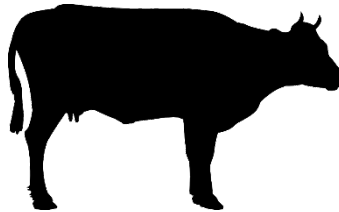




RESPONSIBLE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR BEEF CATTLE



The attached *Responsible Minimum Standards for Beef Cattle* cover the key welfare requirements specific to cattle raised for meat. The *Principles of the Responsible Minimum Standards* should be read in conjunction with the *Responsible Minimum Standards Beef Cattle*, as the *Principles* detail overarching requirements that apply to all farm animals.

About the FARMS Initiative and the Responsible Minimum Standards

The Farm Animals Responsible Minimum Standards (FARMS) Initiative's goal is for financial institutions to encourage and support meat, milk and egg producers, and other companies in the supply chain, towards meeting the Responsible Minimum Standards with respect to how farm animals are raised, transported and slaughtered. The FARMS Initiative was founded by a group of global animal protection organisations. The Responsible Minimum Standards are based upon the principles of a number of global frameworks and reflect input from numerous animal protection organisations and animal welfare certification organisations.

Responsible Minimum Standards for Beef Cattle



Welfare Risks 1: Limitations on Space

Mitigation Standard 1:

1.1	Permanent indoor confinement systems must not be used.
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Welfare Risk 2: Barren and Unsuitable Environments

Mitigation Standard 2:

2.1	Feedlots must not be used.
2.2	Cattle must be kept outdoors on grass during the grass-growing season except when weather conditions such as extreme heat or high rainfall leading to muddy ground make this detrimental for welfare.
2.3	Protection from the elements must be provided in the form of natural cover (trees) or artificial shading when cattle are outside during the grazing season.



Welfare Risk 3: Inappropriate Diets

Mitigation Standard 3:

3.1	Feed for beef cattle must not include high quantities of grain as this can have a detrimental impact on cattle health and welfare.
3.2	Grains, if given to cattle, must be introduced slowly and never compromise more than maximum 40% of the daily diet.



Welfare Risk 4: Painful Procedures

Mitigation Standard 4:

4.1	Face branding, hot-iron branding or tail-docking are not permitted
4.2	The selection of polled cattle (cattle without horns) is greatly preferable to disbudding.
4.3	Dehorning is not permitted.
4.4	Anaesthesia and prolonged analgesia must always be used when disbudding, which must be carried out at an early age (by three weeks of age).
4.5	If castration is performed, it must be at an early age (no later than two months) with pain relieving analgesia and anaesthesia.



Welfare Risk 5: Breeding and Genetics

Mitigation Standard 5:

5.1	Breeding for double muscling is not permitted.
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Welfare Risk 6: Transport

Mitigation Standard 6:

6.1	Land transport time must be limited to a maximum of 8 hours.
6.2	Cattle transported by sea must be accompanied by a veterinarian and must reach their destination by 24 hours.
6.3	Cattle must be fit for the journey.
6.4	Non-ambulatory cattle must never be transported, unless to a veterinarian for treatment.
6.5	Non-ambulatory cattle must not be dragged by their limbs, head or tail, and must only be moved if pulled on a purpose-built conveyance such as a cow sled.
6.6	Low stress handling methods must be used, with no electric prods permitted.



Welfare Risk 7: Slaughter

Mitigation Standard 7:

7.1	Facilities for handling and restraining cattle must take into account the size and age of the animals and be designed, constructed and maintained to minimize stress and risk of injury.
7.2	Cattle must be stunned before slaughter using a non-aversive method that causes instantaneous unconsciousness lasting until death.
7.3	Electroimmobilisation, casting or rotation of cattle must not be used.



Welfare Risk 8: Compliance and Transparency

Mitigation Standard 8:

8.1	Demonstrate compliance with the above standards via annual third-party auditing and annual public reporting on progress towards this commitment.
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