

## National Dairy FARM Program Accredited to International Standards Organization Animal Welfare Technical Standard

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### Introduction

The International Organization for Standardization's (ISO) animal welfare technical standard was developed to evaluate animal welfare programs' conformance to international standards for animal care established by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). ISO, an independent, international standards-setting body, worked with the OIE to assist farmers and animal welfare programs in implementing the OIE species-specific animal welfare standards. The OIE, the World Trade Organization-recognized body for setting animal health and welfare standards affecting international trade, adopted dairy cattle welfare standards in 2015.

### Aim

In the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA-AMS) offers a voluntary marketing program that ensures independent welfare programs meet the specifications of the ISO technical standard. In 2017, the National Dairy FARM Animal Care Program applied to USDA-AMS for accreditation with the ISO Animal Welfare Management/General Requirements and Guidance for Organizations in the Food Supply Chain.

### Methods

The USDA-AMS developed species-specific audit tools to assess animal welfare programs for compliance with the ISO Technical Standard. The National Dairy FARM Animal Care Program submitted all program materials, standards and guidelines to USDA-AMS. USDA-AMS used these materials to audit the standards and program execution to the requirements outlined by the OIE. Additionally, an on-site audit of program implementation was conducted by USDA-AMS.

### Results

USDA-AMS affirmed that the FARM Animal Care Program is ISO-compliant which validates the design and implementation of the program. The National Dairy FARM Program is now the first livestock animal care program in the world to be recognized internationally for its industry-leading animal welfare standards.

### Conclusion

In achieving this compliance, U.S. and international dairy customers can be assured that the dairy products coming from FARM Animal Care Program participants meet the stringent, internationally recognized animal welfare standards set by the OIE.