

April 16, 2007

WEEKEND CHORE ROUTINES FOR ALMQUIST RESEARCH CENTER

Always have a co-worker with you to work at ARC. Don't be the only person on the premises at any time.

1. Cow Barn (this SOP is appropriate only when there are animals in this facility):

Often there are several surgery cows that are not allowed to go outside. These normally stand to the left of the milkhouse door as you enter the cow stable. The number of cows to leave in the barn should be recorded in the herdsman's office on a note at the main dairy facility for that weekend.

Non-surgery cows get turned out AM while the barn is cleaned (mangers and feed alleys swept clean of old feed (swept into gutter) and beds and center alley scraped clean of manure and wet sawdust-retain as much clean dry sawdust as possible) and bedded. If the weather is OK they can stay outside until PM, otherwise feed them AM and bring them back into the barn. Surgery cows get fed AM and PM. Non-surgery cows get fed PM if they stay outside during the day, otherwise both AM and PM. Since feed may change during the year, check the note for that weekend regarding the kind and amount of feed to give each cow

After the cows are brought back in, scrape the paved area of the barnyard into the gutter. When ready to move the manure spreader, sweep area under and around gutter cleaner and shovel into the spreader.

Keep feed alleys and feed and bedding storage areas swept clean after each use. If there are cows on pasture for the weekend, the number of cows will be recorded for you on the note for the weekend. Count heads to see that they are all accounted for. Check to see that each cow is mobile (not lame) and has no other obvious problems. Check water bowl to see that it is clean and working properly. Check round bale feeder to see that there is adequate feed for each day. Report any problems to the supervisor on duty.

2. Bull Barn (this SOP is appropriate only when bulls are housed at ARC):

Enter the barn by unlocking the breezeway door between the laboratory and the collection room or at one of the overhead doors on either end of the barn. If you are locked out, get a key from the supervisor on duty. Never attempt to enter through one of the outside bull paddocks!!

For tie-stall bulls, let each bull know of your presence before you start to clean so that you don't unintentionally startle him. Scrape manure and wet sawdust from the tie

stalls and bed with clean sawdust. Occasionally a surgery bull will need to be bedded with sand. The note for the weekend will specify if this is the case.

Box stalls **do not** need to be cleaned over the weekend unless there is a water leak or other reason to clean them out. When cleaning the boxstall bulls, chase the bull outside to clean their pens. Do not enter pen until bull has gone outside and door is locked. Check pin on each door to be sure it is all the way down so that door is securely locked and that it cannot be opened when bull pushes on it from the outside. If the bull will not go outside, ask supervisor for help.

Clean out mangers of any old feed. Use broom to clean tie-stall mangers and water bowls. Feed one scoop of grain per bull. Feed $\frac{3}{4}$ bale grass hay per box stall bull and $\frac{1}{2}$ bale grass hay per tie stall bull. Set out additional bales in feed alley in front of tie stall bulls for their PM feeding.

Fill sawdust carts and park them in bull barn. Sweep up any spilled feed and bedding in hay shed. Sweep any spilled feed and sawdust in bull barn into the gutter. Use blower as needed to assist you. Run out onto manure spreader. Check box stall water bowls and clean out any feed, manure or bedding. Put up all alley chains. After gutter chain has finished running, sweep area under and around gutter cleaner and shovel onto spreader. Haul manure to shed behind PA DHIA complex.

In PM, feed an additional $\frac{1}{3}$ -bale grass hay per tie stall bull (none to box stall bulls). Scrape and bed tie stalls and advance gutter chain until gutter behind tie stall bulls is empty. Check that all box stall gates are securely latched. Check box stall water bowls for manure and clean out as needed. Close all alley gates and chains and lock all doors in all barns.

NOTE: Tie stall bulls are secured with both a chain attached to a neck collar and a second chain to the nose ring. If you notice a chain unhooked or broken, notify the supervisor ASAP.

ORDINARY COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS- (OCTOBER 15 THROUGH APRIL 15- WHEN NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURE MAY GO BELOW FREEZING).

- 1) When not running gutter cleaner in bull barn, keep bales of hay or straw blocking hole in wall where gutter exits the building.

EXTRAORDINARY COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS- (VERY COLD NIGHTS TEMPERATURE <0 DEGREES F.) OR WINDY AND COLD TEMPERATURE < 20 DEGREES F.

- 1) When not running cow barn gutter cleaner, plug gutter exit holes with hay bales.
- 2) Drop pins on outside doors of bull barn box stalls when bulls come back in to eat. Check to be sure pin is all the way down in each pen.

- 3) Leave sliding door between bull barn and collection room open.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS-FOR ANYONE WORKING WEEKDAYS

1. A box stall may be cleaned with the bull in the stall only if his head is tied securely with both a halter and lead rope.
2. All outside doors are to be kept closed when bulls are being handled.
3. Gutter cleaner is to be turned off when leading a bull to or from his stall.
4. Never walk in an alleyway directly in front of a bull.
5. Check box stall gate to be sure it is securely latched after returning a bull to his stall.
6. Do not feed hay to a bull that is scheduled to be collected until after he has been collected.
7. Remember that any bull can be a potential killer regardless of size or temperament. Don't give him an opportunity to prove it. **THINK!**