

SOP 6 - Standard Operating Procedure for Shipping Cattle

- Ensure all Cattle intended for shipping are identified with dairy approved (DairyTrace) dual tags or single whit button tags (calves born on a dairy farm outside the province of Quebec and destined for purposes other than diary production may be identified with an approved DairyTrace single white button tag).
- Ensure animal birth or tag activation information is reported to the national traceability database (DairyTrace) before animals leave the farm (particularly for bull calves).
- Check Treatment record to ensure that all cattle going to slaughter have met all meat withdrawals.
- Check Broken Needle Record
- Pass all information on to the purchaser. Provide a letter of guarantee if going to another production facility for milking purposes.

Asses every animal prior to loading. Do not transport:

- Non-ambulatory animals
- Animals that are emaciated or weak
- Animals with severe lameness or that cannot bear weight on all four legs, except to a veterinary clinic for veterinary treatment or diagnosis.
- Do not transport animals that are likely to give birth during the intended journey or that require hobbling in order to walk.

Prepare

- Feed new-born calves at least 4L of colostrum prior to loading
- Feed and water dairy cattle within 5 hours of loading, if the expected duration of the trip is longer than 24 hours from time of loading

Load

- Only experienced and trained handlers should load cattle
- Avoid the use of electric prods
- Ensure cattle that are incompatible are segregated

Other information/instruction concerning shipping cattle:

- Transport calves only if they are healthy, vigorous, have a dry cord and are at least _____ days of age.
