



GLENVIEW PARK DISTRICT

Wagner Farm Development of an Animal Management Policy

In the fall of 2001, the staff of the Glenview Park District's Wagner Farm determined that there was a strong need for the development of a policy that would provide consistent guidelines in the areas of livestock care, handling, loan, rotation, and welfare. In order to ensure a well thought out and comprehensive policy, staff established a livestock management committee to review options and make recommendations. This committee, whose names appear below, met on two occasions to lend their expertise and provide suggestions in the formulation of the district's animal management policy. Meetings were held on February 20, and March 6, 2002. The attached Wagner Farm Animal Management Policy is the result of countless hours of work and research conducted by the Livestock Management committee and Park District staff.

Livestock Management Committee Members

Ellen Phillips
University of Illinois
Extension Educator

*Terry Sargent
Association for Living History, Farm
and Ag. Museums -Livestock Specialist

*Lloyd Bettis
Farm volunteer
Former Steering com. member

Joe Warga
COWS Representative

*Dr. Michael Mann
Current Wagner Farm Veterinarian

Lynne Pieper
Lincoln Park Zoo
Director of Children's Zoo and
Farm in the Zoo

Glenview Park District

Commissioners

Cathy Crowley
Chris Warren

Dr. Jack Dinsmore
Veterinary Consultant

Staff

Bob Quill, Superintendent of Leisure
Services
Steve Swanson, Director, The Grove
Jeff Wienski, Farm Supervisor
Todd Price, Director, Wagner Farm

Donna Stronk
South Suburban Humane Society
Abuse Investigator

* Denotes participation by consultation

The following established policies from other entities were reviewed and considered in the development of Wagner Farm's Animal Management Policy.

- **General Position on Food Animals**, American Veterinary Medical Association, 1999
- **Conner Prairie Livestock Policy**, Conner Prairie, Fishers, Indiana, 1996
- **Volkening Heritage Farm Livestock Policy**, Spring Valley Nature Sanctuary, Schaumburg Park District, Schaumburg, Illinois, 1997
- **Living History Farms Livestock Policy**, Living History Farms, Urbandale, Iowa, 1999
- **Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums Outline for Animal Care**, ALHFAM, North Bloomfield, Ohio
- **Old World Wisconsin Animal Management Plan**, Old World Wisconsin, Eagle, Wisconsin, 1999
- **Animal Acquisition and Disposition Policy, Quarantine Policy, Incoming Animal Pre-Shipment Requirements, Animal Contact with the Public, and Parasitology Program**, Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, Illinois
- **Illinois Humane Care for Animals Act**, Illinois Department of Agriculture, September 1994
- **Federal Animal Welfare act; Farm Animal Used for Nonagricultural Purposes**, United States Department of Agriculture, February 2000

Glenview Park District Wagner Farm Animal Management Policy

I. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to establish guidelines for acquisition, care, program integration, loan and rotation of livestock at Wagner Farm. It is the goal of the district and Wagner Farm to ensure the humane care and treatment of livestock on the farm while providing an educational opportunity for the community to gain knowledge and sensitivity to the heritage of Glenview as a farming community.

The mission of Wagner Farm is to preserve and interpret, by means of a living history farm, the agricultural heritage of family farming in Glenview and the surrounding community. The role of the homesteading family, the Wagners, will be utilized along with that of other local farming families of the 1920s through the 1950s.

The livestock at Wagner Farm will be an integral part of the historical and agricultural interpretation at the site. Interpretation will incorporate both passive viewing and limited, supervised public interaction to best involve visitors in the workings of the farm. In order to do so, an appropriate number and type of livestock will be maintained on the farm to fulfill the site's agricultural, interpretive, food ways, and educational needs. The number and type of livestock kept on the farm will reflect the ability of the property and facilities to support them. Livestock will also reflect the chosen time period for interpretation and reflect the types and breeds commonly found in the area.

II. Livestock Handling and Public Interaction

The vision statement for Wagner Farm states that the site is to be operated as a working, interpretive farm. As a public facility, it is necessary to develop parameters to govern how animals are to be handled. This includes staff, volunteers, program participants, and the general public.

The interpretive program currently being developed for the farm, will include limited, supervised interaction with the farm's animals. Because of differing situations, the extent of visitor contact allowed will be defined in the Livestock Care and Handling Manual which will be developed after the approval of, and in accordance with, the Animal Management Policy.

III. Livestock Care and Record Keeping

While the farm will seek to emulate period farm practices for most operations, the district will employ modern animal husbandry and veterinary practices. Period practices may be used when appropriate but modern practices will supersede period practices whenever the staff deems it in the best interests of the animal. Specific standards involving animal handling, feeding, and specific veterinary care issues will be addressed in a Livestock Care and Handling Manual.

To ensure that Wagner Farm animals are well cared for, and for efficient management, thorough records will be kept on all livestock, including their diet, veterinary care, acquisition and rotation. Records on all animals will include breed registry and birthing records as appropriate.

IV. Livestock Rotation

In accordance with best farming practices, the types of livestock, their number, and their breeding will be carefully considered to ensure that Wagner Farm does not jeopardize the level of overall care of all animals or have a negative impact on the facility. A regular schedule of animal rotation will be devised and employed to allow for optimum program delivery and interpretation to the community.

A. Livestock Accessioning

The interpretive period for Wagner Farm is from 1920 through 1959. Livestock acquired for the site should reflect the type of stock that inhabited Glenview farms during that time. Wagner Farm may acquire livestock in the following methods: purchase, trade, lend/lease arrangement and natural birthing. Animals accessioned to the farm should be physically sound and have all pertinent health certificates as required by the State of Illinois. The most important factor in choosing livestock for Wagner Farm will be the animals' perceived temperament. Because interpretation and programming will involve livestock, there is a desire for good demeanor above that of form or production of the animal.

Those responsible for the acquisition of livestock for Wagner Farm will make every reasonable effort to acquire animals from reputable dealers, institutions, and individual breeders. Staff will conduct a site visit to the farm or institution to gauge cleanliness and overall care shown in the operation. To protect the health of the current stock at Wagner Farm, a quarantine area will be established to segregate all new or sick animals from the herd for a period of 30 days.

B. Livestock De-accessioning

The Farm Director and the Farm Manager will utilize common farming practices and procedures when deciding which, and when animals are rotated from the herd. The best interests of the museum, the animal, and the public will be considered when making the decision for rotation. Private contract, auction, or trade may be the method of rotation for animals not used in the food ways program. Animals may be euthanized in a humane fashion in accordance with best veterinary practices when all other means of rotation are not feasible.

This method of rotation may also be enlisted when animals are determined to be terminally ill, untreatable, or in a state of suffering. The determination to euthanize will be the responsibility of the Wagner Farm staff with veterinary counsel.

C. Livestock Loan

From time to time, it may be beneficial to accept certain animals on loan rather than by purchase. In such circumstances Wagner Farm will adhere to the same guidelines specified for the purchase of livestock. Animals brought to Wagner Farm must have all pertinent health papers. There must be a signed contract between the parties outlining any specific care or maintenance that the animal will require. In the case of illness or injury the Wagner Farm veterinarian will be called and the farm will be responsible for the cost of proper care as prescribed by the veterinarian. Other issues addressed in the loan documents may include what compensation, if any the supplier will receive if the animal expires while at Wagner Farm, which party will own the offspring birthed while at Wagner Farm, and responsibility of the parties if a loaned animal develops chronic health problems during the period of the loan. It will be the responsibility of Wagner Farm to regularly update the owner about the welfare of their livestock while at Wagner Farm.

It may be beneficial to the farm's operation and programs to employ the practice of loaning stock to other institutions or individuals. Such practice will be only for the purpose of meeting the Wagner Farm's stated goals for education and interpretation. The loaning of Wagner Farm livestock will be limited to other public or private not-for-profit farm museums. Requests for animals to be loaned will be considered keeping in mind the animals' wellbeing, temperament, and training. Other issues, including how the specific request fits the mission of Wagner Farm will also have bearing on the decision. The loan of an animal from Wagner Farm to another organization or individual will require the execution of a signed contract outlining the specific care and maintenance that the animal will require. In the case of illness or injury the receiving individual's or institution's veterinarian will be called and will be responsible for the proper care as prescribed by the veterinarian. Other issues that may be addressed in the loan documents may include compensation to Wagner Farm if the animal expires while in the care of the other party and responsibility of the party if an animal develops chronic health problems during the period of the loan.

V. Livestock Welfare

As the stewards of the livestock that reside at Wagner Farm it is the staff's responsibility to ensure that all the stock receives proper treatment. Proper treatment will be defined as safe housing, strict nutritional management, humane treatment when being handled and prompt veterinary care. This philosophy is in accordance with the both the State of Illinois and United States Departments of Agriculture Animal Welfare Act. Specific information on how Wagner Farm will address the defined welfare issues will be detailed in the Livestock Care and Handling Manual.

Wagner Farm staff will strive to maintain the farm's facilities in such a fashion as to provide adequate security for the animals that reside at the site. This includes sound perimeter fencing, lockable gates and barn doors, and nighttime security.

Glossary of Terms

- **Accessioning** A museum term used to describe the act of legally coming into possession of, in this case, an animal.
- **Agricultural Interpretation** The interpretation that primarily explains the principles and relationships related to the tasks of crop and animal agriculture.
- **Animal Management Policy** A document that broadly outlines the farm's method of livestock care, record keeping, use, acquisition, and rotation of stock. It should also relate the mission the animals serve in being part of the farm interpretation
- **Best Farm Practices** This describes the philosophy of providing livestock with safe housing, sufficient quantities of quality food and water, preventative and prompt emergency veterinary care, and overall humane treatment.
- **Deaccessioning** This describes the act of transferring ownership of an animal from Wagner Farm to another party.
- **Domestic Interpretation** The interpretation that primarily explains the principles and relationships related to the many tasks that were accomplished in and around the farmhouse. This might include food preparation, poultry management, garden and orchard cultivation, and food preservation on the farm.
- **Even-tempered** Describing an animal's positive disposition to being handled during care, demonstration and interpretation.
- **Food ways** A sub-part of the domestic interpretation that links how plants and animals, and the processing thereof, contribute to the nutritional needs of humans.
- **Animal Care Manual** The document that defines to a greater detail the day-to-day management of the farm's livestock. This will include, but not be limited to rations, vaccination schedules, routine care, and breeding.
- **Livestock Rotation** Describes the policies that add or remove livestock from the Wagner Farm site.
- **Perceived Temperament** The human judgement of an animal's mental and emotional traits that may manifest in favorable or unfavorable actions.
- **Quarantine** The act of segregating newly acquired or sick livestock so as not to contaminate the rest of the herd.

Adopted by the
Board of Park Commissioners
Glenview Park District

4/24/2002