

## **Food animals**

The animals most commonly slaughtered for food include:

- + Cattle and water buffalo for beef and veal
- + Sheep and lambs for lamb and mutton
- + Goats for goat meat
- + Deer for venison
- + Poultry (mainly chickens, turkeys, and ducks)

## **From farm to abattoir**

Transport of livestock from farm to slaughter house involves a number of critical points which include:

- + Loading of animals at the farm
- + Transport from farm to abattoir
- + Offloading of animals at the abattoir and slaughter

## **Effects of transport and movement include:**

- + Stress: Leading to high blood pressure and heart rate cause spots of blood in muscles.
- + Bruising: Leading to production waste in the meat industry
- + Trampling: This occurs when animals go down due to slippery floors

- + Suffocation: This usually follows on trampling
- + Sunburn: Exposure to sun affects food animals
- + Dehydration: Animals subject to long distance travel without proper watering will suffer weight loss and may die
- + Injuries: Broken legs

**Factors must be taken into account during the journey in order that the animals do not become injure or die**

- + Species of animals: Different species should not be mixed
- + Time of the day: It is important to transport animals in vehicles during the cooler mornings and evenings or even at night
- + Duration of journey: Journeys should be short and direct, without any stoppages. **Cattle, sheep, and goats** should not travel for more than 36 hours and should be offloaded after 24h for feed and water.
- + Driving: Vehicles should be driven smoothly, without sudden stops. Corners should be taken slowly and gently.