

Standard Operating Procedure to Manage Downed Cattle

- All items listed below are considered required elements. Details specific to your farm must be added to make this complete.

If an animal becomes sick, injured or does down, promptly diagnose the condition of the animal and the likelihood of recovery.

Determine if the animal can be treated and/or cared for where she is lying or if she needs to be moved

If you have to move the animal but cannot do so humanely, euthanize her where she is, according to your euthanasia SOP.

If the animal can be treated and/or cared for where she is lying, treat her there until she recovers and can get up. If she is beyond recovery, euthanize her humanely according to your euthanasia SOP

If the animal is in an area where she must be moved, follow the farm procedure below, keeping in mind that electric prods should only be used in extreme situations, such as when an animal's safety is at risk.

Down cattle may be lifted to help them stand to make an initial assessment of their condition/injury. If lifting a down animal, lower the animal immediately if it cannot support its weight immediately after lifting.

Move the animal as gently as possible, minimizing stress and trauma.

Animals should be gently rocked and rolled onto specialized equipment whenever possible. Equipment used on this farm to move down cattle include the following: (describe equipment and how to use the specialized equipment):

Move the animal over the shortest distance possible. Use equipment according to the manufacturer's specifications and support the animal as necessary during the movement.

Do not pull, push or lift an animal by the neck or legs unless human or animal safety is at risk and there is no other option. Even then, only do so for a few feet with the force being applied for a very brief period of time. Carefully protect the animal as much as possible and then use your preferred method of moving the animal.

Never use hip lifters or clamps to move or carry down cattle from one location to another.

Wherever the animal is located for recovery, ensure that the following are provided:

- Proper non-slip flooring, or if in a tie stall, the gutter is covered
- Shelter from the elements (direct sun, rain, extreme cold or heat, moisture) and protection from predators
- Frequent easy access to fresh food and water

- Isolation from other animals to prevent injury and support recovery.

We always move cows as gently as possible and we never pull, drag or lift cows by their neck or legs UNLESS there is no other option, and then only a few feet until they are safe.