



### Weather Conditions-

The inability to properly prepare for differing weather conditions costs the U.S. Pork Industry millions of dollars annually. As a trucker, it is your responsibility to know how different weather conditions will affect the hogs that you are transporting. You also need to know the best possible management techniques in order to safeguard the animal during extreme weather conditions.



### Cold Weather-

Freezing temperatures and wind chills are very dangerous to the safety of hogs. In cold weather, overcrowded hogs that cannot seek protection in bedding from the wind and low temperatures are subject to frostbite, both from the wind and from being pressed against the metal side of the truck.

- **The following is a list of cold weather precautionary measures that can be taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the hogs that you are transporting.**
  1. Replace grain slats in farm trucks.
  2. Close nose vents.
  3. Protect hogs from crosswinds using panels.
  4. Block a portion of the ventilation holes.
  5. Line metal compartments with wood.
  6. Keep pigs dry.
  7. Load fewer hogs.
  8. Provide extra bedding (wood shavings, wheat straw, corn stubble).
- **The figure below illustrates a set of suggested recommendations for truck set-up procedures during temperature extremes[5].**

Truck Set – Up Procedures During Temperature Extremes			
Air Temp (°F)	Bedding	Side-Slats	
<10	Heavy	90% Closed	10% Open*
10-20	Medium	75% Closed	25% Open*
20-40	Medium	50% Closed	50% Open
40-50	Light	25% Closed	75% Open
> 50	Light†	0% Closed	100% Open

\* Minimum openings are needed for ventilation even in the coldest weather.

† Consider using sand or wetting bedding if it is not too humid and trucks are moving.

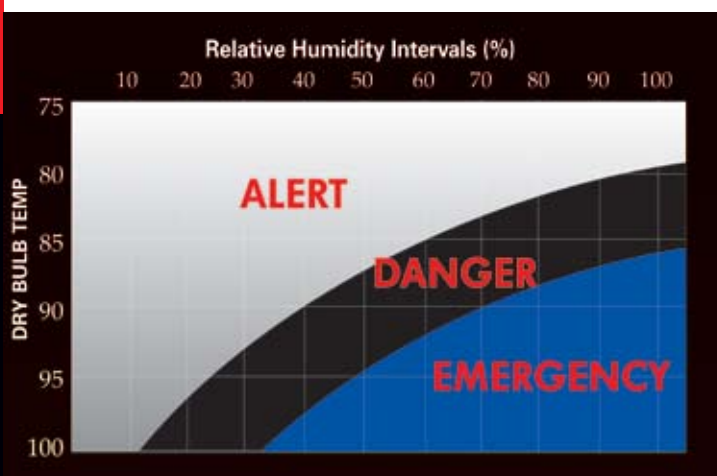
- **As a trucker, it is your responsibility to protect the hogs during extreme weather conditions.**



### Hot Weather-

Hot weather and humidity are deadly to hogs because they do not have functioning sweat glands. Therefore, special precautionary measures must be taken in hot weather conditions.

- **Always refer to the livestock weather safety index (below) prior to loading.**



- **Utilize the following procedures to keep animals cool and eliminate unnecessary transport losses during extreme weather conditions.**
  1. Adjust your load conditions during temperature extremes (See Chapter 5: Space Requirements/ Stocking Density, Page 22).
  2. Schedule transportation early in the morning or at night.
  3. When the temperature is over 60°F (15°C), use wet shavings to keep hogs cool.
  4. If the temperature is over 80°F (27°C), sprinkle hogs with water prior to loading at buying stations or on the farm (use a coarse heavy spray but not mist).
  5. Always be prepared to react/adjust to rapid temperature fluctuations such as the first warm day(s) of spring.
  6. Never bed hogs with straw during hot weather.
  7. Remove slats from farm trucks.
  8. Open nose vents.
  9. Unplug ventilation holes.
  10. Load and unload promptly to avoid heat buildup.