



Vol 1. #7

Good Morning. It is September 10. This is the time of year when producers begin to ship calves to the feedlots in the Midwest. This week's article focuses on factors which influence shrink in calves. Have a great week!! John Paterson,

Producers will often call and ask how much shrink they can expect on their calves. The following tables are from an article written by Becky Mills and Steve Cornett from Beef Today (December 2005) entitled "Shrink Happens". These tables give you a place to start:

Shrink of a 600 lb calf which was penned, sorted, weighed and transported for 8 hours

| Factor of shrink | % Shrink | Pounds lost |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 30 min. preliminary sorting | .5 | 3 |
| Weighing and loading | 3.0 | 18 |
| First 4 hours of trucking | 4.0 | 24 |
| Second 4 hours of trucking | 1.0 | 6 |
| Total shrink | 8.5 | 51 |

Time in transit and cattle shrink

| Hours in Moving Truck | % Shrink | Days required to recover pay weight |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 2-8 | 4-6 | 4-8 |
| 8-16 | 6-8 | 8-16 |
| 16-24 | 8-10 | 16-24 |
| 24-32 | 10-12 | 24-30 |

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