

December

Measures for safe livestock transportation start at the farm

- CFIA official highly recommends AFAC guide -

This is a busy time of the year for transporting livestock. Measures to assure safe transportation start right at the farm. Length of time in transport, fitness of the livestock, stage of production, preventing overcrowding, the time of the year and the selection of the transportation company are some of the factors to be considered, says Dr. Gord Doonan, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Senior Staff Veterinarian, Humane Transportation of Animals.

“It’s important for producers to think about where the animals are going because, if they are going to an auction market, they may be in for a long haul. They may be going from one auction to another and they may be going across the country, or out of the country. If an animal, for example, has a slight lameness at the time it was loaded it may progress to the point of being non-ambulatory, or down, by the time it gets to its destination,” warns Doonan.

He says Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC) has produced an excellent Decision Tree to guide the assessment of fitness for transport. It’s called *Should this Animal be Loaded*. It’s a guideline for transporting cattle, sheep and goats. The document is available for use by producers, transporters and livestock auction markets.

Doonan adds, “It’s a very practical guideline to determine whether animals should be transported. I highly recommend it.”

Clip No. 1:

This is a busy time of the year for transporting livestock and Dr. Gord Doonan, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) Senior Staff Veterinarian, Humane Transportation of Animals, says the first step is taking preventive measures on the farm. The Code of Practice for each livestock species is being updated in accordance with a new process that was developed by the National Farm Animal Council:

(13... “trip.”)

Clip No. 2:

One factor that needs to be taken into consideration is the number of animals on the load so that there is no overcrowding and there’s more, adds Doonan:

(18... “fitness.”)

Clip No. 3:

Doonan suggests it’s also important to hire a transport company that has a good reputation and is doing to do a good job loading and transporting the animals. Also, it’s important for producers to think about where the animals are going:

(22... “destination.”)

Clip No. 4:

And, Doonan highly recommends a guideline for anyone involved in transporting animals:

(22... “markets.”)

This story is brought to you by Alberta Farm Animal Care in partnership with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association.

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