

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Livestock Handling Safety

Fact: *Agriculture is one of the most dangerous industries in the United States. One of the most hazardous jobs on the farm is working with livestock. Following some basic handling tips can keep farmers, their families and hired hands safe while working with livestock.*

Possible Risks

- Physical injury caused by an animal.
- Developing allergies to the animal's hair, dander or secretions.
- Acquiring a disease like Salmonella, Brucellosis or Trichinosis.
- Fungi, like that which causes Ringworm.
- Exposure to many different types of chemicals.

Handling Method Tips

- Be calm and deliberate when working with livestock; animals respond well to a routine.
- Avoid quick movements and loud noises.
- Do not prod, slap, kick or scare an animal; be patient and respectful.
- Always have an escape route when working in close quarters with livestock. No matter how calm they seem to be, animals can be unpredictable.

Helpful Tips about Livestock

- Cattle (beef and dairy) and swine are usually colorblind and have poor depth perception.
- Sheep are colorblind, but they do have depth perception.
- Mules, horses and cattle have panoramic vision. This means they can see everything around them except what is directly behind them.
- Cattle, like humans, have their own sense of personal space that is called a flight zone. When you step into the flight zone, the cattle move; when you step out of the flight zone, the cattle stop moving. The size of a flight zone can vary greatly. Feedlot cattle may have a zone of 25 feet, while the zone for range cattle may extend up to 300 feet.
- Horses and mules will usually kick toward their hindquarters. Cattle kick forward and out to the side.
- Mother animals can be very defensive. Try to let the young stay close to the mom when possible.
- Livestock develop a strong territorial instinct and sense of "homeland". This can be seen by the well-worked paths the animals often make in pastures.

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FAMILY OF COMPANIES

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- Livestock become extra jumpy when they are approached by an unfamiliar person, are separated from the herd and are taken away from feed.
- Animals respond to the way they are treated and draw on past experiences. Animals that have been treated with respect and care are going to be much easier to work with.

Precautions

- Learn to read and understand the behavior of your animals.
- Make sure you have proper facilities that are in safe working condition.
- Protect against zoonotic disease by testing and immunizing, using good sanitary practices and keeping facilities clean.
- Wear personal protective equipment at all times.

Injuries happen when people are in a hurry, become preoccupied, are impatient or get frustrated. Always remain calm and use precaution and common sense when working with livestock.



No one wants to think about suffering a loss. In the unfortunate event you do have a loss, our **ANPAC Five Star Claim Servicesm** is designed to provide assurance and confidence to our policyholders throughout the claims process.

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