

CONSIDERATIONS FOR CULLING & TRANSPORTING DAIRY ANIMALS TO MARKET



1

Do not move non-ambulatory animals to market under any circumstances.

2

Make the decision to treat, to cull, or to euthanize animals promptly. Sick and injured animals should be segregated from the herd.



3

Delay transport of an animal that appears to be exhausted or dehydrated until the animal is rested, fed and rehydrated.

4

Milk all cows that are still lactating just prior to transporting to a packing plant or a processing facility.



5

Use a transportation company that is knowledgeable about your animal care expectations and provides for the safety and comfort of the animals during transport.

6

Do not transport animals to a packing or processing facility until all proper treatment withdrawal times have been followed.



7

Do not transport animals with a poor body condition, generally a Body Condition Score of less than 2 (1 - 5 scale).

8

Do not transport heifers or cows where calving is imminent and likely to occur during the transportation or marketing process.



9

Do not transport animals that require mechanical assistance to rise and walk, except to receive veterinary treatment. When using any handling device, abuse is never tolerated (see FARM Willful Mistreatment Protocol, chapter 8).

10

Do not transport animals with bone fractures of the limbs or injuries to the spine. Animals with a recent fracture unrelated to mobility should be culled and transported directly to a packing or processing facility.

11

Do not transport animals with conditions that will not pass pre-slaughter inspection at a packing or processing facility. If unsure, consult with your veterinarian before transporting an animal to a packing or processing facility.

CONDITIONS THAT WILL NOT PASS PRE-SLAUGHTER INSPECTION

Dairy producers should not transport animals with conditions that are unlikely to pass pre-slaughter inspection.

These conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Cancer eye
- Blindness in both eyes
- Fever greater than 103°F
- Drug residues
- Peritonitis
- Fractures or lameness (3 or greater on the Locomotion scale)
- Unreduced prolapses
- Cows that are calving or have a high likelihood of calving during transport
- Distended udders causing pain and ambulatory issues
- Suspected central nervous system symptoms
- Visible open wounds

