

WORK RIGHT

AGRICULTURE

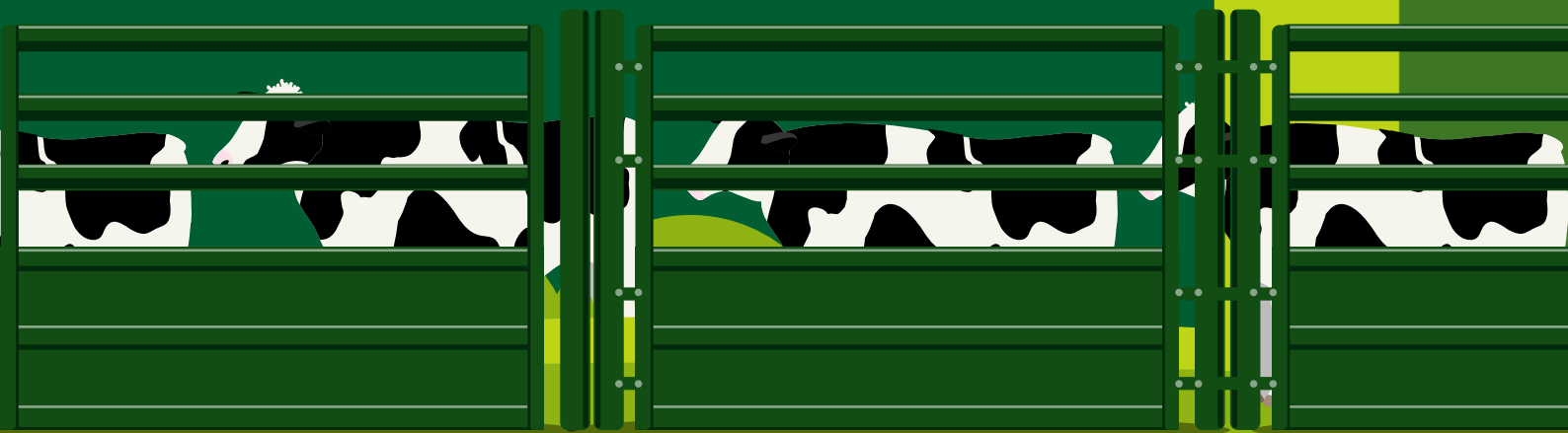
YOUR FARM • YOUR FUTURE

TURN OVER FOR
A CHECKLIST ON
SAFE HANDLING
& HOUSING
CATTLE

WORKING WITH CATTLE IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF DEATH ON BRITISH FARMS.

Never underestimate the risk from cattle,
even with good precautions in place.

WHERE POSSIBLE PEOPLE
AND CATTLE SHOULD BE
KEPT ← → APART



For further details about how to keep everyone on the farm
safe, visit: workright.campaign.gov.uk/agriculture/





SAFE HANDLER

Livestock handlers should be in good health, agile and have the physical ability to work with livestock. Handlers should be periodically reassessed by their employer.

To ensure their safety and the safety of others, livestock handlers should:

- Plan handling tasks beforehand and be properly trained in safe systems of work using the equipment provided and be competent to handle livestock.

- Be closely supervised by the employer until such time as they are assessed and deemed competent. Have the ability to recognise warning signs that the animal is agitated and understand how to respond.
- Never enter an enclosure when a bull is loose or a cow is with a calf unless the animals are restrained or segregated.
- Respect livestock and the risks involved.



SAFE EQUIPMENT

Equipment should be regularly maintained, arranged and used so that people and cattle are kept apart as much as possible. You should:

- Carry out stock tasks on restrained animals using good handling facilities.
- Ensure that all handling equipment, gates and railings are well maintained and in good working order.
- Have good calving facilities in place including calving pens, calving gates and equipment such as calving jacks. Separate the calf and / or secure the cow before carrying out any tasks.

- Check the race and crush meet the requirements set out in Handling and housing cattle AIS35 Never enter a race or crush containing livestock.
- Where there is no other option but to tend to animals while they are loose in pens, and it is not possible to secure them, make sure that you have adequate escape routes. When considering escape routes, think: Under, Over, Behind or Through.
- Have someone else working with you where possible.
- When carrying out field work, ensure that good mobile handling facilities are used, have a refuge such as a vehicle nearby, and have sufficient persons to enable safe handling.



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THE ANIMAL

Bulls can be territorial and cows with calves are very protective of their young and should be treated with extra caution. You should:

- Consider having bulls ringed at about 10 months and check the nose ring regularly.
 - Use handling aids such as poles and halters when moving bulls.
 - Consider culling animals that are habitually aggressive or difficult to handle.
- Keep stock bulls in a purpose made bull pen which meets the requirements set out in [Handling and housing cattle AIS35](#). Bull pens used to house beef bulls should also meet the same standards.
 - Keep bull beef in secure pens in small groups of 15 to 20. Set up facilities to allow feeding, watering and bedding changes to be carried out without the need to enter the pen with loose bulls.



CATTLE IN FIELDS WITH PUBLIC ACCESS

Deaths or injuries to members of the public can occur when cattle are in fields with public access. Key considerations for farmers and landowners include:

- Where possible avoid putting cattle, especially cows with calves, in fields with public access. Where this is unavoidable, do all that you can to keep animals and people separated, keep the period to a minimum, monitor the cattle daily, display signage at the entrance stating what animals it contains and position feed and water troughs away from public access routes.
- Don't keep dairy bulls in fields with public access.
- Assess the temperament of any cattle before putting them into a field with public access and don't put an animal in that has shown any sign of aggression. Consider culling any animal that does show signs of aggression.
- Key guidance for England and Wales can be found [here](#), advice for Scotland is [here](#).



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