

Animal Welfare - Hauling

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Goal (learning objective)

Youth will learn about the safety concerns of hauling livestock.

Supplies

- Livestock trailer
- Pens and paper - enough for group

Pre-lesson preparation

- Provide, or ask for a volunteer to bring a livestock trailer to the meeting
- Review resource section about transportation precautions for beef, sheep/goats, and swine
- Read/review lesson

Lesson directions and outline

Share the following information with the youth:

Hauling livestock is a common practice among 4-Her's. Safety is a major concern in transporting your livestock. It is important to be patient and calm during the loading process so you do not scare or stress the animals.

Most animal related accidents are the result of "people problems." Poor judgement and lack of understanding are major causes of accidents involving animals. Plan ahead to allow plenty of time to move animals, so there is no need to hurry. Do not try to handle animals when you are angry. Other common problems should also be avoided, such as horseplay (people play), attempting a task without enough help, not providing proper and safe facilities, and not wearing personal protective equipment.

Conducting the activity (DO)

1. Make sure the livestock trailer is parked safely, in an area where group members can walk in and around the trailer easily.
2. Have members do an "inspection" of the trailer - interior and exterior and make notes of their inspection.
3. Ask volunteers to share their findings. As elements are discussed, do a walk through of the trailer noting areas where animals or members could be pinched or squeezed in. Make special notation if there were any protrusions, broken or sharp objects.
4. Visit with members about the importance of maintaining trailers - floors, cleanliness, tires, working lights, valid licensing, etc.
5. Practice the process of opening and closing trailer doors and making sure the doors are secure.
6. Ask for volunteers to be animals and work through the process of loading and unloading. Make sure the animal can see the person (handler) as the person enters and exits the trailer to help the animal unload. Look for ways that the animal can maintain visibility during the loading and unloading process.

What did we learn? (REFLECT)

- Ask: Why is it important to check or inspect trailers before hauling?
- Ask: Does hauling animals cause stress? Why?
- Ask: How do trailers impact flight zones?
- Ask: How does your animal react to your emotions?
- Ask: What personal protective equipment is appropriate for handlers when loading/unloading animals? Why?

Why is that important? (APPLY)

- Ask: Why is trailer cleanliness important? Are biosecurity measures needed?
- Ask: Why is preparation and planning important? How can you apply this to other areas of your life?
- Ask: Are there other items that need to be considered before hauling an animal? (Brand Inspection, bill of sale, health certificate, amount of time needed to get to facility)
- Ask: How does hauling stress impact the animal? Are there impacts to the carcass?

Resources

- Carroll, H. (2014). *Tips & Preparation for Safe Cattle Hauling*. iGrow.org. South Dakota State University Extension. Available from: <http://igrow.org/live-stock/beef/tips-preparation-for-safe-cattle-hauling/>
- Grandin, T. (2015). *Understanding Flight Zone and Point of Balance for Low Stress Handling of Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs*. Colorado State University. Available from: <http://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/flight.zone.html>
- Livestock trailer safety. (2012) Farm and Ranch eX-tension in Safety and Health (FReSH) Community of Practice. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.org/pages/64391/livestock-trailer-safety>
- Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Working Safely with Livestock. *Beef resource handbook* (pages 4-1 through 4-5, 10-6 and 12-4).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2008). Working Safely with Goats. *Goat resource handbook* (pages 31-34, and 159-163).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2011). Working Safely with Sheep. *Sheep resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (pages 103-104).
- Ohio State University Extension. (2000). Showing Your 4-H Market Hog. *Swine resource handbook for market and breeding projects* (pages 12-7 through 12-8, 24-3 and 24-5).
- Pempek, J., High, R., Eastridge, M., & Botheras, N. (2013). *Transport and Care of Sheep and Goats*. Department of Animal Sciences, The Ohio State University. Available from: <http://articles.extension.org/pages/68912/transport-and-care-of-sheep-and-goats>
- Vansickle, J. (2008). *Preparing Pigs for Transport*. Nationalhogfarmer.com Available from: <http://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/behavior-welfare/0915-preparing-pigs-transport>