



# Animal Welfare

## Transporting Animals Responsibly

We're committed to safe and proper handling of animals during the loading, transport and unloading process. This includes minimizing stocking densities, travel times, ensuring proper ventilation and protecting the animals from harsh weather conditions. Our team members are required to follow a rigorous set of guidelines that govern our transportation activities aimed at protecting animals and ensuring food quality and safety.

### Chicken

Our chicken and turkey specialists were certified by the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association's [Poultry Handling and Transportation Certification Program](#) (PHT). This training is aimed at teaching poultry transportation and catch crews best practices and methods in biosecurity, disease recognition, emergency planning and the safe and humane handling of birds before, during and after transport. In 2018, our certified specialists rolled out peer training to a minimum of 80 percent of team members involved in all phases of transportation for poultry. We expect to achieve certification across all our poultry complexes by FY2019.

### Hogs & Cattle

All drivers who haul hogs, and managers of these drivers, are required to be certified in the [Transport Quality Assurance Program](#), developed by the National Pork

Board. All transporters delivering cattle to our beef harvest facilities are trained through the Master Cattle Transporter Guide or the [Beef Quality Assurance Transportation](#) (BQAT) program. Effective January 1, 2020, all transporters delivering to our beef harvest facilities will be [required to have current certification](#) under the BQAT program.

Team members in our processing plants and drivers who transport live animals to our facilities must follow the North American Meat Institute Transportation Audit Guidelines for cattle and hogs at all our beef and pork processing plants.

### Average Transport Times

We aim to avoid the transport of live animals for more than eight hours to harvest, and the majority of animals we harvest are in transport less than four hours. Due to the geographic profile of independent supply chains, along with the need to operate our processing plants in an efficient manner, we occasionally encounter longer transport times.

Our processing plants maintain standard procedures for receiving live animals that require unloading animals as soon as possible, providing water in holding pens, and feeding the animals if they are kept for longer than 24 hours. We also maintain emergency management plans for motor-vehicle accidents involving animals in transport.