

Animal Handling

This fact sheet provides information on proper animal handling for beef cattle on a farm or ranch. It covers four areas:

- **What is animal handling?**
- **Why proper handling is important?**
- **What will help you practice proper animal handling on your farm or ranch?**
- **What additional information resources are available to help you practice proper animal handling?**

- **What is animal handling:**

Animal handling is a term that describes how humans work with, respond to, and interact with animals within their surroundings. This includes all species, and all parts of production.

- **Why proper handling is important:**

Proper animal handling is an essential part of good animal husbandry. It benefits the animals you care for, creates a desirable working atmosphere, and benefits the customers you serve. Proper handling techniques help maintain production quality and effectively reduces stress on cattle and people. It also reduces stress on facilities and equipment and leads to better management of your farm or ranch.

- **What will help you practice proper animal handling on your farm or ranch:**

Proper animal handling is the responsibility of every animal caretaker and person working with animals, and animal handling guidelines apply to all aspects of livestock caretaking and production.

Several factors will help you practice proper animal handling. These factors relate to four key areas: common sense, commitment, patience and practice. Below is a list of additional factors to learn about as you become more familiar with the importance of proper animal handling. You can increase your knowledge about these factors by exploring sources that provide in-depth explanations about these topics.

- Handling techniques
- Herd health programs
- Facilities & equipment
- Animal & human behavior habits
- Consumer expectations

- **What additional information resources are available to help you practice proper animal handling:**

Successful producers pay close attention to the things that impact their herd and play important roles in the unique management of each herd. Using educational resources can explain the specific topics that impact your farm or ranch, including animal handling. There are many resources that can help you learn more about the factors that will help you implement proper animal handling.

Available resources by type:

Click on the Angus Education Center icon to access a list of herd management and educational resources, including those on animal handling.

Resource type:

Description:

Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension agents, regionally-focused outreach seminars, electronic & print publications, including newsletters & workbooks.

Other industry specialists

Experts trained in animal handling, behavior & animal welfare, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) specialists, and veterinarians.

Hands-on learning

Industry-sponsored seminars, short-courses and tutorials specializing in specific cattle handling topics, as well as general beef cattle management.