



Livestock Husbandry Standards and Best Practices

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Grass Roots Farmers' Cooperative (GRFC) farmers use the highest standards of animal husbandry in their grazing and pasture programs to support humane treatment and welfare of all animals.

GRFC farm members must abide by the following standards and any additional standards approved by the Board of Directors. All farms raising livestock for GRFC will be audited regularly for compliance to all standards. Temporary deviations will be taken into consideration when unexpected circumstances that are not under the control of the farmer arise. All deviations from the standards will need to be documented immediately and shared with the Production Management Team. All persons responsible for the day-to-day needs of animals raised for GRFC must ensure animals under their control are cared for in accordance with the standards in this document.

Many aspects of raising animals should be reviewed in relation to the Five Freedoms.

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behavior
5. Freedom from fear and distress

In acknowledging these freedoms, those who raise livestock for GRFC practice:

- Caring and responsible planning and management
- Skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious stockmanship
- Appropriate environmental design
- Considerate handling and transport

1.0 Ownership and Operation

Each farm must be an independent farm owned by an individual, partnership, or family. An independent farm is defined as one wherein the farmer(s):

- a. Own the livestock;
- b. Produce a livestock product for sale or trade;
- c. Manage and/or participate in the daily operations of the farm and care of livestock;
- d. Derive a share of his/her/their livelihood from farm operations;
- e. Exceptions may be granted for educational or nonprofit farms, or farms with notably high standards or exceptional goals.

2.0 Healthcare and Wellbeing

Livestock must be chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in prevailing climatic conditions and in outdoor, forage-based agricultural systems. Because healthy livestock and good agroecological management increase animal welfare and productivity, GRFC standards aim to promote health rather than to treat disease. All animal sources must be approved for quality stock prior to initial animal purchase. Abuse or maltreatment of livestock is prohibited and constitutes summary grounds for dismissal from GRFC.

The basis of a well working health care program is detailed records. Producers will develop and maintain clear and specific written records of all vaccinations, medications and/or other substances used in their animal health care program.

Must include the following information:

- a. Name of medical and/or veterinary product.
- b. Identity of livestock treated.
- c. Reason for treating livestock.
- d. Start and finish date of treatment.
- e. Mortalities, morbidity, and culls, including the cause when known.

Any sick or injured animal must be segregated from healthy animals when necessary. Animals that are flock/herd animals; in case of minor health problems are more likely to recover when they can be treated within their group setting. If an animal is unable to function as a normal member of the group (i.e. cannot keep up with the flock movements or unable to drink or eat without special provision) or if they are infectious, it will be necessary to segregate them from the rest of the group.

2.1 Inspection

Farmers must conduct a thorough inspection of all livestock at least twice a day. During these inspections, any animal not in a state of well-being must be cared for and corrective measures must be taken within 12 hours of discovering the illness or injury. During periods of increased

risk to health and welfare, inspections must be increased as necessary to ensure animal welfare. Any sick or injured animals must be treated to minimize pain and distress, including by a veterinarian if needed.

2.2 *Medical Treatment*

- a. Homeopathic, herbal, and non-antibiotic treatments are preferred.
- b. Veterinary and health care products containing GMOs or derivatives is prohibited.
- c. The use of subtherapeutic (low levels mixed in feed on a long-term basis) or therapeutic (high levels injected on a short-term basis) antibiotics, ionophores, or any other medicine, to control or prevent disease or promote growth, is prohibited.
- d. The use of growth hormones, implants, or any other substances promoting weight gain is prohibited.
- e. All off- label or extra label medicines is prohibited, unless prescribed by a veterinarian and documentation is sent to the production staff.
 - i. Prescription must be accompanied by written instructions on dosage, administration, duration, and withdrawal period
- f. Expired medication is prohibited
- g. Animals treated with any other medication must not be slaughtered until at least thirty (30) days, or an alternative withdrawal period as advised by a veterinarian.
- h. Animals must not be treated with any medications prohibited for food animal use.
- i. Actions must be taken to treat lameness and to remove causes of lameness within twelve (12) hours of discovery of lameness
- j. There must be a safe place for sick and injured animals to recover, free of competition and stress with shelter and bedding.
- k. Sick or injured animals must be monitored at least twice daily
- l. Antibiotics are prohibited in all animals.
 - i. Except for the treatment of an ill or injured individual in a serious health situation to relieve their symptoms.
 - ii. If used, the individual animal must be identified and traced throughout production.
 - iii. The individual cannot be processed and sold to GRFC.
 - iv. Treated animal may stay with the rest of the herd or flock.
 - v. Records must include the information stated above.
 - vi. GRFC holds the ability to review farm member's animal health records at anytime. If determined that antibiotics or other medications were improperly used or an animal has been allowed to suffer, the farmer's membership will be reviewed with the possibility of termination.
- m. Vaccination of young animals is highly recommended for preventative disease and an important part of the health program.
 - i. Vaccinations approved for clostridial diseases include CD&T for lambs and a 7- or 8- way clostridial vaccine for calves.
 - ii. Booster as directed on label.
 - iii. Vaccinating against clostridial diseases is cheap, effective and an essential component of all herd and flock health programs.

2.3 *Parasites*

The primary way to prevent internal and external parasite infections is pasture and bedding management. If prevention is not effective, treatment must be implemented to effectively control worms, lice, mites, flies and other internal and external parasites according to the following standards:

- a. The use of organophosphates and other products contain organophosphates or those products with the same or similar mode of action is prohibited.
- b. If necessary, fresh fecal samples to monitor internal parasites should be taken on a monthly basis
- c. The appropriate situation to check fecal samples are
 - i. Decrease in BCS
 - ii. Loss of appetite
 - iii. Lethargic
 - iv. Diarrhea
 - v. Poor hair coat
 - vi. Poor growth rate
 - vii. Collection of fluid under jaw
 - viii. Signs of anemia; low red blood cells
- d. Operations must have a plan for control of internal and external parasites.
- e. Operations must take action to prevent and treat skin conditions and fungal infections
- f. All farms are highly recommended to implement the management concept of “smart drenching”.
- g. Fly predators are highly encouraged to be used if flies are a nuisance to livestock.
- h. Administering anti parasitic chemicals to any livestock on a calendar schedule without prove of parasitic infection is prohibited.
- i. Farmers must develop a management plan to increase the livestock's resistance and/or resilience to parasites over time.

2.4 *Breeding*

Breeding operations that supply GRFC farms with high quality stock will be approved by the Production Staff and Membership Committee. Pig farrowing and growing operations are prohibited to occur at the same location. Breeding stock selection criteria must include, at a minimum, breed characteristics that improve welfare (e.g., foot and leg health, overall conformation, susceptibility to heat stress, longevity, foraging ability, temperament, etc.) over time.

- a. Natural breeding and cervical artificial insemination (AI) are the only breeding methods permitted.
- b. Embryo transfer and using animals produced by embryo transfer is prohibited.
- c. The ability to successfully give birth independently must be considered overtime and scored by assessing the number of assisted births and mothering ability.
- d. Cloned or genetically engineered animals are prohibited; this includes the use of cloned or genetically engineered breeding stock, offspring, or semen and eggs.
- e. Sourcing breeding or market animals from sale or auction barns is prohibited.

2.5 *Euthanasia*

In the event of injury, old age, or extreme illness, euthanasia should be carried out in a swift, efficient and humane way by a qualified individual. Animal handling and the euthanasia technique must minimize distress experienced by the animal prior to loss of consciousness.

- a. Farmers not familiar with the methods of euthanizing the various species on their farms should seek out advice or training from their vet, GFRC anchor farmer, GRFC staff, or a trainer.
- b. Person performing euthanasia must be present with the animal until death is confirmed.
- c. Approved methods of euthanasia include,
 - i. Gun shot to the head
 - ii. Penetrating captive bolt - immediately followed by exsanguination
 - iii. Vet administered anesthetic overdose
 - iv. Poultry only
 1. Manual or mechanical cervical dislocation
- d. Prohibited methods of euthanasia include,
 - i. Blunt force trauma
 - ii. Non-penetrating captive bolt
- e. Euthanasia technique must cause rapid insensibility and be immediately followed by death
- f. Signs of insensibility include, All must be displayed
 - i. limp floppy head
 - ii. straight or limp tongue
 - iii. no natural blinking
 - iv. no vocalization
 - v. no response to nose being pinched
 - vi. no righting reflex
 - vii. no rhythmic breathing
- g. Any animal needing to be euthanized must be done so within twelve (12) hours.
- h. Relocation of animal to be euthanized can only be done on ambulatory animals. Non-ambulatory animals may be relocated using a tarp, sled, and trailer
- i. Records of each euthanasia must be sent to the Production Team, including
 - i. Reason for euthanasia
 - ii. Animal ID tag number
 - iii. Date
- j. Euthanized animals must be removed from pen or pasture immediately
- k. Euthanized animals must be properly disposed of in one of the following ways, burial, composting, and incineration
- l. Burial and composting of deceased animals
 - i. Bury deceased animal promptly to control odor, insects and scavenging
 - ii. Location must be at least 330 ft from the following
 1. wells and waterways
 2. livestock facilities and pastures not owned or leased by the owner of the animal
 3. from a residence
 4. secondary highway
 - iii. Carcass must be covered with a minimum of 2 ft of compacted soil on all sides

2.6 *Health Care Supplies*

There are a number of animal health supplies you should have on farm for emergencies and the treatment of minor ailments.

- a. Needles- 16, 18, and 20 gauge- size usage is dependent of medicine
- b. Syringes- variety of sizes
- c. Vaccinations
- d. Bandage wrap
- e. Wound spray- antibiotic free, if possible
- f. Vaseline
- g. Epsom Salt
- h. Copper Sulfate
- i. Thermometer
- j. Disinfectants
- k. Mineral Oil
- l. Gloves- latex and palpation
- m. Lubricant
- n. Iodine
- o. Shears
- p. Scissors
- q. Hoof trimmers
- r. Ear tags
- s. Tagging apparatus
- t. Ear tag remover
- u. Tag marker
- v. Rope or halter
- w. Scale or weight tape
- x. Handling aids- nylon flags, sorting boards, rattle paddle
- y. Marking crayon or paint

Be sure to check the expiration date of any medication before administering to an animal. Never use a product that does not have a label or directions. Keep records of all medication or health treatment for each individual animal.

3.0 Records and Management

Livestock records and animal identification are important parts of farm management. All records must be in a physical form that can be shared with the Production Staff and Board of Directors.

The following list includes the records and plans that must be maintained:

- a. Records of the source, date and number of livestock and/or poultry. Sent to Production Staff within 1 week of receiving animals.
 - i. Poultry Receiving Ticket
 - ii. Piglet Form
 - iii. Ruminant Form
- b. Poultry Batch Log, submitted every Fat Tuesday
 - i. Mortality

- ii. Batch weight average
- iii. Feed consumed (lbs)
- c. Records of a health plan and list of veterinary products.
- d. Records of mortality, morbidity, and culling.
- e. Records of feed ingredients for each class of livestock.

3.1 *Medical Records*

Records must be kept of the administration of medical care or veterinary treatment and must include the following information:

- a. Date of purchase or processing of livestock.
 - i. Animal ID
 - ii. Weight
- b. Name of medical and/or veterinary product.
- c. Quantity of medications administered
- d. Identity of livestock treated.
- e. Reason for treating livestock.
- f. Number of animals treated.
- g. Start and finish date of treatment.
- h. Mortalities, morbidity, and culls, including the cause when known.

3.2 *Livestock Identification*

Individual animal identification practices are required to ensure that all livestock raised and sold to GRFC have been raised by a farming member and reared under the GRFC standards, physical records must be kept to trace the animal back to the original purchased source and date of purchase. Each producer must be able to demonstrate traceability of all animals. In order to do so,

- a. All livestock raised for and sold to GRFC must be identified in a species-appropriate way, but in a way that does not cause injury or harm to the animal.
 - i. All animals must be individually, permanently identified
 - ii. Preferred methods of permanent identification include ear tagging and/or tattooing.
 - iii. Ear notching is prohibited
 - iv. Branding (heat or freeze) is discouraged
- b. Temporary identification using non-toxic paints or marking crayons is a useful tool while working and sorting groups of animals.

3.4 *Emergencies*

A plan to care for livestock in emergency situations must be prepared and understood by all farm family and staff. These include fire and climatic extremes such as floods, snow storms, and drought. This plan must also ensure animal welfare during any potential disruption of services or mechanical breakdown such as water cutoff or ventilation machinery. Finally, the plan must ensure animal welfare during transport, including the breakdown or accident of vehicle or trailer.

3.5 *Cleanliness*

All facilities and pastures used by GRFC livestock must be free of debris. All facilities, equipment, fittings, fencing, and pastures must be maintained in a way that they do not pose a risk, or inflict injury or damage to livestock and people. GRFC farms should be kept in a general state of cleanliness and order such that a tour could be given spontaneously at any time.

4.0 Housing and Shelter

All animals raised for GRFC must be located out on pasture, at the designated age, and allowed to fulfill their natural behaviors and basic instincts at all times.

Animals should have continuous access to shelter (natural or artificial) that protects the whole group from weather- including high winds, sleet, snow, and sun- and that meets the following guidelines: The farmer has the responsibility to provide adequate shelter for all animals. The provision of shelter allows them to better cope with the varying climatic extremes that can occur throughout the year and can increase their productivity.

- a. In extreme weather, there must be a way to feed and water all animals in a sheltered environment.
- b. Shelters and housing must be kept dry during inclement weather.
- c. Shelters and housing must be positioned away from areas of run off or potential run off.
- d. Shelters and housing must be well ventilated and allow fresh air to enter.
- e. Shelters and housing must allow natural light to enter.
- f. Animals must not be subjected to continuous light or kept in permanent darkness.
- g. Feedlot and other types of confinement feeding operations are prohibited
- h. In the daytime, animals must always be able to see each other, their food and water sources, and their surroundings clearly.
- i. Use of artificial light is permitted but must not exceed a maximum of 16 hours.
 - i. Artificial light must be distributed evenly.
 - ii. Heating lamp sources are excused from this standard.
- j. Accommodations must be constructed to be easily and effectively cleaned.
- k. At all times, animals must have an area available that provides dry footing so they are not forced to stand in mud or manure.
 - i. Manure must be removed from stationary housing or shelters on a regular basis.
 - ii. All shelters must be managed to eliminate ammonia, dampness, and mold.
 1. If there is an aroma of ammonia, immediate action must be taken to eliminate the source.
 - iii. Manure or soiled bedding must not be stored in the same structure being used to house livestock and/or poultry.
- l. Maintenance and housekeeping routines must be in place to minimize any potential problems from rodents or predators.
- m. Bedding must be clean, dry, and mold-free and replenished daily
 - i. Bedding must not cause discomfort or harm to the animals
 - ii. Bedding from timber-based products sourced from chemically treated wood is prohibited.
 - iii. There must be sufficient bedding for all animals, especially in cold or wet conditions.

- n. Space allowances are set to allow all animals to move around freely and have sufficient space allowing for the natural behavioral structure of the flock and/or herd. (See the species specific standards below.)
- o. Inspection of animals must be possible at any time day or night.
- p. Close confinement in crates or tethering is prohibited.
 - i. Temporary close confinement or tethering—which may be required for vaccination, weighing, marking, or veterinary care is acceptable.

5.0 Food and Water

Animals must have free access to clean, fresh water and food or forage at all times. Farmers must have a feeding plan to ensure a varied, well-balanced and wholesome diet that meets the optimal nutritional requirements of the age, breed, and size of livestock. The following standards apply to all feeds and feed supplements:

- a. The use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or derivatives of GMOs is prohibited
- b. Veterinary and health care products containing GMOs or derivatives is prohibited.
- c. All ruminants must be 100% grass fed
 - i. With exception of non medicated mineral supplement
 - ii. Mother’s milk
 - iii. All grain is prohibited
- d. A list of ingredients or sample tear tags from all feed, minerals and supplements used on the farm must be available to the Production Staff on request.
- e. The total number of feeders and waterers must eliminate competition by providing space for all animals.
- f. Feeding animal by-products is prohibited (mammalian and poultry)
- g. Any changes in diet must be carried out gradually to minimize stress and problems.
- h. The nutritional regime and pasture management plan must account for the added nutritional needs of lactating livestock, finishing ruminants, and laying poultry.
- i. Interval feeding plans (i.e., “skip-a-day” regimes) are prohibited for poultry.
- j. Interval feeding is appropriate to use, only with pigs, in order to lead them to a new pasture or the corral
- k. Free choice, non-medicated supplements are highly recommended to adjust the animals’ nutritional needs and decrease any deficiencies.
- l. Approved non-medicated supplements include,
 - i. Mineral- species specific
 - ii. Salt
 - iii. Kelp
 - iv. Apple cider vinegar
 - v. Garlic
 - vi. Oregano oil
 - vii. Vitamin E
- m. Kelp is a beneficial supplement to provide to all livestock

6.0 Pasture and Forage

The aim of good ranging and foraging area management is to satisfy the natural behaviors of the flock or herd in search of food. The following standards apply to all livestock and poultry raised for GRFC:

- a. Animals must be able to explore the ground and natural environment.
- b. Continuous outdoor pasture access is required for all animals.
- c. Though extensive and rotational grazing systems are permitted, the latter is preferred.
 - i. Even within systems of extensive grazing, pastures and range areas must be used in rotation.
- d. Permanent fencing must be suitable for the livestock on pasture.
- e. Temporary polywire should be used to create smaller temporary grazing paddocks
- f. Temporary fencing must be checked daily for livestock and functionality.
 - i. Check fence for caught livestock and predators
 - ii. Check fence for any source of possible grounding or decrease in voltage
- g. The amount of outdoor area must be such that the health and welfare of the animals and pasture quality is maintained.
- h. All animals must be rotated to a new pasture before the vegetation cover is 50%.
- i. Animals must have access to ranging and foraging areas that are well drained and clean.
- j. Ruminants must be able to graze fresh, clean pasture.
- k. Pastures must be managed to avoid erosion due to the activities of the animals. Especially pigs.
- l. Hay, haylage and baylage from non-GMO perennial, annual grasses and legumes may be fed to animals while on pasture during periods of inclement weather or low forage quality.
- m. Periodic soil testing must be conducted at least once per year.
- n. Periodic testing of pasture or forage nutritional content is highly recommended.
- o. Herbicides and pesticides may be used only when weeds or pests cannot be practically controlled by other means.
 - i. Animals must not be kept on land within 30 days of direct application of herbicides or pesticides.
- p. The use of any manures or fertilizers for pasture land that are bought in from off-farm must be justified by soil testing and pasture nutritional need.
- q. Manures and fertilizers that have a negative effect on soil microbial life or which contain heavy metals are prohibited.

7.0 Predators and Vermin

Livestock must be protected from predators and managed in a way to discourage rodents. Suitable livestock guardians are recommended, chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in the prevailing climatic conditions of the farm and in pasture-based systems. In the event that exclusion of predators or vermin is unsuccessful and remains an issue, live trapping may be used. If live trapping is not possible or is not successful, then lethal control may be used as a last resort or may be carried out when these are causing an immediate threat to livestock.

- a. All predation issues must be recorded and reported.
- b. Licensed rodenticides placed such that non-target species have no access to them may be used for the control of rats or mice.

8.0 Handling and Transport

GRFC requires farmers to develop positive interspecies relationships through regular, gentle handling and conscientious care. These standards aim to facilitate this process and to ensure that humans and animals avoid negative agricultural experiences. The following standards apply to the transport of all animals around the farm, between farms, or in delivery:

- a. All animals must be moved in a calm and consistent way.
 - i. Understanding the flight zone and behavior will help in making this process calm for animals and handlers.
- b. Abuse or maltreatment of livestock is prohibited and constitutes summary grounds for dismissal from GRFC.
- c. All areas accessed by animals must provide good traction and must be well drained and kept clean and free of ice in the wintertime.
- d. The use of hot prods and electric shocks is prohibited.
- e. Effective herding and sorting tools include rattle paddles, nylon flags, sorting boards and knowledge of flight zones
- f. Stress from loud noises or rapid movement must be minimized.
- g. Facilities suitable for working livestock are required.
 - i. Permanent or temporary
 - ii. Panels or fencing used for perimeter must not cause harm to the animals
 - iii. Panels or fencing used must not allow animals to escape
- h. All chutes and facilities for loading must be designed to minimize stress to the animals as they proceed through the loading process.
- i. All ramps and floors must be constructed in such a way to minimize animals slipping.
- j. All animals must be able to step into and out of the vehicle easily and safely.
- k. Herding dogs must be well-trained and used consistently.
- l. In the event an animal suffers accidental injury during catching, they must receive individual treatment to minimize pain and suffering immediately.
- m. Sick, injured, or suffering animals discovered during the catching process and not expected to recover or pass USDA inspection must be euthanized, immediately.
- n. All animals must be healthy, ambulatory, and uninjured to be transported unless they are transported to receive veterinary care.
- o. A competent individual must take responsibility for ensuring that animals do not suffer injury or distress at any point immediately before, during and after transport.
 - i. All subcontractors, handlers, and haulers must adhere to these standards.
- p. The person transporting the animals must proceed without delay to their destination along the shortest feasible route.
- q. If delays during transport or unloading upon arrival at destination are anticipated, loading and transport must not commence until such complications are resolved.
- r. During transport, all animals must be protected from harm and thermal stress.
 - i. In the event any animals suffer injury or distress during transport, they must be treated or euthanized as soon as possible
- s. Ventilation must be provided to allow animals to breath fresh air on the transport vehicle.
- t. Overcrowding during transport is prohibited.
- u. The transportation vehicle must be thoroughly cleaned before loading

- v. All animals must have continuous access to water until the moment of loading and immediately after arrival at the destination.
- w. Transporting downed animals is prohibited.
- x. If possible, animals should not be transported in isolation.
- y. Feed must not be withdrawn for more than twelve hours before processing.
- z. Injured or lame animals able to travel must not be transported in the same compartment as healthy animals.
- aa. Animals from different farms must be separated in transport.
- bb. Animals from different social groups or pens should be separated in transport.
- cc. Transport must not exceed eight hours.
 - i. Transport for the introduction of breeding stock sourced for genetic improvement is exempt from these standards.

8.1 Routine Transport

Farmers may routinely need to send animals off-farm to access alternative ranging and foraging areas or for other management reasons. GRFC reserves the right to audit these sites based on the following standards:

- a. Animals must be conditioned to loading prior to transportation or relocation.
- b. Livestock retain GRFC-approved status only when removed from the approved farm for the following reasons:
 - i. Movement of animals used for breeding
 - ii. Movement of animals in an emergency.
 - iii. Movement of animals for processing.
 - iv. Movement of animals for up to 24 hours prior to routine management.
- c. If the farm has any compliance issues, the off-farm animals must be audited prior to approval or renewal.
- d. If animals are removed from the GRFC-approved farm for five months or more in any calendar year, the off-farm animals must be audited before approval is granted or renewed.
- e. If fewer than a quarter (25%) of the total animals owned are off the approved farm for less than five months in any calendar year and the main farm audit has no animal based compliance issues, the off-farm animals may not need to be audited.

9.0 Broiler Chicken Standards

The following standards apply to all broiler chickens raised by GRFC farmers. All chicks will be sourced by GRFC.

9.1 Health and Welfare

- a. Farmers need to spend 10–15 minutes observing and making needed adjustments to the heat source, watering system, and ventilation patterns of both birds in the brooder and on the pasture twice daily.
- b. Chickens must be monitored to minimize fighting, feather picking and other negative behaviors, and necessary steps must be taken to protect birds from harm.
- c. Size of flocks must not exceed more than about 500 individual birds.
- d. Poultry systems must be designed and managed in a way to minimize mortality.

- e. Space allowances for housing and shelter are set to allow birds to move around freely and sufficient space for natural behavior; the standards are as follows:
 - i. Week 1 0.25 sq. ft. per bird
 - ii. Week 2 0.50 sq. ft. per bird
 - iii. Week 3 1.00 sq. ft per bird
 - iv. Weeks 4-9 1.45 sq. ft. per bird
- f. Heat by the week
 - i. Week 1: 90-95 deg F- minimum for first seven days
 - ii. Week 2: 85-90 deg F
 - iii. Week 3: 80-85 deg F
 - iv. Week 4: 75-80 deg F
- g. All mutilations or physical alterations are prohibited, including:
 - i. Debeaking, beak clipping, tipping, or trimming.
 - ii. Declawing.
 - iii. De-spurring.
 - iv. De-toeing.
 - v. Hole-punching.
 - vi. Pinioning.
 - vii. Notching.
 - viii. Wattle or comb trimming.
- h. Birds that are given antibiotics or hormones are prohibited.
- i. Birds unable to function as a normal member of the group must be euthanized
 - i. Cannot keep up with the flock movements
 - ii. Unable to drink, eat or walk without special provision
 - iii. If birds are found in this condition, farmer will be reported for mistreatment and animal cruelty to the Board of Directors.
 - 1. Grounds for dismissal from GRFC
 - iv. Once observed, bird must be immediately euthanized and removed from the housing area.
- j. Most common and effective method of euthanasia for poultry is manual cervical dislocation.

9.2 *Chicks and Brooding*

- a. Structures must be capable of protecting birds from thermal fluctuations with natural or mechanical temperature and humidity controls as needed.
- b. Brooder structure can either be the schooner brooder or another GRFC approved brooding building.
- c. The brooder structure used for brooding chicks must be:
 - i. Well-bedded
 - ii. Well-ventilated, air exchange
 - iii. Draft-free at ground level
 - iv. Predator-proof
 - v. Allow natural daylight
 - vi. Constructed to allow chicks to self-regulate temperatures.
- d. Every brooder must be equipped with an indoor/outdoor wireless thermometer

- e. Chicks will be delivered to each farm within 36 hours of removal from the hatcher.
- f. Placement of chicks into the brooder must occur within 2 hours of delivery to the farm.
- g. Prior to arrival of chicks
 - i. Clean and disinfect all feeders and waterers.
 - ii. Apply a fresh layer (1-2 in) of bedding to the entire floor of the brooder.
 - iii. Turn on heat lamps, highly recommended at least 24 hours prior to chick arrival
 - 1. Temperature in brooder should be 90-95 deg F.
 - iv. Turn on other heat source, propane burners, highly recommended at least 24 hours prior to chick arrival
- h. Chicks must not be dumped from the chick crate/box into the brooder.
- i. During placement into the brooder, all chicks need to be counted
 - i. Record dead on arrival (DOA)
 - ii. Record number received alive
- j. Water must be available for brooding chicken within areas with supplemental heat
 - i. Provide enough waters for 1in of space per chick
 - ii. Increase $\frac{1}{4}$ in of space per week in brooder
- k. Feed must be available for brooding chicken within areas with supplemental heat
 - i. Provide enough feeders for 1 in of space per chick
 - ii. Increase $\frac{1}{4}$ in of space per week in brooder
- l. Fresh bedding must be added to the brooder floor everyday.
 - i. First seven (7) days shavings should be applied to messy areas around waterers and feeders.
 - ii. After seven (7) days shavings needed to be applied to the entire brooder floor 1-3 times daily to ensure clean bedding.
- m. Place extra shavings around waterers and feeders.
- n. Air quality must be assessed in the brooder daily.
 - i. Using the sensory evaluation of air quality
- o. Normal pattern of chick activity, which includes:
 - i. Warming under the brooder heat source;
 - ii. Drinking clean water;
 - iii. Eating feed;
 - iv. Nestling with others without overcrowding;
- p. Bedding preferences
 - i. Pine shavings- kiln dried
 - ii. Peat moss
- q. If using the schooner brooder, the chicks must spend the first week within the insulation inserted section. Starting at two weeks, the chicks must have access to the entire area of the schooner brooder.
- r. Recommendations:
 - i. Place feed on a large flat surface so chicks can easily access for day 1 and 2.
 - ii. Add sugar or honey to each waterer for day 1 and 2.
 - iii. Make all 90 degree corners rounded
 - iv. Dip chicks beaks in sugar water while unloading into brooder.

- a. Structures must be capable of protecting birds from thermal fluctuations with natural or mechanical temperature and humidity controls as needed.
- b. All broiler chickens raised for GRFC must have access to pasture at and beyond 21 days of age.
 - i. Exceptions are granted due to inclement weather, only
- c. All broiler chickens out on pasture must be raised in a Prairie schooner.
- d. Each schooner must be moved at least one full length each day.
- e. Method of moving schooner may vary
 - i. Winch system
 - ii. Tractor
 - iii. Farm vehicle
- f. When moving the schooner, one must do so without harming the birds.
- g. If birds are injured during the moving process of the schooner those birds must be cared for immediately
- h. Supplemental bedding is not necessary during normal conditions, but must be available during inclement (especially wet) conditions.
 - i. Appropriate bedding is hay or straw

9.3 *Food and Water*

- a. All feed must be free of genetically modified organisms (GMO's) or their derivatives.
- b. All birds must have constant access to food and water during daylight hours.
- c. Waterers must be checked twice daily and any debris or algae cleaned out.
- d. If using non-automatic watering, new water must not be added to the old, replace all of the water when filling water
- e. Feeder and waterer height is ideal at the height of the average birds back- where the neck connects to the shoulders
 - i. Height of feeders and waterers will need to be adjusted at the bird ages
- f. Starting at 1 in of feeder and waterer space per chick, increase $\frac{1}{4}$ in per week
- g. By 8 weeks, 3-4 in per bird
- h. Feeders must be designed and distributed to allow birds to eat without restriction or competition
- i. Interval feeding plans (i.e., "skip-a-day" regimes) are prohibited.
- j. Freshness is important, feed is best used within 14 days of processing, do not exceed 30 days
- k. Grit is a mandatory ingredient, proper gut health is depended on the gizzard muscle grinding action
- l. 3:1 feed conversion is ideal

9.7 *Forage and Pasture*

- a. All pasture and foraging areas must be managed in rotation
- b. The schooner must not pass over the same ground for a minimum of 60 day,
 - i. Highly preferred that the schooner does not pass over that same ground at all during the same season.
- c. A minimum of 4 acres of well drained pasture is mandatory to raise a batch of 2,500 broiler chickens per season for GRFC

- d. During the rainy season the schooner must not pass over any low areas on the pasture
- a. Birds must be able to explore the ground and their natural environment.
- b. Birds must have access to foraging areas that are well-drained and clean.
- c. Birds have access to growing green vegetation on pasture.

9.7 *Records*

- a. Any dead chicken observed during one of the daily monitorings must be immediately removed from the housing area and properly disposed of, as stated above.
- b. Weekly mortality count and average batch weight must be submitted to the Production Staff every Tuesday.
- c. Chick Receiving Log- to be completed the day chicks arrive on farm.
 - i. Includes information on DOAs, chicks received, ect.
 - ii. Must be submitted to Production Staff within 2 days of receiving chicks
- d. Poultry Transport Log
 - i. Includes information of number of crates used, how many birds per crate, total number of birds to be slaughtered
 - ii. Must be submitted to abbotter when chickens are left
- e. Poultry Batch Log
 - i. Updated on a daily basis
 - ii. Includes information on date chickens put out to schooner, number of birds moved to schooner, amount of feed used on a daily basis, mortality numbers, average batch weight
 - iii. Must be submitted to the Production Staff every Tuesday.

9.8 *Handling and Transport*

In addition to those stated in Section 8: Handling and Transport

- a. Baby poultry must be transported in boxes designated for such a purpose.
- b. Throwing or mechanical moving of birds is prohibited.
- c. Young birds must be placed from a height of 12 inches or less.
- d. Abuse, maltreatment or otherwise disrespectful treatment of birds is prohibited.
- e. Apart from individuals as required by treatments, inspections, weighing, routine catching must be done at dusk or, preferably, in darkness.
- f. Handling and catching must be done by competent, trained people.
- g. Hired catching teams must have been educated in the proper methods of handling.
- h. Chickens must be caught and carried round the body and/or by both legs to minimize wing flapping.
- i. Single leg catching is strongly discouraged.
- j. Chickens must never be lifted or carried by the head, neck, one or both wings or tail
- k. Kicking, throwing, striking, punching, hitting or otherwise causing injury to chickens is prohibited.
- l. Birds must be caught with a minimum of stress, including chasing.
 - i. Best practice is to use barriers and make the catching area smaller so the chickens can not run away.
- m. Farm is responsible for loading all birds in crates for processing
- n. Approved GRFC poultry crates must be used to transport full grown birds.

- o. Eight full grown birds maximum per GRFC poultry crate
- p. During the summer, only 6-7 birds maximum per crate
- q. Once fully loaded with birds the crates must remain in a single layer to receive adequate ventilation until loaded on the trailer.
- r. Birds that are sick, injured or suffering during catching must receive treatment or, if not expected to recover, must be euthanized, immediately
- s. Transport after dark is required to keep stress levels low.
- t. On-farm transport of poultry after dark is strongly recommended.
- u. Off-farm transport of poultry after dark is required.
- v. Birds destined for slaughter may be crated overnight provided they have adequate ventilation, are not overcrowded, and are transported to their final destination within three hours of dawn.
- w. Withdraw feed from birds destined for slaughter the afternoon of the day prior to slaughter
- x. Transport to slaughter must not exceed four hours.
- y. Transport containers and vehicle must be capable of providing adequate fresh air and protection from inclement weather to the birds.
- z. When containers and crates are stacked, ensure adequate ventilation for the birds.
- aa. Birds must be handled as little as possible up to the point of slaughter.
- bb. Unload birds into a dimly lit, well ventilated room at the abattoir.

10.0 Turkey Standards

The following standards apply to all turkeys raised by GRFC farmers. All turkey poults will be sourced by GRFC.

10.1 Health and Welfare

- a. Every day farmers should spend 10–15 minutes observing and making adjustments to the heat source, watering system, and ventilation patterns of both turkeys in the brooder and on the pasture twice daily.
- b. Turkeys must be monitored to minimize fighting, feather picking and other negative behaviors, and necessary steps must be taken to protect birds from harm.
- c. Generally, the size of flocks should not exceed more than about 200 individuals; flock size is a factor that has been shown to affect the occurrence of negative behaviors.
- d. Poultry systems must be designed and managed in a way to minimize mortality.
- e. The following minimum space allowances are required when housing GRFC turkeys:
 - i. Week 1 - 0.50 sq. ft. per bird
 - ii. Week 2 - 1.0 sq. ft. per bird
 - iii. Week 3 - 2.0 sq. ft. per bird
 - iv. Week 4 - 4 sq. ft. per bird
- f. Heat by the week
 - i. Week 1: 95-100 deg F
 - ii. Week 2: 90-95 deg F
 - iii. Week 3: 85-90 deg F
 - iv. Week 4: 80-85 deg F
- g. All mutilations or physical alterations are prohibited, including:

- i. Debeaking, beak clipping, tipping, or trimming.
- ii. Declawing.
- iii. De-spurring.
- iv. De-toeing.
- v. Hole-punching.
- vi. Pinioning.
- vii. Notching.
- viii. Wattle or comb trimming.
- h. Turkeys that are given antibiotics or hormones are prohibited.
- i. Turkeys unable to function as a normal member of the group must be euthanized
 - i. Cannot keep up with the flock movements
 - ii. Unable to drink, eat or walk without special provision
 - iii. If turkeys are found in this condition, farmer will be reported for mistreatment and animal cruelty to the Production Team and Board of Directors.
 - 1. Grounds for dismissal from GRFC
 - iv. Once observed, turkeys must be immediately euthanized and removed from the housing area.
- j. Most common and effective method of euthanasia for young turkeys is manual cervical dislocation.
- k. Most common and effective method of euthanasia for older turkeys is mechanical cervical dislocation.

10.2 *Poults and Brooding*

- a. Structures housing turkeys must be capable of protecting birds from thermal challenges with natural or mechanical temperature and/or humidity controls as required.
- b. Brooder structure can either be the schooner brooder or another GRFC approved brooding building.
- c. The brooder structure used for brooding poults must be:
 - i. Well-bedded
 - ii. Well-ventilated, air exchange
 - iii. Draft-free at ground level
 - iv. Predator-proof
 - v. Allow natural daylight
 - vi. Constructed to allow chicks to self-regulate temperatures.
- d. Every brooder must be equipped with an indoor/outdoor wireless thermometer
- e. Poults will be delivered to each farm within 36 hours of removal from the hatcher.
- f. Placement of poults into the brooder must occur within 2 hours of delivery to the farm.
- g. Prior to arrival of poults
 - i. Clean and disinfect all feeders and waterers.
 - ii. Apply a fresh layer (1-2 in) of bedding to the entire floor of the brooder.
 - 1. Recommended to apply a layer of lime prior to the bedding
 - iii. Turn on heat lamps, highly recommended at least 24 hours prior to poults arrival
 - 1. Temperature in brooder should be 90-95 deg F.
 - iv. Turn on other heat source, propane burners, highly recommended at least 24 hours prior to poults arrival

- h. Poults must not be dumped from the poult crate/box into the brooder.
- i. During placement into the brooder, all poults need to be counted
 - i. Record dead on arrival (DOA)
 - ii. Record number received alive
- j. Water must be available for brooding turkeys within areas with supplemental heat
 - i. Provide enough waters for 1 in of space per poult
 - ii. Increase $\frac{1}{4}$ in of space per week in brooder
- k. Feed must be available for brooding turkey within areas with supplemental heat
 - i. Provide enough feeders for 1 in of space per poult
 - ii. Increase $\frac{1}{4}$ in of space per week in brooder
- l. Fresh bedding must be added to brooder floor on a daily basis
- m. Place extra shavings around waterers and feeders.
- n. Air quality must be assessed in the brooder daily.
 - i. Using the sensory evaluation of air quality
- o. Normal pattern of poult activity, which includes:
 - i. Warming under the brooder heat source;
 - ii. Drinking clean water;
 - iii. Eating feed;
 - iv. Nestling with others without overcrowding;
- p. Bedding preferences
 - i. Pine shavings- kiln dried
 - ii. Peat moss
- q. Recommendations:
 - i. Place feed on a large flat surface so poults can easily access for day 1 and 2.
 - ii. Add sugar or honey to each waterer for day 1 and 2.
 - iii. Make all 90 degree corners rounded
 - iv. Dip poults beaks in sugar water while unloading into brooder.

10.3 *Turkeys and Schooner*

- a. Structures must be capable of protecting birds from thermal fluctuations with natural or mechanical temperature and humidity controls as needed.
- b. All turkeys raised for GRFC must have access to pasture at and beyond 6 weeks of age.
 - i. Exceptions are granted due to inclement weather, only
- c. All turkeys out of pasture must be raised in a Prairie schooner.
- d. Maximum capacity per schooner is 200 turkeys
- e. Each schooner must be moved to fresh, clean ground daily.
- f. Turkeys must have access to day range outside of the schooner
 - i. Using temporary woven wire as a perimeter fence
- g. Turkeys must be locked inside of the schooner at night to protect from predators
- h. Method of moving schooner may vary
 - i. Winch system
 - ii. Tractor
 - iii. Farm vehicle
- i. When moving the schooner, one must do so without harming the turkeys.

- j. If turkeys are injured during the moving process of the schooner those birds must be cared for immediately
- k. Supplemental bedding is not necessary during normal conditions, but must be available during inclement (especially wet) conditions.
 - i. Appropriate bedding is hay or straw

10.4 *Food and Water*

- a. The GRFC prohibits the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or derivatives of GMOs
- b. Turkeys must have constant access to food during daylight hours.
- c. Day 1- 28 feed turkey starter, 26% protein mix
- d. Day 29-56 feed turkey grower 21-22% protein mix
- e. Day 56- processing feed broiler feed, 19% protein mix
- f. Starting at week 10- turkeys must be offered whole wheat mixed with grit, in an *additional* separate container than the feed ration
 - i. 4 parts wheat : 1 part grit
- g. Transitioning from one feed to another, it is important to taper turkeys off of the old feed slowly and onto the new feed by increasing the amount of it in their feeder little by little over a period of about a week
- h. Interval feeding plans (i.e., “skip-a-day” regimes) are prohibited.
- i. Waterers must be checked twice daily and any debris or algae cleaned out.
- j. If using non-automatic watering, new water must not be added to the old, replace all of the water when filling water
- k. Feeder and waterer height is ideal at the height of the average birds back- where the neck connects to the shoulders
 - i. Height of feeders and waterers will need to be adjusted at the bird ages
- l. Starting at 1 in of feeder and waterer space per chick, increase $\frac{1}{4}$ in per week
- m. By 8 weeks, 3-4 in per bird
- n. Feeders must be designed and distributed to allow birds to eat without restriction or competition
- o. Freshness is important, feed is best used within 14 days of processing, do not exceed 30 days

10.5 *Pasture and Forage*

- a. Turkeys must have access to pasture at and beyond 6 weeks of age.
 - i. Exceptions are granted
- b. All pasture and foraging areas must be managed in rotation.
- c. The schooner must not pass over the same ground for a minimum of 60 day,
 - i. Highly preferred that the schooner does not pass over that same ground at all during the same season.
- d. Turkeys must be able to explore the ground and their natural environment.
- e. Turkeys must have access to foraging areas that are well-drained and clean.
- f. Turkeys have access to growing green vegetation on pasture whenever possible.
- g. During the rainy season the schooner must not pass over any low areas on the pasture

10.6 *Handling and Transport*

In addition to those stated in Section 8: Handling and Transport

- a. Baby poultry must be transported in boxes designated for such a purpose.
- b. Throwing or mechanical moving of turkeys is prohibited.
- c. Poults must be placed from a height of 12 inches or less.
- d. Abuse, maltreatment or otherwise disrespectful treatment of turkeys is prohibited.
- e. Apart from individuals as required by treatments, inspections, or weighing, routine catching must be done at dusk or, preferably, in darkness.
- f. Handling and catching must be done by competent, trained people.
- g. Hired catching teams must have been educated in the proper methods of handling.
- h. Turkeys must be carried round the body and/or by the base of both wings
- i. Single leg catching is strongly discouraged
- j. Turkeys must never be lifted or carried by the head, neck, one wing or tail
- k. Kicking, throwing, striking, punching, hitting or otherwise causing injury to turkeys is prohibited.
- l. Turkeys must be caught with a minimum of stress, including chasing.
 - i. If turkeys are able to be herded to the trailer that is of the correct height for the turkeys to enter the trailer, this method is highly recommended over catching each turkey.
 - ii. If needing to catch turkeys, the best practice is to use barriers and make the catching area smaller so the turkeys can not run away.
- m. Turkeys that are sick, injured or suffering during catching must receive treatment or, if not expected to recover, must be euthanized, immediately
- n. Transport after dark is required to keep stress levels low.
- o. On-farm transport of poultry after dark is strongly recommended.
- p. Off-farm transport of poultry after dark is required.
- q. Turkeys destined for slaughter may be caught and trailered overnight provided they have adequate ventilation, are not overcrowded, and are transported to their final destination within three hours of dawn.
- r. Withdraw feed from turkeys destined for slaughter the afternoon of the day prior to slaughter
- s. Transport to slaughter must not exceed four hours.
- t. Transport containers and vehicle must be capable of providing adequate fresh air and protection from inclement weather to the turkeys.
- u. Turkeys must be handled as little as possible up to the point of slaughter.
- v. Unload birds into a dimly lit, well ventilated room at the abattoir.

11.0 **Feeder Pig Standards**

The following standards apply to all feeder pigs raised by GRFC farmers:

11.1 *Health and Welfare*

- a. Pigs raised for meat must be obtained from an GRFC-approved farm.
 - i. Production staff will source all piglets (8-10 weeks old) in appropriate batch sizes on a planned schedule for each pig producing farm.

- ii. The producer will be responsible for purchasing and hauling these piglets from the source to the farm.
- b. Pigs must be selected for hardiness to the outdoors
 - i. Able to adapt to the weather and environmental conditions
 - ii. High foraging ability
 - iii. Appropriate breeds include- Red Wattle, Berkshire, Duroc, Tamworth, Hampshire, Hereford and Large Black
- c. Upon receiving the piglets, the Piglet Form must be filled out and returned to the production staff within 1 week.
- d. If not done before purchase,
 - i. All males must be castrated
 - 1. GRFC will not accept boars for processing due to boar taint flavor
 - ii. All pigs must be ear tagged with an individual number
 - iii. All piglets must be de-wormed
 - 1. De-wormers can include Ivermectin, Doramectin, Safe-guard
 - iv. The health working process (above) must be complete within 1 week of obtaining the piglets and by an experienced person
- e. Upon arrival, new piglets must be kept in a training pen for a batch average of 30 days
 - i. Training pen must include
 - 1. Permanent fencing around perimeter
 - 2. 4 sq ft of space per piglet
 - 3. Continuous access to fresh, clean water
 - 4. Electric wire placed at nose height inside the perimeter fence
 - 5. Shelter
- f. Animals must not be kept in isolation unless briefly required for veterinary procedures, weighing, processing or to recover from an illness or injury.
- g. Temporarily single housed animals must have visual and auditory contact with others.
- h. The pen or enclosure for temporarily single-housed animals must meet the space requirement of 12 sq ft per pig
- i. Restraint methods for animal health treatments include
 - i. Chute or partitioning
 - ii. Nose snares are prohibited.
- j. All pig batches must be kept in separate pastures on farm.
- k. Pigs body condition score must be maintained at a body score of 2 or above on a 1-5 scale.
 - i. Action must be undertaken to improve body condition if falls below a 2.
 - ii. If animal fails to recover them to a score above 2 they must be culled.
- l. Thermal comfort must be maintained for pigs at all times through management and provision of supplemental heat or cooling.
 - i. Heating includes, bedding and shelter
 - ii. Cooling include, wallow, shade, sprinkler
- m. Pigs should have access to wallows or sprinklers when temperatures meet or exceed 70 degrees F.
 - i. Wallows can be dug by pigs or farm hands
 - ii. Pigs have poor heat regulation which makes them susceptible to overheating

- n. Shade must be provided in all pasture areas
 - i. Shade can be provided through natural or artificial means
- o. All pigs must be able to perform their natural behaviors
 - i. Rooting- decreases stress
 - ii. Foraging
 - iii. Wallowing
 - iv. Interaction with other pigs

11.2 *Facilities*

- a. Electric fencing
 - i. Temporary or permanent electric fencing
 - ii. Two strands of fencing is suggested
- b. Heights of wire is determined by the height of the pigs
 - i. strand 1 at 4-6 in high
 - ii. strand 2 at 12 in high
 - iii. strand 3 at 24 in high (if necessary)
 - iv. Adjust the height as you see fit for your pig batch
- c. Electric fence charger of 15 joules ideal
- d. Pigs must be trained to electric fencing in the training pen prior to releasing them out into the large pasture.
- e. Temporary close confinement or tethering, which may be required for vaccination, weighing, marking or veterinary care is permitted only for the duration to complete the task
- f. Accommodations must be constructed to be easily and effectively cleaned.
- g. Maintenance and housekeeping routines must be in place to minimize any potential problems from rodents or predators.
- h. Gathering/working/loading areas are required
- i. In any housing or shelter, bedding must be available to animals at all times.
 - i. Bedding must be clean, dry and mold-free and replenished as necessary.
 - ii. Bedding with straw or hay is preferred.
 - iii. There must be enough bedding to ensure the comfort of all animals.

11.3 *Food and Water*

- a. The GRFC prohibits the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or derivatives of GMOs, as well as veterinary and health care products containing GMOs or their derivatives.
- b. Mammalian, fish and poultry bi-products are prohibited.
- c. All pigs must be fed daily
 - i. Unless withholding feed for processing
- d. Feed ration or minerals must be fed in a feed container
 - i. Acceptable containers include bulk feeders, troughs,
- e. Feed must be mold and mildew free
- f. Must have adequate feeder space and functionally working feeders
 - i. 6 pigs per feeder space when using a dry feeder with no full head barriers between each feeding place

- ii. 10 pigs per feed place where there are full head barriers
- g. Feeders must be free of debris and organic matter on a daily basis
- h. Check feeder for food wastage on a daily basis
- i. All pigs must have continuous access to clean drinking water
 - i. Lack of water will significantly reduce feed intake and daily gain
- j. Waterers must be checked on a daily basis and cleaned from debris and organic matter

11.4 *Pasture and Forage*

- a. Continuous outdoor access is required for all pigs.
- b. Continuous ranging and foraging area access is required for all pigs.
- c. Ranging and foraging areas must be used in rotation and with the appropriate fencing so not to cause soil erosion or harm to the environment.
 - i. Rotation records must be kept
- d. Previously ranged areas need to rest to allow for regrowth
 - i. Minimum of 30 day rest period
- e. Stocking density is 10 feeder hogs per acre
- f. At least 25% of the pasture area must be covered with vegetation
- g. Foraging area must be free of debris that can cause harm.
- h. The amount of outdoor area must be such that the health and welfare of the pigs, and the range and forage quality, is maintained.
- i. Animals must have access to ranging and foraging areas that are well drained and clean.
- j. Pigs have access to growing green vegetation on the range whenever conditions allow.
- k. Pigs must have access to ranging and foraging areas that have not become polluted with manure or other potentially toxic substances.
- l. Where vegetative cover cannot be maintained throughout the year manipulable material must be provided.
 - i. Hay, Straw, Wood or Sawdust
- m. Animals may only be removed from the ranging and foraging area and housed in an emergency situation and to a maximum of up to 28 days.
- n. If local conditions mean there will be a planned removal of animals from pasture for any length of time or in an emergency where removal from pasture exceeds 28 days, the farmer must put into place a plan for animal management, including:
 - i. Triggers for housing such as temperature, precipitation or soil condition;
 - ii. Space available to each housed animal;
 - iii. When pigs are excluded from ranging and foraging areas they must be provided with sufficient material they can manipulate so they can engage in rooting and foraging behavior;
 - iv. Triggers for animals to be returned to ranging and foraging areas. It is not acceptable to use a particular date during the year as a trigger for either housing or return to ranging and foraging areas. Triggers must relate to the identified risk to the welfare of the animals and environment under certain climatic or agricultural conditions.
- o. Facilities available to house the animals, which must include lying areas, loafing areas, feeding areas and space to enable animals to fulfill their behavioral needs.

11.5 *Handling and Transport*

In addition to those stated in Section 8: Handling and Transport

- a. Pigs must not be transported in isolation.
- b. Pigs from different farms should be transported in separate compartments.
- c. Water must be available until loading.
- d. Only low stress handling aids may be used
 - i. nylon flags, sorting boards, rattle paddles
- e. Functioning animal handling facilities must be in place to gather and load pigs
- f. 4 sq ft of space is required when hauling animals 250-300 pounds

12.0 **Farrowing Pig Standards**

The following standards apply to all farrowing operations supplying piglets to GRFC members.

12.1 *Health and Welfare*

- a. Breeding stock must be selected for paternal qualities
- b. Selecting for breeding females
 - i. Best mothering ability
 - ii. Litter size
 - iii. Milking ability
 - iv. No health problems
 1. Free of hernias and lameness
 - v. At least 10, well developed, well spaced teats
 1. Preferably 12.
 - vi. None of the teats should be non functional
 - vii. Be of desired body type
 1. long, lean, muscular
- c. Selecting for breeding males
 - i. Masculine appearance
 - ii. No health problems
 1. Free of hernias and lameness
 - iii. Two, large well formed testicles
 - iv. From a large litter
 - v. Not related to female
- d. Preferable to use of stock from different breed to gain advantages from cross breeding
- e. Breeding must not occur with a female less than 8 months of age.
 - i. If bred too young she will have trouble during farrowing and may not grow to normal size
- f. Tail docking is prohibited
- g. Pulling needle teeth is prohibited
- h. De-tusking boars is prohibited
- i. Piglets must nurse as soon as possible to get colostrum
- j. All boar piglets must be castrated, unless remaining intact to be a breeding boar
- k. Acceptable castration instruments include a sharp, clean
 - i. Scalpel
 - ii. Razor blade

- iii. Surgical scissors
- l. Recommend that castration occur around 7 days old.
- m. Boars must be castrated by 4 weeks old.
- n. Piglets must be weaned at 8 weeks old.
 - i. Only earlier if health risk to piglets or sow
- o. Spaying gilts is prohibited
- p. Nose rings are prohibited
- q. Nest building material must be available to the sows 1 week prior to farrowing
- r. Two litters per sow a year is max
- s. All pigs must be able to perform their natural behaviors
 - i. Rooting- decreases stress
 - ii. Foraging
 - iii. Wallowing
 - iv. Interaction with other pigs
- t. Pigs must be managed to minimize aggressive behavior
- u. Maximum stocking density is 6 sows per acre .

12.2 *Reproduction and Farrowing*

- a. Female puberty- varies with breed, size, nutrition and climate. early as 6-7 months to a year
- b. Male puberty- generally one month before females. varies due to same factors
- c. Estrus lasts on average 2-3 days
 - i. cues - swollen vulva, interest/accepting the male
- d. Estrus cycle- 19-21 days
- e. Best time to breed females is on the second day of heat.
- f. If they are too thin they should not be bred during this heat, they need to put on some flesh before being bred
- g. One mature boar can service 10-12 sows.
- h. Acceptable breeding methods-
 - 1. Hand breeding-
 - a. Male is kept separate from females. when female is notices in heat she is brought to the male for breeding.
 - 2. Pen breeding-
 - a. Male stays with the females until females have conceived.
- i. Signs of Farrowing
 - i. 2-3 weeks- udder fills
 - ii. 5-7 days- swollen vulva
 - iii. 1-2 days- milk in teats
 - iv. 12-24 hrs- sows is restless, nervous, nesting behavior
 - v. Between 48-24 hours before farrowing, sows will isolate themselves from the social group and seek a nest site, maybe walking between 1 and 4 miles to do so.
 - vi. Once a nest site is selected, the sow will spend many hours gathering and arranging vegetation to construct a nest into which she can burrow, finishing nesting a few hours before farrowing.

- vii. Nest building material must be available to the sows a minimum of 3 days prior to farrowing
- j. Sows generally come into heat 3-7 days after pigs are weaned.
- k. If sows come into heat when pigs are 2-3 weeks old and still nursing then she should not be bred at this heat.
- l. Farrowing areas must be clean, free of debris and well drained.
- m. A clean environment with sufficient space must be provided for farrowing.
- n. Highly recommended that sows be placed in an individual pen for farrowing to keep other pigs from interfering.

12.3 *Records*

- a. Detailed records must be kept on all breeding stock and piglets
- b. Records must include, but not limited to
 - i. Breeding mates
 - ii. Breeding date
 - iii. Expected farrowing date
 - 1. Typically 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days after breeding
 - iv. Number of piglets born alive, dead, mummy
 - v. Any problems with farrowing or mothering abilities
 - vi. Weaning date
 - vii. Mortalities after birth and before weaning, including reason if known
 - viii. Number of piglets weaned
 - ix. Date of castrations, any problems associated
 - x. Health issues of sow or piglets
 - xi. Date of administered de-worming product

12.4 *Housing and Shelter*

- a. Shelter for pigs may be provided by natural features such as shade, trees or by building, while housing may also be used as a shelter.
- b. Farrowing crates or confinement apparatus is prohibited
- c. Gestation stalls are prohibited
- d. Farrowing pens or huts-
 - i. Deep bedding materials provided
 - ii. Minimum of 48sq ft of space
 - iii. Sow must be able to lie fully outstretched within the pen
 - iv. Sow must be able to turn 360 degrees unhibited
- e. Farrowing areas must include a protected space for piglets
- f. Pasture farrowing is highly encouraged whenever possible, but not required.
- g. In any housing or shelter, bedding must be available to animals at all times.
 - i. Bedding must be clean, dry and mold-free and replenished as necessary.
 - ii. Bedding with straw or hay is preferred.
 - iii. There must be enough bedding to ensure the comfort of all animals.

12.5 *Food and Water*

- a. All pigs must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times

- b. Breeding stock is not required to be fed non-GMO grains.
- c. Mammalian, fish and poultry bi-products are prohibited.
- d. Piglets can be started gradually on feed at 14 days old
- e. Increase feed as they grow
- f. Recommended for piglets to be introduced to the GRFC non-gmo hog ration by 6 weeks of age, to lessen the stress
- g. Nursing sow need to have her feed gradually decreased starting at 1 week prior to weaning.
 - i. This will gradually lessen the milk production and lessen chances of udder problems following weaning
- h. Breeding stock should not be self fed.
- i. Breeding stock should be hand fed daily in a trough as much as they can finishing in 1 sitting.
- j. All pigs must be fed daily
- k. Feed ration or minerals must be fed in a feed container
 - i. Acceptable containers include bulk feeders, troughs,
- l. Feed must be mold and mildew free
- m. Must have adequate feeder space and functionally working feeders
 - i. 6 pigs per feeder space when using a dry feeder with no full head barriers between each feeding place
 - ii. 10 pigs per feed place where there are full head barriers
- n. Feeders must be free of debris and organic matter on a daily basis
- o. Check feeder for food wastage on a daily basis
- p. Waterers must be checked on a daily basis and cleaned from debris and organic matter

12.6 Pasture and Forage

- a. Pregnant sows should be allowed to graze on the best forage available.
- b. Sows must have access to pasture.
- c. At least 25% of each occupied pasture must be covered with vegetation.
- d. Pastures housing breeding stock and piglets must be used in rotation.

12.7 Handling and Transport

In addition to those stated in Section 8: Handling and Transport

- a. Avoid undue exertions in moving and handling
- b. Pigs must not be transported in isolation.
- c. Pigs from different farms should be transported in separate compartments.
- d. Water must be available until loading.
- e. Only low stress handling aides may be used
 - i. nylon flags, sorting boards, rattle paddles
- f. Functioning animal handling facilities must be in place to gather and load pigs

13.0 Sheep Standards

The following standards apply to all sheep raised for the GRFC.

13.1 Health and Welfare

- a. Sheep must be carefully monitored to minimize fighting and other negative behaviors, and necessary steps must be taken to prevent harm.
- b. Animals must be maintained at a body score of 2 or above on a 1-5 scale.
- c. Breeding animals must not exceed body score 4 on a 1-5 scale.
- d. Tethering individual lambs is prohibited.
- e. Dehorning of adult ewes or rams is prohibited.
- f. Disbudding of lambs is prohibited.
- g. Tail docking is prohibited.
- h. Mulesing is prohibited.
- i. Ram lambs must be castrated, if being raised for GRFC.
 - i. Must be done by a competent person.
 - ii. The only acceptable method of castration for lambs is by use of rubber rings or emasculator (burdizzo).
 - iii. Must receive a tetanus shot before castration, no matter the method.
 - iv. Lambs must be castrated on or before ten days of age.
 - v. Immunocastration and other forms of chemical (natural or synthetic) castration or testosterone production limiting methods are prohibited.
- j. Vaccinations are highly recommended for enterotoxemia, pneumonia, clostridial disease and tetanus.
- k. The health and well-being of the sheep must be protected by ensuring the animals have appropriate wool or hair cover at critical times of the year.
- l. Adult wool breeds must be sheared at least once annually
- m. Shearing must be carried out by a competent person who can minimize stress and injury.
- n. Any sheep cut or injured during shearing must be treated immediately
- o. The entire flock requires foot trimming at least twice annually.
- p. Any sheep identified as lame; limping, grazing on knees, holding foot up must be assessed and treated as necessary.
 - i. Records of lameness and treatment must be kept and available to the Production Team
- q. Any sheep identified as lame and not responding to treatment within seven (7) days must be euthanized.

13.2 *Reproduction and Lambing*

- a. A competent person must be available at birthing time to assist if problems arise.
- b. Ewes should not be exposed to rams prior to the age of ten (10) months.
 - i. While ewes may reach puberty before the optimal age of first service, rams must be managed carefully in the ewe-lamb operation to ensure ewes are not served by accident too young.
- c. When conditions permit, lambing must occur outside on pasture.
- d. Lambing areas must be clean, free of debris and well drained.
- e. A clean environment with sufficient space must be provided for lambing.
- f. Bedding must be provided if lambing does not occur on non-denuded pasture.
- g. If a lambing pen is used, it must provide a minimum of 25 sq. ft. and provide easy access to fresh water and feed.
- h. The ewe and newborn lamb(s) may be kept in a pen for a maximum of 72 hours.

- i. A ewe may be temporarily restrained if all other methods to encourage adoption and nursing of a lamb have failed.
- j. Lambs must be provided with colostrum within the first six hours of birth.
- k. Husbandry systems that allow young lambs to remain in the flock with their mothers until weaning occurs naturally are recommended.
- l. Groups of lambs must be weaned no earlier than an average of three (3) months.
 - i. Preferred age is four (4) months
- m. Newly weaned or separated lambs must be kept in groups of familiar animals.
- n. Separation of the lamb from the ewe must involve methods designed to cause as little stress as possible.
 - i. Use of a two-stage separation process is recommended.
 - ii. After separation, ewes and lambs must either be kept in adjacent pens where they can see, hear, smell and taste each other *or* be completely out of sight and hearing of each other.
- o. Lambs should be reared by their mothers.
 - i. Orphan lambs should be fostered onto other ewes.
 - ii. If foster ewes are used, the number of lambs must be adjusted to the amount of milk the ewe can produce and the number of foster lambs she will accept.
 - iii. Foster mothers must not become debilitated by nursing.
 - iv. Sick or injured ewes must not be used as foster mothers.
- p. Lambs may be reared as part of a group.
 - i. Lambs living in groups must be fed milk or milk replacer no less than twice a day.
- q. Raising individual lambs in isolation is prohibited.
- r. Provision must be made for lambs to go outside and graze except in inclement weather.

13.2 *Housing and Shelter*

- a. Shelter for sheep may be provided by natural features such as shade, trees or by building, while housing may also be used as a shelter.
- b. The following minimum space allowances are required for indoor bedded lying areas:
 - i. Sheep (Ram or Ewe): 16 sq. ft.
 - ii. Lambs: 4 sq. ft.
 - iii. Ewe with 1 Lamb: 22 sq. ft.
 - iv. Any additional lamb: 4 sq. ft.
- c. The following are minimum additional loafing areas for sheep excluded from pasture:
 - i. Adult Sheep (Ram or Ewe): 27 sq. ft.
 - ii. Lambs: 5.4 sq. ft.
 - iii. Ewe with 1 Lamb: 33 sq. ft.
 - iv. Any additional lamb: 5.5 sq. ft.

13.3 *Food and Water*

- a. Sheep must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times.
- b. All lambs must have continuous access to high quality fresh forage from seven days onward, and access from day one is highly recommended.
- c. Must have ad libitum access to palatable fibrous feedstuff to ensure good rumen health.
- d. Feed for lambs must be clean and appealing.

- e. Milk replacer containing antibiotics, growth promoters and/or any animal by-products aside from milk protein is prohibited.
- f. Highly recommended to offer ad libitum loose non-medicated, sheep mineral and salt
 - i. Sheep are susceptible to copper toxicity, minerals must be sheep species specific.
- g. All nipples and other feeding equipment must be cleaned regularly.
- h. Weaning lambs at less than three months of age is prohibited.
 - i. Lambs that are not yet weaned may be separated from ewes at less than three months of age if they go directly to slaughter.
 - ii. In exceptional circumstances, when the health and welfare of the lamb or the ewe are compromised, lambs may be weaned prior to three months of age.
 - iii. Records must be kept of each instance and the reasons for early weaning.

13.4 Pasture and Forage

- a. All sheep raised for the GRFC must be 100% grass-fed.
- b. Sheep must graze pasture where they will receive all of their nutrition.
- c. Sheep flocks must be managed in rotational grazing systems to limit the parasite burden within the flock and to increase the individual animal's resistance to intestinal parasites.
- d. Sheep and pastures must be managed to avoid the risk of bloat by gradually introducing the flock onto legumes and subsequently restricting grazing
- e. Flock must not be stocked so heavily or for so long that they cause vegetation coverage to be reduced to bare earth by more than 5%.
- f. In pastures with summer and winter annuals, seeds must not be developed when grazed.
- g. Only non-GMO annuals can be grazed.
- h. Annuals must be grown without chemical pesticides, fertilizers or herbicides.
- i. Prohibited feed for sheep includes:
 - i. Grains;
 - ii. Mature corn silage;
 - iii. Mammalian, poultry and fish by-products.

13.5 Handling and Transport

In addition to those stated in Section 8: Handling and Transport

- a. Sheep must be moved as a flock.
- b. Functioning animal handling facilities must be in place to work with sheep.
- c. If one sheep must be held or moved the best way is to place your dominant hand under the chin and one on the back of the hip. To move, gently apply pressure or squeeze the hip and steer at the neck.
- d. Pulling of horns or wool is prohibited
- e. Sheep must not be transported in isolation.
- f. Sheep from different farms should be transported in separate compartments.
- g. Horned and polled sheep must not be transported in the same compartment, unless reared together.

14.0 Beef Cattle Standards

The following standards apply to all beef cattle raised by GRFC farmers:

Finishing cattle factors- age at harvest, presence of marbling, genetics, low stress handling and rate of gain.

14.1 Health and Welfare

- a. Cattle must be carefully monitored to minimize fighting and other negative behaviors, and necessary steps must be taken to prevent harm.
- b. Animals must be maintained at a body score of 4 or above on a 1-9 scale, or body score 2 or above on a 1-5 scale.
- c. Monitoring weight gain with an average daily gain is highly recommended.
- d. Medium framed cattle must gain over 1.7 lbs per day for 60-90 days prior to harvest to produce marbling fat
- e. Ideal slaughter weight is 1,000 - 1,100 lbs
- f. Finishing period of 3-4 months, cattle should be gaining from 1.5 - 2.5 pounds per day.
 - i. 1.5 lbs per day for first 6 months after weaning.
 - ii. 2.0 lbs per day for final 6 months
- g. No cattle over 30 months of age will be purchased by GRFC
- h. If animal is found to be older than 30 months by the USDA inspector then the producer is liable for associated losses.
- i. Cattle scheduled for processing are subject to visual inspection for finish by GRFC.
- j. Finishing cattle groups should never have new cattle introduced in the fourteen (14) days prior to processing
- k. GRFC reserves the right to refuse entry of an animals that is not appropriately finished.
- l. Typical rule of thumb- steers will finish at 100 lbs heavier than their mother and heifers will finish at 100 lbs lighter than their mothers.
- m. Stress increases due to aggressive management during gathering or working pens, but also due to lack of pasture and water supply
 - i. Low stress is highly correlated to beef tenderness
- n. Cattle should never be allowed to lose weight.
- o. The use of compensatory gain is prohibited.
- p. Breeding animals must not exceed body score 7 on a 1-9 scale or body score 4 on a 1-5 scale.
- q. Tail docking is prohibited.
- r. Dehorning of cows or bulls is prohibited.
- s. Disbudding of calves is prohibited.
- t. Spaying of heifers is prohibited.
- u. Bull calves must be castrated,
 - i. Must be procedure must be performed by a competent person.
 - ii. Physical castration using rubber rings, scalpel or emasculators are the only acceptable methods.
 - iii. Immunocastration and other forms of chemical (natural or synthetic) castration or testosterone production limiting methods is prohibited.
 - iv. Castration procedure is highly recommended to occur prior to three (3) months of age.
 - v. Castration using high tension bands may only occur after three (3) months of age.

14.2 *Reproduction and Calving*

- a. Heifers should not calve prior to the age of eighteen months.
- b. A competent person must be available at birthing time to assist if problems are anticipated at delivery.
- c. When conditions permit, calving must occur outside on pasture.
 - i. Ideally, pasture has been rested from use of cattle
- d. A clean environment with sufficient space must be provided for calving.
- e. Bedding must be provided if calving does not occur on non-denuded pasture.
- f. Calves must be provided with colostrum within the first six hours of birth.
- g. Calves should be reared by their mothers.
 - i. Orphan calves should be fostered onto other cows.
 - ii. If foster cows are used, the number of calves must be adjusted to the amount of milk the cow can produce and the number of foster calves she will accept.
 - iii. Foster mothers must not become debilitated by nursing.
 - iv. Sick or injured cows must not be used as foster mothers.
- h. Raising individual calves in isolation is prohibited.
- i. Husbandry systems that allow young stock to remain in the herd with their mothers until weaning occurs naturally are highly recommended.
- j. Newly weaned or separated calves must be kept in groups of familiar animals.
- k. Separation of the calf from the cow must involve methods designed to cause as little stress as possible.
 - i. Use of a two-stage separation process is recommended.
 - ii. After separation, cows and calves must either be kept in adjacent pens where they can see, hear, smell and taste each other *or* be completely out of sight and hearing of each other.
- l. Weaning calves at less than six months of age is prohibited.
 - i. The average weaning age of calves in the herd must be eight months.
 - ii. Average weight at weaning should be 450-500 lbs.
 - iii. In exceptional circumstances, when the health and welfare of the calf or the cow would otherwise be compromised, calves may be weaned prior to six months old.
 - iv. Records must be kept of each instance and the reasons for early weaning.

14.3 *Housing and Shelter*

Shelter for cattle may be provided by natural features such as shade, trees or by building, while housing may also be used as a shelter.

- a. The following minimum space allowances are required for indoor bedded lying areas:
 - i. Calves up to 220 lbs.: 16 sq. ft.
 - ii. Cattle between 220 and 440 lbs.: 27 sq. ft.
 - iii. Cattle between 440 and 770 lbs.: 43 sq. ft.
 - iv. Cattle between 770 and 1100 lbs.: 54 sq. ft.
 - v. Cattle over 1100 lbs.: 11 sq. ft. per 100 kg. live weight
- b. The following are minimum additional loafing areas for cattle excluded from pasture:
 - i. Calves up to 220 lbs.: 16 sq. ft.
 - ii. Cattle between 220 and 440 lbs.: 20 sq. ft.
 - iii. Cattle between 440 and 770 lbs.: 32 sq. ft.

- iv. Cattle between 770 and 1100 lbs.: 40 sq. ft.
- v. Cattle over 1100 lbs.: 8 sq. ft. per 100 kg. live weight
- c. Male breeding animals (i.e., bulls) should not be kept with the main herd, but with at least one other compatible animal, or have nose to nose contact with other animals of the same species.
- d. There must be sufficient bedding for all animals, especially in cold or wet conditions.

14.4 *Food and Water*

- a. Cattle must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times.
- b. All grain is prohibited.
- c. To ensure proper rumen function, cattle must be provided with 70% long fiber roughage/fiber in their diet on a daily dry matter basis from weaning onwards.
- d. Any changes in diet must be carried out gradually to minimize rumen problems.
- e. The nutritional regime and pasture management plan must account for the added nutritional needs of lactating cows.
- f. Calves living in groups must be fed milk or milk replacer no less than twice a day.
- g. Milk replacer containing antibiotics, growth promoters and/or any animal by-products aside from milk protein is prohibited.
- h. All nipples and other feeding equipment must be cleaned regularly.
- i. If feeders are used, there must never be more calves in the pen than the nipples on the feeder unless an *ad lib* self-feeding system is provided.
- j. Calves must have access to outside and forage, except in inclement weather.
- k. All calves must have continuous access to high quality fresh forage from seven days onward.

14.5 *Pasture and Forage*

- a. All cattle raised for the GRFC must be 100% grass-fed.
- b. Cattle must graze pasture where they will receive all of their nutrition.
- c. Cattle herds must be managed in rotational grazing systems to limit the parasite burden within the herd and to increase the individual animal's resistance to intestinal parasites.
- d. There must be at least 75% vegetation cover prior to moving cattle herd
- e. Managed rotational grazing or strip grazing is highly recommended
- f. Continuous grazing highly discouraged.
- g. High degree of grazing selectivity is recommended
- h. Cattle should be grazing and browsing grasses, legumes, forbs, and some woody species, not just grass
- i. In pastures with summer and winter annuals, seeds must not be developed when grazed.
- j. Finishing pastures should be high in legumes
- k. Finishing cattle on a pasture with majority of endophyte-infected fescue grass is prohibited.
 - i. Due to the high occurrence of off flavor it produces in the meat.
- l. Finishing cattle gain needs to be in the form of fat, need energy/carbohydrates to produce fat
- m. Ideal finishing forage will be balanced between energy and protein 1:1
- n. To fatten, forages need to be highly digestible and rich in soluble carbohydrates (sugars).

- o. Best finishing gains will come from forages grown with slow release, natural soil nitrogen
- p. No synthetic chemical pesticides or herbicides may be applied during grazing.
- q. Only non-GMO annuals can be grazed.
- r. Annuals must be grown without chemical pesticides, fertilizers or herbicides.
- s. The use of Nitrogen fertilizer is greatly discouraged.
- t. Stored forages must be of higher quality than the pasture, otherwise they will lower the ADG
- u. Non-GMO molasses (cane sugar only; no beet molasses) is permitted.
- j. Prohibited feed for cattle includes:
 - i. Grains;
 - ii. Mature corn silage;
 - iii. Mammalian, poultry, and fish by-products.

14.6 *Handling and Transport*

In addition to those stated in Section 8: Handling and Transport

- a. Cattle must not be transported in isolation.
- b. Cattle from different farms should be transported in separate compartments.
- c. Functioning animal handling facilities must be in place to work with cattle.
- d. Squeeze chutes and or head gates are required to work cattle for health care treatment or inspection.
- e. Squeeze chutes and head gates must be operated in a manner that does not cause injury or distress to the animals.
- f. Work cattle in small groups
- g. Do not crowd cattle
- h. Run cattle through the corral on a regular basis (once a month)
 - i. This will help with low stress handling and getting the cattle use to walking through the chute
 - ii. Give cattle time to explore and get used to them
- i. All workers handling cattle must know how to use low stress handling
- j. Use as few people as possible
- k. Never rush the cattle, let the cattle take their time
- l. No shipping more than eight (8) hours.
 - i. Three (3) hours or less is ideal

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