



CARE 543.01 Water Quality Monitoring in Agricultural Facilities

The intent of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe the program for water quality monitoring in agricultural facilities at Cornell University. This procedure is intended for use by agricultural facility managers. This SOP is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE). Any exemption must be submitted for approval by the IACUC, prior to its application.

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1. Introduction

For the purposes of this document, agricultural facilities are divided into two categories:

- a. Facilities using water from the Cornell Water Filtration Plant or from another commercial water treatment plant.
- b. Facilities treating their own water, which includes those farms that use well water and treat it in-house.

2. Materials N/A

3. Procedures

- a. Facilities using water from the Cornell Water Filtration Plant or from another commercial water treatment plant: no action is required for facilities that use water from a commercial source that meets federal and state standards for human consumption. At the Cornell Water Filtration Plant, water is tested daily for color, turbidity, pH, alkalinity, residual chlorine (>0.2 mg/L) and total coliforms.
- b. Facilities treating their own water:
 - i. Follow all applicable, local, state and federal laws for the treatment of water for human consumption, if the water is consumed by employees as well as animals. Note: these laws may differ according to location and it is the responsibility of the facility manager to become familiar with them and ensure their implementation.
 - ii. Submit a water sample annually for bacteriological testing if the water is to be consumed only by the animal population.

- iii. Contact the Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at 607-253-3900 for detailed instructions on how to collect and handle water samples for testing, as well as the containers in which the samples are to be submitted.

4. Safety N/A

5. Contingencies

Contact CARE at 607-253-4378 or care@cornell.edu if assistance is needed.

6. References N/A

Written by, date:	Effective date:	Review date:	SOP:
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