



Animal Handling Resources for Training Dairy Employees

Evaluators may request documentation that employees have been trained in the art of moving cattle quietly, slowly and efficiently. While these type of handling techniques are already second nature for many that have worked with animals for a long time, having employees trained in proper handling will decrease animal stress and can have economic benefits. Herds enrolled in a dairy handling program at Ohio State University saw a 5% increase in milk production.

Employees should be trained to move cattle at a slow walk, minimizing fast startling movements and loud noises. While flags and paddles are appropriate movement aids, electric prods should not be readily available to employees and should only be used in emergencies when worker or animal health is threatened.

Below you will find some links to cattle handling training materials.

University of Minnesota's Dairy Stockmanship Website

<http://www.dairystockmanship.com/index.html>

Although still under development, this site applies low-stress beef cattle handling principles to dairy. Of most interest to employees might be the You-Tube video demonstrations of low-stress dairy cow moving in Lesson 1 and Lesson 4.

National Dairy FARM Program Animal Care Manual: Chapter Eight

http://www.nationaldairyfarm.com/sites/default/files/NatlDairyFarm_Manual_online.pdf

The entire Dairy FARM animal care manual is available on line. Chapter Eight of the manual reviews the guidelines for animal handling in the FARM program.

American Meat Institute

<http://www.animalhandling.org/ht/d/sp/i/26752/pid/26752>

The new AMI (updated April 2010) "Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide" can be downloaded from this site.

Dr. Temple Grandin's Website

<http://www.grandin.com/>

This website contains information on a wide variety of livestock and poultry issues. While most of the information relates to beef cattle handling, some pages will be relevant to dairy producers:

- **Using Prods and Persuaders Properly**
<http://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/prods.html>
- **Importance Of Reducing Noise When Handling Livestock**
<http://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/noise.html>

- **Preventing Bull Accidents**
<http://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/preventing.bull.accidents.html>
- **Understanding Flight Zone and Point of Balance**
<http://www.grandin.com/behaviour/principles/flight.zone.html>
- **Spanish Translations Of Selected Articles**
<http://www.grandin.com/spanish/spanish.html>

Ohio State Cattle Handling and Working Facilities

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/b906/index.html>

This page focuses on handling beef cattle, although many of the principals are relevant to dairy operations and employees.