

TRANSPORTING CALVES IN CRATES OR TRAILERS

Whether moving calves on farm, or between properties and/or sale yards, transport facilities, such as crates, trailers or floats, should meet the following criteria for the health and welfare of calves:

- 1 Enough space for all calves to lie down on their chest and stand up easily
- 2 Protection from wind and cold: the front of the trailer must be closed in, and it is best if the sides and roof are also covered
- 3 Airflow to stop it becoming stuffy
- 4 Flooring that stops slips, falls or injuries – e.g. rubber matting, wood shavings, rice hulls, carpet or artificial turf
- 5 Easy and regular cleaning, disinfection and drying



- ✓ **Remember when transporting bobby calves between 5 and 30 days old off farm, they must be:**
 - bright and alert
 - fed milk within 6 hours of departure
 - have firm, worn hooves and a dry navel
 - NLIS tagged
 - free from scours
 - strong and walking

- ✓ **Remember when transporting calves on farm:**
 - take care to avoid injury:
 - don't place yourself between the cow and the calf
 - avoid turning your back on the cow
 - lift with your knees and place calves in the trailer carefully
 - drive slowly and carefully to avoid bumping calves around.

- ✗ Sharp edges, protrusions or other things that can cause injury
- ✗ Crate position that causes calves to be affected by vehicle exhaust gases
- ✗ Overcrowded, dirty or not protected from the weather

FURTHER INFORMATION

See Dairy Australia's *Bobby calf fit for transport* fact sheet for more information.

Handling calves is covered by the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for Land Transport of Livestock. More information on transporting calves can be found at **Dairy Australia**.