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## **HANDLE WITH CARE...**

**for the safety of you and your animals.**

### **YOU CAN BE INJURED WHEN:**

- animals are agitated due to fear;
- male animals show dominance or aggression;
- female animals protect their young;
- equipment is faulty.

## **Understand animal behavior to prevent injuries**

### **FEAR**

When animals become agitated during handling, it is usually due to fear. Fear-based behavior is likely to be the main cause of accidents; horses kicking, steers baulking in a chute.

### **HERD INSTINCT**

- Cattle have a strong herd instinct. In the company of other cattle, they will settle down.
- Use herd instinct to move animals.
- Do not rush them, they will follow the leader.
- Isolation is a leading cause of stress in cattle.

### **SENSES**

- Cattle will often baulk at moving or unfamiliar objects or noises.
- Cattle have wide panoramic visual field but have a blind spot right behind them and directly in front.
- Cattle have to put their heads down to determine depth of a shadow or a puddle.
- High-pitched noises are disturbing to cattle. Speak softly with a low tone of voice.
- Animals are sensitive to harsh differences in contrast, very bright areas to very dark areas.



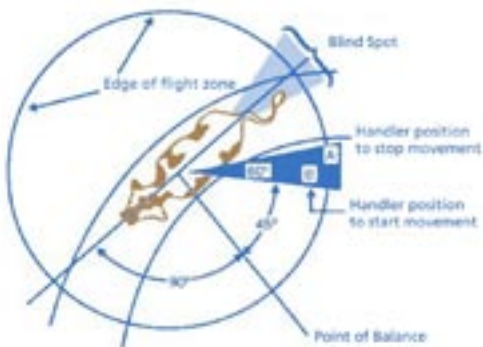
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## **FLIGHT ZONE**

- The distance you are from an animal before they move away is the Flight Zone. Understanding this and the Point of Balance allows you to move cattle calmly. Each animal has a different Flight Zone.
- Cattle will move in the opposite direction when you enter this space. If you move out of the zone, the animal usually stops moving.



## **RANGE OF INFLUENCE**

- Your Range of Influence is like the volume knob on a radio. Aggressive movements, shouting and loud noises can create a stressful handling situation. You must handle livestock quietly.

## **HANDLING CATTLE SAFELY**

- ✓ Move slowly and calmly.
- ✓ Eliminate visual distractions and noises.
- ✓ Avoid overcrowding, cattle will become stressed.
- ✓ Make sounds as you approach the animal to avoid spooking it.
- ✓ Be aware. Cattle have very accurate aim when kicking. Rear legs can strike out behind, off to the sides and up to the head.
- ✓ Never get between a cow and her calf.
- ✓ Never enter a pasture or pen with bulls.

## **EQUIPMENT**

- ✓ Never use a gate to move cattle.
- ✓ Inspect your equipment for wear and tear.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The more you handle your animals, the more comfortable they become with you. Animals read your body language and they respond to the way you handle them. You must remain calm and confident to build trust with your animals.