



## Causes of Poor Cattle Well-Being

The following situations or conditions can compromise cattle well-being:

- Neglect: failing to care for cattle, and:
  - Not providing adequate food or water
  - Restraining an animal in a way that causes pain or endangers animal health
- Cruelty or Abuse: causing physical harm and/or pain to an animal, such as
  - Prolonged periods of thirst or hunger
  - Prolonged periods of restraint and immobility
- Abandonment: deserting cattle without providing means for long term care
- Ignoring illness, injury or disease and not providing veterinary care
- Crowding

## Signs of Poor Cattle Well-Being

Cattle that are sick or in pain display some of the following sickness behaviors or signs:

- Inactivity
- Cattle that are in pain or hungry may bellow loudly
- Reduced social interactions
- Reduced feeding and drinking
- Increased huddling, shivering, sleeping or resting
- Reduced grooming behavior
- Dull, dirty coat
- Open-mouth breathing or panting
- Inability to get up from a lying position
- Discharge from the eyes, nose or other areas
- Drooping ears
- Swollen, red or discolored udder

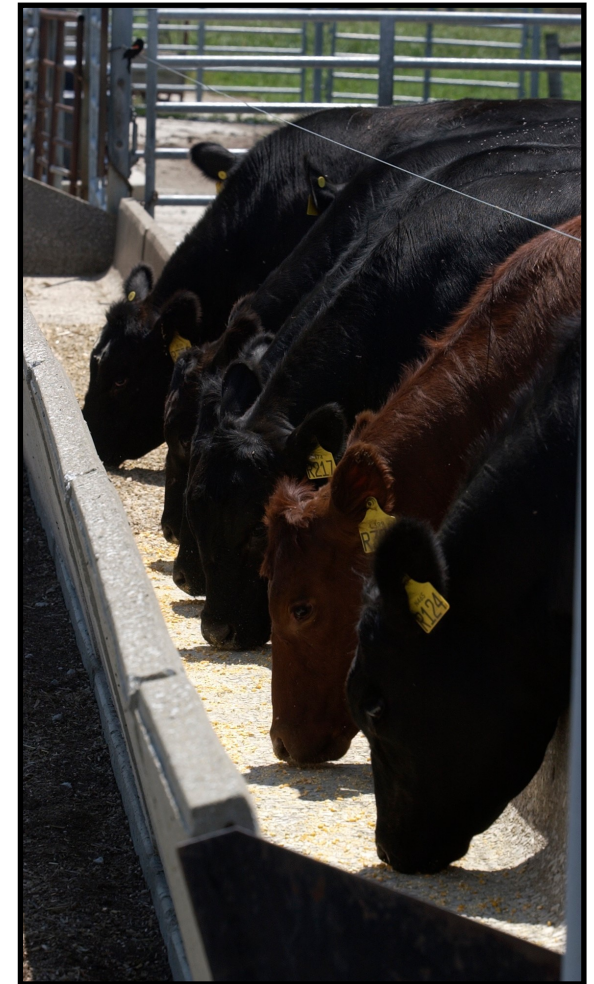
## Do You Have an Animal Well-Being Concern?

- Call your local animal control officer.
- For livestock and poultry concerns, contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) <http://www.in.gov/boah/>.

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## Cattle Well-Being



## Quick Cattle Facts

- Cattle spend a lot of time lying down and ruminating (chewing their cud)
- Cattle have one stomach with four chambers (rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum)
- Females (cows) only produce milk after giving birth to a calf



## What is Cattle Well-Being?

Cattle well-being is more than simply being healthy; cattle well-being includes:

1. Feelings or emotions, such as contentment
2. Being able to behave naturally, such as grooming, stretching and turning around fully
3. being healthy; having no injuries or disease

## Important Cattle Behavior

- **Feeding and drinking:** necessary for health and proper metabolic functions
  - Calves need colostrum after birth
- **Sucking:** calves need to suck on real or artificial teats

## Important Cattle Behavior

- **Ruminating and resting:** cattle spend a large proportion of the day ruminating while they rest
- **Grooming:** keeps coat in good condition and reduces disease and parasites



## Behaviors of Concern

### Bulling

- Some cattle repeatedly mount other cattle, causing injuries
- Providing more space may reduce bulling, but the causes of bulling are unclear

### Aggression

- A normal behavior, but it can cause injury and can become worse under some situations
- Give cattle enough space, feed and water

### Repetitive tongue rolling

- Sometimes occurs when cattle want to feed
- May be a sign that the rumen is not as healthy as it should be
- Provide adequate forage, feed and space

### Cross sucking

- Calves suck on one another
- Provide artificial teats for calves to suck on

## Caring for Cattle

### Cattle health and safety

- Provide constant access to fresh, clean water
- Water should never be frozen
- Provide appropriate feed
- Consult a nutritionist for proper feed practices
- Do not give cattle moldy feed
- Some animals may need supplemental feed:
  - 1) pregnant animals
  - 2) animals that are producing milk
  - 3) animals that are growing and
  - 4) cold stressed animals
- Provide housing or shelter that:
  - Has adequate ventilation
  - Has dry bedding and floors with good traction
- Check animals daily for diseases, parasites and injuries - contact your local veterinarian if you detect these problems



### Cattle behavior and feelings

- Use proper handling practices:
  - Use the flight zone and point of balance to move cattle
  - Use of electric prods is not recommended
  - Do not move cattle by pulling or twisting ears, tails or any other part