

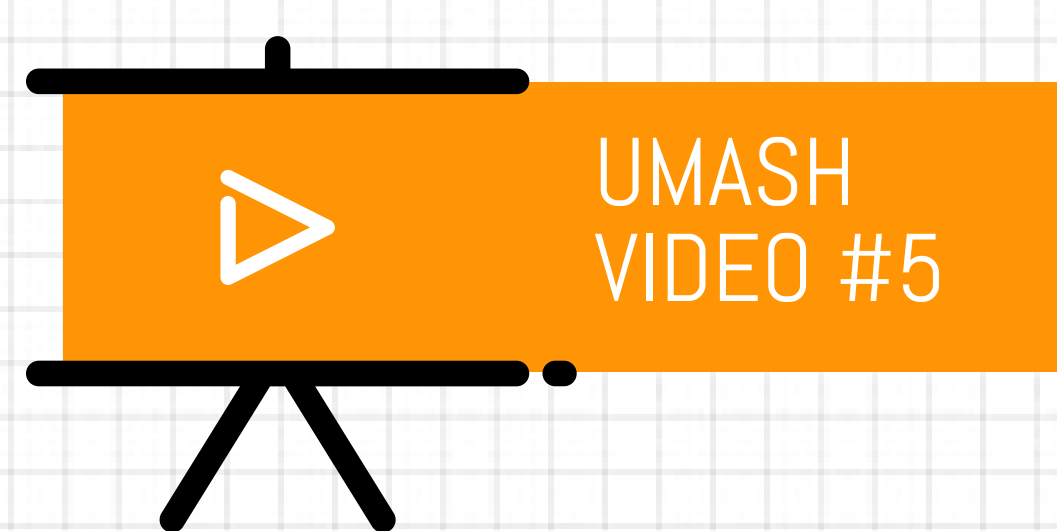
Making the Milking Parlor a Happy Place

Background Info

A stress-free milking parlor is always the goal of any dairyman. Stress causes low milk production and can make animal handling much more difficult. A successful milking experience starts back at the pen when cows are moved towards the holding pen. Utilizing the pressure zone and keeping in mind the importance of a quiet and stress-free movement to the holding pen will make the parlor a place cows want to be.

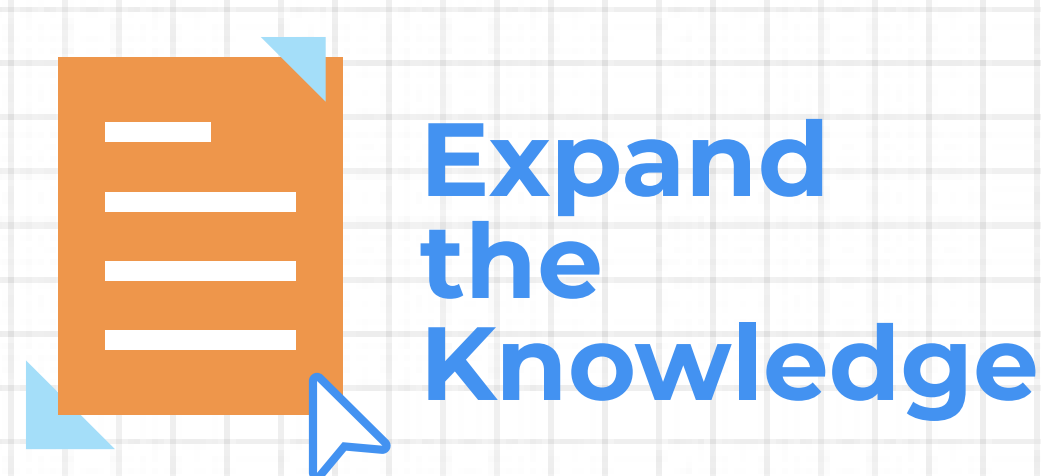
Pre-Lesson Questioning

1. When moving cows to the milking parlor, what are the top things that should be considered to make it a positive interaction?
2. How do you think stress will impact the milking process?
3. When a fresh heifer enters a parlor for the first time what should be considered?



Stockmanship Part 5 - Making the Milking Parlor a Happy Place -
- <https://youtu.be/W6BONPedPFO>

- 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 into the classroom to speak to your class.

Video Link:

- National FARM Program- Handling Cattle in Alleys, Holding Areas and Milking Parlors
- <https://youtu.be/AeRtUCygzXk>

News Link:

- Three ways to improve dairy handling for low stress and high production. (Progressive Dairyman) <https://www.progressivedairy.com/topics/herd-health/three-ways-to-improve-dairy-handling-for-low-stress-and-high-production>

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

Developed by UM Agricultural Education faculty, staff, and students as part of a collaborative initiative to advance agricultural safety education within school-based agriculture"

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Document your understanding

Cows under stress reduce production of milk. Name two specific things listed in the video that reduce the release of milk from cows due to stress.

If cows are not entering the milking parlor from the holding pen, what are some ways you would help them move into the right area?

Fill in the blank

Work with the cattle _____ zone.

Use _____ movement.

Make the parlor a _____-_____ and familiar place.

Putting this concept into practice

Research shows that it takes about 40 minutes for an upset animal to fully settle down after a stressful experience. How would you train those moving your cows to the parlor from their pen?

If you were training a new milker and fresh heifers were about to be milked for the first time, what advice would you give?