

Right From the Start

Trailers

Pre-Operation Checklist

- Hitch
- Safety chains
- Trailer brake and breakaway cable
- Cables
- Tires and axles
 - Lug nuts
 - Tread depth
 - Air pressure
 - Spare(s)
- Lights
- Flooring
- Partitions



Hitching

- Always guide the hitching process from the side of the vehicle/trailer
- Put the vehicle in park to check alignment between the vehicle and the trailer
- Fasten the safety latch
- Insert the safety pin
- Plug in the electrical plugs
- Hook safety chains to the opposite side of trailer from where they are mounted on the vehicle (cross them)
- Check all the lights on the trailer and vehicle

Loading

- Be patient; take your time
- Ensure good traction; good footing
- Minimize the elevation of the back of the trailer
- Put the heaviest weight distribution in front of the axles (bumper pull trailer)
- Tie animals high in the trailer
- Tie animals with a slip knot
- Make sure all ropes are tucked inside the trailer



Gates

- Close gates quickly
- Check latches for a secure hold
- Use a clip on the back gate; not a lock



Unloading

- Brace yourself when opening partitions inside a trailer
- Keep a hand on the animal while in the trailer
- Back a horse out of a trailer
- Turn cattle around to come out of the trailer face first
- Use the sorting board to direct pigs into a trailer.





The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

www.swagcenter.org

903-877-5998

agcenter@uthct.edu

Support for this resource was provided by NIOSH/CDC
Cooperative Agreement #U54-OH07541 and the

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™

NIOSH/CDC Cooperative Agreement #U54-OH07541