



A 21st Century Cattle Drive

A national record for live cattle in one port shipment was set in the Port of Galveston, Texas under the expert handling of the newest member of the Nautilus family, Suderman Contracting Stevedores, Inc. The *MV Ocean Drover* arrived on September 13 in Galveston, where we loaded a total of 5,584 Angus and Holstein heifers. We also loaded 1,370 tons of feed for the 21-day transit to Russia.

As the heifers arrived by truck, they were unloaded through a chute made of gate sections and sea containers. While in the chute, the heifers were accounted for via scanning an electronic ear tag, as well as being inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA properly rejected any cattle with improper export documentation and/or health issues (and those cattle were returned to their place of origin). A team of veterinarians monitored the cattle throughout all phases of the operation. Multiple holding pens were constructed in the warehouse for resting, feeding, and watering the cattle before loading to the vessel. Suderman augmented its team of superintendents with horseback-mounted “Texas Cowboys.”

Suderman’s superintendents and cowboys displayed great skill in safely and humanely moving this precious cargo through the warehouse and terminal chutes, where the vessel’s crew took over moving the cattle to their final place of rest in pens on the world’s largest, purpose-built livestock carrier.

The Port of Galveston has a long history of loading cattle aboard ships. From the late 1800s and decades beyond, cowboys drove local Texas cattle down the famous seawall in Galveston, steering them left at 37th Street and to the Port. It is a privilege for our Company to continue in this historic activity with a 21st-century version of a “cattle drive” and to add such an interesting operation to the Nautilus portfolio!



Cows being herded onto the ship by way of the container chute