



National Livestock Transport and Safety Group

Friday 12 February 8:30-12PM
Mirimar Golf Club



Present: Chair: Don Wilson (On road transport)

Richard McColl (MIA), Eddie Swain (NZ Trucking), Glenn Carroll (Carroll transport), Julia Parr (OSPRI), Leonie Ward (MPI), Patrick Turton (AsureQuality), Roger Lamb (PGG Wrightson), , Eve Fuller (Federated Farmers), Robin Fellingham (Total Stockcrates), Nigel Gordon (Nationwide Stockcrates), Marco Woelders (RTA), Dean Carleton (RTA), Lisa Shaw (RTA) Nick Leggett (RTF), Josie Vidal RTF)

Apologise: Julie Geange (Federated Farmers), Will Halliday (Beef +Lamb), , Tony Dench (DairyNZ), Peter Hyde (MPI), Kevin Forward (OSPRI), Kevin Cresswell (MIA), John Tacon (Deer NZ), Helen Thoday (Dairy NZ),

Welcome & Introductions.

Chairman opened the meeting at 8:47AM.

Notification of Late Items

No late items notified.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting 30/10/2020(Attached) & Matters Arising

The minutes from the previous meeting held on Friday 30 October 2020, having been circulated were taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record.

Correspondence (Attached)

An email was distributed around about carting pigs over long distances and them dying on arrival due to heat stress. Leonie suggested that it may be beneficial for Selwyn to present that report to this group, it was based on pigs but has valid learnings for all species.

MPI Compliance Report (To be tabled)

Reports will be circulated to the group. These are current as of the 8th of February and date back to 2018 when the regulations were implemented.

The largest represented group was beef animals. The largest represented regions were Canterbury, Otago and then the Waikato.

Group raised concerns that it was not always the tallest animal which sustained a backrub injury. Is there any research to support the causes of backrub? Could it be a result of lack of nutrients on farm that make their skin more fragile than other cattle?

Action: Leonie will seek a further report providing a breakdown of infringements provided to farmers by species and time of year. As requested by the group.

NAIT/OSPRI update

We are currently looking into recommendations that would help to strengthen traceability. Looking at what value propositions we could use to sell it to farmers and get more buy in from them to produce better data. We are also looking at strengthening some of the partnerships in the system. Would be interested to hear how the group sees themselves fitting into this. There are lots of moving parts to the system and we are looking at where we can best place our efforts to make sure we are really selling the value of traceability. This is currently still a work in progress.

We are also looking at developing a standard for third parties that are involved in the movement of animals e.g., stock agents. This is currently out for consultation. The standard would look at registration of these third-party entities. If the farmer requires information from them then they have an obligation to provide that to the farmer to allow him to fulfil his obligations.

MPI are redesigning the ASD form while we are redeveloping/refining the EASD application. Working with them on timelines. OSPRI is aiming for July for the first phase but this is dependent on MPI. Should have a further update on progress by mid-March.

We have commissioned a study into tag degradation and how the NZ environment might be impacting the retention of the tags.

NZLTA Report and Update on the new Crate Certification Process

- 251 operators, only small amount of change from the previous year.
- 2,751 crates which is slightly up on last year 2019.
- 29 depot audits completed in the last quarter. 5 outstanding for this season. 125 to be done per year.

Crate covers regulation has been amended and gone out to all our audit groups. Have received no negative feedback on the new crate tags which is a positive.

If we are looking to update the standard the Industry Stock Crate Code which was done in February 2016, this might be a good place to start.

Some members have been asked for notes on when they have been washing out in a manual form. They provided geo fenced information around when they were on a wash, but this was not good enough. This should not be the case. Send through an email with the details and we will follow this up.

Stock Crate Standard discussion- Standard last updated 1993

Leonie raised the question of is this still fit for purpose since it was written before the Animal Welfare Act?

Discussion:

The standard is used a guideline, but industry has evolved since then. We are doing a better job than what the standard outlines. Asure Quality verifies it to a higher standard. If this is the case would why not look at updating the standard? High associated cost.

Industry groups raised concerns that it might not just be the stock crates causing back rub. That farming is not perfect and could be a result of thin skin, or other deficiencies. Breeding larger cattle is also an issue. We need a limit on the height of an animal. When you have a problem at a plant, for other conditions, you receive a vet report afterwards. A similar report when you get a backrub infringement would be beneficial to highlight any deficiencies.

Held to this standard by VERM. We could negotiate with NZTA to update/change the standard?

This boils down to being a communications issue. With every other part of the transport industry, they know the size and weight of what they are picking up before hand, and they get paid accordingly. Processing companies are not seeing the cattle before booking the transport and are therefore not taking into the account the size of the animal. Would be beneficial to create a legal load or be informed of the size of the load beforehand. This would allow for us to make more accurate decisions.

Industry does not have contracts with the meat companies. No collective bargaining power. This would create backlash.

If the stock crate is meant to hold animals, then the code of animal welfare should be incorporated to include the parts that were out of date.

Merit in having a presentation from NZ Standards on the Process to update?**Discussion:**

No difference would be made with updating the standard, it is very narrow. Would create a height restriction on the animals, and how are we meant to measure that? Would be beneficial to be able to identify those who have bigger bulls so we can single deck and know to do this in advance.

Is there another underlying thing that could be impacting/causing this? We have changed our behaviour and it is still happening. We need more education back to the supplier. The agent is the one booking the job, they should be accepting more responsibility. If you have commissioned the load, then it should be your responsibility to verify that what you are putting on the truck is fit for purpose. Everyone in the chain needs to be onboard.

- Chain of responsibility legislation exists. Could be put into the new standard?

Actions

- Leonie to provide details on who are issuing the infringements to see if there is a pattern. This would be shown by plant, not by vet.
- Need to decide what type of research Industry wants done into the factors impacting the safe transportation of animals.

- Further discussion around how to compel stock agents to get all the right information around heights and weights?
- All operators to provide input. Send through to Nick to collate, within the next week.

Workplace Safety update and discussion (See notes attached from 10 September Industry Meeting)

Looking for one standard for health and safety across all workspaces. Currently there is different processes for inside the plant than out, and big variations in requirements between plants. We are trying to create a one size fits all.

Don has discussed this with WorkSafe, Silver Fern Farms and Paul from MIA. To start the process, they want us to come back with a policy that we want for when we work inside the stock crate.

Action: Operators to send through what they would like to see included to Don. This is not to be played down and should include detail. Don will then take this back to them to see what they can be done to work around what we need/what is different on plant to on farm.

- Forestry has done something similar.

Vet Certificates and associated Industry Cost

There is an additional cost to transporting with vet certificates because you cannot fully load. We also often do not know the conditions on the vet cert until we arrive. This is to late.

Tony: The industry wants greater clarity of what they are dealing with, and if there are special requirements than you should be getting paid to accommodate these.

Group discussed that a lack of/breakdown of communication was often the issue. Would be beneficial to agree as an industry on a set fee for taking animals with a vet certificate. The industry would need to approach the meat industry as a collective. MIA could help with this, but do not have influence over commercial decisions.

Ed Cox & Kate Duckworth from Gibson Sheat

Ed and Kate gathered information from the group to better understand the topic.

Minutes were not required at this time.

Round the Table Update/General Business

Round the table update was not covered due to time constraints.

Next Meeting Date

14th of May at the Miramar Golf course.

Action List:

Item	Key Discussion and Decisions	Agreed Action(s)	Responsible	Due Date	Status
1	MPI Compliance Report	Leonie will seek a further report providing a breakdown of infringements provided to farmers by species and time of year.	Leonie Ward		
2	Stock Crate Standard Discussion	Leoni to provide details on who are issuing the infringements to see if there is a pattern.	Leonie Ward		
3	Stock Crate Standard Discussion	Need to decide what type of research Industry wants done into the factors impacting the safe transportation of animals.	Industry	N/A	Ongoing
4	Stock Crate Standard Discussion	Further discussion around how to compel stock agents to get all the right information around heights and weights?	Industry	N/A	Ongoing
5	Stock Crate Standard Discussion	All operators to provide input. Send through to Nick to collate, within the next week.	Operators	19/02/21	
6	Workplace Safety update and discussion	Operators to send through what they would like to see included to Don. Should include detail. Don to feed this back and identify the differences on plant and farm.	Operators	N/A	Ongoing