

Global Criteria: Animal Care

Revision Date: December, 2018

Strategic Intent: Dairy Animals are treated with care, and are free from hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, injury and disease, fear and distress, and are able to engage with relatively normal patterns of animal behavior.

Indicator: Somatic Cell Count (SCC) is measured to monitor animal health.

Theory of change: The Somatic Cell Count is a key indicator of animal health and of milk quality as the majority of these cells are white blood cells, which become present in increasing numbers as an immune response to an infectious organism, predominantly a mastitis causing pathogen. A lower SCC indicates better animal health.

Reporting Strategy: Each participating member organization that has prioritized this criterion will define how Somatic Cell Counts (SCC) should be measured, and the SCC reporting frequency for their participants (weekly, monthly, etc.). The metric for reporting will be the 12 month arithmetic mean of SCC (1000 cells/ml) plus the standard deviation and the number of observations. Member organizations will report the number of their participants who have reported Somatic Cell Counts during the assessment period.

Reporting Schedule: Baseline established 2017

Annual reporting period is calendar year (January 1- December 31)

Reports submitted to DSF by March 31 each subsequent year

Examples of resources available for Somatic Cell Count Measurement:

Dairy NZ Farmfact 3-10 Somatic Cell Counts (SCC)

https://www.dairynz.co.nz/media/253878/3-10_Somatic_Cell_Counts_SCC.pdf

Mastitis Control and Management: Mastitis in Cattle – Getting the most from Cell Counts, National Animal Disease Information Service (NADIS)

<http://www.nadis.org.uk/bulletins/mastitis-control-and-management/mastitis-part-3-getting-the-most-from-cell-counts.aspx>