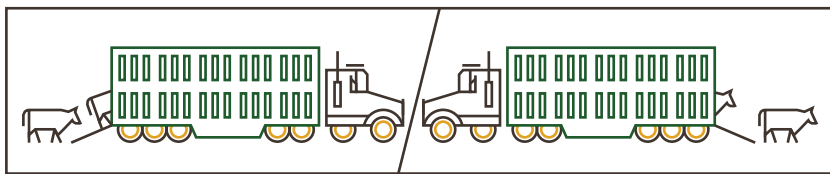


Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of beef cattle during transport is important to farmers, transporters, and the public.



Pre-transport decisions are important. Transport affects different classes of cattle in different ways. Yearlings or fat cattle are at lower risk of injury, lameness, or other poor outcomes while **market cows** and **weaned calves** are at higher risk.¹



Good transport outcomes require teamwork and communication between farmers, transport drivers, inspectors, and the final destination.²



Transporting high risk cattle, like market cows, requires extra care. Transport when temperatures are below 30°C and above -15°C, use proper bedding, avoid long distances, and maintain proper loading densities.³

99.98% of short haul (4 hours or less) and 99.95% of long haul (4 hours or more) beef cattle reach their destination with no serious problems.⁴

Stress weakens an animal's immune system. Minimize stress before and during transport to reduce the risk of cattle becoming sick after they reach their destination.⁵

Farmers should ensure cattle:

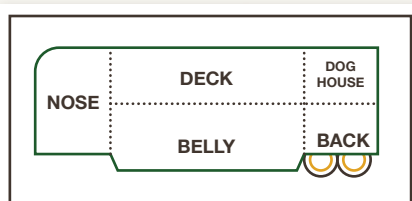
- Are not wet
- Have an opportunity to eat and drink within five hours of loading
- Have adequate bedding in each trailer compartment
- Are loaded calmly and at an appropriate density

Drivers should:

- Avoid rapid acceleration, sudden stops, or sharp corners
- Stop periodically to check on the cattle
- Follow recommended feed, water, and rest intervals

A “Made in Canada” transport course, called the Canadian Livestock Transport Certification Program, is available.

Visit livestocktransport.ca to learn more.



Commercial transport trailers typically contain several compartments. Cattle are sorted for each compartment according to weight and class.⁶ High risk cattle should not be placed in the doghouse, and should be the last to load and the first to unload.³

Information on correct loading densities can be found through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the Canadian Livestock Transport course, or the National Farm Animal Council Transportation Code of Practice.



Carcass bruising costs the industry an estimated \$1.90/head. To minimize bruising from transport, cattle must be handled carefully using well-designed facilities, and loaded on trailers with proper footing at appropriate densities.⁷

¹ Beef Cattle Research Council. 2013. Transporting market cows safely in winter. Available at: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/factsheet.cfm/transporting-market-cows-safely-in-winter-120>

² Canadian Livestock Transport Certification. Available at: <http://www.livestocktransport.ca/en/>

³ Goldhawk, C. et al. 2015. Trailer temperature and humidity during winter transport of cattle in Canada and evaluation of indicators used to assess the welfare of cull beef cows before and after transport. Journal of Animal Science. Volume 93 (7) pages 3639-53. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26440030>

⁴ Beef Cattle Research Council. 2009. Evaluating industry cattle transport practices. Available at: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/factsheet.cfm/evaluating-industry-cattle-transport-practices-185>

⁵ Beef Cattle Research Council. Transport. Available at: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/research-topic.cfm/transport-1>

⁶ National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Master Cattle Transporter Guide. Available at: http://www.livestocknetwork.com/master_cattle_transporter_guide/master_cattle_transporter_guide.pdf

⁷ Beef Cattle Research Council. Beef Quality Audits. Available at: <http://www.beefresearch.ca/research-topic.cfm/beef-quality-audits-40#bruising>