

IACUC FACILITY INSPECTION CHECKLIST GUIDE – Agricultural Settings

A = acceptable

M = minor deficiency

S = significant deficiency (is or may be a threat to animal health or safety)

C = change in program (PHS Policy IV.A.1.a.-i.) (include in semiannual report to IO and in annual report to OLAW as applicable)

NA = not applicable

1. Documentation:	A	M	S	C	NA
a. AUP/SOP that documents animal care/husbandry in place and accessible to all participants (Ag Guide p. 3)					
b. Animals are appropriately identified (individually or by group/cage/pen as necessary) (Ag Guide p. 23)					
c. Personnel are appropriately trained and training documented (Ag Guide p. 3-4, 22) and enrolled in BOHP (Ag Guide p. 4)					
d. Written (and implemented) program for disease prevention, surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, and endpoint resolution in place (Ag Guide p. 9)					
e. Non-municipal water sources are periodically tested for quality by an approved agency (Ag Guide p. 21) [Confirm TAMU does this]					
f. MUST – Documentation that animals are cared for daily (Ag Guide p. 23)					
g. MUST - Animal/herd health records available (and appropriate) (Ag Guide p. 3, 66, see endnote 1)					
h. MUST – Emergency protocols exist (and are available) and weekend, holiday and veterinary care contact information is available (and prominently displayed) (Ag Guide p. 22-23)					
i. MUST – Mechanism for direct, frequent, and regular communication between personnel caring for animals and veterinarian in place (Ag Guide p. 9)					
2. General Considerations:	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Newly acquired animals undergo a quarantine and acclimation period (Ag Guide p. 8)					
b. Social species housed socially (unless justified in approved AUP) (Ag Guide p. 21)					
c. If different species (or different source/age of same species) co-housed a qualified veterinarian or scientist has worked with animal facility manager to assure animal health and well-being (Ag Guide p. 22)					
d. Food and bedding storage is well maintained and appropriate (open feed bags stored in sealed containers, feed bags and bedding stored off the floor on pallets (feed labeled with contents and manufacture or use-by date), away from walls, feed stored in a way to prevent contamination from chemicals or pests) (Ag Guide p. 21)					
e. MUST - Animals have access to food and water on a regular basis (unless departure justified on an approved AUP) (Ag Guide pp. 21 – Species specific requirements on pp. 64, 95, 109, 130, 133, 144)					
f. Watering and feed devices are routinely checked to ensure they are working appropriately (if automatic), are located for ease of access, provide sufficient space for animals, prevent injury and minimize contamination of water/food with excreta (Ag Guide p. 135)					
g. MUST – Watering devices are cleaned as needed (Ag Guide p. 21)					
h. Mixing devices, feed delivery equipment and feeders/feeding sites are cleaned regularly (Ag Guide p. 21)					
i. Vermin control program in place (addresses birds, rodents, and insects) (Ag Guide pp. 21, 138). When cats are used as vermin control there is veterinary care and oversight provided to them (Ag Guide p. 24)					
j. Personnel provided appropriate hearing protection and other PPE as necessary (Ag Guide p. 24)					
k. Cleaning supplies used in/around animal use areas are in-date					
3. Environmental Considerations:	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Animals have some protection from sun/wind (trees, artificial structures) [Even in relatively moderate climatic regions, weather events such as floods, winter storms, and summer heat waves may require that animals have access to shelter. If trees or geographic features do not provide enough protection, artificial shelters and (or) windbreaks or sunshades should be provided (Ag Guide p. 17)]					
b. Animal space is sufficient for normal postural adjustments, including standing, lying, resting, self-grooming, eating, drinking, and eliminating waste (unless described otherwise in approved AUP or for					

husbandry reasons) (Ag Guide p. 17)					
c. Animals have some form of enrichment (social – direct or indirect contact with conspecifics, occupational – psychological (e.g. devices that provide animals with challenges and encourages exercise), physical – altering the size or complexity of the enclosure or adding accessories (e.g. nest boxes), sensory – visual, (e.g. television), auditory (music, vocalizations), other modalities (olfactory, tactile, taste), or nutritional – varied or novel food types or changing method of food delivery) (Ag Guide pp. 30-39)					
d. Surfaces that contact animals are smooth and free of sharp edges; equipment is routinely inspected and a program of regular maintenance based on use is in place (Ag Guide p. 49)					
e. High standard of biosecurity maintained (as needed - showering/washing facilities provided, personnel change clothing, disposable gear use, etc.) (Ag Guide p. 25-26)					
4. Intensive or Indoor Settings Considerations:	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Appropriate ventilation system in place (for enclosed facilities) (Ag Guide p. 17-20)					
b. Handling facilities have non-slip floors (Ag Guide p. 49)					
c. Lighting diffused evenly throughout animal facility and sufficient to observe animals appropriately (Ag Guide p. 20)					
d. A complete excreta management system is in place (maintain worker and animal health, prevent pollution of water, soil and air, minimize odor and dust, minimize vermin and parasites, meet sanitary inspection requirements, to comply with local, state, and federal laws/regs) (Ag Guide p. 20)					
e. Animals housed in metabolism stalls (and other intensive settings) meet following criteria: 1) use must be described in approved AUP (these are not for general housing), 2) there should be a preconditioning period (reviewed by IACUC), 3) the animal should be able to rise and lie down normally, 4) animals should be in visual, auditory, and olfactory contact with conspecific animals, and 5) animals should be observed more frequently than once daily (Ag Guide pp. 17, 25)					
f. Written sanitation plan is implemented (buildings – including interiors, corridors, storage spaces, anterooms, and other areas) cleaned regularly and disinfected appropriately and waste containers emptied regularly and implements cleaned frequently. Facilities are regularly inspected by Manager for cleanliness (Ag Guide pp. 20, 49)					
g. Animals are kept reasonably dry and clean (Ag Guide p. 20)					
5. Transportation	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Non-slip floors in trailers and on ramps used (Ag Guide pp. 55-56)					
b. Transport vehicles have appropriate ventilation (Ag Guide pp. 54-55)					
c. Animals able to be loaded/un-loaded easily (Ag Guide p. 56)					
d. Inside walls and linings free from sharp edges or protrusions (Ag Guide p. 56)					
e. Emergency contact list available during animal transport (Ag Guide p. 57)					
6. Drugs					
a. Drugs are clearly identified, the correct grade, not expired , and stored correctly (Ag Guide pp. 13-14)					
b. Drugs physically separated according to indicated use (e.g. lactating, non-lactating, pregnant, neonate) (Ag Guide p. 13)					
7. Farm Animal Surgery	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Major (non-emergency) survival surgeries performed in dedicated surgical facility with aseptic technique (Ag Guide p. 11)					
b. Minor (non-emergency) survival surgeries performed in accord with standard veterinary practices (Ag Guide p. 11)					
c. Non-survival surgery utilizes clean instruments and clean area (Ag Guide p. 11)					
d. Surgeries conducted in agricultural settings are still conducted as aseptically as possible and with anesthetic/analgesic use (Ag Guide p. 11 and Guide p. 117)					
e. MUST - Sterile instruments and surgical packs used (survival surgeries – major) (Ag Guide p. 11)					
f. MUST - There is a dedicated recovery area which is clean and sanitary and sized adequately for the size of the animal (Ag Guide p. 11)					
g. MUST – Animals who have undergone surgery are segregated from other animals until recovery from					

anesthesia. (Ag Guide p. 11)					
h. MUST – Thermal regulation provided post-operatively (environmental controls sufficient to ensure this) (Ag Guide p. 11)					
i. MUST - Animals are observed by trained personnel until ambulatory (Ag Guide p. 11)					
8. (USDA covered species) - Surgical Suite and Clinic: Include findings such as chipped paint, uncleanliness, cracked floors or ceilings, etc... that indicate that attention must be given to the facility					
a. Conforms to appropriate construction guidelines (utilities, drains, ventilation, space) (Guide pgs. 136 – 142)					
b. Floors, walls, and ceilings are impervious and easily sanitized/disinfected (Guide pgs. 136 – 142, 145)					
c. Surgical support, animal preparation, surgeon scrub, operating room, postoperative recovery are appropriately designed and separated (physically or otherwise) (Guide p. 144)					
d. Drugs are clearly identified, the correct grade, not expired , and stored correctly (Guide pgs. 115, 122)					
e. Controlled substances are appropriately stored (Guide p. 115)					
f. Anesthesia/surgery, analgesia/post-operative care records are completed and available (Guide p. 119 – 120, 122)					
g. Animal prep area has a large sink to facilitate cleaning of animal and operative site (Guide p. 145)					
h. Area for washing, sterilizing, storing instruments and supplies is available (Guide p. 145)					
i. Autoclave monitoring procedures are implemented [autoclave tape or indicator; autoclave packets are air tight] (Guide p. 119)					
j. Storage of autoclaved materials maintains sterility (Guide p. 119)					
k. Anesthetic vaporizer calibration is current [within 2 years]					
l. Waste anesthetic gas scavenging is appropriate [fume hood, charcoal canister that is weighed periodically and discarded at 50g] (Guide p. 21)					
m. There is a safe sharps disposal system [red sharps bin] (Guide p. 74)					
n. Contamination control procedures in the operating room are in place and effective (Guide p. 144)					
o. Equipment/tool cleaning procedures are present and effective, and/or dedicated tools are available in the operating room (Guide p. 145)					
p. Aseptic procedures are in use for survival surgeries [sterile gloves, instruments] (Guide pgs. 118 – 119)					
9. Euthanasia and Carcass Disposal:	A	M	S	C	NA
a. The approved method(s) of euthanasia is used (Ag Guide p. 14, AVMA Guidelines)					
b. Appropriate methods for confirming death are used; personnel are adequately trained and competency is verified (Guide pgs. 123 – 124, Ag Guide – p. 14-15, species chapters 6 - 11)					
c. Method of carcass disposal is appropriate (Ag Guide, species chapters 6 - 11)					
10. Species specific - Sheep & Goats	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Shelter – newborns and recently shorn animals have sufficient protection from sun/wind (Ag Guide p. 130)					
b. Guard animals may be utilized (Ag Guide p. 131) [veterinary records should be available for these animals]					
c. Internal and external parasite control measures should be in place (ex: FAMACHA scores, drenching) (Ag Guide p. 134)					
d. Shearing facility is clean and dry, shearing equipment is disinfected between flocks, and personnel shearing are appropriately trained (Ag Guide p. 135)					
e. Tail docking and castration done prior to 3 months and animals do not display discomfort/pain after procedures (Ag Guide p. 136)					
f. If housed in intensive settings animals are provided an opportunity for regular exercise (unless departure is justified on an approved AUP) (Ag Guide p. 138)					
11. Species specific - Cattle	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Regardless of housing system, basic needs of food, water, shelter, and comfort are met (Ag Guide p. 61)					
b. Performance standards used to determine if animals are having issues with the thermal environment					

(eg. Cold weather – shivering, huddling, loss of BCS and warm weather – panting, sweating, reduction in feed intake) (Ag Guide p. 61)					
c. Animals have appropriate access to shade (Ag Guide p. 63)					
d. Dirt pens (feedlot) are regularly cleaned of animal waste residues and maintained to minimize accumulation of water (Ag Guide p. 64)					
12. Species specific - Swine	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Pigs are observed and have well-being assessed at least twice per day (Ag Guide p. 144)					
b. If fed on floor, floor is clean and area not limited by social competition (Ag Guide p. 144)					
c. Minimums – 1 feeder/10 pigs, 1 waterer/20 pigs					
d. Farrowing – Prior to farrowing, area is cleaned, disinfected, and dried (Ag Guide p. 145)					
e. Farrowing – Area is warm, dry, draft-free, zone heated, and piglets are protected from being crushed (Ag Guide pp. 145-146)					
f. Weaning – Nursery facilities are clean, have supplemental heat, maintained as all-in, all-out, and are disinfected and dried between groups (Ag Guide p. 147)					
g. Grower/Finisher – If slatted floors in use they are made of concrete (Ag Guide p. 148)					
h. Cooling – during hot weather (especially when humidity high (and temps >85F)) animals are zone cooled [mistifiers, sprinklers, evaporative coolers and ventilation fans, snout coolers, or enabled to wet themselves with water/mud] (Ag Guide p. 145)					
13. Species specific - Horses	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Bedding is appropriate (deeper on hard surfaces, if sand, horses not fed on the ground) (Ag Guide p. 91)					
b. In high traffic areas high traffic pads (or alternatives) are used to prevent continuous wet/muddy areas (Ag Guide p. 92)					
c. Horses have daily exercise (Ag Guide p. 97)					
14. Species specific - Poultry	A	M	S	C	NA
a. Birds in cages have sufficient space to stand comfortably without hitting their heads on the top of the cage (Ag Guide p. 112)					
b. Birds in cages are not in contact with accumulated droppings and droppings removed on frequent basis (Ag Guide p. 114)					
c. If ducks are housed in cages, slats are not used (raised plastic flooring is preferable) (Ag Guide p. 115)					
d. Perches are elevated off floor enough that claws cannot be trapped, made of non-slip materials, minimize contamination of birds, drinkers, and feeders below, and plentiful enough that all hens could roost at the same time (Ag Guide p. 116)					
e. Nest boxes are dark inside, protect hens from external parasites and disease organisms, closed to bird access at night and re-opened before lay, regularly inspected and cleaned as necessary to prevent manure accumulation, with a minimum of 1 nest box per 5 birds (Ag Guide p. 116)					
f. Appropriate temperature gradient maintained over life of animal [chickens ~90-95F decreasing weekly to 72-75F, ducks ~80-85F decreasing weekly to 64-68F] (Ag Guide p. 116) – something about performance standards here?					
g. Rooms/building ventilated properly (Ag Guide doesn't provide standards)					
h. Standard ag practices (beak trimming, toe trimming, comb/wattle removal, induced molting) are conducted by experienced, trained individuals under appropriate conditions (Ag Guide pp. 117-119)					

¹Animal records include: Identification, source/location, productivity (body weight, milk/egg production), reproductive performance, AUPs assigned, ultimate disposition, vaccination dates, parasite control measures, blood testing dates and results, castration/spaying/other elective procedures performed, applicable veterinary data (treatment plans), possibly nutritional information