

Manual Agriculture

Catalogue of criteria for calf production




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1 Basic criteria for livestock farming, hygiene and animal health

The livestock owner must comply with basic criteria for animal welfare, hygiene and animal health. The basic criteria correspond to the requirements of the **QS Guideline Agriculture Cattle Farming** in the chapters listed below. In the animal welfare audit, the focus is on the inspection of production in the shed. A comprehensive document check is only carried out if there are indications of existing nonconformities.

If abnormalities are detected with regard to injuries, respiratory or intestinal diseases, corrective actions (action plan including deadlines) must be defined with the involvement of the stock care veterinarian. The livestock owner must implement the action plan on time and document this.

 Action plan and its implementation, if applicable

Animal welfare, hygiene and animal health:

- 3.2.1 Monitoring and care of the animals
- 3.2.2 General husbandry requirements
- 3.2.3 Handling sick and injured animals
- 3.2.4 Shed floors
- 3.2.7 Space allowance
- 3.2.11 Dehorning calves
- 3.3.1 Feed supply
- 3.3.2 Hygiene of the feeding facilities
- 3.3.3 Handling and storage of feed
- 3.4.1 Water supply
- 3.4.2 Hygiene of the drinking facilities
- 3.6.1 Buildings and annexes
- 3.6.2 Farm hygiene
- 3.6.4 Carcass storage and collection
- 3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control

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2 ITW criteria

Fattening calves must be kept under ITW conditions continuously from weaning from their mother or, in the case of milk-fed veal, from the farm of birth, and in the case of rosé veal, from the rearing farm, until slaughter (maximum age of eight months).

2.1 Participation in QS antibiotics monitoring

The livestock owner must participate in antibiotics monitoring. The requirements are set out in the **QS guideline antibiotics monitoring cattle**.

 Info letter antibiotics monitoring, antibiotics database

2.2 Participation in the indexed slaughter findings data programme

The livestock owner must participate in the indexed slaughter findings data programme. The diagnostic data is collected in accordance with the requirements of the **QS guideline diagnostic data in cattle slaughter**.

 Info letter diagnostic data, diagnostic database

2.3 Further training measures

The livestock owner or a responsible participant (e.g. herd manager, farm manager) must participate in relevant, specialised further training measures on livestock farming once per calendar year. Proof of this must be provided. Proof must be provided for the first time at the time of the initial audit.

 Proof of further training, e.g. confirmation of participation in specialist lectures

2.4 Special husbandry requirements

All animals must be able to move freely. Tethering is prohibited in calf production.

Daylight

Every shed must have daylight incidence, whereby the light should enter the animal area as evenly as possible.

If the animals are kept indoors, the intensity and duration of lighting must be appropriate for the animals. If the incidence of light is insufficient, the shed must be artificially lit.

A lighting period of more than eight hours is recommended.

A light intensity of at least 80 lux must be ensured for at least ten hours a day in the area where the calves are kept. The lighting must be adapted to the daily rhythm and distributed as evenly as possible.

Shed climate

The air conditions in the entire shed must be appropriate for the animals. Windows and air inlets must be open, except in adverse weather conditions. There must be no signs of inadequate air conditions such as condensation, pungent odours or similar.

2.5 Increased space allowance

In loose housing, all animals must be able to lie down at the same time. The following space allowance applies to calves in group housing:

Weight section LG	Space allowance
Up to 100 kg	1.5 m ² /animal
Over 100 kg	1.8 m ² /animal

A farm plan showing the available net area per group of animals kept together and the maximum possible number of animals must be available at the end of audit.

 Farm plan with net area certificate and possible number of animals

2.6 Cleanliness of the animals

All animals must be clean. Discolouration and soiling must be kept to a minimum, and coarse soiling such as heavy accumulations of faeces must be avoided. No more than 10 % of the animals may have severe clod formation in the coat.

2.7 Scrubbing devices

All animals in group housing (in loose housing, exercise yards or crates) must be offered a functional scrubbing device (e.g. scrubbing brush) adapted to the animal species, at least one per group or crate, so that each animal can use a scrubbing device.

The scrubbing devices must be available at a ratio of at least 1:60 animals and be freely accessible.

The scrubbing device must be mounted vertically. It must be sufficiently long (at least 45 cm) and wide (at least 15 cm) and allow species-typical rubbing (on the sides of the body) over the entire fattening period.

The scrubbing device must have an uneven surface profile. The scrubbing device must not pose a risk of injury.

If a scrubbing device is no longer functional, it must be replaced as soon as it is safe to do so (e.g. after destocking animals ready for slaughter). The date of failure and replacement/repair must be documented.

2.8 Intensified veterinary stock care

The livestock owner must ensure that the agreements laid down in the veterinary care contract are complied with; with regard to the number of visits to the company, apart from acute cases of illness, the veterinarian must visit the company once before the initial audit and then regularly at least twice a year.

As part of the veterinary stock care, special attention must be paid to the care of the animals. This must be noted in the visit log. Basic feed analyses, ration calculations and drinking water analyses should be taken into account.

The veterinarian must document the care of the herd, the herd visits and their results and the evidence must be kept by the company.

If a need for action is jointly identified, an individual animal health and hygiene management plan must be drawn up for the company. This plan must include a regular, planned, systematic and consistent application of veterinary knowledge and expertise in accordance with the state of the art. If necessary, an action plan must also be drawn up that defines the individual activities (of the veterinarian and livestock owner).

The veterinary examination findings drawn up as part of the veterinary care or for curative treatment must be handed over to the company after each visit.

 Veterinary stock visit protocols or similar documents, action plan, vaccination plan

3 Definitions and related documents

Definition:

The location is always considered:

Epizootic unit per VVVO number in combination with production scope, regardless of the number of sheds

Related documents:

QS guideline Agriculture Cattle farming

QS guideline antibiotics monitoring cattle

Programme manual Initiative Tierwohl

Initiative Tierwohl GmbH

GF: Dr Alexander Hinrichs, Robert Römer
Schwertberger Str. 14
53177 Bonn
Tel +49 228 336485-0
Fax +49 228 336485-55
info@initiative-tierwohl.de