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# Managing Transport Risk

Maple Leaf Consumer Foods  
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## Presentation Overview

1. Processor Experience with Animal Welfare
2. Transportation
  - ▲ Results
3. Where we're heading


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## Maple Leaf Experience

- ▶ have had animal welfare protocols for years
- ▶ Industry/Gov't have sponsored humane handling plant audits
- ▶ now record better what we do
- ▶ recognition that many new employees have never worked with animals
- ▶ heightened awareness of the concern of customers and consumers
- ▶ Recent barn expansion has focused on humane handling and our needs for the future


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## Barn Design – 2<sup>nd</sup> shift

- ▶ expanded Brandon barn to ensure animals have three hours rest time
- ▶ herringbone design so that animals are penned in the direction of flow – follows recommendations of Dr. Temple Grandin
- ▶ continue to research industry practices in other countries
- ▶ Brandon expansion included more doors to allow for longer unloading times
- ▶ misting of pens, good air circulation, feed and water systems required

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## Animal Handling

### Plant improves animal handling

- ▶ Scheduling – focus on ensuring timely unloading
  - ▲ Enables longer unloading times – decreases stress
  - ▲ Double shift production makes this very tricky
- ▶ Many receiving doors – ability to increase unload times
  - ▲ Plant operates at 1200head/hour. Ability to receive 2000+/hour
  - ▲ Reduce the need to push for trucks to be unloaded
- ▶ Improved monitoring of unloading
  - ▲ Animal Handling audits conducted in house
  - ▲ Video cameras
  - ▲ Monitoring of unloading by supervisors/employees

**GOOD ANIMAL WELFARE LEADS TO GOOD MEAT QUALITY**

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## Video/Sound recording

- ▶ Why are cameras important?
  - ▲ Can't be everywhere at once. Interesting things happen when no one is around
  - ▲ Best way to audit practices. Employees/truckers change their methods when they know they're being watched
- ▶ Problems associated with cameras
  - ▲ Can rely too much on them
  - ▲ Still need a presence within the barn
- ▶ Brandon also has a unique traffic light system to monitor noise
  - ▲ Simple red, yellow, green light system
  - ▲ Provides simple feedback for employees

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## MAPLE LEAF Transportation

- ▶ Realization that many transporters remain unaware of current or future trends involved with transportation of livestock
  - ▲ Producers struggle to get involved in animal handling
  - ▲ Transporters are often forgotten – focus is on producers
- ▶ Transporters have other issues top of mind
  - ▲ Driver turnover
  - ▲ Driver training/retraining
  - ▲ Weather, Schedules, Traffic, etc.
  - ▲ They don't always behave the way you would expect
- ▶ As a company – we undertook the development of specific education practices to remedy and inform

## MAPLE LEAF ML Animal Handling Handbook

- ▶ Initially developed to aid transporters in the requirements of the plant
  - ▲ Introduced transporters to a standard of performance that we expect
  - ▲ Added benefit of educating producers on acceptable densities and requirements for compromised animal transport
  - ▲ Provided support to commercial haulers in their ability to refuse acceptance of compromised animals

## MAPLE LEAF ML Animal Handling Booklet

- ▶ Developed to assist Producers & Truckers
- ▶ Addresses:
  - ▲ Truck Set Up
  - ▲ Loading Density
  - ▲ Lameness Classification
  - ▲ Other areas
- ▶ Distributed July 2007



## MAPLE LEAF ML Hog Delivery Procedures

- ▶ TQA Certification for all drivers delivering into Brandon
  - ▲ Fall 2008
- Electrical Prods must not be utilized as a primary method of moving hogs
- All drivers must carry an alternative method for moving pigs
- Prods can only be utilized as a last resort



## MAPLE LEAF Enforcement

- ▶ Weekly audits are conducted by QA
  - ▲ Regular in-house audits which include a regular transport component
  - ▲ Density, prod usage, driver training
- ▶ CFIA transport blitz
  - ▲ Monitor densities, measure trailers
  - ▲ Provide feedback to transport companies and processor
- ▶ Customer Audits
  - ▲ Customer audits focus on limited transportation component
  - ▲ Will be changing to include a transport component

## MAPLE LEAF Non Compliance

- ▶ Good tracking system is a must
  - ▲ Allow management and procurement personnel to spot trends
  - ▲ See things that are out of the ordinary
- ▶ Communication
  - ▲ Receivers and inspection staff need to feel empowered to bring issues up
  - ▲ Has to be an open dialogue
- ▶ Cooperation
  - ▲ Regulatory staff and management need to work closely to ensure compliance

**EACH CASE IS HANDLED DEPENDENT ON SEVERITY**

**ML Hog Receiving Procedures**

- ▶ Hogs received by the plant must be in acceptable physical condition
- ▶ Stressed/Compromised animals are handled in one of two ways:
  - ▲ Hog is not moved and allowed to recover for a period of time
  - OR
  - ▲ The hog is humanely euthanized at receiving
- ▶ This practice was started in 2003 as a way to discourage producers from shipping compromised animals to the plant

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**Research/Issues**

- ▶ Swine Transportation Study - co-ordinated by Dr. Harold Gonyou of Prairie Swine Center, Saskatoon
  - ▲ Supported by Maple Leaf thru the Brandon plant
- ▶ Canadian Industry needs research surrounding issues related to pot-bellied trailers in Canada
  - ▲ Specific to weather, distances, and specific trailer design
  - ▲ Real world conditions
- ▶ Consistent training/certification by transporters
  - ▲ Canada currently does not have a national program adopted by all provinces.

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**What's next**

- ▶ Processor's 3<sup>rd</sup> party audits soon will have a transportation component
  - ▲ This is new for processors and transporters
  - ▲ Add challenges to both parties – expect a steep learning curve
  - ▲ This will be adopted by customers as a pre-requisite for doing business
- ▶ Increase in animal welfare/rights groups becoming keenly interested in transportation
  - ▲ Specific to animal handling
  - ▲ Following and videotaping drivers
  - ▲ Perception is reality – how would someone else view our practices
  - ▲ Visiting assembly yards, auction marts, processing plants, etc.

***Good Animal Welfare is Good Business***

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