 University of British Columbia Centre for Dairy Education and Research	Document Number	SOP-Cow-015
	Revision Number	000
	Effective Date	October 26, 2020
NIGHT CHECK		

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) instructs farm workers and students on how to conduct Night Checks in the barns at the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This SOP will describe the how to do night checks in the barn facilities at the UBC Dairy. Tasks associated with doing night check are also explained.

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, night check procedures, newborn calf care and esophageal feeding, all of which must be documented. See also SOP on student training.

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. Students should go out to the barn in pairs. Not alone.

6. GENERAL

- 6.1. Night checks of the barns are carried out each evening around 10 pm by students working at the UBC Dairy.
- 6.2. Personnel are checking for cows calving, sick animals, animals out of pens or anything out of the ordinary.

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- 6.3. Personnel doing night checks will also ensure that all animals have access to feed and water. This will entail ‘pushing up’ the feed in the aisles and checking water bins.

7. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- 7.1. Feed shovel

8. PROCEDURE

9. MATERNITY PEN & INTAKE BARN:


- 9.1. Ensure all cows in close-up pen(s) are able to stand and do not look distressed.
- 9.2. Examine cows for signs of calving: extremely swollen vulva, dropped ligaments, water bag expulsions, milk let-down, hooves showing, etc.
- 9.3. If you think a cow is close to calving, move her to the maternity pen and fill a bucket with food from the maternity pens. [Due dates are posted on the white board in the vet room].
- 9.4. After ensuring that there are no calves in alleys, turn on alley scrapers. [Press start button or, if on manual, switch forward/reverse button].
- 9.5. Ensure that cows are able to access feed and water from the Insentec bins – bins should be set to automatic if feed is present (numbers not flashing).
- 9.6. Follow any research protocol if cows are on trial.

10. WHAT TO DO IF A CALF IS BORN:

- 10.1. Refer to SOP on newborn calf care.
- 10.2. Follow any research protocol if the calves are on a trial.

11. MAIN BARN:

- 11.1. Check for anything unusual and either correct the problem or contact someone for help.

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11.2. If a cow escapes and is not injured, please return her to her proper pen.

11.2.1. To find the correct pen: enter cow ID into DairyComp program located on the vet room computer, press enter and check lot number.

11.2.2. If you are unable to locate her pen #, put her in the nearest pen and leave a note in the vet room for the farmers.

11.2.3. See Moving and Chasing Cattle SOP for procedures on moving animals between pens.

12. PUSHING UP FEED:

12.1. Push up feed for all pens throughout the main, intake, and heifer barns using a feed shovel; make note of pens which are low in feed. Leave note on day book for farm workers.

12.2. Watch for cows and heifers in heat, leave a record of the animal numbers mounting and being mounted, the date and time of the mount in the vet room.

13. HEIFER BARN:

13.1. Push up feed for heifers using feed shovel.

13.2. Make sure heifers are able to access feed and water from Insentec bins.

14. REFERENCES

14.1. CCAC Guidelines on the Care and Use of Farm Animals in Research, Teaching and Testing. CCAC. 2009.

14.2. Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Dairy Cattle. National Farm Animal Care Council. 2009


15. RELATED SOPS

15.1. SOP-General-001 Student Training

15.2. SOP-Calf-001 Newborn Calf Care

15.3. SOP-Cow-006 Moving and Chasing Cattle

15.4. SOP- Cow-009 Cow-Calving Intervention

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16. APPROVAL AND REVISION HISTORY

Author/Approver	Date	Signature
History		
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