



# Livestock

## 101

# Livestock - Definition



- Livestock –

alpaca/llama; farmed bison, elk and deer; beef and dairy cattle; horses/ donkeys/mules; sheep; goats; pigs; rabbits; emus/ostriches; poultry; ducks; and turkeys.



## Bio security

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# What is bio-security ???

- Bio-security involves a number of measures used by individuals BEFORE entering and AFTER leaving a livestock location, to prevent the exchange of disease causing agents.



# Stop disease at the farm gate



- Respect these signs.
- Do not enter without permission of the owner.
- Have proper attire and sanitation equipment for visiting properties with livestock.

# Farmowners need to initiate a level of bio-security on their own farms.



- ALL visitors to the farm should wash their boots in a tub of disinfectant.
- The surface of the boots must be clear of organic matter before applying the disinfectant.

# Livestock Quarantine

- Keep livestock new to the farm separate from those already on the farm
- Quarantine for 30 days, if possible
- Feed new arrivals **AFTER** you have fed the current stock
- Use separate feeding equipment
- All in; all out principle

# BEFORE you buy livestock

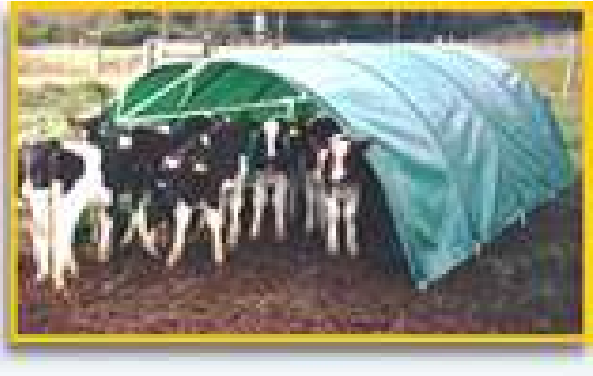
- Check with your insurance agent.
- Many home policies do not cover for livestock.
- They may cancel your current coverage, or not pay a claim if you do not report the fact you have livestock.
- Check with your town's Code Enforcement Officer to be sure animals are allowed in your area.
- Check the set backs to wells and property lines.
- Research the breeds you are considering for purchase
- Visit local farms and fairs. People enjoy showing off their animals.
- Respect the farmers and their property; practice bio security; ask a lot of questions. Write it down.
- Volunteer to be part of their association.



# State of Maine Regulations

- Livestock – must be provided with shelter suitable for the health of the animal. They must have access to a constructed OR natural shelter that is large enough to accommodate all livestock at one time. The shelter should be well drained and protect the livestock from direct sun, rain, wind and other inclement weather.
- **Does not include equines-horses/donkeys/mules**







# Shelter for equines



- Require a constructed shelter, with a minimum of 3 sides and a waterproof roof shall be provided at all times to protect from sun, rain, wind and inclement weather.

## Equine shelter, further defined in Animal Welfare Rules

- Sufficient height and size so that animals may stand upright in normal position with safe head clearances and accommodate all animals at one time.
- Floor shall be dry and suitable for animals to lie down
- Any animal shall be provided with extra protection by improved housing, blankets, or other methods, if the health of the animal is compromised in any way.

Let the condition of the animals determine .....





# Housing for sheep and goats....



## Recommended housing space (square feet) for sheep and lambs

	<b>Dirt lot</b>	<b>Open shed</b>	<b>Confinement (dirt floor)</b>	<b>Confinement (slatted floors)</b>
Bred ewe	20	8	12-16	8-10
Ewe with lambs	25	12	16-20	10-12
Ram	20	8	20-30	14-20
Feeder lamb	15-20	6	8-10	4-6
Source: Midwest Plan Service, Sheep Housing and Equipment Handbook, 1982				



# Swine Shelter Requirements

About 5 to 6 sq ft of roof area per pig is recommended with either permanent or portable sheltering (an area of 2 ft x 3 ft). The sides of these shelters should be able to be opened during the summer. During the winter the shelters should be closed on three sides with the south side open. During the summer it is possible to raise swine without shelter as long as there is natural shade and cover available (i.e., a wooded area). It is important that the shelter area stay dry, in particular during the winter. Floors in the shelters are desirable, especially with small shelters.



## Young cattle housing space requirements:

- 20-25 square feet per calf below the age of 3 months,
- 25 -30 square feet per calf from the age of 3-6 months,
- 30-40 square feet per calf from the age of 6-12 months and over, and
- 40-45 square feet for every calf above one year, should be made available for the sheltering





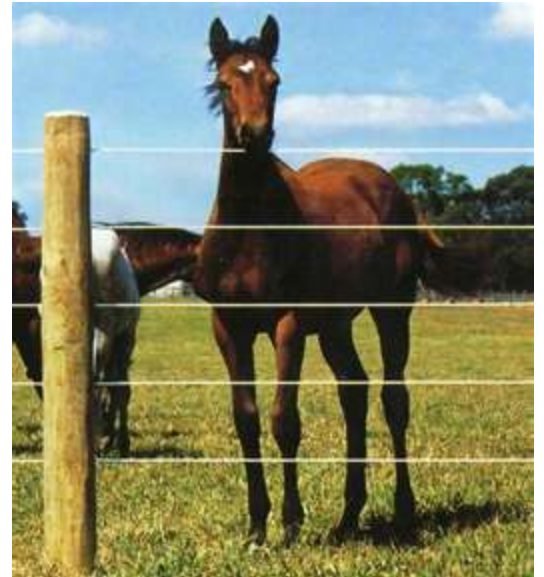
# Pasture stocking rate

- Defined as the number of animals per acre of pasture.
- With good grass, the average is 1000 lbs of animal per 1 acre of grass
- The average cow/horse equals 1000 lbs.
- 6 adult sheep/goats equal 1000 lbs

# Livestock Fencing

- Fencing should be designed to keep livestock in and predators out.
- It should fit the needs of the inhabitants.
- Barbed wire can be hazardous to horses.
- Electric fencing does not always work well on sheep, due to wool cover
- Vinyl and wood can be expensive
- Fencing is one of the greatest costs involved with livestock
- Pre plan your fence. What will the needs be: how high, what type, will you have separate paddocks, etc.
- Shop for your materials.





# Gates / Shelter / Water



- Remember to plan your fences with access gates.
- The livestock must also have shelter and water available in each pasture.





# Handling livestock



- They are larger than you.
- They do not understand English
- They understand body language
- They like to travel in groups
- They do not like to be alone.
- They SENSE when you are afraid.
- They respond to stimuli with fight or flight responses.
- They do not reason.
- They are not human.

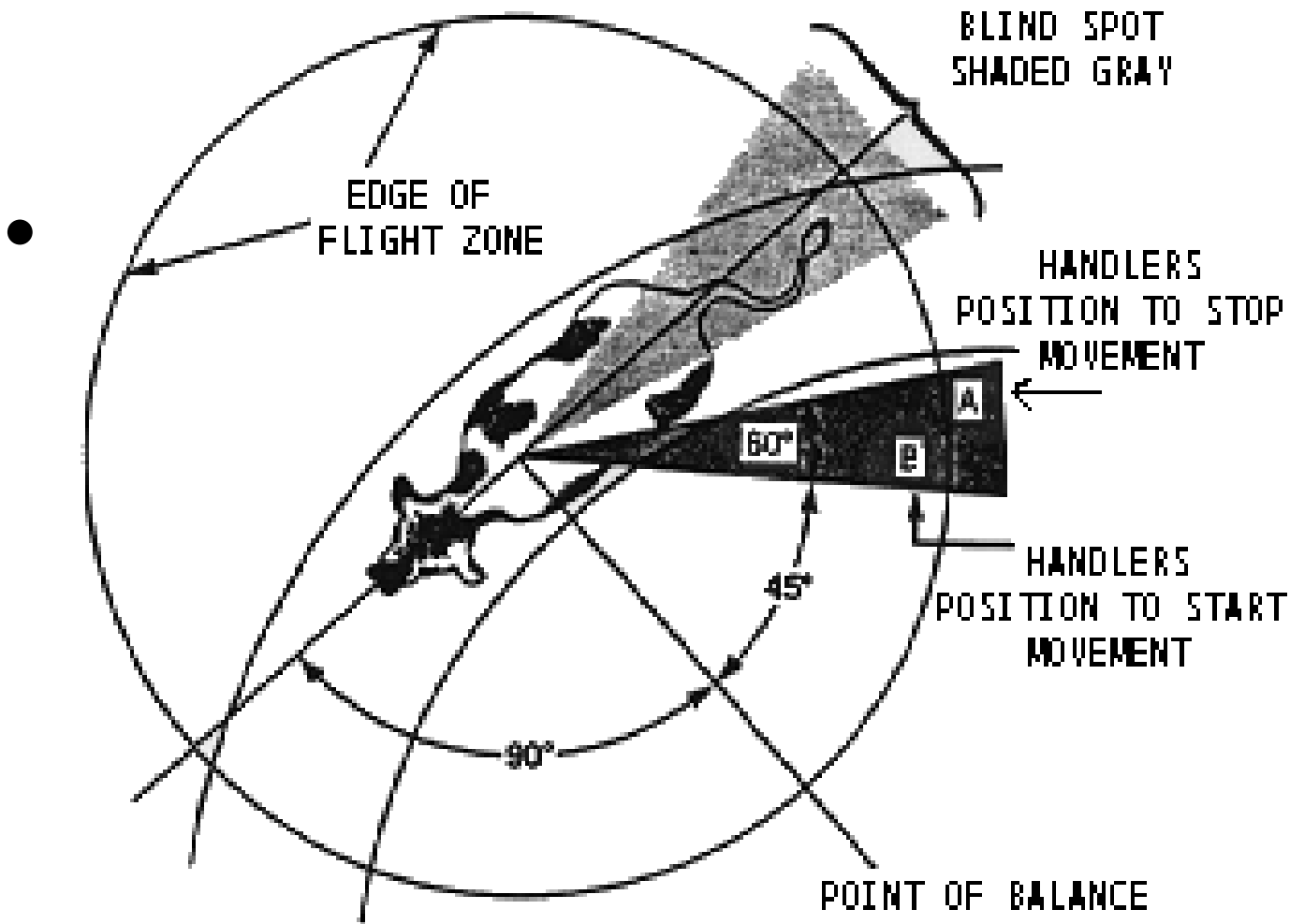
# Temple Grandin



- “Autism is part of who I am”.
- Dr. of animal science and professor at Colorado State University.
- Consultant to the livestock industry on animal behavior.
- Designer of livestock facilities
- Her writings on the flight zone have helped many people reduce stress on their animals during handling.
- Has developed an objective scoring system for assessing handling of cattle and pigs at meat plants.

# Flight Zone

An animal's flight zone will vary depending on how calm it is. The flight zone gets bigger when an animal becomes excited. The flight zone is also bigger when you approach "head on". Calm cattle are easier to move. If cattle become excited, it takes 20 to 30 minutes for them to calm back down. People should be quiet when moving animals. Yelling and loud noise is very stressful. High pitched noises are especially stressful.



**This diagram illustrates the general flight zone of an animal. The actual flight zone of an individual animal will vary depending on how "tame" the animal is.**

# When working livestock.....

- Animals that vocalize are stressed animals.
- Electric prods should be used sparingly; use sticks with ribbons, paddles or small flags. For hogs, use plastic boards.
- Avoid hitting the animals.
- Animals will move from a darker place to a lighter place.
- Handlers should be QUIET; avoid yelling or whistling.
- Animals prefer to be part of a group; a lone agitated animal is very dangerous.
- Escaped animals must never be chased.
- Stay out of the blind spot to avoid being kicked.
- Handlers should remain calm and avoid sudden movements.

# Handling facilities



Adjustable "S" Alley



- If you are going to work with large animals, you will need to have facilities appropriate for the species.
- Many beef cattle have a large flight risk and are worked using heavy chutes and head gates to capture them for health checks and vaccinations.

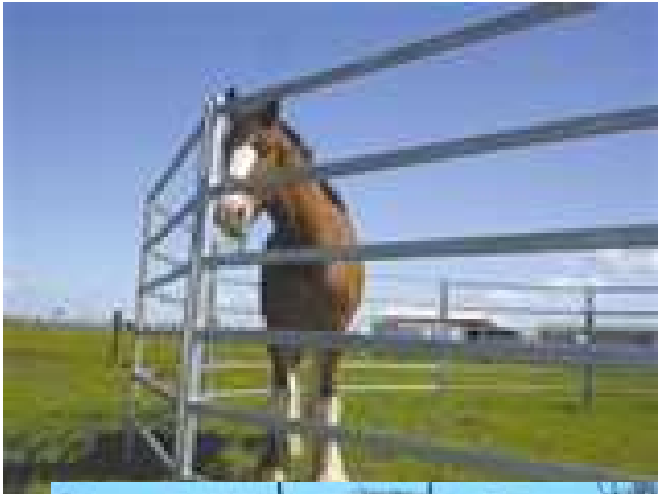




Additional equipment is needed....



# Horse handling equipment



- Many trainers work with horses in round pens. There they have the animal's undivided attention and they can only go so far in their flight zone.



# Poultry operations



- Commercial operation- cage free; floor birds
- Commercial operation- caged birds. Many states have regulations of number of birds per cage
- Backyard operation – free range

# Handling poultry



One hand under the bird supporting it and holding the legs. Fingers pointing toward the tail. Then you can hold it against your body leaving your other hand free. Because the legs are secure you won't get clawed if it struggles. If the wings are down, and you keep one between the bird and your body it makes it harder for it to flap

# Handling ducks



- Picking ducks up by the legs may dislocate joints or break bones. The preferred method for handling ducks is to pick them up by their necks or by placing support on the undercarriage of the duck with ones arm, while holding the legs between the fingers.

- Many folks also pick them up by the base of the wings with both hands.

# Myths about livestock

- All bulls have horns.
- All black cattle are bulls.
- Cattle hate red.
- Sheep / cows bite.
- Pigs don't bite.
- Only horses kick.
- All poultry are friendly.
- People are stronger than animals.



# Questions ?

