



**NMPF Dairy FARM Animal Care Program**

**Focused Animal Welfare Audit**

FSNS Certification & Audit  
San Antonio, TX 78216

Of:

**Prairie's Edge Dairy**  
**5431 E 600 N**  
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Technical Expert Panel:  
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Between Monday, April 15, and Wednesday April 17, 2019, a verification of compliance with the FARM Animal Care Program and Focused Animal Welfare Audit was conducted at Prairie's Edge Dairies 1-5.

Written procedures were available for critical care categories (new-born calf care, non-ambulatory animal care and management, and euthanasia). Training was documented for individuals with responsibility for these critical areas. Interviews with the managing veterinarian, and observations of handling and procedures in the maternity areas, calf area, and milking parlors were consistent with written procedures for care and handling of animals. Personnel observed across the sites were engaged and observant, and would wave or smile and make eye contact when they encountered the auditor.

Under the supervision of the herd veterinarian, approximately 15,000 cows were managed in five herds, where they were milked in rotary parlors. Employee training was managed by the herd veterinarian, who had developed the training program, as well as a comprehensive animal health and management program, both of which were reviewed and updated annually, at a minimum.

The company's training program met or exceeded requirements of the FARM program, including designation of employees who had responsibility for specific areas of animal care and management. Employees spent time shadowing experienced employees in the respective areas they had been hired for, and then watched a series of training videos that covered basic stockmanship principles as well as job-specific procedures. Employees signed an acknowledgement of the company's animal care policy annually, when refresher training was provided. Veterinarians provided on-the-job training frequently throughout the year, and this was documented in the veterinarian's logs. Topics covered included non-ambulatory animal care and movement, euthanasia, calf care techniques, and safety procedures.

Written procedures were available for critical care categories (new-born calf care, non-ambulatory animal care and management, and euthanasia), and these procedures satisfied the expectations of the FARM Animal Care Program, and were consistent with AVMA/AABP guidelines. Training was documented for individuals with responsibility for these critical areas. During direct observations, violations of written company animal handling policy were not identified.



Lactating cows were scored in every pen (housing areas) across both sites for the following outcome-based measures: body condition, locomotion, leg condition, and hygiene. Performance targets for each of these categories were met. Dry cows were also scored for each of these categories, and all performance targets were met. Hospital pens and areas for managing cattle with special needs were observed. Cows in the maternity areas were provided with spacious, comfortable pens for calving, and new-born calf receiving pens were deeply bedded with straw and had fresh water available. Calves were housed in individual hutches where fresh water and starter feed was provided. Hutches provided a soft, dry area for calves to rest, and calves were clean and in good body condition. Non-ambulatory animals were not observed, and records were available for animals that had been treated. Animals in urgent need of medical attention were not identified.

A strong culture of commitment to animal care and welfare was evident in the company's approach to training, their policy of zero tolerance for animal abuse, and was also documented in the outcome-based measures of the herd, which reflected superior management.



## **Riders to Final Report**

### **FSNS Certification & Audit, LLC**

For:

### **National Milk Producers Federation**

#### **Rider 1: Introduction and Scope of Work.**

The information contained in this report, including its observations and conclusions, is based on information that was made available to FSNS Certification & Audit. ("FSNS C&A") during our assessment, within the scope of the services requested by the company, which services were performed within the time and budgetary limitations of the company. Because this report is based on information available at the time of FSNS C&A's evaluation, some of its conclusions or findings could be different if the information on which it is based is determined to be incomplete or inaccurate. Although FSNS C&A has, within these constraints, attempted to identify material animal care concerns, FSNS C&A wishes to emphasize that no guaranty of warranty is stated or implied with respect to the quality of the company's practices or products.

#### **Rider 2: Limitations.**

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