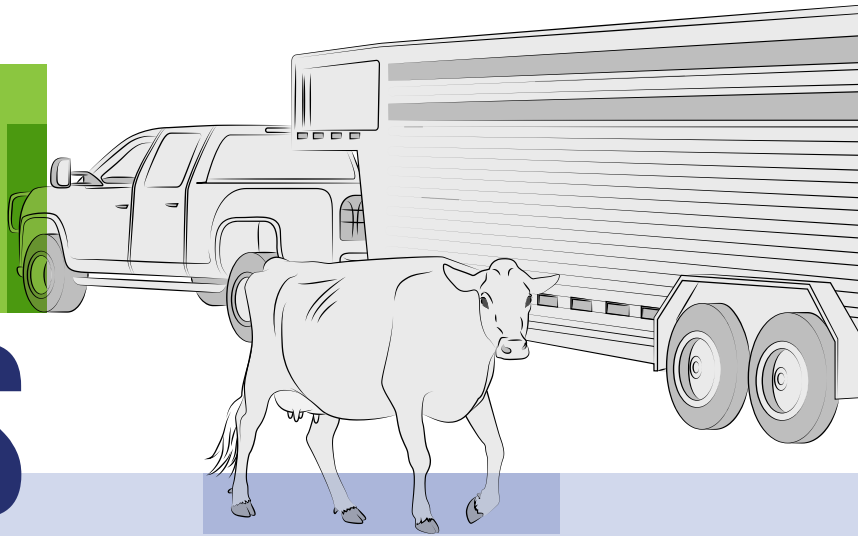# CONSIDERATIONS WHEN
TRANSPORTING
DAIRY ANIMALS

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.

✗ 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.

✗ In poor body condition, generally a body condition score of less than 2:

SCORE 1

SCORE 2
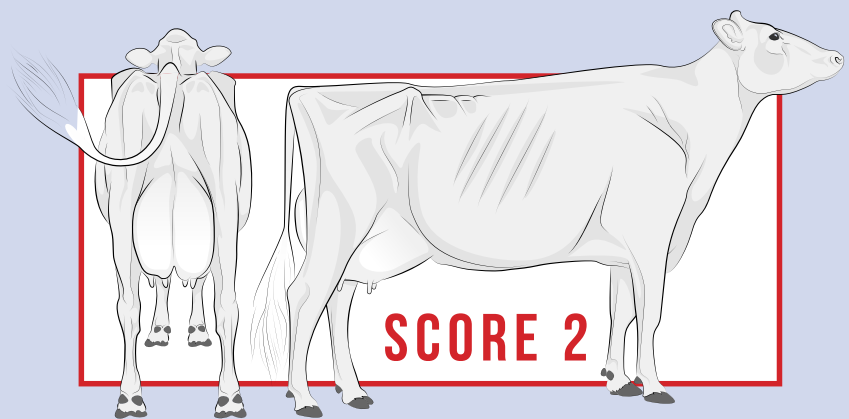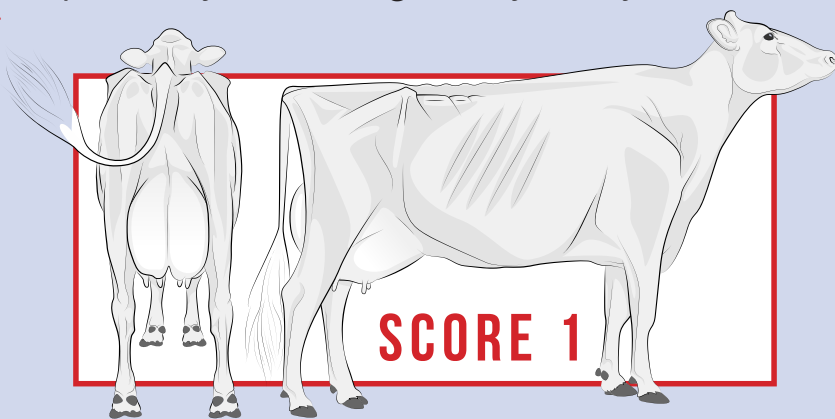
✗ With conditions that risk their well-being and are unlikely to pass pre-slaughter inspection, including but not limited to:

  • 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

FARM — FARMERS ASSURING RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT

NMPF — NATIONAL MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION

BEEF Funded in part by the Beef Checkoff.

Beef Quality Assurance TRANSPORTATION

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