Ohio Livestock Care Standards
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“A General Review of the Livestock Care Standards”

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Sponsored by:
The Ohio Department of Agriculture
State Issue 2

In November 2009, Ohio voters passed State Issue 2 approving the creation of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.
The TRAC is composed of academic experts in the fields of veterinary medicine and animal science and works with the sub-committees to provide recommendations.

Species Subcommittees
The subcommittees are composed of industry experts in their respective fields and provide species-specific recommendations for livestock care.

Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board
The board is composed of 13 members from farming, veterinary, academic, food safety, animal care and consumer interest backgrounds and are tasked with providing final livestock care recommendations.

Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review
The committee consists of five Senate members and five House members. The committee is tasked with ensuring that the proposed livestock care standards do not:
1. exceed the scope of the department’s authority;
2. conflict with the intent of the legislature;
3. conflict with another rule;
4. fail to provide a complete and accurate analysis of their potential fiscal effect.

Public Participation
Opportunities for public comment, both at committee and board meetings and via written submission, as well as during a required e-comment period, have been made available to interested parties throughout all steps of the rule-making process.
Overview

- History and process
- Outreach
- Definitions
- Feed and water
- Management
- Health
- Transportation
- Euthanasia
- Enforcement
# Ohio Livestock Care Standards

## General Care rules already effective
- Euthanasia
- Civil penalties
- General care considerations
- Distressed and disabled care

## Specie-Specific rules to-be effective
- Veal
- Dairy Cattle
- Beef Cattle
- Swine
- Layers
- Broilers/Broiler Breeders
- Turkeys/Turkey Breeders
- Sheep
- Goats
- Llamas
- Alpacas
- Horses
- Ponies
- Mules
- Donkeys
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COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH
Communication and Outreach

Regional Information Sessions:
• Wednesday, August 24, Hillsboro
• Wednesday, August 31, Wooster
• Wednesday, September 14, Lima
• Tuesday, September 27, Zanesville
• Thursday, September 29, Fort Recovery
Definitions

“Responsible Party”

A person of legal age who is the owner of the livestock and/or a person who has current responsibility or custody of the livestock.
Definitions

“Humane”

The care and handling of livestock that seeks to minimize distress through utilization of the livestock care standards.
Definitions

“Distress”

Occurs when livestock are injured, sick, or in pain.
Definitions

“Pain”

An unpleasant physical sensation occurring in varying degrees of severity as consequence of injury, disease or from a medical or management procedure.
Ohio Livestock Care Standards

FEED AND WATER
Feed and Water - General

- Sufficient quantity and quality
- Regular basis
- Colostrum / Colostrum replacement
Feed and Water - Exceptions

- Specific direction of licensed veterinarian
- Specific operating procedures
- Veal calves:
  - Must receive feed and water on a daily basis
  - If not fed free choice, must be fed two or more times daily
- Poultry - water may be withheld:
  - Preparation for administration of vaccines or medication
  - Preparation for transportation
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MANAGEMENT
Management

• Management practices must be performed in a humane manner
• Health/medical treatment must be done humanely
• Livestock production activities must be performed humanely:
  • acts of tagging
  • ear notching
  • hoof trimming
  • deworming
  • branding
  • artificial insemination including semen collection, preparation and freezing
Management

Acceptable livestock production activities:
(with the advice and consent of a licensed veterinarian)

• castration
• tail docking
• non-surgical dehorning
• intravenous fluid administration
• pregnancy detection other than by rectal technique
• medication and biological administration, except for those prohibited by law
• phlebotomy
Castration

Cattle, Sheep, Goats

- Method and pain management **must** take into consideration:
  - animal’s age and weight
  - environmental conditions
  - available facilities
  - safety
Castration

Llamas, Alpacas
• Effective analgesia **must** be used
• Animal’s age **must** be taken into consideration

Equine animals
• chemical restraint **must** be used
• effective analgesia **must** be used
Dehorning and Tusk Trimming

Cattle, Goats

• After the horn has erupted (no longer covered by hair)
• A pain management practice must be used

Swine

• Cut tusks gum-level without damaging gums
Tail Docking

Sheep

Method and pain management **must** take into consideration:

- animal’s age and weight
- environmental conditions
- available facilities
- safety
Tail Docking

Dairy cattle

- Cannot be performed before the confirmation of pregnancy
- Permitted until December 31, 2017, with use of elastrator castration band only
- Fly management plan must be in place
- Beginning January 1, 2018, tail docking can only be performed:
  - By a licensed veterinarian
  - Only if medically necessary
Tail Docking and Monitoring

Horses

- Only if medically necessary such as in the case of:
  - accident, malformation or disease
- As a proactive measure to prevent injury
- Must be performed by a licensed veterinarian
- Animals must be monitored for functional condition
- If condition not maintained, corrective measures must be taken
Llamas and Alpacas

Livestock Management Procedures:
- Fighting teeth conditioning (males)
- Toe nail care
- Heat stress care (during hot weather)
  - Shearing
  - Use of mechanical ventilation
  - Some other acceptable method

Halters must be removed when animal is not being handled for extended periods of time
Sheep and Goats

- Hair/wool must be shorn regularly
  *(Breeds that do not naturally shed)*
- Minimize the risk of fly strike (Sheep) by:
  - Shearing
  - Crutching
  - Some acceptable other method
- Tack and/or harnesses (Goats) must:
  - Fit properly
  - Be well maintained
Permitted livestock management procedures:

- Beak conditioning
- General toenail conditioning (Turkeys)
- Male back toe conditioning (Broilers)
- Dewclaw and snood conditioning (Turkeys)
- Caponizing (Broilers)
- Dubbing
- Induced molting
Induced Molting – Poultry

- Only non-feed withdrawal methods may be used
- Layers, broilers and turkey breeders must be fed maintenance ration
- Light reduced no fewer than six hours in closed houses
- Light reduced no shorter than natural day length in open houses
- Monitor: Flock health, mortality and bird weight
Handling

When using handling, sorting or other devices to move livestock or for initial diagnostic evaluation, the devices must be used humanely.
Electric Prods

Electric prods must not be used:

- Poultry
- Non-ambulatory disabled livestock
- Alpacas, llamas and equine animals
  - except for an initial diagnostic evaluation;
- Calves weighing less than 200 lbs.
- Swine weighing less than 35 lbs.
- In sensitive areas including:
  - Eyes
  - Ears
  - Nose
  - Vulva
  - Anus
  - Udder
  - Testicles
Handling

• Restraint must:
  • Be minimal in degree and duration
  • Minimize the potential for injury
• Animals must not be maliciously or recklessly thrown, dropped, or dragged
• Animals must not be picked up and/or carried by the ears and tails or legs pulled such that causes distress
• Movement of ambulatory/non-ambulatory disabled and distressed livestock must be done humanely
• Catching, lifting and poultry must be done humanely
Ohio Livestock Care Standards

HOUSING
Housing

- Must provide a clean and safe environment
- Must provide reasonable protection from adverse weather and predators
- Enclosures must be designed and maintained to minimize bruising and injury
- During labor - Space to separate from other animals
Outdoor Housing

• Must provide access to facilities or natural features that provide reasonable protection from:
  • Adverse weather and environmental conditions
  • Predators
• If open lots are used, they must be maintained to promote drainage away from resting areas and feed and water
• During periods of prolonged wetness, must provide access to feed and water
Indoor Housing

- Must provide for a stocking density that all animals easily lie down at the same time and stand back up
- Must provide animals access to feed and water without excessive competition
- When box stalls or other enclosures are used, they must be cleaned and replenished regularly with clean, good quality and absorbent bedding
- If confined, animals must be provided with the opportunity for exercise unless medically prohibited
- Must provide ventilation
Lighting

• Intensity must be adequate for observation
• If natural light is not provided:
  • **Veal calves:**
    • Artificial light must be provided for 8 hours in every 24 hour period
    • Must allow calves to observe each other
  • **Swine:**
    • Artificial light must be provided for at least the normal period of daylight hours
  • **Poultry:**
    • Artificial light must be provided for rearing and production
Veal Calf Housing

Until December 31, 2017, veal calves in individual stalls:

• May be tethered or non-tethered
• Stalls must be a minimum of 24 inches wide and 66 inches long
• Permitted the opportunity for socialization and ensure the calf’s health is maintained
Veal Calf - Housing Transition

After January 1, 2018, veal calves must be:

• Able to turn around
• Housed in group pens by 10 weeks of age with a minimum of 2 calves per pen
• A group pen must have a minimum of 14 square feet per calf
• Monitored on a daily basis for naval and cross sucking and provided with intervention
Dairy Cattle Housing

- Free stalls, tie stalls or stanchions
  - The animal is not forced to lie with their rear quarters contacting the alleyway or gutter.
  - Room to stand, lie down, eat, drink, defecate, and urinate comfortably
  - Must be provided with the opportunity for exercise (weather permitting)
- Dairy calves:
  - Housed in a clean dry area with space to stand, lie down, turn around
  - Protection from adverse weather
**Swine Housing**

- Sows and boars in stalls or pens:
  - Lie down fully on their sides without (at same time):
    - Heads having to rest on a feeder
    - Rear quarters touch the back of the stall or pen
    - Stand back up without back touching the top of the stall or pen
  - Housing must be regularly inspected and maintained to verify that all mechanical devices and the water and feed delivery systems in working condition
  - Mixing must be done in a manner which minimizes aggression and the risk of injury
Swine Housing - Farrowing

• Clean, dry, sanitary, and comfortable space
• Appropriate thermal environment
• Outdoors:
  • Shade, shelter and/or ample bedding
• Farrowing stalls must be designed to maximize neo-natal piglet welfare
Swine Housing – Post Weaning

• Indoor *mechanically* ventilated housing must be:
  • Clean
  • Dry
  • Well heated
  • Draft free

• Indoor *non-mechanically* ventilated housing must provide:
  • Protection from direct sunlight in warm weather
  • Protection from adverse weather conditions
  • Supplemental heat or a regular, ample supply of bedding in cold weather
An “existing facility” means all buildings or structures that currently house swine utilizing any housing system as of September 29, 2011.
Swine - Housing Transition

- Breeding/gestation stalls can be used in all existing facilities until December 31, 2025

- Beginning January 1, 2026, breeding/gestation stalls can only be used post-weaning to:
  - Maximize embryonic welfare
  - Allow for the confirmation of pregnancy
Swine - Housing Transition

- After September 29, 2011, new construction or expansion cannot use breeding/gestation stalls *(Except to house sows post-weaning)*

- Repair/replacement of existing stalls/facilities is permitted

- Beginning January 1, 2026, individual stall housing permitted for special circumstances, such as:
  - To treat an injury
  - To separate frail, thin or aggressive swine
Poultry Housing

• Indoor housing must:
  • Provide a clean and safe environment that promotes the health and welfare
  • Minimize exposure to adverse weather
  • Minimize conditions in which the birds cannot effectively thermo-regulate
  • Provide sufficient ventilation
• Maximum stocking density must allow all poultry to rest at the same time without being forced to rest on top of each other and minimize competition
Poultry Housing

• Mechanized ventilation systems must be in working condition and must provide backup systems
• Environmental management must control:
  • Rodents
  • Non-beneficial insects
  • Parasite infestation
  • Moisture must be managed to promote flock health and welfare
• Mixing must minimize aggression and risk of injury
Existing Farm - Layer

An “existing farm” means as of September 29, 2011:

• All land that houses pullets, layers or breeders utilizing any housing system.

• Any land contiguous to the “existing farm” that is acquired by the owner or operator of the “existing farm” before or after September 29, 2011.

• The sale, transfer and/or partition of an “existing farm” after September 29, 2011 does not void its status as an “existing farm.”
Conventional Battery Cage Systems

- Cage floor slope must not exceed eight degrees
- Minimum 67 square inches per layer and manure must not drop on birds in lower cages
- For systems install prior to September 29, 2011, must average 67 square inches per layer by September 29, 2016
- Existing farms permitted to expand using current cage housing systems
- Existing farms may replace the same housing system in the case of a catastrophic event
- Beginning September 29, 2011, conventional battery cages can only be installed on an “existing farm”
Enriched Cage Systems

- Cage floor slope must not exceed eight degrees
- Minimum 67 square inches per layer
- Manure from birds in upper cage levels does not drop directly on birds in lower cage levels
- Features must be provided in addition to feed and water
  
  (Such as areas for nesting, scratching, perching, and/or dust bathing)
**Cage-Free Housing Systems**

- A housing system where the layers are not exclusively housed in a cage, but is not limited to:
  - Free-range pasture
  - Aviaries
  - Fixed houses
  - Portable houses
  - Pasture pens
- September 29, 2011
  - New cage-free systems must meet the requirements
- Established have until September 29, 2016
Cage-Free Housing Requirements

Systems installed after September 29, 2011, must provide:

- Minimum of 144 square inches per layer
- Perches (if used):
  - Positioned to minimize fecal fouling birds below
- Multi-tiered perches (if used):
  - Allow safe access to other vertical tiers, including the floor
- Nests (if used):
  - Must be cleaned as necessary
Equine Animals

- If held at a non-terminal market or collection facility:
  - Must be provided with a dry area
  - All animals able to lie down at the same time
  - Be protected from adverse weather

- If animals are held more than eight hours they must be provided access to feed and water
Llama and Alpaca Housing

- Clean, dry area for lying down
- Provided with the opportunity for socialization with a herding animal
  - Herding animals include (but are not limited to):
    - Llamas
    - Alpacas
    - Sheep
    - Goats
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HEALTH
Health

• Monitored regularly
  • Corrective measures must be taken when evidence is found
• Able to separate sick animals from healthy livestock
• Prescription and extra-label medications with involvement of a licensed veterinarian
• Label instructions must be followed, including:
  • Route of administration
  • Dosage
  • Storage
  • Withdrawal times
DISTRESSED AND DISABLED LIVESTOCK
Distressed and Disabled Livestock

- Appropriate protection from other livestock, predators and adverse weather conditions
- Handling and moving must be done in a humane manner
- Maintain records of treatments, medications and withdrawal times
Ambulatory Disabled Livestock

- Monitored for needed treatment
- Transported for treatment or sale
- Transported directly to an inspected slaughter plant or a state custom exempt slaughter plant
- Slaughtered on the farm using an acceptable method of euthanasia
- Euthanized using an acceptable method of euthanasia
Non-Ambulatory Disabled Livestock

- Cared for and provided feed, water and shelter
- Provided necessary treatment
- Transported for treatment
- Slaughtered on the farm using an acceptable method of euthanasia
- Transported to an inspected slaughter plant or a state custom exempt slaughter plant (except for cattle)
- Euthanized using an acceptable method of euthanasia (if the animal is in distress and the condition is irreversible)
Non-terminal Market/Collection Facility

- Fatigued swine
  - Allowed to rest up to two hours to recover
  - May receive cooling or other treatments that do not leave any drug residues
- Calves unable to rise may be held for treatment
- Cattle that become non-ambulatory during transport must be released or euthanized
- Other ambulatory disabled, non-ambulatory disabled or distressed livestock must either be released or euthanized
Emaciated Livestock

Following documented intervention strategies of additional care, additional feed or treatment without observable improvement in body condition must be:

- Marketed
- Transported directly to slaughter plant
- Slaughtered on the farm
- Euthanized
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TRANSPORTATION
Transportation

- Transport driver:
  - Must have an emergency action plan
  - Solely responsible for livestock welfare during transit
- Responsible party makes the final decision regarding:
  - The fitness for livestock loading
  - Transport
  - Load density
- Load density:
  - Shall be determined by the need to minimize injury
  - Must allow fallen animals to rise
Transportation

- Handling during loading, unloading and transport must be done humanely.
- Ramps, chutes and other means of conveyance must provide adequate footing.
- Suitable protection from adverse weather conditions.
- Livestock must be able to stand in their natural position without touching the top of the transport conveyance (except poultry, alpacas, llamas and equine animals).

- Poultry
  - Allow the birds to rest at the same time without being forced to rest on top of each other.
Transportation

• Llamas and alpacas
  • Stand so backs do not touch top of the conveyance
  • All animals can lie down at the same time
• The following cannot be transported to a non-terminal market or collection facility:
  • Non-ambulatory disabled livestock
  • Calves with wet navels that have not dried after birth
• Sow with suckling litter:
  • Must be segregated from all other animals
  • Litter must be protected
Transportation

- Equine must be able to stand in their natural position without heads (except ears) touching the top of the conveyance
- **Equine cannot** be transported in two-tiered or double deck semi-trailers
- Stallions and jacks must be separated from other equines
- Suckling foals
  - Must be transported separately from other animals
  - Must be transported with their dams
- Non-ambulatory equine must not be loaded for transport except for treatment
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EUTHANASIA
Euthanasia

- Stand-alone rule
- Intended primarily for on-farm use and all species are covered
  - Also, for emergencies (e.g., animals in transit, at fairs, auctions, etc.)
- Death is confirmed by:
  - The absence of a heartbeat or breathing for five minutes
  - Lack of blink reflex when the eye is touched
- Must be performed when the likelihood for recovery is poor
Acceptable methods (by species)

Bovines, Camelids, Equines
- Penetrating captive bolt gun
- Gunshot
- Injectable barbiturates

Ovines, Caprines
- Gunshot,
- Inhaled carbon dioxide agent
- Injectable barbiturates
- Weight = >12 lbs: penetrating captive bolt
- Weight = <12 lbs: non-penetrating captive bolt gun,
- Blunt force
Acceptable methods (by species)

**Poultry**
- Inhaled carbon dioxide agent
- Cervical dislocation
- Gunshot
- Blunt force
- Decapitation
- Non-penetrating captive bolt gun
- Maceration
- Injectable barbiturates
Acceptable methods (by species)

Swine (weight = > 70 lbs.)
- Penetrating captive bolt gun
- Gunshot
- Injectable barbiturates

Swine (weight = 12-70 lbs.)
- Penetrating captive bolt gun
- Gunshot
- Inhaled carbon dioxide agent
- Injectable barbiturates
Acceptable methods (by species)

Swine (weight ≤ 12 lbs.)
- Non-penetrating captive bolt
- Blunt force
- Inhaled carbon dioxide agent
- Injectable barbiturates

Swine (weight = >10 lbs.)
- Electrocution
Enforcement

• Farms that are not currently subject to regular inspection will not be subject to any new regular inspections as a result of these rules.
• These standards do not detract or expand the authority of county humane societies
  • Animal cruelty will continue to be investigated and addressed at the local level
Violations – Administrative Process

• Anyone who has been issued a fine for violations of these rules will have 30 days to request a hearing to appeal the Department’s decision.

• If requested, the hearing will be overseen by an independent hearing officer who is a licensed attorney and not an employee.
Minor Violations/Civil Penalties

- Generally due to neglect or unintentional acts of substandard practices
- Finable up to $500 for the first minor offense
- Finable up to $1,000 for each subsequent minor offense committed within 60 months of previous minor violation
Major Violations

• Reckless or intentional acts which result in the unjustified infliction of pain

• Can be any action which:
  • places an animal’s life in imminent peril
  • cases protracted disfigurement
  • causes protracted impairment of health
  • causes protracted loss or impairment of the function of a limb or bodily organ
Major Violations/Civil Penalties

- Finable between $1,000 and $5,000 for the first major violation
- Finable between $5,000 to $10,000 for each subsequent major violation committed within 60 months of previous major violation
Enforcement: Bottom Line

• Similar to ODA’s other regulatory programs
• Auctioneer Licensing, Grain Warehouse, Milk Sanitation, Amusement Ride Safety, etc.
• Difference: No new regular inspections
• Compliance is the focus
• Working with farmers, not slapping on fines & penalties
Summary

- History and process
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- Definitions
- Feed and water
- Management
- Health
- Transportation
- Euthanasia
- Enforcement
Questions?

Please call the ODA Division of Animal Health:
(614) 728-6220

Visit the Department’s website:
www.agri.ohio.gov.

Ohio Livestock Care Standards:
www.ohiolivestockcarestandards.gov