



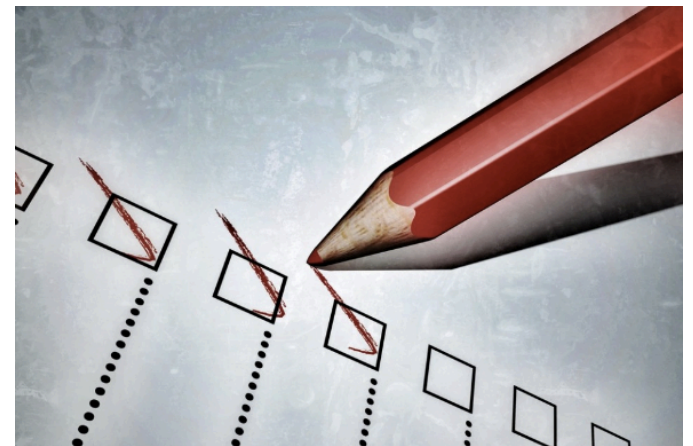
# EDUCATING DAIRY PRODUCERS TO SYSTEMATICALLY EVALUATE THE COWS THEY WISH TO CULL

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# The Goal

- To teach dairy producers to systematically evaluate their cows before shipping
  - Provide a tool to engage producers and assess their current practices
- Encourage producers to make better decisions



<http://anderscpa.com/protect-the-deductibility-of-charitable-contributions/>

# The Focus

- Health of Animal Regulations section XII encompasses regulations for the transportation of animals
  - Prevent the transport of injured, non-ambulatory or sick animals
- Despite these regulations, sick and/or injured animals are being transported and arriving at auction



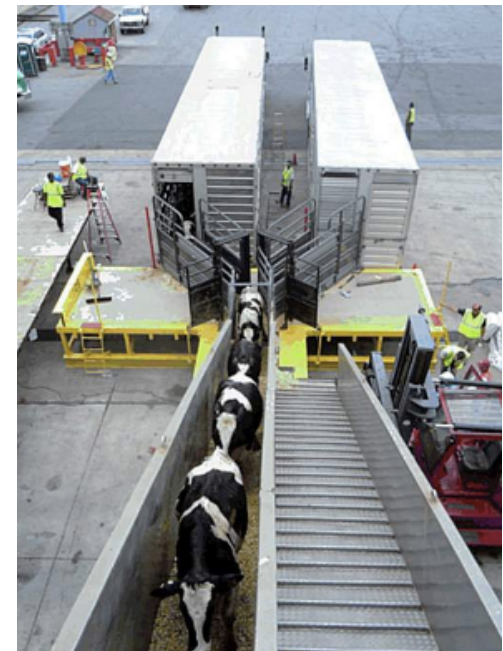
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/H-3.3/>

# Why Is This Important?

- Welfare concern for dairy cattle
  - Transportation can exacerbate the injury or illness
- Members of the public see these animals and may become concerned
  - Want to eliminate instances of frail animals from entering the auction
- Want to encourage good animal stewardship

# Why Does This Problem Persist?

- In order to solve this problem, need to go back to where it originated...
  - The industry lacks a systematic effort to aid producers in making better decisions and prevent the shipping of sick/ injured cattle
  - Producers are uneasy about deciding when to ship cattle and when to not
  - Veterinarians want to be more involved



<http://www.capitalpress.com/Dairy/20151101/dairy-cows-to-be-shipped-from-olympia-to-vietnam>

# The Proposed Solution

Provide producers with a tool to systematically evaluate the cattle they wish to remove, with the support of their veterinarians

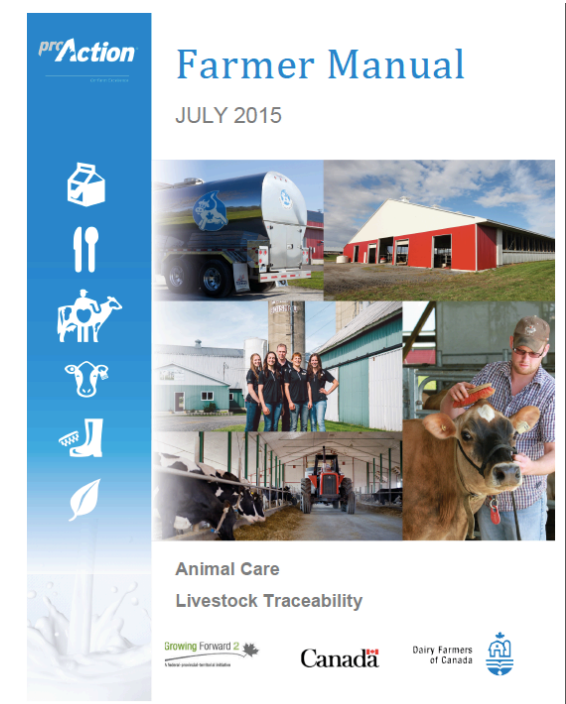
To prevent the shipping of cattle, which are unfit for transport

# The Objectives

1. To address, and change, the underlying cause of the issue- to change the behaviour
2. To involve veterinarians more in the decisions and practices of their clients
3. Assess the technical utility of this proposed tool- does it work/ do producers find it helpful?

# An Added Bonus

- We aim to prepare producers for the upcoming Animal Care program implemented by proAction
- Prepare them for the Required SOP for shipping cattle



<https://www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction/resources/animal-care>



# Who Is Involved?

- Veterinarians and dairy producers
- Dairy cows
- OMAFRA- as one of the regulators at auction
- UoG researchers



<https://www.masterfile.com/image/>

# Overview of the Project

- Pre-survey
  - Gauge the knowledge of dairy producers and veterinarians regarding culling/shipping and assess their current attitudes
- Evaluation form- the tool
  - Get producers to use a formal evaluation process
- Post-survey
  - Assess if producer's and veterinarian's knowledge and attitudes have changed

# Methods

- Twenty two veterinarian participants will enroll 10 dairy producers each
- Veterinary packages will be sent out along with producer packages
- Producer packages include
  - Pre-survey
  - 10 evaluation forms
  - Scoring key for lameness and BCS

# The Evaluation Form

## **Cow Evaluation Form:** Please complete one form for each cow evaluated

Date of evaluation: (dd/mm/yy) \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Cow ID (Name/Number): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evaluation done by: \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 digits in NLID number: \_\_\_\_\_

Consider these questions before shipping the cow:	Measure and record:	Compare your findings to requirements for transport:	This cow is ok: (Only "yes" circles are checked)								
1. Is her body temperature normal?	Body Temp _____ °C or °F	Is the body temp. 37.9 – 39.4 °C? (100.2 – 102.9 °F)	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>								
2. Is she too thin?	Body Condition Score: _____ (see chart to score)	Is the score 2 or higher out of 5?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>								
3. Is she lame?	Lameness Score: _____ (see chart to score)	Is the score 0 (none) or 1 out of 5?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>								
4. Has she been dried off?	Last milking: (dd/mm/yy) ___/___/___		YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>								
5. Are drug residues possible?	Last treated: (dd/mm/yy) ___/___/___	Is the withhold time for meat and milk completed?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>								
6. Could mastitis flare up?	CMT: RF _____ RH _____ LF _____ LH _____	Is no or only mild mastitis present? (no udder swelling or hardness)?	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>								
7. Any other problems?	<b>Circle any problems:</b> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Sunken eyes</td> <td>Diarrhea</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Twisted stomach</td> <td>Swellings/lumps</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nasal (nose) discharge</td> <td>Abscesses</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Discharge from vulva</td> <td>Surgery sites</td> </tr> </table>	Sunken eyes	Diarrhea	Twisted stomach	Swellings/lumps	Nasal (nose) discharge	Abscesses	Discharge from vulva	Surgery sites	Are visible problems acceptable for sale?  (check with your vet if unsure)	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
Sunken eyes	Diarrhea										
Twisted stomach	Swellings/lumps										
Nasal (nose) discharge	Abscesses										
Discharge from vulva	Surgery sites										

Date cow left the farm: \_\_\_\_\_

Destination of cow: ☐ Direct to local slaughter from the farm (provincial plant)  
☐ Direct to local slaughter from the farm (federal plant)  
☐ Salesbarn, name: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments:

## Methods cont'd

- Producers fill out a pre-survey, prior to training
- Veterinarians will train producer to use the evaluation form
- Producers fill out an evaluation form each time they cull until April 30<sup>th</sup> 2017
  - Only milking cows
- Complete post-survey after study period

# The Benefits

- Welfare issue is being recognized
- Involve veterinarians
  - Better working relationship
- Address the unease producers feel about which cows can be transported
  - Gain knowledge and confidence
- Producers can capture cow information as she leaves the farm
- Prepare for proAction

# How Does This Impact Rural Policy?

- Brings the existing policy to light
- Encourages producers to familiarize themselves, with the assistance of their veterinarian, on the regulatory policy on shipping cows

# Key Points

- Cull cows, unfit for transport, are arriving at auction market
  - Welfare concern, industry concern
- By providing a formal evaluation method to aid producers, we hope to encourage them to make better decisions
- Aim to change the behaviour and assess the merit of this evaluation system
- Want to get veterinarians more involved
- Finally, prepare producers for the upcoming changes with proAction



# Thank you!

- University of Guelph
  - Advisors and co-authors
- OMAFRA- HQP program



The Campbell Centre for the  
**Study of Animal Welfare**



# Questions?



<http://www.inquisitr.com/224996>