

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: Handling Bulls Safely

OVERVIEW: Every year dairy farm workers are killed when attacked by a bull. Bulls are unpredictable animals which makes them extremely dangerous. In 2008, a 61 year old California agriculture teacher with 33 years experience was attacked and killed by the bull.

TALKING POINTS:

- Bulls are naturally aggressive animals and should be removed by the age of 3 years old.
- Be familiar with the locations of bulls on the farm.
- Move calmly, and deliberately to avoid sudden movements and startling bulls.
- Work in pairs so that if an attack occurs your co-worker can assist you.
- Watch for aggressive behavior, such as bellowing or pawing. Bulls can get aggressive with age and should be removed by the age of 3 years old.
- If a bull is becoming aggressive, back away and continue to watch the bull until you can safely exit the pen.
- Immediately report aggressive bulls to your supervisor.
- Minimize bull handling by keeping bulls in a separate corral and bringing cows to them.
- When conducting maintenance activities in a pen where a bull is located, remove the bull from the area if possible.

- Keep pass-through clear and allow employee to safely leave the pen.
- Never trust, tease, or turn your back on a bull.
- Do not play, tease or rough house with bull calves. This may lead to aggression in mature bulls.
- Be aware of where the bull is at all times.
- Do not run from a bull since it will encourage the bull to chase you.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What are examples of aggressive behaviors? (Answer: Bellowing and pawing)
2. What is the safest way to approach a bull? (Answer: Move calmly and deliberately, avoiding sudden movements.)
3. Why is it important to know where the bull is at all times? (Answer: They are naturally aggressive)
4. At what age should a bull be removed? (Answer: By 3-years-old)

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