



## D8. Shipping, Marketing and Transport

Three issues are important in this area. Firstly, studies have shown that urine and feces from treated pigs can contain enough antibiotic residue that, if ingested, can cause a violative level of residue in market hogs. Secondly, research has shown that there is a relationship between gut fill and risk of spillage leading to contamination of carcasses at the processing plant. Thirdly, handling, mixing and transport of pigs causes stress that may cause the animals to shed bacteria, including *Salmonella*. Non-contaminated animals may become contaminated through exposure to other animals, their feces or contaminated vehicles.

- Remember that transportation concerns apply to movement of animals during production as well as transport from the finishing barn to the assembly yard and processor.
- When sorting and selecting animals to be shipped, whether for further production at another site or to slaughter, review all pertinent treatment records and verify animal identification. Where animals are being shipped for further production, send an Outgoing Pig Treatment record with the shipment that details outstanding withdrawal times and any physical hazards such as broken needle fragments. Include any individual animal identification information, if applicable. Where animals are being shipped to slaughter, withhold any animals with outstanding withdrawal times and notify your packer and/or delivery agent that an animal with a suspected broken needle fragment is in the lot. Ensure that suspect animals are identified according to the requirements in your province or for your specific packer and provide that animal identification information when you report these animals prior to shipping. (On-Farm Quality Assessment Form questions #11c, 14, 20b, 20c, 22b)
- It is strongly recommended that you notify your marketing board and/or packer prior to shipping suspect broken needle animals from your farm. This step will decrease the chance of complications or confusion as each packer may have different requirements for identification and notification.
- Avoid using the same trucks to transport hogs and other commodities. Pigs may be exposed to fertilizers, pesticides, medicated feeds or other chemicals that could cause residues. Likewise, manure may contaminate other products that may be transported when you use a truck for transporting varying commodities. (On-Farm Quality Assessment Form question #4)
- Be aware of the possibility of cross-contamination when you use the same truck to transport hogs as well as other commodities. Spilled medicated feed or premix, pesticides or fertilizers should be swept up immediately. Also keep in mind that any manure left in a truck could contaminate feed, feed ingredients or bedding transported in the same truck as animals.
- Trucks should be washed and disinfected, weather permitting, following each shipment of pigs. Bacteria, including *Salmonella*, may have been shed by animals previously transported in these vehicles. The bacterial contamination could contaminate the next animals to be transported.
- Limit the mixing of pigs prior to shipping. Mixing increases stress as well as the potential for shedding bacteria such as *Salmonella*.
- It is recommended that you work with your marketing agency or processor to determine the most appropriate pre-slaughter management practices (transport, testing time, feed withdrawal).



- A commonly recommended time period for feed withdrawal is 12-18 hours. This time period begins at the time the feed is removed and ends at the time of slaughter. Discuss with your marketing agency or processor representative what their recommendations are for your farm, based on distance from the abattoir and the expected lairage time after the arrival of the pigs.
- Refer to the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals Pigs* for more information on this topic.