**Working Safety with Livestock**

Animal movements are generally unpredictable, so learn to recognize the signs.

**Approach Animal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-** The proper approach to a large animal is critical to working with them safely. The safest approach is to "announce" your approach through a touch to their front or side. Most large animals will kick in an arch beginning toward the front and moving toward the back. Avoid this kicking region when approaching the animal.

**Separate Cattle Safely-** As one large cow can weigh up to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_lbs, it is not a good idea to try to manually separate cows using gates or boards.. It is safer to use proper handling facilities made especially for separating large animals. Most animals will be more cooperative in moving through a chute that has minimal distractions.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- When you are inside a handling facility, always leave yourself a way to get out if it becomes necessary. Try to avoid entering a small area enclosed with large animals unless it is equipped with a gate that you can get to easily.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-** Protect yourself from any animal-borne diseases. Always were protective clothes, and gloves when working with sick animals. Practice good hygiene by washing your hands and face after working with animals.

**Maintain even Lighting-** Shadows mixed with light spots inside handling facilities will increase the animal's fear and tension.

**Safely working with swine-** Though hogs are not normally aggressive animals, they can become dangerous animals if threatened, especially sows protecting her young. The best method by which to move hogs is by guiding hogs combined with gates and/or panels. Announce your approach to hogs as you do with other animals. Do not walk up to them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them.

Information provided by: California Agricultural Teachers’ Essential Guide to Safety. Pages 98-105

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