



TEXAS AND SOUTHWESTERN CATTLE RAISERS ASSOCIATION

1301 W. Seventh St., Fort Worth, Texas 76102 • 817-332-7064 • Fax 817-332-6441

Guidelines for Delivering Cattle to a Packing Plant

The following guidelines are for cattle producers who are delivering their cattle to a packing plant for harvest. This checklist will help ensure the packing plant is ready for the cattle and can process them as quickly and with as little risk as possible.

Prior to Delivery

- Call the packing plant ahead of time to ensure they have capacity to process the animals. It is best to reserve your kill slots in advance to ensure cattle are harvested as soon as possible.
- Verify the best time of day for delivery of the animals.
- Verify delivery location.
- Verify payment method for the animals.

During Delivery

- If cattle are sold on a live weight basis, be sure cattle are weighed and that you receive a copy of the scale reading. If cattle are sold on the rail, you will generally not receive a live weight.
- Ensure cattle have access to water in the holding pens.
- Obtain a copy of delivery record or check-in slip.
- Maintain detailed records on all available information, including the following:
 - Date and time the animals were delivered
 - Number of animals and type of animal
 - Who received the animals
 - Who penned the animals
 - Pen number the animals were placed into
 - Identification of the animals: gender, color, brands, markings, tag numbers, etc.
 - Scale tickets with timestamp

After Delivery

- Retain all delivery records until the animals have been harvested and paid for. The records will be very helpful in the event of a dispute with the packing plant.

Unlike livestock markets or feedyards, packers do not carry insurance to cover owner's losses on cattle. If an animal is non-ambulatory (downer) or dies at the packing plant prior to being harvested, the animal is of no value and the packing plant is not responsible for any payment to the owner. Packing plants have different policies regarding rendering fees and credits.

