

## Protocol for Shipping Cattle

Two factors determine the effectiveness of fed cattle transport – qualification and quiet. Qualified cattle are ones that have been purchased and that are free of any drug or vaccination withdrawal times. Quiet describes the desired approach to handling cattle during the shipping process. It has been documented that 50% of stress from transporting animals occurs during loading. Proper cattle handling at this time will reduce stress which will improve the quality of the beef products produced.

### Shipping Cattle SOP

1. The cattle manager will be responsible for informing the cowboy crew of the time, pens and head counts that will be loaded out.
2. The cattle manager will be responsible for examining all treatment and processing records to ensure that all cattle to be shipped are free from any withdrawal periods. Withdrawal periods for cattle pharmaceutical and biological products will be supplied by Dr. Joe Smith.
3. The cattle manager will inform the head cowboy of the ID and pen location of any animals that are not free of drug or processing withdrawal times so the animal(s) can be removed from the ones of cattle to be shipped and placed in pen B-27.
4. The head cowboy will be responsible for recording the lot and pen numbers, head count of cattle, time, date, number of trucks and trucking company after shipping the cattle.
5. All fat cattle will be shipped quietly yet efficiently to avoid undue stress and potential injury such as muscle bruising.
6. Electric prods should not be used on the cattle except for very resistant animal at the point of the load out chute.
7. The cowboy crew is responsible for ensuring that only healthy cattle are transported and that any cattle that are not healthy enough to be shipped be removed and placed in pen B-27.
8. Cattle should NOT be shipped when the Temperature Humidity Index is over 84.
9. The feedlot R & M crew will be responsible for inspection of all load out facilities at least once per month to ensure the safety of the employees and animals and to help ensure no facility-induced hide or carcass defects occur.
10. The head cowboy will be responsible for ensuring that all members of the cowboy crew have been trained and demonstrate proper cattle handling.