

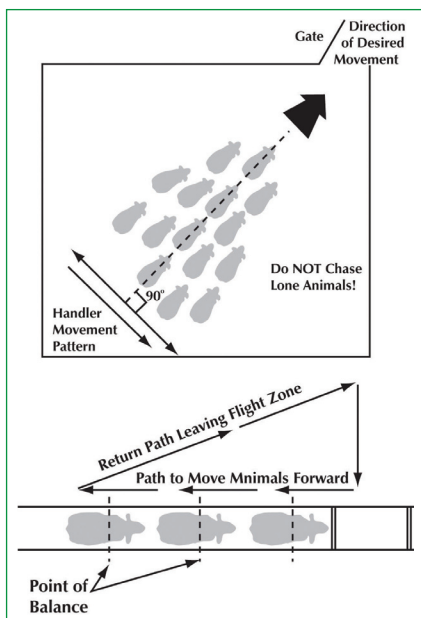
Proper Cattle Handling

Cattle are gathered to perform routine husbandry procedures, such as veterinary care, weighing, sorting, weaning and transportation to and from pastures, feedlots and livestock markets. Handling procedures must be safe for the cattle and caretakers, and cause as little stress as possible. Facilities should be designed and constructed to take advantage of cattle's natural instincts.

Facilities

Cattle handling facilities do not have to be elaborate or expensive. Proper design and quick recognition of problems that impede cattle flow are essential for safe, efficient cattle handling.

- Design and operate alleys and gates to avoid impeding cattle movement. When operating gates and catches, reduce excessive noise, which may cause distress to the animals.
- Adjust hydraulic or manual restraining chutes to the appropriate size of cattle to be handled. Regular cleaning and maintenance of working parts is imperative to ensure the system functions properly and is safe for the cattle and handlers.
- Avoid slippery surfaces, especially where cattle enter a single file alley leading to a chute or where they exit the chute. Grooved concrete, metal grating (not sharp), rubber mats or deep sand can be used to minimize slipping and falling. Quiet handling is essential to minimize slipping. Under most conditions, no more than 2% of the animals should fall outside the chute. A level of more than 2% should indicate a review of the process may be of value, including asking questions such as: is this a cattle temperament issue, has something in the handling area changed that is effecting cattle behavior, etc.

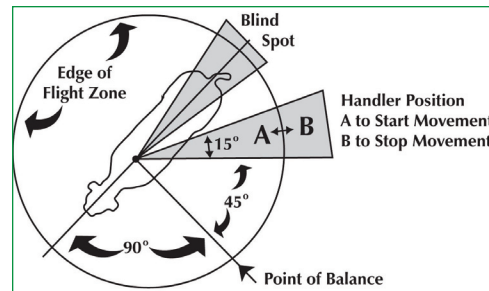


Cattle Handling

- Abuse of cattle is not acceptable under any

circumstances.

- Take advantage of cattle's flight zone and point of balance to move them. For safety and welfare reasons, minimize the use of electric prods. Non-electric driving aids, such as plastic paddles, sorting sticks, flags or streamers (affixed to long handles) should be used to quietly guide and turn animals. When cattle continuously balk, cattle handlers should investigate and correct the reason rather than resort to overuse of electric prods.
- Under desirable conditions, 90% or more of cattle should flow through cattle handling systems without the use of electric prods.
- When cattle prods must be used, avoid contact with the eyes, rectum, genitalia and udder.
- Driving aids powered by AC current should never be used unless manufactured and labeled specifically for that purpose. Voltage must be regulated to less than 50 volts.
- Some cattle are naturally more prone to vocalize, but if more than 5% of cattle vocalize (after being squeezed but prior to procedures being performed) it may be an indication that chute operation should be evaluated. Key questions to ask include: is this a cattle temperament issue or effect of prior handling, are chute pressures and catching methods appropriate, or should they be re-evaluated?
- If more than 25% of cattle jump or run out of the chute there should be a review of the situation and questions asked such as: is this a result from cattle temperament or prior handling issue, was the chute operating properly etc. Evaluate handling procedures to determine if practices need to be improved or whether the problem is cattle temperament.
- Properly trained dogs can be effective and humane tools for cattle handling. During chute-side cattle processing procedures, dogs that continually bark, impede cattle flow or are unnecessarily rough with cattle should not be used.



Source: Beef Quality Assurance, The Cattle Industry's Guidelines for the Care and Handling of Cattle