

Animal Handling



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Animal Handling: Getting Started & The National FARM Program

A little It is Important that workers know proper animal handling to ensure that injuries are reduced on the farm. LNI reports 4 out of every 100 dairy workers are seriously injured by animals every year.

In this chapter, workers will have an opportunity to assess their knowledge by taking a pre and post quiz on animal handling practices.



Trainers will have the opportunity to choose between a video on animal handling or doing an interactive lesson as part of the training.

In the next lessons, we will provide you with the necessary information and materials to have a successful training.

Dairy Stockmanship Training- English
<https://nationaldairyfarm.com/producer-resources/dairy-stockmanship/>

Find dairy videos on:

- Moving cows
- Using the senses in Handling Cattle
- Using Pressure and Release
- Understand the point of Balance
- Understanding the Flight Zone
- Natural Behavior In Cattle

This chapter will cover:

- The costs of animal-related injuries on dairy farms
- Causes of animal-related injuries
- Definitions
- Natural behavior of cows
- Preventing animal-related injuries
 - Approaching and Handling Cattle
 - Moving and Herding Cattle

National F.A.R.M. Program on Animal Handling

Section 4.1 page 44 on the [National F.A.R.M. Program](#), also speaks on animal Handling practices. The chapter on the Farm Program Manual will also provide some information.

Animal Handling: Cost & Definition

Workers will be able to identify the hazards of animal handling and learn how to best prevent animal-related injuries to decrease injuries on the farm.



Learning Objectives:

In this exercise, workers will learn

1. About the costs of animal-related injuries on dairy farms
2. To identify causes of animal-related injuries
3. Definitions: Flight zone and pressure zone
4. About the Natural behaviors of cows
5. How to approach cows

Materials for the trainer:

- Quiz answer sheet: [Cattle Handling Answer Sheet](#)
- PowerPoint Presentation for reference (found in the Downloadable PowerPoint module)
- How much do animal injuries cost- worksheet: [Discussing the cost of injuries](#)
- Worksheet 2: [Most common injuries](#)
- [Definitions worksheet](#)
- [Natural behavior of cows](#)
- [Preventing Injury Approaching and Handling](#)

Materials for workers:

- Pre quiz one for each worker: [Cattle Handling Pre-quiz](#)
- Pencils and paper to take notes

Estimated lesson time: 30 min

Suggested training environment: Indoor, access to tables. Whiteboard and projector recommended.

Animal Handling: Cost & Definition

1. Getting Started

1. Print and hand out the pre-quiz provided in the materials section
2. Introduce learning objectives (see above)
3. When presenting the training, download the PowerPoint presentation for reference (optional). The PowerPoints can be found in the "Downloadable PowerPoint" module. The power points contain part 1 and 2 of this exercise.
4. To understand the cost of injuries, use the worksheet "Discussing the cost of injuries". Pass out a worksheet to each worker (optional).
5. Show pictures on the most common types of injuries for cattle handling by printing out worksheet 2

2. Definitions

Before moving on with the training make sure that workers know these definitions:

- Blind spot
- Point of Balance
- Herding
- Applying pressure
- Flight zone



To help you out, use the "Definitions" worksheet to show the images provided with each definition.

Tip: You can print a worksheet for each worker or just show it on a big screen. You can also use the PowerPoint.

Animal Handling: Cost & Definition

3. Activity

1. Print and hand out to all workers the worksheet "Natural Behavior of Cows." Go over each point making sure to demonstrate the action as needed.
2. Print the handout "Preventing Injury: Approaching and Handling." This handout is a quick reference on facts about cow behavior and how workers can respond. Go over each fact and have the workers take a picture on their phone so that they can have easy access to it. A great tool for workers on the farm.

Animal Handling: The flight zone & How to use the point of balance

Workers will be able to apply to apply new definitions to identify best practices when approaching cattle and to prevent animal-related injuries.



Learning Objectives:

In this exercise, workers will learn

1. How to use the flight zone and point of balance to guide a herd of cows.

Materials for the trainer:

- Quiz Answer Sheet: [Cattle Handling Answer Sheet.pdf](#)
- PowerPoint Presentation for reference
- [FlighZone and PressureZone.pdf](#)
- [Defining Point of Balance.pdf](#)

Materials for workers:

- Post quiz, one for each worker: [Cattle Handling-Post-quiz.pdf](#)
- Pencils and paper to take notes

Estimated lesson time: About 30 min

Suggested training environment: Indoor, access to tables. Whiteboard and projector recommended.

Instructions:

The second part of the interactive training will have group activities and more group participation than the first part. The final step will include a post quiz.

Understanding The Flight Zone Exercise

Learning about the "Flight Zone" will require group participation. The goal of this exercise is to understand why approaching a cow would make her instinctively turn in the opposite direction. (Use PowerPoint for reference).

1. Have workers group into pairs of two and stand a good distance across from one another (about 15 feet).
2. Have them take a step forward, toward one another.
3. Ask the group "How does this make you feel?"- note responses
4. Have them continue to step forward and reevaluate how the change in proximity makes them feel.
5. Continue to ask the group "As you get closer to one another what is your instinct? Turn in the other direction? " Turning in the other direction is usually a cows response to feeling uncomfortable.
6. After discussion move on to define and review the Flight Zone.
7. You can use this worksheet to help define flight zone and pressure: FlightZone and PressureZone worksheet (see above).

[Defining Point of Balance](#)

Point of balance

1. Review worksheet 1 for a well explained definition
2. Grab a chair or large object to represent a cow
3. A volunteer or the trainer can be representative of the worker.
4. Walk toward the object or chair until you are near the object's (cow) point of balance demonstrate what the worker should do, using the point of balance worksheet.

Video Training: Animal Handling

For this lesson, workers will watch a video about the costs of animal related injuries, causes of animal related injuries, the natural behavior of cows, and how to prevent animal related injuries.



Video Training: Animal Handling

Materials for the trainer:

1. Video projection: TV screen or projector
2. [Cattle Handling-pre quiz and post quiz](#)
3. Answer sheet
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWM5MDkC5Gs>

Materials for workers

1. Pre quiz and post quiz
2. Pencil, desk or tables

Video Exercise

1. Pass out pre-quiz provided in the materials section. Have workers take the pre-quiz before watching the animal handling video.
2. Play animal handling video, provided in the materials section.
3. Have a discussion on the video, answer any question to clarify any information given in the video.
4. Have workers take the post quiz.
5. Have a discussion on the question that was hard to answer or where there was any confusion.

DAIRY SAFETY TOOLKIT

Mapping activity: Identifying Hazards

deohs.washington.edu/pnash

In this exercise, workers will learn about identifying hazards on the farm using an interactive worksheet.

Why is this important? Workers will be able to apply definitions to identify best practices when approaching cattle and to prevent animal-related injuries.



Learning Objectives

Apply safe animal handling practices from today's workshop to risk areas around the farm where injuries are known to occur. Identify what is working and what is not. How can we reduce the risk of injury?

Estimated lesson time

About 30 Minutes

Materials for the trainer

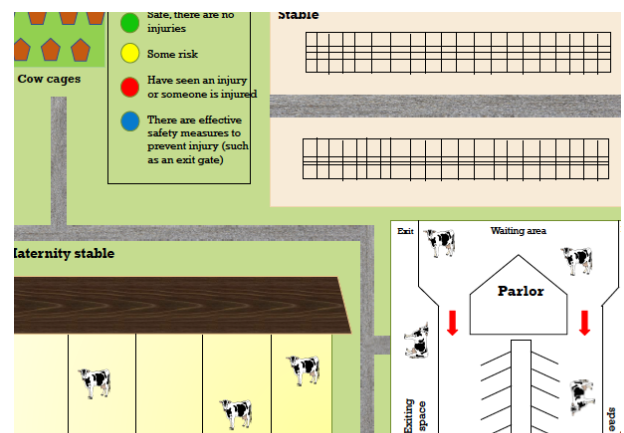
- Download English and Spanish Farm Layout pdf. printed on a 24x12 or bigger depending on group size
- Colored stickers: green, yellow, red, blue (Avery product #5795)

Materials for workers

Pencils and paper to take notes

Suggested training environment

- Indoors, access to tables
- Whiteboard and projector recommended



Mapping Activity

Using the map and different colored stickers, identify locations on the farm.

- Green** Believed to be safe, no animal-related injuries
- Yellow** Location where you are at risk for animal-related injuries
- Red** You have witnessed or experienced animal-related injuries
- Blue** An exit route or location for other preventative measures

