



BY AMERICAN MEAT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Anatomy of Humane Handling Hauler Expectations

Who?

Livestock haulers

What?

Clear, concise plant communications of Animal Welfare & Humane Handling expectations

Where?

Posted at Unloading and sent in a letter to all haulers and/or responsible parties who contract haulers

Humane Handling Expectations

"Company Name or Logo"

**Document No:
By:
Revised Date:**

We do everything we can to ensure the comfort and safety of the animals brought here. If you are delivering livestock, please respect the following:

1. An authorized facility representative must be present at unloading during operations. Only Haulers Authorized* by the facility are allowed to unload livestock after hours.

**Authorized haulers are those we have on our list and have received all the proper information that enables them to unload after hours.*

2. Take proper precautions to avoid stress or suffering of the animals.

3. Animals must be stocked at acceptable densities within the trailer and pens. Horned livestock require approximately one more square foot per head than polled (not horned).

(1000lb liveweight = 12.8 ft² horned, 12ft² polled; 1200lb liveweight = 15.3ft² horned, 14.5ft² polled; 1400lb liveweight = 19ft² horned, 18ft² polled)

4. Make sure untrained personnel or spectators do not disrupt the unloading process.

5. Before unloading, make sure the trailer is positioned properly with the ramp (no measurable gaps).

6. Make sure animals are in good physical condition before unloading.

7. During unloading, remain calm and minimize yelling/profanity, unnecessary noise, and harassment of force.

8. Electric prods are a last resort and should only be used by authorized personnel. Use of electric prods in extremely sensitive surfaces of the livestock (eyes, ears, anus, etc) is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

9. Animals MUST have access to water in holding pens at all times.

Be advised that video surveillance is used in our holding facility. Thank you.

An after-hours hauler program should be used with extreme discretion and only afforded to known haulers with proven, exceptional humane handling reputations at the facility.

Facilities should create a map with the maximum # head (per species) for each respective pen, based on *The Meat Institute's recommended stocking densities. This map should be prominently displayed in the pen area for handlers and haulers.

Haulers who value their reputation should not proceed with unloading if there is a gap present.

The use of excessive expressions or sounds during unloading is an indicator of substandard facility design and/or handler training.

Learn more about handling and transporting pigs at porkcares.org and the certification programs [Transport Quality Assurance \(TQA\)](#) and [Pork Quality Assurance Plus \(PQA Plus\)](#).

Beef handling and transporting information, training and certification is available at [Beef Quality Assurance \(BQA\)](#).

Unloading hours and other finer details must be communicated in more detailed hauler expectations letters.

To ensure the wellbeing of animals, it's important to empower and train authorized handlers to take ownership of the handling area. They should work towards minimizing stress and communicate with others if their presence is causing any disruption to the animals.

Facility handlers have the authority to instruct haulers to put away or leave prods in their trucks, and haulers should be held accountable for following facility rules.

Having cameras installed in the pen and handling areas is a strongly recommended measure as it can prove to be very helpful in ensuring the safety and well-being of animals. However, it is important to note that the USDA cannot have unrestricted access to the video footage unless the facility has included the use of camera review in their HACCP or Humane Handling programs.

*Meat Industry Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines: <https://www.meatinstitute.org/sites/default/files/original%20documents/Meat%20Institute%20Animal%20Handling%20Guidelines.pdf>

