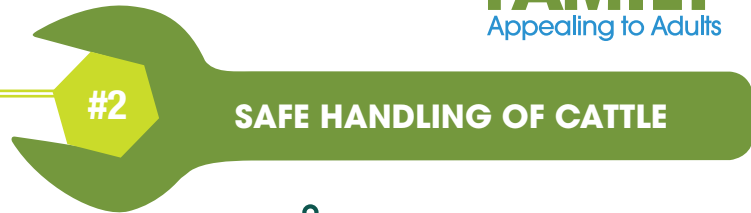


PRODUCER TOOLS

TOOLBOX TALKS

WORK ACTIVITY



CASA | ACSA
CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL SAFETY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE SÉCURITÉ AGRICOLE

- Working around cattle can be very dangerous if safe work procedures are not followed. Animal-related injuries can be due to distraction, impatience, or anger by the animal or the handler. It's important to know the risks and practice safety when working with cattle.

BACKGROUND

- Cattle see the world differently than humans do. Having a better idea of what the animal sees and how it behaves can save you from injury and even death.

KEY POINTS

WE HAVE INTEGRATED SAFETY STANDARD OPERATING PRACTICES FOR SAFE HANDLING OF CATTLE ON OUR FARM. If you don't remember them, review them—you can find them:

Our cattle are vital to our farming operation. Their welfare and yours is of top concern to our farm.

The following strategies are key in ensuring the safety of both you and our cattle. **REMEMBER:** rough or aggressive handling is not acceptable and could create a very unsafe work environment.

MAKE SURE CATTLE HANDLING AREAS ARE WELL-KEPT AND FREE OF DEBRIS

Slips, trips and falls can lead to an injury to you or the cattle due to obstructions. Make sure that all cattle handling areas are well-kept and free from debris. Twine, feed bags, and other debris

should be properly stored or disposed of. Clear any ice or mud from concrete surfaces to prevent slips.

If you notice that our cattle handling system is in need of cleaning or maintenance, talk with your supervisor to come up with a solution to the issue if not already part of your regular work duties.

KEEP CATTLE CALM

Startled or excited cattle are dangerous. When working with them, give them time to settle down. Use a soft voice, and work calmly and confidently around cattle. If you find you are getting frustrated, take a break. Walk away and calm down.

TALK LEADER INSTRUCTIONS

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize your talk to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the workers.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible. Ask your workers for their experiences.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

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WATCH FOR DANGER SIGNS

Agitated cattle often bellow loudly and may paw the ground. Be on the lookout for danger signs including quick erratic movements, raised ears and snorting. A lowered head and raised tail are often signs that the animal is feeling hostile. If you notice an animal behaving in an aggressive way, remove yourself from the situation until the animal calms down.

AVOID THE KICK ZONE

Never underestimate the power and speed of a kick. Ensure that you are out of kicking range.

WEAR THE GEAR

Steel toed boots, long durable pants and long sleeves are a must. All long hair must be tied up and no jewelry worn.

PLAN YOUR ESCAPE ROUTE

Make sure you have an escape route in mind before you start your work in a

pen or corral. You should be able to access these escape areas in case of a dangerous situation.

NOTE: Reviewing information about flight zones is a good idea. You can find more information about the flight zone, point of balance and blind spots at [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex8274](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex8274).

REMEMBER: Children should not be near or around cattle without direct supervision.

These are general safety concepts, you may have cow-calf pairs, bulls, or specialized handling equipment you may have to use. Use the space below to talk about other hazards associated with cattle handling on your farm.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

In case of incident or injury, call 911 or your local emergency services, then me or your supervisor.

CAUTION

Human error is the primary cause of many types of injuries. These errors in judgment and action are due to a variety of reasons, but can occur when people are tired, hurried, upset, preoccupied, or careless. You can control these factors and can prevent injuries to yourself and the cattle.

MORE RESOURCES

Low Stress Cattle Handling – Agricultural Health & Safety Network available at <http://casa-acsa.ca/content/low-stress-cattle-handling-factsheet-saskatchewan>

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

Operation Name _____

Location _____

Meeting Leader _____

Date _____

TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name _____

Signature _____

Print name _____

Signature _____

Print name _____

Signature _____

Print name _____

Signature _____



CanadaFarmSafe
SécuritéFermeCanada

This Producer Tool was developed by the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA). Conducting regular Toolbox Talks, or safety meetings, with farm workers is one component of establishing a comprehensive farm safety plan as outlined in the Canada FarmSafe Plan, CASA's business-risk management tool for health and safety on the farm. To download the core Canada FarmSafe Plan, visit casa-acsa.ca/CanadaFarmSafePlan, or contact CASA to learn more at 1-877-452-2272.