

Mengniu Animal Welfare Policy

Mengniu is committed to building a collaborative and accountable ecosystem. By working with ranches, farmers and herdsman, we aim to build a sustainable agriculture mode that respects natural resources and promotes animal welfare. Animal welfare, especially dairy cattle welfare, is not only a key issue for Mengniu to practice responsible procurement and ensure the quality and safety of raw milk, but also a key step in promoting sustainable agriculture. We believe “Happy dairy cattle produce better milk”, and expect to work together with supply chain partners to actively promote the effective experience of the "Five Welfare", eliminate practices that violate the "Five Freedoms", and continuously improve animal welfare.

In 2020, collaborating with professional institutions such as the National Dairy Industry and Technology System and the China-Denmark Milk Technology Cooperation Center, etc., Mengniu compiled and published the *Welfare Promotion and Implementation System for Dairy Cattle in Farm*, provided guidance for animal welfare practice in China. Focusing on the entire chain and process of dairy cattle rearing, the System introduces the key points and practical norms of welfare implementation, proposes the “Five Welfare”, including “psychological welfare, behavioral welfare, environmental welfare, health welfare and physiological welfare”, and provides detailed explanations on them with evaluation and improvement suggestions.

References

Mengniu attaches great importance to the health and welfare of animals, respecting their feelings and freedom. Referring to relevant documents such as the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Farm Animal Responsible Minimum Standards (FARMS)*, Mengniu has formulated the *Mengniu Animal Welfare Policy* (hereinafter referred to as “the Policy”).

Mengniu encourages our raw milk suppliers and stakeholders to recognize and adopt the Policy, and create better conditions for all animals in the supply chain.

Scope

The Policy applies to Mengniu's procurement department of raw milk;

The Policy applies to all Mengniu's ranches and cooperative ranches (hereinafter referred to as the Ranches);

The Policy covers the animal welfare of all dairy cattle in the Ranches in the process from birth to cull.

Contents

1. Five Freedoms

Mengniu and the Ranches advocate and comply with internationally recognized "Five Freedoms" of animal welfare, including freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury and disease, freedom to express normal behavior, and freedom from fear and distress.

2. Five Welfare

Mengniu and the Ranches should strive to ensure the "Five Welfare" of animals in the supply chain, including:

2.1 Physiological Welfare

Ensure that dairy cattle at different physiological stages are provided with necessary food and water to maintain good health and energy.

- An appropriate number of feeding personnel should be equipped to ensure the normal operation of dairy cattle feeding.
- Provide dairy cattle with high quality and sufficient feed and water, as well as sufficient feeding space.
- Ensure the nutritional supply, sustainability, and safety of feed.
- The suitable storage conditions of feed to avoid contamination and spoilage.
- Good quality colostrum should be provided for calves within the first 6 hours

after birth. Fibrous feed must be provided for each calf over 4 weeks old. Calves should receive milk or milk substitute feed for the first 8 weeks of life.

- Dairy cattle should not be bred for excessive milk yield and should be well adapted to the local climatic and nutritional and disease conditions.

2.2 Environmental Welfare

Provide appropriate cowshed or resting area for dairy cattle to have comfortable sleep and rest, and ensure that the cowshed buildings for the dairy cattle at all stages are in good condition.

- Provide reasonable heat prevention and cooling, and cold protection for dairy cattle of all ages.
- Manage the air quality of cowsheds, including reducing suspended particles, odors, dust, and hazardous gases in the air.
- Promptly clean up the manure in the living space of dairy cattle and maintain a clean environment.
- The cubicles should be large enough for dairy cattle of all ages to easily stand and lie down.
- In cubicles, dairy cattle and calves must be provided with a comfortable lying surface such as straw or sand, etc.
- The floors must be non-slip with suitable roughness to avoid harm to dairy cattle during their activities.
- The Ranches must apply free stalls to provide space for dairy cattle to move freely.
- Individual housing for calves and dairy cattle near calving can reduce disease transmission and competition for feed, but group housing should be adopted to increase social connections between dairy cattle if there're appropriate management measures.
- Regular fly and insect control must be carried out.
- Advocate for providing exercise yard for dairy cattle at different stages based on the conditions of each ranch, allowing dairy cattle to fully enjoy natural light.
- The site selection for the construction of the Ranches should consider being

away from noise and air pollution.

2.3 Health Welfare

Ensure that dairy cattle are free from additional pain, monitor their health conditions, prevent diseases, and provide timely treatment to diseased dairy cattle.

- The Ranches must have veterinarians.
- Implement herd health management measures that are appropriate for each ranch to prevent, treat and detect common diseases (including mastitis, limb and hoof diseases, etc.) ,and treat injured dairy cattle promptly.
- Implement calf healthcare management measures, and provide targeted management for newborn calves and lactating calves.
- Implement parasite control and healthcare management measures to control and treat parasites and pests.
- Perform thorough disbudding on calves within three weeks of age where possible, to avoid contact and harm among groups.
- Prohibit the use of any drugs for lactating dairy cattle to promote animal growth.
- Use antibiotics responsibly, limit the use of antibiotics to the treatment of animal diseases and refrain from prophylactic and other uses.

2.4 Behavior and Psychological Welfare

Allow dairy cattle to follow their natural behaviors and formulate management plans according to their instincts. Avoid violence and mental distress to dairy cattle. Provide adequate space, appropriate facilities, and a natural and relaxing living environment for them to stay together.

- Ranch management personnel must provide a natural and relaxing living environment according to the physiological habits of dairy cattle.
- Tethering is not permitted.
- Drive and interact with dairy cattle in a proper manner, and violence or scaring dairy cattle is not allowed.

- Minimize the transport time and the discomfort of dairy cattle during transportation, provide proper care for cattle, and prevent harm and suffering.
- Advocate for providing dairy cattle with more benefits such as scratching to make them physically and psychologically happy.

3. Raw Milk Procurement Department

- Mengniu should provide guidance on the animal welfare of the Ranches, and lead them to make improvement.
- Mengniu should conduct annual animal welfare training, covering Mengniu employees, the Ranches, and herdsmen to help them gradually comply with the provisions of the Policy.
- Mengniu should ensure that the Ranches do not neglect animal welfare, intentionally abuse or mistreat animals, and should adopt a zero-tolerance attitude towards related behaviors.

4. The Ranches

- The Ranches need to follow the guidance in Mengniu's Welfare Promotion and Implementation System for Dairy Cattle in Farm, and gradually achieve animal welfare goals and requirements based on their actual situation.
- The Ranches do not apply genetically modified or cloned methods to breed dairy cattle.

5. Policy Review and Update

The Policy and the Welfare Promotion and Implementation System for Dairy Cattle in Farm serve as reference for welfare improvement of the Ranches, the Ranches must make corresponding adjustments based on their actual situation, current technology development, and updated concepts. Mengniu and the Ranches should progressively improve understanding of animal welfare issues and keep reviewing and updating the Policy.