Purpose

Appendix B: Protecting Bobby Calves

This paper illustrates the full suite of activities undertaken to protect bobby calf welfare including the development of new regulations.



Background

MPI plans to introduce a series of new regulations to further protect bobby calf welfare. We want these regulations in place by 1 August, prior to the bulk of the 2016 calving season. The regulations make up a part of a system-wide response to protect the welfare of bobby calves.

ON FARM SALE Bobby calf life Transported for sale or **BIRTH** Separated from mother Feed and cared for awaiting transport cycle slaughter **SLAUGHTER Regulatory Framework** Owners and persons in charge must ensure the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals are met. An owner or persons in charge of transporting an animal, must ensure the welfare of the animal is properly attended to, not confine an animal causing unreasonable or unnecessary pain/distress, and not permit an animal to be transported in an Animal Welfare Act Owners and persons in charge commit an offence if, without reasonable excuse, they keep an animal alive when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. Owners and people in charge commit an offence if they sells, attempt to sell, or offer for sale, other than for the purpose of being killed, an animal when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. 1999 The penalty for non-compliance with these requirements is 12 month imprisonment and/or a \$50,000 fine for individuals or \$250,000 for bodies corporates. (the Act) It is an offence to wilfully or recklessly ill-treat an animal resulting in permanent disability/death. The penalty for reckless ill treatment is 3 years imprisonment and/or a fine of up \$75,000 for individuals and \$350,000 for body corporates. For wilful ill treatment the penalty is 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of up \$100,000 for individuals, and \$500,000 for body corporates. Fransport Code of Welfare. **Commercial Slaughter Code of Overarching standards** Minimum standards for: Welfare. Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare. Minimum standards Codes of competency and stockmanship Minimum standards for: for stockmanship, health, handling, restraint and facilities that must be provided for cows and their calves. monitoring animals persons in charge of animals welfare quality assurance programmes food and rest under the transport by road and NZ waters facilities and handling Act emergency humane destruction competence of stunning and Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare. Minimum standards for feeding,

*(noncompliance is used as evidence in prosecutions)

restraint, facilities, shelter/ housing, and pre-transport selection.

Transport Code of Welfare. Minimum standards for the preparation of animals for transport, selecting and accepting animals for transport.

- loading and unloading facilities
- conveyance, container design and ventilation
- journey planning and documentation.

- slaughter personnel
- stunning (restraint and method)
- stunning to bleeding out.

(Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare also include standards for emergency

Prohibit killing calves by blunt force trauma to the head except in emergency circumstances.

Require that a young calf must be at least four full days of age before it is transported for sale or slaughter or as a result of sale. The calf must also display certain characteristics, including the ability to stand and walk and freedom from disease.

Require that young calves must be slaughtered as soon as possible after arriving at a slaughter premises. If it is not possible to slaughter within 24 hours of its last feed on farm, it must be fed and slaughtered as soon as possible thereafter. (Limit down from 30 to 24 hours).

Requiring that suitable shelter be provided for young calves before and during transportation and at point of sale or slaughter.

- Set a maximum duration of 12 hours
- Prohibit the transportation by sea across
- Require loading and unloading facilities to be provided and used.

New Regulations under the Act

Activities

The regulatory framework is part of the wider system that protects bobbies. There are a number of other activities taking place across that system that will also enable us to deliver effective welfare for young calves.

Protecting Bobby Calves

Operating Environment – Activities

1. Working with industry – leading the change:

- Joint Industry/ MPI led Animal Welfare CEO Forum established the Bobby Calf Project in 2008 to reduce premature mortality in bobby calves. *The mortality* rate for calves arriving at slaughter plants has more than halved from 0.68% in 2008 to 0.25% in 2015
- •In November 2015, the CEO Forum established the Bobby Calf Action Group to facilitate better communication and proactive management of bobby calf welfare across the supply chain. Members include MIA, DairyNZ, DCANZ, Road Transport Forum (RTF), New Zealand Pet food Manufacturers Association, NZ Veterinary Association (Dairy Cattle Vet branch DCV) and Fonterra.

To date the Bobby Calf Action Group has:

- Completed a process map of the fate of dairy calves to provide context for the whole system.
- Updated communications and guidance material relating to bobby calves, covering:
- delivery of 90 training programmes focussed on skills, empathy and culture
- guidance on management of slinks (bobby calves killed on farm)
- facilities on farm for managing bobby calves.

The Petfood Manufacturers Association has also:

- Secured agreement of all members to voluntary CCTV monitoring of unloading and slaughter of bobby calves at all petfood premises
- Undertaken preseason training of staff
- Established an internal verification regime and revised the Code of Practice under the Animal Products Act (this revision is in final draft stage)
- Committed to a maximum 12 hour limit from calf pickup to slaughter.

2. Working with communities – supporting the change:

MPI undertakes a number of educational initiatives working directly with farmers, transporters, processors and rural communities. Over the next 6 months these will include:

- promotion of loading platforms: engagement with meat companies and Road Transport Forum, specifics for how high, space requirements, shelter
- bobby calf guidance document: consolidating the minimum standards and information in the Dairy Cattle, Transport, and Commercial Slaughter Codes into one document
- direct engagement with farmers: messaging will relate to fitness for transport, bobby calf preparation, and awareness of codes of welfare
- communication with transport companies: sending all transporters a copy of DairyNZ calf welfare package, relevant codes of welfare, and fitness for transport educational material for staff training.

3. Enforcement Action – demanding the change:

MPI monitoring the system overall:

- 220 MPI veterinarians at slaughter plants who inspect the animals arriving.
- 100% autopsies of calves that are dead or condemned prior to slaughter.
- Every dead calf will generate an escalating response to the supplier, transporter, or processor. Where necessary an investigation will be launched and the farm of origin will be visited by an animal welfare inspector.
- A decision will then be made on the facts whether further enforcement action should be taken. This could range from the issuance of compliance notices or infringements through to laying criminal charges.

During the coming year MPI will conduct proactive on farm verification audits on around 300 dairy farms to determine their level of compliance with animal welfare requirements.

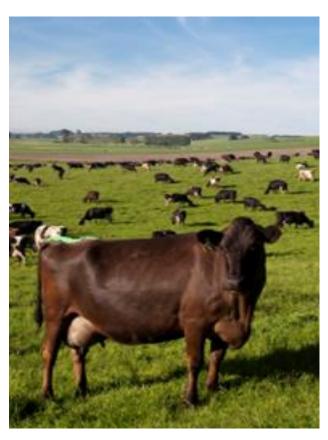
MPI responding to complaints received:

• Animal Welfare Inspectors investigate all complaints they receive.

MPI has laid charges against a company and an individual in relation to alleged animal welfare offences involving bobby calves in late 2015.

4. Evidence-based practice and regulation – keeping the momentum going:

The MPI/Massey University research on dairy calf welfare across the supply chain commenced on 27 June. Researchers will survey 37 bobby calf slaughter premises (meat export and pet food). Approximately 300 dairy farm and associated transport operators will also be visited throughout the season. The purpose of this research is to understand the practices that impact the wellbeing and health of young dairy calves. The research will run through the 2016 and 2017 seasons. Findings from the research will inform operational and regulatory improvements where required.



DairyNZ programmes:

Tactics For Tight Times

Support to farmers to help them cope with tough economic conditions.

Farm visits that cover:

- feed and pasture management
- financial readiness (how to prepare for and get the most out of conversations with accountants and financial advisors)
- people wellness.

Calving Smart Events

Nationwide workshops for farmers covering:

- care for calving cows
- care for calves
- managing the farm through the spring period.

Bobby Calf Focus Events

Nationwide farmer workshops delivered by vets focusing on calf health. Aim to help farmers to:

- fine-tune calf care processes and staff training
- confirm 'fit for transport' requirements
- identify good calf loading facilities and adjust their farms if necessary
- -communicate well with their staff and their transporter.

(DairyNZ has also developed a series of resources for farmers and the wider industry including guidance material for loading facilities, a fit for transport poster and website resources.