











1. Sell or seek agistment

2. Feed

3. Euthanise

Option 1:- Selling or agistment of stock – Must be Fit to Load & Travel?

Is the animal fit to load?



A national guide to the pre-transport selection and management of livestock Revised edition 2019





Available in hard copy or download from the web

https://www.mla.com.au/news-andevents/industry-news/new-fit-to-loadguide-released/

The MLA glovebox guide is and easy to understand reference booklet based on the National Standards and Guidelines which underpin the legislation for transport of all livetstock in Australia at all points along the production chain.

In summary PLUS other considerations

- 1. Free of diseases and no signs of lameness/injury.
- 2. Is body condition score ≥ 1 ?
- 3. Are stock showing signs of fatigue?
- 4. Does the holding have a Property Identification Code (PIC) and a Biosecurity Plan?
- 5. Are stock branded (cattle) and have an NLIS device?
- 6. Are health treatments required?

NB: The transport operator is responsible for the stock once they are loaded and if they are not "Fit to Load", refusal to transport stock will occur.

For more info on managing stock in low body condition mla





and managing beef cattle in low body condition

NB: While beef cattle are described in detail here, the same general principles and indicators apply equally to all species of livestock and horses.

www.alpa.net.au/UserFiles/File/Documents/MLA Low Score cattle Sept 2013.pdf

Unable to be transported without prolonged intensive management





Unlikely to be transported without feeding and rest





Indicators of fatigue

Open mouthed panting and salivation Head and neck drop as muscles are deprived of glycogen Muscle tremor visible in hind legs and shoulders Unsteady gait No flight zone response or avoidance behaviour Little or no response to stimuli or surroundings No following behavior No cud chewing Bright yellow urine indicating dehydration No attempt to lie down Breathing rate more than 40 breaths per minute.

Skeletal structures such as ribs become less obvious as Condition Score improves.



Figure D: Body condition score 2.0; Backward

Figure G: Body condition score 3.0; Moderate

Stock in body condition score <2 are of no value for slaughter

Cow				440+	420+	360+	340+	320+	300+	280+	260+	240+	220+	200+	180+	160·	140+	120+	-120
L/M/M9	3-12	8	A-D	3.40	3.60	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.70	3.65	3.60	3.55	3.50	3.45	2.10	0.30	0.20	0.10
Ν	13-22	8	A-D	3.40	3.55	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.65	3.60	3.55	3.50	3.45	3.40	2.05	0.30	0.20	0.10
0	23-32	8	A-D	3.40	3.55	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.60	3.55	3.50	3.45	3.40	3.35	2.00	0.30	0.20	0.10
Ρ	0-32	8	A-E	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.55	3.50	3.45	3.40	3.30	3.20	1.95	0.30	0.20	0.10
ZC	33-42	0-8	A-E	3.15	3.40	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.50	3.45	3.40	3.25	3.15	3.05	1.95	0.30	0.20	0.10
ZE	43+	0-8	A-E	2.95	3.20	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.30	3.25	3.20	3.05	3.00	2.90	1.95	0.30	0.20	0.10

Typical abattoir grid showing marked drop in value of lightweight cows.

Option 2:- What cost to feed stock? (General rules of thumb!)

- All stock require about 2% body weight/day of feed – on a Dry Matter Basis.
- A 300 kg animal would require 6 kg/day and if \$600/tonne (60 cents/kg) + \$3.60/day.
- Lactating and heavily pregnant animals need up to twice this amount.

Amount of feed required depends on the quality of the feed – higher quality = less weight.



If rain were to fall tomorrow...



- It doesn't rain grass!
- Bare paddocks still require months of rest with follow-up rain before enough feed would be available to again satisfy the stock.
- Weeds will establish before pastures can regenerate.
- Paddocks may become boggy after heavy rain.
- Possible chill factor: stock can die from cold shock.
- Aged animals are more vulnerable.
- Horses become more susceptible to sand colic when they graze close to the ground.

Toxic Plants

NB:- Almost any plants can be toxic at certain times especially in mono-culture situations:-

- Couch grass (can accumulate cyanide if wilted and the weather is overcast)
- Button Grass (normally very nutritious but can cause nitrate toxicity if hungry stock gorge themselves.
- Oats crops can cause nitrate toxicity if stock allowed to gorge fertilized crops
- Lucerne can cause bloat and sudden death
- Some forage sorghum crops van cause cyanide poisoning especially ratoon crops that are wilting on an overcast day.



Noogoora Pig Weed Burr

Some common toxic plants.

<u>Many weeds and plants can</u> <u>be toxic if eaten in large</u> <u>quantities when little else is</u> <u>around.</u>

Green Gomphrena Cestrum Weed (horses)







Reducing the risk of plant toxicity

- Young and newly introduced stock are most vulnerable
- Ensure stock have had a good feed of good quality grass hay before letting out of the yard hungry stock are the most vulnerable.
- Gradually introduce stock to paddocks where toxic plants are suspected of being a problem – time consuming but worth the effort.
- Know the specific conditions, parts of the plant and times when plants are most toxic.
- Fence off known 'high risk' areas.

Infective larvae are eaten along with the pasture. Uncaten larvae die.

PASTURE STAGE

Third stage 'infective larvae' (L3) move in moisture (rain/dew) and wriggle randomly, some on to the pasture to be eaten by goat

- Quite resistant to cold and heat, but susceptible over 40°C
 - Most L3 die within 3 (summer) to 6 (winter) months; some live over 1 year
- L3 do not feed; they die when energy reserves are used up (faster at higher temperature and humidity)



Dung containing worm

eggs is passed from the

goat onto the pasture.

Eggs develop through L1 and L2 stages to L3 'infective larvae'

- Time from egg to L3 is 4–10 days (slower when cooler, faster when warmer)
- Eggs, L1 and L2 will not develop under 10°C and over 40°C
- L1 and L2 feed on bacteria in the dung

HOST STAGE Infective larvae become adults that live for many months

within the goat's gut to reproduce and lay eggs

Minimum time from L3 to egg laving is 18 days

The goat's immunity can expel

worms or suppress egg laying

Infective larvae wriggle out of the dung onto the ground and pasture. Barber's Pole Worm

Goats extremely vulnerable in summer when goats, sheep & young cattle graze pastures close to the ground.

High stocking rates \rightarrow contaminated

pastures

Option 3:- Euthanasia.

Animals that are not fit to transport, cannot be treated, and feeding is not an option must be humanely destroyed.

It is not lawful or humane to allow animals to starve to death.

The decision to euthanise is hard, but once made is often the best and kindest for both owner and beast.

Figure 1: Euthanasia of cattle using a firearm or penetrating captive bolt.

- (A) indicates the frontal method
- (B) indicates the poll method which may be used in an emergency if the frontal position is unavailable.

Figure 2: Euthanasia of sheep/goats using a firearm or penetrating captive bolt.

(A) indicates the frontal method

(B) indicates the poll method which is the preferred method for goats or sheep with horns.



Other assistance/help

- Local vet welfare and health issues
- DAF biosecurity officers
- DAF extension staff on feeding inquiries.
- •Others?







