TRANSPORTING DAIRY ANIMALS

Make decisions in a timely and efficient manner, always considering animal well-being first.

DO

- Treat, cull or euthanize animals promptly. Segregate sick, injured and non-ambulatory animals from the rest of the herd.
- Use a BQA Transportation (BQAT)-certified company that is knowledgeable about your animal care expectations and provides safe and comfortable transport for animals. To become certified visit: www.bqa.org.
- Delay transport of animals that appear exhausted or dehydrated. Cows experiencing heat stress or exhaustion may exhibit open-mouth panting and be reluctant to move. Transport once the animal is rested, fed and rehydrated.
- Milk lactating cows just prior to transport.

DON’T TRANSPORT ANIMALS

- That are non-ambulatory.
- Until all proper milk and meat withdrawal times have been followed. Refer to the FARM Milk & Dairy Beef Residue Prevention Manual for proper withdrawal times.
- In poor body condition, generally a body condition score of less than 2:
- With bone fractures of the limbs or injuries to the spine.
  - Animals with recent fractures unrelated to mobility should be culled and transported directly to a packing or processing facility.
- With conditions that risk their well-being and are unlikely to pass pre-slaughter inspection, including but not limited to:
  - Emaciated animals
  - Cancer eye
  - Blindness in both eyes
  - Fever greater than 103°F
  - Drug residues
  - Peritonitis
  - Visible open wounds
  - Suspected central nervous system symptoms
  - Fractures or lameness (a score greater than 2 using the FARM locomotion scoring system)
  - Unreduced prolapses
  - Cows that are calving or have a high likelihood of calving during transport
  - Distended udder causing pain and ambulatory issues

Always consult with your veterinarian if you are unsure if an animal should be transported. And, remember, abuse is never tolerated – including pre-transport and during transport.

This resource was created by the collaboration of the following organizations:

nationaldairyfarm.com | bqa.org