

Self-Assessment Tool: Preparing For An On-Farm Validation



*This is a self-assessment tool. The following checklist can be used to help prepare for a validation. It **does not** need to be completed and available for the validator.*

DAIRY FACILITIES AND PESTICIDES

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 1		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
Regulatory Requirements			
FS1	Licensed dairy farm: Is your farm currently licensed to ship milk by the provincial regulatory authority?	✓	
Pesticides and Chemicals			
FS2	Do you only use pesticides registered for use in the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk house? • Barn? • Fields? 		✓
FS3	Do you use registered pesticides according to the label and follow pre-harvest intervals to harvest or grazing?		✓
FS4	Do you store pesticides, treated seed and fertilizer in a safe and secure manner and according to provincial dairy regulations? (concerned with both cow & milk exposure)		✓
FS5	Is any hose connected to the milk house or barn water system used for filling pesticide sprayers or containers? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, do you have an anti-backflow device?		✓
Cattle Facilities			
AC1	Do you ensure that housing for unweaned calves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allows calves to easily stand up, lie down, turn around (180°) and adopt normal resting postures? b) Provides bedding? c) Permits calves to have visual contact with other cattle? If group housing, provides a bedded area large enough to allow all calves to rest comfortably at the same time?		✓
AC2	Do you ensure that housing for weaned heifers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Allows heifers to easily stand up, lie down, and adopt normal resting postures? e) Provides bedding? f) Permits heifers to have visual contact with other cattle? If group housing, provides a bedded area large enough to allow all heifers to rest comfortably at the same time?		✓

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 1		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
AC3	Do you ensure that bull housing (if applicable to your farm): a) Permits bulls to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and mount safely? b) Provides bedding?		✓
AC18	Do you ensure that dry cattle housing: a) Allows cattle to easily stand up, lie down, and adopt normal resting postures? b) Provides bedding?		✓
AC4	Do you ensure that dry cattle and lactating cattle housing provides adequate stocking densities? (Free-stall: does not exceed 1.2 mature cows per usable stall. Bedded-pack pens: provide 11 m2 (120 ft2) per mature Holstein cow.)		✓
AC19 (FS)	Do your animal husbandry, manure and waste management systems ensure the cleanliness of lactating cattle's udders, legs and flanks?		✓
AC5	Do you ensure that the calving area (prior to and after delivery of calf) is kept clean and dry?		✓
AC6	Do you have a designated area for the segregation and treatment of sick and injured cattle?		✓
AC7	Tie-Stall Barns: Are electric trainers: a) Designed to not exceed 2500 volts? b) Equipped with a height adjustment? c) Located over the chine when the animal is standing with her hind feet near the gutter curb?		✓
FS7	Do you restrict cattle access to manure storage or manure run-off?		✓
FS8	At the time of milk pick-up, is the lane-way and loading area free of manure contamination?		✓
FS9	If you use sewage sludge, do you have the necessary approval/permits required to use sewage sludge on your farm?		✓

FEED AND WATER

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 2		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
FS10	Do you use medicated feed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes: have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for feeding medicated feeds? (SOP 7)		✓
FS11	Do you receive medicated feeds with milk or meat withdrawals or that are prohibited for use in lactating cattle? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, are feed bins and storage containers clearly marked for those who deliver the feed and for those that use it?		✓
FS12	Do you have pet foods on your farm or feeds that are labeled not for use for ruminants (i.e. clearly labeled with the warning: Feeding this product to cattle, sheep, deer or other ruminants is illegal and is subject to fines or other punishment under the Health of Animals Act)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, do you store and handle those feeds to avoid feeding those feeds to cattle or cross-contaminating feeds for cattle?	✓	
AC8	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for colostrum management and calf feeding? (SOP 8)		✓
AC9	Do heifers receive feed that is adequate for maintaining health, growth and vigour?		✓
AC10	Do all cattle have access to a clean water source?		✓

TRACEABILITY

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 3		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
LT1	Do you have a Premises Identification Number?	✓	
LT2	Are your dairy cattle double-tagged with approved dairy tags (NLID/ATQ)? (Record 5) Calves must be tagged within 7 days of birth or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first? Any calves born on farm and destined for the beef industry may be identified with a single RFID ear tag (approved beef tag)—except for provinces that require double-tagging.	✓	

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 3		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
FS13	Do you identify all cattle to allow for the maintenance of treatment records (e.g. barn tags, neck chains, etc.), if you do not use approved dairy tags (NLID/ATQ) for management purposes?	✓	
LT3	Do you maintain current birth records on farm (birth date, animal ID number and PID where the animal is born)? (Record 1) In the 7 days following the animal's birth or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first.	✓	
LT4	Are you reporting animal birth information to the national traceability database within 45 days or before the animal leaves the farm of origin, whichever occurs first?	✓	
LT5	For animal move-in (reception of an animal at the farm, including import): Do you maintain current animal move-in records on farm (animal ID number, date of movement, PID of arrival and departure farms, licence plate number) (Record 2) Information must be recorded within 7 days of the event or before the animal leaves the farm, whichever occurs first.	✓	
LT6	For animal move-in (reception of an animal at the farm, including import): Are you reporting the information to the national traceability database? * Information must be reported within 7 days of the event or before the animal leaves the farm, whichever occurs first.	✓	
LT7	For tag retirement (on-farm animal disposal or export): Do you maintain current tag retirement records on-farm? (Record 3 and Record 4) * Information must be recorded within 7 days of the event.	✓	
LT8	For tag retirement (on-farm animal disposal or export): Are you reporting the event information to the national traceability database? * Information must be reported within 7 days of the event.	✓	

BIOSECURITY AND CATTLE HEALTH

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 4		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
Cattle Health Management			
FS14	Do you have a Cattle Health Declaration signed by your veterinarian annually and the most recent version kept on file? (Record 6)	✓	

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 4		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
AC11	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for animal health practices (e.g. disbudding/dehorning, castration, supernumerary teat removal) and branding that includes appropriate pain control where required? (SOP 9)	✓	
AC12	Do you provide prompt medical care for cattle that are sick, injured, too thin (BCS ≤ 2), severely lame, in pain or suffering?		✓
AC20	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for down cattle? (SOP 10)	✓	
AC13	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for euthanasia? (SOP 11)	✓	
AC14	Do you evaluate the milking herd for Body Condition Score; hock, knee and neck injuries; and lameness, and: a) Keep records of the results? (Record 7) b) Take corrective action if the herd scores are in the yellow or red zones?	✓	
AC15	Do your cattle have full tails? (Record 18)	✓	
BIO1	In the past two years, have you completed the biosecurity risk assessment with your veterinarian to identify and address biosecurity risks on your farm? (Record 6b)	✓	
BIO2	Do you record disease events for, at minimum, cows with these signs (<i>abortion, lameness, mastitis, diarrhea, pneumonia, death</i>) and calves with these signs (<i>diarrhea, pneumonia, death</i>)? (Record 10)		✓
BIO3	Have you established and implemented an SOP, in consultation with your veterinarian, for vaccinating against specific diseases of concern? (SOP 12)	✓	
Cattle Additions and Movement			
BIO4	Have you established and implemented an SOP, in consultation with your veterinarian, to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases when bringing new cattle into your facilities from other herds? (SOP 13)	✓	
BIO5	Have you established and implemented an SOP, in consultation with your veterinarian, to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by cattle returning to your facilities from other herds, cattle shows, etc.? (SOP 14)	✓	
Personnel, Visitors, Vehicles and Equipment			
BIO6	Have you established and implemented an SOP, in consultation with your veterinarian, to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by family, employees, farm visitors and service providers? (SOP 15)	✓	
BIO7	Do you have signage posted on the main access point, which is visible from the main parking area?	✓	

MEDICINES AND CHEMICALS USED ON LIVESTOCK

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 5		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
FS15	Do you maintain a list of all medicines and chemicals that you use on livestock? (Record 9)	✓	
FS16	Do you store and handle livestock medicines and chemicals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Including syringes and needles) in a clean and sanitary manner, in a dedicated place, according to label directions? • In a manner that will not contaminate: milk? Meat? Feeds? • For non-lactating and lactating dairy cattle, and products not intended for dairy cattle in separate areas or cupboards? 	✓	
FS17	Do you use only livestock medicines (including medicated foot-baths): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved in Canada for use in dairy cattle? • According to the label? • According to written veterinary directions, which must be available for every treatment administered not according to the label and for every veterinary drug used that is not approved for use in Canada? (Record 8) 	✓	
FS18	Do you check for and record the identity of any animal and treatment site whose treatment resulted in an irretrievable broken needle? (Record 11)	✓	
FS19	Do you mark all treated cattle in the milking herd that have milk withdrawals (e.g. leg bands)? Specify type:	✓	
FS20	Do you maintain a permanent written record of all medicines and chemicals used on livestock that have a milk or meat withdrawal? (Record 10)	✓	
FS21	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for treating cattle? (SOP 5)	✓	

MILKING MANAGEMENT

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 6		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
Milking Management			
FS22	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for pre-milking? (SOP 1)		✓
FS23	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for milking? (SOP 2)		✓
FS24	Do you ensure that all teats are thoroughly cleaned, sanitized and dried (e.g. manure and teat dips removed) before milking, using approved products?		✓

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 6		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
FS25	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure to minimize the risk of shipping abnormal milk? (SOP 3)		✓
Milking Treated Animals			
FS26	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure to minimize the risk of shipping milk from treated cattle? (SOP 3)	✓	
FS27	Do you test milk from new animals for inhibitors before shipping their milk, not ship the milk unless the results are negative and record the results? (Record 10) OR do you have a letter of guarantee from the previous owner? (Record 11b)	✓	

COOLING AND STORAGE OF MILK

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 7		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
FS28	Is the bulk tank temperature recorded and checked after every milking for each bulk tank? (Record 12)	✓	

FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT SANITATION

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 8		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
Equipment Sanitation			
FS29	Do you use approved cleaning products according to the accessible milk house cleaning and sanitizing chart? (Record 14)	✓	
FS30	Do you regularly inspect and record the cleanliness of milking equipment for each washing system, including checking and recording the temperature of the hot water from the tap or wash water, at least monthly? (Record 13)	✓	
FS31	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for post-milking system cleaning? (SOP 4)	✓	
FS32	Do you have each wash system evaluated annually by an industry professional and have the deficiencies been corrected? (Record 14b)	✓	
Milk House			

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 8		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
FS33	Is the milk house used exclusively for cooling and storing milk and for cleaning, sanitizing, and storing materials and equipment used in the production and handling of milk?	✓	
FS34	Are cleaning chemicals stored in a location and manner that will not contaminate milk?	✓	
FS35	Are the milk house and external surfaces of the milking and milk storage equipment kept clean?	✓	
FS36	Do you have a functioning safety switch or fail-safe system in place to avoid accidental entry of wash water into the tank?	✓	
FS37	Have you removed all mercury thermometers and vacuum columns from the milk house?	✓	
FS38	Do all lights near the bulk tank opening have a protective covering or do the bulbs have a protective safety coating?	✓	
Use of Water for Cleaning Milk Contact Surfaces			
FS39	Do you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually test the water used for milking equipment sanitation for the microbiological parameters • determined by the provincial authority? • Ensure the water meets the microbiological parameters? • Keep or record the water test results? (Record 15) 	✓	

HANDLING AND SHIPPING ANIMALS

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 9		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
AC16	Do you handle cattle without the use of electric cattle prods whenever possible?		✓
FS40 (AC)	Have you established and implemented a Standard Operating Procedure for shipping cattle? (SOP 6)	✓	

ENVIRONMENT

* the Environment Pillar is mandatory as of September 1, 2021

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 10		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
EN1	Do you have a valid provincial (individual) environmental farm plan (EFP to identify and address environmental risks on your farm?*	✓	
EN2	Have you completed the questionnaire on soil health, greenhouse gases, biodiversity, silage seepage and plastic waste?	✓	
EN3	Is your milking centre wastewater managed with proper storage or a regulatory approved treatment system?		✓
EN4	Is your manure storage adequate to avoid contamination of surface and ground water and to avoid spreading manure on frozen, snow-covered or saturated ground?		✓
EN5	Do you manage nutrients on your farm to make optimal use of manure and/or fertilizer on land?		✓

STAFF TRAINING & COMMUNICATION

Farmer Requirements Reference Manual, Chapter 11		Validation Info	
		Major / Minor	Demerits
FS41 (AC, LT, BIO, EN)	Do you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly train staff to implement your proAction program? • Train new staff to implement your proAction program? • Ensure staff have access to Standard Operating Procedures, corrective action plans and records that you have developed and maintained? 		✓
AC17	Do you train all animal handlers, and are they familiar with cattle behaviour and quiet handling techniques?		✓
FS42	Do you have a written corrective action plan on how to communicate and address: (Record 16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect administration of medications or other chemicals to an animal (BMP)? • Entry of milk from a treated animal into the bulk milk tank (CCP)? • Improperly cooled or stored milk (CCP)? • Dirty milk contact surfaces (BMP)? • Improper water temperature (BMP)? • Milking equipment water contaminated with bacteria (BMP)? • Sale of a treated animal or an animal with a broken needle and the next buyer was not informed (CCP)? 	✓	
FS43	Do you keep a record of any problems that have occurred with and the corrective actions taken regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any treatments administered to animals (Record 17)? • Inhibitor residues in milk (Record 17)? • Cooling and storage of milk (Record 12 or 17)? • Equipment sanitation and hot water/wash water temperature (Record 13 or 17)? • Water quality (Record 15 or 17)? • Shipping animals (Record 17)? 	✓	