

## Good Management Practices for Transporting Livestock to the Fair

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A few tips to minimize stress on animals and exhibitors when transporting livestock to the fair.

### Prior to transportation of livestock to the fair:

- **Clean and properly disinfect the trailer.** Keep the trailer free of manure and debris to decrease the risk of spreading disease between facilities and to prevent animals from becoming dirty. Dry, non-slip flooring should be provided.
- **Have all animal health documentation completed and ready to go.** Have any necessary tests completed in plenty of time for results and paperwork to be completed. Carry all necessary documentation in the truck while hauling livestock.
- **Load everything except the livestock.** Livestock should be on the trailer for the minimal amount of time possible to avoid injury and stress, especially due to heat.
- **Allow adequate time for loading animals on the trailer and transportation** to ensure arrival at the fair in plenty of time for check-in.

### Transportation of livestock:

- **Livestock should be hauled during the cool part of the day** – mornings or evenings – depending on when the animals need to arrive at the fair for check-in. **See Figure 1 for Livestock Weather Safety Index.**
  - **In hot weather, swine should be wetted down with a course spray of water and then allowed to cool by evaporation** (Dr. Temple Grandin; grandin.com).
  - **In hot weather, do not haul swine in straw bedding or extremely wet shavings.** This causes the bedding to heat and creates even more extreme temperatures for the pigs. Pork Quality Assurance Plus recommends using damp shavings when hauling pigs during hot weather. Frozen two liter bottles of water can also be added to the trailer to help cool the pigs.
- **Keep the trailer moving to avoid build-up of heat.** It takes only a short period of time during a hot summer day for the temperature to rapidly rise in a stationary trailer. This is one reason to load the other items in the truck prior to loading the livestock.
- **Do not overstock livestock in a trailer.** This could lead to injury, bruising, or create heat stress. Make multiple trips if necessary. Do not allow species to comingle inside the trailer.
- **Always follow humane animal handling practices to ensure safety and welfare of both humans and animals.**

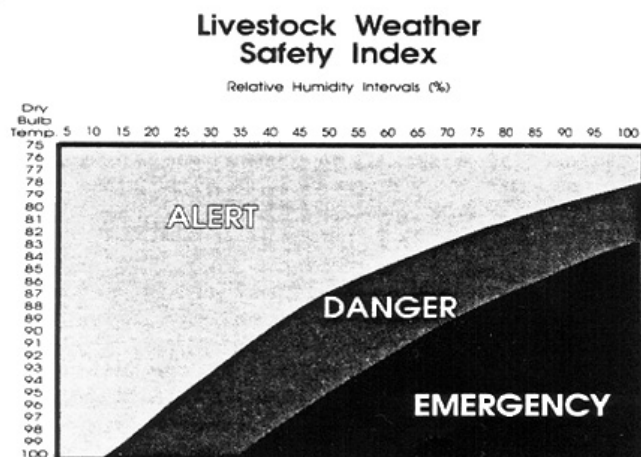


Figure 1. Livestock Weather Safety Index. (available at: grandin.com from Dr. Temple Grandin)