

Quick Reference for Required Elements in Food Safety and Animal Care SOPs

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All Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must contain enough information for staff, a relief milker or an experienced dairy person to carry out the procedure.

References refer to the proAction Reference Manual, which includes a checklist of recommended practices in addition to the required elements.

SOP 8: SOP for Colostrum Management and Calf Feeding (Chapter 2, Section 2.2)

Purpose: contains enough information to ensure someone feeding calves would feed them enough to maintain their health, growth and vigour.

Required Elements:

- Feed newborn calves at least four litres of good quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth, with the first meal occurring as soon as possible, and no more than six hours after birth.
- Feed calves a volume and quality of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth and vigour.
- Increase volume of milk fed during cold stress (<10°C) by about 25% (e.g. 8L increases to 10L per day).

SOP 9: SOP for Animal Health Practices (e.g. Disbudding / Dehorning, Castration, Supernumerary Teat Removals) **and Branding** (Chapter 4, Section 4.1)

Purpose: contains enough information to ensure staff can perform the procedures while minimizing animal discomfort.

Required Elements:

- Disbudding / dehorning:
 - o Properly and safely restrain the calf.
 - o Before disbudding / dehorning administer pain control [state what you use (e.g. a combination of sedatives, local anesthetics and analgesics)].
 - o Barnes type dehorning: control bleeding.
- Castration: administer pain control [state what you use (e.g. an anti-inflammatory and/or analgesic)] when castrating calves.
- Supernumerary Teat Removal: remove teat with surgical scissors or a scalpel blade.

Recommendation: conduct teat removals concurrently with dis-budding / de-horning.

- Branding: administer pain control (e.g. anesthetics, sedatives and analgesics).

SOP 11: SOP for Euthanasia (Chapter 4, Section 4.1)

Purpose: contains enough information to ensure staff can act promptly and ensure that cattle are euthanized by qualified persons in a manner that is quick and causes the least possible pain and distress.

Required Elements:

- Promptly euthanize cattle with untreatable conditions, not responding to treatment, or not fit for transport.
- Confirm death.
- Do not move or leave the animal prior to confirmation of death.

Note: The following are the only acceptable methods for on-farm euthanasia of cattle (Example; producer insert own methods and ages):

- Free bullet: .22 caliber for calves, .22 magnum or high-powered rifle for mature heifers, cows and bulls.
- Penetrating captive bolt – followed by pithing, bleeding or cardiac puncture.
- Non-penetrating captive bolt - followed by bleeding: not for adult cattle.
- Injection with barbiturates and other drugs (administered by a licensed veterinarian).

