

Policy:	SC-33-100
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Enabled by:	IACUC/AV/ ILAR/APHIS/FASS
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Title: Husbandry Care of Beef Cattle

I. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the minimum standards of care for beef cattle.

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for beef cattle used in agricultural research and teaching must meet or exceed these minimum requirements based on the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals Used in Research (*Ag Guide 4th ed.*). Beef cattle used in biomedical research and non-standard agricultural teaching must additionally meet the requirements in the USDA Animal Welfare Regulations (AWR) and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (*Guide*). Deviations or exceptions must be approved by the Attending Veterinarian and the IACUC.

III. Procedure:

Daily (365 days a year with exception of range cattle*):

- Observe each animal and check for health concerns (AWR 2.33, *Ag Guide* pg. 22).
- Ensure adequate feed and ad libitum potable water is available (*Ag Guide* p. 21).
- Remove contaminated or spoiled food (*Ag Guide* pg. 64).
- Record and report sick animals to designated clinical veterinarian per standard operating procedure (AWR 2.33, *Ag Guide* pg.10).
- Record dead animals and report to appropriate veterinarian if outside of anticipated mortality.
- Record daily completion of each task, initial each task, and date the log.

Weekly:

- Observe each range animal and check for health concerns (*Ag guide* pg. 22).
- Record and report sick and dead range animals, and report them to Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) or designated clinical veterinarian per standard operating procedure for reporting sick or dead animals (*Ag Guide* pg. 10).

As needed:

- Remove excreta and food waste to ensure worker and animal health (*Ag Guide* pg. 20).
- Sanitize and/or disinfect primary enclosures and surrounding environment (*Ag Guide* pg. 20).
- Remove and replace worn or damaged equipment from primary enclosures and surrounding facility (*Guide* pg. 72).
- Maintain feed stuffs and remove spoiled or contaminated feeds (*Ag Guide* pg. 21). Expiration dates for bagged feed must be readily available.
- Clean and sanitize feed storage containers (*Ag Guide* pg. 21).
- Each facility will develop their own best practices for sanitization of the macroenvironment typically occurring every 6 months or whenever there is a change in species.

Environmental Enrichment:

- Refer to the Environmental Enrichment policy.

Housing:

- Facilities for beef cattle should provide cattle with opportunities for behavioral thermoregulation (e.g., access to a windbreak, sunshade, mound, or roofed shelter) (*Ag Guide* pg. 79).
- Enclosures must be in good condition, free of any damage and protrusions that may cause injury (*Ag. Guide* pg. 80).
- Floors shall be moisture-resistant, impact-resistant, slip-resistant, and resistant to corrosion (*Ag Guide* pg. 80).
- Whenever possible, cattle should be socially housed based on compatibility (*Ag Guide* pg. 83).
- Space requirements differ for biomedical research and agricultural use animals. Specific space requirements can be found in the *Guide* and the *Ag Guide*, respectively (see appendix 1)