Transporting *sheep & goats*

There are many instances in which sheep/goats need to be transported from one place to another. This could be one animal or hundreds. It could be one mile or cross-country. Every sheep/goat farm needs a way transport their animals. The means usually varies by farm size and resources.

A livestock trailer or truck (with racks) is the preferred method for hauling sheep/goats. While individual animals can often be hand-lifted into a truck or trailer, a loading ramp is often needed for heavier animals or groups.

Biosecurity is an important aspect of all livestock transportation. Transport vehicles need to be cleaned and disinfected. Steps should be taken to reduce animal disease transmission. Transporting across state lines may require a Certification of Veterinarian Inspection (CVI).

Transport vehicles need to be well-ventilated. They should not be overcrowded. Animals need space to stand and lie down without being crushed. The general rule of thumb is 4.5 to 5 square feet per ewe and 2.5 to 3 square feet for an 80 to 90 lb. lamb. Warm weather and long journeys require more space. Sheep in full fleece require more space than shorn ones (up to 25% more). Ditto with large and horned animals.

Sheep and goats should not be loaded or hauled when it is too hot (when the heat index exceeds 86°F). Haul at night or during the early morning. For winter transport, increase bedding and balance the need for adequate ventilation with protection from wind chill and other elements.

Animals need to be fit for transport. Except for taking animals to the vet, sheep/goats that are lame, non-ambulatory, sick, or carrying a contagious disease should not be transported. Females in late-stage pregnancy (within 2 weeks of expected due date), ewes/does that have given birth in the last week, and newborns whose navel cords have not healed should not be hauled.

Different classes of sheep/goats should be kept separate in the transport vehicle, especially females with suckling offspring. Sheep/goats of different sizes should be separated to prevent injury to smaller, more vulnerable animals, especially lambs/kids. Sheep/goats should generally not be hauled with other species. Groups that are unfamiliar with each other should not be mixed during transportation.

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