

# Receiving and Processing Cattle Protocol

Receiving and processing incoming cattle is a key component in the life and management of beef cattle. Cattle are going through many adjustments during this period. Many times cattle are transitioning from a forage-based diet to a concentrate diet along with changing their social structure by gaining and losing herd/pen mates. This is a stressful period both psychologically and physically. The receiving and processing protocol's success will depend on accurate designation of low- or high-risk cattle. The following guidelines will aid in the designation of risk for each group of cattle. The protocols for receiving and processing should be reviewed regularly by your veterinarian and animal health teams.

## Receiving Cattle SOP

1. Cattle will be unloaded once the loaded truck has been weighed and proper health papers or shipping orders have been received by the shipping receiving foreman .
2. All cattle will be inspected for disease or injury as they are unloaded from the transport vehicle (truck/trailer) by designated person .
3. Cattle will be allowed to rest 1 hour for every hour they were in transit prior to processing .
4. Cattle will be placed in a receiving pen that meets their well-being requirements while resting. In times of rain, snow or extreme cold, bedding will be placed in the receiving pens for the cattle to lie down and rest.
5. Cattle will have free access to water immediately after being unloaded.
6. Cattle will have free access to good quality hay or milled ration that has been placed in the bunk just prior to the cattle entering the pen.
7. All processing activities will be delayed until after the rest period has elapsed except for in the case of impending weather conditions which may decrease cattle well-being. Care will be taken to prevent cattle from slipping due to ice. Also, cattle will not be processed during times of extreme heat to help prevent heat stress in the cattle.

## Processing Cattle SOP

1. Proper cattle handling and facilities are imperative to cattle health and performance.
2. Feedyard R & M crew will inspect the processing barn, alleys, flooring and handling equipment every 30 days to ensure proper and safe operability.
3. Any processing equipment malfunctions or issues that may cause animal or human injury should be reported to the Manager of the R & M crew immediately.
4. Processing is a quality, not quantity, driven task.
5. The cattle manager or trainer name will be responsible for ensuring that all employees have been properly trained on the operation of the equipment that they are using.
6. Processing will be planned to avoid processing during weather extremes.
7. Cattle will not be processed when the Temperature Humidity Index is above 84 .
8. Electronic prods will not be used unless the animal is extremely resistant. If the electronic prods are used on greater than 10% of the cattle the head processor will be required to inspect the facilities for physical objects or other conditions that are impeding the cattle, or to retrain the employees on proper cattle handling, or remove those employees are contributing to cattle handling challenges .

9. All processing crew members will be trained by the head processor and/or the veterinarian on the proper Beef Quality Assurance Guidelines on injections, injection techniques, and injection locations.
10. No injections will be given anywhere but in the neck of cattle except by order of the herd veterinarian or as directed by the medication label .
11. All processing tasks will be recorded on a processing map sheet .
12. Each lot of cattle will be processed according to instructions given by the cattle manager to the head processor . Instructions will be adjusted according to the risk status of each lot of cattle.
13. A protocol for the processing of high- and low-risk cattle will be established by the herd veterinarian and applied accordingly to the cattle .

### Assessing the Risk Level of Cattle

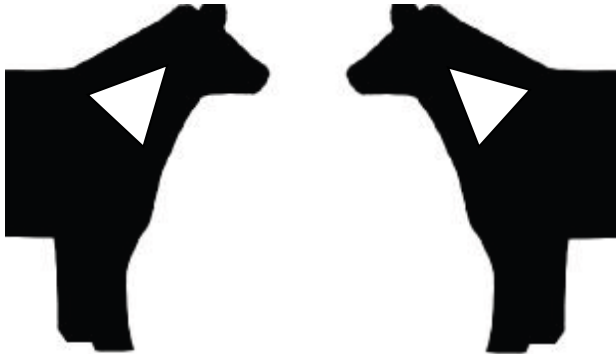
<b>Factors Associated with Higher Risk</b>	<b>Considered High Risk</b>	<b>Considered Low risk</b>
Average in Weight	<500 lbs	>700 lbs
Weight Spread of Load/Pen	>200 lbs	< 200 lbs
Bulls	> 10% of load/pen	< 10% of load/pen
Pregnant Heifers	> 10% of load/pen	< 3% of load/pen
Geographic Source of Cattle	SouthEastern	Northern
Marketing Method	Auction	Ranch Direct
Previous Management or Non-management	Non-vaccinated Balling Calves	Preconditioned
Time in Transport	> 12 hours	< 12 hours
Time to Establish Load/Pen	> 3 days	< 3 days
Season	November	Any but November

(Note for graphics and others – Grey areas are the areas that the “user” fills in, the current data is for the “Example” version.)

# Processing Map & Vaccination Log

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cattle Lot #: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Head: \_\_\_\_\_

Pen #: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Processing Foreman: \_\_\_\_\_



Site of injection L or R	Product and Manufacturer	Lot / Serial # Exp Date	Dose in cc	Route of Administration	Person Administering	Date of Treatment	Slaughter Withdrawal