

Are your calves Fit to Ship?

Transportation is stressful for calves. Management can impact calves now and in the future.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
ANIMAL SCIENCES



Prepare



Colostrum

Feed 300g IgG within the first 2 hours of life (3L of $\geq 25\%$ BRIX)



Cleanliness

Ensure calving areas are clean, dry and comfortable.



Milk

Calves awaiting transport should be fed just like any other calves. Offer 2–3 milk meals per day. Feeding milk close to the time of transport can help support the calves during the journey.



Water

Provide access to fresh water before transport.



Green Light/Go

- ✓ Healthy (no diarrhea, respiratory, or signs of illness)
- ✓ Hydrated
- ✓ Navels are clean and dry
- ✓ Strong and vigorous
- ✓ Received colostrum with at least 300g IgG within the first 2 hours of life (3L of $\geq 25\%$ BRIX)



Red Light/Stop

Do not transport

- ✗ Diarrhea
- ✗ Dehydration
- ✗ Fever
- ✗ Injuries
- ✗ Navel swelling
- ✗ Did not receive colostrum with at least 300g IgG within the first 2 hours of life (3L of $\geq 25\%$ BRIX)
- ✗ Respiratory disease
- ✗ Weakness

*Animals who are sick or injured should receive immediate treatment or be euthanized using AVMA approved methods, if necessary



Comfort



Research Insight

Research shows that older calves handle transport stress better. Work with your veterinarian and calf raisers to determine the best time to ship your calves.



Ensure comfort on the trailer

- Provide clean, dry, and deep bedding.
- Keep calves warm in the winter and cool in the summer during transportation.

Please work with your veterinarian and your nutritionist to develop good management practices that will support the calf now and in the future!