



ARE YOU HANDLING YOUR CATTLE
SAFELY?



In the last five years 26 farmers and farm workers were fatally injured by cattle, we know many more suffered significant injuries. Those involved are often unable to return to work for many months. If you are injured, what will the consequences be for your business, and those around you? How will your business adapt? Who will fill your boots?

Working with livestock, particularly cattle, will always involve risk. When you work with cattle you should carefully assess the risks and consider what you can safely do.

WHAT INCREASES THE RISKS OF WORKING WITH CATTLE?

- Rushing
- Tiredness
- Working alone
- Lacking the agility or ability to get out of the way
- A reduction in risk perception e.g. poor eyesight or hearing
- Lacking the experience to assess the risks or experience making you complacent

HOW CAN YOU MANAGE THE RISKS OF WORKING WITH CATTLE?

- Assess what could go wrong each time you work with cattle
- Make sure you have proper and effective cattle handling facilities that are well maintained and in working order
- Work out an escape route or refuge
- Never work inside a crush or race
- Avoid working inside yards and forcing pens by finding ways to work only from outside
- Ensure that you or those working with cattle are physically able to use the system safely
- Look, listen and keep calm

HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE YOUR WORKING SYSTEM?

Simple cattle handling systems needn't be expensive and can reduce stress for you and the animals. Adaptations or a slight rethinking of the system you currently have in place can make a significant difference.

WHERE CAN YOU GET FURTHER INFORMATION AND ADVICE?

More information on how to handle cattle safely can be found on the AHDB, HSE and NFU websites.

- <http://www.nfuonline.com/cross-sector/farm-business/farm-safety-partnership/campaigns/safe-cattle-handling/>

WHAT CAN YOU DO TODAY?