

TAILGATE TOPIC



TOPIC: Beef Cattle Safety

OVERVIEW: The first rule of farm safety is prevention. Whether you are operating equipment of working with animals, taking a few precautions and observing safety rules can save you precious time, prevent injury or even save your life. Removing hazards is one step toward a safe working environment. Another way is to know the correct way to work with animals and to follow good safety practices when doing so.

TALKING POINTS:

- Treat each animal as unpredictable. Remain constantly aware of the animal's temperament, habits and handling characteristics while working around animals.
- Observe the animals to determine aggressiveness or signs of fear. These signs may be: ears raised or pinned, tail raised or pawing on the ground and snorting.
- Position yourself where the animal can see you at all times. Let them know where you are at all times, either by talking to them or touching them.
- Move gently; don't use excessive whipping to turn the animal around.
- Use a shaker stick vs a hot shot.
- Check fence pass-throughs to ensure there is easy access if you must flee quickly.
- If aggressive bulls cannot be completely removed they should be kept in a separate pen and warning signs posted.
- Horse play will not be tolerated while working on or around animals.

- Restrain young animals properly when you perform procedures such as branding, de-horning or castration. Use a squeeze chute to immobilize animal during castration, or have two people do it with the calf lying on its side.
- Ensure gates and fasteners are working properly.
- Make sure to stay in constant communication with others when handling or moving cattle.
- Do not use horses or ATV's to round up cattle, this can scare the cattle causing injury.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. How should you approach beef cattle? (Answer: Position yourself so the animal can see you. Let them know where you are by talking or touching.)
2. Where should aggressive bulls be located? (Answer: In a separate pen.)
3. How should animals be restrained? (Answer: Use a squeeze chute or two people holding the calf on its side.)
4. Where should you position yourself around animals? (Answer: Where the animal can see you.)

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