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Hot off the press!

Moving forward in confirming good practices and reassuring consumers.

We can all be most thankful for the Producers around the globe that feed the world! Unfortunately, the largest part of the population is not familiar with life 'down on the farm'. Efforts are being made to codify good practices in animal welfare for dairy production to allow Producers/Farmers to ensure high standards of animal welfare and build confidence in consumers.

One of the pro-active efforts to establish objective means of measuring Good Animal Welfare practices in Dairy Production is the regular review and codification of acceptable practices (reference The IDF Guide to Good Animal Welfare in Dairy Production 2.0/2018 scheduled to be published soon – this will replace a similar guide published in 2016 – see the link: http://bit.ly/hotoffpresslink. Also see the link: OIE Standard (Annex 19 Chapter 7.11 describing "measurable" elements related to the welfare of dairy cattle).

The idea is to encourage the implementation of measurable criteria so that credibility can be more appropriately established to reassure customers and continue to build confidence in the integrity of the dairy industry.

In addition to published guidelines, a global report about Animal Health of dairy animals is being regularly published by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) - reference the link: http://bit.ly/hotoffpressIDF

As the global population moves more to urban living, it is important for enterprises engaged in farming and related rural pursuits to educate their consumers regarding the extensive welfare needs considered for their animals and the workers who care for them. It is also important to ensure that existing and new Producers understand the proper measures to pursue and document so they can provide objective, measured confirmation about their good practices. This will translate into improved productivity, improved profitability, more comfortable animals and happier consumers.