**Receiving, Acclimation and Processing Cattle Protocol**

Receiving, acclimating and processing incoming cattle is a key component in management of beef cattle. Successful receiving and processing protocols depend on an accurate designation of low- or high-risk cattle. The health risk of cattle entering the feedlot varies considerably, and is influenced by such factors as age, time weaned, source, backgrounding, commingling, prior vaccination, nutrition, and fetal programming. Receiving, acclimation and processing protocols should be developed and reviewed by your veterinarian and nutritionist to address specific health-risk levels.

**Receiving Cattle Protocol**

Cattle will be unloaded promptly by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

All cattle will be inspected for disease or injury after they are unloaded by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Cattle will be allowed to rest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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 may be placed in the receiving pens for the cattle to lie down and rest.

Cattle will have free access to water immediately after being unloaded.

Cattle will have free access to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that has been placed in the bunk just prior to the cattle entering the pen.

**Processing Cattle Protocol**

All processing activities will be delayed until the rest period has elapsed except in the case of impending weather conditions which may decrease cattle well-being.

Proper cattle handling and facilities are imperative to cattle health and performance.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will check processing barn, alleys, flooring and handling equipment every \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to ensure proper and safe operability.

Any processing equipment malfunctions or issues that may cause animal or human injury should be reported to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ immediately.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be responsible for ensuring that all employees have been properly trained on the operation of the equipment that they are using.

Processing will be planned to avoid processing during weather extremes *(see decision support tools and other weather related management information on page 19 of the Feedyard Assessment Guide.)*

Cattle will not be processed when the Temperature Humidity Index is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Non-electric driving aids may be used to assist with the movement and handling of cattle. When other methods are ineffective, electric prods may be used to encourage an extremely resistant animal to move in a manner that also helps to ensure the safety of people and animals. If electric prods are used on greater than 10% of the cattle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be required to evaluate and correct the cause of over-use. When electric prods must be used, avoid contact with sensitive areas including the eyes, rectum, genitalia, and udder.

**ASSURANCETM FEEDYARD ASSESSMENT**

All processing crew members will be trained by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the proper Beef Quality Assurance Guidelines regarding injections, injection techniques, and injection locations.

All injections will be given in front of the shoulder\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

All processing procedures will be recorded using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Each lot of cattle will be processed according to receiving and processing protocols developed and reviewed by\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.