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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

HOLIDAY NOTICE

Monday, February 19th: There will be **no delivery service** on Family Day. On-call veterinarian will be available for emergencies. Clinics will be open only in the morning for pick-ups and early residue tests.

*****Reminder to all producers the changes coming into effect with the updated "Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle"*****

- Requirements of the revised *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle* were published on **March 30, 2023**, with the implementation date of **April 1st, 2024 unless stated otherwise** in individual requirements.

Key Impactful Requirements and Timelines

April 1st, 2024	April 1st, 2027	April First, 2029	April 1st, 2031
<u>CALF HOUSING (Pre-weaning)</u>			
Where tethering of calves is permitted, <i>the tether must have a collar.</i>			
<p><u>For indoor calf housing:</u></p> <p>Calves must not be tethered as a part of normal indoor housing.</p> <p>Producers raising calves individually must develop a plan to transition to pair/group housing methods, in consultation with a veterinarian or other qualified advisor.</p>			<p><u>For indoor calf housing:</u></p> <p>Effective April 1, 2031, calves that are healthy, thriving, and compatible must be housed in pairs or groups by 4 weeks of age.¹</p>
<p><u>Hutches and other outdoor housing:</u></p> <p>Calves housed outdoors, including hutches, must have physical contact with another calf unless they need to be separated for health reasons or to be protected from inclement weather.</p> <p>Calves may be tethered only if housed in hutches that provide access to an area outside the hutch.</p>			

April 1st, 2024	April 1st, 2027	April First, 2029	April 1st, 2031
<u>COW HOUSING</u>			

<p>Newly built barns must allow daily, untethered freedom of movement and social interactions year-round.</p> <p>Tethers or other head restraints must allow cattle to rest in a head-back position: <u>stanchions are not permitted.</u></p>	<p>Effective April 1, 2027, cows must not be tethered continuously throughout their entire production cycle (calving to calving). They must be provided sufficient regular opportunity for freedom of movement² to promote good welfare.</p>		
<p>Electrified crowdgates must not be used.</p>			
<p>Stocking density must not exceed 1.2 cows per stall in a free stall system.</p> <p>Resting areas in group pens must provide at least 9.3m² (100 ft²) per Holstein cow.²</p> <p>Electric trainers must only be used to train or retrain individual cattle.</p>	<p>Effective April 1, 2027, stocking density must not normally exceed 1.1 cow per stall.³</p>		<p>Effective April 1st, 2031, stocking density must not normally exceed 1 cow per stall.³</p>

CALVING AREA

<p>Newly built barns must allow cows to calve in loose-housed maternity pens, yards, or pastures that permit them to turn around.</p>		<p>Effective April 1st, 2029, cattle on all farms must calve in loose-housed maternity pens, yards, or pastures that permit them to turn around.</p>	
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WEANING

<p>Calves must be gradually weaned over a period of at least 5 days, and they must be at least 8 weeks old before weaning is completed.</p>			
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HEALTH PRACTICES

<p>If castrating cattle, the procedure must be done as early as possible using local anesthesia and systemic analgesia.</p>			
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<p>Cattle must not be tail docked unless medically necessary for an individual animal, and the procedure must be done using pain control.</p>			
<p>If removing extra teats, they must be removed as early as possible using pain control.</p>			
<p>Systemic analgesia must be included in the treatment of cows with severe acute clinical mastitis.</p>			
<p>Pain control must be included in the treatment of cattle that receive an invasive hoof trim.</p>			
<p>Disease events, treatments, and mortalities (including cause, if known) must be recorded and records must be kept for at least 3 years to track trends in animal health.</p>			
<p>If mortality in female calves from 2 days of age exceeds 10%, corrective actions must be implemented to improve calving management and calf health, in consultation with a veterinarian or other qualified advisor.</p>			

¹ Movement into pairs/groups may need to be delayed for individual calves that are not healthy and thriving. Once moved into pairs/groups, individual calves may need to be singly-housed temporarily if they have a health condition that would improve with separation. Movement into pairs/groups may also need to be delayed to ensure there are sufficient number of calves that are compatible as to their age, size, and drinking speed.

² Details on what entails sufficient, regular opportunity of movement have not been provided yet.

³ At any time during or after the 2027 and 2031 transition periods, stocking density can go up to 1.2 cows per stall **but only temporarily/intermittently**. This minimum required space allowance is based on average weights for large breeds (e.g. Holstein) and will be adjusted for medium and small breeds.

For more details visit <https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/dairy-cattle> or speak with your veterinarian!