 University of British Columbia Centre for Dairy Education and Research	Document Number	SOP-Cow-010
	Revision Number	000
	Effective Date	June 24, 2020
COW STALL MAINTENANCE		

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) instructs farm workers and students on the method used to maintain clean, comfortable bedding levels in cow stalls at the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This SOP will describe the method used to replenish sand bedding in the stalls and why it is important for the animal's welfare to do so.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1. The Operations Manager is responsible for reviewing and updating this procedure as required.
- 3.2. The Operations Manager is responsible for ensuring all staff are trained in this procedure.
- 3.3. Training will include animal handling. See SOPs on Student Training, Moving and Chasing Cattle and Handling Cattle.


4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1. Not applicable.

5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- 5.1. All personnel entering the cattle holding area will wear personal protective equipment -coveralls, and dedicated facility footwear.
- 5.2. All personnel must know how to safely move cattle between different areas of the barn.

6. GENERAL

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- 6.1. Over the course of the day, cattle soil their bedding and kick some of it out of the individual stalls.
- 6.2. The cow stalls are raked (sand levelled) and manure is removed twice daily while the cows are being milked.
- 6.3. Fresh dry sand is added to the cows' stalls every 2 weeks (or more often if needed) to maintain a dry, comfortable area that will encourage them to lie down.
- 6.4. It's important to maintain the bedding depth in order to provide comfort and avoid injury to the animals' limbs and udder.

7. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- 7.1. Rake
- 7.2. Hydraulic sandthrower attached to a tractor with a 3-point hitch
- 7.3. Sand

PROCEDURE

- 7.4. Remove cows from the pen for milking. See Moving and Chasing Cattle SOP.
- 7.5. While the pen is empty, rake wet sand and manure from the stalls into the alley way, and level the remaining sand in each stall. See Figure 1. The automatic floor scraper will clean the alleyway approximately every 4 hours.



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Figure 1.

Stalls before and after being raked level.

- 7.6. Every two weeks (or more often if required), a farm worker will use the tractor and sand thrower to bring in $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of clean, dry sand for every 4 stalls. Sand is distributed at the front of each of the 4 pens.
- 7.7. Rake the sand level. When finished, the sand should be as deep as the curb of the stall (about 8").

8. REFERENCES

- 8.1. CCAC Guidelines on the Care and Use of Farm Animals in Research, Teaching and Testing. CCAC. 2009.
- 8.2. Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Dairy Cattle. National Farm Animal Care Council. 2009.

9. FORMS

- 9.1. SOP-General-001 Student Training
- 9.2. SOP-Cow-006-Moving and Chasing Cattle
- 9.3. SOP-Cow-023-Handling Cattle



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10. APPROVAL AND REVISION HISTORY

Author/Approver	Date	Signature
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