

LIVESTOCK HANDLING

Farm workers, ranchers, family members and visitors are injured every year by livestock. Many of these injuries occur to workers handling livestock.

- Label livestock handling areas to warn away visitors.
- Design livestock pens and handling facilities using recommended plans.
- All facilities should be designed to allow workers easy access to and exit from animals.
- Make sure to use restraining equipment consistently and properly.
- Equip pens with emergency exits.
- Keep children and bystanders out of livestock handling areas.
- Animals can be unpredictable. Be sure you understand some of the common instincts of animals:
 - strong territorial instinct
 - changes in lighting or shadows can excite or spook them as well as separation from other animals which can cause unpredictable behavior
 - sudden or loud noises can frighten animals
 - some types of livestock such as beef cattle, swine and dairy cattle are color-blind and have poor depth perception which causes them to be sensitive to contrasts in light, movement and noises
 - cattle and horses can see everything around them except directly behind their hindquarters

Inspection

Are gates, fences or pens in good repair?

Do aisles have any sharp projections?

Is restraining equipment useable?

Is an escape gate or path available?

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Information supplied by The National Safety Council's Agricultural Division,
1121 Spring Lake Drive, Itasca, IL
60143, (630) 775-2023, www.nsc.org