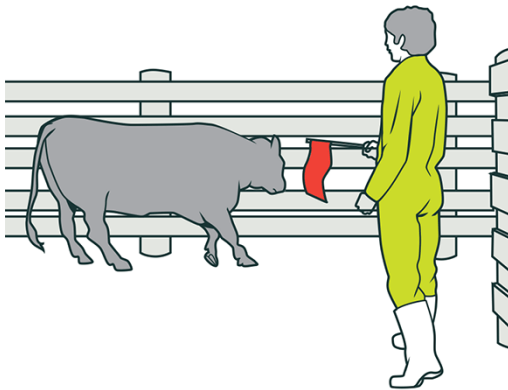


Have you thought about how trucking affects the value of your animals?

Every week dairy farmers send cull cows or bulls calves to auction. For the beef farmer now is the time many of you get ready to move your feeder cattle to the sale barn or have a private buyer pick them up.

The proper handling and transport of your cattle can reduce sickness in your calves, prevent bruises, and improve the quality of the meat from these animals. As part of National Beef Quality Assurance a **Master Cattle Transporter** training program is one of the offerings. This training covers properly moving cattle up to and on to the trailer, distributing cattle correctly on the trailer, hauling techniques that reduce cattle stress, and handling emergency situations. Here are some of the highlights:

- ✓ **Cattle handling guidelines & diagrams:** "Persuaders" such as flags, plastic paddles, and a stick with plastic ribbons are the best tools for moving cattle.



- ✓ **Checklists for loading/unloading** such as back the trailer up to chute squarely and evenly. Determine if chute is in good repair. Make sure the gates from and to the pen are open and the path is clear.
- ✓ **Loading suggestions and worksheets.** It is the driver's responsibility to know the dimensions of the trailer, to load only the size of cattle that will safely and humanely fit the trailer and to adhere to the maximum legal load limit for the states in which they are operating.

Compartment Weight	Average Weight of Cattle											
	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500
1,500	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4,000	10	8	6	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	2	2
4,500	11	9	7	6	5	4	4	3	3	3	2	2
6,000	15	12	10	8	7	6	6	5	5	4	4	4
8,000	20	16	13	11	10	8	8	7	6	6	5	5
9,000	22	18	15	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	6	6
20,000	50	40	33	28	25	22	20	18	16	15	14	13
21,000	52	42	35	30	26	23	21	19	17	16	15	14

48 ft – 50,000 lb Gross – Feeder Cattle Lighter Than 700 lbs



- ✓ **Checklist for traveling.** Route has been determined, taking into account weather and road construction. Paperwork needed for transit and unloading is in the driver's possession. Truck has been checked on all sides to make sure all cattle are standing and ready for travel.
- ✓ **Checklists for hot/cold weather factors.** Unprotected cattle hauled at highway speeds can be subject to dangerous wind chill. Wind chill below 0°F can have drastic adverse effect on the health of cattle. If cattle are wet, the danger is even greater.
 - Extreme wind and cold conditions can be viewed in the gray area of the wind chill index chart.

Wind Speed	Low Temperature °F																		
	-10	-8	-6	-4	-2	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
25	-59	-56	-53	-50	-47	-44	-41	-38	-35	-32	-29	-26	-23	-20	-17	-14	-12	-9	-6
23	-57	-54	-51	-48	-45	-42	-39	-36	-33	-30	-28	-25	-22	-19	-16	-13	-10	-7	-4
21	-54	-51	-49	-46	-43	-40	-37	-34	-31	-28	-26	-23	-20	-17	-14	-11	-8	-5	-3
19	-52	-49	-46	-43	-40	-37	-35	-32	-29	-26	-23	-21	-18	-15	-12	-9	-6	-4	-1
17	-48	-46	-43	-40	-37	-35	-32	-29	-26	-24	-21	-18	-15	-13	-10	-7	-4	-2	1
15	-45	-42	-39	-37	-34	-31	-29	-26	-23	-21	-18	-15	-13	-10	-7	-5	-2	1	4
13	-41	-38	-36	-33	-30	-28	-25	-23	-20	-17	-15	-12	-9	-7	-4	-2	1	4	6
11	-36	-33	-31	-28	-26	-23	-21	-18	-16	-13	-11	-8	-6	-3	-1	2	4	7	9
9	-30	-28	-26	-23	-21	-18	-16	-14	-11	-9	-6	-4	-2	1	3	6	8	10	13
7	-24	-21	-19	-17	-15	-12	-10	-8	-5	-3	-1	1	4	6	8	10	13	15	17
5	-15	-13	-11	-9	-7	-5	-3	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	21	23
3	-4	-2	0	2	4	6	7	9	11	13	15	17	19	21	22	24	26	28	30

- ✓ **Checklists for fit/injured/weak cattle.** All cattle appear healthy and no foot injuries are noted. Do not transport cancer eyes, debilitated thin animals, downers, or animals that appear sick.
- ✓ **Emergency Action Plans.** Create a list of contact people for each operation/location. Create a list of alternate delivery location(s) if cattle are in transit to the operation and they need to be cancelled or rerouted.

As we plan for our Dairy & Beef Quality Assurance programming this winter we should think about inviting our truckers and sale barn personnel to attend.

By using best practices cattle haulers can save the dairy and livestock industry millions of dollars each year while providing high quality and safe beef to the consumer.

Printable version Master Cattle Transporter Guide can be found at

http://www.livestocknetwork.com/master_cattle_transporter_guide/master_cattle_transporter_guide.pdf

Or on our website <https://ncrat.cce.cornell.edu/>

If you would like a printed version of this brochure contact your local extension office.

