



FIT TO TRANSPORT CATTLE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) instructs farm staff on making decisions regarding transporting animals in order to avoid causing injury or undue suffering to the animals.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This SOP will describe how to decide if an animal is fit to transport. It will also provide a general overview of important points to remember which impact the welfare of the animal.

3. RESPONSIBILITY


- 3.1. The Operations Manager is responsible for reviewing and updating this procedure as required, and ensuring that personnel are familiar with its contents.
- 3.2. Farm workers are responsible for learning how to safely move animals, and following those methods at all times.
- 3.3. The Operations Manager is responsible for ensuring Canada's animal transport requirements are followed.
- 3.4. The Operations Manager or herd veterinarian are the only persons responsible for making the decisions regarding the fitness of animals to be transported, or arranging for their transport, and will ensure that the entire transportation process (including loading, transit, and unloading) does not cause injury or undue suffering to the animals.

4. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

All personnel entering the cattle facilities will wear personal protective equipment coveralls and dedicated facility footwear.

5. TRAINING

Training on how to safely move animals is needed prior to carrying out this SOP. Two in-house training video modules are located in Rm 205 of the office/lab building. See SOPs on Student Training, Staff Training, and Moving & Chasing Cattle.

 University of British Columbia Centre for Dairy Education and Research	Document Number	SOP-COW-005
	Revision Number	000
	Effective Date	October 26, 2020
FIT TO TRANSPORT CATTLE		

6. GENERAL

- 6.1. Every animal must be assessed before being transported - Refer to the NFACC “Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Animals”, and “Should this Animal be Loaded?” pg 3&4.
- 6.2. Only fit animals are sold or shipped to auction.
- 6.3. Non-ambulatory animals, animals with a body condition score indicating emaciation or weakness, or animals with severe lameness must not be transported, except for veterinary treatment or diagnosis.
- 6.4. Do not transport animals that are likely to give birth during the intended journey.
- 6.5. Do not transport cattle that require hobbling in order to walk.
- 6.6. Animals unfit for transport will be euthanized on site (See SOP on Euthanasia).
- 6.7. All decisions regarding the transport of animals are made by the Operations Manager using the decision tree developed by the National Farm Animal Care Council (Appendixes G & H, 2009) See pg. 3&4 of this document. The herd veterinarian can also make decisions regarding fitness of animals for transport.
- 6.8. Additional resources to aid in assessing fitness for transport can be found at:
 - 6.8.1. CFIA. Livestock Transport in Canada. Online document.
https://www.inspection.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-animals-animaux/WORKAREA/DAM-animals-animaux/text-texte/livestock_transport_pdf_1528296360187_eng.pdf
 - 6.8.2. CCAC Farm Guidelines. Section 10.1.2 Acquisition, transport and quarantine.
https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Farm_Animals.pdf

7. PROCEDURE

- 7.1. Verify the identification of the cow or calf to be transported by ID number, and record reason for transport (health, lameness, temperament etc.) in the barn day book located in the vet room.



FIT TO TRANSPORT CATTLE

- 7.2. If, after consulting the herd veterinarian and the NFACC decision tree (see below) the animal is considered fit for transport, call the livestock hauler a few days before shipping:
- 7.3. Animals typically leave the farm after morning milking. The hauler alerts the farm as to their estimated arrival time so that the animals are moved out of their pen of residence just before the hauler arrives, and are therefore standing and waiting for a minimal amount of time.
- 7.4. Bull calves being shipped are fed in the morning and removed from their pen when the truck arrives.
- 7.5. Livestock traceability requirements are mandated by the federal government and require that both the animal and the premises it comes from have a unique identifying number, provided by the animal's RFID ear tag. Using a hand held device, the hauler scans the ear tags of any animal leaving the farm so that its movements can be recorded.
- 7.6. To comply with Biosecurity procedures, the hauler remains outside of the barn facilities. Farm workers or the Operations Manager bring the animals to be transported (see SOP on Moving & Chasing Cattle) to the gate closest to where the truck & trailer are parked.
- 7.7. The gate between the barn alley and the trailer is opened, and adult animals walk into the low bed trailer.
- 7.8. Calves are also brought to where the truck is parked and manually pushed/carried into the trailer by a farm worker or the Operations Manager.
- 7.9. A completed manifest form is left with the Operations Manager when the animals leave the farm.



FIT TO TRANSPORT CATTLE

SHOULD THIS ANIMAL BE LOADED?
Guidelines for Transporting Cattle, Sheep & Goats

 **Load Healthy Animals**

Do Not Load
Do Not Transport



Do Not Transport to a Sale



Delay Transportation and Reassess

- Exhaustion
- Calving/lambing/kidding
- Weakness/unstable
- Acute mastitis
- Ketosis
- Fever:
 - cattle > 102.5°F
39.1°C
 - sheep/goats > 103.3°F
39.6°C

Euthanize

- **Non-ambulatory** (see box below)
- Fractures of limb or spine
- Arthritis with multiple joints
- Cancer eye (severe)
- Cancer/leukosis (extensive)
- Extremely thin
- Pneumonia (unresponsive with fever)
- Prolapsed uterus
- Water belly
- Nervous disorders, such as rabies must be reported to CFIA
- Hernia that impedes movement, is painful, touches the ground

 **Transport With Special Provisions Direct to Slaughter**

Animals with multiple conditions may not be fit to transport.

As Soon As Possible

- Abscess
- Blind
- Frost bite
- Cancer eye (eye intact)
- Lameness Class 1 & 2
- Left/right displaced abomasum (without weakness, toxicity)
- Lumpy jaw
- Penis injuries
- Pneumonia (without fever)
- Prolapsed vagina or rectum
- Animals that have given birth within 48 hours

Within 12 Hours

Advise inspector at the destination plant.

- Bloat*
- Hardware with localized signs
- Intestinal accidents
- Recent injury*
- Urethral blockage (acute)*
- Broken tail or jaw


**Animals must travel in a small compartment, either individually segregated or with one quiet animal.*

Non-ambulatory Animals

- Unable to stand without assistance, or unable to move without being dragged or carried. Commonly called "downers."
- Animals should be able to bear weight on all four limbs to be suitable for transport.
- Lameness Classes 3, 4 and 5 can be transported for veterinary treatment on the advice of a veterinarian.

Emergency On-Farm Slaughter

If an animal is fit for human consumption but not fit for transport (i.e. injured but not sick) emergency on-farm slaughter may be an option. Please consult with your provincial government for more information on the availability of emergency on-farm slaughter in your province.

 University of British Columbia Centre for Dairy Education and Research	Document Number	SOP-COW-005
	Revision Number	000
	Effective Date	October 26, 2020
FIT TO TRANSPORT CATTLE		

Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Cattle, Sheep & Goats

Federal Transportation Regulations

Health of Animals Regulations www.inspection.gc.ca

DO

- Segregate animals of different species, or substantially different weights and ages, or if incompatible by nature.
- Provide proper ventilation, drainage and absorption of urine.
- Have sufficient headroom for animals to stand in a natural position.
- Either strew the vehicle with sand or have the vehicle fitted with safe footholds, in addition to appropriate bedding.
- Ensure that animals unloaded for feed, water and rest remain at least five hours and longer, if necessary, for all animals to receive food and water.
- Ensure that calves too young to exist on hay and grain are provided with suitable food and water at intervals of no more than 18 hours.
- Ensure that animals segregated in trucks receive extra protection from cold and wind chill; supply ample bedding.
- Euthanize animals promptly when you identify conditions outlined in the "Should this Animal be Loaded?" chart.

DO NOT

- Transport a sick or injured animal where undue suffering may result, or when the animal is liable to give birth during the journey.
- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel beyond the nearest place it can be treated.
- Mishandle an animal on loading or unloading.
- Use goads or prods on the face, anal, udder or genital area.
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering.
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering.
- Transport livestock in trailers not designed for safe handling of that species or class of livestock.

Source: Transporting Livestock by Truck (CFIA)

Lameness Classes

These categories can be used to determine the status of an animal's mobility, from normal to non-ambulatory.

Transport as soon as possible

Class 1

Visibly lame but can keep up with the group: no evidence of pain.

Class 2

Unable to keep up; some difficulty climbing ramps. *Load in rear compartment.*

Not Recommended for Transport*

Class 3

Requires assistance to rise, but can walk freely.

Do Not Load or Transport*

Class 4

Requires assistance to rise; reluctant to walk; halted movement.

Class 5

Unable to rise or remain standing.

*** Any animal, including Lameness Classes 3, 4 or 5 may be transported for veterinary treatment, on the advice of a veterinarian.**

Special thanks to the Ontario Humane Transport Working Group. Funding for this project was provided in part through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Program. This is a collective outcome partnership with the Agricultural Adaptation Council in Ontario, the Manitoba Rural Adaptation Council, the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development and Alberta Agriculture and Food.

For more information or additional copies, please contact any of the groups listed below:

 AFAC ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE www.afac.ab.ca	 FACS Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. www.facs.sk.ca	 Manitoba Farm MFAC Animal Council www.mbfac.ca	 OFAC ONTARIO FARM ANIMAL COUNCIL www.ofac.org
--	--	--	---

Updated: 02/2009

8. REFERENCES

- 8.1. CCAC Guide to the Care and Use of Farm Animals in Research, Teaching and Testing. 2009. Online document. https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Farm_Animals.pdf
- 8.2. CFIA Transportation of Animals Program. Compromised Animal Policy. Online document. <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animal-health/humane-transport/compromised-animals-policy/eng/1360016317589/1360016435110>
- 8.3. NFACC Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle. 2009. Online document. http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/dairy_code_of_practice.pdf



FIT TO TRANSPORT CATTLE

9. REFERENCED SOPS

- 9.1. SOP-General-001 Student Training
- 9.2. SOP-General-007 Staff Training
- 9.3. SOP-Cow-003 Euthanasia
- 9.4. SOP-Cow-004 Downer Cows
- 9.5. SOP-Cow-006 Moving & Chasing Cattle

10. APPROVAL AND REVISION HISTORY

Author/Approver	Date	Signature
History		
Document #	Revision #	Changes