Contents

Introduction

There is a significant body of national and EU legislation enacted relating to animal welfare. Compliance with welfare legislation is an important requirement for the National Beef Assurance Scheme and the Code of Good Farming Practice.

Many retailers and major food service chains will only purchase Irish beef that originates from assured farms. Animal welfare standards are a prominent feature of Irish and European farm assurance schemes.

The welfare of farm animals is an increasingly important issue for the Irish beef industry. Research studies conducted by the Teagasc National Food Centre (NFC) and various other researchers indicate that both domestic and foreign consumers of Irish beef are becoming more conscious of animal welfare issues. The NFC studies suggest that consumers may also view high animal welfare standards as an indicator that food is safe, healthier and of high quality. Thus, perception of animal welfare standards can affect the consumers' image of Irish beef.

Good animal welfare has always being an integral part of the husbandry content of Irish livestock production systems.

Irish beef production systems are grass based and extensive by nature.

Nonetheless, there are aspects of beef cattle production such as the housing of animals during winter, castration, dehorning, transport, handling and slaughter that have the potential to cause stress, pain and injury if not managed correctly.

This booklet briefly summarises key animal welfare standards and best farm assurance practice that producers should be able to demonstrate to other stakeholders in the food chain.

The appendices detail sources of relevant animal welfare legislation.

The Five Freedoms Concept

In essence an animal welfare Code of Practice is the application of sensible and sensitive animal husbandry practices to the livestock present on the farm. Animal welfare is concerned with the well-being of the animal and complements the objectives of beef assurance schemes that demonstrate the production of safe beef to consumers and food chain stakeholders

Welfare codes usually list five basic freedoms that should underpin on farm animal welfare best practice. The five freedoms are listed below and provides an overall concept of animal welfare.

one - freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition

two - freedom from discomfort

three - freedom from pain, injury and disease

four - freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour

five - freedom from fear and distress

Welfare Guidelines

Stockman

Stockmanship is a key factor in animal welfare. The stockman should have training and or the necessary experience in cattle husbandry. Without competent diligent stockmanship animal welfare will be compromised.

A competent stockman should be able to:

- recognise whether or not the animals are in good health (signs of ill health include: loss of appetite, listlessness, cessation of cudding, discharge from eyes or nostrils, dribbling, persistent coughing, lameness, swollen joints, scouring, rapid loss of condition or emaciation, excessive scratching, abnormal skin conditions or other unusual conditions)
- understand the significance of a change in the behaviour of the animals
- know when veterinary treatment is required
- implement a planned herd health programme (e.g. preventative treatments, vaccination programmes if necessary)
- implement appropriate animal feeding and grassland management programmes
- recognise if the general environment (indoors or outdoors) is adequate for the promotion of good health and welfare
- have management skills appropriate to the scale and technical requirements of the production system
- handle animals with care, avoiding undue stress

A good stockman will individually inspect all animals at least once per day. Particular categories of animals will require more frequent inspection e.g. young calves or cows in late pregnancy etc. Formal training and/or experience working under the supervision of a competent stockman is strongly recommended where inexperienced persons are taking over responsibility for animal husbandry on a farm. Common veterinary type activities (e.g. dosing, injecting, castration) should not be attempted without direct appropriate supervision until the stockman is competent to carry out these activities. People already involved in animal management/husbandry should keep themselves updated in technological developments that can prevent or correct welfare problems.

Husbandry Practices and Relevant Records

Husbandry practices should minimise stress to the animal. All farms must have proper animal handling facilities including pens and a crush where an animal can be restrained with minimum risk of injury or stress. Good handling facilities also benefit the safety of the personnel involved in handling the animals. Early and frequent contact with competent persons particularly at an early age greatly reduces the stress to animals subsequently. Cattle are gregarious animals who will socialise with each other, when young calves are individually penned they should be able to see other calves.

Many assurance schemes and regulatory requirements require that key records are maintained on the farm. Some of these records help producers to demonstrate that best practice has been implemented in relation to animal health and welfare standards. Key records include:

- Bovine Herd Register
- Animal Remedies Record
- Animal Feed Records

Some assurance schemes also require producers to maintain a Planned Herd Health Programme Checklist. Some retailer assurance schemes also require producers to document recommended operating procedures in the event of an emergency (fire in a livestock shed, operational guidelines for replacement stockperson in the event that the stockperson is away)

Veterinary Type Activities

Disbudding

Disbudding of calves is carried out to reduce injuries and to comply with the Regulations (Diseases of Animals Act, 1966).

- A cauterisation method (i.e. using a heated disbudding iron at 1-2 weeks of age to remove the horn buds is preferred to the use of caustic potash which can continue to produce pain after the operation is complete.
- It is illegal to disbud a calf over 2 weeks old without using a local anaesthetic.
- Veterinary advice is that all calves should be treated with a local anaesthetic when disbudding. Local anaesthetic may be obtained on prescription from veterinary surgeons.
- The use of electro immobilisation device is not permitted.
- A custom-built calf dehorning crate should be used to minimise stress to the calf and for optimum safety to the operator.

For Farmers participating in the Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme (The Suckler Welfare Scheme):

- All calves born in the herd must be disbudded within three weeks of birth, except where the horn buds do not emerge within this period, or for animals that are naturally polled.
- Date of Disbudding must be recorded in the Animal Events System.

Common veterinary type activities must always be carried out in a manner that minimizes stress. These activities include: disbudding, castration, dosing and injecting.

Castration

Castration procedures must be carried out in compliance with the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act (1965). It i**s illegal to castrate calves over six months** of age without using a local anaesthetic.

It is recommended that:

- male calves intended for castration should be castrated between 2 and 6 months of age.
- the operator should be trained in the burdizzo procedure.

Caesarean Section

Breeding policy should be such that the need for caesarean section at calving time is minimised. When a caesarean section is required to remove the calf from the uterus it should be undertaken by a veterinary surgeon with access to adequate help and proper facilities.

DIY Artificial Insemination

Farmers who wish to undertake DIY artificial insemination should receive adequate training in the AI technique such that internal injuries to the cow are avoided.

Dosing

The operator should have handling facilities that restrain the animal so that the medicine can be administered with minimum stress or risk of injury to the animal. It is recommended that:

- the dosing equipment used is appropriate for the size of animal
- dosing guns should be properly calibrated
- care is taken to avoid injuring the animal's throat
- consider the use of suitable products e.g. "pour on"

Injections

Stockpersons should always adopt recommended best practice when administering injectable medicines. Careless use and administration of injectable materials can lead to carcase damage, compromise animal health and welfare and lead to potential food safety problems. It is recommended that producers:

- Ensure that animals are handled and restrained in a manner that seeks to minimize stress.
- Adhere to manufacturer recommendations on treatment rates and injection procedures.
- Avoid injecting animals in the loin, hindquarter or other high value meat cut areas.
- Maintain strict hygiene standards during injection.
- Use single use (disposable) needles and syringes. In the rare event that a needle breaks when administering an injection, the broken needle is removed in a safe hygienic manner under veterinary supervision if necessary. Failure to remove a broken needle can give rise to animal welfare and potential food safety problems.
- Used needles and syringes should be stored in a secure and clearly labelled container and disposed at a designated hazardous waste facility

Parasite Control

Parasite control is an important consideration in the welfare of cattle and appropriate action should be undertaken to control and/or prevent parasitic infection. External parasites or ringworm resulting in skin irritation cause the animal to scratch and be uncomfortable. Internal parasites including stomach worm, hoose, liver fluke and coccidia unless appropriately treated will result in morbidity and even mortality.
It is recommended that:

- husbandry and grassland management practices should aim to minimise parasite problems where practical (e.g moving calves to "clean" pasture in midsummer to reduce exposure to stomach worms)
- preventative parasite control programmes (e.g lice treatment in housed stock, anthelminthic treatments for young calves at pasture) are implemented to prevent undue parasite burdens in susceptible stock

Hoof Treatment

Correct hoof-trimming is of primary importance in the treatment of claw lesions, occasionally supplemented with antibiotic therapy (following veterinary surgeon advice) may be required. Use of footbaths is necessary in the control of the interdigital conditions, heel horn erosion and Mortellaro.

Sick or Injured Animals

- Isolation facilities should be provided when necessary for the separation and care of sick or injured animals.
- Special consideration on care should be given to casualty animals and every effort must be made to prevent them from suffering including swift veterinary euthanasia.

Facility Type Activity

Water

Water availability and quality is important. Avoid contaminated dirty water that may restrict the animals' water intake. **It is recommended that**:

- cattle have unrestricted access to a clean fresh water supply
- water troughs or drinkers should be regularly cleaned and inspected daily to ensure that they are fully functional
- water troughs should, in as far as is practical, should be protected or raised high enough (e.g. 750mm high) to prevent fouling by badgers or other wild animals
- water supply is adequate to meet peak animal requirements i.e. will drinkers fill sufficiently quickly to avoid any animals in a group remaining thirsty
- the water supply should be designed so as to minimise the risk of the water freezing in the supply line and thereby cutting off the supply to the cattle

Fencing

- Pastures should be properly fenced. Proper boundary fencing prevents contact with other groups of animals from neighbouring herds and reduces the risk of the transfer of infectious disease to the herd, prevents intrusions of neighbouring animals, which can cause distress and unease, the consequence of which could be aggressive behaviour and/or injury to animals and cattle in the herd.
- Fences should not contain any hazards which could cause injury to the cattle.
- Electric fencing should always be operated as per manufacturer instructions.

Shelter

- The provision of shelter for older animals from a production perspective is not critical in our temperate climate, as the adult ruminant produces excess body heat which must be dissipated.
- Protection from wind and rain should be provided where possible particularly for young stock outdoors for the first time.
- Outwintered cattle should have access to a well drained lying area.

Housing

Cattle are normally outdoor at pasture for a 7 to 8 month period each year.

- Accommodating cattle indoors avoids undue damage to pastures in wet conditions particularly in the months of December or January when grass is in short supply. Housing must be designed to ensure effective effluent and slurry control.
- Housing of cattle in Ireland was designed to provide shelter from winter climatic conditions and facilitates the provision of an adequate supply of feed and water.
- All houses should be adequately ventilated allowing for an adequate supply of fresh air thus, allowing heat dissipation and preventing the build up of gases such as carbon dioxide, ammonia or slurry gases.
- Surfaces on which cattle walk should be designed, constructed and maintained so as to avoid discomfort, stress or injury to the animals and not so uneven that bruising of the feet occurs or be so smooth that slipping occurs.
- The accommodation should contain sufficient source of natural or artificial light so as not to cause discomfort to the animals. Artificial light should also be provided to enable adequate inspection of the animals in particular for cows in late pregnancy and young calves.
- Each building accommodation should have a suitable smoke or fire alarm system installed in order to detect fire or smoke at an early stage.
- Uneaten or spoilt food should be removed to avoid attracting rodents or other undesirable wildlife.

Spatial Allowance

Slatted floor housing is an appropriate housing system for the Irish cattle population. Currently, there are more than 60,000 slatted floor units in operation in Ireland.

- Housed stock should have freedom of movement and ample floor space for lying, grooming and normal animal to animal interactions.
- Over a 4 to 5 month winter period a well designed, properly constructed and fully maintained slatted floor unit for cattle provides the necessary comfort with minimum distress or injury to the cattle.
- Escapes/creeps should be provided, if young calves are housed with adults, i.e. suckler cows and calves

Feed Barrier

- There should be sufficient space for all animals to feed comfortably at the same time.
- The feed trough should be sufficiently large such that animals have adequate access to food at all times.
- Avoid any sharp edges or projections on the feed barrier or on the pen divisions which could cause injury to cattle.
- The feed should be kept within reach of the animal.

Calving

- Body condition score within the range 2.5 to 3.0 for the cow at calving is desirable.
- Consider choice of bull for ease of calving. This is especially important for heifers.
- Provide safe calving facilities so as to have minimum stress and risk of injury.
- For indoor calving a bedded pen should be available.
- In the case of abnormal or difficult calvings prompt intervention should take place to avoid unnecessary distress or even death to the cow and/or the calf.
- Assist the calf in obtaining adequate amounts of colostrum within 2 to 4 hours of birth. For calves which will remain with the dam, provide conditions which will promote bonding between cow and calf.
- Calves under seven days of age, or with a wet navel should not be offered for sale.

Feeding and Management Type Activities

Weaning of Suckled Calves

Weaning of the suckled calf from its dam can be particularly stressful for the calf, which in addition to removal from the dam may be compounded by several other stressors, e.g. change of diet (grass and milk to conserved feed with or without concentrates), change of environment (outdoors to indoors), transport/marketing, de-horning and castration.

- Calves that are weaned abruptly in the autumn, housed and introduced to silage and concentrates, have a low feed intake initially. All calves should be provided with a concentrate creep feed prior to weaning. While suckled calves may be slow to adapt to creep feeding the stress that normally occurs following weaning will be reduced considerably if calves are consuming 1 kg of creep feed daily prior to weaning.
- The preferred option is to keep the herd in a properly fenced field with a good grass supply or with silage (or hay) fed and the cows removed gradually (up to one-quarter on any one occasion) to a location away from the calves. As the calves remain in the same herd, with adequate feed supplies, the upset caused is reduced considerably. During this period the concentrate creep can be increased gradually to about 1 kg per calf daily.
- Where calves are going to be castrated, they must be castrated at least four weeks prior to weaning date, or at least two weeks after the calf has been weaned. It is illegal to castrate an animal over six months of age without veterinary involvement.

The Suckler Welfare Scheme was introduced in 2008 in order to improve the standards of animal welfare and the breeding quality of animals in suckler herds. Suckler farming in Ireland is largely grass based and extensive by nature. Good animal welfare has been an integral part of the suckler industry.

For details of the Suckler Welfare Scheme see:
http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/schemes/SucklerScheme/AWRBSTermsandConditions191207.pdf

Weaning Requirements under the Suckler Welfare Scheme

- The minimum age that a calf can be weaned as part of the Suckler Welfare Scheme is eight weeks of age.

Appropriate weaning procedures
This Measure is comprised of three different actions:

Meal (concentrates) feeding

- Concentrates must be introduced to calves a minimum of 4 weeks before weaning. The meal shall be of the appropriate quality and standard as required for calves at weaning time. Meal must be fed in a feeder appropriate for calves and allow sufficient room for calves to feed.
- The daily allowance per animal must be increased over this period until all animals are eating, on average, 1.0 kg/head/day at weaning.
- Meal feeding must be continued through the weaning process for a minimum period of 2 weeks after weaning.

Graduated weaning

- Abrupt weaning of all animals at the one time is not permitted.
- For herds with more than 10 suckler cows, a gradual weaning procedure must be followed when weaning, with the following being the procedures permitted;

At pasture: The herd of cows and calves are retained in a properly fenced field with a good grass supply (or with supplementary forage provided) and with a concentrate creep for the calves. Calves must be weaned in at least two separate groups with each group being removed at a minimum interval of five days. The first group of cows must be removed allowing their calves to stay with the remaining herd. Another method is to separate cows and calves by means of a well-powered electric fence (up to three strands may be needed). After a few days the cows can be taken away to another area. Again the cows must be weaned in at least two separate groups.

Indoors: Calves are housed in a pen adjacent to the cows with access to these cows. Calves must be weaned in at least two separate groups with each group being removed at a minimum interval of five days. The first group of cows must be removed allowing their calves to stay with the remaining herd. Cows for culling and those in poor body condition (e.g. young cows or very old cows) should be weaned first and late calving cows in good body condition weaned towards the end.

- Date of weaning must be recorded in the Animal Events System.
- Sales procedure: All animals must have completed weaning a minimum of 2 weeks before they can be sold, or transferred from the herd.
- Following weaning it is essential that factors resulting in stress are kept to a minimum. Practices such as dehorning or castration should not be carried out in the four week period before or after weaning. Similarly, abrupt weaning, immediate sale and transport will lead to undue stress which could predispose to respiratory problems.

Movement of Animals

- At all times animals should be treated and handled in such a manner as to avoid injury and stress. The use of goads or electrical prodders is undesirable.
- The movement of animals from one paddock to another or to penning facilities should be done without recourse to excessive force, i.e. beating the animals or having an untrained aggressive dog which causes the animals to panic should be avoided.
- At the time of movement check for any abnormal behaviour, lameness, reluctance to move or isolation from the remainder of herd.
- Have adequate help available to move the animals.
- Cattle need to see where they are expected to move to, i.e. if going indoors or into a truck make sure that lights are on and corridors are clear.
- Cattle are fretful of new events and need to be gently handled to allow them to adjust to a new situation.

Pasture Management

The pasture allocation for the animal should be sufficient to meet the animal's feed requirements.

- A supply of clean fresh water should be available at all times.
- The pasture area should be free of hazards which may cause injury to the animal.
- An adequate supply of good quality pasture for suckler cows in spring and early summer ensures rapid weight recovery, good milk production and good reproductive activity in the cows. Paddock grazing or the use of a buffer area allows better budgeting of the grass available, thereby allowing matching the demand of the animals with grass supply. A flexible approach to grassland management is essential to control within and between year variation in grass growth.
- Overstocking of a spring calving suckler herd in the autumn has an undesirable effect on calf and cow performance. The calf will be unable to meet its requirements for good growth and the cow will not have gained adequate body reserves at pasture. These body reserves can be utilised effectively in the winter period.
- Undue delays in weaning on scarce autumn pasture can result in rapid loss of body condition in suckler cows and also greatly increase the risk of grass tetany

Indoor Feed

The indoor feed supply should be such that the animal can readily satisfy its daily appetite.

- Where concentrates and roots are part of the diet, these should be introduced gradually and sufficient roughage should also be available.
- The feeds offered indoors should form a balanced diet with respect to protein, energy, vitamins and minerals. Deficiencies of any of the above may result in impaired performance and an increase in susceptibility to disease.

Mineral Supplementation

- It is good policy to provide balanced mineral-vitamin mixtures to cows pre- and post-calving during the winter months. Magnesium supplements may be needed during the spring and autumn in recently calved cows, and at weaning time.
- On many farms, where there is a history of mineral deficiency, calves and yearling cattle may need supplementary minerals for optimal health.

Behaviour Problems

- At housing, cattle of broadly similar age and size should be penned together where possible. This social group should be allowed to develop and reallocation of animals to other pens should be minimised. Once young bulls in feedlots have settled in social groups they should not be reallocated within these groups Sick animals should be segregated from other animals if the sick animal is being compromised by other animals.
- During the daily inspection(s) of animals, check for any abnormal behaviour. At meal feeding check that all animals have equal desire to feed. Failure by an animal to go to the feed trough may be an early indication of illness or timidness.
- Ideally, do not mix heifers and steers in the same pen or adjoining pens if possible. A heifer on heat attracts the attention of the steers and the mounting behaviour can result in undue stress to the female and the risk of injury to the animals.

General Management Consideration

- Facilities must be provided on farms to allow the handling and loading of animals with the minimum of stress and risk of injury to livestock and staff.
- Paints, preservatives, disinfectants and other chemical compounds must not be stored in the feed stores or near to animals.
- All electrical installations must be protected and inaccessible to stock.
- Between batches of animals, buildings should be adequately cleaned such that organic material is removed from surfaces which would come in contact with the next batch of cattle. Where bedding is provided, it must be regularly changed and/or topped up.
- All animal buildings should have adequate lighting either fixed or portable to ensure that animals can be thoroughly inspected at any time.
- All stockpersons should consider having an emergency plan to cope with disasters such as flooding or fire or an outlined plan of the feeding/management programme in the event of needing emergency staff to care for the animals at short notice.

Appendix 1:

Best Husbandry Practices - Publication List

- Teagasc Workbooks
- Calf Rearing
- Breeding and Calving Cows
- Introduction to Farm Animals
- Suckler Calf Production
- Animal Health and Welfare
- Building Construction
- Maintenance Around the Farm
- Production and Marketing of Beef Cattle
- Grass Production
- Grass Conservation

Appendix 2:
Welfare of the Artificially Reared Calf

The following summarises the main aspects of the European Communities (Welfare of Calves) Regulation 1995 and 1998 amendments.

1. Materials used for the construction of calf accommodation and equipment with which calves may come into contact shall not be harmful to the calves. Those parts of the accommodation with which the animals come into contact shall be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, using an approved disinfectant to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease-carrying organisms.

2. Electrical circuits and equipment shall be installed in accordance with the terms of the National Rules for Electrical Installation ET 101/1991 (2nd Edition) so as to avoid electrical shocks.

3. Insulation, heating and ventilation of the building shall ensure that the air circulation, dust level, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations are kept within limits which are not harmful to the calves.

4. All automated or mechanical equipment essential for the calves' health and well-being shall be inspected at least once daily. Where defects are discovered, these shall be rectified immediately or, if this is impossible, appropriate steps shall be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the calves until the defect has been rectified, notably by using alternative methods of feeding and maintaining a satisfactory environment.

   Where an artificial ventilation system is used, provision shall be made for an appropriate back-up system to guarantee sufficient air renewal to preserve the health and well-being of the calves in the event of the failure of the system, and an alarm system, independent of the mains electricity supply, shall be provided to warn the owner or person in charge of the breakdown or in the event of fire. The alarm system shall be tested at a minimum once a month and maintained in proper working order.

5. Calves shall not be kept permanently in darkness. To meet their behavioural and physiological needs, the accommodation shall be well lit, by natural or artificial light, for at least 8 hours a day. Every source of artificial light shall be mounted so as not to cause discomfort to the calves. An adequate source of light shall be available to enable the calves to be properly inspected at any time.

6. All housed calves shall be inspected by the owner or the person responsible for the animals at least twice daily and calves kept outside shall be inspected at least once daily. Any calf which appears to be ill or injured shall be treated appropriately without delay and veterinary advice shall be obtained as soon as possible for any calf which is not responding to the stock-keepers care. Where necessary, sick or injured calves shall be isolated in adequate accommodation with dry, comfortable bedding.

7. The accommodation for calves must be constructed in such a way as to allow each calf to lie down, rest, stand up and groom itself without difficulty. No calf shall be confined in an individual pen after the age of eight weeks, unless a veterinarian certifies that its health or behaviour requires it to be isolated in order to receive treatment. The width of any individual pen for a calf shall be at least equal to the height of the calf at the withers, measured in the standing position, and the length shall be at least equal to the body length of the calf, measured from the tip of the nose to the caudal edge of the pin bone, multiplied by 1,1. For calves kept in groups, the unrestricted space allowance available to each calf shall be at least equal to 1.5 m^2 for each calf with a liveweight of less than 150 kg, at least equal to 1.7 m^2 for each calf with a liveweight of 150 kg or more but less than 220 kg and at least equal to 1.8 m^2 for each calf with a liveweight of 220 kg or more.

8. Calves shall not be tethered, with the exception of group-housed calves which may be tethered for periods of not more than one hour at the time of feeding milk or milk substitute. Where tethers are used, they shall not cause injury to the calves and shall be inspected regularly and adjusted as necessary to ensure a comfortable fit. Each tether shall be designed to avoid the risk of strangulation or injury and to allow the calf to move in accordance with point 7.

9. Housing, pens, equipment and utensils for calves shall be properly cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease carrying organisms. Faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt food shall be removed and bedding changed as often as necessary to minimise smell and avoid attracting flies or rodents.

10. Floors shall be smooth but not slippery so as to prevent injury to the calves and so designed as not to cause injury or suffering to calves standing or lying on them. Floors shall be suitable for the size and weight of the calves and form a rigid, even and stable surface. The lying area shall be comfortable, clean, and adequately drained and shall not adversely affect the calves. Appropriate bedding shall be provided for all calves less than two weeks old.

11. All calves shall be provided with an appropriate diet adapted to their age, weight and behavioural and physiological needs, to promote good health and welfare. To this end, their food shall contain sufficient iron to ensure an average blood haemoglobin level of at least 4.5 mmol/litre and a minimum daily ration of fibrous food shall be provided for each calf over two weeks old, the quantity being raised from 50 g to 250 g per day for calves from 8 to 20 weeks old. Calves shall not be muzzled.

12. All calves shall be fed at least twice a day. Where calves are housed in groups and not fed ad libitum or by automatic feeding system, each calf shall have access to the food at the same time as the others in the group.

13. All calves over two weeks of age shall have access to a sufficient quantity of fresh water or be able to satisfy their fluid intake needs by drinking other liquids. However, in hot weather conditions or for calves which are ill, fresh drinking water shall be available at all times.

14. Feeding and watering equipment for calves shall be designed, constructed, placed and maintained so that contamination of feed and water is minimised. Equipment and fittings shall be designed and maintained in such a way as to minimise, as far as is practicable, the exposure of the calves to spills of feed or water, or to faeces and urine.

15. Calves shall be cared for by a sufficient number of suitably experienced personnel.

Appendix 3:
Transport of Cattle

Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations

On 5 January 2007 new EU rules (Council Regulation (EC) 1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations) on the protection of animals during transport came into operation. The Council Regulation has been given legal effect in Ireland by the European Communities (Animal Transport and Control Post) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 675 of 2006). The Council Regulation is aimed at improving the welfare of animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, dogs and poultry, during transport throughout the European Union.

Guidelines

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animal_health/transport_rules/Guidelines_vehiclestransportingcattlesheepgoatspigsonlongjourneys_(International_Transp).pdf

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animal_health/transport_rules/EquineTransportGuidelinesapr08.pdf

Information leaflets

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animal_health/transport_rules/InfoLeafletonTransportofLivestock.pdf

Best Practice for the Welfare of Animals during Transport
http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animal_health/transport_rules/BestPractice_WelfareAnimalsduringTransport.pdf

Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals during Transport
http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animal_health/transport_rules/Guidelines_WelfareOfAnimalsDuringTransport.pdf

Appendix 4:
List of Legislation Associated with Animal Welfare

Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 and Regulations made under the Act.

European Communities (Registration of Bovine Animals) Regulations, 1996.

Provisions for disposal of fallen animal.

Diseases of animals (Protection of Animals During Transport) Orders, 1995 and 1997.

Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes Act, 1984.

Welfare of Calves Regulations, 1995 and 1998.

Animal Remedies Act, 1993.

Animal Remedies Regulations, 1996.

Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations

On 5 January 2007 new EU rules (Council Regulation (EC) 1 of 2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations) on the protection of animals during transport came into operation. The Council Regulation has been given legal effect in Ireland by the European Communities (Animal Transport and Control Post) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 675 of 2006). The Council Regulation is aimed at improving the welfare of animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, dogs and poultry, during transport throughout the European Union.

Animal Welfare, Recording and Breeding Scheme for Suckler Herds 2008-2012
http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/schemes/SucklerScheme/AWRBSTermsandConditions191207.pdf

Appendix 5:
SI 14 of 2008

SI 14 of 2008 - Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2008 came into effect on 1st February 2008.

These Regulations give effect to a series of European Directives on welfare concerning the protection of farmed animals including laying hens, calves and pigs and animals being slaughtered. The Regulations oblige inter alia that persons take all necessary steps to ensure the welfare of an animal in their possession and sets out conditions under which an animal must be kept.

Please note that the following SIs are now revoked

(a) European Communities (Protection of animals at time of slaughter) Regulations 1995 (S.I. No. 114 of 1995),
(b) European Communities (Welfare of laying hens) Regulations 2002 (S.I. No. 98 of 2002),
(c) European Communities (Welfare of calves and pigs) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 48 of 2003),
d) European Communities (Protection of animals at time of slaughter) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. no. 192 of 2004),
(e) European Communities (Protection of an animal kept for farming purposes) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 705 of 2006)
(f) European Communities (Welfare of laying hens) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 105 of 2007), and
(g) European Communities (Welfare of calves and pigs) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 307 of 2007).

Appendix 6:
Animal Health and Welfare Bill

In accordance with commitments in the Programme for Government, drafting of a modern and comprehensive Animal Health and Welfare Bill that will be appropriate to the 21st century is being undertaken. It is envisaged that the Bill will consolidate a wide range of existing legislation as well as replacing and repealing a long list of outdated legislation. In some cases, remaining sections of Acts will be repealed while in others, entire Acts will be repealed. The Bill will also update much of the existing legislation and its consolidation into a single statute will provide considerably more convenience to all those who deal with or have an interest in animal health and welfare matters.

The Bill will also provide any necessary statutory basis to give effect to the commitment in the Programme for Government that the responsibility for the welfare of all animals (including non-farm animals) will be consolidated in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food. In this regard, it should be noted that, while welfare responsibilities for all animals, and not just for farm animals as at present, will be assigned to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, control and regulatory responsibilities for non-farm animals - for example in relation to horses and dogs or experimental animals, which are currently exercised by the Departments of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Health and Children - will remain the responsibility of the other relevant Departments.

The current draft of the Bill runs to 11 Parts with more than 70 sections. The broad areas covered in the Bill include sections dealing with

- the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases;
- animal welfare;
- animal health and welfare levies;
- destruction and disposal of animals and products;
- compensation and insurance arrangements;
- assurance schemes;
- regulatory making provisions and authorised officers;
- functions of local authorities;
- provisions relating to offences and penalties and
- miscellaneous provisions.

A significant part of the legislation will be in the form of general principles with the detailed operational aspects to be provided for by way of statutory instruments (SIs). In addition, it is proposed that the Act will come into operation on a phased basis following its enactment and that various sections or parts will be commenced progressively by Order of the Minister. This is a standard legislative provision.