

NFU Safety on the Farm: Livestock Handling

Proper livestock handling is a key factor in the chain of animal production. This determines the quality and quantity of products on the farm.

Being animals with herding instincts, cattle need to be moved to yard without yelling and combining herds man's friendly manners with animal's instincts is the best way. However while in the herd, never trust a bull.

Livestock management

Cattle being part of livestock, they can be destructed by motion after sight, they take long to process what they see and dont see well down below them given that the dark shadow may appear deep hole before them. The flight zone is animals' space/comfort zone which may be 5-25 feet.

Similarly, the zone increases when they approach from head, when excited and it decreases when animal are on a single file shoot. Cattle normally move effectively it taken to edge of of flight zone and reaching too close inside flight zone make animal panic. It is easier to move cattle in groups because of herd behaviours.

Furthermore, point of balance of the animal is near the right shoulder and always be aware where the bull is while your in the pen with them. Work 2 people in a pen and closely watch for each other and finally always have an escape route when working in pen with the bulls.