

# Ag Project Center Safety Practices for Cattle

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Objective - Understand the importance of safety and management practices while raising FFA livestock projects.

# Why Safety Matters in Agriculture

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## Why learn safety?

- Safety is important in agriculture because it keeps the handler and the animals safe at all times



## Safety Statistics:

- 1 out of every 5 on-farm injuries to youth in the United States is animal related
  - Cattle were involved in more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of these injuries
- Most frequent injuries include being stepped on, knocked down, kicked, animal bites and being pinned between animals and hard surfaces

# Common Hazards in the Barn

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## Chemicals:

*Always ask before spraying or using any chemicals in or around the barn!*

- Bleach - make sure you are properly mixing
  - 1:10 with water
- Insecticide - make sure this is safe to use around livestock

*Always store chemicals away from animals, should be stored in some type of box/storage.*

## Other Hazards:

- Tractor - only allowed to be operated by Klein ISD Agriscience teachers
- Commotion and Noises - yelling, running, loud music, climbing on equipment/panels
- Pens and Panels - regularly inspect these for issues such as broken welds, broken chains, etc.



# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

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Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illness.

- Closed Toed Shoes
  - NO crocs, flip flops, hey dudes
- School Appropriate Clothes
  - NO crop tops, short shorts
  - If you can't wear it to school, you can't wear it to the barn
- Gloves
  - Needed for halter breaking to protect hands
  - Leather is best



# Project Center Equipment Safety

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All equipment is property of Klein ISD and should be treated with respect. If something is malfunctioning/broken, it should be reported to the agriscience teacher immediately!

- Blowers (\$540 each)
- Trim Racks (\$1400 each)
- Show Box (\$1000 each)
- Head Gate/Chute (\$2100 each)
- Pen Panels (\$150 each)
- Trailers (\$25,000 each)
- Do not use equipment if you are not sure how to use
  - Agriscience teacher will properly train how to use each piece
- Never leave animals unattended in chutes
  - Animals can hurt or kill themselves while unattended
- Always pick up animal waste and mess when finished with equipment
- Always pick up personal belongings when finished using equipment



# Animal Handling Safety – Halter Breaking

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There is not much glamour when it comes to breaking calves, but this is the first step in getting your calf ready to show!

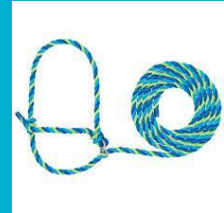
This should be done at the handlers pace, no pace is right or wrong, this is whatever works for you and your calf.

## Do's:

- Start off in a small area
- Leaving a halter on is ok until the animal gets to know you
- Sitting in the pen with the animal for the first few weeks, at the feed pan is best

## Don'ts

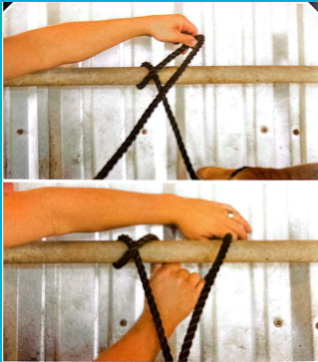
- Get frustrated
- Ever tie the halter around your hand or waist
- Get the animal out of the pen until you can safely walk it around the pen
- Get the animal out for the first time without someone else there



# Animal Handling Safety – Tying

This is easily one of the most important steps in handling cattle. One wrong tie and the animal could hang itself. Slip knots are a **MUST!** You will have to demonstrate a proper tie once animals have been received in.

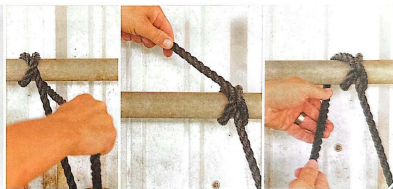
**1** Put the tail of the rope over the top of the rail.



**2** Bring the rope under the rail and then back over the top a second time, crossing over your first loop.

**3** Bring the rope under the rail and then back over the top a third time, crossing over your second loop.

You should now have a criss cross over your first loop. This keeps your rope from sliding back and forth on the rail.



**4** With your left hand, grab the remaining rope with your thumb pointing down to the ground.

Keep your hand close to the criss cross loop you just made around the rail.



**5** Now, flip your left hand over so your palm is facing up and your thumb is to your left. You've just created a little loop in the rope.



**6** Hold the tail end of the rope with your right hand and lead the rope to the right, just under the criss cross, and then around the back of the lead rope and come back through the loop you just created with your left hand.



Do not pull it all the way through. Just pull through a portion of the tail, like a bunny ear.



To release the knot, simply pull on the end of the rope that is dangling out of the knot.



# Animal Handling Safety – Walking

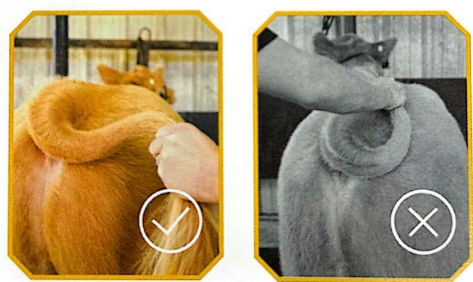
When you believe your calf is ready to try leading for the first time, get someone else ready to help you, never do it alone the first few times. You will have to demonstrate a proper tie once animals have been received in.

## Do's:

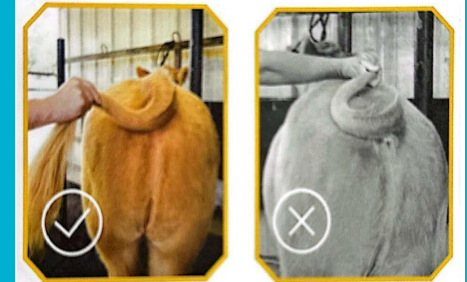
- Start in a confined area where the calf can't get too far from away from you, but you can get away from them
- If the calf wants to stop, have your helper twist the calf's tail to keep them moving
- Work your way up to a bigger area once you are ready

## Don'ts:

- Slap the calf when it doesn't want to walk



**Moving calf to the left**



**Moving calf to the right**



# Animal Handling Safety – Trailer Loading

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When you believe your calf is ready to try loading the trailer, try getting them on the trailer, tied and then back off the trailer. They should be able to do this without jumping.

*You will have to perform this once halter breaking has completed before you can go to a show.*

## Do's:

- Make sure the trailer is clear of all tack and all gates are open
- Walk the animal onto the trailer and tie them up then walk them off the trailer



## Don'ts:

- Let them drag you on and off the trailer
- Don't let them jump off the trailer
  - If the trailer doesn't have a ramp, pull their head towards the ground before you take them off
    - This lets them get their depth perception

# Animal Handling Safety – Kicking

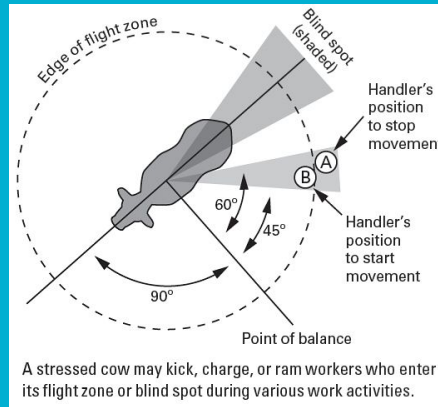
Mature calves tend to kick forward, to the side and then back. Calves tend to kick slightly out to the side and then back or straight.

## Do's:

- Always let a calf know you are approaching

## Don'ts:

- Walk between 2 calves you don't know



# Animal Product Safety

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It is very important to always properly store any animal products as well as medications away from other animals. Reading and following labels is a must for animal and handler safety.

**Bathing Supplies** - All shampoos and hair products make sure they are approved for cattle

**Dewormer** - All must be approved for cattle and you follow dosage instruction

- Acute toxicity can result from an overdose of 3x the proper dosage amount

**Topical** - All must be approved for cattle and follow dosage instructions

- Dryness, crusting, flaking, itching, sores

**Calming Drugs** - Can kill animal if not used properly and/or have the adverse effect on the animal such as making them more aggressive.

**Label** - Correct use - correct species, amount, number of days, etc.

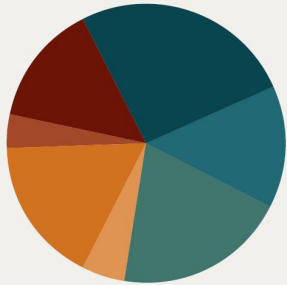
**Off Label** - used on other species and/or for other sickness than labeled

**Extra Label** - different amount or species than label with directions given from a veterinarian

**Note:** Veterinarians can tell you to give medicines to animals - ALL MEDICINE GIVEN ON FARM MUST BE PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED VETERINARIAN

# Fire/Electrical Safety in the Barn Statistics

## Causes of Barn Fires



- 26% Electric heating device (heat lamp, space heater) suspected
- 14% Electric heating device (heat lamp, space heater) confirmed
- 20% Other electrical malfunction suspected
- 5% Other electrical malfunction confirmed
- 17% Miscellaneous machinery (skid loader, hay squeeze, tractor, compression pump, etc.)
- 4% Arson
- 14% Other (weather-related/lightning, wildfire, grass fire, vehicle crash, spilled gas, fireworks, etc.)

**5,815,520** animals killed in barn fires since 2013

chickens 🐔 **5,409,936**

turkeys 🦃 **162,452**

other birds 🦆 **84,295**

pigs 🐷 **145,766**

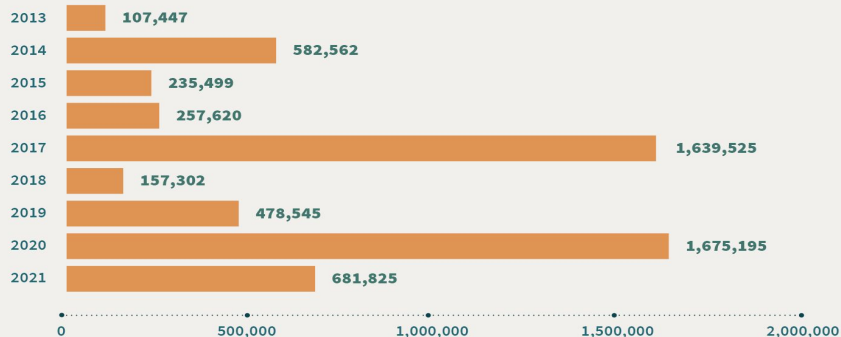
cows 🐮 **6,522**

goats, sheep 🐐 **3,268**

llamas, alpacas, horses, donkey, rabbits 🐰 **1,321**

unspecified species **1,960**

## Number of Animals Killed in Barn Fires per Year 2013–2021



# Fire/Electrical Safety in the Barn

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## Prevention Measures:

- Annual fire marshal inspections
- Fire extinguishers at the front of the barn
- Extension cords must meet NEC and UL codes
  - Must be outdoor heavy duty rated
  - No Christmas lighting or other lighting
  - Multiple cords from 1 outlet with a splitter are not allowed
  - Extension cords can only be run with prior approval from agriscience teacher



<https://www.kten.com/story/49741399/fire-damages-livestock-barn-at-mill-creek-school>

[https://tylerpaper.com/news/local/alba-golden-isd-ag-barn-destroyed-in-fire/article\\_c9e4d0bc-4929-11eb-80ff-ef751a6f5c9a.html](https://tylerpaper.com/news/local/alba-golden-isd-ag-barn-destroyed-in-fire/article_c9e4d0bc-4929-11eb-80ff-ef751a6f5c9a.html)

[https://www.corsicanadailysun.com/news/local/news/fire-damages-high-school-ag-barn/article\\_3b801a05-1316-5ae8-a82d-69107d934296.html](https://www.corsicanadailysun.com/news/local/news/fire-damages-high-school-ag-barn/article_3b801a05-1316-5ae8-a82d-69107d934296.html)

<https://www.khou.com/article/news/17-show-pigs-perish-in-conroe-barn-fire/285-341235662>

# Emergency Preparedness

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In case of emergency, the following plan of action should take place:

- 1. 911 or Klein Police Department (832-249-4266)
- 2. Make contact with any ag teacher

First Aid Humans:

- If there is any issue that needs first aid administration, find first aid kit and use what is needed

Animal Injuries/Sickness:

- If there is an emergency with an animal, follow your schools vet protocol, however, know that any animal vet bills are the expense of the student/family.



# Reporting and Communication

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## What is a hazard?

- A hazard is a potential source of harm or adverse health effect of a person or persons

## Common Hazards:

- Electrical cords that have splices on extension cords or equipment
- Climbing on gates and panels
- Loose animals
- Chemicals

## Effective Communication:

- Must report any findings of hazards to the agriscience teacher immediately
- They will notify you of the proper procedures to remove the hazard

