

Global Animal Partnership's Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle Rest Depots v2.0



About Global Animal Partnership's (G.A.P.) Animal Welfare Certified™ Program

G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Certified™ program assesses the level of welfare of animals on-farm, at collection points, rest depots, during transport, and at slaughter.

The on-farm standards are designed as a multi-tiered program, which promotes continuous improvement in animal agriculture; engages a broad spectrum of producers; allows for wider product selection for greater consumer options; provides more detailed information about the level of welfare of farm animals; and informs consumers about the production systems they may choose to support.

These Rest Depot standards are not tiered, but any G.A.P. Certified operation that wishes to use a Rest Depot must ensure that it is certified under these standards. As the standard-setter, Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.) does not conduct audits nor make certification decisions. Authorized, third-party certification companies perform the audits and issue certificates, as appropriate. As such, producers, consumers, and retailers alike can be confident that certification is fair, accurate, and free of conflict of interest.

About G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle Rest Depots

G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Beef Cattle Rest Depots v1.0 was issued on 16 November 2023. The development process included consultation with beef cattle industry representatives and producers, guidance from animal welfare scientific experts, an extensive public consultative process, and review and approval by the Global Animal Partnership Board of Directors. The current v2.0 removes the Pilot designation.

After three (3) certification cycles, the standards will be reviewed and revised based on key learnings, as well as any new, relevant scientific findings. The review and revision process will again involve guidance from scientific experts and producers, and public comment, before the draft revision is presented to the Board of Directors for final review and approval. Thereafter, the standards will be reviewed and revised according to the protocol outlined in the G.A.P. Policy Manual.

At any time throughout the above-mentioned period, G.A.P. may amend or clarify parts of the standard as issues with implementation arise, new technologies become available, or new scientific findings are made.

About Global Animal Partnership

Global Animal Partnership, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 2008, brings together farmers, scientists, ranchers, retailers, and animal advocates—a diverse group with the common goal of wanting to improve the welfare of animals in agriculture.

For more information, contact us at info@globalanimalpartnership.org or 877.427.5783 (+1.202.540.9880 if calling from outside the United States).

Rest Depot Overview

Rest Depots are defined as “a facility that is certified under the G.A.P. Animal Welfare Certified™ Program at which animals can safely disembark from a transport vehicle prior to re-embarking on a transport vehicle after a rest period.” Rest Depots may be used to break up cattle transport into 2 legs. The total transport time of the 2 legs combined may not exceed 48 hours. Neither individual leg may exceed 24 hours. Rest depots can be used to transport cattle to slaughter, and to transport breeding cows and finishing cattle between locations. Breeding cows must not be in their last trimester of pregnancy. Unweaned calves cannot be transported using rest depots. The purpose of Rest Depots is to allow farmers and ranchers in remote areas to access the G.A.P. Animal Welfare Certified Program. Rest Depots also benefit marketing groups and processors by allowing cattle from remote areas to move to grazing locations and reach slaughterhouses that would otherwise be too far away in terms of single transport duration.

Rest Depots may have covered or open pens at established, purpose-built facilities and provide a range of resources depending on their frequency of use and the time for which animals are normally held there.

Rest Depots must pass an audit before a G.A.P. Certified beef cattle operation can use their facilities. Rest Depots will not be assigned a Step-level, but rather will be granted a pass/fail designation and will hold a ‘G.A.P. Certified’ certificate.

Program Requirements

The following applies to each Rest Depot applying for certification to Global Animal Partnership’s Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle Rest Depots.

1. General

- a. The standards in this document are requirements.
- b. The Rest Depot must have read the standards and prepared for the audit or they cannot be certified.
- c. Each Rest Depot must be audited once every certification cycle. A certification cycle is 12 months.
- d. Each Rest Depot must follow record keeping requirements outlined in Section 1 to ensure that the chain of custody program that is also maintained by the operation that animals originated from, the processor and any further processor that will be using a Step-level label is not broken. Details on chain of custody requirements are shown in G.A.P.’s Policy Manual.
- e. The G.A.P. Policy Manual is a companion document to the standards, and details additional program requirements and terms of certification beyond that which is included in the standards (see www.globalanimalpartnership.org).
- f. No standard in this document supersedes governmental regulations or laws, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.

2. Applications

- a. Each Rest Depot is required to complete G.A.P.’s Animal Welfare Beef Cattle Rest Depot application each certification cycle.
- b. Applications, as well as this document, and the G.A.P. Policy Manual can be downloaded at www.globalanimalpartnership.org or received by contacting your G.A.P.-accredited certifier.

3. Audit and Certification

- a. Each Rest Depot must be audited once every certification cycle.
- b. Rest Depots must have G.A.P. Certified beef cattle on-site in order to be audited.
- c. At the time of audit, the person(s) responsible for managing the Rest Depot and/or an animal caretaker must be present. A designated representative affiliated with a Supplier may also be present at the time of the audit.
- d. Each Rest Depot applying for G.A.P. certification is responsible for ensuring that all required records and documents are available at the time of audit, and that all applicable standards are met, including actions that may be contracted or managed by another entity (e.g. transport).
- e. All applicable standards, including those that may be controlled or managed by, or contracted to, another (e.g. a transporter; a producer group, co-operative, or marketing entity; slaughter facility), will be assessed for compliance by the certification company and incorporated into its overall assessment of the Rest Depot prior to the final determination of approval.
- f. G.A.P. supports the use of video or other electronic monitoring. Use of video technology is not a requirement but can be used in place of certain observations. Please refer to G.A.P.'s Policy Manual and contact your Certifier for additional details about how this must be conducted.
- g. Auditors do not make determinations of approval nor provide consultative service to Rest Depots on meeting standards requirements. Approval determinations are made by reviewers or other agents of authorized certification companies.
- h. If a standard has not been met for all animals on the Rest Depot at the time of initial audit, approval will not be granted until evidence is provided confirming that the standard has been met.
 - i. If in a particular situation or circumstance, a standard as written might compromise the welfare of the animals in the Rest Depot's care, the Rest Depot should contact their certifier to discuss applying to G.A.P. for a variance.

4. Non-Conformances

- a. If a Rest Depot fails to meet a standard, it will be considered a non-conformance.
- b. There are three categories of non-conformance: minor, major and critical.
- c. If a Rest Depot receives a repeat non-conformance at the time of the next audit – the designation of minor, major and critical impacts the certification decision (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual).

In the example below, the **C** indicates that failure to meet the Standard would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD	
5.A Handling	
5.A.1	C Cattle must not be neglected, abused or mistreated. Neglect and Abuse are defined in Appendix IV. Mistreatment includes, but is not limited to rough physical contact, throwing, kicking, hitting, and dragging by any part of their body (except briefly during lariat use, or in an emergency situation such as rescuing a stuck animal from mud).

In the example below, the **M** indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a major non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard is still not in compliance, then it would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD	
4.B Feed Availability	
4.B.1	M Palatable fibrous food, such as grass, hay, haylage, or silage, must be continuously available. Straw and corn stover are unacceptable as the only fibrous foods.

In the example below, as there is no **M** or **C** beside the standard, this means that the standard is classified as a minor non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard was still not in compliance, then it would be considered a major non-conformance (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD	
1.E. Segregation	
1.E.1	Rest Depots must have a written protocol outlining how they maintain segregation of animals from non-G.A.P.-certified cattle and between G.A.P.-certified cattle of different Step levels, if applicable.

- d. If a Rest Depot is issued a non-conformance, it needs to be addressed and the response submitted to the certifier by the Rest Depot within 3 weeks from the date the certifier issues the audit report, and be accepted by the certifier as an acceptable response to the non-conformance, before a certificate is issued. If the Rest Depot does not respond to the non-conformance within 3 weeks, it will result in a shortened certificate (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual).

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Section 1: Records and Training

STANDARD	
1.A Record Keeping	
1.A.1	Upon departure from any G.A.P. certified operation, each transport vehicle operator intending to utilize a G.A.P. certified rest depot shall carry a transport log that contains the identity of the G.A.P. certified operation from which transport was undertaken, the date, the time embarkation of animals was initiated and the exact number of individually identified animals embarked. ① (1.A.1) <i>If the location of the animal at the time its transport is initiated under this Section is not the place of the animal's birth, a record of transportation to that location from the animal's place of birth must be attached.</i>
1.B Arrival Records	
1.B.1	Upon arrival at a G.A.P. certified rest depot, each transport vehicle operator shall record in the transport log required under Paragraph A of this Section, the identity of the G.A.P. certified rest depot, the date, time of arrival and the time disembarkation of animals concluded, and the exact number of individually identified animals disembarked. ① (1.B.1) <i>Transport records for each group of animals, including loading start and end times, departure and arrival times, and reasons for any stops or delays en route, must be kept and made available for review.</i>
1.B.2	Upon arrival at a G.A.P. certified rest depot, each depot operator shall <u>separately</u> record the identity of the transport vehicle operator, the date, time of arrival of the transport vehicle and the time disembarkation of animals concluded, and the exact number of individually identified animals disembarked and their respective health condition. ① (1.B.2) <i>Transporting unhealthy, non-ambulatory, or injured animals off the ranch/farm for any reason other than to access veterinary treatment is prohibited. It is permitted to transport an unhealthy or injured animal to access veterinary treatment.</i>
1.C Departure Records	
1.C.1	Upon departure from a G.A.P. certified rest depot, each transport vehicle operator shall record in the transport log required under standard 1.A.1 of this Section, the identity of the G.A.P. certified rest depot from which transport was undertaken, the date, the time re-embarkation was initiated and the exact number of individually identified animals embarked.
1.C.2	Upon departure from a G.A.P. certified rest depot, the depot operator shall separately record the date, time re-embarkation was initiated and the health status of each animal re-embarked, <i>provided that</i>, if the number of animals re-embarked is less than that number of animals disembarked under Paragraph B of this Section, an explanation shall be recorded for each such retained animal. ① (1.C.2) <i>Transport records for each group of animals, including loading start and end times, departure and arrival times, and reasons for any stops or delays en route, must be kept and made available for review.</i>
1.C.3	If any medications or treatments are administered during the rest period, the identity of the substances or treatment practices used, and their results shall be recorded for each animal so treated. ① (1.C.3) <i>Records must be kept of all treatments, whether alternative remedies or medications, and the results of treatment.</i>

STANDARD	
1.D Maintenance of Records	
1.D.1	It is the responsibility of the G.A.P. Certified entity which owns the livestock (or its marketing company) to ensure all records specified in sections 1.A.1 through to 1.C.3 are correctly completed, correlated, maintained on file and made available to the relevant G.A.P. Certification Body to allow verification that required travel durations as specified within section 2 of this standard are being maintained.
1.E Training	
1.E.1	Rest Depot employee training must: a. be written and/or hands-on. b. be presented in all necessary languages. c. include instruction on recognizing signs of normal and abnormal cattle appearance and behavior. d. include instruction on euthanasia. e. describe all aspects of the individual's responsibilities. f. describe emergency procedures. g. describe any biosecurity protocols. h. be provided prior to the individual's handling of any beef cattle on the operation. i. cover all requirements of this version of G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Standards for Beef Cattle Rest Depots. j. be ongoing as necessary and, at a minimum, when any changes affecting the care and management of cattle are implemented.
1.E.2	Each operation must keep a record of each stockperson's training (whether full-time, part-time, seasonal or contractual), including dates of training and topics covered. Records must be signed by both the attendee of the training and the administrator of the training. A Training Template is available. 📌 (1.E.2) Training includes initial, re-training and on-going training. This record-keeping standard applies to all employees including all family members.
1.F. Segregation	
1.F.1	Rest Depots must have a written protocol outlining how they maintain segregation of animals from non-G.A.P.-certified cattle and between G.A.P.-certified cattle of different Step levels, if applicable.
1.F.2	Any sick and/or injured cattle must be segregated from healthy animals when necessary - see Section 3.A. 📌 (1.F.2) Cattle are herd animals and in cases of minor health problems are more likely to recover when they can be treated within the herd setting. However, if cattle are unable to function as a normal member of the herd, e.g. cannot keep up with herd movements or are unable to eat or drink without special provision or if they are infectious, it will be necessary to segregate them from the rest of the herd.

Section 2: Transport and Rest Period Duration

STANDARD	
2.A. Rest Period	
2.A.1	A “rest period” means “a period of time not less than twelve hours or more than thirty-six hours during which an animal is permitted to engage in natural behaviors consistent with the requirements of this Section and is thereafter safely re-embarked to a transport vehicle.” In the instance that exceptional circumstances (i.e. weather events) may prevent transportation leading to an extended rest period, this is to be communicated immediately to all involved in the care and transport of the animals and the appropriate measures (including continued access to food, water and shelter) are to be taken and recorded.
2.B. Transport Duration	
2.B.1	Transportation of cattle to a rest depot and from a rest depot is calculated separately provided the interstitial rest period is not less than twelve (12) hours. It is the responsibility of the entity owning and arranging transport of the cattle that in no case may either transport period exceed twenty-four (24) hours, nor the total transport time exceed forty (40) hours. Transportation time always includes embarkation and disembarkation times respectively. i (2.B.1) <i>No animal may be subjected to a journey longer than the duration listed above unless that journey is specifically intended to improve or safeguard the welfare of the animals.</i>
2.C. Double Depoting	
2.C.1	Transportation of cattle from very remote areas may require three transport periods separated by two rest depot stops. In these rare cases, only one transport period may be a maximum of twenty-four (24) hours. The other two transport periods cannot exceed sixteen (16) hours each. For both stops, the interstitial rest period must not be less than twelve (12) hours. i (2.C.1) <i>No animal may be subjected to a journey longer than the duration listed above unless that journey is specifically intended to improve or safeguard the welfare of the animals.</i>
2.D. Trailer Cleanliness	
2.D.1	Where different trailers are used for each leg, the trailer must be cleaned prior to loading.
2.D.2	Where the same trailer is used for each leg, on arrival at the rest depot and after disembarkation, the trailer must be inspected for cleanliness. Trailers showing excessive soiling must be cleaned prior to reloading, and the cleaning documented in transport records. i (2.D.2) <i>It is understood that some rest depots may not be equipped with washout facilities and full clean-outs cannot always be completed during mandated rest periods (up to 12 hours), as this conflicts with driver fatigue management requirements. These instances should also be documented.</i>

Section 3: Animal Health

STANDARD	
3.A Condition and Monitoring of Animals	
3.A.1	Animals must be checked at disembarkation, every 6 hours during the rest period and again at re-embarkation. i (3.A.1) <i>The 6-hourly checks do not have to be at set times as in any case this will depend on when animals arrive and depart. Additionally, if people are working in and around the Rest Depot pens for large parts of the day this would meet the requirement for checks.</i>
3.A.2	M Sick or injured cattle must receive immediate individual treatment designed to minimize pain and suffering, including veterinary attention if relief cannot be promptly provided by the rest depot staff. i (3.A.2) <i>Timely treatment is critical. Treatment may include herbal or homoeopathic remedies when these have been shown to be effective.</i>
3.A.3	Records (see 1.C.3) must be kept of any treatment (medication, vaccinations, alternative remedies, probiotics etc.) to any individual animal or group of animals, including: - any substance administered (product). - method of administration. - animal or group identification. - date of administration. - outcome (recovery/euthanasia).
3.A.4	If at the time of disembarkation an animal is demonstrably suffering from a non-recoverable illness, injury, or condition, it must be promptly euthanized using a method authorized by the G.A.P. Program. i (3.A.4) <i>A “non-recoverable illness, injury or condition” means an animal is unable to bear weight on one of its limbs or is severely lame and in the professional judgment of the rest depot facility’s operator could not recover following a treatment regimen at the rest depot or be safely transported to a place where such regimen could successfully be administered.</i>
3.A.5	Any animals that meet any of the following conditions during their time at the Rest Depot must not be re-embarked. They are either to be treated and allowed time to recover, or euthanized according to Section 3.C: - animals that are sick, injured, weak, disabled or fatigued; - animals in poor body condition (BCS < 2, see Appendix I); - animals that are lameness score 2 (see Appendix II).
3.A.6	Where animals are being bullied, they must be segregated from the rest of the herd to protect their welfare until re-embarking for their final destination.
3.A.7	After initial loading and after re-embarkation, cattle should be allowed a 30-minute settling period before departure. This period is included in the 24 hour maximum duration.
3.A.8	Welfare checks should be carried out at 1h into each transport period and every 3h thereafter.

STANDARD	
3.B Medication Use	
3.B.1	M Animals that are given antibiotics (including topical antibiotics), ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, and/or sulfa drugs are prohibited from being G.A.P. Certified and must be segregated.
	I (3.B.1a) <i>This Standard applies whether these products (or medications) are given therapeutically or sub-therapeutically.</i>
	I (3.B.1b) <i>See Standard 3.A.2 for prompt treatment of animals.</i>
3.B.2	A written protocol must be in place to identify and ensure that any animals given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, and/or sulfa drugs are not marketed as G.A.P. Certified.
3.C Euthanasia	
3.C.1	All euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian or other trained person(s).
	I (3.C.1) <i>Rest Depot staff will not be required to demonstrate the ability to euthanize an animal to show compliance with this Standard, but they must be able to describe the training they have received whether this is experiential or formal, and articulate to the auditor the visual indicators of unconsciousness, and the physical parameters that confirm death. They must also be able to provide evidence that the operator has on hand or can access within a suitable timeframe, appropriate equipment to perform euthanasia.</i>
3.C.2	M Euthanasia technique(s) must cause rapid insensibility and be immediately followed by death.
3.C.3	Animal handling associated with euthanasia must minimize distress experienced by the animal prior to loss of consciousness. If it is necessary to relocate an animal to conduct euthanasia, only ambulatory animals, where movement would not cause distress, discomfort or pain may be relocated.
	I (3.C.3) <i>An animal may be moved onto a conveyance such as a tarp, sled, or cart and that conveyance may be dragged or moved.</i>
3.C.4	The person performing euthanasia must remain with the animal(s) until death is confirmed.
3.C.5	M Timely euthanasia is critical. If an animal is identified as requiring euthanasia, this must be carried out within two (2) hours.
3.C.6	Acceptable methods of euthanasia for adult cattle include: a. Barbiturates or barbituric acid derivatives administered by a veterinarian or by personnel who are registered with the US Drug Enforcement Administration. If pregnant animals are euthanized using this method, and the fetus is not to be saved, then additional time (as much as 20--25 minutes) is required to ensure death of the fetus. b. Firearms: i. Short distances (within 5 feet, 1.5 m): Handguns or pistols: Centerfire calibers .357, .38, .380, .40, .44, .45, 9mm. Shotguns: preferred 20, 16 or 12 gauge with slug only. On restrained or non-ambulatory cattle (not including bulls), .22 rim or center fire hollow points or magnums may be used, followed by a secondary method to ensure death (such as exsanguination or pithing). ii. Long distances (over 5 feet, 1.5 m): Rifles: Centerfire calibers larger than .22. c. Penetrating captive bolt using the appropriate cartridge for the class of animal, in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. The captive bolt gun must be properly maintained, cleaned and stored. Captive bolt use must also be followed by a secondary method to ensure death (such as exsanguination or pithing).
	I (3.C.6) <i>If a Rest Depot would like to use a method of euthanasia not listed above, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to use in order to meet this standard.</i>

STANDARD	
3.C Euthanasia - <i>Continued</i>	
3.C.7	Euthanasia equipment must be maintained, cleaned and stored according to manufacturer's specifications.
3.C.8	All euthanized animals must be immediately removed from pens.
	i (3.C.8) <i>It is the responsibility of the operation to dispose of dead animals according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations. Removal can include burial above any water tables, burning or composting in a designated area that will not put other livestock (such as calves, weaker animals) at risk from transmission of diseases and predation.</i>

Section 4: Facilities

STANDARD	
4.A Water Availability	
4.A.1	M All animals must have free and continuous access to drinking water. In pens where animals move between indoors and outdoors, water must be continuously accessible in both areas.
	i (4.A.1) <i>The flow rate of drinkers must be able to keep up with the number of cattle within each pen to ensure continuous access to drinking water</i>
4.A.1	Drinkers and water troughs must be checked daily, be clean and free of debris or foreign objects.
4.B Feed Availability	
4.B.1	M Palatable fibrous food, such as grass, hay, haylage, or silage, must be continuously available. Straw and corn stover are unacceptable as the only fibrous foods.
4.B.2	Feeders must be clean and free of foreign objects.
4.C Shelter	
4.C.1	All animals must be protected from heat or cold stress and from extreme weather. Depoting facilities are purpose-built for short-term stays, ensuring cattle are managed in accordance with best-practice animal welfare principles. While permanent shade or shelter is recommended, facilities without these structures must implement and demonstrate effective environmental management strategies to mitigate heat and cold stress. Welfare measures should be aligned with seasonal conditions and operational requirements to ensure cattle remain in optimal condition throughout their stay. Guiding Principles: a. Arrival Timing: i. During the hotter periods, cattle should ideally arrive during cooler periods of the day (early morning or late evening) to minimise exposure to extreme temperatures. b. Heat Stress Management: i. Facilities must have appropriate measures in place to mitigate heat if cattle remain on-site during peak seasonal temperatures or the hottest part of the day.

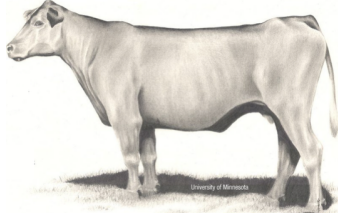
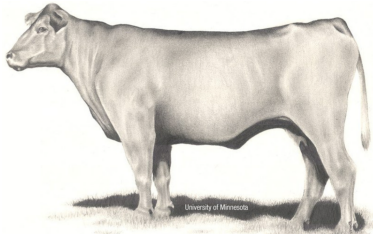
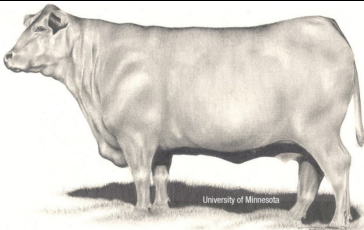
	c. Continuous Improvement: i. Facilities must demonstrate ongoing improvements in environmental management practices based on operational needs and geographic conditions. ii. Enhancements may include adjustments in handling protocols, infrastructure upgrades, or procedural refinements informed by monitoring and experience.
	i (4.C.1) <i>The producer must be able to demonstrate protocols for protecting animals from heat and cold stress and extreme weather. This includes the provision of sprinklers, shade, fans, bedding and/or windbreaks depending on the season and external temperature.</i>

STANDARD					
4.C Shelter - <i>Continued</i>					
4.C.2	When the THI index falls into the “Emergency” category and above (see Appendix III), shade must be provided that accommodates all animals in all outdoor areas, with the exception of where animals are only held overnight between the last two (2) hours of daylight in the evening and the first two (2) hours of daylight the following morning.				
	① (4.C.2) <i>If shade cloth is used, it should be of a design that filters out at least 50% of solar radiation.</i>				
4.D Space Requirements					
4.D.1	Animals must have enough space within the pens or shelter to be able to lie down and get up simultaneously without bumping or pushing another animal; move about freely; exercise, sleep, rest, and ruminate undisturbed; groom; play; and perform normal social behavior:				
	Type of Animal	Liveweight (lbs)	Liveweight (kg)	Area (ft ²)	Area (m ²)
	Small Calves	110-239	50-109	4.3	0.4
	Medium Calves	240-439	110-199	7.5	0.7
	Heavy Calves	440-714	200-324	11.8	1.1
	Medium Cattle	715-1209	325-549	16.1	1.5
	Heavy Cattle	1210-1539	550-700	23.7	2.2
	Very Heavy Cattle	>1540	>700	32.3	3.0
4.E Construction					
4.E.1	Rest depots must be constructed and maintained in a manner that does not present a risk to the animal.				
	① (4.E.1) <i>The operator must ensure that there are no objects such as broken rails, loose wire, protruding bolts/screws or muddy and uneven footing that could potentially lead to the injury of an animal.</i>				

Section 5: Animal Care & Management

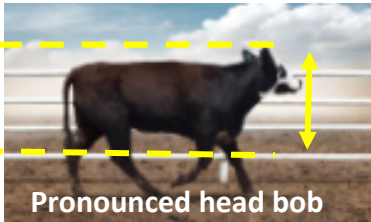
STANDARD	
5.A Handling	
5.A.1	C Cattle must not be neglected, abused or mistreated. Neglect and Abuse are defined in Appendix IV. Mistreatment includes, but is not limited to rough physical contact, throwing, kicking, hitting, and dragging by any part of their body (except briefly during lariat use, or in an emergency situation such as rescuing a stuck animal from mud). i (5.A.1a) <i>G.A.P. has a zero-tolerance policy to kicking, striking, punching, hitting and any other actions or omissions in care that could cause harm/injury to cattle.</i> i (5.A.1b) <i>Proper and respectful handling extends to all cattle – healthy, sick, injured and/or dead.</i>
5.A.2	Cattle must be handled in a calm manner that takes into consideration the animal’s natural response to stimuli. i (5.A.2) <i>Examples of calm handling include using low-stress handling aids such as nylon flags, rattle/shaker paddles, or using the point of balance (flight zone) to move animals.</i>
5.A.3	M The use of electric prods during handling, including loading and unloading during transport, is prohibited unless there is imminent risk of injury to the animal or handler. The prod must not be carried routinely by the handler. If it is necessary to prod an animal, shocking the animal on any part of its body other than the muscle of its hindquarters is prohibited.
5.B Disembarking/Re-embarking	
5.B.1	Disembarking and re-embarking of animals from transport vehicles shall be conducted safely, timely and in a calm manner that takes into consideration the animals’ natural response to stimuli
5.B.2	Loading/unloading ramps and chutes must be in good condition.
5.B.3	Ramp slopes for the first deck must be no more than 20 degrees (incline angle). i (5.B.3) <i>Where possible ramp slopes (incline angle) for higher decks should be no more than 20 degrees.</i>
5.B.4	Ramps must be fitted with cleats, treads, non-slip surfaces or stair steps to minimize the risk of slips and falls during loading and unloading.
5.C Grouping	
5.C.1	Animals must be kept in their assigned groups on the truck, at the rest depot, and at re-embarkation to minimize any unwanted social behavior or bullying.

Appendix I – Body Condition Scoring – 9-point Scale

		
BCS 1 Emaciated The cow is severely emaciated with muscle atrophy and no detectable fat. Tail head and ribs project predominantly. Animal physically weak.	BCS 2 Very Thin Poor condition with muscle atrophy and no detectable fat. Tail head, spine and ribs prominent.	BCS 3 Thin Slight muscle atrophy. All ribs visible. Very little detectable fat. Spine still highly visible.
		
BCS 4 Borderline Outline of spine slightly visible. Outline of 3 to 5 ribs visible. Some fat over ribs and hips. Spinous processes identified by palpation.	BCS 5 Moderate Good overall appearance. Outline of spine no longer visible. Outline of 1 to 2 ribs visible. Fat over hips but still visible. Areas around tail head are filled but not mounded.	BCS 6 Good Ribs and spine no longer visible. Pressure applied to feel bone structure. Some fat in brisket and flanks. Hindquarters plump and full.
		
BCS 7 Very Good Good fleshy appearance. Hips slightly visible but ribs and spine not visible. Fat in brisket and flanks with slight udder and tail head fat.	BCS 8 Fat Fat, fleshy and over-conditioned. Bone structure not visible. Large patchy fat deposits over ribs, around tail head and brisket. Animal has smooth, blocky appearance.	BCS 9 Very Fat Extremely fat, wasty and patchy. Mobility possibly impaired. Bone structure not visible. Extreme fat deposits over ribs and brisket. Tail head buried in fat.

Source: Illustrations from University of Minnesota.

Appendix II – Lameness Scoring – 4-point Scale

Score	Description	Illustration	
0	Normal - Animal walks normally - Hind feet land in a similar location to front feet - No apparent lameness or change in gait	 	
1	Mild Lameness - Animal exhibits shortened stride, dropping the head slightly - Does not exhibit a limp when walking	 	
2	Moderate Lameness - Animal exhibits obvious limp, favoring affected limb or limbs - Limb(s) still bears weight - Slight head bob when walking	 	
3	Severe Lameness - Animal applies little or no weight to affected limb - Reluctant or unable to move - While walking, animal's head will be dropped and back arched, with head bob and limp detected	 	

- Locomotion scoring is based on the observation of cattle walking (gait), with special emphasis on head bob and stride length.
- Animal observations should be made on a flat surface that provides good footing.
- Locomotion score 1 or higher should be examined to determine cause of lameness.
- Appropriate treatment and management practices should be applied to minimize economic loss due to lameness and improve overall animal wellbeing.

Content from https://www.zinpro.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Zinpro_Locomotion_Scoring_BeefCattle.pdf

Appendix III – Heat Stress

Producers must be aware of the potential for heat and cold stress. In both cases, the impact on cattle has contributory factors above and beyond that of temperature alone. For heat, air temperature, humidity, wind speed and solar radiation combine in the overall heat balance of cattle.

Beef Cattle Temperature Humidity Index

Temperature		Relative Humidity (%)																		
°F	°C	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90
110	43	82	83	84	86	87	88	90	91	92	94	96	97	98	100	101	102	104	105	106
109		81	83	84	86	87	88	89	91	92	94	95	96	98	99	101	102	103	105	106
108	42	81	82	84	85	86	87	89	90	92	93	94	96	97	98	100	101	102	104	105
107		80	81	83	84	85	87	88	89	91	92	94	95	96	98	99	100	102	103	104
106	41	80	81	82	84	85	86	88	89	90	91	93	94	95	97	98	99	101	102	103
105		80	80	82	83	84	86	87	88	89	91	92	93	95	96	97	99	100	101	102
104	40	79	80	81	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	91	93	94	95	96	98	99	100	101
103		78	79	81	82	83	84	86	87	88	89	91	92	93	94	96	97	98	99	101
102	39	78	79	80	82	83	84	85	86	87	89	90	91	92	94	95	96	97	98	100
101		77	79	80	81	82	83	84	86	87	88	89	90	92	93	94	95	96	98	99
100	38	77	78	79	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	98
99	37	76	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
98		76	77	78	80	80	82	83	83	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
97	36	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	91	92	93	94	95
96		75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94
95	35	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
94		74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	86	86	87	88	89	90	91	92
93	34	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	80	81	82	83	85	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92		73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	33	73	74	75	76	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89
90	32	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87	88	89
89		72	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	79	80	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87
88	31	72	72	73	74	75	76	76	77	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	85	86	86
87		71	72	73	73	74	75	76	77	77	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	85	85
86	30	71	71	72	73	74	74	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	84
85		70	71	72	72	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84
84	29	70	70	71	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	80	81	82	83
83		69	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	80	81	82
82	28	69	69	70	71	71	72	72	73	74	75	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80	81
81	27	68	69	70	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	77	78	78	79	80
80		68	69	69	70	70	71	72	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78	79
79	26	67	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	74	75	76	76	77	77	78
78		67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76	76	77
77	25	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75	76
76		66	67	67	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74	75	75
75	24	66	66	67	67	68	68	68	69	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	74

Safe

Alert

Danger

Emergency

Fatal

Key

	Safe
	Alert
	Danger
	Emergency
	Fatal

Recognizing Heat Stress

Stage		Description	Stage		Description
0		Normal – no signs of heat stress	4		• elevated breathing rate • open mouth breathing • possible drooling • most animals standing in pen and restless • animals may group together
1		• elevated respiration rate • restless • increased time standing,	5		• elevated breathing rate with pushing from flanks • open mouth breathing with tongue protruding • possible drooling • most animals standing in pen and restless
2		• elevated breathing rate • slight drooling • most animals standing in pen and restless • animals may group together	6		• open mouth breathing with tongue protruding • breathing is labored, and respiration rate may decrease • cattle push from flanks while breathing • head down • not necessarily drooling • individual animals may be isolated from herd
3		• elevated breathing rate • excessive drooling or foaming • most animals standing in pen and restless • animals may group together			

Source: USDA (<https://www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/clay-center-ne/marc/documents/heat-stress/recognizing-heat-stress/>)

Individual cattle factors can make certain individuals more susceptible to heat stress:

Genetics:

- In general, European (*Bos Taurus*) breeds are more susceptible than Asian (*Bos Indicus*) breeds or their crosses.
- Some *Bos Taurus* breeds from Africa (Sanga cattle) or New World (e.g. Texas Longhorn) may be more heat tolerant.
- Coat color – white and tan colored cattle will be less susceptible to heat stress than black colored cattle.
- Temperament – calmer animals may be more heat tolerant than excitable animals.

Health:

- Animals in good current health will be more heat tolerant than animals in poor health.
- Animals with a history of pneumonia have a higher risk of heat stress.

Production Status:

- Finished cattle ready to go to market are more susceptible.
- Cattle in poor body condition are more susceptible.
- Recently transported cattle are more susceptible.

Previous exposure:

- Cattle with no previous exposure to heat will have a greater stress response, with increased respiration rate and body temperature.
- Cattle with previous heat exposure will be less susceptible.
- Cattle newly arrived from cooler areas to hotter areas will be more susceptible.

Appendix IV – Neglect and Abuse

<i>As defined by NCBA, egregious acts of neglect include but are not limited to:</i>
• Failing to follow veterinary protocols related to timely euthanasia of critically ill/distressed or injured animals
• Failing to euthanize a chronically diseased or injured animal with a BCS < 2 (on the beef and dairy body condition score card) and according to protocols developed in consultation with a veterinarian
• Failing to follow veterinary protocol related to timely treatment of an injured animal.
• Failing to provide daily feed to cattle within a 24-hour period
• Failing to provide ad libitum water to cattle in home feeding pens
• Failing to provide water to non-ambulatory animals
• Failing to provide ad libitum water to cattle in home feeding pens
• Failing to provide water to non-ambulatory animals
• Failing to assist a known calving heifer in a timely manner
• Failing to assist a newborn calf in distress
• Failing to immediately assist and provide medical care to a non-ambulatory animal
• Failing to provide immediate medical assistance to a “compromised” animal unloaded from a livestock truck
• Loading a “compromised” animal without special transport provisions
<i>As defined by NCBA, Willful acts of abuse include but are not limited to:</i>
• Dragging of conscious animals by any part of their body except where a non-ambulatory animal must be moved from a life-threatening situation
• Deliberate application of electric prods to an animal that has no place to go
• Deliberate electric prodding of animals multiple times in an egregious manner
• Deliberate application of electric 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, and/or 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
• Tail docking unless on the advice of a licensed veterinarian
• Abdominal surgery (e.g., rumen fistula, cesarean section, spaying, etc.) conducted by an unqualified, untrained person without anesthetic and analgesia
• Rectal/vaginal/uterine prolapse replacements with suture or amputations without anesthetic and analgesia
• Euthanasia by means other than approved methods
• During euthanasia by gunshot, failing to immediately deliver additional shots if the first shot does not render the animal insensible and then dead (assuming no secondary kill step was used after rendering insensible by gunshot, such as pithing or jugular exsanguination)
• During euthanasia by gunshot, using a caliber that is not appropriate for the class of animal
• Live animal observed on the dead stockpile
• 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

Source: NCBA – U.S. Cattle Industry Feedyard Audit manual