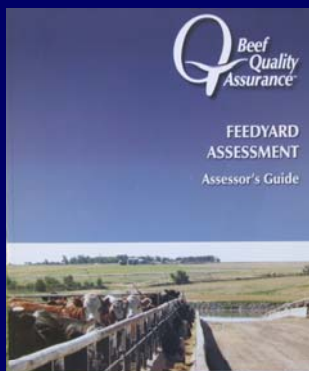
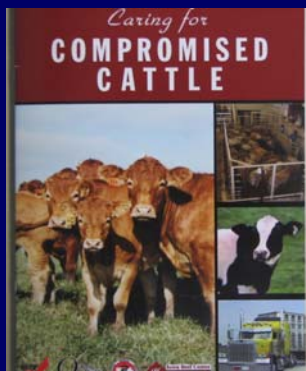


Assessment of Animal Care and Welfare



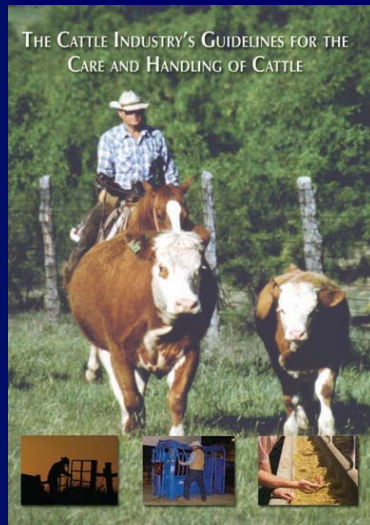
Terry J. Engelken, DVM MS
College of Veterinary Medicine
Iowa State University

Assessment of Animal Care and Welfare



- Consumer Perceptions
 - BSE vs. FAD
 - Hallmark / Westland video
 - Activist groups and their cash
 - “Factory / Industrial” farming
 - Urbanization of Population
- Pressure from retailers

Assessment of Animal Care and Welfare



- AW tools have been produced
 - Animal Care and Welfare
 - Transportation Issues
 - Drug use / residue avoidance
 - Adoption? Enforcement?
- Emphasis has changed
 - Documented BMPs
 - 3rd Party Verification



Caring for Compromised Cattle



Caring for
**COMPROMISED
CATTLE**

CARING FOR COMPROMISED CATTLE



TRANSPORT CANDIDATE

- Walks easily-not lame
- Healthy
- All withdrawal times met
- Body condition score of 2.5 or higher

DOWNER CANDIDATE

- Sick- fever greater than 104°
- Withdrawal times not met
- Thin- body condition score less than 2.5
- Cancer eyes, blind in both eyes
- Animal can not be humanely loaded and transported
- Broken leg, lameness

if cattle become non-ambulatory, which means they cannot rise from a recumbent position or cannot

DECISION MAKING STEPS TO PREVENT DOWNER COWS

The following steps taken by producers will assist in the early detection of problems and allow producers to properly address them in a timely manner.

- **PREVENTION-** Facility designs, choice of equipment, low stress handling, herd health programs and biosecurity will help to prevent many cattle health problems.
- **OBSERVATION-** Cattle should be observed several times a day, especially at feeding. Early detection of sickness and timely treatment are key in minimizing discomfort to the animal.
- **TREATMENT-** Treatment should be administered as soon as possible to prevent the animal's condition from deteriorating. Consult with your veterinarian to develop a sound treatment program and herd health protocol.
- **SEPARATION-** Segregate sick or compromised cattle into designated "hospital" pens to allow close observation and treatment of the animal.
- **TRANSPORT-** Once it's determined animals are fit for transport, decide where and when to ship them, ensuring all withdrawal times have been met.
- **EUTHANIZE-** All animals unfit for transport or unfit for human con-

Caring for Compromised Cattle

- What is a *compromised* animal?

Any animal with reduced capacity to withstand normal stress

- living, functioning as part of the herd, transportation, etc.
- regardless of cause

- a. Fatigue, age extremes (old or young)
- b. Injury or other health issues
- c. Infirmary, impending parturition

- Task is to prevent compromised from becoming "*unfit*"

3

Caring for Compromised Cattle

- What is an animal that is “*Unfit*”?

An animal that cannot be moved without avoidable suffering

- Regardless of cause
 - a. Injury or poor animal health
 - b. Disabled or fatigued
- This animal must not be loaded for transport

High probability of not walking off the truck / trailer

- High risk of becoming a “*downer*”

Caring for Compromised Cattle



Caring for Compromised Cattle

- Decision Making to Prevent the Compromised Animal

Prevention – biosecurity, herd health, facility design and maintenance

Observation – several times per day, especially during feeding

Treatment - treatment protocols in place by organ system

Separation – compromised animals can't compete with normal

Transport – withdrawal times and healthy enough for transport

Euthanize – would you put this animal in your own freezer?



Caring for Compromised Cattle



- Do not load or transport if:

Withdrawal time has not cleared

Extremely thin BCS

Chronic calves – time in marketing

Lameness score ≥ 3 (see p. 12)

Bone fractures (non-weight bearing)

Extreme arthritis causing lameness

Fever of 104°F or greater

Stage 3 cancer eye

Reproductive – calving or prolapse

Heart failure, blindness, “Brainer”

Caring for Compromised Cattle

- Compromised animals typically don't occur acutely

Understand the most common causes of compromise

- chronic pneumonia, lameness, bloat, etc.

BMPs in place to minimize / prevent these conditions

- treatment protocols, timely observation, bunk management

BMPs in place to deal with compromised animals

- reconditioning, needed surgery / medicine, or euthanasia



CARING FOR COMPROMISED CATTLE



TRANSPORT CANDIDATE

- Walks easily- not lame
- Healthy
- All withdrawal times met
- Body condition score of 2.5 or higher



DOWNER CANDIDATE

- Sick- fever greater than 104°
- Withdrawal times not met
- Thin- body condition score less than 2.5
- Cancer eye, blind in both eyes
- Animal can not be humanely loaded and transported
- Broken leg, lameness



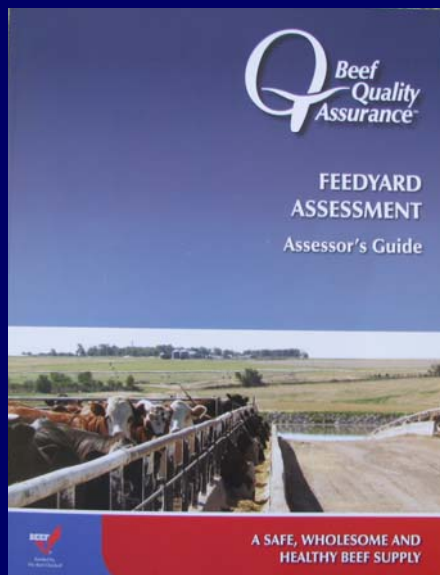
If cattle become non-ambulatory, which means they cannot rise from a recumbent position or cannot

DECISION MAKING STEPS TO PREVENT DOWNER COWS

The following steps taken by producers will assist in the early detection of problems and allow producers to properly address them in a timely manner.

- PREVENTION- Facility designs, choice of equipment, low stress handling, herd health programs and biosecurity will help to prevent many cattle health problems.
- OBSERVATION- Cattle should be observed several times a day, especially at feeding. Early detection of sickness and timely treatment are key in minimizing discomfort to the animal.
- TREATMENT- Treatment should be administered as soon as possible to prevent the animal's condition from deteriorating. Consult with your veterinarian to develop a sound treatment program and herd health protocol.
- SEPARATION- Segregate sick or compromised cattle into designated "hospital" pens to allow close observation and treatment of the animal.
- TRANSPORT- Once it's determined animals are fit for transport, decide where and when to ship them, ensuring all withdrawal times have been met.
- EUTHANIZE- All animals unfit for transport or unfit for human con-

BQA Feedyard Assessment



BQA Feedyard Assessment



- BQA – FA

On-site educational tool
Assess and benchmark

- animal care
- animal well being
- feedyard conditions

Focuses on three main areas

- Animals
- Records and BMP
- Facilities / Equipment

BQA Feedyard Assessment



- BQA – FA
 - Self assessment
 - 3rd Party verification
 - Repeated periodically
 - comparisons
 - trends over time
 - BMP refined
- Maximize animal well-being and feedyard efficiency

BQA Feedyard Assessment

- BQA – FA should be completed under normal conditions
 - Avoid times of disease outbreaks
 - Extreme weather conditions or natural disaster
 - Unusual animal handling that decreases their well-being
- Forms included to establish protocols or action plans
 - Random selection of pens and animals for evaluation
 - yard sheet is useful for selection
 - minimum of 10 pens of cattle assessed
 - need to include processing / receiving / shipping areas

BQA Feedyard Assessment



- BMP Templates included
 - Written protocols / assignments
 - Worst case scenarios
 - Emergency Action Plans
- Should be utilized to improve animal welfare and efficiency
 - independent of evaluation
- Completed prior to assessment

BQA Feedyard Assessment



- BMP Templates include
 - Pen Floor Management
 - Humane Euthanasia
 - Handling of Downer Animals
 - Herd Health Program
 - Biosecurity and Carcass Disposal
 - Medication – injections and oral
 - Receiving, processing, shipping

Form 100 requires 1 observation animal. If a "critical" item had to be observed, place each corresponding letter in the box for that animal. If more are observed the box will remain blank. For example, if the 5th animal observed is prodded with an electric prod or is restrained by head or neck, Pen Box 5 would have an "E" and "R" written in it.

Cattle Handling Observation Scoresheet

TO - Total Observed _____	Max. loss/Min _____	P/F
E - Electric Prod used _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	10%	P/F
F - Fell down / reverse both sides _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	2%	P/F
S - Struck/Clipped before released _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	10%	P/F
V - Vocalized in chute before procedure _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	5%	P/F
J - Jumped or Ran when released _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	25%	P/F
M - Miscaught and not recaptured _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	9%	P/F

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Comments _____

Pen/Equipment Observation Scoresheet

TO - Total Observed _____	Max. _____	P/F
S - Stocking Rate/Space in o.k. _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	0%	P/F
PM - Pen/Mud is o.k. _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	70%	P/F
W - Water is accessible/clean _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	70%	P/F
F - Foodbunk accessible/clean _____ / TO x 100 = % _____	70%	P/F

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Comments _____

BQA Feedyard Assessment



- Cattle Handling Benchmarks

Electric Prod Use	< 10 %
Fell at chute release	< 2 %
Tripped at chute release	< 10 %
Vocalized in chute	< 5 %
Jumped / ran on release	< 25 %
Miscaught w/o adjust	0 %

BQA Feedyard Assessment



- Pen / Equipment Benchmarks

Pen space adequate	100 %
Pen Mud	70 %
Water accessible / clean	70 %
Bunks accessible / clean	70 %

- Based on % of pens not individual animals in the pen

BQA Feedyard Assessment



- Final Assessment of Feedyard

Found on pages 3 – 7 of manual

- different areas are scored
- need to be “acceptable” in all areas

Deficiencies corrected and yard can be re-evaluated ASAP

- market will determine value

BQA Feedyard Assessment



- Summary

Forces outside of agriculture are changing how we produce beef

Animal welfare concerns at the consumer level are affecting programs at the retail level

Assessment tools offer a way to improve animal welfare, feedyard efficiency, and consumer acceptance

