

Management of stock during preparation for transport

For responsible transportation of stock to sale yards, meat processors and between farms and run-off / wintering blocks

1. Consider the whole transport process and plan ahead:

- Identify the total time stock will **not** have access to feed and water
 - Consider the total time between standing stock off feed and when stock will next have access to feed and water after transport.
- Maintain good communications with your transport company, stock agents, saleyard operators and meat processors so that you can accurately estimate total time off feed.

2. Stand stock off green feed for a minimum of 4 hours before transportation to reduce effluent production.

- **How long stock should be stood off green feed depends on:**
 - stock type
 - stock age
 - condition of stock (e.g. pregnancy and current health)
 - length of journey
 - total length of time stock will be off feed (both stand-off and transport)
 - whether supplements/dry feed are provided prior to or during the journey.
- **Deciding where to stand-off stock:**
 - Ensure there is enough room for stock to move freely and lie down.
 - Avoid standing stock on bare concrete. If it cannot be avoided, consider the total time of the journey and how long stock will be unable to rest. Aim for the combined time without rest to be as short as possible (i.e. if journey is long distance, reduce time stock are stood-off on concrete).
 - A good option to avoid using concrete is to stand stock on an already grazed-out paddock.
- **Using supplements or dry feed:**
 - Feed silage, hay or straw during standing off before long distance journeys
 - If using supplementary feed during the journey (such as meal, pellets or grains that can cause rumen acidosis), introduce it into the diet gradually over 2-3 days prior to transport. Avoid any abrupt change in diet.
 - Inform graziers or new owners if supplementary feeds have been used.
- **Provision of water:**
 - Always provide stock with access to water during standing off.
 - Provide immediate access to feed and water on arrival.

When transporting stock always:

- *Make sure stock are fit for transport; in good condition, can bear weight on all 4 limbs and able to withstand the stress of the journey.*
- *Check requirements for specific classes of livestock are met to ensure animal welfare is not compromised during transport (e.g. magnesium supplement for lactating and late pregnant dairy cattle)*
- *Make sure practices are in accordance with the Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Transported in New Zealand.*

The initiative to develop these guidelines is supported by: the Meat Industry Association of NZ, Fonterra, Dairy Companies Association of NZ, DairyNZ, Federated Farmers of NZ, the Stock and Station Industry, the Road Transport Sector, Regional Councils and Road Corridor Managers.