

Decisions for Cull Cows and Male Calves in 2020

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OABP Vet Update Meetings - December 9-12, 2019

Outline

Cull Cows

- On Farm Decision Making
 - Is she fit for food?
 - Is the cow healthy?
 - Have appropriate drug withholds been met?
 - Is she fit to transport?/Where can she go?
- Male calves
 - Where and when can young calves be transported?
 - Managing calves on the farm

2018 Numbers Of Animals Through Ontario Auctions



117,234 cull cows were sold



Approximately 80,000 calves were sold



1,617 animals were sent direct to slaughter



Dairy farmers are beef farmers too

Shipping Cull Dairy Cows

Cull cow planning - Is the animal fit for human consumption?

Not fit:

- **Animals suffering from a systemic illness** - any condition affecting the whole animal, characterized by some of the following exam findings: fever, hypothermia, anorexia, lethargy, weakness, dehydration, jaundice, toxic mucous membranes, depression, and increased pulse or respiratory rate.
 - Conditions included but not limited to:
 - Abomasal ulcer with weakness, hypothermia, pale mucus membranes
 - Hardware disease
 - Severe clinical mastitis
 - Severe metritis
 - Peritonitis
 - Pneumonia with cyanosis, systemic illness, fever, and/or weakness

Cull cow planning - Is the animal fit for human consumption?

Not fit:

- Multiple, severe abscesses with lymph node involvement
- Emaciation
- Cancer eye
- Lymphosarcoma
- Congestive heart failure
- Endocarditis
- Nervous disorders with central nervous signs - Affecting brain and spinal cord such as cortical blindness, loss of central reflexes, seizures, altered mentation, proprioceptive deficits or generalized ataxia, evidence of infectious disease (listeriosis, botulism, tetanus, etc.)
- Animal with late term dead fetus or ruptured uterus
- Multiple conditions

Cull cow planning - Is the animal fit for human consumption?

Actions for veterinarians:

- Uniquely positioned to discuss these risks with the producer
- Where possible, examine ill animals and advise when food safety does not make slaughter an option
- Checklist for producers to examine risks immediately prior to shipping an animal
 - Example: take temperature, check udder, hydration – sunken eyes
- Early culling to avoid sending animals with an advanced progression of condition

Cull Cow Planning – Is there a risk of residues?

- Meat withdrawals apply to a variety of medications, not just antibiotics
- Good record keeping is essential to avoiding a residue violation

Cull Cow Planning – Is there a risk of residues?

Recent Surgery

- Animals with evidence of surgery within the last 7 days condemned due to risks of chemical residues - Lidocaine, Xylazine, etc.
 - Assessed by: incision is not healed, sutures are wet, scab is recent, or soft and red
- Includes displaced abomasum repairs, repaired prolapses, wounds, etc
- **Actions for veterinarians:**
 - Prior to repair, have a conversation regarding when the animal will be eligible for slaughter, even if using an antibiotic with a short meat withdrawal

Cull Cow Planning – Is there a risk of residues?

Dexamethasone

- OMAFRA's drug residue monitoring and surveillance programs at provincial abattoirs now uses the multi target analyte (MTA) assay – a full panel which includes antibiotics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, steroids, beta-agonists, and endectocides
- Dexamethasone is included in the MTA assay but Health Canada has not provided formal Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) or Withdrawal Times (WDTs) for meat
- It is important to note that *the absence of a published meat withdrawal time is not the same as a 0h withdrawal time*

Cull Cow Planning – Is there a risk of residues?

Dexamethasone

- Health Canada is in process of developing a Maximum Residue Limit (MRL)
- Because there is no MRL published for dexamethasone, dispositions for carcasses with detectable residues are being made on a case-by-case basis after risk assessment
- Since May 2019, there has been a violation rate of approximately 4% for dexamethasone found in suspect carcasses (steers, heifers and cull cows) selected for testing in Ontario, often in conjunction with ketoprofen
- **Actions for veterinarians:**
 - Inquire about slaughter possibility prior to prescribing dexamethasone to clients

Cull Cow Planning – Is the animal fit to transport?

- The new federal transportation regulations will come into force in February 2020
- The regulations place restrictions on what livestock can be transported to an “assembly site” which includes livestock auctions
- Dairy farmers commonly consign calves, heifers, fresh or bred cows, and cull cows to auction in Ontario
- The regulation will significantly impact which animals dairy farmers can consign to auction

Cull Cow Planning – Is the animal fit to transport?

Summary of federal transport regulations by Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners

	Compromised	Unfit
<p>Conditions Included*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild bloat without systemic signs Mild lameness Minor vaginal or rectal prolapse Preventative hobbles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloat with systemic signs Lame with signs of pain, halted movement, reluctant to walk, or can't walk on all 4 legs Severe rectal or vaginal prolapse Needs hobbles for treatment
<p>See section 136</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute frostbite Bilateral blindness Unhealed wound following a procedure (includes dehorning and castration) Non-painful deformity or healed amputation Penile injuries Cow in peak lactation Any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates reduced capacity to withstand transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-ambulatory Prolapsed Uterus Painful, mobility impeding fracture Dehydrated, moribund, or exhausted Generalized nervous system disorder Laboured breathing Severe open wound or laceration Extremely thin Hypothermia, hyperthermia, or a fever A hernia that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impedes movement (including touching a limb when walking); touches the ground when standing; has an open wound or infection; or causes pain In the last 10% of pregnancy or within 48 hours of giving birth Unhealed or infected navel Gangrenous udder Severe squamous cell carcinoma of the eye Any other signs of infirmity, illness, injury or of a condition that indicates it cannot be transported without suffering
<p>* Shaded areas indicate conditions with presentations covered in both compromised and unfit</p>		
<p>Transport Requirements</p> <p>See section 139 and 140</p>	<p>Cannot go to a salesbarn/yard. Must be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> isolated during transport and individually loaded and unloaded without any ramps in the conveyance transported directly to the nearest slaughter facility or nearest place to receive care 	<p>May only be transported to receive veterinary care if recommended by a veterinarian and with special provisions.</p>

Cull Cow Planning – Is the animal fit to transport?

Compromised Cull Cows

Requirements

- Compromised and unfit animals are prohibited from coming to an assembly site
- Compromised animals may only be transported alone or with one familiar animal

Concerns

- All forms of lameness are included as compromised or unfit depending on severity
- Other conditions that cull cows may be at risk of and are defined as compromised or unfit include not fully healed after a procedure, minor rectal or vaginal prolapse, mobility limited by a device including hobbles, or signs of dehydration

Cull Cow Planning – Is the animal fit to transport?

Lactation

Requirements

- Lactating animals must be milked at intervals sufficient to prevent mammary engorgement

Concerns

- Currently, most cows are lactating when shipped to auction, and remain at the auction or in transport cumulatively for several days prior to slaughter. There are no milking facilities.

Cull Cow Planning – Is the animal fit to transport?

Bred and Fresh Cows

Requirements

- Cows cannot be transported in the last 10% of gestation (approximately 28 days)
- Cows cannot be transported for 48 hours after giving birth

Concerns

- Currently bred cows are regularly sold at auction in the 8th and 9th month of gestation but will no longer be permitted at auctions
- Awaiting on CFIA clarification for what happens if veterinarians find pregnant cows close to calving while pregnancy checking at auctions

Cull Cow Planning – Is the animal fit to transport?

Options for Compromised Cull Cows

- Currently, OMAFRA inspectors identify cull cows that are compromised, group them together, and send them directly to local slaughter to support timely movement to slaughter
- The new regulation appears to prohibit these activities, and there is no current alternative to transport compromised animals to slaughter facilities
- Some producers do not have an avenue to arrange direct to slaughter in Ontario

Cull Cow Planning – Is there a local slaughter option?

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Provincially Licensed Meat Plants

Current as of: 5 September 2019

Abattoirs by Animal Class

Click on a desired animal class to see the location of plants that specialize in the slaughter of these animals across the province of Ontario. Click on a plant marker on the map to identify the plant name, plant number, address, telephone number and animal classes. Click "html" to see the spreadsheet through your web browser.

Map of Provincially Licensed Meat Plants

www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=94b2995f891e4fd7be5fc34d4ef1784d

Abattoirs

All lists are in a .xlsx Excel format

- [All Abattoirs](#)
- [Abattoirs Conducting Further Processing](#)

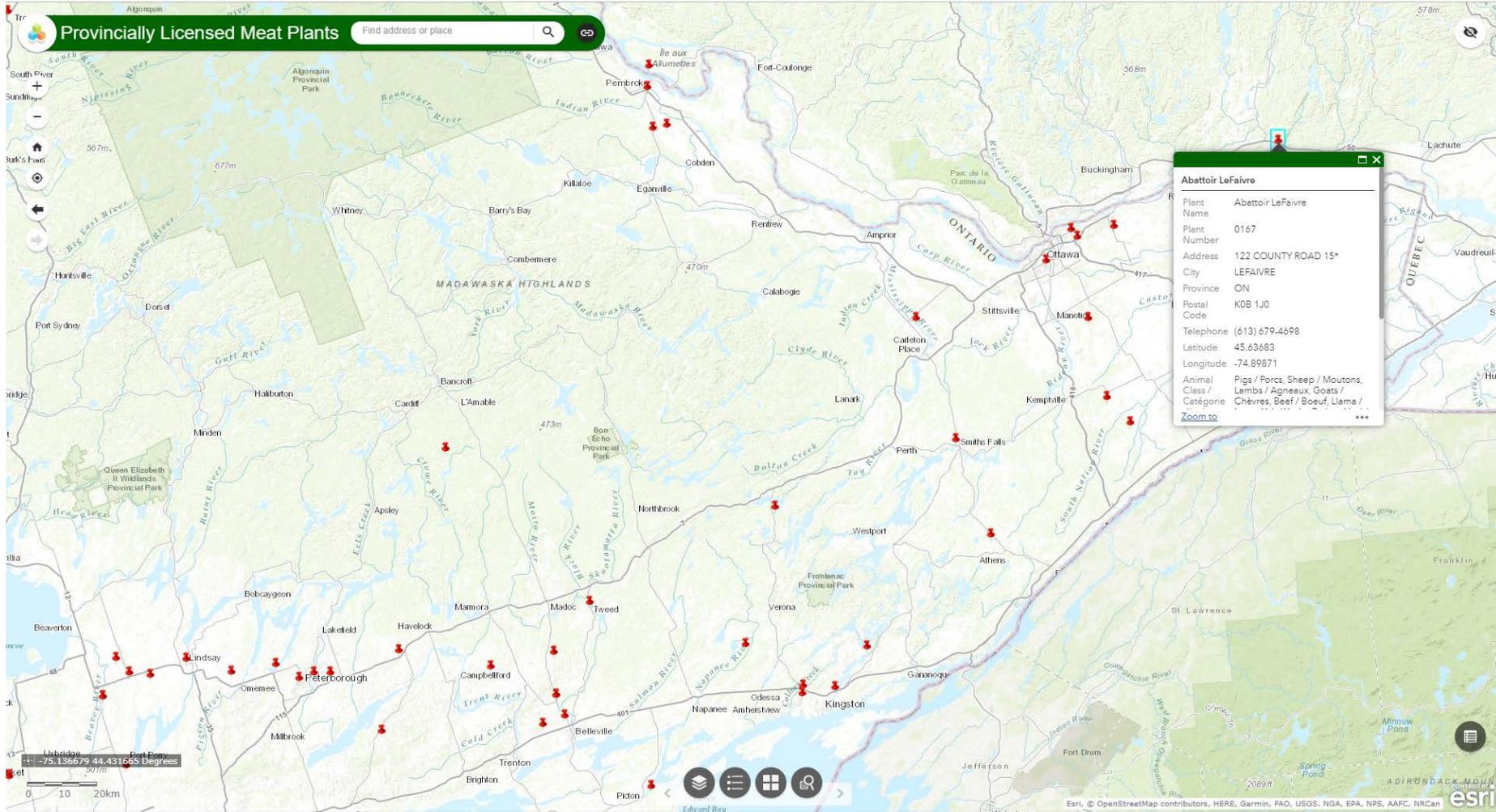
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Cull Cow Planning – Is there a local slaughter option?



Cull Cow Planning – Is there a local slaughter option?

TblBeef (2) - Excel

Miltenburg, Cynthia (OMAFRA)

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Plant Name / Nom de l'usine

Sensitivity: OPS - Unclassified Information

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1	Plant Name / Nom de l'usine	Plant	Address / Adresse	City / Ville	Province	Postal Code /	Telephone /	Latitude	Longitude												
2	Len & Patti Butcher Block	0011	2133 Little Britain Road	Lindsay	ON	K9V 4R2	(705) 328-2100	44.325031	-78.749196												
3	Highland Packers Ltd.	0014	432 Highland Road E	Stoney Creek	ON	L8J 3G4	(905) 662-8396	43.171497	-79.734859												
4	Kingma Meat Products Limited	0015	1150 Regional Road 27, RR2	St. Ann's	ON	LOR 1Y0	(905) 386-6225	43.02182	-79.50201												
5	Manitoulin Island Community	0016	3120 Monument Road	Providence Bay	ON	POP 1T0	(705) 282-1508	45.675976	-82.24												
6	Ontario Halal Meat Packers	0018	5593 Highway #25	Milton	ON	L9T 2X5	(905) 875-0270	43.48256	-79.826628												
7	Grey County Meats	0025	RR 1	Maxwell	ON	NOC 1J0	(519) 922-2400	44.304669	-80.4237												
8	Burt Farm Country Meats	0027	1295 Tenth Line	Gore Bay	ON	POP 1H0	(705) 282-0328	45.914639	-82.367662												
9	Louro Bros. Meats Ltd.	0034	1142 Reidsville Road, RR 1	Ayr	ON	NOB 1E0	(519) 632-7364	43.28055	-80.42611												
10	Little Britain Meat Packers	0036	917 Little Britain Rd, RR 2	Little Britain	ON	KOM 2C0	(705) 786-9970	44.28355	-78.8748												
11	Millgrove Packers Limited	0040	549 Conc. 5 W., RR 2	Waterdown	ON	L8B 0L5	(905) 689-6184	43.3333	-79.9816												
12	Hank Dekoning Limited	0051	1768 Hwy 6 South, RR 1	Port Dover	ON	NOA 1N3	(519) 583-0115	42.819068	-80.149737												
13	V. G. Packers Limited	0052	966 Concession 6 Woodhouse,	Simcoe	ON	N3Y 4K4	(519) 426-2000	42.845991	-80.220954												
14	Townsend Butchers Inc.	0058	419 Conc. 14 East	Simcoe	ON	N3Y 4K3	(519) 426-6750	42.863566	-80.275497												
15	Peel Sausage Inc.	0061	7860 6th Line	Drayton	ON	NOG 1P0	(519) 638-3446	43.700775	-80.681157												
16	Charles Quality Meats	0065	1476 Wilby Road, RR 1	Wilmot	ON	NOB 2L0	(519) 886-7931	43.448705	-80.624741												
17	Miedema's Meat Market Ltd	0068	129 Huron Street	Embro	ON	NOJ 1J0	(519) 475-4010	43.154978	-80.90137												
18	Norwich Packers Limited	0075	11 Robson Street	Norwich	ON	NOJ 1P0	(519) 468-3617	42.977541	-80.598318												
19	Willie's Meats Ltd.	0082	2387 4th Conc. West, RR 1	Troy	ON	LOR 2B0	(519) 647-3160	43.278883	-80.201317												
20	Mr. Beef	0087	223 Mcwatty Road, Po Box 51	Pakenham	ON	KOA 2X0	(613) 624-5222	45.1919	-76.1749												
21	Johnson Meats	0088	49801 Glen Colin Line, RR 4	Aylmer	ON	NSH 2R3	(519) 773-9208	42.792461	-80.969077												
22	Hanson Meats	0092	4643 Highway #3, RR 4	Cayuga	ON	NOA 1E0	(905) 772-5053	42.942173	-79.89382												
23	Gord's Abattoir Ltd.	0094	643 Hwy 77, RR 5	Leamington	ON	N8H 3V8	(519) 326-2503	42.103499	-82.602756												
24	Weiland Meats Ltd.	0095	340 Centre Street	Petrolia	ON	NON 1R0	(519) 882-1215	42.885454	-82.148336												
25	Mount Brydges Abattoir Ltd.	0098	21618 Adelaide Road	Mount Brydges	ON	NOL 1W0	(519) 264-1873	42.903604	-81.438094												
26	Caledon Halal Meat Packers	0104	8070 Old Church Road	Bolton	ON	L7E 0N7	(905) 880-9888	43.910383	-79.821973												
27	Lambton Meat Products	0107	5814 Minielly Road	Wyoming	ON	NON 1T0	(519) 845-3358	42.98077	-82.09												
28	Highgate Tender Meats Ltd.	0109	14680 Hastings Line	Highgate	ON	NOP 1T0	(519) 678-3383	42.5109	-81.823297												
29	Green's Meat Market And	0117	237 Arthur Street	Wingham	ON	NOG 2W0	(519) 357-2912	43.8973	-81.3129												
30	Country Meadow Meats	0122	122242 Sideroad 12	Owen Sound	ON	N4K 5N5	(519) 376-5663	44.532302	-80.988487												
31	Country Fresh Packers Ltd.	0123	4049 Bonneau Line	Tilbury	ON	NOP 2L0	(519) 682-2222	42.270841	-82.39												
32	Agram 2005 Meats Inc.	0130	10676 Trafalgar Road	Georgetown	ON	L7G 4S5	(905) 877-6082	43.619092	-79.914174												
33	Ken R. Mogk Butchering Inc.	0134	516702 East ZoRra, 11th Line	Tavistock	ON	NOB 2R0	(519) 462-2280 Ext.	43.270226	-80.848165												
34	Cloverbelt Country Meats	0135	60 Griffiths Road	Oxdrift	ON	POV 2J0	(807) 937-6716	49.81231	-93.05												
35	Walkerton Meat Market	0137	963 Old Durham Road, RR 2	Walkerton	ON	NOG 2V0	(519) 881-0781	44.136247	-81.134915												
36	Miedema's Country Meats	0140	41130 Thames Road East	Exeter	ON	NOM 1S5	(519) 235-4978	43.362403	-81.47744												
37	Harriston Packing Co. Ltd.	0143	142 Arthur Street	Harriston	ON	NOG 1Z0	(519) 338-3330	43.91	-80.876535												
38	Smokey Joe's	0145	7949 Highway #7	Selwyn	ON	K9J 0C5	(705) 740-1169	44.3113	-78.4333												
39	Stayner Meat Packers Ltd.	0148	352 WaRRington Road, Po Box	Stayner	ON	LOM 1S0	(705) 428-3006	44.406227	-80.059963												
40	JJ Meat Distributing Inc.	0154	14600 10th Concession, RR 3	Schomberg	ON	LOG 1T0	(905) 859-1540	43.93391	-79.68586												
41	Beeton Meats	0155	233 Patterson Street North	Beeton	ON	LOG 1A0	(905) 729-2771	44.087971	-79.782704												
42	Windcrest Meat Packers	0158	1350 Scugog - 3rd Line	Port Perry	ON	L9L 1B3	(905) 985-7267	44.051946	-78.959013												
43	Sprucedale Quality Meats Inc.	0159	438 4th Avenue	Sprucedale	ON	POA 1Y0	(705) 685-7747	45.490145	-79.462266												

TblBeef

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Cull cow planning - Is the animal fit for transport? Is local slaughter an option?

Actions for veterinarians:

- Uniquely positioned to discuss best outlet for a cow with the producer
- Checklist for producers to examine risks immediately prior to shipping an animal
 - Example: Does she need to be dried off? Is she lame?
- Early culling to avoid sending animals with an advanced progression of condition
- Become familiar with plants local to your producers that accept cull cows
 - Some may only provide the service if producer takes back the meat

A question for each of our producers, what is the cull cow plan?

Discussions ought to include:

- How will culling decisions be made?
- By whom?
- When?
- Where will they go?
- Who will get them there?
- Is there a euthanasia plan?

- What else?

Male Calves

Male Calves – Are male calves healthy before leaving the farm?

- Can decline quickly, depending on time in transit
- Risk factors associated with mortality in veal calves
 - Source
 - Body weight
 - Navel score
 - Dehydration score
 - Cough score
 - Sunken flank

Renaud et al. J. Dairy Sci. 101:2659–2668

Male Calves – Where can they go?

Shipping to a Salesbarn

Requirements

To visit a livestock auction, calves will be required:

- to be greater than 8 days of age
- to have a healed, uninfected navel
- to be fed and watered before being transported to sale
- to not have a fever or be dehydrated

Concerns

- Currently most calves are under 8 days of age
- 1% of calves have an infected navel requiring immediate veterinary treatment, 6% have signs of an infected navel
- If calves arrive contrary to the federal regulations, veterinarians may provide treatment but producer still liable

Male Calves – Where can they go?

Direct to a veal facility by a drover:

- Calves can be transported for up to 12 hours if:
 - stops are made only to add additional calves on the way to the final destination (which cannot be a sales barn or assembly yard);
 - calves are loaded and unloaded individually in conveyances that do not contain ramps;
 - and calves are able to lie down without lying on top of each other and are segregated from other livestock >8 days of age
- *Clock starts when the first calf gets on the truck

Male Calves – How will producers handle additional calves if keeping until 9 days of age?

Actions for veterinarians:

- If marketing to a sales barn – may see increased stocking density with impacts on health of all calves on farm
 - Calculate - What is the expected increase in calf density?
 - May recommend separate housing for male calves – example: purchase used hutches
 - Use of sexed semen
 - Protocols to manage health risks to all calves
 - CalfCare.ca Vet Portal – SOPs for diarrhea, cleaning and disinfection, euthanasia, etc.
- Some producers are greater distance from salebarns or veal raising facilities – are there sale options?
- May be a need for euthanasia of calves without a market

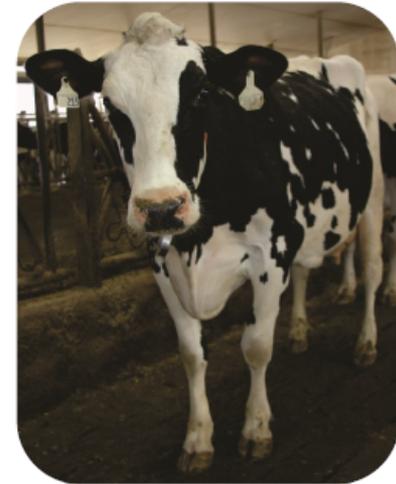
Priorities for Planning with Dairy Clients

- Emphasizes the need for proactive culling of cows prior to becoming compromised
- Vigilance on behalf of veterinarians when dispensing medications that may be used prior to the decision to slaughter
- Necessitates a thorough inspection of animals for fitness to transport prior to leaving the farm
 - For calves this must include a navel check
 - Ensure date of birth recording for male calves
- Involves more cull cows being dried off at the home farm before sending
- Producers may need to be prepared to find direct marketing routes for compromised cattle to a local provincial plant

Is Your Cow Fit for the Trip?

Culled dairy cows may travel several days to reach their final destination.

1. Does she have a fever? (39.5°C or 103°F or higher)
2. Is she too thin? (body condition score of 2 or lower)
3. Is she too lame? (can't keep up with the group)
4. Should she be dried off before transporting?
5. Could mastitis flare up?
6. When was her last treatment?
(Are drug residues possible?)
7. Does she have any other problems you should ask your veterinarian about? (i.e. sunken eyes, off feed, twisted stomach)



ontario.ca/dairy

Work with your veterinarian to identify which cows can be shipped. Develop a plan for those that can't.

Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs



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