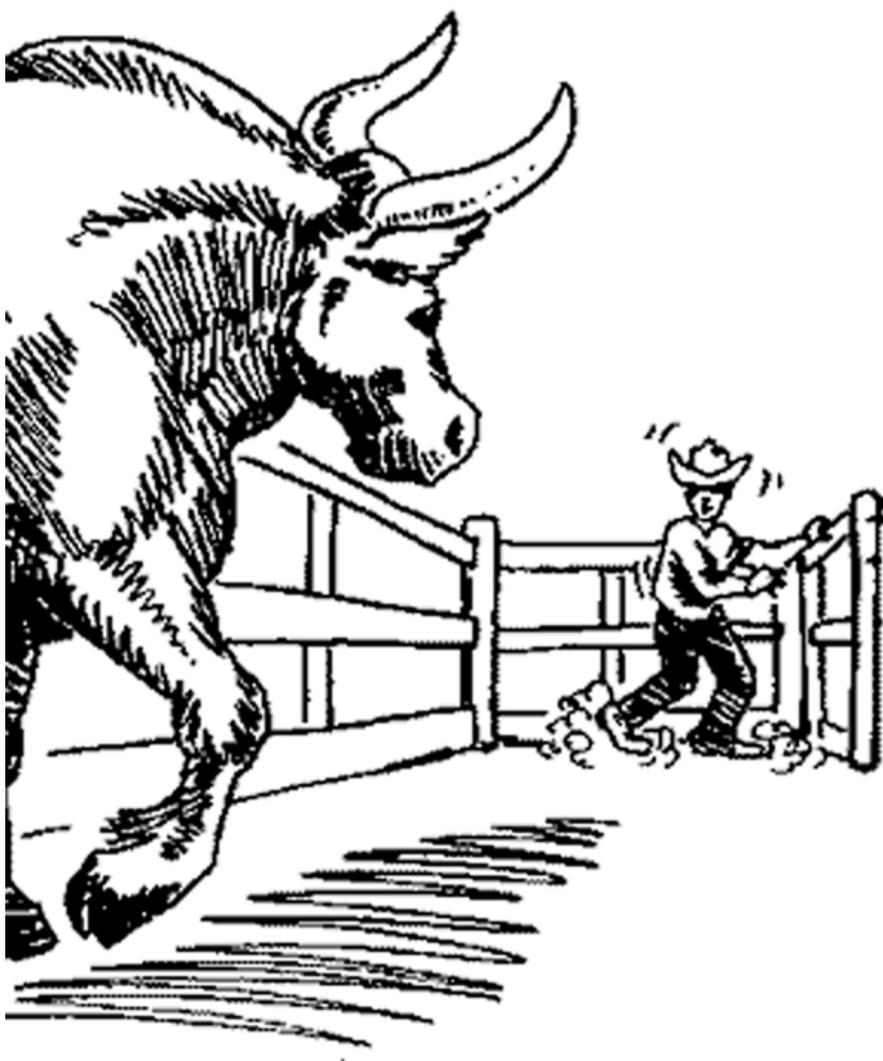


Farm/Ranch Animal Safety



Farm / Ranch Animal Safety

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RESOURCES

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) also offers several free safety publications online at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html>.

The DWC features a free occupational safety and health audiovisual library. For more information, call 512-804-4620 or visit the DWC website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html>.

Safety module created by AgSafe. This publication is compiled from various reference sources and is designed to provide current and authoritative information on the subject matter covered. Information about the Agsafe Project can be obtained by writing to Agsafe, 140 Warren Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

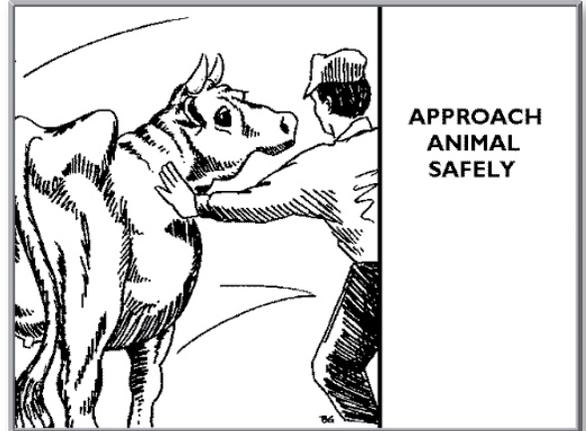
Division of Workers' Compensation

Resource Center • 512-804-4620 • resourcecenter@tdi.texas.gov

Safety Violations Hotline • 1-800-452-9595 • safetyhotline@tdi.texas.gov

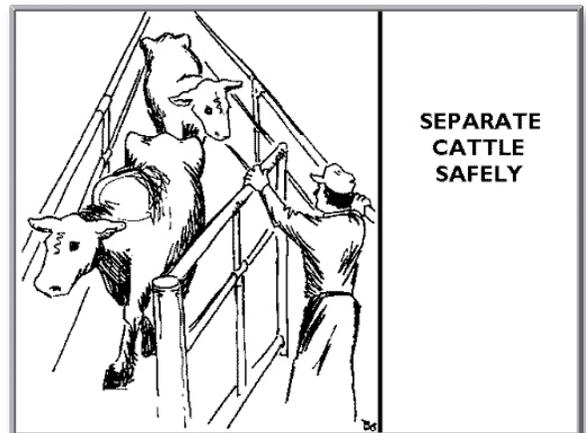
APPROACH ANIMAL CAREFULLY

The proper approach to large animals is critical to working with them safely. Most large animals can see at wide angles around them, but there is a blind spot directly behind their hindquarters, where they cannot see. Any movement in this “blind spot” will make the animal uneasy and nervous. The safest approach is to “announce” your approach through a touch to the animal’s front or side. Most large animals will kick in an arch beginning toward the front and moving toward the back. Avoid this kicking region when approaching the animal.



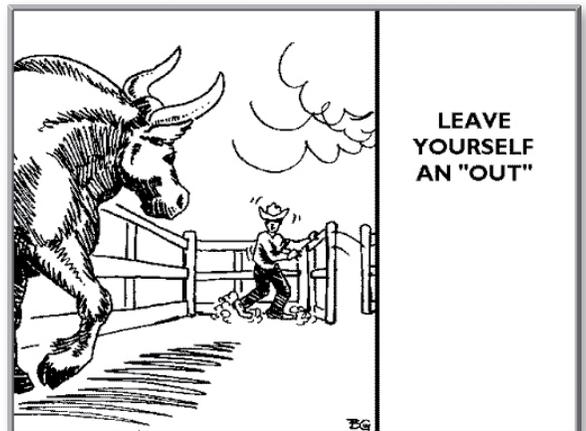
SEPARATE CATTLE SAFELY

As one large cow can weigh up to 1500 pounds, it is not a good idea to try to manually separate cows using gates or boards. A frightened cow or horse will plow right over you. It is safer to use proper handling facilities made specially for separating large animals. Most animals will be more cooperative in moving through a chute that has minimal distractions.



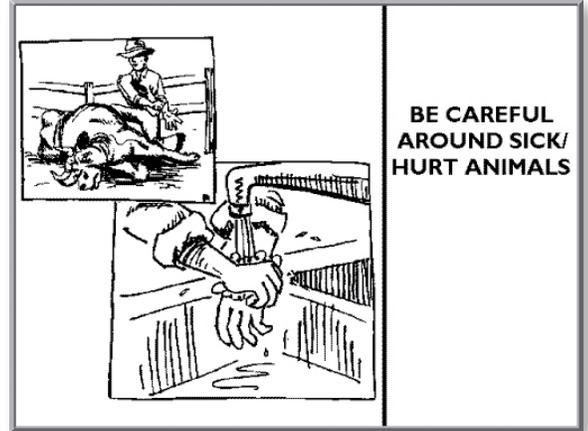
LEAVE YOURSELF AN “OUT”

When you are inside a handling facility or milking lane, always leave yourself a way to get out if it becomes necessary. Try to avoid entering a small, enclosed area with large animals unless it is equipped with a man-gate that you can get to easily.



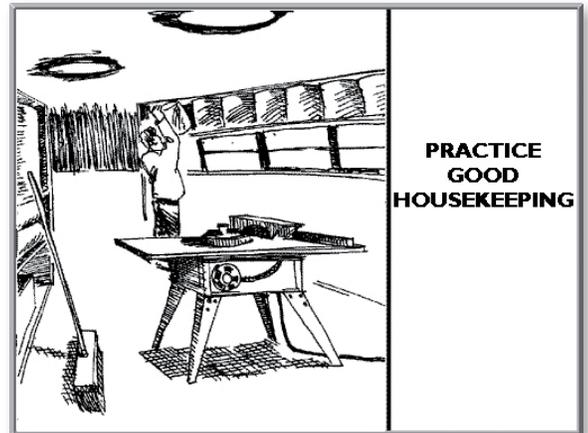
BE CAREFUL AROUND SICK/HURT ANIMALS

When working with sick and hurt animals be sure to protect yourself from any animal-borne diseases such as undulant fever, tetanus, rabies, etc. Wear rubber gloves and other protective clothing for protection, and practice good hygiene by washing your hands and face after handling animals.



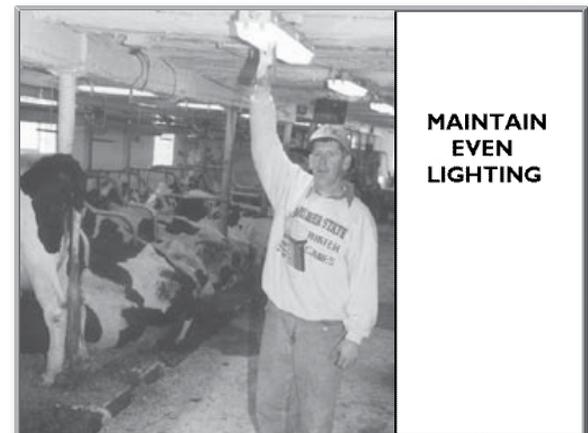
PRACTICE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Keeping your work area clean and free of debris will help provide a safe working environment. Check for and eliminate any sharp corners or protrusions in walkways. Check to ensure that all latches and levers can't fly open easily. Clean concrete ramps and floors regularly to prevent slips and trips. Keep pitchforks and other sharp tools stored properly out of walkways.



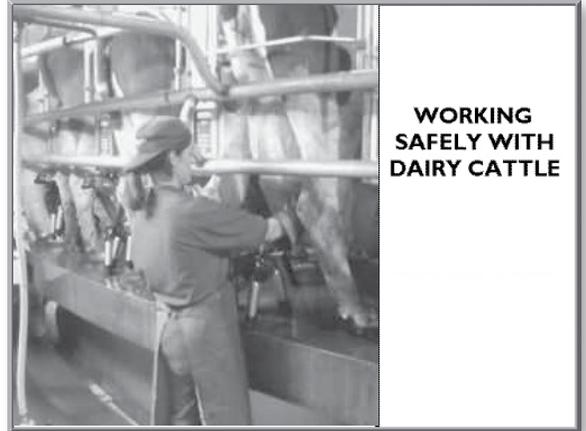
MAINTAIN EVEN LIGHTING

Shadows mixed with light spots inside handling facilities will increase the animal's fear and tension. Try to keep the lighting in these moving areas dispersed evenly.



WORKING SAFELY WITH DAIRY CATTLE

Dairy cattle are generally more nervous than other animals, so it's important to approach these animals gently to avoid startling them. Once you have moved dairy cattle into the milking stalls, give them a moment to adapt to the new environment before beginning your operation.



SAFELY WORKING WITH SWINE

Though hogs are not normally aggressive animals, they can become dangerous animals if threatened, especially sows protecting their young. The best method by which to move hogs, is by guiding hogs with gates and/or panels. Announce your approach to hogs as you do with other animals. Do not walk up to them quietly and surprise them.

