

HEIFER PEN STALL SANITATION**1. PURPOSE**

Maintaining clean pens is essential in keeping the animals clean and thereby reducing the spread of environmental pathogens to wounds and injuries and to the developing mammary system of a heifer.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 Trained and qualified staff
- 2.2 Herd Manager

3. MATERIALS

- 3.1 Plastic bedding fork
- 3.2 Shovel
- 3.3 Broom
- 3.4 Wood Shavings
- 3.5 Manure scraper
- 3.6 Virkon® or equivalent disinfectant
- 3.7 Personnel Protective Equipment (gloves, mask, eye protection)

4. GENERAL

- 4.1 Heifer pens are thoroughly cleaned 4 times per day.
- 4.2 Assess the cleanliness of the animal and tie stall to determine if sanitation of the stall is adequate. If inadequate, appropriate corrective action must be taken Refer to SOP [DC-304: Dairy Cow Cleanliness Assessment](#).

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 PENS WITHOUT STALL DIVIDERS:

- 5.1.1 Remove all the manure and urine.
- 5.1.2 Spread the bedding to identify any soiled areas underneath the bedding.
- 5.1.3 Shovel all soiled bedding into the alley.
- 5.1.4 Spread out any remaining bedding. Do not allow bedding to accumulate against the walls.
- 5.1.5 Ensure there is enough bedding for comfort and absorption of urine (about 2 inches thick). Add more wood shaving if necessary.
- 5.1.6 Clean water bowl if necessary.

5.2 PENS WITH STALL DIVIDERS:

- 5.2.1 Remove all the manure and urine.
- 5.2.2 Shovel all soiled bedding into the alley.
- 5.2.3 Replace the bedding with the clean bedding found against the wall at the back of the stalls.
- 5.2.4 Clean water bowl if necessary.

*** NOTE**

The stockpile of shavings at the back of each of the pens must be replenished weekly.

5.3 TIE STALL DISINFECTION

- 5.3.1 Remove all bedding.
- 5.3.2 Scrape any bedding/ manure stuck to any surfaces.
- 5.3.3 Sweep the stall, removing all remaining bedding.
- 5.3.4 Allow to air dry.
- 5.3.5 Don mask, eye protection and gloves.
- 5.3.6 Prepare Virkon® or equivalent as per manufacturer instructions.
- 5.3.7 Disinfect the mat, stall dividers, manger curb, head locks, pen dividers, floors, and walls with Virkon® (or equivalent).
- 5.3.8 Allow to air dry.
- 5.3.9 Sprinkle limestone on the beds
- 5.3.10 Leave the stall empty for a minimum contact time for Virkon per manufacturer instructions (depending on organism)
- 5.3.11 Add bedding before a cow is moved into the stall.

5.4 RUNNING THE HEIFER BARN SCRAPER

- 5.4.1 Turn the gutter switch to the Heifer Barn position. (See [SOP DC-161 Flushing Gutters in the Dairy Barn](#) Figure 5)
- 5.4.2 Turn on the circulating pump in the pre-pit to start the gutter outside of the heifer barn. (See [SOP DC-161 Flushing Gutters in the Dairy Barn](#) (Figure 4)
- 5.4.3 When finished cleaning the beds on the side of the heifer barn with the scraper at the back wall, start the scraper by pressing “DEPART” on the control panel in the handling area. (Figure 1)
- 5.4.4 If something is blocking the scraper from moving forward (ex. a heifer) the scraper will stop and an error code will appear to the left of the clock. To restart the scraper, press the two arrow buttons (▼▲) to clear the error and then press “DEPART”. (Figure 1)
- 5.4.5 If you need to stop scraper at any point, there is an emergency stop button on the control panel. (Figure 1)
- 5.4.6 While the scraper is moving, clean the beds on the other side.
- 5.4.7 Once the scraper has reached the gutter, manually scrape the manure and bedding into the gutter.
- 5.4.8 Rinse the scraper with the hose.



Figure 1: Heifer Scraper Control

- 5.4.9 Start the scraper to clean the other side of the heifer barn by pressing “DEPART”, manually scraping and rinsing it when it reaches the gutter.
- 5.4.10 **Do not** leave the heifer barn when the scraper is running in case a heifer gets caught and you need to stop it.
- 5.4.11 Turn off the circulating pump in the pre-pit once the bedding in the gutter has been flushed.

Document Status and Revision History

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2-May--2018	Version 01: Approved by Mac Campus FACC
10-July-2023	Version 02: Reviewed and approved by MAC FACC