

National Dairy FARM Program:™ 2014 Year in Review



The U.S. dairy farming community is committed to ensuring the well-being of the animals in our care.

The National Dairy FARM Program: Farmers Assuring Responsible Management™ (FARM Program) provides consistency and uniformity to best practices in on-farm animal care and quality assurance through a nation-wide, verifiable program. Third-Party Verification of the program's content and execution helps ensure its validity and integrity to our customers and consumers.

In 2014, FARM Program participation expanded with additional enrollment of cooperatives, proprietary processors and individual producers, which proactively demonstrates the dairy industry's continued commitment to providing high-level care to dairy animals. Participation increased to more than 75 percent of the U.S. milk supply.

The strength, scope and science-basis of the animal care program has been critical to help shape international initiatives on animal welfare. The broadly-accepted animal care program for the U.S. dairy industry has enabled the U.S. government and dairy industry representatives to provide consistent, constructive feedback during the public comment process to both the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) and the International

Standards Organization (ISO), which have been working to develop international standards on animal welfare. Through NMPF representation, the FARM Program participates in the standards-setting process to represent the best interests of the U.S. dairy industry. The program is also utilized in animal welfare discussions at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Dairy Federation (IDF).

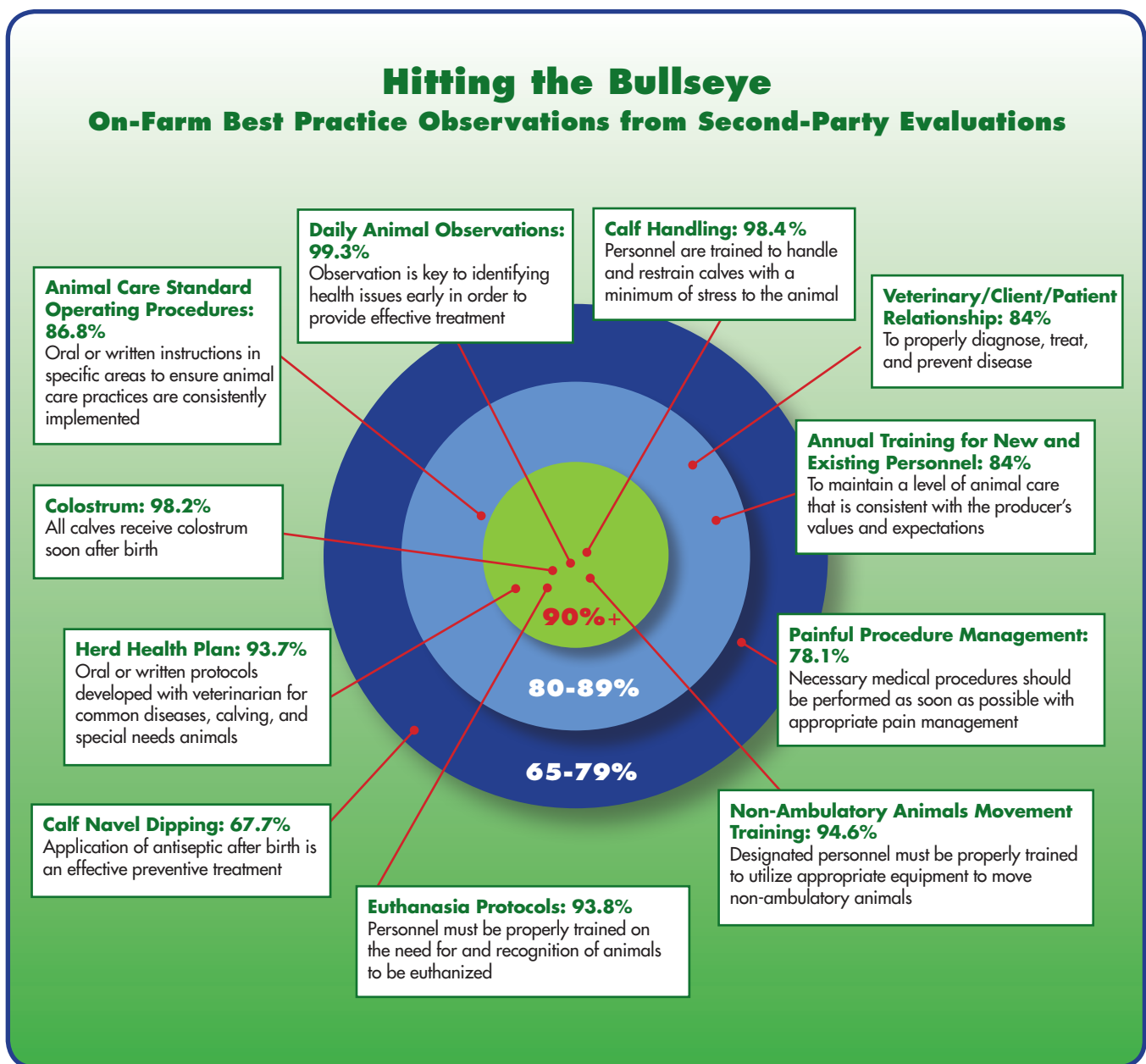
FARM Program Showcases U.S. Dairy Practices Globally



2014 Second-Party Evaluation Highlights

In March 2014, data collected through the Second-Party Evaluations on participating were analyzed and compared to the third-party verified data. This is the last analysis of the previous version of the FARM survey and completes the three-year continuous improvement cycle. As shown previously, the analysis demonstrated that producers take very seriously the responsibility for the well-being of animals under

their care. In many areas of the country, near universal adoption of the best practices from the FARM Animal Care Manual by participating farms was observed. Adoption of some other best practices is not nearly as universal and demonstrates the importance of continuous improvement advocated by the FARM Program. The following figure shows the percentage adoption of select best practices as of December 2013, some with near universal adoption and others with room for improvement.



2013 Third-Party Verification Highlights

The main goal of verification of the FARM program is to determine whether the Second-Party Evaluator data is consistent with the Third-Party Verification data. The annual Third-Party Verification of the FARM animal care program was conducted with on-farm visits in 2013 and statistical analysis in 2014. The Third-Party Verification findings (discussed below) confirmed the validity and integrity of the FARM Program.

How was the Third-Party Verification conducted?

The FARM Program contracted with the same statistician utilizing the same statistical-sampling strategy proven valid in last year's verification. The FARM Program kept the same third-party vendor, Validus Services, an ISO 9001:2008 Certified company, based in Des Moines, IA. On-farm Third-Party Verification was conducted on 89 randomly selected farms from July through December 2013.

What does Third-Party Verification show?

Results of the 2013 Third-Party Verification help to determine consistency of the evaluators, clarity of the individual questions, changes attributable to participating farm improvements, as well as to pinpoint areas where program improvements can be made.

Is the Second-Party Evaluator data consistent with the Third-Party Verification data?

Results of the 2013 Third-Party Verification once again demonstrated the integrity of the data collected during on-farm evaluations. This “check the checkers” analysis means that the Second-Party Evaluators are consistently implementing evaluations across all dairy farm participants. Additionally the “check the checkers” analysis demonstrates the validity of the aggregate data of the Second-Party Evaluations.

Retailer Outreach

Building on the endorsement of the FARM Program by the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy in 2013, an outreach strategy to convey the purpose of the program and to answer frequently asked questions posed by both customers, and consumers was developed and is being implemented by interested parties across the dairy industry. Industry commitment to the FARM program continues to grow.



Dairy Farms:
Where Cows Come First



INNOVATION
CENTER FOR U.S. DAIRY
HEALTHY PEOPLE • HEALTHY PRODUCTS • HEALTHY PLANET



Participation

The National Dairy FARM Program would like to thank the many cooperatives, proprietary processors and individual producers who participate in the program through third-party verification. The time, energy and effort that are put into the program by the participants are appreciated. As of October 1, 2014 the FARM Program has 61 cooperatives and proprietary processors, and dozens of individual dairy producer participants.

Agropur Inc. USA
Agri-Mark, Inc.
Associated Milk Producers, Inc.
BelGioioso Inc.
Bongards Creameries
Borden Dairy Company
Calhoun Cooperative Creamery
California Dairies, Inc.
Clarco Farmers Cooperative
Cloverland Farms Dairy
Cooperative Milk Producers Association (VA)
Crystal Creamery
Dairy Farmers of America
Dassel Cooperative Dairy Association
Elmdale Creamery
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
Erie Cooperative Association
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
Farmer's Co-op Creamery Co. (MN)
First District Association
Foremost Farms USA
Gilman Cooperative Creamery
Glanbia Foods, Inc.
Grande Cheese Company
Grassland Dairy Products, Inc.
Hilmar Cheese Company
Hoard's Dairyman Farm
HP Hood Booth Brothers
Innovative Food Solutions
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Lanco-Pennland Quality Milk Producers Co-op

Lone Star Milk Producers
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers
Co-op Association
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Midwest Dairymen's Co.
National Farmers Organization
Nelson Creamery Association
Northwest Dairy Association
Osakis Creamery Association
Piedmont Milk Sales
Plainview Milk Products Cooperative
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
Premier Milk, Inc.
Pro-Ag Farmers Cooperative
Queensboro Farm Products, Inc.
Rutter's Dairy inc.
Saputo Cheese USA
Sartori
Sorrento Lactalis, Inc.
South New Berlin Milk Cooperative, Inc.
Springfield Co-op Creamery Association
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc.
Stockton Cheese
Sunrise Ag Cooperative
Swiss Valley Farms Company
United Dairymen of Arizona
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
Valley Creamery Association
Valley Queen Cheese Factory, Inc.
Wells Enterprises, Inc.
White Eagle Cooperative

Did
You
Know?

* FARM Program participants
produce more than **75%** of the U.S. milk supply.

* Over **12,000** on-farm second-party evaluations
have been completed since the program was
implemented in September of 2010.

* **650** evaluators have been
trained since 2010.

www.nationaldairyfarm.com

