

HOG TRANSPORT

IN EXTREME HEAT >27°C



Pigs are highly susceptible to heat stress due to limited ability to sweat. Heat stress can lead to fatigue or death during transport, lower pork quality, and increased animal welfare concerns.

TRIP PLANNING & SCHEDULING

- Review weather reports and forecasts.
- Ensure hogs are fit for transport.
- Transport during cooler times of day—before 10 am or after 6 pm.
- Avoid delays at loading/unloading points—coordinate with facilities ahead of time.
- Choose shorter routes and minimize wait times.

TRAILER PREPARATION

- Do not overcrowd: reduce loading density by 10–20%.
- Use wet bedding for cooling.
- If bedding is dry, ensure it is clean and absorbent.
- Use trailers with adequate ventilation and open side slats (see chart for recommendations).

TEMPERATURE	BEDDING*	SIDE SLATS (% CLOSED)
< -10°C	Extra Heavy: 6 bags	90-95
-10°C to -5°C	Heavy: 4-6 bags	75-90
-5°C to 0°C		50-75
0°C to 5°C	Medium: 3-4 bags	50-75
5°C to 10°C		25-50
10°C to 15°C		0-25
15°C to 27°C		0
>27°C EXTREME HEAT	Light: 1-2 bags	0

*Bag = 20 kg bale of wood shavings

LOADING & HANDLING

- Ensure hogs are well-hydrated before loading.
- Minimize time in the direct sun.
- Use calm, low-stress handling techniques.
- Keep loading equipment shaded and cool when possible.
- Use misters or sprinklers during loading to cool pigs.

IN-TRANSIT

- Keep the truck moving when possible to maintain proper air circulation.
- If stopped for more than five minutes:
 - » Park in shaded areas
 - » Use water misting systems
 - » Keep fans running if available
 - » Avoid parking near large objects that block airflow

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Have a contingency plan for breakdowns, traffic delays, or facility shutdowns.
- Monitor animals frequently for signs of heat distress:
 - » Open-mouth breathing
 - » Panting
 - » Lethargy or unwillingness to move
 - » Skin discoloration

RESOURCES

Environment Canada

Real-time weather reports and forecasts

Fitness for Transport Fact Sheet

Checklist for hog transport suitability

Transport Stocking Density Calculator

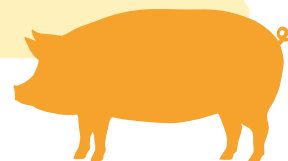
A free online tool to determine the best way to load trailers, given temperature and humidity

Humane Transport and Animal Welfare

CFIA requirements for safe transport of animals

Transport Quality Assurance (TQA)

National Pork Board Certification



Heat stress is preventable with careful planning, proper equipment, and attentive handling. Responsible transport protects animal welfare, producer reputation, and the quality of Alberta pork.

ALBERTA PORK PROVIDES FREE TRANSPORT QUALITY ASSURANCE (TQA) TRAINING TO HELP ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH CFIA REGULATIONS



PIGS



PEOPLE



PLANET



PROGRESS