

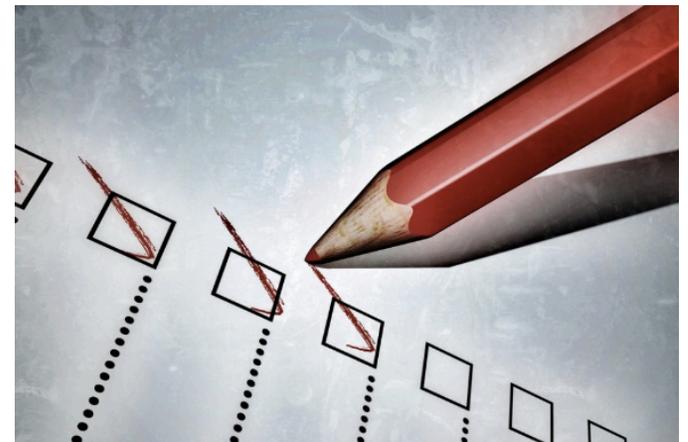


EDUCATING DAIRY PRODUCERS TO SYSTEMATICALLY EVALUATE THE COWS THEY WISH TO CULL

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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



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



The screenshot shows the Justice Laws Website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Justice Laws Website" on the left and the "Canada" logo on the right. A search box is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there is a menu with several categories: "Family Law", "Criminal Justice", "Funding", "Canada's System of Justice", and "Laws". The "Laws" category is selected, and the breadcrumb trail indicates the current page is "Home → Laws Website Home → Consolidated Regulations → C.R.C., c. 296 - Table of Contents". The main content area displays the title "Health of Animals Regulations (C.R.C., c. 296)" and provides links for the full document in HTML, XML (558 KB), and PDF (1174 KB) formats.

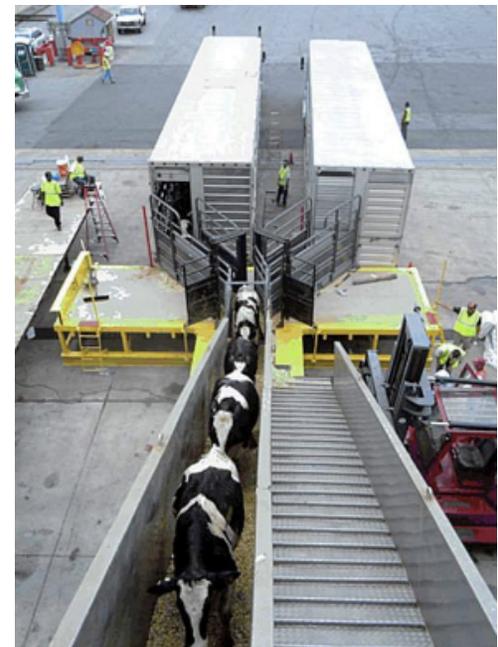
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/H-3.3/>

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

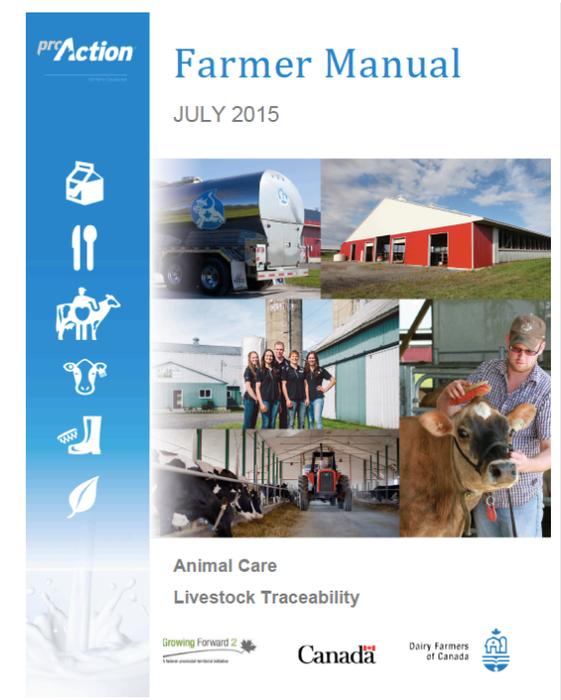
To prevent the shipping of cattle, which are unfit for transport

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?	<i>Circle any problems:</i>		Are visible problems acceptable for sale? (check with your vet if unsure) YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
	Sunken eyes Twisted stomach Nasal (nose) discharge Discharge from vulva	Diarrhea Swellings/lumps Abscesses 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 30th 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



Ontario Veterinary College

Questions?



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