

## CASE STUDY

# MOVING LIVESTOCK FOR DISASTER RELIEF TO PUERTO RICO

In late 2017 Hurricane Maria wreaked havoc in the Caribbean and decimated livestock in the region. **GEM** was contacted by a Puerto Rican Agricultural Company who had been awarded USDA grant funds to assist with re-population of island cattle. The customer needed a solution to move live cattle from the US mainland to the Puerto Rico. The **GEM** Cattle Box was designed, engineered, and built to provide a means to this end. The containers were outfitted with all of the provisions necessary to provide a safe and nourishing environment for the cattle to journey by sea to their new home.

### CATTLE BOX FEATURES

- **Modified cargo door widths**
- **Fully gasketed and sealed lower sill for waste containment**
- **Integral ventilation equipment in cargo doors**
- **Personnel access door for attendant**

The container cargo doors were modified to create an offset configuration which facilitated the load/unload of animals. Needless to say, cattle can generate a lot of waste, making the doors and accompanying waste containment a key factor in the design of the equipment. A gasketed lower sill assembly was implemented to handle the task. The ventilation & fresh air circulation system was integrated into the container cargo doors, allowing for fresh air to be continuously delivered.

While in transit the animals are attended to full-time by personnel. A small door was custom-built, allowing for the attendant to enter and leave the pens for watering, feeding, and any other concerns that would need dealt with in transit.

