

Right From The Start | Outline

Trailers

Pre-Operation Checklist

The following items should be checked prior to departure:

- Hitch
- Safety chains
- Trailer brake and breakaway cable
- Electrical plugs
- Tires and axles
 - Lug nuts
 - Tread depth
 - Air pressure
 - Spare(s)
- Lights
- Flooring
 - Check under rubber mats for moisture/damage to the trailer floor.
- 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 on the hitch.
- Insert the safety pin on the hitch.
- Plug in the electrical plugs.
- Hook the safety chains to the opposite side of the trailer from where they are mounted on the vehicle. They should cross under the tongue of the trailer.
- Check all the lights on the trailer and vehicle.

Loading

- Be patient; take your time loading animals into a trailer.
- Ensure there is good traction/footing during the loading process.
- Minimize the elevation of the back of the trailer.
- Put the heaviest weight distribution in front of the axles on a bumper pull trailer.
- Tie animals high in the trailer.
- Always use a slip knot to tie animals in a trailer.
- Make sure all ropes are tucked inside the trailer before departure.

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Gates

- Close trailer gates quickly.
- Check latches to ensure a secure hold.
- Use a clip on the back gate instead of a lock. A lock would prevent emergency personnel from getting to the animals in case of an emergency.



Unloading

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

