
T	0	1	2	3	4	5
	LIKELIHOOD / WAARSKYNLIKHEID					

RISK INDEX	NON CONFORMANCE	
20-25	AF	X
10-19	CRITICAL/KRITIES	x
5-9	MAJOR/ERNSTIG	x
1-4	MINOR/GERING	x



Welfare of Dairy Cattle Audit Criteria

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SANS 1694: The Welfare of Dairy Cattle

Milk SA funded project purpose:

- Application of the DSA animal welfare audit on a number of farms, identify issues and confirm areas of amendment of the SANS 1694 standard as well as DSA audit format and criteria.
- Process subject to proposals to Milk SA R&D, industry comments and final submission of proposal/report to SABS Standards writer.



Animal welfare measurement benefits

- If applied effectively, it is a key to **the proactive identification** of animal health and welfare risks as well as the evaluation and control thereof;
- **Improvement of communication** between input suppliers and role-players, including veterinarians and milk buyers improve;
- Communication between management and personnel based on sound documented information **improve quality decision making processes**;



Animal welfare measurement benefits

- **Measureable criteria** has a direct influence on the improvement of herd health and animal welfare when remedial actions are consistently implemented on non-conformities;
- **Compliance** with auditable criteria of high standards automatically leads to compliance with legal requirements;
- Sale of livestock and/or certification for export purposes are far more achievable – requirements of country of import



DSA Code of Practice for milk Producers



- Latest publication refers to sustainability
- Environmental management
- Herd health and biosecurity
- Animal Welfare incl SANS 1694



Dankie/Thank You

