



LIVESTOCK WELFARE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Established 1978

Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee
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POSITION STATEMENT

UDDER HAIR SINGEING IN DAIRY COWS

The purpose of removing hair from the udders of dairy cows is to reduce contamination of milk and it has no benefit for the health or welfare of the animals.

There are two ways to achieve udder hair removal, clipping and singeing. Singeing involves passing a low temperature gas flame below the udder. Thus it is clear that if it is not done in the precisely correct way, there are real and significant dangers that cows can be injured in the process.

If such a procedure is to be undertaken at all it has to be done with the greatest care by skilled trained persons taking all precautions, and the owner or manager must take full responsibility for ensuring the safety and welfare of the cows.

Farmers should rather seek other ways to achieve hygienic milk and udder hair singeing is neither advocated nor accepted as a method to achieve this goal.

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