



Hauling Hogs in Extreme Heat

Are you hauling hogs in extreme heat? See below a list of recommendations to support the welfare of your pigs during transport.

1. Check the weather forecast before planning your trip.
2. Select the best time to make the trip, considering the temperature at departure and expected arrival.
3. Considering setting up the trailer with wet bedding according to the temperature recommendations in the chart to the right. Wetting bedding is recommended only in hot weather.

Recommended truck set-up procedures based on air temperatures (for market pigs)		
Estimated air temperature	Bedding* (minimum recommended bags per trailer)	Side slats
< minus-10°C	Heavy (6 bags)	90% to 95% closed
minus-10°C to minus-5°C	Heavy (4 to 6 bags)	75% to 90% closed
minus-5°C to 0°C	Heavy (4 to 6 bags)	50% to 75% closed
0°C to 5°C	Medium (3 to 4 bags)	50% to 75% closed
5°C to 10°C	Medium (3 to 4 bags)	25% to 50% closed
10°C to 15°C	Medium (3 to 4 bags)	0% to 25% closed
15°C to 30°C	Medium (3 to 4 bags)	0% closed
>30°C (extreme heat)	Light (1 to 2 bags)	0% closed
* 'Bedding' refers to a 20-kilogram bale of wood shavings		

4. Reduce the load density (amount of hogs in the trailer at one time).
5. If the temperature is above 27-degrees Celsius, wet the pigs during or after loading them.
Note: excess humidity could have an opposite effect! Use water sparingly, allowing pigs to dry before being wetted again.
6. Do not apply a large amount of cold water to an overheated pig, as this can shock and kill the animal. Always use a light mist or low flow of water.
7. Once your trailer is loaded, travel as quickly (safely) as possible to your destination. **Do not make stops along the way for any other business or leisure.**
8. Keep the truck in motion as much as possible to maintain airflow through the trailer.
9. When you need to stop the truck, avoid parking near other large objects that block airflow or compromise biosecurity, including other animal transport trucks. If possible, remove trailer panels to maintain airflow, and if you are waiting at an abattoir, take advantage of any water sprinklers and fan banks available.
10. If the weather changes during the transport, remove or add trailer panels to accommodate the variable temperature in the trailer.
11. If you would like additional hands-on instruction regarding hog transport, Alberta Pork provides TQA training free-of-charge, in addition to providing an overview of humane transport requirements under the federal *Health of Animals Regulations*.