**Protocol for Shipping Cattle**

There are several factors to consider when determining cattle fitness for transport, such as health status, lameness, or injury. Additionally, when shipping cattle for slaughter adherence to FDA mandated withdrawal times must be verified. During the shipping process cattle should be handled calmly and quietly. Proper cattle handling at this time will reduce stress which will improve the quality of the beef products produced. Parties responsible for arranging cattle transport should encourage the driver(s) to be trained in proper cattle transport, such as the Master Cattle Transporter program.

**Shipping Cattle Protocol**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be responsible for informing employees of the time, pens and head counts that will be loaded out.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be responsible for examining all treatment and processing records to ensure that all cattle being shipped for slaughter have cleared all withdrawals. Withdrawal times for cattle health products will be supplied by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will inform the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the ID and pen location of any animals that have not cleared cattle health product withdrawal times. Animal(s) not cleared for shipment must be placed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be responsible for recording the lot and pen numbers, head count of cattle, time, date, number of trucks and trucking company.

All cattle will be shipped calmly and quietly yet efficiently to avoid undue stress and potential injury such as muscle bruising.

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.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is responsible for ensuring that only cattle fit for transport are loaded. Cattle not fit for transport must be removed and placed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Some considerations for determining fitness for transport at time of loading at the feedyard:

• Cattle appear in good health with no signs of injury, illness or respiratory distress;

• Cattle must not have mobility issues that could compromise them during loading, transportation and unloading; Injured or compromised cattle that are ambulatory should be separated and shipped with special consideration.

• Non-ambulatory cattle must be managed according to Management of Non-Ambulatory Cattle Protocol. *(See page 39 of the Feedyard Assessment Guide)*

Exercise caution if logistics require cattle shipment when Temperature Humidity Index *(see decision support tools and other weather related management information on page 20 of the Feedyard Assessment Guide)* is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. If this occurs the following actions will be implemented:

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The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be responsible for inspection of all load out facilities at least \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to ensure the safety of the employees and to protect cattle from injury.

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be responsible for ensuring that all cattle handlers have been trained in and demonstrate proper cattle handling.