

Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation

Species Specific and Class Specific Considerations – Cattle

Calves:

- Calves too young to be fed exclusively on hay and grain must be provided with suitable feed and water at least every 18 hours. It is recommended that they be provided with suitable feed and water at least every 12 hours.
- In hot weather, handle calves carefully since exercise increases stress problems. Wide temperature fluctuations between day and night also increase stress.
- Every effort should be made to ensure that calves are presented, sold and delivered from only one sale facility.
- Every effort should be made to keep the distance to be traveled and the travelling time to a minimum.
- Calves of substantially different sizes should be segregated.

Beef Cattle:

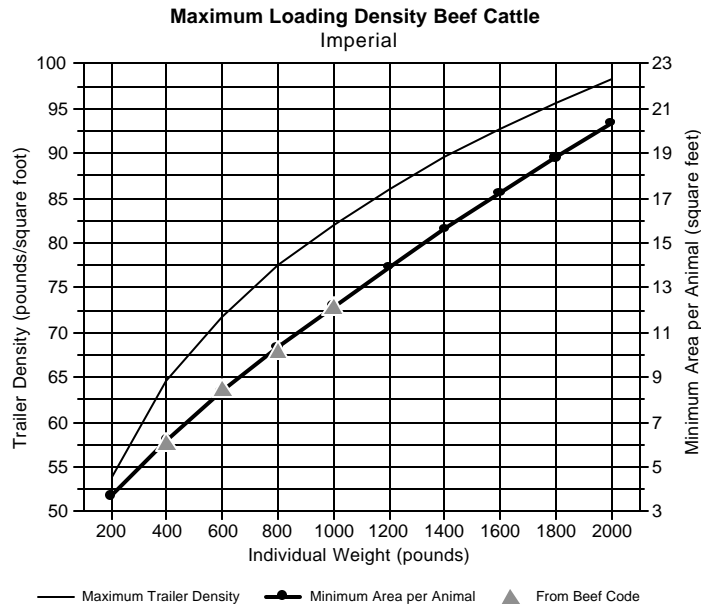
- Beef cattle are regularly housed in outdoor situations consisting of pens and pasture. In general they are more able to physiologically accommodate to the physical challenges of transport. They normally have an appropriate hair coat for the season and have physically adapted to the outdoor environment of assembly and transport.
- Outdoor and range raised cattle may be less comfortable with people in close proximity and assembly may be a novel experience. Highly excited animals are at risk for self-injury in the marketing systems. “Spooky” cattle should be handled with care and consideration.
- Beef calves only having previous exposure to a dugout or stream as a water source may not immediately drink from automated water sources when assembled.
- **See reverse for loading density chart.**

Dairy Cattle:

- Special care should be taken when transporting lactating dairy cows and pregnant dairy cows that are close to calving. These cows are especially susceptible to infectious disease (mastitis) and metabolic disease (milk fever, ketosis). Lactating cows in transport should be milked as required, generally twice daily at 12 hour intervals.
- Pregnant cows that may calve during transport must not be transported. Transportation within two weeks prior to and after calving should be avoided.
- Dairy cattle of substantially different sizes should be segregated.
- Cull dairy cattle in transit require more space on a per animal weight basis than equivalent weight beef cattle. Dairy type cows in good body condition require about 10% more space than an equivalent weight beef cow and thin dairy cows can require up to 25% more space than an equivalent weight beef animal.

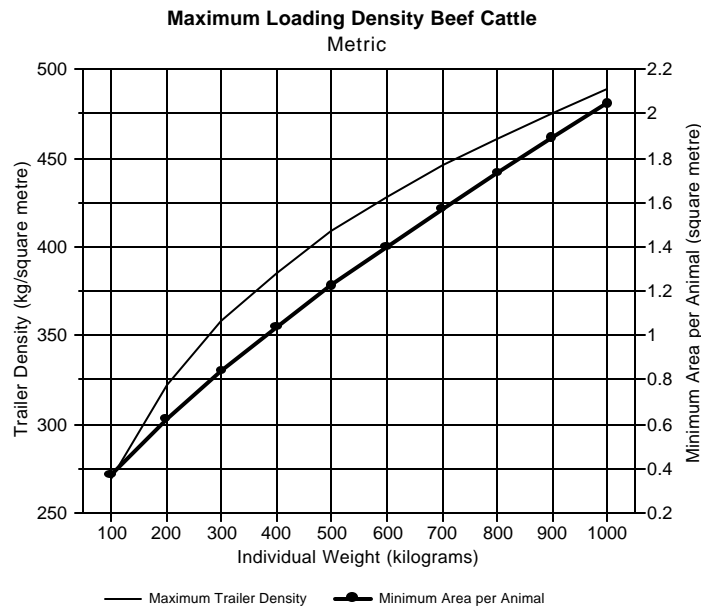
Refer to beef maximal loading density chart (see reverse).

Maximum Loading Density for Cattle – Imperial



In cool weather, slaughter-ready beef cattle in a high level of finish can be transported safely at 10% of this standard.

Maximum Loading Density of Cattle – Metric



Dairy cattle should not be loaded at more than 85% of this standard depending on the condition of the cattle. Thin animals require more space than a finished animal of the same weight.