

# Fit for transport

Stand calves up first, then check to make sure they are fit for transport



- 1 Bright and alert
- 2 Milk feed within 6 hours of transport
- 3 Firm, worn hooves
- 4 Dry navel
- 5 Appropriate tag
- 6 No scours
- 7 5 to 30 days old  
Strong and walking

- ✓ Calves must be between 5 and 30 days old
- ✓ Calves must have a milk feed within 6 hours of transport
- ✗ If a calf is not fit for transport, do not load it

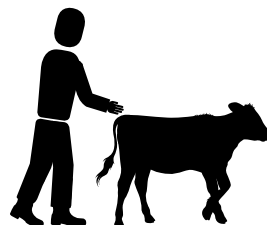
Keep calm and take care when handling calves



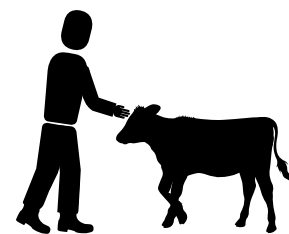
To stand a calf up, rub, push or pat it on its back. Keep quiet and calm. If a calf is scared it will sit down and not move.



Move calves one at a time or in small groups of three or four – calves will follow a leader.



Gently push with your hand from behind



Sometimes calves load better if you move them backwards, tail-first.

- ✗ Do not hit, throw or drag calves. Do not use electric prodders.

## Health and safety when handling calves

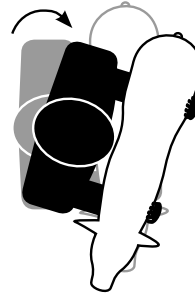
Walk calves if you can.



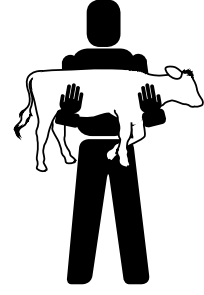
If you have to lift bend your knees – keep your back straight.



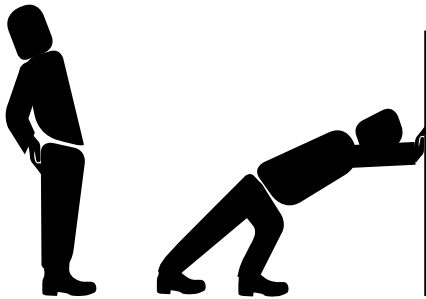
Hold the calf close to your body. Carry the calf between waist and shoulder height.



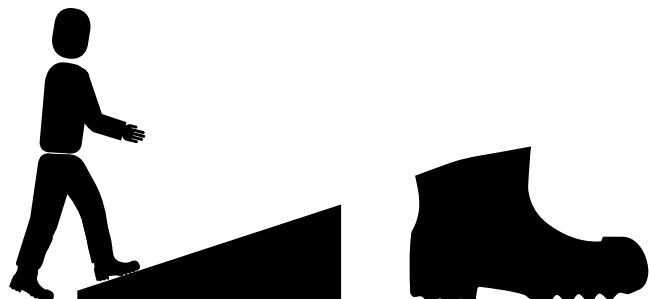
Move your feet. If you need to turn, don't twist at the waist.



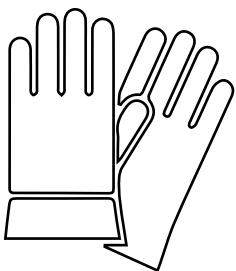
Lift calves with one arm in front of the calf's front legs and the other either in front of or between the calf's back legs. Get help to lift heavy calves.



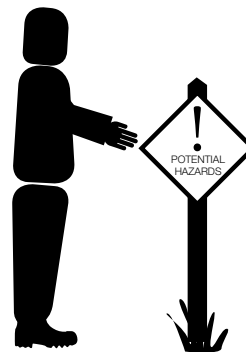
Stay fit, stretch out before you start and during the day. If you start to feel sore tell someone.



Wear boots with toe caps and good tread so you do not slip.



Wear gloves and/or wash your hands.



Look out for hazards and warning signs on farms.

### Acknowledgement

This document was originally developed by Dairy NZ in conjunction with the New Zealand Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and Meat Industry Association of New Zealand (MIA), and has been adapted for Australian conditions by Dairy Australia.

Published by Dairy Australia Limited.

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