

Checklist for transporting cows

For farmers and transporters



*Transport Planning***PLAN**

1 . Arrange transport at least a week in advance. Talk to your grazier transport company/stock agent to confirm the destination, the expected journey time, and make a plan.

COW HEALTH AND CONDITION

2 . Regardless of the destination, animals must be inspected to ensure that they are fit and healthy for transport. Special consideration must be given to cows that are:

- Pregnant: check calving dates. Cows likely to give birth must not be transported.
- Lactating: this includes cull cows that haven't been dried off.
- Being transported with a journey time of longer than 4 hours and require stops, rest periods, feed and water.

For further info go to www.dairypesa/transporting stock

DIET

3 . Prepare a feed transition plan if a change of diet is expected.

MAGNESIUM

4 Provide cows with 12-20g per day of dietary magnesium for at least three days before and after transport – if dusting Cause Mag, allow 80-100g/cow/day.

DOCS

5. Check that animals are NAIT tagged and registered. Check that a veterinary certificate is not required.

YARDS AND RAMP

6 Check that the farm loading ramp and holding yards are in good order with no obstacles or protrusions that could harm the cows or people during loading.

*Transport Planning***COMMUNICATE**

1 Communication is key. Plan transport with farmers at least a week in advance. Confirm the destination and expected journey time, so that the farmer has sufficient time to prepare the stock.

PLAN

2 Discuss any special requirements e.g. individual penning, animals with veterinary certificates.

NOTIFY

3 Notify the farmer of pickup times giving sufficient notice so that stock can be brought in and stood off green feed for the 4-12 hours before being collected.



*Day of Transport***INSPECT**

1. Inspect each animal prior to loading to ensure they are fit and healthy for transport. If any animal is not fit or you are unsure, do not present them for transport.

STAND OFF

2. Stand animals off green feed, preferably in a grazed out paddock or on wood chip, rather than on concrete, for 4 to 12 hours before loading to reduce effluent during transport. Provide access to good quality hay or bale age and make sure fresh water is available.

DOCS

3. Complete ASD and NAIT documentation and record the animal movements.

EFFLUENT

4. Check that the truck's effluent storage tanks are empty. For biosecurity reasons, you should be cautious about accepting truck effluent on-farm from unknown or mixed sources.

LOADING

5. Ensure that help is available at loading to minimize stress on the animals and maximize efficiency of loading.

SHELTER

6. Make sure animals have adequate protection from bad weather before and during transport.

POST ARRIVAL CARE

7. For cows going to destinations other than directly to slaughter, make arrangements so that they are fed and watered immediately on arrival. Animals should be checked after two hours for signs of injury or bloat and monitored over the next 48 hours.

*Day of Transport***EFFLUENT**

1 Make sure that effluent tanks are empty.

Note: Where appropriate and available, make use of in-transit stock effluent dump sites.

CHECK VALVES

2. Check that effluent tank valves are closed and leak free.

FEED AND WATER

3. If the journey is longer than 12 hours stock should be unloaded, fed and watered.

Note: Confirm with the farmer that cows have been prepared for transition to feed that has been arranged at journey stages if necessary.

DOCS

4. Animal Status Declaration (ASD) provided.

INSPECT

5. Inspect animals prior to loading to ensure they are fit and healthy for transport. If any animal is not fit or you are unsure, advise the farmer that you cannot legally take the animals. Do not transport them.

LOAD

6. Load animals appropriately and at appropriate densities.



Are the animals good to go ?

BODY CONDITION: Do the animals have a BCS of 3 or greater (Check using the Body Condition Scoring Made Easy Field Guide).

Any animal with a BCS that falls below 3 requires immediate attention; it can be transported direct to slaughter or to better feed, but not to the sale-yards.

Any animals with a BCS of 2.5 or below cannot be transported without a valid veterinary certificate.

TREATED ANIMALS: Animals that have received treatment must be outside milk and meat withholding times if going to sale-yards or direct to slaughter. Record on ASD.

IDENTIFICATION: All animals must be NAIT tagged and registered.

PREGNANCY: Any animal likely to give birth during the journey must not be transported.

LACTATING COWS: Lactating cows should be milked just before transport or have been well dried off. Lactating culls for slaughter should be transported to the nearest processor.

FIT AND HEALTHY: Animals that are showing signs of sickness or recent injury must not be transported. This means:

- All animals can stand, walk and evenly bear weight on all 4 limbs
- Any injuries, wounds or other skin lesions should be healed and free from any discharges
- No active mastitis e.g. hot swollen udders
- The animals are acting normally and are not weak or staggering
- There is nothing hanging out, e.g. retained foetal membranes, prolapses
- Eyes are free from pink eye, discharges, and cancer eye lesions are confined to the eye
- Animals with horns should be transported separately if they are likely to cause injury. Horns that are growing towards the animal's head and are touching the skin, should be shortened more than 7 days prior to transport.
- Animals must not have been dehorned or had any other painful husbandry procedure performed within 7 days of transport.



Care of sick animals

If any animals are identified as being sick or injured they should be held on-farm and receive appropriate treatment until they recover. Alternatively contact your local pet food operator to organize on-farm euthanasia to alleviate suffering.

If you are in doubt about fitness for transport, then a veterinary examination and certificate is necessary.

For more information please visit the Dairypesa website

[dairypesa.com/transporting stock](http://dairypesa.com/transporting%20stock) or phone Dairypesa (0717 499 888)

Farmers and transporters have a legal and moral responsibility to ensure that animals are transported in a way that won't cause injury or unnecessary suffering. Regardless of the reason for travel both have responsibilities for the care of the animals throughout the process.

Getting it right means:

Cows have a comfortable and safe journey so that they arrive at their destination in a robust, fit and healthy state.

There is less effluent on public roads.

An easier, safer and worthwhile life for you, as a farmer or transporter, knowing that you have played your part in looking after the animals in your care and protecting our industry's good reputation.



Dairy for life...