

Global Animal Partnership's Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations v1.0



About GAP's Animal Welfare Rating Program

The Animal Welfare Rating program assesses the level of welfare of animals on-farm, at collection points, during transport, and at slaughter.

The on-farm standards for meat animals are designed as a multi-tiered program, which promotes continuous improvement in animal agriculture; engages a broad spectrum of producers; allows for wider product selection for greater consumer options; provides more detailed information about the level of welfare of farm animals; and informs consumers about the production systems they may choose to support.

These standards for Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations are not tiered, but any Step-rated operation that wishes to source kids from dairy goat operations must ensure that it is certified under these standards. As the standard-setter, Global Animal Partnership (GAP) does not conduct audits nor make certification decisions. Authorized, third-party certification companies perform the audits and issue certificates, as appropriate. As such, producers, consumers, and retailers alike can be confident that certification is fair, accurate, and free of conflict of interest.

About the Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations v1.0

The Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations was issued on 6 April 2016. The development process included consultation with goat industry representatives and producers, guidance from animal welfare scientific experts, an extensive public consultative process, and review and approval by the Global Animal Partnership Board of Directors.

After three (3) certification cycles, the pilot standards will be reviewed and revised based on key learnings, as well as any new, relevant scientific findings. The post-pilot review and revision process will again involve guidance from scientific experts and producers, and public comment, before the draft revision is presented to the Board of Directors for final review and approval. Thereafter, the standards will be reviewed and revised according to the protocol outlined in the GAP Pilot Policy Manual.

At any time throughout the above-mentioned period, GAP may amend or clarify parts of the standard as issues with implementation arise, new technologies become available, or new scientific findings are made.

About Global Animal Partnership

Global Animal Partnership, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 2008, brings together farmers, scientists, ranchers, retailers, and animal advocates—a diverse group with the common goal of wanting to improve the welfare of animals in agriculture.

For more information, contact us at info@globalanimalpartnership.org or 877.427.5783 (+1.202.540.9880 if calling from outside the United States).

Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations Overview

In the future, GAP will have a 5-Step® Dairy Goat Standard but in the meantime, kids not retained for dairy purposes may be brought into the 5-Step® Meat Goat Program as long as the dairy operation is also audited. This allowance provides a suitable outlet for buck kids and any doelings unsuitable or surplus to requirements for breeding and milking. Such kids might otherwise be euthanized at birth or marketed through auction barns.

The dairy goat operation will not be assigned a Step-rating, but rather will be granted a pass/fail designation and will hold a 'GAP Certified' certificate that entitles them to sell to Step 1 GAP operations ONLY.

Program Requirements

The following applies to each Dairy Goat Operation applying for certification to Global Animal Partnership's Animal Welfare Rating Pilot program for Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations.

1. General

- a. The standards in this document are requirements.
- b. The operation must have read the standards and prepared for the audit or they cannot be certified.
- c. Each Dairy Goat Operation must be audited once every certification cycle. A certification cycle is 15 months.
- d. The GAP Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 is a companion document to the standards, and details additional program requirements and terms of certification beyond that which is included in the standards (see www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/).
- e. No standard in this document supersedes governmental regulations or laws, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.
- f. A glossary defining specific terms and terminology used in these standards is located at the end of this document.

2. Applications

- a. Each Dairy Goat Operation is required to complete a GAP Kids Sourced from Dairy Goat Operations application each certification cycle.
- b. Each Dairy Goat Operation must identify all sites (either owned, leased, and/or shared) used to raise animals and all animals on the operation on their application.
- c. Applications, as well as this document, and the GAP Pilot Policy Manual can be downloaded at www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/ or received by contacting your GAP-accredited certifier.

3. Audit and Certification

- a. Each operation must be audited once every certification cycle.
- b. In order for the certifier to determine how many audits to conduct, the term "operation" is used and is defined as a single ranch or farm of single (i.e. milking does only) or multiple stages of production (i.e. replacement doelings, milking does, kids), or more than one location that meets all of the following criteria:

- i. all staff and animals are under the direct supervision* of the farm/ranch main site;
- ii. the main farm/ranch location owns all of the animals; and
- iii. the farm/ranch owns, rents or leases all the land and/or buildings where the animals are kept.

**Direct supervision is defined as being when an employee of the main certified farm business is responsible for the animals on the farm/ranch/feedlot that is at a separate location to the main farm. If the person responsible for the management and care of the animals at a separate location to the main certified farm business is a contract farmer and not an employee, then that site is a separate operation – even if there is routine oversight from an employee of the main operation.*

- c. Operations must have goats on-site in order to be audited.
- d. If the operation has multiple locations, each location that raises a different stage of production will need to be audited as part of the certification process.
 - i. For example, Farm A is a milking goat operation and also has an additional site 5 miles away, to where newborn kids are transferred. The kid rearing site is under the direct supervision of the home farm, and animals and property are all owned by Farm A. In this example, the farm is considered one operation, requiring one audit but both sites need to be observed because they each raise a different stage of production.
 - ii. However, if Farm A's kid rearing site also buys in kids from other farms, then each of the farms supplying goats to Farm A's kid rearing site must also be audited if those goats are to be marketed to 5-Step® certified Meat Goat operations. Each farm needs to have a separate audit and certificate.
- e. At the time of audit, the person(s) responsible for managing the operation and/or an animal caretaker must be present. A designated representative affiliated with a Supplier may also be present at the time of the audit.
- f. Each operation applying for GAP certification is responsible for ensuring that all required records and documents are available at the time of audit, and that all applicable standards are met, including actions that may be contracted or managed by another entity (e.g. transport).
- g. Certification information must travel with goats whenever they move off the operation.
- h. At re-certification, any kids from dairy goat herds purchased by the Step-rated operation must come from a GAP Certified farm if they are going to be marketed as Step-rated. GAP realizes that this is a brand new standard, so GAP is allowing back verification for **initial audits** under these pilot standards. Back verification is when animals – in this case kids from dairy goat farms – are certified to be included in the GAP supply chain **after** they have been moved to the Step-rated meat goat operation, rather than the normal procedure where the dairy farm is certified **before** any kids can be moved. This applies to kids sourced from dairy goat farms **ONLY**.
- i. All applicable standards, including those that may be controlled or managed by, or contracted to, another (e.g. a transporter; a producer group, co-operative, or marketing entity), will be assessed for compliance by the certification company and incorporated into its overall assessment of the operation prior to the final Step determination.
- j. GAP supports the use of video or other electronic monitoring. Use of video technology is not a requirement but can be used in place of certain observations. Please refer to GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 and contact your Certifier for additional details about how this must be conducted.
- k. Auditors do not make approval determinations nor provide consultative service to producers on meeting standards requirements. Approval determinations are made by reviewers or other agents of authorized certification companies.
- l. If a standard has not been met for all animals on the operation at the time of initial audit, a designation of approval will not be assigned until evidence is provided confirming that the standard has been met.
- m. If in a particular situation or circumstance, a standard as written might compromise the welfare of the animals in the producer's care, the producer should contact their certifier to discuss applying to GAP for a deviation.

4. Non-Conformances

- a. If an operation fails to meet a standard, it will be considered a non-conformance.
- b. There are three categories of non-conformance: minor, major and critical.
- c. If an operation receives a repeat non-conformance at the time of the next audit – the designation of minor, major and critical impacts the certification decision (see Repeat Non-conformances in GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v 1.0).

In the example below, the **M** indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a major non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard is still not in compliance, then it would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v1.0, Section 5 Repeat Non-conformances for further information).

STANDARD	
D1.7 Euthanasia	
D1.7.5 M	If an animal is identified as requiring euthanasia, this must be carried out within 24 hours.

In the example below, as there is no **M** beside the standard, this means that the standard is classified as a minor non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard was still not in compliance, then it would be considered a major non-conformance (see GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v1.0, Section 5 Repeat Non-conformances for further information).

STANDARD	
D1.4 Handling	
D1.4.1	Animals must always be handled calmly. i [D1.4.1]: <i>Examples of calm handling include using low-stress handling aids such as nylon flags, rattle/shaker paddles, shepherd/goat hooks, sorting sticks or using the point of balance (flight zone) to move animals.</i>

- d. If an operation is issued a non-conformance, it needs to be addressed and the response submitted to the certifier by the operation within 3 weeks from the date the certifier issues the audit report, and be accepted by the certifier as an acceptable response to the non-conformance, before a certificate is issued. If the operation does not respond to the non-conformance within 3 weeks, it will result in a shortened certificate (see GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v 1.0 Section 5 Non-conformances).
- e. Any non-conformances that occur with dairy animals (the main milking herd) may affect the final approval of their offspring. If individual offspring cannot be identified, the entire group of kids from those dairy animals may drop or lose approval.

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Kids Sourced from Dairy Operations

① This is a set of standards for dairy goat operations; meat goat operations may source kids from dairy goat operations as long as the dairy operation is also audited. The dairy goat operation will not be assigned a Step-rating, but rather will be granted a pass/fail designation and will hold a 'GAP Certified' certificate that entitles them to sell to **Step 1** GAP Meat Goat operations **ONLY**.

① GAP recommends that dairy herds have a testing program for Caprine Arthritic Encephalitis, Caseous Lymphadenitis, and Johne's Disease and if any of these diseases are present the herd should be managed to minimize the spread of these diseases to kids.

STANDARD	
D1.1 Daily Herd Management	
D1.1.1	Goats must be observed and monitored at least once daily. Records of any health or welfare issues must be kept.
	① [D1.1.1]: This standard does not require records to be kept for day-to-day management of animals but when health or welfare issues arise.
D1.2 Medication	
D1.2.1 	Dairy kids that are given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, and/or sulfa drugs cannot be sold to a Step-rated operation.
	① [D1.2.1 a]: This standard applies whether these products (or medications) are given therapeutically or sub-therapeutically.
	① [D1.2.1 b]: See Standard D1.3.1 for prompt treatment of animals.
D1.2.2	A protocol must be in place to identify and ensure that any dairy kids given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, and/or sulfa drugs are not marketed to a Step-rated operation.
D1.3 Treatment	
D1.3.1 	Dairy kids must be treated within 12 hours of discovering an illness or injury.
	① [D1.3.1 a]: Timely treatment is critical.
	① [D1.3.1 b]: Treatment can include herbal or homoeopathic remedies when these have been shown to be effective.
D1.4 Handling	
D1.4.1	All goats in the dairy herd must always be handled calmly.
	① [D1.4.1]: Examples of calm handling include using low-stress handling aids such as nylon flags, rattle/shaker paddles, shepherd/goat hooks, sorting sticks or using the point of balance (flight zone) to move goats.
D1.4.2 	Goats in the dairy herd must not be mistreated in any way. Mistreatment includes, but is not limited to, rough physical contact, kicking, hitting and dragging.
	① [D1.4.2] For the purposes of this standard prohibited dragging is defined as pulling a goat by its ears, tail or by a single leg, or pulling/pushing a goat with a mechanized vehicle. Catching and holding goats by a single leg e.g. with shepherd hooks is acceptable but pulling a goat like this is not.

STANDARD	
D1.5 Kid Management	
D1.5.1	Kids must receive colostrum within 6 hours of birth. <i>📌 [D1.5.1]: This can be achieved by checking that kids have suckled naturally or by human intervention e.g. bottle or tube feeding colostrum.</i>
D1.5.2	Kids must be fed milk, milk replacer, or grafted onto a doe.
D1.5.3	Artificially reared kids must be fed milk or milk replacer at least twice per day.
D1.5.4	Feed and supplements, including milk replacer, must not contain mammalian, avian or fish by-products. <i>📌 [D1.5.4]: There are commercially available milk replacers that do not contain any prohibited by-products. If the operation has any difficulty sourcing these they should contact GAP.</i>
D1.5.5	Kids that are fed via self-feeders must be provided one nipple per animal.
D1.5.6	Artificially reared kids must be provided with access to fresh clean water by 1 day of age.
D1.5.7	Feeding equipment must be kept clean.
D1.6 Body Condition	
<i>📌 See Appendix I for body condition scoring scale.</i> <i>📌 To determine compliance with this Section the auditor will carry out a body condition score assessment as part of the farm audit.</i>	
D1.6.1	All dairy goats must have a minimum body condition score of 2.
D1.6.2	All dairy goats with a body condition score of less than 2 must be receiving additional management to increase the body condition score. Any animal not responding to management, and where their body condition has deteriorated further must be euthanized according to Section D1.7.
D1.7 Euthanasia	
<i>📌 This Section applies to all animals in the dairy goat herd.</i>	
D1.7.1	All euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian or other trained person(s). <i>📌 [D1.7.1]: Producers will not be required to euthanize an animal in order to show compliance with this standard, but they must be able to describe the training they have received whether this is experiential or formal.</i>
D1.7.2 🚫	Euthanasia technique(s) must cause rapid insensibility and be immediately followed by death. <i>📌 [D1.7.2]: The operation must be able to articulate to the auditor the visual indicators of death, and the physical parameters that confirm this.</i>
D1.7.3	Animal handling associated with euthanasia must minimize distress experienced by the animal prior to loss of consciousness. If it is necessary to relocate and animal to conduct euthanasia, only ambulatory animals, where movement would not cause distress, discomfort or pain may be relocated. <i>📌 [D1.7.3]: A kid may be moved if it can either walk, or be carried without causing distress; an older or larger animal may be moved onto a conveyance such as a tarp, sled or cart and that conveyance may be dragged or moved.</i>
D1.7.4	The person performing euthanasia must remain with the animal(s) until death is confirmed.

STANDARD	
D1.7 Euthanasia <i>Continued</i>	
D1.7.5 	If an animal is identified as requiring euthanasia, this must be carried out within 24 hours.
D1.7.6	<p>Acceptable methods of euthanasia for goat include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> shot to the head with a firearm; penetrating and non-penetrating captive bolt guns in accordance to the manufacturer’s specifications. The captive bolt gun’s use must be immediately followed by a secondary method to ensure death (such as exsanguination or pithing); barbiturates or barbituric acid derivatives administered by a veterinarian or by personnel who are registered with the relevant authority. If pregnant animals are euthanized using this method, and the fetus is not to be saved, then additional time (as much as 20-25 minutes) is required to ensure death of the fetus. <p> [D1.7.6 a]: <i>If an operation plans to use a method of euthanasia not listed above, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to use in order to meet this standard.</i></p> <p> [D1.7.6 b]: <i>For hornless goats, the proper site for gunshot or placement of captive bolt is at or slightly behind the poll aiming toward the angle of the jaw (i.e. base of tongue). For heavily horned goats, the proper site is high on the forehead aiming toward the spinal canal or, alternatively, at or slightly behind the poll (i.e. behind the bony ridge between the horns) aiming toward the angle of the jaw or base of the tongue.</i></p>
D1.7.7	Euthanasia equipment must be maintained, cleaned and stored according to manufacturer’s specifications.
D1.7.8	Each operation must keep records of all dairy goats and kids euthanized and the reason.
D1.7.9	<p>All euthanized dairy goats and kids must be immediately removed from housing and/or outdoor areas.</p> <p> [D1.7.9]: <i>It is the responsibility of the operation to dispose of dead animals according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations. Removal can include burial, or composting in a designated area that will not put other livestock (such as kids, weaker animals) at risk.</i></p>






STANDARD	
D1.8 Transport of Kids from Dairy Farms	
D1.8.1	Kids sourced from dairy operations must be placed on the GAP operation by 72 hours of age. A record must be kept.
D1.8.2	Dairy kids must be 24 hours old before being transported.
D1.8.3	Dairy kids must be transported direct from farm to farm. The use of collection points is prohibited.
D1.8.4	Transport duration must not exceed 1.5 hours.
D1.8.5	Dairy kids may be transported in crates providing they are free to stand up, lie down, and turn around.
D1.8.6	Hog-tying or binding of dairy kid legs for the purpose of transport is prohibited.
D1.8.7	Absorbent bedding materials must be provided in transport.
D1.8.8	For each shipment of kids transported off the operation, records must travel with the shipment. The records must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the number of goats transported; b. date of transport; c. certificate number; d. certificate expiry date.
	📌 [D1.8.8]: <i>It is the operation's responsibility to keep all copies of transport records, whether the operation transports animals themselves or contracts transport.</i>

Appendix I: Body Condition Scoring

Guidance

Section D1.6 requires that the auditor carry out body condition scoring of goats as part of the onsite audit. This section also requires that any goat that scores less than BCS2 must be receiving additional management to increase their body condition score.

Visually assess goats from the side and behind to get the best view of the animal.

BCS1	BCS2	BCS3	BCS4	BCS5
Emaciated	Thin	Ideal	Fat	Overly Fat
				
The ribs, spine, and shoulder blades are sharp and pronounced. The space between each rib is quite visible because of lack of fat between them. The vertebrae are sharp and noticeable. The flanks are hollow and the loin has no fat covering it.	The backbone is well defined but has some fat covering. The ribs are visible, but without a sunken area between them. The loin is evenly covered with a small layer of fat.	The backbone is well-covered with fat, and the vertebrae don't feel sharp. The ribs are barely visible and there's a smooth, even covering of fat over the loin.	You can't see the separate vertebrae in the spine. You have to search for ribs and the loin is covered with thick fat.	You can't see any individual vertebra or ribs. You may even see dimpling and hanging fat on various parts of the body, particularly the sternal region. The loin area may be so thick with fat that it jiggles.

Adapted from: Villaquiran et al. Body Condition Scores in Goats. American Institute for Goat Research

Glossary

When referenced within the standards, the following terms are defined as follows:

Term	Definition
Artificially reared	<i>Not reared by a doe. Reared using milk or milk replacer via a bottle or other feeder.</i>
Back verification	<i>When animals are certified to be included in the GAP supply chain after they have been moved to a Step-rated operation, rather than the normal procedure where the source farm is certified before any animals can be moved. For meat goats this only applies at the initial audit to kids sourced from dairy goat farms.</i>
By-product	<i>Animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including blood or any of its components, meat, bone, bristles, flesh, hair, hides, hooves, horns, offal, skins, wool, fat, and feathers. Fish includes whole fish, parts of fish, fish meal, fish by-products from the processing industry and other aquatic species and/or products (does not include seaweed or oyster shell).</i>
Culls	<i>Animals that have been removed from the operation as a management decision.</i>
Doeling	<i>A young doe that has not had a kid.</i>
Euthanasia	<i>An animal is killed for compassionate reasons and not for human consumption.</i>
Exsanguination	<i>The action of draining an animal of blood.</i>
Grafting	<i>Placing a kid with a doe that is not its biological mother.</i>
Hog-tying	<i>Tying of all four legs to prevent movement.</i>
Market Animals	<i>Any animal selected for slaughter.</i>
Operation	<i>A farm or ranch raising goats (see definition under Program Requirements 3.b.).</i>
Pithing	<i>Piercing or severing the brain stem or spinal cord of an animal in order to kill it; occurs after the animal is stunned.</i>
Replacement stock	<i>Does and bucks selected for breeding.</i>
Self-feeder	<i>A feeder with multiple teats for artificially rearing of kids. Includes mob-feeders.</i>
Slaughter	<i>Killing an animal for human consumption according to humane standards as required by a program or law.</i>
Sub-therapeutic	<i>Administering treatment when animals are not sick; this includes low doses of medication over an extended period of time.</i>