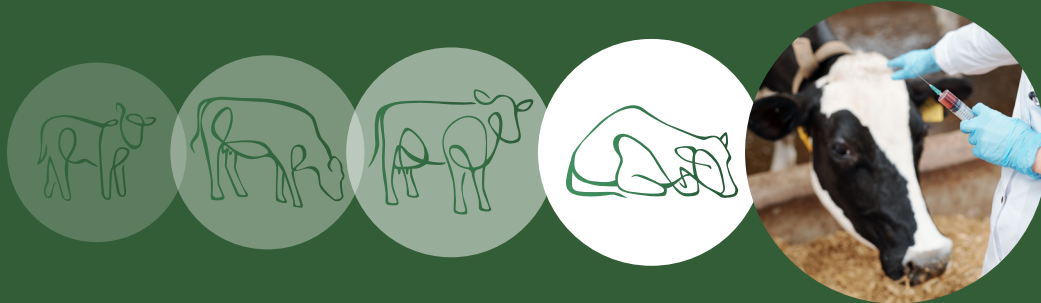


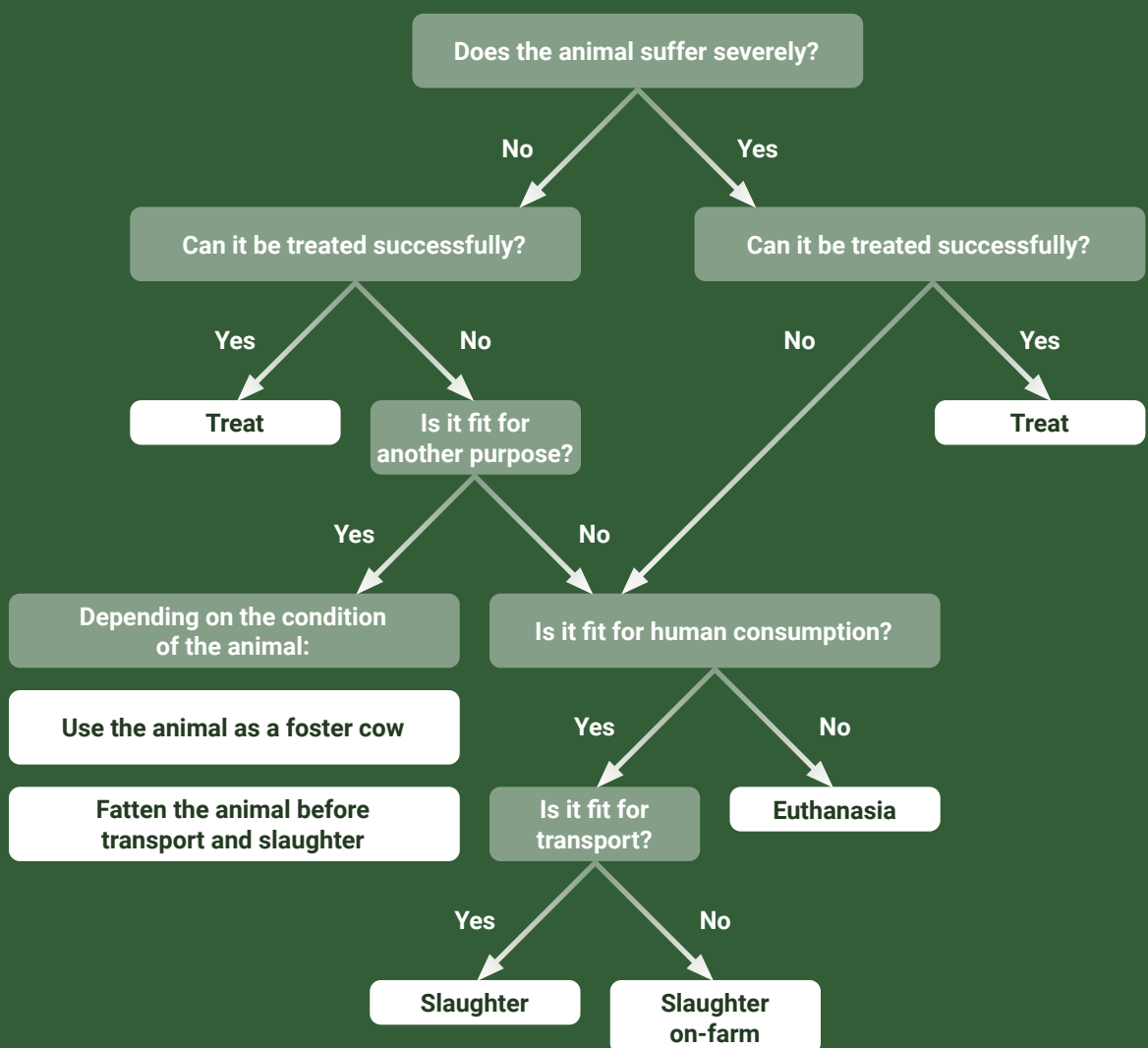
Euthanasia decision making

Best practice farms prioritise the health and welfare of cows at the end of their productive life by keeping them safe, comfortable, and medicated to alleviate pain. Euthanasia is practiced humanely when a cow suffers severely and cannot be cured.

The career of a dairy cow may end for several reasons such as an incurable disease, too low milk yield, or infertility. The pain and suffering experienced by a diseased cow must be assessed to decide on her future.



End of career



More information

Support from a veterinarian helps in making prompt and effective decisions and reduces the moral burden on farmers.

- Where treatment is advised, its effectiveness must be checked.
- Prompt culling and euthanasia are required where treatment is not advised or is ineffective.
- Euthanasia must be practiced by a veterinarian or an authorised and qualified person.