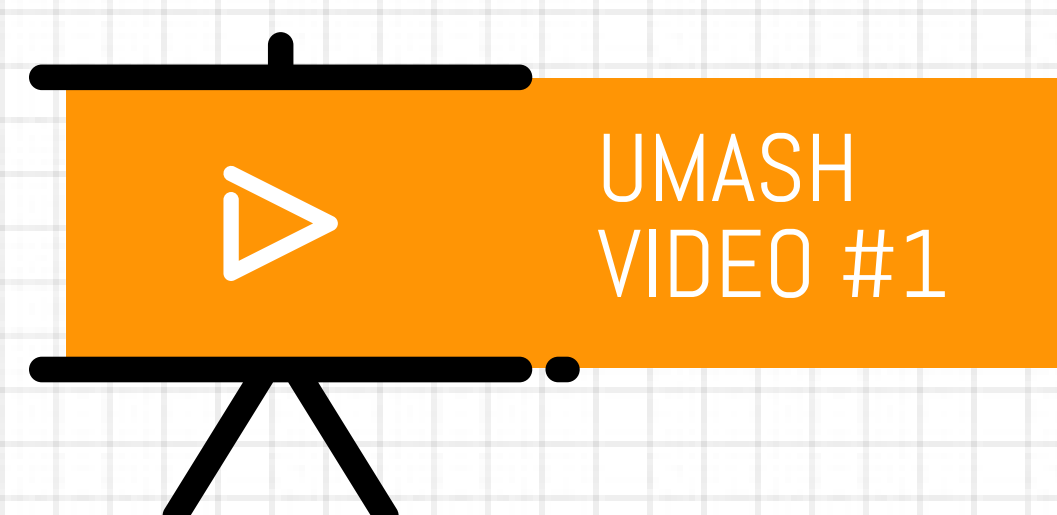


Background Info

Have you ever worked with cattle and they did exactly the opposite of what you wanted them to do? It is frustrating, isn't it? We can use our knowledge of animal behavior to move cattle more efficiently. This is called stockmanship, and all it takes is some basic understanding of how cattle think and a little practice.

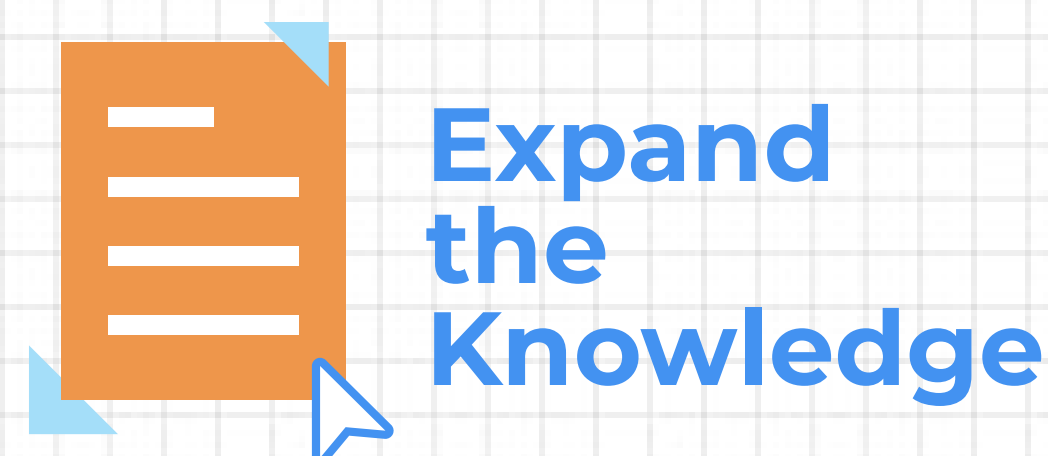
Pre-Lesson Questioning

- What wild animals are prey animals? How do they behave? As a prey species, cattle have an inherent fear of unfamiliar objects, situations, smells, sudden movements and noises. They can also experience fearfulness in situations where they are solitary or isolated.
- Which livestock species are raised on the farm that would be considered prey animals? (Most livestock are prey animals)
- Have you ever worked with cattle and they did exactly the opposite of what you wanted them to do? What do you think happened? What was done poorly?



Stockmanship Part 1 - Using Predictable Animal Behavior to Increase Milk Production
- <https://youtu.be/GANJhrNNPfl>

- Watch the video as a class



- Hand out the worksheets to all students.
- Allowing students to work in groups of 2-3 can help them think through what they have learned with multiple perspectives. Individual work is also acceptable.
- Students should complete the first two sections, "Document your Understanding" and "Fill in the Blank", individually or in small groups.
- As a class discuss each of the questions in the "Putting this concept into practice" and have students document their thoughts after each discussion question. This can also be done individually.

Extras

- Plan a trip to a dairy farm. To locate a dairy farm, contact Midwest Dairy: [\(763\) 355-9697](tel:7633559697)
- Invite a dairy farmer to speak to your class.

Video Link:

- Stockmanship - Working Cattle Through Your Facility - <https://youtu.be/s3njDwGafxQ>
- Dairy Stockmanship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWM5MDkC5Gs>

News Link:

- Low-stress handling more effective than conventional stockmanship. (www.capitalpress.com)
<http://www.capitalpress.com/Livestock/20171226/low-stress-handling-more-effective-than-conventional-stockmanship>

Visit umash.umn.edu for FREE resources on animal handling and farm safety/health (barn posters, fact sheets, videos and more.)

Document your understanding

Define stockmanship.

List 5 factors that impact livestock well-being on farms today.

What specific factors were identified in the video as the benefits of stockmanship (good cattle handling practices)?

Fill in the blank

A cow's behavior is shaped by her species' _____, and the animal's past _____.

Cows want to work with us, however, the _____ from humans have to be clear.

If a cow is not doing what we asked her to do, we likely _____.

Putting this concept into practice

Stockmanship uses UNIVERSAL and PREDICTABLE behavior. Describe these behaviors and how they apply to stockmanship.

How does stockmanship have a positive impact on cows and handlers?

How can stockmanship be practiced?