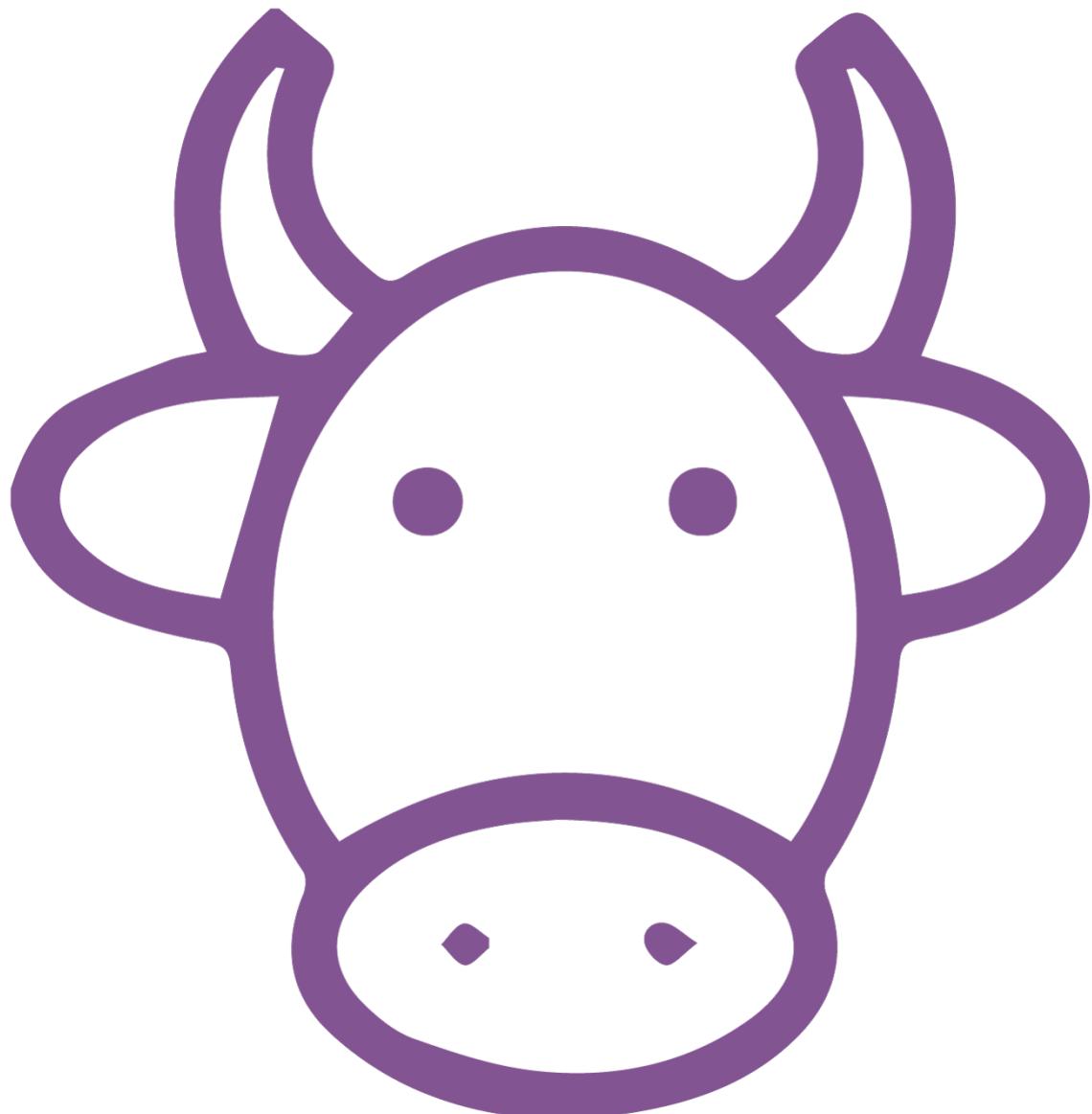


# BIOCHECK CATTLE

## Veal calves



Biocheck.Gent BV

E: [info@biocheckgent.com](mailto:info@biocheckgent.com)  
T: 0032 92 64 75 43

[www.biocheckgent.com](http://www.biocheckgent.com)

## ~. Farm characteristics

I. How many years of experience in keeping cattle does the person in charge have?

.....

II. Who performs the farm work with the cattle?

*Employees are part of the permanent staff, whereas the contractors are temporary staff.*

*Check any that apply.*

- The herd owner
- The family member(s)
- The employee(s)
- The contractor(s)

III. How many calves younger than two months are there on the farm?

.....

IV. How many calves aged between two and eight months are there on the farm?

.....

## A. Purchase

1. What is the duration of one production cycle (including the empty period) on your farm (in months)? (required)

.....

2. What is the maximum duration between the start and finalisation of filling one stable for one production cycle in weeks? (required)

*One stable is equal to one compartment in which the animals can't come into contact with animals from another compartment.*

.....

3. How many transports does it take on average to fill one compartment for one production cycle? (required)

*One compartment is equal to one unit in which the animals can't come into contact with animals from another compartment*

.....

4. Are your cattle always bought from the same original source (during the past 2 years)? (required)

*The same original source: the same farm of origin, where the cattle are born.*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No, I buy from the veal company, salesman or on the market
- No, I buy from multiple sources

5. Before the cattle arrive on your farm, is contact between your cattle and animals from different farms possible (direct or indirect contact)? (required)

*Examples of locations where (in)direct contact is possible: at a sorting centre, during transport and so on.*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

6. Whenever cattle are bought from another farm, is proof requested to ensure that the sanitary statute and health management of the farm of origin are equal or higher than your own farm? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

7. Is the level of maternal immunity checked when buying calves? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

8. Are the cattle tested for specific diseases when entering the farm (i.e. entering protocol or other tests)? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

9. Are your calves separated into high- and low-risk groups based on a risk classification? (required)

*Risk classification: e.g. housing calves of the same farms or of similar sanitary statutes, etc. together.*

*Select one option.*

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

## B. Transport and carcass removal

10. Do all vehicles have to pass through clean transport baths before entering the farm? (required)

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

11. Do external transport vehicles and transporters have access to any of the areas where cattle are kept? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

12. When cattle are delivered to the farm, are only the animals that are supposed to be delivered to your herd in the transport vehicle? (required)

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

13. Is the transport vehicle that picks up the cattle empty on arrival at the farm? (required)

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

If "Sometimes" or "Never" is chosen, go to question 15.

14. Is the transport vehicle always cleaned and disinfected before entering the farm? (required)

Select one option.

- It's cleaned and disinfected
- It's only cleaned
- No
- I don't know

15. Is there a separate carcass storage space with a hard surface floor present on the farm? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Yes
- No

*If "No" is chosen, go to question 17.*

16. Is this carcass storage space cleaned and disinfected after each pick-up? (required)

*Select one option.*

- It's cleaned and disinfected
- It's only cleaned
- No
- I don't know

17. Is the carcass storage space protected from vermin, cats and/or dogs? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Yes
- No

18. Can the carcasses be removed by the rendering company without them entering the premises of the farm? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Yes
- No

19. Are carcasses manipulated with gloves, or are hands cleaned and disinfected after manipulation of carcasses? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

20. Is all the material used for the manipulation of carcasses cleaned and disinfected? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

## C. Feed and water

21. Are the feed storage facilities (e.g. ensilaged feed, feed mixer, concentrates, ...) protected from pets and vermin? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Yes, but only from pets
- Yes, from both pets and vermin
- No

22. Are feeding utensils used only for feed (e.g. there's no double use for manure)? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

23. Is the quality of the drinking water checked every year at the source or at the storage tank by means of a bacteriological analysis? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Yes
- No, but I'm using the water supply
- No

24. Is the quality of the drinking water checked every year at the main outlets (i.e. where the cattle drink) by means of a bacteriological analysis? (required)

*Select one option.*

- Yes
- No

## D. Visitors and farmworkers

25. Are visitors obliged to notify you of their presence before entering the stables (e.g. visitor's register)? (required)

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

26. Is there a separate space available for changing boots and clothes and washing hands/wearing gloves? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

27. Are there any farmworkers who also work at (or frequently visit) other farms? (required)

Frequently: at least once a week.

Select one option.

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

28. Upon entering the farm, does the farm personnel ... (required)

	Always	Sometimes	Never
use farm-specific boots?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
use farm-specific clothes?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
wash their hands/use gloves before entering?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. Upon entering the farm, does the veterinarian... (required)

	Always	Sometimes	Never
use farm-specific boots?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
use farm-specific clothes?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
wash their hands/use gloves before entering?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. Does the advisor (veal company) come to the farm? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 32.

31. Upon entering the farm, does the advisor (veal company)... (required)

	Always	Sometimes	Never
use farm-specific boots?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
use farm-specific clothes?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
wash their hands/use gloves before entering?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Are there any other visitors (e.g. feed supplier, advisors, milk collector, any others) that enter the farm and come into contact with the cattle? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 34.

33. Upon entering the farm, do these other visitors (e.g. salesman, feed supplier, advisors, milk collector, any others)... (required)

	Always	Sometimes	Never
use farm-specific boots?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
use farm-specific clothes?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
wash their hands/use gloves before entering?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## E. Vermin control and other animals

### 34. Is an insect control programme present on the farm? (required)

*Control programme: a regular protocol containing the control measures.*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

### 35. Is a rodent control programme present on the farm? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

### 36. Is a bird control programme present on the farm (e.g. netting to keep birds out)? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

### 37. Is it possible for your cattle to come into contact with animals from other farms? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

### 38. Are there other commercially exploited cattle present on the farm? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

*If "No" is chosen, go to question 40.*

### 39. Can these other commercially exploited cattle come into contact with the veal calves? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

**40. Are any other farm animals being kept? (required)**

*Check any that apply.*

- Sheep
- Goats
- Pigs
- Horses
- Poultry (more than 10 birds)
- None

**41. Do pets have access to the stables? (required)**

*Select one option.*

- Dogs (and cats)
- Only cats
- None

**42. Is manure from other farms being spread on farmlands within a 500-meters radius (0.3 miles) of your farm and pastures? (required)**

*Select one option.*

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

## F. Health management

### 43. Are the sick cattle physically isolated from the healthy cattle? (required)

*Even during the initial phase when calves are housed individually!*

*Isolated: physically separated (i.e. a separate air volume, both above and below ground) with no possible contact with the healthy cattle.*

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

If "Never" is chosen, go to question 51.

### 44. Are there equipment and materials (e.g. buckets, thermometer, cleaning and feeding utensils, gastric tubes, ...) specific for the sick cattle in the hospital pen? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 46.

### 45. Is this specific equipment cleaned and disinfected before a new animal enters the hospital pen? (required)

Select one option.

- It's cleaned and disinfected
- It's only cleaned
- No

### 46. Are the cattle in the hospital pen fully separated from the other cattle? (required)

*Full separation: no (in)direct contact possible between the cattle in the hospital pen and the other cattle.*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 48.

47. Are ... before entering the hospital pen? (required)

	Always	Sometimes	Never
compartment-specific boots used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
compartment-specific clothes used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
hands washed/gloves used	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

48. Is the hospital pen empty after each use? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 50.

49. Is the hospital pen ... before each new introduction of sick cattle? (required)

	Always	Sometimes	Never
cleaned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
disinfected	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
dry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

50. Are the sick cattle taken care of before or after the healthy cattle? (required)

Select one option.

- Before
- After
- No specific order

51. Can one unit of sick cattle be completely separated from the other cattle in the event of a disease outbreak? (required)

Select one option.

- Always
- Sometimes
- Never

## 52. Is a register with the animal health data being kept? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

*Register: a book or computer programme in which detailed information on health status, past illnesses and the treatments of the cattle are stored in an accessible way so that it can be used in decision-making for the sick cattle.*

## 53. Are there written protocols for vaccination, disease treatment and hygiene procedures? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

## 54. What happens to the disease carriers that are detected? (required)

*Disease carrier: an animal that has been infected for a period longer than 3 weeks and which therefore may spread the infection to the other animals. For example in veal calves: *Salmonella*, *Mycoplasma* and *bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV)*.*

*Delayed elimination: the animal is kept for a certain amount of time after detection, but will be eliminated as soon as a certain condition is met. For example a cow in lactation will only be eliminated after the lactation has ended.*

Check any that apply.

- Elimination (always)
- Elimination (sometimes)
- Segregation (always)
- Segregation (sometimes)
- Nothing (always)
- Nothing (sometimes)
- Delayed elimination (always)
- Delayed elimination (sometimes)

## 55. Are there dedicated injection needles that are specific to each age group available? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

## G. Calf management

56. Are milk feeding buckets/teats reused between calves during the same feeding session? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

57. Are the feeding buckets cleaned after each time the calves have been fed? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

58. How large (number of animals) are the groups of calves that are regrouped from individual hutches to group pens? (required)

.....

59. Is the group housing empty after each use? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

If "No" is chosen, go to question 61.

60. Is the group housing (including the "babyboxes") ... before each new introduction of calves? (required)

	Always	Sometimes	Never
cleaned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
disinfected	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
dry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## H. Working organisation and equipment

### 61. Are the cattle grouped per age category in the stable? (required)

*Calves should be separated in at least two age categories: those younger than 2 months and those aged between 2 and 8 months.*

Select one option.

- Yes
- No
- N/A, there's only one age group present on my farm

*If "No" is chosen i.e. there are several age categories present on the farm; but there is no age grouping, go to question 68.*

*If "N/A, there's only one age group present on my farm" is chosen, go to question 62; but skip questions 64-67.*

### 62. Are the stables divided in compartments? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

*If "No" is chosen, go to question 64.*

### 63. What is the maximum age difference between cattle of the same compartment (in weeks)? (required)

.....

### 64. Has a full separation between age groups been established? (required)

Select one option.

- Yes
- No

*If "No" is chosen, go to question 66.*

### 65. Are ... between age groups? (required)

	Always	Sometimes	Never
compartment-specific boots changed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
compartment-specific clothes changed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
hands washed/gloves changed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**66. Is farm work performed in a specific order? (required)**

*Select one option.*

- Yes, from youngest to oldest
- Yes, from oldest to youngest
- No specific order

**67. Has there clearly recognisable, separate material been foreseen for each age group? (required)**

*Select one option.*

- Yes
- Yes, but not recognisable
- No

**68. Is there any material being shared with other farms that enters the stables and/or has contact with your cattle? (required)**

*Select one option.*

- Yes
- No

*If "No" is chosen, go to the end of this questionnaire.*

**69. What measures do you take before this shared material enters your stable or comes into contact with your cattle? (required)**

*Select one option.*

- It's cleaned and disinfected
- It's only cleaned
- Nothing