

**RSPCA Cattle Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting
on Friday 8th July 2016**

Meeting Summary Notes

What has been happening to the standards since the last meeting?

The RSPCA welfare standards for dairy cattle had not been updated since June 2011, with the exception of the production of standards and guidance for the rearing of calves in December 2013. The welfare standards were now in a position to be developed further, to take account of developments within the industry since 2011, and to further improve dairy cow welfare. The meeting was a forum for discussing areas of the RSPCA welfare standards for dairy cattle that may require amendment in future versions.

Proposed new standards/topics for discussion

The group discussed several areas of the standards in which there was the potential for the development of new standards, including transition cow and heifer management, grazing, calf rearing and environmental enrichment. These would be considered further.

Specific standard topics for discussion

The group discussed areas of the current standards including lighting, water provision, ventilation, loafing areas and foot care, with a view to further developing the standards. These would be considered further.

Recycled Manure Solids (RMS)

The group discussed the use of RMS on dairy units. Scientific evidence relating to the use of RMS was not conclusive, thus industry bodies had some concerns related to its use. This would be considered further.

Antibiotic resistance

The group discussed the importance of a continued awareness for antibiotic usage and resistance within the industry. Members considered how this could be reflected within the standards. This will be considered further.