



FARM SAFETY CHECK

POSITIVE & SAFE ANIMAL HANDLING SAFETY CHECKLIST

Stressed livestock are more difficult to work with—they are more likely to injure themselves and their handlers. It is very important to understand how livestock differ from humans with their senses and behavior. Learning and practicing positive and safe animal handling can help create awareness of human/animal interactions and in turn help to keep farmers, workers, and the animals safe and healthy.

You and/or your employee(s) can use this form to complete safety checks on your farm. Use the form below to list additional safety checks you think are important when inspecting your farm. Keep the completed forms for follow-up, future reference and inspections. Additional copies of this form can be downloaded at: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

| Potential Hazard | Yes | Needs Correction | Date Corrected or Notes |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Do all workers receive animal handling safety training? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Are the handlers calm and in command? Livestock need a good leader. Animals want to know what we want, and they want to see what is pressuring them to move. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Are livestock able to follow other animals ahead of them when being worked or moved? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Are handlers in a rush? A rushed cow will have her head up and not watch where she is walking. This could lead to slipping and tripping. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Is the floor leveled with enough traction? Cattle will balk at changes in color, texture, or depth. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Do handlers avoid yelling, clapping, and other loud noises? Cows have better hearing than humans which makes them more sensitive to sounds in their environment. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Are you moving cattle from the side and not directly behind (blind spot)? They won't respond to your commands or arm signals from there. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Do handlers understand how to apply the zig-zag technique when moving a group of animals? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Name of person completing safety check: _____ Date completed: ___/___/___

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



FARM SAFETY CHECK

LIVESTOCK FACILITIES & HANDLING

| Additional Hazards | Yes | Needs Correction | Date Corrected or Notes |
|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Stockmanship

Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center

<http://umash.umn.edu/animal-handling/>

Cattle Handling and Working Facilities

Ohio State University Extension

<https://agmr.osu.edu/sites/agmr/files/imce/pdfs/Beef/CattleFacilities.pdf>

Behavioral Principles of Livestock Handling

Colorado State University

<https://mountainscholar.org/bitstream/handle/10217/4354/ANISg100016.pdf;sequence=1>

Livestock Safety (Playlist)

US Agricultural Safety and Health Centers

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY7XQBihZRNtufX2GdXSda3hhGm7g2HUX>

Good Dairy Stockmanship: Moving Dairy Cows the Correct Way

University of Kentucky

<https://afs.ca.uky.edu/content/dairy-good-dairy-stockmanship-moving-dairy-cows-the-correct-way>

The facts and information provided are suggestions for your safety, but are in no way a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all actions needed to ensure your safety, and are not an endorsement of any products mentioned.

For additional Farm Safety Check topics and resources, visit: <http://umash.umn.edu/umash-farm-safety-check/>

To receive Farm Safety Check topics via email, join the UMASH email list at <http://umash.umn.edu/join-our-email-list>

The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) is a Center of Excellence in Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention funded by NIOSH cooperative agreement U54OH010170.

umash.umn.edu

Updated July 2020