



## IDF PROMOTES GOOD ANIMAL WELFARE PRACTICES IN DAIRY PRODUCTION

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Brussels, 18 September 2008 – Good animal welfare practices in milk production at global scale are essential to ensure that the needs of the food industry and ultimately the expectations of the consumers can be met. The IDF has just published the IDF Guide to Good Animal Welfare in Dairy Production, setting out science-based recommendations on welfare in dairy production, in line with OIE's global vision on animal welfare.

The guide was developed with expert participation of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It is an important reference document complementing the FAO/IDF Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practice (2004) with a view to improving quality and hygiene standards in all countries. "IDF aims to put in place a framework for producers to self-regulate their business. This guide comprises key considerations to improve quality assurance at farm level and to enable dairy farmers to better respond to market incentives through the adoption of good animal management practice." said Christian Robert, IDF Director General.

"This IDF Guide to Good Animal Welfare in Dairy Production is an important step in raising producers' awareness of animal welfare and encouraging them to incorporate relevant requirements within their overall responsibility for the health of their dairy herds. The OIE supports this IDF initiative and looks forward to continuing fruitful OIE-IDF working relationships" said Dr. Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General.

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### Note to editors:

- The International Dairy Federation is the pre-eminent source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders in the dairy chain.
- IDF is represented in 53 countries and membership is growing: IDF accounts for approximately **82%** of the world's milk production at present.
- IDF aims to identify, elaborate and disseminate best practice at international level in order to guide the dairy sector and to harmonise members' work on a variety of issues along the dairy production chain including animal health and welfare, protection of the environment, nutrition, food safety and hygiene and food standards.
- IDF/FAO Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practice (2004) and IDF Guide to Good Animal Welfare in Dairy Production (2008) are available free of charge for download from the IDF Internet homepage (section publications, free publications) at <http://www.fil-idf.org>