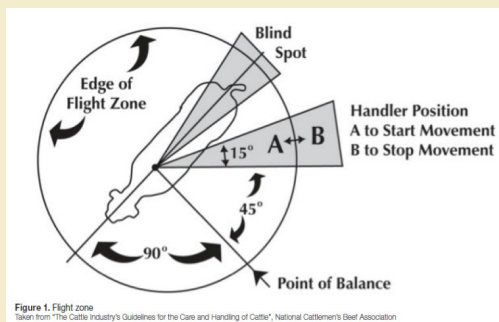


Montana Ag Safety Program



Livestock Handling Safety

- Work calmly, deliberately, and quietly around livestock. Utilize low-stress handling techniques.
- Livestock are herd animals and will likely become agitated or frightened under stress – particularly being removed from the herd.
- Work to establish routines.
- Understand and study the behaviors of the specific livestock being handled.
 - Learn to recognize common signs of agitation:
 - Raised or pinned ears
 - Raised head
 - Raised tailhead
 - Raised back hair
 - Barred teeth
 - Pawing the ground
 - Snorting
 - Widened eyes (whites of eyes visible)
- Always have an escape route when working in close quarters.- Be patient.
- Ensure the animal always has a clear place to go.
- Keep facilities and equipment in good repair.
- Many injuries related to livestock can be resolved by proper facility design and maintenance
- Stay alert and be aware of surroundings.
- Exercise extra caution around newborns. Animals can be very protective of their young.
- Recognize breeding age males can be more dangerous, especially when herd dynamic is changed. Use extra caution when handling.
- Handle livestock in smaller groups whenever possible. Avoid overcrowding alleys, tubs, pens, etc.



**Flight Zone, Point of Balance, and Handler Position
in relation to cattle vision field.**