



AAALAC GUIDANCE STATEMENTS

HVAC Measurements in Agricultural Settings

The AAALAC International Program Description has a table (Appendix 11, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System Summary) where comprehensive HVAC data are requested. Can you clarify AAALAC's expectations for HVAC performance data for buildings used in agricultural programs?

Proper air quality for animal facilities is important for the health and welfare of the animals as well as for the personnel working in the facilities. The *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching (Ag Guide)*, American Dairy Science Association®, the American Society of Animal Science, and the Poultry Science Association 2020, provides a description of Ventilation and Air Quality (p. 18) as well as guidance on methods and strategies to optimize the environment. In agricultural settings, the design and use of the buildings will determine the extent of HVAC information that is needed. In agricultural situations, the assessment of relative pressurization and air exchange rates may be unnecessary. However, pressurization is important for containment facilities at ABSL-3-Ag. The provision of emergency power to exhaust fans is critical for animal housing where mechanical ventilation is required to maintain air quality and environmental temperatures. AAALAC site visitors will consider the buildings' design and function and utilize the recommendations of the *Ag Guide* when assessing the HVAC data and air quality for agricultural programs.