**Utah Agricultural Advisory Board**

**Utah Department of Agriculture and Food**

**Virtual Meeting**

**\*\*\*VIA Google Hangout\*\*\***

**Tuesday October 13@ 1:00 p.m.**

**A G E N D A**

Meeting ID

[meet.google.com/hyc-rjrd-ero](https://meet.google.com/hyc-rjrd-ero?hs=122&authuser=0)

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Phone Numbers

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Read Determination Letter…………………………………………………………..Ron Gibson, Chairman

Welcome.. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .. . . . Logan Wilde, Commissioner

Approval of Minutes from June 2 meeting

Legislative Update . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .Logan Wilde, Commissioner

Fee Schedules…………………………………………………………………………….Commissioner

Revisit New Farmer Loan Requirements………………………………………………….Ron Gibson

Beginning borrows

        Minimal management experience……………………………………………………

Monthly Finance Review………………………………………………….. ..…………

Discussion on SB3006 . . . . . . . ……………………………………..……..…… R.J. Spencer

1. Consideration and Adoption of Best Management Practices (required by Utah Code Section 4-2-108(2)(c)) ……………………………………………………………………………….Amber Brown

A. General BMP

i. Discussion

ii. Vote

B. Cattle Industry BMPs

i. Discussion

ii. Vote

C. Dairy Industry BMPs

i. Discussion

ii. Vote

D. Sheep Industry BMPs

i. Discussion

ii. Vote

E. Swine Industry BMPs

i. Discussion

ii. Vote

F. Poultry Industry BMPs-Layers

i. Discussion

ii. Vote

G. Poultry Industry BMPs-Turkeys

i. Discussion

ii. Vote

Industry Status Report………………………………………………………………...…..Round Table

Public Comments

Topics for next time:

**AG Advisory Board Meeting**

**July 14, 2020**

**Minutes**

**This meeting was held via Google Hangouts with 90% of members attending via video/call in.**

**Attendees**:

Ron Gibson, Chairman

Logan Wilde, Commissioner (in person)

Kelly Pehrson, Deputy Commissioner (in person)

Dana Hardy, UDAF (in person)

Cliff Lillywhite, Egg Industry ( via phone )

Alison Fiscus, Pork Producers

Dr. Kerry Rood, DVM

Luke Peterson, Urban and Small Farms

Robert McMullin, Fruit Growers

Dr Ken White, USU

Wade Sperry

Brett Beihling, Farm Bureau

Scott Robins

Rusty Bastian

Amber Brown, UDAF Mandy Taft, UDAF

RJ Spencer, UDAF Ed Lombard, AG’s Office

Leann Hunting, UDAF Amanda Petersen, UDAF

Linda Gilmore, UDAF (in person) Chad Houser, UDAF

Nicole Hanna, AG’s Office Rob Hougaard, UDAF

Amy Wengren, UDAF

Roberta Valdez, UDAF

Travis Waller, UDAF

Brandon Forsyth, UDAF

**Via Phone:** see above note

Chairman Gibson welcomed everyone.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the Jan 14, April 29 and June 2 Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Robert McMullen,

2nd: Cliff Lillywhite.

Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

**Legislative Update – Logan Wilde-**

Budget Update:

2021 adjustments fee structure changes/adjustments will be coming as a result of budget cuts. They will include Milk industry and Predator control. They are in discussion with industry right now as to what these changes will be. The wool tax is down 200K( result of no sales) and moving forward will need adjustments. We will be going to producers for options before we make recommendation how to move forward.

Looking at APO/CPO with RJ Spencer- Rj going to producers so that they may have a buy in before we get started.

 Cliff Lilly white questioned what APO/CPO is?

 Per Commissioner: Rules that the state adopts and submits to EPA

 Ron G: What is the timeline?

 RJ: we have meeting next week with attorneys next week to determine timelines

 LW: We would like it to happen within next month

 RG: when does it need to be to EPA?

 RJ: theres really no deadline

Commissioner really wants to get with producers and get there input.

**SB3006 Update –RJ Spencer/Commissioner**

446 applications approved

9 mil$ approved to be paid

11 mil$ still available

13,099 applications received, a lot are on hold waiting on applicant information to be given to us.

The application process has slowed down.

 Questions:

 Did you say applications have slowed?

 Yes.

**Loan Report and Approval- RJ Spencer**

None to approve

#’ s from last month have not changed much

2 past due for 25k

**Discussion on SB3006- RJ Spencer**

Numbers from cow/calf operations have been 7 cents lb, 3 cents lb …the losses are not as great as they thought they would be. Great news.

Losses are slowing down. Applications are even being pulled. Applications being approved every day.

Questions:

Luke P: If money is not all spent what happens?

LW: that’s up to legislature. Might open to those with minor losses.

Scott R: Those taking bog losses are the feeders. They are taking big big losses.

RJ: Yes we are working with them. I am giving for examples. There are still industries that can take advantage of program.

**Beginning Farmer Loan Program Loans- Policy Request- RJ Spencer**

The FSA is slowing loaning money to farmers who have been in industry less than 3 years. (New farmers, taking raw land and farming FSA denies all together)

What risk are we willing to take on new farmer?

 Policy Requirements for loan officers to follow

 -Classes

 - 10 % down payment

 -business plan

 -loan to value 60% or below

 - must have mentor

Do we want to help or stay away?

How much risk do we want to mitigate?

Questions:

Rusty B: Define new farmer:

RJ: FSA specifies as: any with Ag background with new project is NOT a new farmer. We are talking a new farmer, raw land, no experience etc.

Kerry R: FSA website says it does have potential money for new farmers etc, are we saying it is not what it seems?

 RJ: Yes, if they have less than three years’ experience they are denied and sent to Rural Rehab loans.

 KR: there is a large need to support this, but there a hurdle to find funding.

 RJ: are you ok with setting foundries on our funding? (stated above)

Brett B: What is the default rate on this type of loan?

 Roberta: less than 1%..and those were experienced farmers with other problems. The loans are collateralized.

Rusty B: How do you manage for theft intent (Flip)?

 Ron: FSA terms seem logical, no experience etc opens door to developers.

RJ: terms w/ “AG BACKGROUND”

OPEN DISCUSSION

RJ: Board- Please give me more feedback to next meeting.

**Agriculture Protection Zone- Andrew McDonald- Davis County**

Andrew made a presentation based on the materials provided in hand out. No new information was given.

Board- requested some verbal background. Asked questions about owners etc and it was all clarified.

Ron recommends move forward

Robert MCMullen: Motion to accept

Luke P: 2nd the motion

Discovery Questions:

Kerry R: What are the benefits and what motivates this request.

 Jeff Wither: this is set up to protect land owners and farmers from “nuisance” lawsuits from new developers/UDOT etc.

Kerry: As a board, we are charged to evaluate objections…

 JW: We sent out notices and we received no objections, neither written nor verbal with in timeframes. It was also published in paper.

Roll call vote- unanimous

**Roundtable- Industry Status Report**

Luke P: Produce industry is starting to flatten. Produce season kicking in response is good .

Rusty: Wild Burros!!

NEXT MEETING OCT 13!

Meeting Adjourned!

Swine

**From 2018 Swine Care Handbook**

**Herd Health and Biosecurity**

* A herd health management program should include:
	+ Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for all components of biosecurity
	+ Vaccination SOP
	+ Daily observation of all animals for injury or signs of disease
	+ Sop for prevention, detection, and treatment of disease or injury
	+ SOP for euthanasia
	+ SOP for pest control
	+ SOP for individual animal or group identification
	+ Training SOP and programs for animal handlers
	+ SOP for introducing new arrivals to the herd
	+ SOP for managing sick or injured pigs
	+ SOP for culling animals
	+ Record of deaths that occur on the farm
	+ Complete, accurate, and reliable recordkeeping of treatments, reproduction, mortality, and other production metrics
* Every producer must maintain a current, valid veterinary-client-patient relationship.
* The Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) Program should be used as a basis for information and training about good production practices or pork production.
* Each facility should utilize responsible antibiotic use.
* Each facility should have vaccination protocols that are herd and production phase specific.
* Identification is important for maintaining records and tracking pigs as they move through the farm.
* Each facility should maintain up to date medication records for pigs on site and use them to enhance the health of the pigs.
* Each facility should maintain records in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.
* Each facility should implement preventative measures to avoid the introduction and contain the spread of infections on farms.
* Each facility should implement external biosecurity protocols that aim to prevent new pathogen introduction into the farm environment.
* Facilities should consider limiting high-risk practices on commercial farms.
* Animal movement between farms represents a risk of disease spread.
* Facilities should observe pigs at least once a day and more frequently during specific events such as farrowing or recovery from illness.
* Attention to sick and injured pigs must take place without delay, and as soon as possible.
* Each facility should remove and properly dispose of any pigs that die.
* Daily animal care should be arranged during weekends and holidays.
* Caretakers must have a method for tracking animals that are undergoing treatment.
* If a decision is made to move a non-ambulatory pig, movement should occur with consideration for both the pig well-being and caretaker safety.
* The position of the National Pork Board is that any pig that is unable to walk or that is ill and will not recover should be euthanized on the farm and not transported to market channels.
* For the euthanasia process or method to be considered humane, it must be quick, effective, and reliable with minimal pain and distress to the pig during administration.
* **Housing and Management**
* Facilities should be equipped to provide some automated intervention to prevent the death of animals in the event there is a mechanical ventilation failure.
* Housing and management systems should
	+ Provide every animal access to appropriate feed and water
	+ Promote good air quality and allow proper sanitation
	+ Protect animals from environmental extremes
	+ Reduce exposure to hazards
	+ Facilitate the observation of individual sows to assess their well-being
* Each facility should provide animals with adequate quality and quantity of space that allows sows to assume normal postures and express normal patterns of behavior.
* Farrowing systems should provide for comfort, safety, and hygiene of sows and piglets. The system should be properly maintained and provide adequate space, and unobstructed access to feed and water for the sow.
* Pens should be designed to accommodate growth up to a point where all or part of the group of pigs in the pen are removed. Each pig must be able to lie down fully on its side without having to lie on another pig and without the head having to rest on a resided feeder.
* Natural or manmade shelter must be provided to protect pigs from the elements.
* Critical factors that determine space for pigs housed outdoors should include, at a minimum, bedding, soil type, vegetation type and density, season, rainfall, supplemental feeding levels, vegetative palatability, vegetative tramping and rooting, producer preference, slope of land, waterways, and human and pig health and safety.
	+ Mixing and regrouping of different pigs should be avoided as much as possible.
* Producers commonly wean pigs from 14-35 days.
* Animals should be fed to at least meet their minimum nutrient requirements for growth and/or maintenance of good body condition.
* Water should be evaluated for livestock suitability.
* Pigs must be provided with feed and water at least once per day to meet their daily requirements.
* Feeders and waterers should be in good state of repair and positioned to allow for unobstructed feed and water delivery without causing injury to the pigs.
* Regardless of whether pigs are kept indoors or outdoors, it may be necessary to provide supplemental heating or cooling for pigs when temperatures are outside of pigs’ critical temperatures.
* Caretakers should learn to identify signs of heat stress and cold stress.
* Adequate ventilation must be provided to prevent the buildup of gases, particulate matter, and airborne microorganisms to levels that are harmful to pigs.
* Caretakers should avoid startling pigs with sudden and/or unnecessary loud noise.
* Living facilities should have adequate floor space, floor layout, air inlets, air distribution, air flow, humidity, and ambient temperature to allow pigs to keep their areas clean and keep area for defecation and urination separate from their lying area.
* Guidelines should be developed for pumping manure from deep pits to reduce the risk of spreading disease or death of pigs and caretakers due to hydrogen sulfide and barn explosions and fires due to methane.
* The physical condition of all pens, floors, and alleyways should be appropriate for the phase of production. All pens, floors, and alleyways should be kept in a good state of repair whereby they do not cause injury to animals
* Proper preparation is critical when loading or unloading. The loading/unloading plan should clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each individual handler.
* **PQA Plus Handbook**
* **Food Safety**
* Correctly store and administer animal health products.
* Maintain medication records including withdrawal times.
* Follow proper feeding and biosecurity protocols.
* Use a VCPR as the basis for medication decision-making.
* **Animal Well Being**
* Facilities should implement a zero-tolerance policy for animal abuse.
* Facilities should provide training to caretakers on animal handling, animal husbandry, and euthanasia.
* Conduct and document daily observations and provide prompt care to pigs in need.
	+ For pig space to be considered adequate the pig must be able to easily lie down fully on its side without having to lie an another pig and easily be able to stand back up; lie down without the head having to rest on a raised feeder; a pig housed in a stall must be able to lie down fully on its side.
* Assess the facilities and equipment daily to make sure the pigs’ environment is safe and allows access to feed and water.
	+ This includes examining the ventilation, animal facilities, and emergency support plans and procedures.
* Euthanize pigs in a humane and timely manner.
	+ The position of the National Pork Board is that any pig that is unable to walk, significantly injured or ill, and will not recover, should be humanely euthanized on the farm and not transported through market channels.
* Be prepared for emergencies related to animal well-being.
	+ There are three important components of emergency support: the emergency action plan, emergency detection system, and the emergency backup ventilation system.
* Handle pigs using knowledge of pig behavior.
* Handle pigs according to their size and phase of production, using proper handling equipment.
* **Public Health**
* Protect swine and public health.
* Use antibiotics responsibly.
	+ This involves evaluating their use to protect animal health, optimize effectiveness, and minimize the risk of developing antibiotic resistance.
* On Farm Biosecurity Principles
	+ Limit the number of visitors to the swine operation.
	+ Develop and implement an enhanced biosecurity protocol for caretakers, service personnel, and all other people and equipment entering the facility.
	+ Follow industry-accepted biosecurity practices.
	+ Establish, implement, and enforce strict sick leave policies for caretakers who have developed influenza-like symptoms.

Poultry

Turkeys

* **Biosecurity**
* Basic Tenants: Isolation, Traffic Control, and sanitation.
* The facility should isolate birds form any potential pathogen that can cause mortality or lead to economically erosive chronic health issues.
* Traffic control Is the first step to limiting potential exposure of birds to a harmful pathogen and reducing the probability of the negative results from that exposure.
* The facility should be proactive to ensure that anyone arriving at the farm is clean and take the precautionary step of sanitizing equipment before entering the farm.
* Any deviation from the guidelines of the biosecurity plan should be approved in advance.
* Farm employees or contractors who occupy ranch dwellings or have home sites and work on the farm daily should not keep any pet birds or poultry.
* Dogs and cats should not be allowed to roam freely on the farm or allowed in any poultry houses.
* Footwear should be cleaned and disinfected at the start and finish of every workday.
* Clean and laundered clothing should be worn each day or designated clothing should be left at the facility.
* Rubber boots or other cleanable footwear, which should be cleaned at the start and end of each workday, are necessary for working in poultry houses.
* Employees should not hunt waterfowl on the same day they will be entering poultry houses.
* Family members of employees who reside on a farm should not be employed by live haul, dead haul, or at a poultry processing plant.
* No unauthorized employees or outside visitors may visit a poultry facility or enter a poultry house without the consent of the live production manager for that complex.
* Employees should use alcohol-based disinfectant from a mobile dispenser, to clean their hands prior to leaving their vehicle.
* Clean cloth coveralls should be worn by employees and visitors can wear disposable coveralls.
* Short-sleeved coveralls may only be worn with short-sleeved clothing underneath
* Rubber boots should be washed and disinfected at farm boot wash station.
* Follow prescribed sanitation protocols for visitors at the end of their visit.
* Coveralls and/or rubber boots should never be worn in vehicles and should be stored in a secure place in the vehicle with a distinct separation between clean and dirty coveralls.
* **Mortality Disposal**
* All mortality should be picked up and disposed of in a timely and appropriate manner to prevent rodents or predators from coming in contact with the mortality and prevent transmission of disease.
* Dead birds must be disposed of so that cats, dogs, rodents, wild animals, and birds cannot eat or carry off the carcass.
* All dead birds must be disposed of according and in compliance with local regulations.
* Dead bird pickup should be on a regular schedule based on the age and status of the farm.
* Farms deemed under quarantine should be the last pick up of the day regardless of age.
* Dead haul driver should not leave the cab of the truck when picking up mortality bins.
* Dead haul vehicles should be cleaned and disinfected after each delivery to the rendering facility.
* **General and Preventative Health**
* Birds during all stages of their lifespan must be handled in a humane manner.
* Bird activity, including feed and water consumption, should be appropriate for the age of the bird and should be monitored.
* **Vermin and Wild Birds**
* A regularly monitored and evaluated vermin and wild bird control program should be in place.
* A mosquito Control Program should be used where needed.
* Fly breeding areas should be eliminated as they occur.
* Any stray poultry left from previous brood and not picked up by live haul shall be humanely euthanized immediately.
* Wild birds should not be allowed in any poultry house.
* Spilled feed should be swept up from all roofs and sides of houses within a 24-hour period.
* **Flock Evaluation**
* All flocks should be evaluated regularly during the grow out process for evidence of lameness.
* When culls greater than 2 birds out of1000 are attributed to lameness the cause of the lameness should be investigated.
* All flocks should be evaluated throughout the grow out for evidence of respiratory disease.
* All flocks should be evaluated throughout the grow out for evidence of recurring injury due to mechanical or physical deviations within the house.
* **Euthanasia**
* Any bird with a condition that makes it unlikely to thrive in a growing environment should be humanely euthanized.
* Unlikely to thrive is defined as the inability to reach feed or water for normal growth or development.
* Any procedure needs to be performed in a manner consistent with the AVMA, National Chicken Council (NCC), or National Turkey Federation (NFT) accepted technique.
* Emergency euthanasia due to a foreign animal disease diagnosis will be performed under the authority and guidelines outlined in the Utah Animal Disease Emergency Response Plan.
* Removal of abnormal birds by humanely culling them from the flock and disposing of them should be done routinely as soon as they appear in a flock.
* Euthanasia of culled birds is well described in the National Turkey Federation Farm Euthanasia of Turkeys Manual. The procedure used must result in quick and sure death with minimal pain and distress.
* **Facility and Equipment Requirements**
* **Minimum Housing Standards**
* All buildings must be structurally sound, weather tight, animal proof, and provide adequate light and ventilation.
* All buildings must be weather tight enough to keep rain, snow, and wind out.
* All buildings must be animal proof.
* All brooder buildings should have enough lights to maintain 7-foot candles during the first week of brooding.
* All buildings must have a reliable source of clean water, and the capacity to keep up with the demand during periods of maximum water usage.
* All buildings must have an automatic system to allow birds to be medicated through the water.
* All buildings must have an automatic feeder system and water system sufficient to feed and water the birds.
* All buildings must have enough heaters to maintain the recommended temperatures during cool weather.
* All grow out buildings must have fans to circulate air in hot weather.
* All fans must be covered with a safety guard.
* All feed bins must be capable of being opened and closed from the ground.
* Farms must have all weather roads.
* All buildings must have an approved water sanitation system capable of maintaining desirable quality.
* No overhead power lines around or near load out area and feed bins.
* **Brooding Requirements and Set up**
* Allow no less than .90 square feet per poult placed.
* Brooder stove capacity-no more than 400 poults per stove
* Allow 2 mini drinkers per brooder stove plus two plasson fountains or nipple lines.
* With oval 80’s place one mini drinker every 20 feet of ziggety drinker line.
* Provide a minimum of 4 mini feeders per brooder stove
* With tube heat provide one hand feeder every 10 feet in between the feed lines.
* Provide 3 lines of recognized automatic turkey feeding system in 50-foot wide houses
* Provide 2 lines of recognized automatic turkey feeding system in 40-foot wide houses
* Provide one 36-inch fan per 5000 square feet.
* Provide a bulk medication tank or proportioner that can treat houses separately.
* Provide a tank capacity feed bin large enough to satisfy feed mill/consumption requirements for the house. That is 3 days consumption at the consumption rate of the oldest birds.
* **Grow Out**
* Provide a minimum of square footage for each bird type. Light hens-2 square feet per bird; heavy hens 2.5; consumer toms 3; heavy toms 3.75; tunnel ranches 3.5-3.75 square feet.
* Drinkers: Hens one bell type fountain per 150 birds; Toms one bell type fountain per 100 birds; Nipples maximum of 20 birds per nipple.
* Provided a recognized automatic feeding system with a fed bin that has the capacity to hold feed for the house for at least 3 days at market age.
* Provide one 36-inch fan per 300 square feet.
* Provide medication tanks or a proportioner system large enough to handle bird volume and treat houses separately.
* Provision must be made for a reserve water supply and back-up generator.
* Provide a fogging system.
* Comply with company approved acceptable bird disposal method.

Sheep

**Facilities, Handling, and Environment**

* Facilities and methods should be designed to protect sheep.
* Facilities should have adequate drainage and offsite containment of runoff.
* Housing and handling sheep in groups reduces stress to individuals
* When barns or sheds are provided, adequate ventilation and clean, dry surroundings are important to reduce bacterial and viral buildup and increase animal comfort.
* Handling facilities are best constructed with smooth, solid sides.
* Well trained herding dogs can move sheep quietly and safely.

**Training Programs**

* All sheep producers and their employees should evaluate their animal welfare programs on a regular basis.

**Manure Management**

* Responsible manure management is expected of all livestock owners.

**Planning for Emergencies**

* Small operations should consider possible natural emergencies that might occur and develop a plan to respond to them.
* Large operations should develop written plans to respond to potential emergencies and day-to-day disruptions of normal sheep care.
* All plans should include:
* Contact information for local law enforcement authorities.
* Contact information for local fire and rescue squads.
* Contact information for local veterinary practitioners and the state veterinarian’s office.
* Contact information for the local or regional Emergency Management Agency
* Livestock evacuation plan.

**Managing Predation**

* Producers should try to provide adequate predation control with guard dogs or through other methods.
* A facility that has not paid head taxes will not receive predation services from the State of Utah.
* Producers must become familiar with federal, state, and local laws governing predators that may prey on their sheep as they develop their prevention strategies.
* Frequent flock observation will lower some types of predation losses.
* The use of herders, when possible, can help identify predation and reduce losses.
* When losses occur, producers should examine the sheep carcasses and all evidence around the death site in order to identify the type of predator responsible.
* Producers should remove carcasses as soon as possible and appropriately dispose of them.
* For a guardian animal to perform its task well, adequate bonding of the animal with the sheep is essential.
* Approved lethal control methods used by knowledgeable individuals are needed from time to time to protect the flock.
* An integrated approach is often most effective at reducing predation.

**Nutrition**

* Adequate water and forage should be provided and monitored.
* Sheep can utilize a wide variety of feedstuffs to meet their nutritional requirements.
* Nutritional programs must be developed to address specific and sometimes unique situations.
* Routine monitoring of forage quality, is important to optimize animal efficiency, reduce costs, and maximize animal welfare.
* Changes in diet should be made gradually.
* Facilities should use feeding and watering equipment designs that will avoid injury and contamination.

Producers should be familiar with conditions in their area (deficiencies or excess of certain micronutrients) and their program should account for variations.

* Producers should be alert to presence of poisonous plants.

**Equipment**

* Facilities should provide well designed, constructed facilities for feeding and watering of livestock designed to reduce contamination.
* Feed handling facilities should be designed and constructed to reduce the risk of feed contamination with chemicals, freight materials, and disease-causing infectious agents.
* Protect feedstuffs, feed troughs, and water supplies from contamination.
* Locate feeders and waterers away from each other in the feedlot.
* Implement strategies to protect against feed contamination with fecal material.
* Fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and other chemicals should be stored in facilities separate from feed.
* Protecting grains and forages from moisture prevents deterioration of feed and limits mold growth.

**Record Keeping**

* Producers should records changes in body weight or condition score.
* VFD drugs mixed in sheep feed should only be used under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian with a written order.
* All records of VFD feeds must be detailed and maintained in compliance with the requirements of the VFD.

**Biosecurity**

* Each producer should have the goal of implementing the Secure Sheep Plan, an example of which can be found on the UDAF website.
* A biosecurity plan should describe specific measures to prevent the introduction of disease agents and their spread to and from animal populations or their proximity.

Biosecurity has three main components

1. isolation

2. traffic control

3. sanitation/husbandry

* Producers should work with their veterinarian to develop a biosecurity plan and communicate it to those who work on their operation.
* New animals and animals returning from exhibitions should be isolated from resident animals for at least four, and preferably eight, weeks.

**Monitoring and Animal Health**

* Regular monitoring of health, body condition, and growth rates allows producers to evaluate the adequacy of flock nutritional programs.
* Vaccination programs that are tailored specifically for a region, flock, and management system are usually the most successful and cost effective.
* Vaccines should be used according to the manufacturer’s guidelines as directed by a veterinarian
* Vaccination should be viewed as a part of a flock health program and not as absolute protection against disease.

**Humane Treatment of Animals**

* Accepted husbandry practices such as tail-docking, castration etc. should be performed to minimize animal stress.

**Euthanasia**

* Humane Euthanasia of sick sheep that probably will not recover is preferable to allowing to allowing disease to follow its natural course.

**Using Animal Health Products**

* Antimicrobial therapy should be used only after a careful diagnosis is made and all options have been considered.
* Preventative strategies should be emphasized.
* Extra label antimicrobial therapy must be prescribed only in accordance with the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act amendments to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
* The veterinarian should be readily available for follow up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.

**Animal Identification**

* Animal identification should comply with Scrapie regulations.
* It is important for producers to be able to identify and track animals to which drugs were administered preceding the sale of meat or milk.
* A system of health records must be maintained that at a minimum identifies animals treated date of treatment, drugs administered, who administered the drug, amount administered, and the withdrawal time prior to harvest.

**Shearing**

* Annual shearing is necessary for wool removal and for physical well-being.
* Facilities and methods used should be designed to protect the sheep, the shearer, and the resulting wool clip.
* The shearing facility should be clean and dry.
* The shearing floor should be solid, clean, and have a non-slip surface.
* Shearing equipment should be kept clean, sharp, and well lubricated.
* Combs and cutters should be disinfected following each job.
* Proper shearing style positions the sheep to insure control and comfort of the animal.
* Keep sheep off feed for 6-12 hours before shearing.
* Only dry sheep should be sheared.
* Animals that are accidentally cut during shearing should be assessed immediately.
* Following shearing, sheep should be turned into clean, dry areas.
* Recently shorn sheep need shelter in severe weather.

**Harvest Practices**

* It is critical that producers are familiar with North American Meat Institute (NAMI) guidelines for humane handling and are trained in effective, human slaughter techniques.

Dairy Industry

**Herd Health**

* Medicated feeds should be stored separately and be properly labeled.
* All facilities should have a Veterinarian of Record (VOR) to manage herd health, disease, drug usage, and animal treatment.
* Each facility should adhere to all withdrawal times for milk. All official samples of sold milk should have tested negative for antibiotics.
* Facilities should adhere to all withdrawal times before allowing animals to go to slaughter.
* Facilities should keep records of antibiotic use and identify all treated animals, including treatment protocols.
* Facilities should establish systems to ensure that animal drugs are used properly and be able to provide evidence that adequate control over the administration of drugs to prevent residues in milk and/or meat has been implemented.
* Facilities should maintain all treatment records for a minimum of two years in the event of a need to trace back or follow up on a confirmed milk or meat residue.
* Facilities should implement a preventative herd health plan to reduce the incidence of disease.
* Facilities should maintain milk quality and implement an effective mastitis management program to reduce the use of antibiotics.
* Employees should be trained on proper animal drug use.
* Drugs should not be used that are specifically prohibited for use in milking dry or growing animals.
* Treated and non-treated animals should be segregated to ensure that milk is not accidentally comingled.
* Ensure that antibiotics are stored securely.
* All animals should be permanently identified.
* Written herd health protocols and procedures should provide enough detail to ensure that all employees with animal care responsibilities can routinely and consistently perform their animal care duties.
* Written protocols should be reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary with the VOR.
* Veterinarians must maintain written or electronic records for all animals treated for at least two years or as otherwise mandated by law. All dairies should also keep written or electronic records on all animals treated with drugs for at least 2 years per FDA requirements.
* Bulls raised as dairy steers should be castrated as soon as is practical.
* Humane handling and pain management should be provided according to AVMA guidelines.
* Facilities should have a written VCPR that is signed by the farm owner and the VOR annually within 12 months to formalize and document their relationship.
* A robust relationship between the dairy producer and farm veterinarian is crucial to ensuring animal care.
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* Protocols and treatment guidelines for commonly occurring, easily recognizable conditions should be established in writing and agreed upon by all parties involved. These should include all drugs used on the operation.
* Training of personnel authorized to use drugs on the operation should be undertaken and periodically reviewed.
* Provision of drugs or drug prescriptions should be for specific timeframes appropriate to the scope and type of operation involved.
* Routine examination of drug inventories on farm and product purchase records review are recommended.
* Producers are encouraged to consult and review treatment protocols and antibiotic stewardship principles or programs with their veterinarians.

**Stockmanship**

* Humane handling and animal care should be part of the daily culture of the dairy.
* Animals should be handled by equipment appropriate for the procedure.
* Excessive or routine aggressive contact, slapping, or prodding indicates an underlying problem that requires management attention and correction.
* Use the least amount of force necessary to control the animal and still ensure the safety of herd mates and animal caretakers.
* Routine contact with humans from birth, will reduce fear and flight distance, make observation and treatment easier, improve productivity, and enhance animal care.
* Cattle should be moved at a slow walk.
* The tail must never be used aggressively to move a cow.
* Every effort should be made to minimize loud noises during routine management practices such as handling, milking, and transport.

**Facility Management**

* Waterers should be convenient to access for the animals to reach on demand and should accommodate the number of animals in the group.
* Continuous access to water is a best practice. When continuous access to water is not possible, water should be made available to allow animals to drink to satiation at least twice a day.
* Cattle must have sufficient access to water to meet their intake needs under conditions of heat stress, which may exceed 30 gallons per cow per day for high-yielding cattle.
* Under housed conditions, at least 2 waterers are recommended per group with at least 2 inches of accessible trough perimeter per adult cow.
* Feed should be provided to animals on a continuous basis through delivering new feed several times daily or replenishing through a push-up process.
* Feeds not consumed should be removed daily.
* Bulk supplies of feed should be supplied safely in appropriately designed areas.
* All age classes of animals should be protected from heat and cold for typical climatic conditions.
* In order to account for the impact of both temperature extremes and relative humidity, the best practice is to use the Temperature Humidity Index (THI) and begin heat abatement measures at a THI of 65-72 degrees. Cold abatement should be provided promptly for calves starting at THI below 50 degrees and for adult cattle below 32 degrees.
* Monitoring cows’ respiratory rates is the best way to determine if they are under heat stress.
if 8/10 cows have respiratory rates of 60 Breaths per Minute (BPM) or above, the group is suffering from heat stress.
* All animals should have access to shade that allows simultaneous use by the entire group to minimize competition.
* Air movement speeds of 200-400 feet per minute are ideal for optimal cooling.
* Water may be used to cool the air before it reaches the cow, such as in an evaporating cooling pad system.
* When facing cold conditions, cattle should be provided with adequate feed to maintain body condition along with protection from wind and moisture.
* Facilities should have a calving area that is clean, soft, dry, well-lit, and well-ventilated.

**Livestock Management**

* Pre-weaned calves should have access to adequate feed, water, and colostrum.
* Facilities should be designed to have a location to segregate weak, sick, or injured animals.
* The location for weak, sick, non-ambulatory, or injured animals should provide them with feed, water, protection from the elements, isolation from other ambulatory animals, and protection from predators.
* Non-ambulatory animals should be moved using proper methods, including the use of special equipment.
* Non-ambulatory animals should be provided prompt medical care.
* All pre-weaned calves should be moved by lifting, walking, or the use of clean, properly designed mechanical transport devices.
* All pre-weaned calves should receive colostrum or colostrum replacer within 6 hours after birth.
* All pre-weaned calves shall receive a volume of milk or milk replacer to maintain health, growth, and vigor until weaned or marketed.
* All pre-weaned calves should be offered fresh, palatable starter feed by day 3 to maintain health, growth, and vigor.
* All pre-weaned calves should have access by day 3 to clean, fresh water appropriate for climatic conditions.
* All calves should be disbudded before 8 weeks of age.
* Pain mitigation for disbudding should be provided.
* The written herd health plan should have a written protocol for pre-weaned calf care that includes language specific to areas of pre-weaned calf management.

**Housing**

* All age classes of animals should have housing that allows for the ability to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and have visual contact with other cattle without risk of injury.
* All age classes of animals shall have a resting area that is clean, dry, provides traction at all times when away from the milking facility, and does not pose risk of injury.
* Bedding should be dry.
* Stall dimensions should always be considered relative to the size of the animals that will use them, genetic improvements, and their effect on size of future herd members, as well as the behavior of cattle when using stalls.
* In loose housing systems, increased cow density in the pen increases competition among cows for access to feed, stalls, and water. Cattle management must accommodate these challenges so that all animals within a pen receive adequate nutrition and water without competitive pressure.
* All animals should have access to a sanitary and comfortable place to rest and eat at any given time.
* All age classes of animals should have a method of daily exercise.
* The area provided for exercise should be clean, dry, and of appropriate flooring material.

**Facility Design**

* Facilities should be designed to prevent injuries, slips, and falls of animals.
* Facilities should be designed for ease of movement.
* Facilities should be designed to prevent unnecessary contact with electrical currents.
* Facilities should be designed to have adequate lighting for animal observation.
* Facilities should be designed to provide proper ventilation in all housing facilities that reduced odors, dusts, and/or noxious gas.

**Emergencies**

* Each facility should have names, telephone numbers, and the site address posted in a prominent location.
* Emergency Action Plans should include the following components for each potential emergency situation:
	+ Actions to take in an emergency situation.
	+ Designated people in charge of performing those actions.
	+ Individuals given authority to perform specific action when emergency occurs.
	+ Communication flow for quick and accurate information share.
	+ Data and information related to-site, utilities, evacuation routes, road conditions, equipment and materials involved, injuries, and locations of resources.
	+ Emergency supplies and equipment.
	+ Training and documentation of the training on the execution of the plan for all involved.
	+ Response scenarios options.
	+ Sheltering in place.

Poultry

Layers

**General Animal Husbandry Practices**

* Fresh feed needs to be made available on a daily basis.
* All lights should be in working order.
* Water should be available at all times.
* Shelter should be appropriated for bird’s age, type, and production.
* Biosecurity rules and standard animal welfare practices need to be obeyed.
* Safety rules of the farm must be followed.
* Injured, sick or trapped birds need to be taken care of.
* Proper euthanasia of sick, injured or cull birds will be conducted by a trained employee.
* There are a number of ways to euthanize a chicken. It is important that the method used is quick and does not allow the bird to suffer in the process.
* Dead birds will be removed from bird living area on a daily basis and properly disposed of.
* Proper handling and catching methods to minimize stress must be followed.
* It is important that each task is performed slowly and not quickly.
* There is zero tolerance for willful acts of abuse and neglect.
* Do not restrict feed or water to the birds.

**Biosecurity and Animal Health**

* Only necessary personnel should be allowed in poultry buildings.
* Access to property by visitors should be restricted. Visitors must not be allowed into the poultry house without proper supervision.
* Wild birds, rodents, pets and other animals should not be permitted in poultry houses.
* Environmental conditions within the house should allow the birds to maintain their normal body temperature without difficulty.
* Nutritionally-adequate fresh feed must be easily accessible to all birds and care shall be taken at each rehousing of flocks to ensure that the birds find the feed.
* In layer houses that require mechanized ventilation, stand-by generators with alarm systems must be provided and tested regularly.

**Euthanasia and On-Farm Depopulation of Entire Flocks**

* Facilities should coordinate with the USDA and UDAF regarding flock depopulation.

**Guidelines for Catching and Transport**

* Catching and transport should be performed in a humane way to protect birds from harm or damage.
* Catching of pullets and hens must be done in a manner that avoids crowding or piling in corners. Sudden loud noises and other disturbances alarming to birds should be minimized.
* To minimize the risk of bone breaks and other injuries, all people involved in catching and transport must be trained, knowledgeable and skillful in handling hens.
* When catching birds, use the lowest light level possible that will not impinge on worker safety, or use blue lights that will calm the birds while providing better visibility for catchers.
* Hanging racks should not be used to move birds.
* Birds moving into or out of cage production systems should be handled so as to minimize bone breakage or injury.
* Birds in cage-free systems should be caught individually and held in a comfortable upright position with both hands as they are transferred directly into or out of a transport container.
* The size of openings such as container doors, cage doors and panels on trucks should be large enough to permit easy passage of hens to avoid bone breakage and other injuries.
* Containers must not be dropped or tipped such that birds pile up against the side. Stocking density should be such that all birds can sit comfortably at the same time.
* Birds must be loaded only into clean, well-maintained transport containers and vehicles. The doors of the containers must be closed securely so that birds do not escape during loading or transit. Visibly unfit birds must not be loaded for transport. They should be euthanized.
* The drivers of transport vehicles must be aware of climate conditions and make necessary adjustments (e.g., to bird density, tarps, fans during standby) to keep birds thermally comfortable.
* Catching and transport must be planned so that feed is withdrawn no more than 24 hours prior to slaughter or depopulation.
* Water must not be withdrawn prior to catching.

**Molting**

* Only non-feed withdrawal molt methods are permitted.
* Hens should be provided with a feed source that is suitable for non-producing hens.
Water must be available at all times.
* The light period should be reduced to no fewer than 8 hours in closed houses, or to natural day length in open houses, for the duration of the rest period.
* During the molt period, body weight loss should be sufficient so as not to compromise hen welfare in the subsequent laying period.
* Total mortality during the molt period should not substantially exceed normal variations in flock mortality.

**Guidelines for Beak Trimming and Treatment**

* Beak trimming is a necessary animal husbandry practice to protect birds and prevent cannibalism. Accommodations for nutrition should be made following beak trimming procedures.
* Birds whose beaks were recently trimmed may have difficulty activating watering devices; therefore, caretakers should take actions that will facilitate the bird’s ability to drink.
* To minimize weight loss, birds should be fed a pre-starter, starter or high-density stress diet for about one week following beak trimming.
* If a trimmed beak grows back, a second trim may be needed when pullets are 5 to 8 weeks old.
* When avoidable, birds should not be subjected to stressful conditions (e.g., handling, moving and vaccination) for two weeks following beak trimming.
* After beak trimming, the levels of feed and water should be increased until the beaks are healed.

Cattle

**Cattle Care**

* Producers should design, provide, and regularly inspect facilities (fences, corrals, load outs, alleys, etc.) to help ensure safe and easy animal movement and restraint.
* Facilities should ensure feed and water handling equipment is maintained in working condition.

**Biosecurity**

* Facilities should recognize and mitigate risks associated with the introduction of new cattle and inter-herd/operation traffic.
* Facilities should apply basic sanitation practices to equipment, vehicles, and clothing to decrease the chance of microbial contamination.
* Facilities should take steps to prevent contamination of feed, water, and feeding equipment.

**Herd Health**

* Facilities should implement disease prevention practices to protect herd health including access to veterinary medical care.
* Follow all United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines and label directions for each product.
* Use FDA approved feed additives including those requiring a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) in accordance with label requirements.
* Keep extra-label drug use to a minimum and only when prescribed by a veterinarian working under a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR).
* All vaccines should be administered according to beef quality assurance protocols.
* Facilities should not market compromised, terminally ill, or non-ambulatory cattle.
* Non-ambulatory, terminally ill or severely injured animals may be euthanized on the farm using appropriate methods.
* Accepted husbandry practices such as dehorning, castration etc. should be performed to minimize animal stress. Branding of cattle is recognized as an acceptable husbandry practice.

**Transportation**

* Facilities should handle and transport all cattle in a fashion to minimize stress or physical injury. Loading and unloading practices should ensure the safety of personnel and cattle.

**Recordkeeping**

* Producers are encouraged to keep herd management records.
* Producers should employ strict adherence to pre-harvest withdrawal periods on product labels and extended withdrawals as determined by a veterinarian in the context of a VCPR.
* Whenever possible, producers are encouraged to transfer all processing and treatment records with the cattle to the next owner or production level.
* Maintain records of any pesticide use on pasture or crops that could potentially lead to violative residue in cattle.

**Nutrition**

* Provide adequate daily water and nutrition.
* Use feedstuffs and feed ingredients of satisfactory quality.
* When using USDA, FDA, and EPA approved products for use in cattle, use only in accordance with product label.
* Do not feed ruminant-derived protein sources per FDA regulations.
* Support feeding of by-product/co-product ingredient with sound science.

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Recommended Best Management Practices

General Practices

**Animal Health**

* Facilities should have a comprehensive herd or poultry health plan that includes written protocols for the following management areas: Nutrition; Non-Ambulatory Animal Management; Euthanasia; Treatment of Common Diseases; Vaccinations and Medications; Humane Care and Safety of Animals; Biosecurity; Pest Control; Water Sources.
* Facilities should identify all animals or poultry with appropriate individual and/or group identification methods.
* Facilities should make timely observations of animals or poultry to ensure basic needs are being met.
* Drugs should be used according to labeled recommendations and withdrawal periods.
* Pharmaceuticals should be prescribed by a veterinarian.
* Facilities should have adequate records to document the health of their animals or poultry and any drug use or medication. Recordkeeping should be in accordance with state and federal law as outlined in a recordkeeping guidance documented maintained by UDAF.
* Euthanasia methods used by veterinarians or producers should follow [American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines](https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/avma-guidelines-euthanasia-animals).
* Dead animals or poultry should be disposed of in accordance with state and local ordinances in order to prevent environmental contamination, control disease, and discourage predation.
* All employees should be trained in proper animal or poultry care and humane handling.
* Transportation should be conducted in accordance with each facility’s animal welfare guidelines.

**Facilities**

* All animals or poultry should have adequate access to clean water.
* All animals or poultry should have access to sufficient feed for maintenance, health, and growth.
* Feed quality and nutrient content of feed components should be monitored routinely.
* Facilities for feeding and watering of livestock or poultry should be well designed, well constructed, and designed to reduce contamination.
* Facilities should allow for safe, humane, and efficient movement and/or restraint of animals or poultry.
* Adequate ventilation should be provided at all times.
* Facilities should have a written Emergency Action Plan to effectively manage emergencies or crises that occur.
* Manure should be managed to prevent food and water contamination.

**Environmental Good Production Practices**

* Facilities should implement BMPs to protect the State's natural resources, including soil, water, and air.
* Facilities should follow Utah Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations and the charge of the Utah Conservation Commission (UCC)[[1]](#footnote-1).
* Animal waste is a valuable resource and should be managed according to Utah NRCS 590 (2019) practice standard.

Industry Specific Practices (Items in red are Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) recommendations)

Cattle

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Dairy Industry

**Herd Health**

* Medicated feeds should be stored separately and be properly labeled.
* All facilities should have a Veterinarian of Record (VOR) to manage herd health, disease, drug usage, and animal treatment.
* Each facility should adhere to all withdrawal times for milk. All official samples of sold milk should have tested negative for antibiotics.
* Facilities should adhere to all withdrawal times before allowing animals to go to slaughter.
* Facilities should keep records of antibiotic use and identify all treated animals, including treatment protocols.
* Facilities should establish systems to ensure that animal drugs are used properly and be able to provide evidence that adequate control over the administration of drugs to prevent residues in milk and/or meat has been implemented.
* Facilities should maintain all treatment records for a minimum of two years in the event of a need to trace back or follow up on a confirmed milk or meat residue.
* Facilities should implement a preventative herd health plan to reduce the incidence of disease.
* Facilities should maintain milk quality and implement an effective mastitis management program to reduce the use of antibiotics.
* Employees should be trained on proper animal drug use.
* Drugs should not be used that are specifically prohibited for use in milking dry or growing animals.
* Treated and non-treated animals should be segregated to ensure that milk is not accidentally comingled.
* Ensure that antibiotics are stored securely.
* All animals should be permanently identified.
* Written herd health protocols and procedures should provide enough detail to ensure that all employees with animal care responsibilities can routinely and consistently perform their animal care duties.
* Written protocols should be reviewed at least annually and updated as necessary with the VOR.
* Veterinarians must maintain written or electronic records for all animals treated for at least two years or as otherwise mandated by law. All dairies should also keep written or electronic records on all animals treated with drugs for at least 2 years per FDA requirements.
* Bulls raised as dairy steers should be castrated as soon as is practical.
* Humane handling and pain management should be provided according to AVMA guidelines.
* Facilities should have a written VCPR that is signed by the farm owner and the VOR annually within 12 months to formalize and document their relationship.
* A robust relationship between the dairy producer and farm veterinarian is crucial to ensuring animal care.
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	+ Emergency supplies and equipment.
	+ Training and documentation of the training on the execution of the plan for all involved.
	+ Response scenarios options.
	+ Sheltering in place.

Sheep

**Facilities, Handling, and Environment**

* Facilities and methods should be designed to protect sheep.
* Facilities should have adequate drainage and offsite containment of runoff.
* Housing and handling sheep in groups reduces stress to individuals
* When barns or sheds are provided, adequate ventilation and clean, dry surroundings are important to reduce bacterial and viral buildup and increase animal comfort.
* Handling facilities are best constructed with smooth, solid sides.
* Well trained herding dogs can move sheep quietly and safely.

**Training Programs**

* All sheep producers and their employees should evaluate their animal welfare programs on a regular basis.

**Manure Management**

* Responsible manure management is expected of all livestock owners.

**Planning for Emergencies**

* Small operations should consider possible natural emergencies that might occur and develop a plan to respond to them.
* Large operations should develop written plans to respond to potential emergencies and day-to-day disruptions of normal sheep care.
* All plans should include:
* Contact information for local law enforcement authorities.
* Contact information for local fire and rescue squads.
* Contact information for local veterinary practitioners and the state veterinarian’s office.
* Contact information for the local or regional Emergency Management Agency
* Livestock evacuation plan.

**Managing Predation**

* Producers should try to provide adequate predation control with guard dogs or through other methods.
* A facility that has not paid head taxes will not receive predation services from the State of Utah.
* Producers must become familiar with federal, state, and local laws governing predators that may prey on their sheep as they develop their prevention strategies.
* Frequent flock observation will lower some types of predation losses.
* The use of herders, when possible, can help identify predation and reduce losses.
* When losses occur, producers should examine the sheep carcasses and all evidence around the death site in order to identify the type of predator responsible.
* Producers should remove carcasses as soon as possible and appropriately dispose of them.
* For a guardian animal to perform its task well, adequate bonding of the animal with the sheep is essential.
* Approved lethal control methods used by knowledgeable individuals are needed from time to time to protect the flock.
* An integrated approach is often most effective at reducing predation.

**Nutrition**

* Adequate water and forage should be provided and monitored.
* Sheep can utilize a wide variety of feedstuffs to meet their nutritional requirements.
* Nutritional programs must be developed to address specific and sometimes unique situations.
* Routine monitoring of forage quality, is important to optimize animal efficiency, reduce costs, and maximize animal welfare.
* Changes in diet should be made gradually.
* Facilities should use feeding and watering equipment designs that will avoid injury and contamination.

Producers should be familiar with conditions in their area (deficiencies or excess of certain micronutrients) and their program should account for variations.

* Producers should be alert to presence of poisonous plants.

**Equipment**

* Facilities should provide well designed, constructed facilities for feeding and watering of livestock designed to reduce contamination.
* Feed handling facilities should be designed and constructed to reduce the risk of feed contamination with chemicals, freight materials, and disease-causing infectious agents.
* Protect feedstuffs, feed troughs, and water supplies from contamination.
* Locate feeders and waterers away from each other in the feedlot.
* Implement strategies to protect against feed contamination with fecal material.
* Fertilizers, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and other chemicals should be stored in facilities separate from feed.
* Protecting grains and forages from moisture prevents deterioration of feed and limits mold growth.

**Record Keeping**

* Producers should records changes in body weight or condition score.
* VFD drugs mixed in sheep feed should only be used under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian with a written order.
* All records of VFD feeds must be detailed and maintained in compliance with the requirements of the VFD.

**Biosecurity**

* Each producer should have the goal of implementing the Secure Sheep Plan, an example of which can be found on the UDAF website.
* A biosecurity plan should describe specific measures to prevent the introduction of disease agents and their spread to and from animal populations or their proximity.

Biosecurity has three main components

1. isolation

2. traffic control

3. sanitation/husbandry

* Producers should work with their veterinarian to develop a biosecurity plan and communicate it to those who work on their operation.
* New animals and animals returning from exhibitions should be isolated from resident animals for at least four, and preferably eight, weeks.

**Monitoring and Animal Health**

* Regular monitoring of health, body condition, and growth rates allows producers to evaluate the adequacy of flock nutritional programs.
* Vaccination programs that are tailored specifically for a region, flock, and management system are usually the most successful and cost effective.
* Vaccines should be used according to the manufacturer’s guidelines as directed by a veterinarian
* Vaccination should be viewed as a part of a flock health program and not as absolute protection against disease.

**Humane Treatment of Animals**

* Accepted husbandry practices such as tail-docking, castration etc. should be performed to minimize animal stress.

**Euthanasia**

* Humane Euthanasia of sick sheep that probably will not recover is preferable to allowing to allowing disease to follow its natural course.

**Using Animal Health Products**

* Antimicrobial therapy should be used only after a careful diagnosis is made and all options have been considered.
* Preventative strategies should be emphasized.
* Extra label antimicrobial therapy must be prescribed only in accordance with the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act amendments to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
* The veterinarian should be readily available for follow up evaluation in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.

**Animal Identification**

* Animal identification should comply with Scrapie regulations.
* It is important for producers to be able to identify and track animals to which drugs were administered preceding the sale of meat or milk.
* A system of health records must be maintained that at a minimum identifies animals treated date of treatment, drugs administered, who administered the drug, amount administered, and the withdrawal time prior to harvest.

**Shearing**

* Annual shearing is necessary for wool removal and for physical well-being.
* Facilities and methods used should be designed to protect the sheep, the shearer, and the resulting wool clip.
* The shearing facility should be clean and dry.
* The shearing floor should be solid, clean, and have a non-slip surface.
* Shearing equipment should be kept clean, sharp, and well lubricated.
* Combs and cutters should be disinfected following each job.
* Proper shearing style positions the sheep to insure control and comfort of the animal.
* Keep sheep off feed for 6-12 hours before shearing.
* Only dry sheep should be sheared.
* Animals that are accidentally cut during shearing should be assessed immediately.
* Following shearing, sheep should be turned into clean, dry areas.
* Recently shorn sheep need shelter in severe weather.

**Harvest Practices**

* It is critical that producers are familiar with North American Meat Institute (NAMI) guidelines for humane handling and are trained in effective, human slaughter techniques.

Swine

**From 2018 Swine Care Handbook**

**Herd Health and Biosecurity**

* A herd health management program should include:
	+ Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for all components of biosecurity
	+ Vaccination SOP
	+ Daily observation of all animals for injury or signs of disease
	+ Sop for prevention, detection, and treatment of disease or injury
	+ SOP for euthanasia
	+ SOP for pest control
	+ SOP for individual animal or group identification
	+ Training SOP and programs for animal handlers
	+ SOP for introducing new arrivals to the herd
	+ SOP for managing sick or injured pigs
	+ SOP for culling animals
	+ Record of deaths that occur on the farm
	+ Complete, accurate, and reliable recordkeeping of treatments, reproduction, mortality, and other production metrics
* Every producer must maintain a current, valid veterinary-client-patient relationship.
* The Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) Program should be used as a basis for information and training about good production practices or pork production.
* Each facility should utilize responsible antibiotic use.
* Each facility should have vaccination protocols that are herd and production phase specific.
* Identification is important for maintaining records and tracking pigs as they move through the farm.
* Each facility should maintain up to date medication records for pigs on site and use them to enhance the health of the pigs.
* Each facility should maintain records in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.
* Each facility should implement preventative measures to avoid the introduction and contain the spread of infections on farms.
* Each facility should implement external biosecurity protocols that aim to prevent new pathogen introduction into the farm environment.
* Facilities should consider limiting high-risk practices on commercial farms.
* Animal movement between farms represents a risk of disease spread.
* Facilities should observe pigs at least once a day and more frequently during specific events such as farrowing or recovery from illness.
* Attention to sick and injured pigs must take place without delay, and as soon as possible.
* Each facility should remove and properly dispose of any pigs that die.
* Daily animal care should be arranged during weekends and holidays.
* Caretakers must have a method for tracking animals that are undergoing treatment.
* If a decision is made to move a non-ambulatory pig, movement should occur with consideration for both the pig well-being and caretaker safety.
* The position of the National Pork Board is that any pig that is unable to walk or that is ill and will not recover should be euthanized on the farm and not transported to market channels.
* For the euthanasia process or method to be considered humane, it must be quick, effective, and reliable with minimal pain and distress to the pig during administration.
* **Housing and Management**
* Facilities should be equipped to provide some automated intervention to prevent the death of animals in the event there is a mechanical ventilation failure.
* Housing and management systems should
	+ Provide every animal access to appropriate feed and water
	+ Promote good air quality and allow proper sanitation
	+ Protect animals from environmental extremes
	+ Reduce exposure to hazards
	+ Facilitate the observation of individual sows to assess their well-being
* Each facility should provide animals with adequate quality and quantity of space that allows sows to assume normal postures and express normal patterns of behavior.
* Farrowing systems should provide for comfort, safety, and hygiene of sows and piglets. The system should be properly maintained and provide adequate space, and unobstructed access to feed and water for the sow.
* Pens should be designed to accommodate growth up to a point where all or part of the group of pigs in the pen are removed. Each pig must be able to lie down fully on its side without having to lie on another pig and without the head having to rest on a resided feeder.
* Natural or manmade shelter must be provided to protect pigs from the elements.
* Critical factors that determine space for pigs housed outdoors should include, at a minimum, bedding, soil type, vegetation type and density, season, rainfall, supplemental feeding levels, vegetative palatability, vegetative tramping and rooting, producer preference, slope of land, waterways, and human and pig health and safety.
	+ Mixing and regrouping of different pigs should be avoided as much as possible.
* Producers commonly wean pigs from 14-35 days.
* Animals should be fed to at least meet their minimum nutrient requirements for growth and/or maintenance of good body condition.
* Water should be evaluated for livestock suitability.
* Pigs must be provided with feed and water at least once per day to meet their daily requirements.
* Feeders and waterers should be in good state of repair and positioned to allow for unobstructed feed and water delivery without causing injury to the pigs.
* Regardless of whether pigs are kept indoors or outdoors, it may be necessary to provide supplemental heating or cooling for pigs when temperatures are outside of pigs’ critical temperatures.
* Caretakers should learn to identify signs of heat stress and cold stress.
* Adequate ventilation must be provided to prevent the buildup of gases, particulate matter, and airborne microorganisms to levels that are harmful to pigs.
* Caretakers should avoid startling pigs with sudden and/or unnecessary loud noise.
* Living facilities should have adequate floor space, floor layout, air inlets, air distribution, air flow, humidity, and ambient temperature to allow pigs to keep their areas clean and keep area for defecation and urination separate from their lying area.
* Guidelines should be developed for pumping manure from deep pits to reduce the risk of spreading disease or death of pigs and caretakers due to hydrogen sulfide and barn explosions and fires due to methane.
* The physical condition of all pens, floors, and alleyways should be appropriate for the phase of production. All pens, floors, and alleyways should be kept in a good state of repair whereby they do not cause injury to animals
* Proper preparation is critical when loading or unloading. The loading/unloading plan should clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each individual handler.
* **PQA Plus Handbook**
* **Food Safety**
* Correctly store and administer animal health products.
* Maintain medication records including withdrawal times.
* Follow proper feeding and biosecurity protocols.
* Use a VCPR as the basis for medication decision-making.
* **Animal Well Being**
* Facilities should implement a zero-tolerance policy for animal abuse.
* Facilities should provide training to caretakers on animal handling, animal husbandry, and euthanasia.
* Conduct and document daily observations and provide prompt care to pigs in need.
	+ For pig space to be considered adequate the pig must be able to easily lie down fully on its side without having to lie an another pig and easily be able to stand back up; lie down without the head having to rest on a raised feeder; a pig housed in a stall must be able to lie down fully on its side.
* Assess the facilities and equipment daily to make sure the pigs’ environment is safe and allows access to feed and water.
	+ This includes examining the ventilation, animal facilities, and emergency support plans and procedures.
* Euthanize pigs in a humane and timely manner.
	+ The position of the National Pork Board is that any pig that is unable to walk, significantly injured or ill, and will not recover, should be humanely euthanized on the farm and not transported through market channels.
* Be prepared for emergencies related to animal well-being.
	+ There are three important components of emergency support: the emergency action plan, emergency detection system, and the emergency backup ventilation system.
* Handle pigs using knowledge of pig behavior.
* Handle pigs according to their size and phase of production, using proper handling equipment.
* **Public Health**
* Protect swine and public health.
* Use antibiotics responsibly.
	+ This involves evaluating their use to protect animal health, optimize effectiveness, and minimize the risk of developing antibiotic resistance.
* On Farm Biosecurity Principles
	+ Limit the number of visitors to the swine operation.
	+ Develop and implement an enhanced biosecurity protocol for caretakers, service personnel, and all other people and equipment entering the facility.
	+ Follow industry-accepted biosecurity practices.
	+ Establish, implement, and enforce strict sick leave policies for caretakers who have developed influenza-like symptoms.

Poultry

Layers

**General Animal Husbandry Practices**

* Fresh feed needs to be made available on a daily basis.
* All lights should be in working order.
* Water should be available at all times.
* Shelter should be appropriated for bird’s age, type, and production.
* Biosecurity rules and standard animal welfare practices need to be obeyed.
* Safety rules of the farm must be followed.
* Injured, sick or trapped birds need to be taken care of.
* Proper euthanasia of sick, injured or cull birds will be conducted by a trained employee.
* There are a number of ways to euthanize a chicken. It is important that the method used is quick and does not allow the bird to suffer in the process.
* Dead birds will be removed from bird living area on a daily basis and properly disposed of.
* Proper handling and catching methods to minimize stress must be followed.
* It is important that each task is performed slowly and not quickly.
* There is zero tolerance for willful acts of abuse and neglect.
* Do not restrict feed or water to the birds.

**Biosecurity and Animal Health**

* Only necessary personnel should be allowed in poultry buildings.
* Access to property by visitors should be restricted. Visitors must not be allowed into the poultry house without proper supervision.
* Wild birds, rodents, pets and other animals should not be permitted in poultry houses.
* Environmental conditions within the house should allow the birds to maintain their normal body temperature without difficulty.
* Nutritionally-adequate fresh feed must be easily accessible to all birds and care shall be taken at each rehousing of flocks to ensure that the birds find the feed.
* In layer houses that require mechanized ventilation, stand-by generators with alarm systems must be provided and tested regularly.

**Euthanasia and On-Farm Depopulation of Entire Flocks**

* Facilities should coordinate with the USDA and UDAF regarding flock depopulation.

**Guidelines for Catching and Transport**

* Catching and transport should be performed in a humane way to protect birds from harm or damage.
* Catching of pullets and hens must be done in a manner that avoids crowding or piling in corners. Sudden loud noises and other disturbances alarming to birds should be minimized.
* To minimize the risk of bone breaks and other injuries, all people involved in catching and transport must be trained, knowledgeable and skillful in handling hens.
* When catching birds, use the lowest light level possible that will not impinge on worker safety, or use blue lights that will calm the birds while providing better visibility for catchers.
* Hanging racks should not be used to move birds.
* Birds moving into or out of cage production systems should be handled so as to minimize bone breakage or injury.
* Birds in cage-free systems should be caught individually and held in a comfortable upright position with both hands as they are transferred directly into or out of a transport container.
* The size of openings such as container doors, cage doors and panels on trucks should be large enough to permit easy passage of hens to avoid bone breakage and other injuries.
* Containers must not be dropped or tipped such that birds pile up against the side. Stocking density should be such that all birds can sit comfortably at the same time.
* Birds must be loaded only into clean, well-maintained transport containers and vehicles. The doors of the containers must be closed securely so that birds do not escape during loading or transit. Visibly unfit birds must not be loaded for transport. They should be euthanized.
* The drivers of transport vehicles must be aware of climate conditions and make necessary adjustments (e.g., to bird density, tarps, fans during standby) to keep birds thermally comfortable.
* Catching and transport must be planned so that feed is withdrawn no more than 24 hours prior to slaughter or depopulation.
* Water must not be withdrawn prior to catching.

**Molting**

* Only non-feed withdrawal molt methods are permitted.
* Hens should be provided with a feed source that is suitable for non-producing hens.
Water must be available at all times.
* The light period should be reduced to no fewer than 8 hours in closed houses, or to natural day length in open houses, for the duration of the rest period.
* During the molt period, body weight loss should be sufficient so as not to compromise hen welfare in the subsequent laying period.
* Total mortality during the molt period should not substantially exceed normal variations in flock mortality.

**Guidelines for Beak Trimming and Treatment**

* Beak trimming is a necessary animal husbandry practice to protect birds and prevent cannibalism. Accommodations for nutrition should be made following beak trimming procedures.
* Birds whose beaks were recently trimmed may have difficulty activating watering devices; therefore, caretakers should take actions that will facilitate the bird’s ability to drink.
* To minimize weight loss, birds should be fed a pre-starter, starter or high-density stress diet for about one week following beak trimming.
* If a trimmed beak grows back, a second trim may be needed when pullets are 5 to 8 weeks old.
* When avoidable, birds should not be subjected to stressful conditions (e.g., handling, moving and vaccination) for two weeks following beak trimming.
* After beak trimming, the levels of feed and water should be increased until the beaks are healed.
* Turkeys
* **Biosecurity**
* Basic Tenants: Isolation, Traffic Control, and sanitation.
* The facility should isolate birds form any potential pathogen that can cause mortality or lead to economically erosive chronic health issues.
* Traffic control Is the first step to limiting potential exposure of birds to a harmful pathogen and reducing the probability of the negative results from that exposure.
* The facility should be proactive to ensure that anyone arriving at the farm is clean and take the precautionary step of sanitizing equipment before entering the farm.
* Any deviation from the guidelines of the biosecurity plan should be approved in advance.
* Farm employees or contractors who occupy ranch dwellings or have home sites and work on the farm daily should not keep any pet birds or poultry.
* Dogs and cats should not be allowed to roam freely on the farm or allowed in any poultry houses.
* Footwear should be cleaned and disinfected at the start and finish of every workday.
* Clean and laundered clothing should be worn each day or designated clothing should be left at the facility.
* Rubber boots or other cleanable footwear, which should be cleaned at the start and end of each workday, are necessary for working in poultry houses.
* Employees should not hunt waterfowl on the same day they will be entering poultry houses.
* Family members of employees who reside on a farm should not be employed by live haul, dead haul, or at a poultry processing plant.
* No unauthorized employees or outside visitors may visit a poultry facility or enter a poultry house without the consent of the live production manager for that complex.
* Employees should use alcohol-based disinfectant from a mobile dispenser, to clean their hands prior to leaving their vehicle.
* Clean cloth coveralls should be worn by employees and visitors can wear disposable coveralls.
* Short-sleeved coveralls may only be worn with short-sleeved clothing underneath
* Rubber boots should be washed and disinfected at farm boot wash station.
* Follow prescribed sanitation protocols for visitors at the end of their visit.
* Coveralls and/or rubber boots should never be worn in vehicles and should be stored in a secure place in the vehicle with a distinct separation between clean and dirty coveralls.
* **Mortality Disposal**
* All mortality should be picked up and disposed of in a timely and appropriate manner to prevent rodents or predators from coming in contact with the mortality and prevent transmission of disease.
* Dead birds must be disposed of so that cats, dogs, rodents, wild animals, and birds cannot eat or carry off the carcass.
* All dead birds must be disposed of according and in compliance with local regulations.
* Dead bird pickup should be on a regular schedule based on the age and status of the farm.
* Farms deemed under quarantine should be the last pick up of the day regardless of age.
* Dead haul driver should not leave the cab of the truck when picking up mortality bins.
* Dead haul vehicles should be cleaned and disinfected after each delivery to the rendering facility.
* **General and Preventative Health**
* Birds during all stages of their lifespan must be handled in a humane manner.
* Bird activity, including feed and water consumption, should be appropriate for the age of the bird and should be monitored.
* **Vermin and Wild Birds**
* A regularly monitored and evaluated vermin and wild bird control program should be in place.
* A mosquito Control Program should be used where needed.
* Fly breeding areas should be eliminated as they occur.
* Any stray poultry left from previous brood and not picked up by live haul shall be humanely euthanized immediately.
* Wild birds should not be allowed in any poultry house.
* Spilled feed should be swept up from all roofs and sides of houses within a 24-hour period.
* **Flock Evaluation**
* All flocks should be evaluated regularly during the grow out process for evidence of lameness.
* When culls greater than 2 birds out of1000 are attributed to lameness the cause of the lameness should be investigated.
* All flocks should be evaluated throughout the grow out for evidence of respiratory disease.
* All flocks should be evaluated throughout the grow out for evidence of recurring injury due to mechanical or physical deviations within the house.
* **Euthanasia**
* Any bird with a condition that makes it unlikely to thrive in a growing environment should be humanely euthanized.
* Unlikely to thrive is defined as the inability to reach feed or water for normal growth or development.
* Any procedure needs to be performed in a manner consistent with the AVMA, National Chicken Council (NCC), or National Turkey Federation (NFT) accepted technique.
* Emergency euthanasia due to a foreign animal disease diagnosis will be performed under the authority and guidelines outlined in the Utah Animal Disease Emergency Response Plan.
* Removal of abnormal birds by humanely culling them from the flock and disposing of them should be done routinely as soon as they appear in a flock.
* Euthanasia of culled birds is well described in the National Turkey Federation Farm Euthanasia of Turkeys Manual. The procedure used must result in quick and sure death with minimal pain and distress.
* **Facility and Equipment Requirements**
* **Minimum Housing Standards**
* All buildings must be structurally sound, weather tight, animal proof, and provide adequate light and ventilation.
* All buildings must be weather tight enough to keep rain, snow, and wind out.
* All buildings must be animal proof.
* All brooder buildings should have enough lights to maintain 7-foot candles during the first week of brooding.
* All buildings must have a reliable source of clean water, and the capacity to keep up with the demand during periods of maximum water usage.
* All buildings must have an automatic system to allow birds to be medicated through the water.
* All buildings must have an automatic feeder system and water system sufficient to feed and water the birds.
* All buildings must have enough heaters to maintain the recommended temperatures during cool weather.
* All grow out buildings must have fans to circulate air in hot weather.
* All fans must be covered with a safety guard.
* All feed bins must be capable of being opened and closed from the ground.
* Farms must have all weather roads.
* All buildings must have an approved water sanitation system capable of maintaining desirable quality.
* No overhead power lines around or near load out area and feed bins.
* **Brooding Requirements and Set up**
* Allow no less than .90 square feet per poult placed.
* Brooder stove capacity-no more than 400 poults per stove
* Allow 2 mini drinkers per brooder stove plus two plasson fountains or nipple lines.
* With oval 80’s place one mini drinker every 20 feet of ziggety drinker line.
* Provide a minimum of 4 mini feeders per brooder stove
* With tube heat provide one hand feeder every 10 feet in between the feed lines.
* Provide 3 lines of recognized automatic turkey feeding system in 50-foot wide houses
* Provide 2 lines of recognized automatic turkey feeding system in 40-foot wide houses
* Provide one 36-inch fan per 5000 square feet.
* Provide a bulk medication tank or proportioner that can treat houses separately.
* Provide a tank capacity feed bin large enough to satisfy feed mill/consumption requirements for the house. That is 3 days consumption at the consumption rate of the oldest birds.
* **Grow Out**
* Provide a minimum of square footage for each bird type. Light hens-2 square feet per bird; heavy hens 2.5; consumer toms 3; heavy toms 3.75; tunnel ranches 3.5-3.75 square feet.
* Drinkers: Hens one bell type fountain per 150 birds; Toms one bell type fountain per 100 birds; Nipples maximum of 20 birds per nipple.
* Provided a recognized automatic feeding system with a fed bin that has the capacity to hold feed for the house for at least 3 days at market age.
* Provide one 36-inch fan per 300 square feet.
* Provide medication tanks or a proportioner system large enough to handle bird volume and treat houses separately.
* Provision must be made for a reserve water supply and back-up generator.
* Provide a fogging system.
* Comply with company approved acceptable bird disposal method.
1. [UCC Purpose Statement](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title4/Chapter18/4-18-S102.html?v=C4-18-S102_2018050820180508); [DEQ Air Quality Purpose](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title19/Chapter2/19-2-S101.html?v=C19-2-S101_1800010118000101); [DEQ Water Quality Definitions](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title19/Chapter5/19-5-S102.html?v=C19-5-S102_2020051220200512) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)