

Livestock Safety Handling Checklist

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I. Assess environmental conditions		Completed
1	Avoid handling animals during extreme hot and humid or cold weather	
2	Wear properly fitting clothing and protective footwear	
3	Evaluate today's surface conditions	
4	Evaluate today's weather	

8	Do not, or make minimal use of electric prods and sticks	
9	Do not hit an animal if he/she does not have a place to go	
10	Judiciously use proper handling aides (cattle prods)	
11	Make sure there are no sharp edges that may cause injuries	
**	Maintain latches on squeeze chutes	

II. Understand animal behavior		Completed
1	Increase caution around mothers with offspring, and bulls	
2	Understand and utilize the animal's flight zone	
3	Assess the degree of animal's agitation and anxiety	
4	Take advantage of your knowledge of the animal's historical behaviors	
5	Understand gender and breed behavioral differences	
6	Operate within the animal's natural daily patterns	
7	Take advantage of the animal's herding instinct	
**	Avoid lone animal	

IV. Practice safe and efficient handling techniques		Completed
1	Be especially cautious around animals that are handled less frequently or are agitated	
2	Don't trust or take animals for granted or become complacent with routine jobs	
3	Match age, experience and skill of the handler(s) to the task	
4	Minimize unwanted noise and visitors during animal handling	
5	Plan an escape route	
6	Minimize exposure in the "kicking zone"	
7	Know when to seek assistance (veterinarian, additional worker)	
8	Dedicate appropriate number of workers to task (too many or too few)	
9	Use extra caution when loading, transporting or unloading animals	
10	Use a calm voice, deliberate actions and confident approach	
11	Try to handle cattle in groups rather than individually	
12	Take special precautions to avoid cuts and needle pricks	
13	Alternate tasks to avoid repetitive stress/motion injuries	
14	Use proper lifting techniques	
**	Never tie lead rope to self	

III. Maintain appropriate and adequate handling equipment and facilities		Completed
1	Construct sturdy and durable handling facilities	
2	Lay out facilities to take advantage of animals' natural responses (and behavior)	
3	Use proper and adequate restraining devices (chutes, ropes, headgates)	
4	Design and operate for appropriate capacity and expansion	
5	Provide escape gates and barriers	
6	Organize and have available appropriate tools, medications and equipment	
7	Match cost and complexity to herd composition, size and location(s)	