



GROUP HOUSING RESOLUTION

December 2016

WHEREAS, in May 2007, the American Veal Association (AVA) officially adopted a resolution recommending the entire veal industry convert to the group housing methodology by December 31, 2017, and

WHEREAS, more than \$50 million of investment has since been made by AVA members to build new calf barns as well as renovate existing facilities to accommodate group housing, and

WHEREAS, research and continuous improvement indicates milk-fed veal calves thrive when given individual attention, feed and care (for up to ten weeks after birth), and then are moved to group pens where they continue to receive attention, feed and care, and

WHEREAS, group pens allow the calves to stand, stretch, lie down, groom themselves and socialize with other calves, and

WHEREAS, member companies of the AVA estimate the transition to group housing is 90 percent complete as 2017 begins, and

WHEREAS, the AVA believes:

1. That the veal industry embraces the important responsibility of safeguarding the health and well-being of all animals under its collective care, and
2. That animal care practices should continue to be based on sound science to ensure the health and well-being of calves, and that current research on group housing indicates it is desirable for raising milk-fed veal, and
3. That veal customers and consumers deserve the industry's commitment to implement best practices at all company-owned and contract farms to ensure that U.S. veal products are of the highest quality and that calves raised for food are cared for in a way that promotes their well-being, and results in products we feel confident to feed our own families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Veal Association recognizes the significant progress made by AVA member companies in transitioning to group housing (10 % in 2007 to 90% as 2017 begins), and re-commits to the 2007 resolution to fully transition to group pens by December 31, 2017. In addition, the AVA encourages all U.S. veal producers to support this resolution and shift to group housing by the date indicated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dale Bakke'.

Dale Bakke, President

Date: December 14, 2016