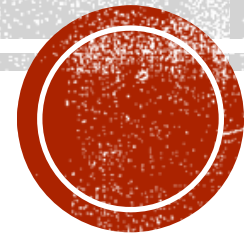


TRANSPORT OF MEAT ANIMALS



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INTRODUCTION

The mode of transport should be decided on the basis of ground situation. Unless price differences are significant, the animals should be taken to the nearby slaughter house or abattoir avoiding long journeys. It will protect the animals from possible injury during loading and unloading as also adverse weather and inadequate during transport. Various modes of transport may be:-

1. Driving on hoof
2. Transport by road truck
3. Transport by railways
4. Transport by sea
5. Transport by air



DRIVING ON HOOF

- Animals reared within 8-10 km from the point of slaughter can be driven on foot.
- The distance can be covered in 4-5 hours.
- Early morning during summer and late morning during winter season.
- Especially suitable for animals accustomed to pasture grazing.
- It allows them to browse on indigenous grass or shrubs and take water enroute.
- So the animal suffer weight loss or shrinkage due to travel.





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TRANSPORT BY ROAD TRUCK

- Distance up to 500 km or 12-15 hours journey maybe negotiated by a road truck
- Such vehicles should have non slip floor.
- It is also important to provide temporary or permanent protective overhead coverings, making provision for adequate ventilation.
- Proper partitions should separate unequal sized animals or different species.
- The partition height may vary from 75 to 120 cm depending on the size of animals.
- Before commencement of journey, the animals should be offered adequate feed and water.
- If the journey is required to be continued after 12 hours, the animal should be unloaded and offered enough feed and water.
- Transportation by road trucks allows convenience of loading and unloading at appropriate places.





TRANSPORT BY RAILWAYS

- For distances over 500 km, it is advisable to transport animals by railways.
- It is economic on maintenance and easy to handle. Besides, there is a saving on extortions and other incidental expenses.
- Animals should be provided ad lib water and feed at least for an hour before the journey commences. It will be beneficial if water troughs are provided within the roofed rail wagons.
- Railway wagons meant for this purpose should have a non-slip floor and free flow of air.
- This mode ensures comparatively less losses due to shrinkage and death.
- In fact shrinkage losses may come down to as low as 5%.





TRANSPORT BY SEA

- Ships are used only for international transport.



TRANSPORT BY AIR

- It is very rare and used only for highly expensive animals.



EFFECT OF TRANSPORT ON MEAT ANIMALS

1. *Stress and fatigue* :- These conditions are inevitable sequel to transportation and do have a bearing meat quality. These conditions may at times lead to shipping fever and transient tetany. Shipping fever develops due to Pasteurella and required proper treatment, otherwise virus may act as invader and aggravate the condition.
2. *Loss of weight or shrinkage* :- Shrinkage take place due to dehydration and depletion of muscle glycogen during the period of journey. In general, it ranges from 3-10 % depending on the conditions and duration of transport.



3. *Bruises, torn skin and broken bones* :- Bruises are noticed in most of the species due to transportation. The instances are particularly high in sheep and pig. Muscular bleeding may occur especially in pigs.
4. *Death* :- It may occur during long transportation. Sheep and pig are particularly susceptible if animals of unequal age and size are loaded in road trucks without partitions due to suffocation. Sheep and goat could also die in long distance transportation by ship due to non-inflammatory diarrhoea.



THANK YOU

