

**POLICIES ON CARE OF LIVESTOCK
NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
Havre, Montana**

Care of the livestock at Northern Agricultural Research Center follows the “GUIDE For the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching” published by Federation of Animal Science Societies, January 2010. Animal care and welfare is reviewed and administered by the Animal Care Committee of Northern Agricultural Research Center. Current NARC Animal Care Committee members are Darrin Boss, Superintendent; Julia Dafoe, professional faculty Animal Science Research Associate; Delyn Jensen, classified Animal Science Research Assistant; Andrew Matakis, Livestock Operations Manager; and Tom Allen, Farm Operations Manager. One additional tenure-track animal scientist position is currently vacant and would normally be a member of the NARC Animal Care Committee with associated specific duties and responsibilities assigned.

For the purpose of this document, animal care and welfare is summarized by the following:

- Ensuring that animals have available water.
- Ensuring that animals have adequate feed based on Agricultural Animal Care and Use Committee (AACUC) approved experimental protocols or National Research Council (NRC) requirements.
- Ensuring that the health and well being of the animals are maintained, more specifically:
 - Animals are vaccinated based on project or experimental protocols or local veterinarian recommendations.
 - Adequately treating animal injuries and illness
 - Providing adequate veterinary care
 - Handling livestock in an appropriate manner
- A complete discussion of animal care and welfare is available in the “GUIDE for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching” (Federation of Animal Science Societies, 1999).

Responsibilities for animal care:

- The Superintendent (Darrin Boss) is ultimately responsible for the care and welfare of livestock managed by NARC via the duties carried out by those NARC personnel with direct livestock management responsibilities.
- The Animal Scientist in charge of livestock research conducted on NARC Headquarters, deeded properties, and associated leased properties (Darrin Boss) is directly responsible for the care and welfare of MSU livestock and for the care and welfare of other project related livestock on said properties.
- The Livestock Operations Manager (Andrew Matakis) is directly responsible for the care and welfare of MSU livestock and for the care and welfare of other project related livestock on NARC Headquarters, deeded properties, and associated leased properties; for the care and welfare of other project related livestock involved with feedlot research as assigned by an Animal Scientist and/or Superintendent.
- The Animal Scientist in charge of research conducted at NARC Headquarters and at the Thackeray Ranch (Darrin Boss) is directly responsible for the care and welfare of MSU livestock and for the care and welfare of other project related livestock.
- The classified Animal Science Research Assistant and Caretaker at the Thackeray Ranch (Delyn Jensen) is directly responsible for the care and welfare of MSU livestock and for the care and welfare of other project related livestock at the Thackeray Ranch during periods when cattle are grazing there as assigned by the Livestock Operations Manager, an Animal Scientist and the Superintendent.
- The Thackeray Ranch Caretaker (Delyn Jensen) is directly responsible for the care and welfare of any non-MSU or non-project related livestock under his personal ownership or control at the Thackeray ranch.
- The Animal Science Research Associate affiliated with research conducted at NARC Headquarters (Julia Dafoe) is directly responsible for the care and welfare of MSU livestock involved in individual/specialized research.
- The Animal Science Research Associate affiliated with research conducted at NARC Headquarters (Julia Dafoe) is directly responsible for the care and welfare of all MSU livestock and for the care and welfare of other project related livestock when such are located at NARC facilities other than the Thackeray Ranch.
- The care and welfare of MSU horses and other project related horses is inclusive with direct animal management responsibilities described herein for ‘Livestock’ in general. Policies regarding authorized horses and requirements for horses kept on station are defined in “Specific Policies on Horses”
- Direct livestock care responsibilities defined above may be temporarily delegated to other NARC animal science faculty members during significant periods of absence to include vacations, extended health recovery, business travel, etc. Such delegation of temporary direct responsibility must be documented in writing for a defined period and must be further verified by signature of the individuals involved.

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- Direct livestock care responsibilities defined above may be temporarily delegated to NARC animal science support staff during significant periods of absence to include vacations, extended health recovery, business travel, etc. Such delegation of temporary direct responsibility must be documented in writing for a defined period and must be further verified by signature of the individuals involved.
- Direct livestock care responsibilities may be delegated to support staff via verbal instruction for associated day to day duties.
- Incurably ill or injured animals in chronic pain or distress will be humanely euthanized by a member of the animal care committee as soon as they are diagnosed.

Animal monitoring frequency (minimum)

- Feedlot animals, daily.
- Horses and cattle in pens and corrals, daily.
- Grazing animals watering from wells with tanks, every other day.
- Grazing animals watering from creeks, springs and ponds, three times per week with no more than two days between monitoring.

Emergencies shall be reported to an appropriate supervisor with direct livestock management responsibilities and determination will subsequently be made on managing specific events. Any livestock personnel shall call a veterinarian directly if necessary. For non-MSU horses, the associated employee and/or the owner will be notified as soon as possible if the animal is injured or ill so that they can direct the treatment (see the NARC Specific Horse Policies). If the employee and/or owner cannot be reached, medical decisions regarding emergency treatment will be made by a veterinarian.

The responsible supervisor in consultation with a veterinarian shall implement vaccination programs to reduce risks associated with disease if AACUC approved experiment protocols are not applicable to immunization programs.

Any changes in this policy will be issued by the NARC Superintendent following consultation with the NARC Animal Care Committee.

Signed & Dated:

Darrin Boss, Superintendent

Vacant, Animal Scientist

Delyn Jensen, Animal Science Research Assistant

Julia Dafoe, Animal Science Research Associate

Andrew Matakis, Livestock Operations Manager

Tom Allen, Farm Operations Manager