



# NEWS LINE

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## Transporting Livestock in Winter

The transport of animals can be a stressful procedure at the best of times but particularly during extreme winter weather conditions. Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) representative and northern Alberta K Division Livestock Investigator Corporal Dave Heaslip (pro. His-lip) of the RCMP says, “Plan ahead and take steps to insure your animals arrive safely, and in good health.” Heaslip says, “producers need to keep in mind that taking livestock from controlled temperature environments into extreme weather conditions for transportation to market or elsewhere adds a great deal of stress to the animals.” He adds, “When transporting animals ensure they’re closed in, that bedding requirements are met and that there’s no overcrowding in the trailer.” “Unprotected cattle hauled at highway speeds can be subject to dangerous wind chill,” Heaslip continues. Livestock are naturally nervous when transported; cold temperatures stimulate appetites, and increase an animal’s requirement for energy to maintain body temperature and functions. Aside from the effects of loading and unloading, Heaslip stresses the need of good air circulation within the livestock trailer during transport. “The need to carefully consider the welfare of your livestock is paramount,” Heaslip states.

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**Clip No. 1:**

Heaslip urges producers to consider the welfare of their livestock when transporting them in the extremes of winter:  
(18... “...temperature.”)

**Clip No. 2:**

Feed issues add another dimension to the transportation of animals in extreme winter conditions, Heaslip says:  
(23... “times a day.”)

**Clip No. 3:**

Heaslip offers a checklist of essential things to keep in mind when transporting livestock in winter:  
(17... “good trip.”)

**For further information contact:**

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**Be Aware.**

Animal Care is Everyone’s Responsibility.