Cattle Transporters have become very important to the success of the industry. Due to the threat of bioterrorism attacks on the U.S. food supply, drivers now play a great role in helping provide safe and healthy food. This brochure provides an overview of wash out procedures to help drivers reduce the possible spread of pathogens that cause disease in animals and people.
1. **What is the relationship between cattle transport and disease control?**

Cattle transportation generally involves many animals sharing a small enclosed space over a period of time. In this space, animals are exposed to constantly changing physical and environmental factors causing stress. The commingling of stressed cattle increases the risk of disease spread. Recognition of sick animals and wash outs are very important to disease control.

- Pathogens can live within in a space or an object from minutes to years.
- Diseased cattle can contaminate every living and nonliving thing they contact. The contamination of facilities, equipment, footwear, and clothing can be a major source of future disease infections.
- Insects are attracted to waste, and can spread disease in their travels from one place to another.

2. **Will wash out procedures help reduce the spread of disease?**

Yes. Effective disease control starts with effective wash out practices after each haul. All objects coming into contact with animals should be cleaned and disinfected. This includes all equipment, facilities, personal gear, boots and coveralls.

It is necessary to wash both the inside and outside of the truck and trailer. Efficient cleaning can remove more than 90% of pathogens from an object. Disinfectants can remove another 7-10%.

- Wash outs should only be done at designated public or private facilities. If a site not properly set up for wash out is used (i.e., wheat fields or pasture), contamination of soil, water, farm animals, and wildlife could occur. Thus, diseases could spread. Be sure wash out facilities comply with all state and federal environmental protection regulations.
- Parking your truck on a 2-3% slope allows waste to flow into drains. This is the only time drain plugs should be removed. Personnel should wear protective gear including rubber boots, overalls, hats, and eye wear.
- Begin wash out by removing all manure, bedding, and standing water from the inside of the trailer. Wash the outside of the truck and trailer. Then, wash the inside of the trailer followed by a second rinse of the outside. Remember, to start with the cleanest areas then move toward the dirtier areas working from the top to bottom. Be sure to get around gates, corners, door rollers, wheels, axis, and mud flaps.
- Cleaning the surface must been done before you can use a disinfectant because mature and other dirt matter can decrease the effectiveness of the disinfectant. Start wash out with water and a soap or detergent. Water will loosen dirt and manure. Soap will remove the filth from the surface so that the disinfectant can reach the pathogens.
Pressure at 90 to 120 psi (pounds per square inch) and hot water of 180 degrees Fahrenheit can significantly improve wash out effectiveness.

Immediately after washing the vehicle, coveralls and footwear should be changed and disinfected. If not, you too may carry pathogens causing contamination wherever you go.

3. **What type of disinfectant should be used for wash outs?**
A variety of disinfectants are available. A product labeled as “hospital disinfectant” is recommended. Disinfectants can be made of hazardous chemicals, so read the product labeling carefully and use safe handling practices. Products used in livestock handling vehicles should be:

- Free of strong odors
- Doesn’t cause destruction to surface
- Doesn’t remain toxic after application
- Ready to be mixed with water and effective at normal temperatures when diluted with water

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service approves the use the following disinfectants:

- Cresylic – Mix 1 gallon of water per 4 fluid ounces of Cresylic.
- Liquefiel phenol (87% phenol) – Mix 1 gallon of water per 6 ounces of Liquefiel phenol.
- Chlorinated lime or “lye” - Mix 3 gallons of water per 1 pound of Chlorinated lime or lye. Be sure to wear protective gear. Have vinegar on hand in case solution comes into contact with skin.
- Sodium Hydroxide – Mix 6 gallons of water per 1 pound of Sodium hydroxide.
- Other disinfectants having tuberculocidal claims in accordance to directions on labeling.

**SUMMARY**
Drivers are responsible for providing a healthy space for the cattle they transport. The level of sanitation drivers provide has a direct effect on the health of the animals, the public, and the natural environment. Therefore, it is vital that cautious and effective wash out procedures be used to reduce the spread of disease and increase animal comfort.
Information Resources:
For more information about truck and trailer sanitation, please refer to the following organizations.

Beef Stocker USA  ♦  www.beefstockerusa.org
Australian Government, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry  www.affa.gov.au
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  ♦  www.epa.gov
Kansas Department of Agriculture  ♦  www.accesskansas.org/kda
Kansas Department of Health and Environment  ♦  www.kdto.state.ks.us
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA)  ♦  www.beef.org
National Institute of Animal Agriculture  ♦  www.animalagriculture.com
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)  www.ams.usda.gov/tmd
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)  ♦  www.fsis.usda.gov
United Kingdom, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)  www.defra.gov.uk
National Pork Board-Trucker Quality Assurance  ♦  www.porkboard.org

References:


Additional copies and resources can be obtained from www.beefstockerusa.org.

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