



Central Elements of Good Stockmanship



Knowledge and Skills

Animal behavior: A strong understanding of how animals react to their environment and handlers is crucial, as is knowledge of their natural instincts, such as the desire to see and follow other animals.

Handling techniques: Competence in skills like pressure and release, positioning, and leading is key for low-stress handling.

Animal husbandry: Knowing the specific needs of the animals and how to provide them, from feeding to health management.



Observational Abilities

Keen observation: The ability to notice small, subtle signs of an animal's state of mind or health is vital. This includes reading body language like ear twitches or tail flicks.

Problem detection: Being able to spot potential problems in their early stages before they become serious issues.



Personal Characteristics and Attitude

Empathy and affinity: A genuine liking for animals and an understanding of their needs and feelings is foundational.

Patience: The ability to remain calm and work at the animal's pace is essential, as patience prevents stress and promotes better handling.

Dedication: A strong commitment to consistently providing a high standard of care and attention to detail.

Problem-solving: The ability to adapt and make quick, informed decisions when a situation changes unexpectedly.

Motivation: Being motivated to perform duties to a high standard, which leads to job satisfaction and better outcomes for both the animals and the producer.



Common Injuries to Livestock Handler

- 1.** Crushed or Pinned
- 2.** Kicks or Strikes
- 3.** Trampling or Being Stepped on
- 4.** Bites or Scratches
- 5.** Slips, Trips or Falls
- 6.** Musculoskeletal Injuries



Why do Livestock Become Aggressive?

- ❖ Fear
- ❖ Rage
- ❖ Separation Distress





Signs of Aggression in Livestock

- ❖ Ears Moving in Opposite Directions
- ❖ Tail Swishing
- ❖ Tail Flips
- ❖ Ears Pinned
- ❖ Eye White Shows
- ❖ Pawing Ground
- ❖ Head in Air
- ❖ Defecation