

## **WORKING WITH CATTLE SAFE WORK PROCEDURE**

- 1) This procedure provides basic introductory guidance on managing the risks of illness or injury when working with cattle on the Farm.
- 2) Cattle can be unpredictable and dangerous. Personnel can be injured from kicks, crushes, sometimes broken bones and even potential fatalities.
- 3) ASHEEP employees and event / workshop attendees should minimise handling cattle where possible and only do so as is required in the scope of their work or training. ASHEEP employees and event / workshop attendees should not enter the yards with cattle unless A) it is required for the project / activity, B) A risk assessment has been carried out in advance C) The plan has been discussed with the Manager. For example, if a project requires cattle to be weighed, it is preferred that the farm's staff would move and handle their own stock, and the ASHEEP employee would retain a yard wall between themselves and the cattle, and only interact with the stock to the degree that their task requires.

### **General Guidelines**

- 4) The Farm Manager is to provide personnel with a cattle handling orientation.
- 5) Yards are to be kept tidy and well-maintained.
- 6) Practice good hand hygiene after working with cattle.
- 7) When working with cattle in a yard, plan an escape route in advance.
- 8) Never try to move cattle alone.
- 9) Do not put your hands or legs into a race and do not enter a race with large or agitated cattle.

### **Handling**

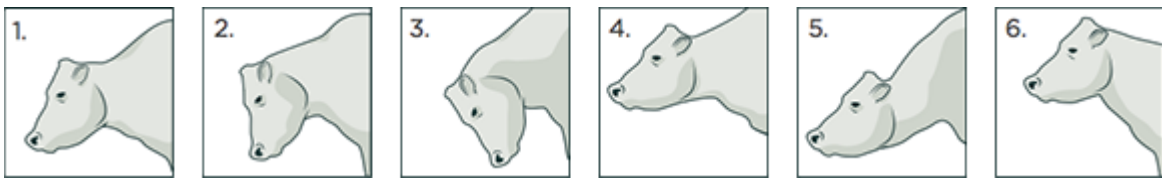
- 10) Calm and educated cattle are safer and easier to work with.
- 11) The following upsets cattle:
  - a) being hungry/thirsty,
  - b) loud noise,
  - c) being hit or beaten,
  - d) electric prodders,
  - e) painful, new or strange objects,
  - f) being chased,
  - g) people in their 'personal space',

- h) sickness or injury,
  - i) whips,
  - j) forceful dogs,
  - k) people with rigid posture,
  - l) wind, cold, heat and rain when it comes on suddenly,
  - m) loud whistling, and
  - n) people on horses and bikes, particularly clean skin cattle.
- 12) The following calms cattle down:
- a) quiet areas, gentle low sounds, rhythmic sounds,
  - b) confidence,
  - c) familiarity,
  - d) relaxed body language and posture, and
  - e) lots of hay.
- 13) Cattle have good memories and remember how a particular person treats them. Using gentle handling will pay off in the future.
- 14) Use your voice to calm and soothe. Also, your voice lets cattle know where you are.
- 15) In some situations, you may need to use a control stick if cattle are agitated and refusing to move. In this situation seek assistance from the Farm Manager. To calm cattle quickly stop all movement and relax body posture.
- 16) A human is one of three things to cattle:
- a) a predator to run from,
  - b) somebody to ignore, or
  - c) a dominant figure to respect.
- 17) Showing authority and confidence allows you to be a dominant figure to respect providing you show respect to the cattle.

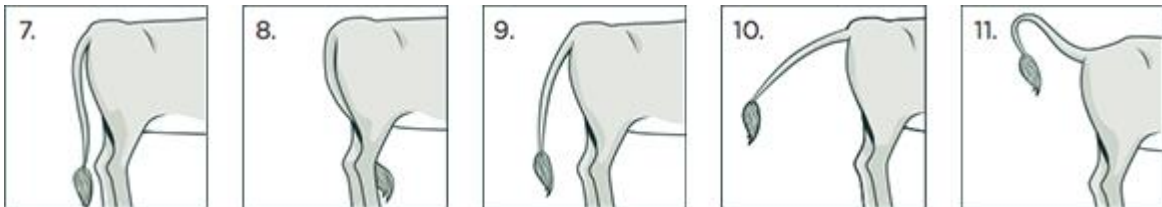
### **Danger Signs**

- 18) It is important to recognise signs of danger in cattle.
- 19) Common signs of agitation include:
- a) bellowing loudly,

- b) pawing the ground with their hooves,
- c) kicking at stomach,
- d) kneeling on the ground,
- e) particular head positions:
  - 1. Neutral
  - 2. Slightly antagonistic
  - 3. Highly antagonistic
  - 4. Confident
  - 5. Submissive
  - 6. Alert before flight

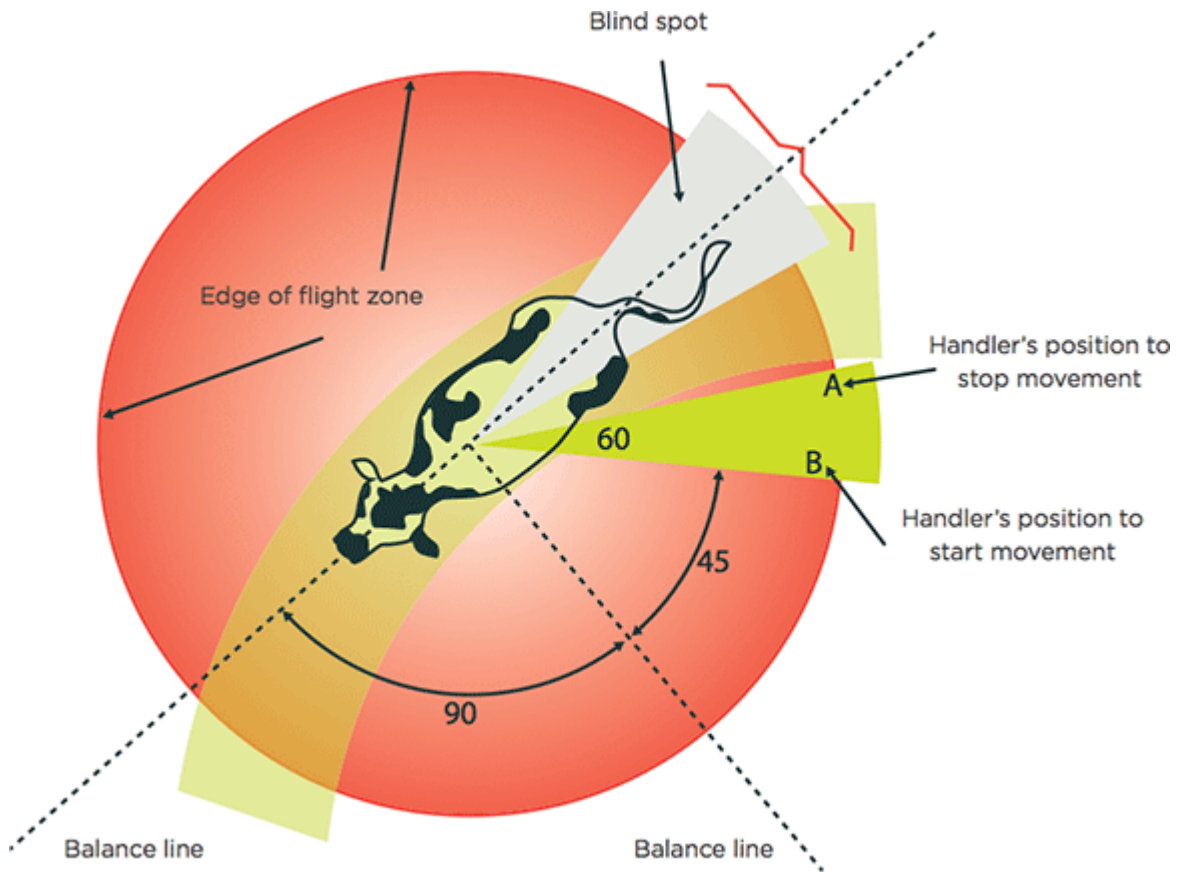


- f) Particular tail positions:
  - 7. Grazing or walking
  - 8. Cold, ill or frightened
  - 9. Threatening, curiosity or sexual excitement
  - 10. Galloping
  - 11. Kicking or playing

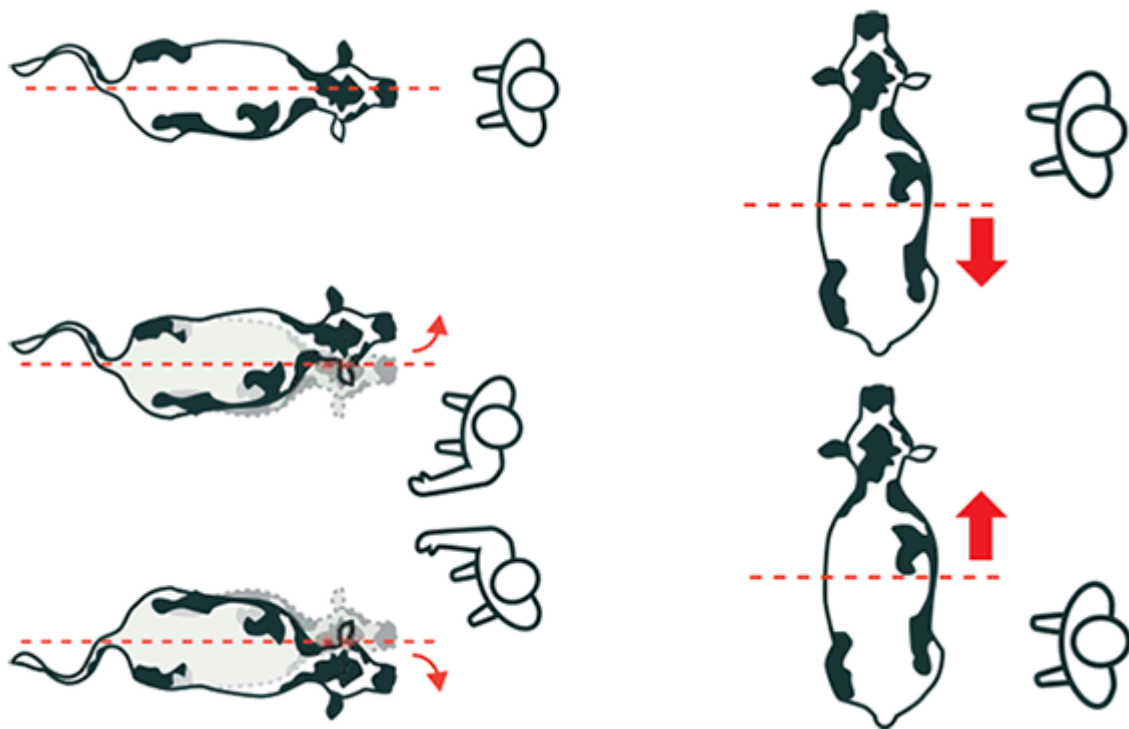


**Movement**

- 20) The flight zone is how close you can get to cattle before they start moving.
- 21) For a herd of infrequently handled beef cattle, the flight zone could be as much as 100 metres.
- 22) The closer you get, the faster they will move. Movement speed can be controlled by how close you get to cattle. To stop movement, step out of the flight zone.



23) Cattle have two balance lines. One runs across the shoulders and the other runs along the backbone. When you're working up close, whichever way you move through those lines, the animal will move the other way:



### **Clothing**

- 24) Wear suitable enclosed footwear as advised by your manager.
- 25) Wear suitable clothing (shirts and pants) as advised by your manager.
- 26) Remove loose jewellery.

### **Cattle Beast (bulls, clean skins and bullocks)**

- 27) Cattle beasts are more dangerous they get older.
- 28) Never trust a cattle beast.
- 29) Never turn your back on any cattle beast.
- 30) Avoid handling cattle beast alone.
- 31) If you get cornered by a cattle beast, shout loudly and strike it repeatedly on the nose with a 'waddy' to make it close its eyes, and then get out as fast as you can.
- 32) Use vehicles, such as a tractor or ute, when dealing with cattle beasts in the paddock.

### **Zoonoses**

- 33) Zoonoses are diseases that people can catch from animals. They cause mild to life-threatening human health problems. People working with livestock may be exposed to these diseases.
- 34) You can catch diseases from animals in a number of ways:
  - a) Having animal blood, urine or faeces splashed in your eyes, nose or mouth (e.g. when picking up dead sheep).
  - b) Through cracked skin or open cuts.
  - c) Breathing in dust or micro-organisms in the air.
  - d) Eating or drinking infected animal products.
  - e) Being bitten by a fly, mosquito, tick or flea that has also bitten an infected animal.
- 35) Avoid catching diseases from animals with good health and hygiene practices:
  - a) Maintain vaccination and parasite control programmes.
  - b) Maintain good hand, face and arm hygiene practices.
  - c) Provide eating areas away from animal areas and stop personnel from eating, drinking and smoking in animal areas.
  - d) Keep sheds and yards clean and don't let manure build up.

- e) Use protective equipment to avoid the skin and the face from touching animal body substances. For example, wear disposable gloves to examine a sheep's wound.
  - f) If using veterinary sharps – like needles and syringes – carefully dispose of sharps in a rigid walled, puncture resistant sharps container.
  - g) Do not to touch areas (such as the muzzle) where saliva or snot can be transferred to a personnel's face.
  - h) Cover cuts and scrapes with a water-resistant dressing. If personnel are wounded at work, properly clean the wound and cover it with a water-resistant dressing.
  - i) Isolate any animals showing signs of illness from people and other animals.
- 36) It is important to always have a buddy in the yards so that if you have your back to the cattle, when you are opening or closing a gate you cannot be charged at.

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