



Animal Handling Guides for Dairies

Part 5: Making the Milking Parlor a Happy Place

Link to resources: <http://umash.umn.edu/training-guides-dairy>



Learning Objectives

- ◆ Understand the importance of calm cows prior to milking..
- ◆ Understand the connection between stressed cows and impaired milk production.
- ◆ Explain proper techniques for crowd gate and cow movement when moving cattle into the milk parlor.
- ◆ Discuss stockmanship practices learned throughout the 5-part stockmanship series to help cattle to have calm milking parlor experiences.



Watch Video

- ◆ View (2:19 minutes) Stockmanship Part 5 - Making the Milking Parlor a Happy Place
English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6BONPedPF0&feature=youtu.be>
Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0hefz1x7GDc&t=50s>



Discuss

- ◆ Research shows that it can take up to 40 minutes for a stressed cow to completely settle to a relaxed state. Exchange views on the impairments of a cow and milk production when a cow is stressed.
- ◆ When moving cows to the milking parlor, what are the top things that should be considered to make it a positive interaction? Exchange best practices you can use to create happy cows in the milking parlor.
- ◆ If cows are not entering the milking parlor from the holding pen, what are some ways you would help them move into the area?
- ◆ When a heifer enters a parlor for the first time, what actions and circumstances should be considered in order to establish a positive association with the parlor?



Take the Quiz (online or pdf download)

- ◆ Each person taking the training should take the quiz.



Additional Resources (optional)

- ◆ Watch (6:08 minutes) Handling Cattle in Alleys, Holding Areas and Milking Parlors - This training video teaches a handler how to effectively move cattle.
- ◆ Read Three ways to improve dairy handling for low stress and high production (1-page) - An article for dairy farmers and handlers that discusses factors to consider as guidelines of humane handling to help livestock optimize production.
- ◆ Watch (2:38 minutes) Milking Process and Handling Facilities - This audio-free video discusses best practices for the milking process.
- ◆ Watch (5-minutes) Happy Cow Milk Process - A video that walks through the milking process at Happy Cow
- ◆ Watch (34:57 minutes) The Importance of Good Stockmanship by Temple Grandin - A recorded lecture by Temple Grandin to discuss the importance of using good stockmanship techniques.
 Access the quiz answer keys online under each Additional Resources accordion menu.