



CEDAR GROVE VETERINARY SERVICE NEWSLETTER



MAY 2018

FARM SAFETY: KEY WAYS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYEES SAFE

Did you know that agriculture ranks as one of the most hazardous industries in the US? Farming is also one of the few industries in which family members are also at high risk for injury due to the fact that they often share the work and live on the premises.

Tractors are often a cause of most farm injuries but livestock can be just as dangerous to work around. Below are a few points to consider to keep farm workers safe.

Safety when Handling Animals

Animals can be unpredictable. Cattle can cause injuries to anyone, regardless of level of experience. When moving animals, it is important to note their flight zones. An animal's point of balance is at their shoulders. Positioning yourself in front of the animal will cause them to step back, while walking slowly behind them will cause them to move forward.

Spring Buying Show Alert

The spring buying show will take place on May 18th at Pizza Ranch from 12:00-1:00pm. Specific details will arrive by mail soon.

Well-designed facilities are often the best way to avoid injuries when working with cattle. Grooved walkways will improve animal traction and prevent slips and falls for both the animal and the farmer. Fences, gates and chutes should be built with the type of livestock that are being raised in mind. Lighting is also important since shadows can scare animals. Sharp or protruding objects should be removed from areas where cows and people walk.

It always good to have an exit strategy in mind. Consider constructing pens and gates with easy exits, or gaps in fencing that are just big enough for a person and not the animal to pass through. When entering a pasture or large enclosure, make sure there is a fast and easy method of escape.

Most importantly, be patient when working around animals. When an animal refuses to cooperate, yelling, poking and prodding will only make the animal more nervous or agitated. Avoid loud noises. Animals draw upon past experiences when reacting to a situation or a person. Making something a bad experience

TEST YOUR DAIRY FARMING KNOWLEDGE

- 1) What percentage of Americans drink just milk (no milk alternatives)?
 - a) 75%
 - b) 43%
 - c) 36%
 - d) 66%
- 2) How many inches of bunk space should be provided for each cow 21 days prior to calving?
 - a) 24"
 - b) 30"
 - c) 12"
 - d) 42"
- 3) The thermal neutral zone is the range of environmental temps in which an animal does not expend energy to maintain its normal temp. What is the thermal neutral zone of adult cattle (humans is 68-77°F)?
 - a) 65-75°F
 - b) 35-45°F
 - c) 55-65°F
 - d) 45-55°F

Answers on back

the first time will not set the animal up for success when it must be done again in the future.

Cattle Diseases that can affect Farm Workers

Animal diseases that can be acquired by humans are called zoonotic diseases. Infection can occur through direct contact with animals or their products (manure or placenta). Direct transmission can also occur through consumption of animal products (e.g., raw meat, raw milk, etc.) or through animal bites. Farmers, ranchers, veterinarians, slaughterhouse workers, and other agricultural workers have a higher risk of contracting zoonoses because of their close contact with animals.

The best way to prevent these diseases in farm employees is making them aware of the risks and to promote the use of protective equipment like gloves, face shields, or face masks. Hand washing is also a key way to prevent disease transmission.



The list of diseases that can affect humans and animals is too long and detailed for this discussion but is a good topic to discuss with a veterinarian.

Vaccination and Needle Safety

When training people that administer vaccines to animals, the focus usually lies on ensuring animal safety. However, it is important to also discuss with farm workers to also stay safe themselves. Vaccines are designed to elicit an immune response in cows using a bacteria/virus that is either dead or alive. These pathogens can have severe consequences for humans if they are accidentally injected. They can cause tissue damage, allergic reactions, and organ damage.

Proper restraint is one of the keys to not accidentally injecting yourself or another worker when administering shots. The animal should be restrained in a way that protects the worker from the cow's head and legs. Accidental needle sticks can occur if, when injecting a vaccine under the skin, the needle goes through the skin and out the other side and punctures the hand or fingers.

The tip of the needle should point away from the hand. Used needles should be disposed of properly in a clearly labeled sharps container to avoid injuries.

If a person is accidentally stuck with a needle, the wound should be washed with water and a disinfectant (alcohol or chlorhexidine). If the contents of the needle made contact with eyes or in the mouth, they should be flushed with lots of water. The affected area should be monitored for signs of inflammation (heat, pain, swelling, redness). Finally, if symptoms worsen, a physician should be consulted, and a list of the vaccine ingredients should be provided the physician to aid them in treatment.

Accidental needle sticks can also occur when administering antibiotics or hormones to cattle. The same principles as described above apply in these situations to keep workers safe.

Farming is dangerous, but proper training and re-training of employees can minimize risks and keep everyone safe.

Rooker Pet Foods/TMR Furs are Making Changes Starting May 1st

Starting May 1st, Rooker Pet Foods/TMR furs will no longer be accepting any animals that are euthanized by euthanasia solution. This includes calves, heifers, cows, and horses. In the dairy and beef cattle world this should not too many people since animals are only euthanized with euthanasia solution by a licensed veterinarian. However, horse owners may be more affected by the change since they are less likely to put their animals down by gunshot. Animals that are euthanized in this manner will need to be buried deep or cremated. If you have any questions or concerns about this change, feel free to contact our office to talk to a veterinarian.

Dairy Farm Knowledge Answers

1: d 2: b 3: d

