

# Canadian Feedlot Animal Care Assessment Program

## Instructions, Standards and Common Audit Tool

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# Introduction

The National Cattle Feeders Association (NCFA) represents Canadian cattle feeders on national issues such as growth and sustainability, competitiveness, and industry leadership. One of the principles of sustainable beef production is animal health and welfare (<http://grsbeef.org/DRAFTprinciples>). Globally sustainable beef producers are socially responsible; they respect and manage animals to ensure health and welfare.

In 2013, the Canadian beef industry updated the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle following the National Farm Animal Care Council's (NFACC) process (<https://www.nfacc.ca/>). The Beef Code contains national guidelines for the care and handling of beef cattle in Canada and serves as the industry's understanding of animal care requirements and recommended practices (<https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle>). To build confidence throughout the value chain, the NCFA has developed the following Canadian Feedlot Animal Care Assessment Tool with our customers to help feedlot producers demonstrate implementation of good animal care and handling practices on farm.

This is the first national voluntary feedlot animal care assessment program in Canada. The NCFA is committed to an assessment program that will be credible, easy to understand, simple to conduct and recognized and utilized by our processors and customers. This assessment tool is designed to help Canadian feedlot producers demonstrate their commitment to animal care and handling and to continuous improvement in animal health and welfare; a mission of globally sustainable beef production.

For the purposes of this assessment, a feedlot is defined as a feeding operation where cattle are fed for backgrounding and finish in a confined area. This document details measureable, objective criteria that can be used to evaluate the care and handling of beef cattle in Canadian feedlots. Improving animal care and handling results in better health, performance, and carcass attributes of cattle and optimizes labour efficiency. Thus, a strong economic incentive exists for feedlot producers to continually improve the care and handling of their feedlot cattle. Ensuring animal welfare is also the right thing to do! Feedlot producers recognize their obligations to build and maintain the trust of customers and the public in their beef products and production practices. This national animal care assessment program will help promote customer and consumer confidence in feedlot production in Canada.

In 2014, an NCFA Animal Care Advisory Committee of industry stakeholders - including producers, federal and international processors, retailers, veterinarians, welfare scientists and ethologists, PAACO (Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization) auditors, and industry representatives - was convened and tasked to develop a workable, credible and affordable common animal care assessment tool for the Canadian feedlot industry that could be used by both feedlot producers and processors to provide assurances to customers on feedlot animal care and handling.

This document was developed following a review of the 1) requirements in the Canadian Beef Code of Practice, 2) global beef sustainability indicators and criteria, and 3) existing animal care assessment programs, such as the American Meat Institute's Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Beef Quality Assurance (USA-BQA) Program, the Canadian Certified Livestock Transporters (CLT) program, and the Common Swine Industry Audit (USA). The Advisory Committee balanced scientific evidence, ethics, and economics with their knowledge of feedlot beef production during its deliberations on what criteria to include, and how to assess these criteria objectively and consistently. As new information becomes available from animal welfare research, the Advisory Committee will review and update this national feedlot animal care assessment tool. Outcome based targets and the scoring system will be refined over time as the feedlot industry implements this program and learns what is practically and economically achievable. It is the Canadian feedlot industry's commitment to review this voluntary animal care assessment program (at minimum annually) and to keep it current as new practices and information become available.

# Assessment or Audit Process

## Audit Objectives

Assessments or audits represent an independent documented review in a “snapshot of time” of a feedlot’s management system to verify that it conforms to specific requirements. This audit standard establishes the criteria that any on-farm feedlot audit must include to be recognized by processors and customers as comprehensive and credible. This audit standard allows processors and customers to verify that a feedlot is in conformance with established requirements for feedlot cattle care. This national feedlot animal care assessment/audit tool provides feedlot managers and employees with information to help them assess and continually improve animal care and handling in their yards. It is recommended that feedlots conduct self-assessments or 1<sup>st</sup> party audits at least once annually, and more frequently if problems are identified, to verify that their corrective actions have been successfully implemented. *We manage what we measure.* As well, it is recommended that feedlots conduct assessments at different times of the year to take into account seasonal variability in the types of animals (age/size/disease risk) that enter the feedlot throughout the year and environmental conditions that may impact animal care.

This animal care assessment tool will also help producers prepare for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> party audits. An audit conducted by a stakeholder with a direct relationship with the feedlot would be considered a 2<sup>nd</sup> party audit, e.g. a processor to whom fed cattle are supplied. An audit conducted by an external party or certification body at the request of another customer or retailer (arms-length relationship with feedlot) would be considered a 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit. PAACO <http://animalauditor.org/> certifies animal welfare audit instruments and trains auditors to verify implementation of animal welfare requirements for interested parties.

## Audit Scope

In this assessment tool, **criteria** are requirements in the Canadian Beef Code of Practice or additional basic management practices deemed necessary by the beef industry to ensure animal care and handling in a feedlot. This Canadian feedlot industry assessment tool includes criteria from animal arrival to slaughter, including transportation. During an assessment, documents (documented procedures and records), animals, and facilities will be assessed and feedlot staff will be observed and interviewed doing their daily tasks to determine their knowledge and understanding of feedlot animal care.

## Scheduling an Audit

A feedlot site is defined by its premise ID. If a feedlot has more than 1 yard under its management, the auditor needs to determine whether the customer (audit client) requesting the audit requires that all feedlots owned by that feedlot client be audited or whether portions of the audit should occur at different yards, or whether the audit should occur at only 1 yard. As well, the auditor needs to know the time of year (season) that the audit client would like the audit to occur, since season may affect outcome measures such as pen condition, and/or related disease incidence e.g. footrot. It is recommended that the audit client schedule feedlot audits during different seasons to gather representative year-round data. The auditor must note in the comments area of the appropriate section if weather may have affected an outcome measure e.g. muddy pens, and what the producer has done to address any negative weather impacts on animal care e.g. added bedding to the pen, scraped pen.

## Preparing for an Audit

- The auditor must contact the feedlot producer to schedule the on-farm 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit at a mutually agreeable time.
- When scheduling 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> party audits with feedlot management, whenever possible the auditors must schedule the audit during normal operations to ensure that animal care and handling can be assessed related to animal transport and active handling. However, there may be times when an audit needs to be conducted but animals are not scheduled for transport or handling. The animal care audit should still occur. Those criteria that are not observed (NO) during an audit must be recorded on the audit report with an explanation of why they were not observed.

- Prior to the on-farm audit, the auditor must provide the producer with a copy of the audit documents, including an audit plan, the audit tool (assessment forms), and a checklist of documents that will be reviewed during the on-farm visit so the feedlot producer can adequately prepare for the assessment visit. Feedlot documents can be either written or in electronic format, but they need to be available for review during the on-site visit.
- The auditor should inquire about any biosecurity requirements or other conditions that need to be met during his visit.
- If there is more than 1 person coming to the feedlot for the audit (e.g. multiple auditors, shadow auditors in training, or observers), the auditor must inform the producer about these individuals, so that the producer can review the names and backgrounds of these individuals to ensure that he is comfortable with their presence on his operation and to ensure that there are no concerns related to lack of impartiality or independence, business confidentiality/competitiveness, and/or conflict of interest. If the producer feels that there are any such issues, they must make those issues known to the lead auditor prior to the on-farm visit so that these individuals can be removed from the audit team.
- The auditor must ask the feedlot producer to provide an on-site feedlot guide or feedlot employee who is responsible for the care of the animals to be present during all portions of the audit. If there are any translation needs, the logistics of an interpreter will also need to be discussed prior to the audit.
- The auditor should ask for the current feedlot inventory and site/pen layout so that he/she can predetermine the animal sampling before the on-site visit. If the feedlot is not willing to provide that information until the on-site opening meeting, the auditor will need to respect this matter and determine the animal sampling when at the yard.

#### **Conducting an Audit**

- Auditors must conduct an opening meeting with feedlot management to make introductions, discuss the scope and purpose of the visit, review the methods and techniques that will be used during the audit, and discuss the logistics of the audit such as the facility layout, access to documents, timing of events such as transport and cattle handling through the facilities, and feedlot guides.
- Auditors must conduct the audit according to this common feedlot animal care audit instrument by reviewing documents, both protocols and supporting records, evaluating feedlot facilities, interviewing the feedlot owner and employees, and observing cattle in the feedlot. The auditor should assess whether there is consistency between what the producer or his staff say they do (verbally or in documents) and what they actually do on the yard (what is observed). If there are any inconsistencies found, then these areas should be further investigated during the audit to determine whether or not there is adherence to animal care criteria requirements. These inconsistencies should be documented in the audit report.
- The feedlot guide should accompany the auditor but not interfere in the auditor's work.
- When observing facilities and animals, the auditor must not interfere with the normal working activities in the feedlot or provide advice or consult. If animals need to be moved in a pen to determine their health status, the auditor must take care and do this with the help of the feedlot guide.
- When interviewing feedlot employees, auditors should use open ended questions "who", "what", "when", "where", "how", and "why" and avoid leading questions with the expectation of a specific answer.
- Auditors should provide written detailed comments for at least any questions or observations found to be unacceptable during the audit, as this information is of value to the feedlot producer and can help answer any questions during a closing meeting or assist the feedlot producer in implementing corrective actions.
- **If a wilful act of abuse or egregious act of neglect is witnessed by an auditor, the auditor must immediately intervene to stop the situation if reasonably and safely possible. The incident must be reported to the feedlot owner and manager. Although this will result in automatic failure of the audit, the audit should be completed during this visit to gather the rest of the data for the site, as the full audit is of value to feedlot management as well as to the customer requesting the audit.**

#### **Audit Scoring**

Each section provides specific details on how each criterion should be evaluated and marked on the audit form. The audit forms provided as part of this audit standard should be used to record the results, score, and comments for each audit criterion.

Criteria are scored and assigned numerical points by the auditor and these points are tallied up for each section and then for an overall assessment score. If the feedlot meets the minimum target or specified requirement for each criterion, full points are awarded for that criterion. If a feedlot does not meet the minimum target or specified requirement, no points are awarded for that criterion. A site cannot earn partial points for any criterion. Some criterion have a measure or calculation required; whereas others are a 1 or 0. A score of 1 is recorded if the requirement is met as stated or the animal or facility event is observed; a score of 0 is recorded if the requirement is not met or the animal or facility event is not observed as stated. Depending upon the particular type of feedlot operation, some criteria may “not be applicable” (NA) and are scored as “NA”. The possible points for these “NA” criteria are subtracted from the total possible points for the section when calculating total points achieved over total points possible. As well, if a section cannot be evaluated during the audit (e.g. transport), then the total points for that section must be removed from the total score for the feedlot.

Criteria related to the availability and appropriateness of documents such as written protocols and records receive a numerical score of 2; those criteria related to facilities or training receive a numerical score of 5, and those criteria related to animal outcomes or those that are pre-requisites for good animal care receive a numerical score of 10. Animal based outcomes have been more heavily weighted as they are the most objective and important measures of animal care on a feedlot.

**Three criteria are scored as either “pass or fail” because they are critical criteria for animal welfare. These critical criteria include 1) willingness to participate in the animal care assessment, 2) no wilful acts of abuse or egregious acts of neglect which includes untimely euthanasia of distressed animals, and 3) effective euthanasia. These 3 critical criteria must each be passed to pass the audit.** Effective euthanasia may not be observed during a feedlot audit since it is a rare event; thus, it would be scored as “NO” (not observed). These 3 criteria are not added in the total points for the feedlot.

The audit tool is designed to provide a score for each section and an overall score for the feedlot. Section scores allow for better interpretation of the overall score and an easier measure of improvements over time. No minimum scores have been established at this time for any 1 section or overall for audit failure, other than for the 3 critical criteria which are either a pass or fail of the audit. If there is systemic failure of the feedlot’s management system in terms of animal care, we believe that it will be identified in the 3 critical areas that are currently grounds for a feedlot operation to fail an audit. **A feedlot operation can fail the audit for 3 reasons: 1) failure to participate in an audit, 2) egregious acts of neglect or wilful acts of abuse, and 3) lack of effective euthanasia.**

During the first year of this program’s implementation, the Canadian beef industry will conduct feedlot audits and surveys to collect benchmark data to determine acceptable minimum scores for each section and overall. This audit tool is an evolving document and minimum scores will be developed by the NCFCA Animal Care Advisory Committee and made known to producers in year 2 of program implementation. We anticipate that scores will improve over time as producers become aware of the program and implement program requirements. The industry will continue to gather more data and identify ways to continually improve animal care through the use of this audit tool.

### **Sample Size and Truck/Pen/Animal Selection**

The number of trucks, animals or pens to be assessed during an audit is based on what is available to assess the day of the audit and the size of the yard. The goal is to balance sample size and selection with what can be practically and efficiently assessed to ensure representative data for that yard. Attempts should be made to schedule the audit day so that livestock trucking and active cattle handling in the processing/treatment barn can be observed. If up to 4 livestock trucks can be observed for either shipping and/or receiving, observe all 4 trucks.

If there is only 1 truck available for assessment, then observe that truck and record that no other trucks were available to observe during the audit. If there are more than 4 trucks available to observe, then select trucks conveniently based on what is most time efficient overall to observe, while ensuring the rest of the audit can be completed in a timely manner. When observing animals in the processing and treatment barns, time the assessment of cattle handling when the feedlot is working animals through the handling facility. If the feedlot will be working cattle through the chute for less than 1 hour that day, observe all of those animals at that time. If the feedlot will work cattle through the handling facilities for more than 1 hour, then select a time to observe cattle handling that allows at least 1 hour of cattle handling through the facility to be observed while managing time overall to assess all other parts of the audit in a time efficient manner.

To determine how many pens of cattle to observe for pen and animal condition, ask the feedlot to provide a schematic diagram of their feedlot i.e. site map showing which pens contain cattle, defining the type of cattle and type of pen (e.g. feeding pens and speciality pens like sick, chronic, buller, rail, receiving, and shipping pens), as well as the days on feed of the cattle in those pens. Observe at least 10% of the feeding pens, 1 receiving pen, 1 shipping pen, up to 2 sick pens, 1 chronic pen, and 1 rail pen. All pens observed must contain cattle. If some of these speciality pens contain no cattle, then record “not observed”. If there are less than 5 pens in the entire feedlot, assess all pens. In larger yards, try to randomly select home feeding pens in a systematic manner from different feed alleys and locations within the yard. Also attempt to sample different types of cattle e.g. calves, yearlings, and cattle, with different days on feed (e.g. newly arrived, mid-feeding, finished) to try and collect representative data for the yard. For example, if there are 3 sick pens (S1, S2, S3) and 50 home feeding pens in the feedlot, then score every other sick pen (e.g. S1 and S3) and then select 5 home feeding pens. To select the home feeding pens to observe, review the feedlot pen layout. Try to select a pen in each feeding alley and select pens at different locations in the feeding alley since the environmental conditions of the pens may vary pending location in the yard, e.g. pens at the end of the feed alley may be where the water drains down from the other pens in that alley to the catch basin. If the feedlot has 5 feeding alleys (A,B,C,D,E) and 10 pens per feeding alley, then select pens systematically as follows (assuming these pens all have cattle in them and each feed alley has cattle of similar days on feed and types of cattle) e.g. Pens A1, B3, C5, D7, E9. Record on the pen and animal condition record form which pens are assessed, the number of cattle in the pen, type of cattle, and their days on feed.

### **Completing an Audit**

- Auditors must conduct a closing meeting with feedlot management to review the purposes and scope of the audit and to explain their audit findings, both positive and negative i.e. those requiring corrective actions. The closing meeting also allows for questions related to clarification and interpretation of any non-conformance issues.
- The auditor is not allowed to provide guidance for non-conformance issues during any part of the audit as that is considered consulting and is outside the scope of a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit.
- The auditor must determine the names of the individuals who should receive the final copy of the audit report and this should include at least the feedlot producer and the customer who requested the audit. This information should be shared with the producer during audit preparation.
- For non-conforming criteria observed during the audit and documented by the auditor on the audit report, the feedlot producer must complete a corrective action report for the audit client i.e. person requesting the audit, to document that either the corrective actions have been implemented or that a plan is in place to address the non-conformity, along with a proposed timeline to complete the corrective actions.
- Audit clients e.g. processors, are responsible for reviewing and approving corrective action reports to determine if their feedlot supplier has adequately resolved the identified non-conformity within an acceptable timeline. Audit clients are also responsible in determining when the feedlot site requires a follow-up audit to verify implementation of the corrective actions. **If the producer fails the audit based on the 3 critical areas currently identified as grounds for failure of the audit, corrective actions must be implemented immediately, with a follow-up from the audit client within 30 days from the original site visit.**

## Competency of Auditors

The NCFCA intends to work with PAACO to develop a training program for feedlot animal care auditors. Auditors must have competency to audit feedlots and they must be continually evaluated. Competency is based on education, work experience, auditor training, audit experience, and personal attributes. Auditors must have feedlot industry experience and knowledge of animal care related to cattle and good auditing skills.

# Chapter 1. Feedlot's Commitment to Animal Care

A critical factor in ensuring the well-being of beef cattle on a yard is the feedlot owner and management's commitment to continual improvements in animal care. This commitment is necessary to help feedlot personnel implement and maintain good animal care and handling practices. Feedlot management plays a critical role in establishing expectations for staff performance, including but not limited to:

1. **Providing feedlot personnel access to the Canadian Beef Code of Practice**, either through internet access (<http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle>) or by providing a hard copy of the current Beef Code on site that is easily accessible to feedlot staff. The auditor will verify this by asking to see internet access to the Code or a hard copy of the Code.
2. **Ensuring feedlot staff are knowledgeable about good animal care and handling practices.** During an audit, the auditor will assess staff training and review training records. Auditors will interview staff, monitor their actions, review protocols, and assess cattle and their environment to determine whether staff are knowledgeable and implement good animal care and handling practices in conformance with the requirements in the Canadian Beef Code of Practice.
3. **Communicating the feedlot's written animal care policy or mission statement.** The auditor will ask to see the feedlot's written animal care policy and verify that it is widely circulated to feedlot staff e.g. it could be posted visibly in the feedlot at various places, such as the feedlot office, staff coffee room, and in working areas in the barn. Feedlot management should also communicate their animal care policy to custom cattle feeder clients, transporters, services providers such as veterinarians and nutritionists, suppliers of their feeder cattle (order buyers, ranchers), and customers, such as finishing feedlots or processors.

Example of a feedlot animal care policy:

*We at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of feedlot) are committed to ensuring the well-being of all the cattle in our feedlot. We are in conformance with the standards of the Canadian Beef Code of Practice. We ensure that the cattle under our care are raised in a safe environment that meets their physical, nutritional, health and welfare requirements. We work with our veterinarian and nutritionist to train and monitor our staff to ensure continuous improvements in our animal husbandry and production management practices. We only use Certified Livestock Transporters (CLT) to transport our incoming and outgoing cattle.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Feedlot Owner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Example of a feedlot animal care policy:

*We at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of feedlot) care for our cattle.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Feedlot Owner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

4. **Conducting a self-assessment** of the feedlot's management practices as they relate to animal care can help ensure the well-being of cattle at the yard and help prepare for a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> party audit by a processor. A 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditor will request to see a documented audit report verifying that the feedlot's animal care



self-assessment occurred at least once within the past year. The feedlot's assessment report will state who conducted the assessment, when the assessment was conducted, what criteria were assessed, areas identified for improvement, and an action plan to implement corrective and preventive actions. Criteria can be assessed at different times during the year, as long as all animal care criteria within the NCFA's animal care assessment program are assessed at least once within the past year. It is recommended that the feedlot animal care assessment forms in this feedlot guide be used for self-assessments to ensure that all animal care areas have been reviewed. The assessment forms here can serve as a feedlot's internal audit report.

- 5. Documenting an animal care emergency response plan.** The auditor will request to see a copy of the feedlot's written animal care emergency response plan. The animal care emergency response plan should contain the following information: emergency contact names/numbers, emergency response resources and equipment, feedlot map, and contingency planning for emergency events that may impact animal care. Animal care emergency planning could exist for the following events: fire, flood, electrical disruption, interruption of processor operations, extreme weather, foreign animal disease outbreak, livestock truck rollover, animal break-out, and/or mass mortality.

## Chapter 2. Transportation Practices

Managing the transportation of feedlot cattle involves many variables, including preparedness, transporters and their trucks, loading/unloading facilities, and cattle handling. The following items must be assessed during an audit:

### Feedlot Transportation Policy and Preparedness

- 1. There is evidence of effective communication** between feedlot management and feedlot staff on when new cattle will arrive and when cattle need to be shipped. This communication can be either verbal or written. If written, the auditor will verify by reviewing receiving and/or shipping schedules. If written schedules are not available then the auditor will ask the feedlot foreman how they know when cattle are arriving or leaving the feedlot to ensure they are prepared for such activities. Effective communication occurs when feedlot staff have working knowledge of cattle arrival and shipping times.
- 2. Management strategies** will be in place to deal with extreme temperatures and provide environmental protection to cattle in receiving and shipping pens. The auditor will ask the feedlot what proactive management strategies are in place at the yard to deal with harsh environmental conditions, and if possible, will verify that these exist by observation or documented protocols.
  - I. Examples of advanced planning to deal with harsh environmental conditions in receiving/shipping pens during extreme cold and wet weather include windbreak fences and bedding, and removal of snow, mud or standing water in pens.
  - II. During summer heat waves, examples of management strategies to deal with harsh environmental conditions in receiving/shipping pens include: sprinkling pens with water, removing manure from pens, scraping loose dirt from pens, bedding the ground of the pens with straw so there is somewhere cooler for the animals to lie down, ensuring pens are not overcrowded, increasing water access, and providing shade.
- 3. Staff or owners will be available for receiving/shipping cattle or there will be posted instructions with a contact phone number.** The auditor will ask feedlot staff whether they are present when new cattle arrive or cattle are shipped or there are posted instructions for truckers on what to do when delivering or shipping cattle. This is to ensure that cattle are provided with feed and water as per regulations, have an area where they can lay down and rest, are protected from inclement weather, and that cattle to be shipped do not stand long on trucks prior to transport.
- 4. The auditor will observe that receiving and shipping pens for cattle have feed and water.** Receiving and shipping pens are defined as feedlot pens that house cattle for more than 5 consecutive hours. If cattle are to be transported more than 24 hours, they must receive water within 5 hours of transport (CFIA Transport Regulation). Holding pens are defined as pens or alleyways designed to temporarily hold cattle upon arrival

or prior to shipping where cattle are not housed there longer than 5 consecutive hours without feed and water. If there is no water in the water bowl and no feed in the bunk and no cattle in the receiving or shipping pens, then the auditor will interview feedlot staff as to whether or not cattle are expected and have staff describe normal feeding and watering procedures for newly received or shipping cattle to ensure cattle are provided with feed and water upon arrival or prior to departure. If there is no feed in the pen, the auditor will check feeding records for receiving and shipping pens to see if cattle were fed while in those pens. If there is no feed and water in holding pens, then the auditor will check arrival times of new cattle e.g. truck weigh scale slip and compare to the presence of cattle in the holding pens, or for fed cattle, ask the feedlot staff when cattle were moved into holding pens for shipment.

5. **The auditor will look for bedding in trailers during extreme inclement weather.** Extreme inclement weather includes: snow storms, cold temperatures (<-15 C) where frostbite of feet is a concern in high risk animals such as calves and cull dairy cows (particularly during long hauls), freezing rain or extreme wind chill, or very hot humid weather. Appropriate bedding for extreme cold weather includes dry straw or dry wood chips or sawdust. During hot or high humidity weather, cattle should be scheduled for transport in the early morning or at night whenever possible. It is also important to keep trucks moving and to avoid any unnecessary stops. In addition, cattle must be unloaded promptly upon arrival at a feedlot or packing plant, and water must be provided.
6. **The auditor will review the written feedlot protocol for handling incoming sick, injured, fatigued or immobile cattle on the truck.** This protocol can be written specifically for the feedlot or the feedlot can have a copy of the CLT program for beef cattle or a copy of the Beef Code of Practice or the Humane Handling of Beef Cattle – Standards for the Care of Unfit Animals (ABP and AFAC publication). The protocol used must state that nonambulatory cattle **MUST NEVER** be dragged off the truck while conscious (wilful act of abuse). Nonambulatory cattle on a truck must be humanely euthanized and confirmed dead on the vehicle prior to unloading. If the animal is likely to recover, it may only be unloaded for veterinary treatment upon the advice of a veterinarian. This protocol must be widely communicated to feedlot staff and responsible staff must be aware of the protocol requirements, which the auditor will assess during staff interviews.

### Transporter Assessment

This section is intended to monitor and verify the welfare of animals arriving or leaving feedlots. It is the responsibility of auditors to:

1. Arrange with feedlot management the best time to perform the audit. Attempts should be made to schedule the audit when cattle are to be transported. If this is not possible, then complete the animal care audit without auditing the transport section and record why the transport section could not be assessed during the audit.
2. If the transport audit can be completed, then evaluate at least 1 trailer to a maximum of 4 trailers. The auditor will base the audit results on the trailers that were actually audited, not on trailers that may have been observed but were not part of the selected audit sampling.
3. Establish with feedlot management the location of the (un)loading area and identify the areas of the feedlot in which assessments will occur. The (un)loading area parameters would include the trailer holding or staging area, the trailer itself (only when auditing the condition of the trailer or if the trailer meets requirements for the ambient temperature) and the immediate (un)load area (i.e. up to the exit gate of the (un)loading alley or to the gating of the first alley off the trailer). Due to design variance between feedlots, this will need to be established by feedlot management and respected by the auditor.
4. The auditor must in no way impede the loading or unloading of animals. The auditor must find a place to stand that will not cause the animals to balk and where the auditor will be safe. The auditor must not enter the trailer while the animals are loaded or unloaded.
5. Some criteria will be dependent on trailer style, feedlot design, regional climatic differences or type of animals to be transported. Choose the points that apply to the trailer to be audited.

Auditors need to record the type of trailer, as a pot belly, straight trailer, or farm trailer.



Pot Belly Trailer

Straight Trailer

Farm Trailer

Auditors must ask the trucker or feedlot staff how many cattle are on the truck or to be loaded and what type of cattle they are, or ask to see the livestock manifest which will contain this information. Once the number is obtained, there is no need to count the cattle.

Calves are defined as fall placed or winter backgrounded animals less than 1 year of age. Yearlings are feeder animals over 1 year of age. Fed cattle are fattened feeder steers and heifers ready for market. Nonfed cattle are cows or bulls.

Auditors must ask the trucker if they are currently a certified livestock transporter (CLT) and review their CLT wallet sized certificate. The CLT expiry date or issue date on the certificate should be reviewed to ensure the certification is current. Certification is required every 3 years to be current. Auditors can also pull up the CLT app on their phone which shows the list of certified truckers.

### **Timeliness of arrival and (Un)Loading**

For unloading, the auditor must begin recording the time the truck arrives on the yard until the first animal steps off the truck. For loading, the auditor must record the time from when the first animal steps on the trailer to the time the trailer leaves the yard. Timeliness of arrival is to ensure that incoming cattle are not sitting on the truck for long periods before unloading which can contribute to animal stress. Timeliness of loading can be an issue if cattle are standing on trucks for long periods prior to transport. Multiple loaded trucks with fed cattle leaving the yard at the same time and arriving at the packing plant at the same times cause problems at the processing plant with timeliness of arrival and unloading of fed cattle. Feedlots will receive full points if the trailer loads and leaves or unloads within 60 minutes and there is a deduction for every 30 minute delay.

### **Set-up/(Un)Loading of Trailer**

Auditors will visually observe the trailer to determine if the trailer is loaded to the proper density. Signs of overcrowding include cattle vocalizations, animals not settled or standing on each other and/or nonambulatory cattle on the truck. With the gates closed, the livestock must have enough room to stand without climbing on top of one another. Signs of underloading include cattle laying down on the truck and nonambulatory animals.

Incompatible animals must not be housed together in the same compartment on the truck. Incompatible animals include heifers and steers, cows and bulls, and significantly larger versus smaller animals. Weak or compromised animals that are fit for transport under "special provisions" must be loaded last and unloaded first as per CFIA Transportation Regulations.

Auditors must observe that the trailer is properly aligned with the (un)loading dock so that cattle do not risk stepping into the gap and breaking a leg. Drivers must realign their trailer prior to (un)loading if it is not aligned properly. Some feedlots will utilize transfer mats or flippers to cover gaps. There must be no gaps between the dock/ramp and the bottom of the trailer exit. There must be no gaps between the back end of the trailer and the side walls of the (un)loading area where livestock can get stuck.

**Non-slip, solid flooring.** The trailer must be outfitted with non-slip flooring to minimize animal slips and falls. Examples of non-slip flooring would include, but are not limited to, rubber mats, stamped tread, sand, shavings, steel reinforcement rods, etc. There must be no holes in the flooring or items that can cause an animal to trip. With stamped tread, the tread must provide non-slip flooring.

**Winter boarding and bedding are in place when required.** Each feedlot must have winter protection requirements as part of their transportation policy. Currently there are no recommended industry requirements

for winter boarding. Bedding should be provided during extreme inclement weather to high risk cattle such as recently weaned calves and cull dairy cows. The definition of extreme inclement weather includes: snow storms, cold temperatures (<-15 C) where frostbite of feet is a concern (particularly during long hauls), freezing rain or extreme wind chill. Appropriate bedding includes dry straw, dry wood chips or sawdust.

**Cattle must stand in normal posture without contact with the roof or upper deck of truck.** Auditors must look up the sides of the trailer to see if there are any cattle standing with abnormal posture which could be due to their backs hitting the roof of the compartment. As well, the auditor must assess cattle as they come off the truck to see if there are any signs of hair rubbed off the back or open or bleeding wounds from rubbing their back on the roof. Attention must be paid in particular to cattle housed in the dog house portion of the trailer.

### **Cattle Handling in (Un)loading Area**

Auditors must record the number of animals prodded per load. Touching an animal with a prod is scored whether the prod is energized or not. Auditors must record the number of falls per load. A fall occurs when an animal loses its upright position suddenly and a part of the body other than the limbs touches the ground. Falls are to be scored in the (un)loading area only after all 4 of the animal's limbs are on the (un)loading ramp or dock. Cattle leaving the truck at arrival at the yard or at loading prior to entry on the truck should be assessed. Falls are scored anywhere in the (un)loading tub or bud box, alleyway, and (un)loading ramp and dock.

### **Condition of Cattle at (Un) loading**

The vast majority of cattle that are transported in Canada are in good health and physically fit. Under CFIA Transportation Regulations\*, animals with the following health conditions must not be transported. A few additional health conditions (not listed as compromised animals under CFIA's transportation regulations) have been added here as they either cause undue distress and/or result in condemnation of the animal at processing.

Auditors must count the number of cattle per load that meet the following conditions:

**Nonambulatory\*:** Animal cannot rise without assistance or remain standing without assistance and is reluctant to walk and exhibits halted movement.

**Severe Lameness\*:** Animal is non-weight bearing on 1 leg or puts very little weight on 1 leg, has great difficulty walking, with an arched back and extreme head bob and hip hike. This could be from arthritis in 1 or more joints, injury, founder, footrot or hairy heel warts.

**Severe Injuries\*:** For cattle, severe injuries include broken legs or shoulders or jaws, bleeding gashes or deep, visible cuts, and severe cancer eye. Animal may show signs of shock or dying.

**Calving or Uterine (Calf-bed) Prolapse\*:** For calving, the waterbag or calf's foot, nose or any part of the calf's body is visible.

**Emaciated or severely dehydrated\*:** Cattle in poor body condition will be extremely thin and emaciated; their ribs and backbones can be easily seen (body condition score (BCS) < 2). The severely thin attributes of these animals compromise their mobility, cause severe weakness and lead to debilitation. In severe dehydration, the eyes are deeply sunken in the eye sockets and the skin may look tented or wrinkled.

**Nervous Disease\*** – may include ataxia (uncoordinated walk), tremors, convulsions, blindness, inability to remain standing, star gazing, grinding teeth, and aggressive behavior

**Heat Stressed Cattle:** Cattle experiencing heat stress will exhibit open-mouthed panting, drooling, and may be reluctant to move.

**Severe Congestive Heart Failure:** Clinical signs include a large brisket full of fluid, subcutaneous fluid extending under the chin or belly from the brisket, elbows sticking out sideways, sway back, eyes bulging, pot belly, drooling or foaming at the mouth, difficult or open mouth breathing, bulging jugular pulse in the neck.

**Severe Respiratory Disease\*:** Clinical signs include laboured breathing such as open mouth breathing and/or grunting and making a lot of noise when breathing.

**Waterbelly\*:** Obvious swelling under the skin between the back legs under the belly and extending up to the prepuce (area where steers pee out).

**Poor udder condition:** Poor udder condition includes udders that descend more than 3 inches (7.6 cm) below the hock, significantly push out against the rear legs causing difficulty of movement or highly distended udders which cause obvious pain/distress to the heifer or cow.

**\*unfit animals for transport as per CFIA Transport Regulations. Loading these unfit animals will result in audit failure.**

## Chapter 3. Feedlot Facilities

Auditors must observe if the feedlot has either windbreak fences, bedding packs with straw or woodchips, or sprinklers on the fence to sprinkle the cattle or another shelter or a shade or a barn to protect cattle from inclement weather that can cause a serious risk to their welfare.

Auditors must assess whether the feedlot has equipment and facilities to safely handle, restrain, treat, segregate, and (un)load cattle. Typical feedlot handling equipment includes: squeeze chute, single file alley/chute, crowding tub, alleyways, sorting gates and pens, receiving and shipping pens,(un)loading docks, and sick pens.

Auditors must assess if there is adequate lighting in cattle (un)loading areas and cattle handling areas. Handling facilities are an essential part of safe, easy and rapid handling of cattle. Appropriate handling and handling facilities remove much of the stress and frustration of the feedlot staff, which inevitably occurs with excited, stubborn or aggressive animals. Properly constructed facilities confine cattle safely and efficiently with minimal animal stress and risk of injury to both cattle and workers. Animals tend to move better from a dark to a more brightly lit area. The light should illuminate the chute up ahead. Eliminate shadows and patches of light and dark, which may confuse animals. An approach is to illuminate the entire working area. Lamps/lights should not shine into the eyes of approaching animals because glaring and blinding light impedes movement. Illumination should be uniform and diffuse. If an auditor cannot see where to move, then it is unlikely the cattle can see where to move.

Auditors must assess gates in cattle handling areas to ensure they swing freely, latch securely, and have no sharp protrusions which can injure cattle. Auditors must assess if there is non-slip ground in cattle handling areas, such as alleyways, crowd tub, single file alley/chute, and squeeze chute. Examples of non-slip ground would include, but are not limited to sand, straw, wood shavings, rubber mats, grooved concrete flooring. There must be no holes in the ground or items that can cause an animal to trip, such as rocks, ice, excessive rough frozen manure.

The auditor must observe the (un)loading area and ramps to ensure they are in good repair to reduce the risk of cattle injuries. It is recommended that (un)loading ramps have a level dock for animals to walk on before they go up or down the ramps. Stairs or cleating are recommended for ramps to prevent slippage. The ground must also be non-slip and there must be no sharp protrusions e.g. holes in ramp which could cause injuries to the cattle.

Auditors must look for what handling tools are used by the crew or are visible. Acceptable cattle handling tools are plastic rattle paddles, sticks with nylon flags on the end, plastic streamers or garbage bags attached to a stick,

stock stick, or vibrating prods that do not use electrical stimulus. Electric prods are only acceptable handling tools for cattle when other acceptable handling tools have failed and then only if they are used properly on the animal. Prods must not be used on the head, genitalia, anus, or repeatedly and unnecessarily on 1 animal, voltages must be 50 volts or less, and they must not be wired directly to house current. Electric prods must only be used when there is no other alternative to move the animal. Examples of unacceptable handling tools are broken off hockey sticks, pitch fork, shovel, chains, 2 x 4 board or any broken board, twisting the animals tail relentlessly or breaking the tail, metal pipes or rebar, hammer. Examples of inappropriate use of acceptable handling tools include using an electric prod on an animal where the animal has nowhere to go, and using an electric prod or hitting an animal with a whip or paddle with aggressive, repeated and unnecessary use.

If the auditor is assessing indoor feedlot pens, the air quality and ventilation must be maintained so that the ammonia levels are less than 25 ppm. If ammonia can be smelled, it is possible that ammonia levels are high. Ammonia levels above 25 ppm will cause humans to experience headaches, nausea, and intense burning of the eyes, nose, throat, and skin. If the auditor can smell ammonia or experiences any of the clinical signs above while doing the audit, then score the ammonia level as > 25 ppm. <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/air/fs/Ammonia.htm>. Another option is to use Hydrion Ammonia Test Paper to determine ammonia levels <https://www.microessentiallab.com/ProductInfo/F30-SPLTY-AMMONI-SRD.aspx>.

If the auditor is assessing cattle housed continuously in indoor pens without access to natural light, the auditor must assess whether supplementary lighting is present and adequate. If the auditor can see within the facility to assess the environment and see the animals to adequately assess their health condition, then the lighting is considered adequate.

Auditors must observe whether the feedlot has a calving and/or bloat chute where the animals can be properly assisted without causing them further injury. This requires a single alleyway/chute where the sides are wide enough that a bloated animal will not suffocate and die due to compression from the sides of the chute and alley leading into the chute. For calving heifers, this requires a chute where at least 1 of the sides can be opened so that if the heifer goes down during calving, she can be properly laid down on her side to finish calving without harming herself or the calf or the handler.

## Chapter 4. Cattle Handling

Auditors must ask what kind of training is provided on low stress cattle handling and see training records for staff that handle cattle. This training can be provided in-house or by outside consultants, such as veterinarians, at training workshops, through webinars or via training videos hosted by the industry. Low stress cattle handling includes calm, quiet handling techniques with minimal use of prods, using the animal's flight zone and natural herding behavior, and proper use of appropriate handling equipment e.g. chutes, handling aids.

Auditors must ask to see the feedlot's written protocol on how staff handle a nonambulatory animal and severely injured animal, such as a broken leg. The auditor must question feedlot staff to see if they know of and understand the protocol.

Auditors must assess at least 100 head of cattle or at least 1 hour while cattle are actively handled through the crowd tub, single alley leading to chute, and squeeze chute. All observations for falls, slips, prod use, vocalization, jumping and racing for the 100 head can be done simultaneously, since typically an auditor can observe cattle at the chute, snake and tub at the same time. If this is not practical, then the auditor must assess each area separately, with approximately one-third of the animals or time per area.

A fall is recorded if the body touches the floor. A slip is recorded if a knee or hock touches the ground. Score an animal as a vocalizer if it makes any audible vocalization during active handling in the chute due to restraint (do not include vocalizing due to implanting, tagging, injecting). Jumping is defined as cattle standing on only 2 feet

at any time; racing is defined as an exit speed equivalent to the animal running full speed down an alleyway, and these are scored only during active handling. Electric prod use is defined as touching an animal with a prod, whether or not there is a discharge of electrical current. Prod misuse is defined as prod use where the animal has nowhere to go or prod use without attempting to move using alternative means or repeated and excessive prod use. Miscaught is defined as the animal caught and restrained in the chute in any position other than with its head fully outside of the chute head bars and its body from the shoulders backwards within the chute, or if an animal behind the animal in the chute is caught in the tail/back gate and not released immediately.

Record in each box the letter for falls (F), slips (S), prod use (P), prod misuse (PM), miscaught (M), vocalization (V), jumping (J) and racing (R) when these activities are observed. An animal can only be scored once during this assessment i.e. it cannot be scored twice in the 100 head, and it can only be scored once for each action e.g. if it jumps twice, only score 1 jump. Count up the number of actions and divide by 100 to get the % of each activity. Record where these actions above occurred under "Comments" to help the feedlot make future improvements.

## Chapter 5. Nutrition and Feeding Program

The auditor must ask the feedlot staff who they get nutritional advice from and document the name of that person. Auditors must review the documented feeding program to see that it includes information on:

- how and when to transition cattle from high forage to high energy rations i.e. step up program
- what % forage/fiber e.g. silage, hay, straw is in the final ration e.g. ration sheet (Note: we are awaiting NRC recommendations for minimum fiber requirements in finishing feedlot rations)
- what is done during feed interruptions e.g. storm rations
- or other management strategies used to reduce digestive diseases e.g. bloat, grain overload.

Auditor must verify that there are feed records, such as daily feed call and delivery sheets, batch mix sheets, and veterinary feed prescriptions. These records can be either computerized and/or in hard copy.

Auditor must ask feedlot staff what they do for feed and water if they have a nonambulatory animal. If the auditor happens to observe a nonambulatory animal in the feedlot during the audit, the auditor must look for a water pail and feed by the animal to see if it is being fed and watered.

Auditors must ask how feeding staff at the feedlot are trained and review training records. This training can be provided in-house or by outside consultants e.g. nutritionists, and through various industry training workshops or webinars. The feedlot nutritionist should be involved in staff training and monitoring.

## Chapter 6. Environment

Mud (dirt and manure) in pens is an animal welfare issue because it increases the risk of lameness caused by footrot and hairy heel warts. As well, excessive muddy pens are difficult for cattle to walk through to get to feed and water, which reduces their performance. Additionally, if pens are very muddy, cattle do not have a dry place to lie down and rest. During the summer, pens full of manure generate enormous amounts of heat which increases the risk of heat stress in cattle. If pens are very muddy, pen riders will have a harder time identifying lame cattle and if it is hard to remove sick cattle from the pen, pen riders will leave the cattle behind, resulting in late pulls, which results in poor treatment responses, more chronically ill animals, and more deaths.

A muddy pen is defined as follows: the mud in the pen is more than 4 inches over the fetlock (mid-cannon bone) of cattle (approximately 12" height from the ground) in greater than one-third of the pen floor area (excluding measurement of the area for the feed bunk, water trough and bedding pack), then score the pen as muddy.

Appropriate stocking density is defined as follows: all animals in a pen are able to lie down at once. When assessing stocking density, it is important for the auditor to ensure that there is sufficient effective area for the animals to lie down. For example, if the pen has a water hole in the back two-thirds of the pen, the cattle cannot lie down in this area so the pen area that is available to lie down is reduced accordingly.

Auditors must randomly select pens throughout the yard to assess pen condition. See page 6 for pen sample size and pen selection. If the auditor notices any environmental or stocking issues with any pens in the yard, then these must be noted in the comment section in the audit report but these pens are not counted in the scoring system of pen conditions. Auditors must record the code for the condition of the pen beside the pen number on the audit form.

## Chapter 7. Animal Health Management

Auditors must ask feedlot staff if all feedlot cattle are identified with a CCIA RFID ear tag as per federal regulations and what they do if CCIA RFID ear tags are missing when cattle are being worked through the chute. As per CFIA regulations, animals that lose CCIA RFID ear tags must be tagged at the next point of arrival e.g. feedlot induction, and records must be kept of CCIA RFID ear tags and retagged animals <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/traceability/description/requirements-for-livestock-producers/eng/1398864061655/1398864128830>. Auditors must observe cattle in pens below that they are assessing to see if they can visually see CCIA ear tags in the ears of the cattle.

Auditors must ask to see documented feedlot processing and treatment protocols. These protocols must be developed by the feedlot veterinarian under a **valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR)** as per provincial and federal regulations to ensure animal health and care and ensure responsible and prudent use of all animal health products. The auditor must determine that a valid VCPR exists. By definition, a valid VCPR exists if:

1. the veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making clinical judgments regarding the health of the cattle and the need for medical treatment, and the client has agreed to follow the veterinarian's instructions;
2. the veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s). This means that the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of an examination of the animal(s) or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept;
3. the veterinarian is readily available for follow-up evaluation, or has arranged for emergency coverage, in the event of adverse reactions or failure of the treatment regimen.

Documents that can be used to verify that a valid VCPR exists include the feedlots documented processing and treatment protocols developed by the veterinarian (should include veterinary clinic name or logo if software system), veterinary feed prescriptions, veterinary visit reports or post-mortem sheets, and veterinary bills for services (not including regulatory export services since these do not require a valid VCPR).

The health protocols can be either in hard copy or in the feedlot's computerized animal health management system. A processing protocol is a document that describes what procedures are performed on arrival to cattle, including but not limited to vaccinations, dewormers, identification, aborting, castrating, dehorning, branding. A treatment protocol is a document describing how to treat cattle with specific feedlot diseases (see below). It must include the description of the disease, what drugs, if applicable, to use, including dose, route, withdrawal time, duration of treatment, frequency of treatment, or what medical procedures to perform e.g. surgery.

The auditor must review the treatment or other health related protocols to see if they include a statement regarding:

- How often cattle need to be monitored (daily requirement).



- Information on how to prevent, treat, control and manage feedlot diseases and conditions, including, but not limited to respiratory disease, lameness, nonambulatory cattle, injuries, bloats, grain overload, bullers, pregnant and calving heifers, heat stress, newborn calves, broken horns, castration infections, and prolapses.
- The treatment protocol must include what to do if an animal doesn't recover (relapses) after initial treatment, including how to manage chronically ill animals and railers. For bullers, the treatment protocol must state that they should be promptly removed from their pen to prevent serious injury or death. The management of chronically ill animals and railers can be documented in other health protocols, such as Chronic Pen Management Protocols or Salvage Slaughter Protocols.
- The treatment protocol must include pain control for procedures such as dehorning, castrating, prolapse, repair, and fistulas.
- For surgical procedures performed by the feedlot veterinarian, there must be pain control as well.
- The protocols must document the feedlot veterinarian's name (e.g. clinic name).

These health protocols provide evidence to the auditor of a valid VCPR which is critical to ensuring feedlot animal health and care.

Auditors need to verify that pen riders check the health of cattle in all pens daily. This verification could be confirmed by observing a documented pen rider daily riding or activity report or by reviewing the pen rider's job description and time card to verify this activity occurred.

The auditor must review vaccination, deworming, treatment and mortality records and veterinary prescriptions to verify they exist. Processing records must include animal or group identification, date, weight of animals (average group or individual weight), product(s) given, product dosages, and withdrawal periods. Treatment records must include animal identification, date treated, disease diagnosis, product(s) given, weight of animal, product dosages, and withdrawal periods.

The auditor must ask the feedlot staff who reviews processing, treatment, and mortality records; who monitors treatment and mortality rates, and what they do if there is an unusual disease occurrence or high incidence of disease (treatment and mortality), and what is done if someone fails to follow the veterinarian's health protocols and prescriptions. There must be good communication and a good working relationship between the feedlot and the feedlot veterinarian to deal with unusual diseases, high disease rates, and health protocol noncompliance issues. The feedlot veterinarian should be notified by the feedlot to investigate any unusual disease occurrences or high disease rates so that collectively they can take action to control and prevent disease outbreaks and reduce the incidence of disease. If there is a high incidence of digestive mortalities such as bloat and grain overload, the feedlot and feedlot veterinarian should work together with the feedlot nutritionist to investigate and reduce their occurrence.

If production enhancing technologies, such as implants or beta-agonists, are used in the feedlot, the feedlot must have documented protocols on how to use them and have product usage records e.g. processing protocol and records for implants, feed protocol and feeding records for beta-agonists, feed supplement tags, and veterinary feed prescriptions, to ensure that these technologies are being used responsibly as per label directions and/or veterinary prescriptions to reduce the risk of animal care concerns.

The auditor must review the documented castration protocol and ensure that it contains a statement on pain medication for animals when castrated and how to deal with bully nets (retained testicles), or evidence of a policy that bulls are returned to the order buyer or previous owner if that is the feedlot's policy on incoming bulls, or the feedlot has a policy to feed bulls. When an auditor is checking pens, there must be no intact bulls present unless the feedlot specifically feeds intact bulls or their castration protocol calls for delayed castration.

Auditors must ask feedlot staff to show them their castration equipment if the feedlot's policy is to castrate bulls e.g. bloodless castration (bander and bands), Newberry knife, scalpel blade, burdizzo, or emasculator and ensure that this equipment is clean and in good working condition.

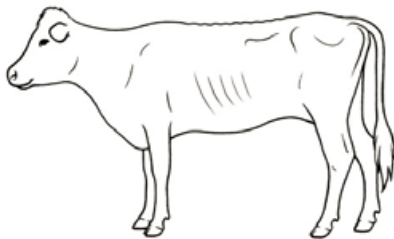
The auditor must review the feedlot's policy on dehorning and their documented dehorning protocol and ensure it contains a statement on the use of pain medication. As well, the auditor must observe the dehorning equipment e.g. wires and wire handlers, Keystone dehorner, gougers/scoops, saws, and see if they are clean and in good repair. When observing cattle in pens, there must be no cattle with bleeding broken horns.

If the feedlot brands cattle, the auditor must see the branding equipment and assess if it is in good condition and suitable for the type of branding done at the yard. If the branding iron is in good working condition, when the branding iron heats up, it must be red hot. The branding iron must not be bent. There must be a written branding protocol describing how to use the brand. This protocol must include the statement not to brand cattle with wet hides since this will cause scalding. (<http://www.lis-alberta.com/about/index.aspx>). If there are cattle observed that the feedlot branded, check some of the cattle to see if there are large scabs on the brand (brand left on too long) and whether you can read the brand (brand will be difficult to read if the animal was not branded properly).

### Condition and Health of Cattle in Feeding Pens

The auditor must assess cattle in at least 1 receiving, 1 shipping, 1 sick, 1 chronic, 1 rail pen, 1 buller pen, and at least 10% of the home feeding pens. If the sick, chronic, rail or buller pens are combined pens, then score at least 4 of these speciality pens. If the feedlot is small, then score a minimum of 5 feeding pens if available, ensuring that you include the speciality pens. If there are no cattle in the receiving, shipping or chronic pens, then record 0 head available to assess. Ask the feedlot staff how many feeding pens they have currently housing cattle. To randomly assess 10% of the feeding pens in the feedlot, refer to page 6 on pen selection. If the feedlot only has 10 feeding pens, then assess a minimum of 5 pens (every other pen). If there are 6 sick pens in the feedlot, to assess 2 pens, select every 3<sup>rd</sup> sick pen in the alley. The home feeding pens should be assessed after the pen riders have checked the pen for sick cattle that day. Record the number of cattle in each pen that have the following conditions:

**BCS  $\leq$  2** – animal's ribs and backbones can be easily seen (see below). The severely thin attributes of these animals compromise their mobility, cause severe weakness and lead to debilitation.



**BCS 2**  
 ENTIRE ANIMAL

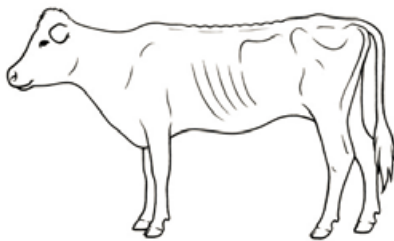
- Thin
- Upper skeleton prominent (vertebra, hips, pin bones)
- Muscle tissue evident, but not abundant
- Some tissue cover around the tail dock, over the hip bones and the flank

BACK BONE

- Individual vertebrae can be felt, but not as sharp
- Can't place fingers between vertebrae

SHORT RIBS

- Feel individual ribs, sharp rather than very sharp
- Identify individual ribs visually



**BCS 1**  
 ENTIRE ANIMAL

- Extremely thin
- No fat in brisket or tail docks
- All skeletal structures are visible
- No muscle tissue evident
- No external fat present
- Dull hair
- Survival during stress doubtful

BACK BONE

- Individual vertebrae well defined, sharp
- Can place fingers between each vertebrae

SHORT RIBS

- Visually prominent
- No fat present
- Very sharp to the touch

**Severe sickness** – severe dehydration (i.e. eyes noticeably sunk in eye sockets); severe respiratory distress i.e. open mouth breathing or grunting and making a lot of noise when breathing; severe congestive heart failure (large brisket, elbows sticking out, sway back, eyes bulging, pot belly, drooling or foaming at mouth); severe weakness and reluctance to move or cannot stand up long by itself; severe pain: animal grunting in pain, grinding its teeth +/- swishing its tail; rotten calf hanging out of heifer; severely bloated animal; severe cancer eye.

**Severe lameness** – animal is not bearing any weight on 1 leg or very limited weight on 1 leg, has great difficulty walking, with an extreme head bob and hip hike.

**Severe Injuries** – broken legs, bleeding gashes or deep visible cuts, rectal/vaginal/uterine prolapses, ripped off toe, large swellings on back and/or sides from riding/bulling.

**Nonambulatory** – animal cannot rise without assistance or remain standing without assistance and is reluctant to walk and exhibits halted movement.

**Extreme Tag** – animal is covered in solid mud/manure on all 4 legs, underbelly, and both sides of the body above mid-rib. Solid means no or minimal hair is showing underneath.

**Dead** – death is confirmed by testing corneal reflexes, looking for respiration, and other movement.

In the comment section, describe any unusual findings or reasons for finding these severely compromised and distressed animals in the pen and note if the animals are to be euthanized that day. If any animals are noted to be sick, injured, thin or otherwise compromised, the auditor must request that they be pulled and treated immediately as per the feedlot's treatment protocol. For those in severe distress, the auditor must request that they be euthanized immediately. If possible, determine how long any nonambulatory animals have been in this state, and compare this time period to the health protocol describing when these nonambulatory animals should be euthanized.

The auditor must ask how the feedlot animal health crew are trained for their job and who conducts the training. The feedlot veterinarian must be involved in training feedlot staff on how to prevent, diagnose, and properly treat sick and injured animals. Training records must be available to review.

## Chapter 8. Euthanasia and Salvage Slaughter

The auditor must ask the staff to provide a copy of their documented Euthanasia Protocol and Salvage Slaughter Protocol (see above). The auditor will review the euthanasia protocol and salvage slaughter protocol to verify that they include the following:

- Requirements to **euthanize animals in a timely manner**, which is defined as euthanizing without delay cattle that:
  - are severely injured or nonambulatory with the inability to recover or cannot be salvage slaughtered in a humane manner without delay e.g. broken leg, broken jaw... unless otherwise recommended by the feedlot veterinarian
  - are nonambulatory with a BCS < 2, unless otherwise recommended by the feedlot veterinarian
  - have severe debilitating pain and distress from chronic disease following all treatments and are unlikely to recover unless otherwise recommended by the feedlot veterinarian e.g. necrotic club foot with open infected wound, chronic bovine respiratory disease that is mouth breathing and emaciated

- show continuous weight loss and emaciation (BCS < 2) following all treatments as per the feedlot veterinarian's treatment protocol
- have no prospect for improvement or are not responding to care and treatment after 2 days of intensive care unless otherwise recommended by the feedlot veterinarian
- Requirement that nonambulatory cattle are not dragged or forced to move before euthanasia or emergency slaughter.
- Information on correct placement and direction of gun-shot or captive bolt
- Information on how to confirm insensibility and death, including lack of corneal reflex (animal doesn't blink), widely dilated pupils, lack of respiration and heartbeat, animal unable to raise head)
- Information on what to do if the 1<sup>st</sup> shot doesn't render the animal insensible
- Requirement not to move cattle until confirmed dead

**Failure to euthanize a distressed animal as described above in a timely manner is considered an egregious act of neglect and is an area of automatic audit failure.**

The auditor must ask to see the euthanasia equipment. Acceptable euthanasia equipment is a 22 magnum gun, shotgun, high-powered rifle, or penetrating captive bolt gun. The auditor must ask to see the gun cleaning kit. The feedlot must have a backup method for euthanasia if the first gun or captive bolt is not operational e.g. second gun or captive bolt gun readily available or veterinarian with euthanasia drugs readily available. The auditor must ask to see the feedlot's training records on euthanasia and emergency slaughter (if applicable).

### **Effective euthanasia or stunning**

If, during an audit, there are any animals to be euthanized or stunned for emergency slaughter, the auditor must assess the effectiveness of the euthanasia and stunning procedure. Effective euthanasia occurs when an animal is rendered dead immediately after the 1st shot; else, a second shot must be delivered immediately to render the animal dead. Ineffective euthanasia occurs when an animal is not rendered dead after 3 shots with or without a secondary kill step or administration of euthanasia drugs by a licensed veterinarian. **Ineffective euthanasia is an area for automatic audit failure.** Effective stunning for salvage slaughter occurs when an animal is rendered insensible by gun shot or captive bolt and then rendered dead with a secondary kill step conducted by a licensed veterinarian or mobile butcher, such as jugular/carotid exsanguination. Ineffective stunning occurs when an animal is not rendered insensible after gunshot and dead after the secondary kill step. Record X if the animal was euthanized/stunned correctly, G = stunning or euthanasia failed due to apparent lack of maintenance of equipment e.g. gun has never been cleaned, gun fell apart while using. A = missed due to poor aim due to improper placement on skull.

## **Chapter 9. Care of Other Working Feedlot Animals**

**Refer to the Equine Code of Practice** [http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/equine\\_code\\_of\\_practice.pdf](http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/equine_code_of_practice.pdf)

This is a non-cattle welfare section which reflects the culture of the feedlot operation in terms of welfare of all animals in the yard. Auditors must ask feedlot staff if they use horses or dogs to move and/or check cattle daily in the yard. If not, then record that there are no horses or dogs used in the feedlot and skip the rest of this section. If horses or dogs are used in the feedlot to move and check cattle, then complete this section.

The auditor must assess the facilities that the feedlot horses or dogs are housed to determine if there is adequate shelter (natural e.g. trees or man-made e.g. barn, windbreak fence) from inclement weather. If blankets are used for horses, the condition of the horse beneath the blankets must be examined at least weekly by responsible feedlot staff.

The auditor must assess the health condition of at least 50% of the working horses or dogs in the yard if they are easily accessible. If there are less than 5 horses or dogs, then assess all horses and dogs. Evaluate the body condition score of the animal, whether it is lame, and look for the presence of open untreated wounds.

## Chapter 10. Egregious Acts of Neglect and Wilful Acts of Abuse

**Any egregious acts of neglect or wilful acts of abuse of any animals on the feedlot will result in automatic failure of the feedlot animal care audit.** If any egregious acts of neglect or wilful acts of abuse are noted at any time during an audit, they must be assessed and scored. If a wilful act of neglect or abuse is witnessed by the auditor, they must immediately intervene to stop the situation if reasonably and safely possible. The incident must be reported to the feedlot guide, feedlot owner and manager. Although this will result in automatic failure, the audit should be completed during the on-farm visit to gather the rest of the data for the feedlot site.

**Egregious acts of neglect** include but are not limited to: **1) failing to euthanize a distressed animal in a timely manner as per veterinary health and euthanasia protocols**, 2) failing to provide daily feed to cattle, 3) failing to assist a known calving heifer in a timely manner, 4) failing to assist a newborn calf in distress, and 5) failing to immediately assist and provide medical care to a nonambulatory animal, 6) failing to provide *ad libitum* water to cattle in feeding pens, 7) failing to provide water to nonambulatory animals, 8) failing to euthanize a chronically diseased or injured animal with a BCS < 2 as per veterinary health and euthanasia protocols.

**Wilful acts of abuse** include, but are not limited to: 1) dragging of conscious animals by any part of their body except in the rare case where a nonambulatory animal must be moved from a life threatening situation, 2) deliberate application of prods to sensitive parts of the animal such as the eyes, ears, nose, anus, vulva, udder, or testicles, 3) deliberate slamming of gates on cattle unless for human safety, 4) malicious hitting/beatings of an animal which includes forcefully striking an animal with a closed fist, foot, handling equipment e.g. sorting paddle or other hard/solid objects that can cause pain, bruising or injury, 5) deliberate driving of ambulatory cattle on top of one another either manually or with direct contact with motorized equipment, 6) tail docking unless on the advice of a licensed veterinarian, 7) abdominal surgery e.g. rumen fistula, C section, spaying, conducted by an unqualified untrained person without anesthetic and analgesia, 8) rectal/vaginal/uterine prolapse replacements with suture or amputations without anesthetic or analgesia, 9) euthanasia by means other than approved guns or euthanasia drugs administered by a licensed veterinarian, 10) live animal on the dead stock pile, 11) unchecked dog biting cattle in chute when cattle have nowhere to go, 12) live animal frozen to the ground, 13) branding wet cattle, 14) loading and shipping cattle unfit for transport as per CFIA Transport Regulations.

## Feedlot Final Score Sheet

The auditor must summarize the points for each section of the feedlot animal care assessment. Under the Summary of Nonconformities, the auditor must record the specific program requirements that require corrective actions. It is up to the feedlot's management to determine what the corrective actions will be. Within the year, the specific timeframe for various areas needing improvement should be based on the potential risk to animal welfare, with those areas posing a more immediate risk to animal welfare being addressed sooner. See page 7 for timing to complete corrective actions for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> party audits. At the end of the audit, the auditor should provide a copy of the feedlot audit report to the feedlot and audit client. For the auditor, this is the end of the audit. For the feedlot, this is the beginning of the implementation of any corrective actions noted.

## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency (ALMA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Growing Forward 2) for funding the development of the Feedlot Animal Care Assessment. We would also like to thank the NCFA Animal Care Advisory Committee members below for their time. Feedback from our retail customers was very much appreciated. All feedlots that participated in the pilot studies are acknowledged for their input and time. As well, Jackie Wepruk from NFACC and Mike Simpson from PAACO are thanked for their input.

**National Cattle Feeders Advisory Committee Members:** Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed (Project Manager), Dr. Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein (AAFC, co-developer), Dr. Lilly Edwards-Callaway (JBS); Dr. Mike Siemens (Cargill); Lora Wright (Tyson Foods); Ken Clark (Overwaita Food Group); Dr. Carol Morgan and Geoff Urton (SPCA), Dr. Sherry Hannon (FHMS), Dr. Kent Fenton (FHMS), Jennifer Woods (PAACO), Ryder Lee (CCA), Mike Slomp (AMP), John Schooten (NCFA, ACFA), Dr. Andre Cecyre (PBQ), Nathalie Cote (PBQ), Bryan Walton (NCFA, ACFA), Casey Vanderploeg (NCFA, ACFA).

## References

1. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle and its Scientific Review.  
<http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle>
2. Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide: A Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare. AMI Foundation.
3. CFIA Livestock Transportation: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/humane-transport/transport-requirements/eng/1363748532198/1363748620219>
4. Transportation Code of Practice  
<http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/Transportation%20Code%20of%20Practice.pdf>
5. Equine Code of Practice [http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/equine\\_code\\_of\\_practice.pdf](http://www.nfacc.ca/pdfs/codes/equine_code_of_practice.pdf)
6. Alberta Brands (LIS) [http://www.lis-alberta.com/brands/applying\\_main.aspx](http://www.lis-alberta.com/brands/applying_main.aspx)
7. González, L.A., K. S. Schwartzkopf-Genswein, M. Bryan, R. Silasi and F. Brown. 2012. Relationship between transport conditions and welfare outcomes during commercial long haul transport of cattle in North America. J. Anim. Sci. 90: 3640-3651.
8. National Cattlemen's Association Beef Quality Assurance Program <http://www.bqa.org/>.
9. Canadian Livestock Transport Program <http://www.livestocktransport.ca/en/>.
10. CFIA Livestock Identification Regulations <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/traceability/description/requirements-for-livestock-producers/eng/1398864061655/1398864128830>

# **Appendix**

## **Canadian Feedlot Animal Care Assessment Forms**

### **Common Feedlot Audit Tool**



# Canadian Feedlot Animal Care Assessment

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Feedlot Legal Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Feedlot Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Feedlot Legal Land Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Premise ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Feedlot Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_ Feedlot Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Feedlot Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

One-Time Capacity of Feedlot (# head): \_\_\_\_\_ Number Feeding Pens: \_\_\_\_\_

# sick (hospital) pens: \_\_\_\_\_ # chronic pens: \_\_\_\_\_ # buller pens: \_\_\_\_\_ # rail pens: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Cattle on Feed (# head): \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Feedlot:  backgrounding  finishing

Type of Cattle on feed:  calves  yearlings  cows  bulls  beef  Holstein

Type of Feedlot:  outdoor pens  indoor barns  other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Recent Weather (temperature, precipitation): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Assessor: \_\_\_\_\_ Company of Assessor: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Assessment:  internal (1<sup>st</sup> party or self)  2<sup>nd</sup> party  3<sup>rd</sup> party

describe \_\_\_\_\_

Feedlot staff present during assessment: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Feedlot agreed to participate in Audit:  yes  no

(Comments):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## 1. Commitment to Animal Care

Feedlot has a copy or access to the most recent version of the Canadian Beef Code of Practice	2/0
Feedlot has a written animal care policy, including transportation	2/0
Feedlot has conducted a self-assessment of its own feedlot animal care management system within the last year and has supporting documentation	2/0
Feedlot has a written animal care emergency response plan, including for fed animals in transit	2/0

Points \_\_\_\_/8

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Feedlot Transportation Policy and Cattle Receiving/Shipping Preparedness

Shipping and receiving schedules are communicated between feedlot management and staff before the scheduled cattle are to arrive or be loaded	2/0
Feedlot has a written protocol for handling incoming sick, injured, fatigued or immobile cattle on truck. Protocol must contain a statement that nonambulatory cattle must not be dragged from the vehicle while conscious but must be euthanized humanely and confirmed dead on truck unless recovery is likely and animal can walk off the truck after a short period of rest.	2/0
Feedlot has extreme temperature management strategies for cattle in receiving/shipping pens.	5/0
Staff or owners are available for receiving/shipping cattle or there are posted instructions with phone numbers	2/0
Trailers are bedded as required.	5/0

Points \_\_\_\_/16

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Transporter Assessment

not assessed

For loading and unloading, score at least 1 truck received and loaded. If more than 4 trucks are loaded or unloaded during the assessment, then score at least 4 trucks.

Trailer :	1	2	3	4
Trucking company				
Truck # or Trucker Name				
Type of trailer (P = pot, S = straight, F = farm)				
Cattle type (C = calves; Y = yearlings; F = fed; NF = non-fed)				
Truck loading/unloading (L = loading, UL = unloading)				
Driver is currently CLT certified	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0

Total Score: # \_\_\_\_ %  
Points: 5/0

Target: ≥75%

## Timeliness of Unloading

not assessed

### Time to unload newly arrived cattle

Start at the time the truck arrives on the yard until the first animal steps off the trailer

Trailer	1	2	3	4
Start Time				
End Time				
Points				

- ≤ 60 minutes of arrival = 4 points
- 61-90 minutes = 3 out of 4 points
- 91- 120 minutes = 2 out of 4 points
- ≥ 120 with reason = 1 out of 4 points
- ≥ 120 without reason = 0 out of 4 points

Total Score: # \_\_\_\_\_ %

Target: ≥ 90%

Points: 5/0

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Timeliness of Loading

not assessed

Time from when first animal steps on truck until loaded trailer leaves the yard

Trailer	1	2	3	4
Start Time				
End Time				
Points				

Trailer Departure:

- ≤ 60 minutes of arrival = 4 points
- 61-90 minutes = 3 out of 4 points
- 91- 120 minutes = 2 out of 4 points
- ≥ 120 with reason = 1 out of 4 points
- ≥ 120 without reason = 0 out of 4 points

Total Score: # \_\_\_\_\_ %

Target: > 90%

Points: 5/0

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Set-up/Loading/Unloading of Trailer

Trailer	1	2	3	4	Total # Cattle: _____
# head on truck					
Trailer loaded at proper density	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	
Incompatible animals segregated as required	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	
Trailer properly aligned with loading/unloading dock	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	
Nonslip flooring in trailer and on dock ground	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	
Bedding used when required	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	
Cattle can stand in normal posture without contact with roof or upper deck of truck	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	
<b>Sum</b>					

Total Score: # \_\_\_\_\_ %

Target: > 80%

Points: 5/0

### Cattle Handling in Loading/Unloading Area:

 loading

 unloading

Trailer:	1	2	3	4	Total	%
# animals prodded/load						
# falls per load						
Appropriate use of handling tools	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0		

#### Targets:

Prod Use: <25%

Points: 10/0

Falls: ≤1%

Points: 10/0

Appropriate Use of Handling Tools: 100%

Points: 5/0

**Comments:** (describe any inappropriate handling tools or misuse of handling tools such as excessive prod use through sides of trailer, reasons for prod use and falls)

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### Cattle Condition at Loading†

 not assessed

Trailer:	1	2	3	4
Anticipated transport time on truck (hours)				
# non-ambulatory cattle*				
# severe lameness/injury (unable to use a foot to walk)*				
# calving or # uterine prolapse*				
# emaciated (BSC < 2) and/or severely dehydrated*				
# nervous disease*				
# heat-stressed cattle (severe panting)				
# severe congestive heart failure				
# severe respiratory distress (laboured mouth-breathing)				
# waterbelly				
# poor udder condition				
# Head				

\*unfit for transport as per CFIA Transport Regulations

Total # \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_ compromised

†see introduction for description of conditions

Target: 0%

Points: 10/0

**Loading of an unfit animal as per CFIA Regulations will result in automatic failure of the audit and is listed under the section of Wilful Acts of Abuse.**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Cattle Condition at Unloading:

 not assessed

Trailer:	1	2	3	4
Transport time (hours)				

# non-ambulatory cattle*				
# severe lameness/injury (unable to walk on a foot)*				
# calving or # uterine prolapse*				
# emaciated (BSC<2) and/or severely dehydrated*				
# nervous disease*				
# heat-stressed cattle				
# severe congestive heart failure				
# severe respiratory distress (laboured mouth-breathing)				
# waterbelly				
# poor udder condition				
# dead animals				
<b># Head</b>				

\*unfit for transport as per CFIA Transport Regulations

tsee introduction for description of conditions

**Total: # \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_ compromised**

**Targets: ≤ 3%**

**Points: 10/0**

Cattle arriving unfit will be addressed by feedlot management with the trucker and order buyer but their occurrence is not grounds for failure of this audit since these animals may arrive in this condition by no fault of the feedlot owner.

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Feedlot Facilities

Feedlot cattle have access to areas, either natural or man-made, that provide relief from inclement weather that is likely to create a serious risk to cattle welfare, including windbreak fences and dry bedding packs	<b>5/0</b>
Feedlot has equipment and facilities to safely handle, restrain, treat, segregate, (un)load cattle, including calving heifers/cows and bloats	<b>5/0</b>
Adequate lighting is provided in cattle (un)loading and handling areas.	<b>5/0</b>
Gates in cattle (un)loading and handling areas swing freely, latch securely, and have no sharp protrusions	<b>5/0</b>
(Un)loading area and ramps are in good repair and free of obstructions.	<b>5/0</b>
For indoor feedlot pens, indoor air quality and ventilation are maintained and there are no indicators that ammonia levels are > 25 ppm (can you smell it?)	<b>5/0/NA</b>
For indoor feedlot pens, supplementary light is provided to cattle that do not have access to natural light to facilitate normal behavior (can you see in barn?)	<b>5/0/NA</b>
Nursing heifers/cows and newborn calves are provided with an environment that is safe and clean for calving and promotes calf survival	<b>5/0</b>
Feedlot has a documented pen maintenance plan or records to show how manure/mud buildup in pens is minimized	<b>2/0</b>

**Comments:**

**Points \_\_\_\_\_/32 outdoor/42 indoor**

### 3. Cattle Handling Protocols and Training

Feedlot staff is trained on low stress cattle handling techniques	<b>5/0</b>
Feedlot has training records on low stress cattle handling	<b>2/0</b>

Feedlot has a written protocol which is well understood by staff on how to promptly and properly handle non-ambulatory cattle	2/0
Feedlot has a written protocol about how to promptly and properly handle seriously injured cattle e.g. broken leg	2/0

Points \_\_\_/11

Comments:

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# Cattle Handling

crowd tub     snake     chute

Count at least 100 head or at least 1 hour –  
SCORE DURING ACTIVE HANDLING

Animal can only be scored once per  
category.

Assessment codes – mark 1 in boxes to  
right if condition found

<b>Miscaught (M)</b>	caught/restrained with head NOT fully outside of chute head bars OR body from the shoulders backwards NOT within chute OR next animal caught in tail/back gate and not released immediately			
	<b>Vocalizer (V)</b>	any audible vocalization (moo, bellow) during chute handling (not related to a processing activity)		
<b>Prod (P)</b>	touching an animal with a prod (whether or not discharge of electrical current)			
<b>Prod Misuse (PM):</b>	prod use with nowhere to go OR prod use without attempting to move using alternative means OR repeated and excessive prod use			
	<b>Falls (F)</b>	body touches the floor		
	<b>Slips (S)</b>	knee or hock touches the ground		
<b>Jumps (J)</b>	standing on only 2 feet at any time			
<b>Race (R)</b>	exit speed equivalent to the animal running full speed down an alleyway			
	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Miscaught (M)</b>			0%	10/0
<b>Vocalizer (V)</b>			≤15%	10/0
<b>Prod (P)</b>			≤10%	10/0
<b>Prod Misuse (PM):</b>			0%	10/0
<b>Falls (F)</b>			≤1%	10/0
<b>Slips (S)</b>			≤5%	10/0
<b>Jumps (J)</b>			≤5%	10/0
<b>Race (R)</b>			≤5%	10/0
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>/80</b>			

**Comments:** Record where falls/slips occur; reason for vocalizing e.g. hydraulic pressure too high in chute, miscaught in chute, sharp edges in facility; reason for jumping/racing e.g. prod use, belly bar in chute, dog biting animal, inappropriate handling equipment or inappropriate use of appropriate handling tools; reasons for electric prod misuse, and patterns of repetitive poor cattle handling behavior.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

V	M	V	P	PM	F	S	J	R	V	M	V	P	PM	F	S	J	R
1									51								
2									52								
3									53								
4									54								
5									55								
6									56								
7									57								
8									58								
9									59								
10									60								
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49									99								
50									100								
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#### 4. Nutrition and Feed Management Program

Feedlot has a documented feeding program that includes:	
- how to gradually transition cattle from high-forage to high-energy rations to avoid abrupt dietary changes and reduce the risk of nutrition-induced disorders, such as grain overload and bloat	2/0
- how to ensure sufficient forage/fiber in high-energy rations to avoid digestive disorders, such as grain overload and bloats (awaiting NRC minimum limit for sufficient forage/fiber)	2/0
- how to adjust rations when feed intake is disrupted by events such as storms, power outages, mill or truck breakdowns, or sudden major ingredient changes	2/0
- how to monitor cattle behaviour, performance, body condition score, and health; adjusting rations accordingly	2/0
- how to assess water quality and quantity and adjust as needed	2/0
Feedlot works with a nutritionist and/or veterinarian to ensure rations meet the nutritional requirements of all cattle, including requirements for feeding during inclement weather	10/0
Feedlot has supporting feed records, such as feed mix/call/delivery sheets, vet feed prescriptions	2/0
Feedlot monitors feed bunks daily to assess prior consumption and adjust feeding accordingly, taking into account weather changes (i.e. feedbunk call and delivery sheets)	5/0
Feedlot has a training program for feed staff	5/0
Feedlot has training records for feed staff	2/0
Feedlot takes steps to prevent exposure to toxins and feed with adverse physical qualities that limit intake or cause injury e.g. inspects incoming feeds, tests feed	2/0
Non-ambulatory cattle are provided with readily accessible and sufficient feed and water to meet their physiological needs	10/0 /NO

NO = not observed

Points \_\_\_\_ 36/46

Comments:

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#### 5. Animal Health Management

Feedlot cattle are identified with a CCIA/ATQ RFID ear tag and missing tags are replaced (program not welfare requirement)	10/0
Feedlot has a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with a licensed provincial practitioner to ensure animal health and care and responsible animal health product use	10/0
Feedlot has documented processing and treatment protocols developed by their veterinarian	2/0
Feedlot has veterinary health protocols for procedures such as rectal, vaginal and uterine prolapse repairs, fistulas, and waterbelly surgeries, unless conducted by their veterinarian	2/0
Feedlot cattle are observed daily for health, sickness, and injuries by trained competent staff	10/0
Feedlot has individual animal or group vaccination and deworming records	2/0
Feedlot has individual animal treatment, mortality records, and veterinary prescriptions	2/0
Feedlot management and/or veterinarian monitor disease rates and the veterinarian is notified to investigate any unusual or high disease occurrences (treatment, death); advising the producer how to reduce losses by examining animals and reviewing existing biosecurity, health (treatment, mortality) and feeding protocols and records to prevent reoccurrences	10/0
If performance enhancing technologies (e.g. implants, beta-agonists) are used, they are used as per label directions and/or veterinary prescriptions.	10/0/NA

Feedlot has a documented castration protocol, including for retained testicles (belly nuts), developed by their veterinarian that includes use of pain control or a policy to return bulls to seller or a policy to feed intact bulls	<b>2/0</b>
Feedlot used pain control for castrating bulls older than 9 months of age. As of 2018, pain control will be used for castrating bulls older than 6 months of age. (Review treatment records to verify)	<b>10/0</b>
Feedlot has proper well maintained equipment for castrating if castrating is performed at the feedlot	<b>5/0/NA</b>
Feedlot has a documented dehorning protocol developed by their veterinarian that includes use of pain control	<b>2/0</b>
Feedlot has proper well maintained equipment for dehorning and tipping cattle (unless all cattle are polled)	<b>5/0/NA</b>
Feedlot used pain control when dehorning cattle in consultation with their veterinarian (review treatment records to verify)	<b>10/0</b>
Feedlot has proper well maintained equipment for branding cattle (if brand cattle)	<b>5/0/NA</b>
Feedlot has an animal health training program for staff developed and implemented by their veterinarian	<b>5/0</b>
Feedlot has animal health training records	<b>2/0</b>
Treatment protocol and/or related animal health protocols include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- requirement to monitor cattle on an ongoing basis and provide prompt treatment or care</li> <li>- how to prevent, treat, control, and manage common disease and health problems in feedlot cattle, including but not limited to respiratory disease, lameness including non-ambulatory cattle, injuries, bloats, grain overloads, bullers, pregnant and calving heifers, heat stress, newborn calves, broken horns, castration infections, prolapses</li> <li>- what to do if an animal doesn't respond to initial treatment, including when to euthanize or cull animals, and how to manage chronically ill or injured animals and railers</li> </ul>	<b>2/0</b>  <b>2/0</b>  <b>2/0</b>

**Points \_\_\_\_\_/85-110**

**Comments:**

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## Feedlot Pen Condition and Condition of Animals

Score at least 10% of the home feeding pens, 1 receiving pen, 1 shipping pen, 1 or 2 sick pens, 1 chronic pen, and 1 rail pen with cattle. If there are < 5 pens in the feedlot, assess all pens. Select pens as per Introduction, page 6. Assess cattle after the pen-riders have checked, pulled and treated sick cattle for the day. For sick and chronic pens, only score those that are very sick and in obvious distress e.g. mouth breathing because of severe or chronic respiratory disease, severe congestive heart failure, severely dehydrated, nonambulatory, severely lame and unable to rise unassisted, large open draining infected wounds, emaciated (BCS<2) (see page 18 for definitions). Describe in Comments.

Type	Pen #	# head	DOF	Over Stocked	No Feed	Poor Feed	No Water	Poor Water	Mud	Number of Cattle Observed with Condition							
										BCS<2	Sick	Injured	Lame	Down	Tag	Dead	Comments
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Feeding				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Receiving				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Shipping				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
<b>Total #</b>																	
Sick				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Sick				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Chronic				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
Rail				1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0								
<b>Total #</b>																	

\*in small feedlots, the sick, chronic and rail pens may be combined so score at least 4 of these pens. Receive points if condition met e.g. Overstocked get 1 point for that pen

Category	Description
Overstocked (OS)	Insufficient space for all cattle to adopt normal resting postures at the same time (usable space)
Feed	No access to feed or poor quality feed (i.e. frozen, moldy, foreign material (rocks, manure), bunk full of snow)
Water	No access to water or poor quality water (i.e. water frozen, hot, sludgy)
Mud (M)	mud > 4" over the fetlock/mid-cannon bone/~12" above ground) for > 1/3 of pen floor (excluding area for feed bunk, water trough and bedding pack)

#### 4. FACILITY AND FEEDING TARGETS:

**Overstocked:** ≤ 10%

**No Feed:** 0% (feed must have been provided within 24 hour period)

**Poor Quality Feed:** ≤ 10%

**No Water:** 0% (water must have been provided in feeding pens at all times)

**Poor Quality Water:** ≤ 0%

**Muddy Pens:** <30%

Points if meet target

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Points: 5/0

Points: 10/0

Points: 5/0

Points: 5/0

**Comments:** (Describe reasons feed may be absent in bunk, any reasons why cattle may not be able to reach feed, as well as bunk conditions. Feed must have been provided within a 24 hour period or this is an egregious act of neglect. Water must be provided at all times in feeding pens; else, this is an egregious act of neglect. Additionally, if any nonambulatory animals are noted, they must be provided with water. The only exception to providing water at all times is when cattle are temporarily housed in holding pens for a few hours e.g. reimplanting or weight sorting cattle. Describe any special circumstances to explain muddy pen conditions or mud-covered cattle e.g. weather conditions, and if pen conditions make it difficult for cattle to access feed and water or find a dry resting area. Note any efforts underway to clean pens. Describe any reasons cattle may have difficulty reaching feed or water.)

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#### 5. HEALTH CONDITION OF ANIMALS IN PENS

##### HEALTH TARGETS IN FEEDING PENS (HOME, RECEIVING, SHIPPING):

**BCS <2:** 0%

**Sick:** ≤ 1%

**Injured:** ≤ 1%

**Lame:** 1%

**Down (nonambulatory):** 0%

**Tag (Extreme):** ≤ 10%

**Dead:** 0

Points if meet target

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Point: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Total: \_\_\_\_/70

##### HEALTH TARGETS IN SICK, CHRONIC, AND RAIL PENS:

**BCS <2:** 0%

**Severe Sickness:** ≤ 10%

**Severe Injuries:** ≤ 10%

**Severe Lameness:** ≤ 10%

**Down (nonambulatory):** ≤ 1%

**Tag (Extreme):** ≤10%

**Dead:** 0%

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Point: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Points: 10/0

Total: \_\_\_\_/70

**Comments:** describe how long animals have been non-ambulatory or any extenuating circumstances to explain what you observe--do they have an action plan to deal with the adverse situation, including timeframe for resolution. Are they following the veterinarian's health protocols on how to treat and manage these animals. If the auditor notices any severely compromised animals above, the auditor must request the feedlot to deal with these immediately).

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## 6. On-Farm Humane Stunning and Euthanasia of Feedlot Cattle

Feedlot has a documented Euthanasia Protocol and Emergency Slaughter/Salvage Slaughter Protocol (if applicable). <b>The protocol includes requirements to euthanize or cull for salvage slaughter without delay, cattle that:</b>	
- are unlikely to recover	2/0
- fail to respond to treatment and convalescent protocols	2/0
- have chronic, severe, or debilitating pain and distress	2/0
- are unable to consume feed and water	2/0
- show continuous weight loss or emaciation	2/0
- are non-ambulatory and nonresponsive for more than 24 hours unless otherwise ordered treatment by feedlot vet	2/0
Feedlot's documented Euthanasia Protocol and Emergency Slaughter/Salvage Slaughter Protocol (if applicable) include:	
- requirement that non-ambulatory cattle are not dragged (i.e. wilful act of abuse) or forced to move prior to stunning for emergency slaughter or euthanasia	2/0
- information on the correct placement and direction of a gun-shot or captive bolt	2/0
- information on how to confirm insensibility and death	2/0
- information on what to do if the first attempt doesn't render the animal insensible	2/0
- requirement not to move or leave the animal until confirmed dead	2/0
Feedlot has employee training records on euthanasia and emergency slaughter of feedlot cattle	2/0
Feedlot has acceptable stunning and euthanasia equipment for feedlot cattle. (Note: acceptable stunning and euthanasia equipment for feedlot cattle include a 22 magnum or larger caliber rifle, shotgun or penetrating captive bolt gun with secondary kill step)	10/0
Feedlot has ample ammunition (properly stored) to euthanize or stun for emergency slaughter feedlot cattle at all times	10/0
Feedlot has a back-up method on premises or readily available if gun doesn't work or breaks e.g. second gun	10/0
Feedlot has a cleaning kit to maintain the stunning and euthanasia equipment	5/0

Points \_\_\_\_\_/59

### Comments:

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### Effective Stunning and Euthanasia

Cattle Available to Assess: Y/N

During an on-site assessment, if there are any animals being salvage slaughtered or euthanized, score the effectiveness of the stunning or euthanasia. When evaluating the effectiveness of stunning or euthanasia, the auditor monitors whether or not an animal is rendered insensible and dead with a single shot. If an animal is not rendered insensible and dead immediately, then a second and third shot, if required, must be delivered immediately (effective stunning or euthanasia). **If more than 3 shots are required with or without a secondary kill step to render the animal dead, then euthanasia or stunning is considered ineffective and is an area for audit failure.** Alternate method of euthanasia is administration of euthanasia drugs by a licensed veterinarian to render the animal dead.

Cattle available to assess?	Y/N	1	2	3	4	5
Effective stunning or euthanasia		1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0	1/0

<b>Comments on euthanasia or stunning (X/G/A)</b>						
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1 = condition met, effective stunning or euthanasia

X = stunned or euthanized correctly

G = stunning or euthanasia failed due to apparent lack of maintenance of equipment

A = missed stunning/euthanasia due to poor aim

**Effective Euthanasia/Stunning: Total: # \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_**

**Target: ≥ 95%**

**Pass/Fail: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments:**

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## 7. Care of Other Working Animals in the Feedlot

\*\*\* non-cattle welfare section

Feedlot uses horses to monitor or move cattle	Y/N
Feedlot uses dogs to monitor or move cattle	Y/N

**Score below if feedlot uses working horses and/or dogs:**

Feedlot horses/dogs are provided with feed and water daily (within 24 hour period)	<b>10/0</b>
Feedlot horses/dogs are provided with shelter to protect them from extreme inclement weather that would affect their welfare	<b>5/0</b>
Feedlot horses/dogs are in good body condition (BCS > 2), appear healthy and sound (i.e. no lameness), and have no open untreated wounds	<b>10/0</b>

**Points \_\_\_\_\_/25/NA**

**Points not included in cattle welfare audit score**

**Comments:**

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## Egregious Acts of Neglect or Wilful Acts of Abuse:

**ANY EGREGIOUS ACT OF NEGLIGENCE OR WILFUL ACT OF ABUSE THAT IS OBSERVED IN THE FEEDLOT, EITHER DURING TRANSPORT OR WHILE THE ANIMAL IS AT THE FEEDLOT, ARE GROUNDS FOR AUTOMATIC AUDIT FAILURE.**

**Egregious acts of neglect** include but are not limited to:

- **failing to euthanize a distressed animal in a timely manner as per veterinary health and euthanasia protocols,**
- failing to euthanize a chronically diseased or injured animal with a BCS < 2 as per veterinary health and euthanasia protocols,
- failing to provide daily feed to cattle within a 24 hour period,
- failing to provide *ad libitum* water to cattle in feeding pens,
- failing to provide water to nonambulatory animals,
- failing to assist a known calving heifer in a timely manner,
- failing to assist a newborn calf in distress, and
- failing to immediately assist and provide medical care to a nonambulatory animal.

**Wilful acts of abuse** include, but are not limited to:

- dragging of conscious animals by any part of their body except in the rare case where a non-ambulatory animal must be moved from a life threatening situation,
- deliberate application of prods to sensitive parts of the animal such as the eyes, ears, nose, anus, vulva, udder, or testicles,
- deliberate slamming of gates on cattle unless for human safety,
- malicious hitting/beating of an animal which includes forcefully striking an animal with a closed fist, foot, handling equipment e.g. sorting paddle or other hard/solid objects that can cause pain, bruising or injury,
- deliberate driving of ambulatory cattle on top of one another either manually or with direct contact with motorized equipment,
- tail docking unless on the advice of a licensed veterinarian,
- abdominal surgery e.g. rumen fistula, C section, spaying, conducted by an unqualified untrained person without anesthetic and analgesia,
- rectal/vaginal/uterine prolapse replacements with suture or amputations without anesthetic or analgesia,
- euthanasia by means other than approved guns or euthanasia drugs administered by a licensed veterinarian,
- live animal on the dead stock pile,
- unchecked dog biting cattle in chute with cattle having nowhere to go,
- live animal frozen to the ground,
- branding wet cattle
- loading cattle unfit for transport as per CFIA Transport Regulations

**Observed: YES/NO**

**YES = AUTOMATIC AUDIT FAILURE**

**Comments on any egregious acts of neglect or wilful acts of abuse observed (if any)**

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## Feedlot's Final Score of their Animal Care Assessment Program

Criteria	Points Available	Points Achieved	Percentage Score
Feedlot participation in animal care assessment	-	<b>PASS/FAIL</b>	-
Egregious Acts of Neglect or Wilful Acts of Abuse	-	<b>PASS/FAIL</b>	-
Effective Stunning and Euthanasia	-	<b>PASS/FAIL/NOT OBSERVED</b>	-
1. Feedlot's Commitment to Animal Care	8		
2. Transportation	81 pending not assessed		
3. Facilities and Handling	123 outdoor facilities 133 indoor facilities		
4. Nutrition and Feed Management	81-91 pending not observed		
5. Animal Health Management	225-250 pending NA		
6. Euthanasia	59		
<b>Total Points (%)</b>	<b>577-622 pending NA</b>		

Summary of Nonconformities Requiring Corrective Actions (if any):

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Assessor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Feedlot Operator/Manager Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures attest that the feedlot animal care assessment was completed on that date. The feedlot operator or manager's signature does not signify agreement or disagreement with the findings of the assessor.