



G3716-W

Dairy health and pollution checklist

By answering these questions, you will identify areas in your operation where you can improve animal health and reduce pollution risks. For each shaded box you mark, you will want to learn more about the issues raised by the question. You can use the companion worksheet (G3716) to do this. You can also discuss these concerns with your veterinarian, Extension dairy or water quality specialist or county agent, state Farm*A*Syst coordinator, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservationist or local conservation district staff.

	Yes	No
I. Protecting the most vulnerable: calves		
Do calves receive 3–4 quarts of colostrum within a few hours after birth?		
Do you house weaned calves in groups of 8 or more?		
Do you have sick calves?		
II. Maintaining a clean and dry environment		
Does animal bedding appear soiled or is it damp when knelt upon?		
Are facilities for animals cleaned and scraped daily (unless the facility is specifically designed to require less frequent activity)?		
Do cows have access to manure temporarily stacked in a location such as the end of a barn?		
Do you use the same equipment to move feed, handle fertilizer and clean alleys, pens and yards?		
Does rain and melting snow accumulate in areas where animals are kept?		
Do you manage nutrients in manure with a written plan and a feeding program?		
III. Protecting drinking water		
Is your well within 50 feet of these pollution sources: loafing areas, livestock yards, manure storage facilities, land that has received manure applications?		
Is your well downhill from any of the pollution sources described in the prior question?		
Is your manure storage facility routinely inspected and maintained to prevent failures or leaks?		
Do you test water beyond the minimum requirements for milk producers?		

	Yes	No
IV. Storing and disposing hazardous products and wastes		
Are fertilizers and other hazardous products securely stored to prevent spillage and access by animals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you dispose of all unwanted or unused products (e.g., fertilizer bags) at appropriate facilities off the farm?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are animals in the yard or other locations exposed to wastewater from the milkhouse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
V. Managing pasture and fields		
Do you prevent grazing animals from entering streams or other waterbodies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does runoff from animal facilities flow to areas where animals have access for grazing or other activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you rotate animals or manage pastures to prevent overgrazing problems such as exposed soil and mudholes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you prevent the spread of disease by taking steps such as excluding cows from land that has received manure?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is manure spread on frozen ground or steep slopes near water ways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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06/2003