

RSPCA Dairy Cattle Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting

On Tuesday 2nd July 2019

Meeting summary notes

Actions of the last meeting

Action points from the previous meeting were discussed, with a particular focus on collection centres as well as pasture access in indoor systems.

Food and water

Issues surrounding the feeding space allowance for adult cattle and the potential difficulties for farmers to provide 750mm/head, as required by the standards, were discussed. The group also discussed water quality testing parameters.

Environment

The group discussed comfortable temperature range for adult cattle, and suggested that reference to values should take into account the humidity. .

Management

Members discussed the need to be more specific in regards to training for particular procedures and the benefits of refresher training. Members also suggested being less restrictive as to which verifiable training courses could be attended by staff.

Health

The need for a bovine TB management plan was discussed in more detail, including further measures that should be taken on farms at high risk of bovine TB. Mobility scoring was also been discussed, including the benefits of using registered mobility scorers..

Calves

The group discussed the age at which calves should be pair-housed. Members also discussed the practicalities of recording when high risk procedures are carried out.