



June 5, 2025

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Youth Field Day 2025

~ Schedule ~

- 7:30 a.m. Check-in opens Take your pre-quiz, vote on your favorite 2026 t-shirt design, pickup or order t-shirts, and enjoy a morning snack.
- 8:00 a.m. Educational Learning Expo Opens Visit and learn at every booth to get your card signed. At the end of the expo, turn it in (10 a.m.) to be entered in a prize drawing at the closing assembly. During the learning expo there will be 3 opportunities to take a 30 min. wagon ride to view some of our cattle and learn from our knowledgeable staff.
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Assembly Gather in the courtyard by the picnic table for a quick welcome message and to meet your group leaders.
- 10:10 a.m. Class Rotations Begin 5 classes and a lunch break (Each one is 25 min.)

"Biosecurity for Youth Cattle Owners"

Laura Bennett, Multi-Co. Livestock Agent – Pasco, Hernando, and Sumter Co. Amber Womble, Volunteer

"Newborn Calf Health Management"

Colleen Larson, UF/IFAS Okeechobee County

"Nutrition and Body Condition Scoring"

Allie Williams, UF/IFAS Hillsborough County Conner Crawford, UF/IFAS RCREC Vinicius Izquierdo, UF/IFAS RCREC

"Best Practices: Giving Injections"

Lauren Butler, UF/IFAS Okeechobee County Joao Marques da Silva, UF/IFAS RCREC

"Low-Stress Cattle Handling"

Matt Warren, Cattleman and Experienced Livestock Judge

- 1:25 p.m. Closing Assembly 2026 t-shirt design winner announcement and a prize drawing at the Grazinglands Education Building.
- 1:45 p.m. Field Day Ends

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Platinum - \$300

A & J Lucky 7 Ranch Adams Ranch – ground beef Dakin Dairy Farms - milk Hardee County Farm Bureau Hardee Soil & Water Conservation District Precision Agricultural Services LLC Suncoast Credit Union Westway Feed Products

Gold Sponsors - \$150

Crews Bank & Trust DeSoto-Charlotte County Farm Bureau Lee County Farm Bureau Manatee County Farm Bureau Sarasota County Farm Bureau

Very special "Thank You" to everyone who has had a part in today's program! We are very grateful for your time, assistance, support, and donations! Including:

Manatee County Cattlemen's Association - use of tables and chairs

K & J Homegrown Produce – veggies and fruit used today

Youth Field Day 2025

~ Staff ~

Group Leaders (RCREC Staff & Students and others)

Ona White A	ngus - Luciana Melo Sousa, Visiting Scholar Henrique Nogueira, Volunteer
Brahman -	Tenzy Mncube, Postdoctoral Associate Shelby Rivers, Volunteer
Angus -	Olivia Centanni, MS Student Christian Kammerer, Ph.D. Student
Brangus -	Hannah Baker, State Specialized Agent Shyleah Dunlap, Volunteer
Braford -	Julio Berwanger, Visiting Scholar Kauani Cardoso, Visiting Scholar

RCREC Staff and Students Assisting

Tom Fussell, Jeff Steele, Lauria Gause, Namrata Ghimire, Kim Parks, David Womble, Zack Bateman, Julian Bernal, Randy Crawfis, Joao Lazarin, Tenzy Mncube, Jeff Steele, Blake Tinsley, Mike Trevino, Julie Warren, David Womble, Joao Lazarin, Saba Shaghaghi, Gurjoban Tiwana, Nikitha Reddy Kovvuri, Paulo Gomes Filho, Mary Shannon Sellers, Lane Harrison, and Jack Fussell.

Youth Field Day Committee

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Members

Andrea Dunlap, Marketing and Communications Specialist Dr. Brent Sellers, Professor & Center Director, Pasture & Rangeland Weeds Hannah Baker, State Specialized Ext. Agent, Beef & Forage Economics Julie Warren, Biological Scientist

South Florida Beef Forage Program Members

Laura Bennett, Livestock Agent, Pasco, Sumter, and Hernando Multi-Co. Lauren Butler, County Extension Director/Livestock Agent III, UF/IFAS Extension Okeechobee Co.

Christa Kirby, Livestock Extension Agent, IV, UF/IFAS Extension Manatee Co.

~ Learning Expo Booths to Visit ~

2025 Cattlemen's Sweetheart Pasture to Plate Madisyn Hines and Linda Smith madisynh05@gmail.com

Agriculture Education Services & Technology, Inc. (AEST) Agriculture Industry Certifications (Animal Science) Hannah Love <u>AEST@ffbf.org</u>

UF/IFAS Florida AgrAbility Program

This program aids farmers, ranchers, ag workers, and family members in overcoming barriers caused by disabilities to continue farming. Check out our adaptive technology and other resources! Tara Dorn and Isaiah Dorn 321-735-2858 tara.dorn@ufl.edu

Fresh From Florida Agriculture Education Emily Bruce 850-879-9372 emily.menno@fdacs.gov

Junior Florida Cattlemen's Association (JFCA) Cattle Byproducts Annette Hartman, Grace Merrell, Raegan Rowe, Racelyn Hartman juniorfloridacattlemen@gmail.com

Precision Agricultural Services LLC Ag Drones Hugh MacDonald, Chase Haley, Carol MacDonald hugh@pasuav.com

Suncoast Credit Union

Taylor Lambert Stop by to learn about all we have to offer and try our Axe Throwing game! taylor.lambert@suncoastcreditunion.com

UF/IFAS 4-H with Google

Brent Broaddus Use of artificial intelligence in Florida agriculture. Train a robot to pick oranges and monitor cattle health with interactive activities combining human innovation and modern technology. Grow your skills, grow your future. <u>broaddus@ufl.edu</u>

UF/IFAS CALS at Plant City

UF College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Plant City academic programs. Jason Steward <u>jsteward@ufl.edu</u> (813) 757-2280

UF/IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center (GCREC) Postdoctoral and Student Association

Learn about the damage plant parasitic nematodes can cause to Florida agricultural crops and the use of a moving rail system and camera to find and separate mushrooms in real time. Kalara Dissanyake, David Moreira, Emily Witt, and Namrata Dutt kdissanayake@ufl.edu https://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC - Forage Team Forage & Seed Identification Olivia Centanni centanni.o@ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC - Long-Term Agroecology Research (LTAR) Program LTAR & Eddy Covariance Mike Trevino trevino.mike@ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC

- Soil & Hydrology Lab Nutrient flow, water level, and soil moisture monitoring. Dr. Golmar Golmohammadi, Seyed Mostafa, Saba Shaghaghi, Gurjoban Tiwana, and Namrata Ghimire g.golmohammadi@ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC - Weed Science Program Pasture Patrol: Defending the Forage Dr. Tenzy Mncube tmnube@ufl.edu

UF/IFAS Seminole Tribe 4-H Cattle Anatomy and Meat Cuts Sheri Trent, Sara Whitehead, and Korbyn Trent slemmemen@ufl.edu U.S. Department of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency Livestock, farming, and ranching assistance programs. Kaylee Lambert kaylee.lambert@usda.gov https://www.fsa.usda.gov/

Warner University Christian Higher Education – Ag Studies Scarlett Jackson (863) 638-1426 admissions@warner.edu www.warner.edu

~ Web Resources ~

Beef Quality Assurance – Sites to visit for additional information:

Beef Quality Assurance - https://www.bqa.org/

The Beef Quality Assurance Program's mission is to guide producers towards continuous improvement using science-based production practices that assure cattle well-being, beef quality and safety.

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals - https://yqcaprogram.org/

Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) is a national multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21. The program is designed to provide a minimum 60 minutes of education each year.

Ask IFAS, Powered by Electronic Data Information Source (EDIS) -

EDIS is the Electronic Data Information Source of UF/IFAS Extension, a collection of information on topics relevant to you. <u>http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/</u>

Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) -

Weather data is collected every 15 minutes at 42 sites located across Florida. Find a FAWN site near you. http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu/

South Florida Beef Forage Program (SFBFP)-

A major goal of this program is to coordinate extension and research activities for enhanced forage and cattle production in Central and South Florida. <u>https://sfbfp.ifas.ufl.edu/</u>

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC -

Learn about upcoming events, see program and contact information for faculty members, and view media resources in the virtual classroom. Join our e-mail list to stay informed on upcoming events! Email us at <u>ona@ifas.ufl.edu</u> to get on our contacts list. <u>http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/</u>

<u>UF/IFAS Extension – Solutions for your life –</u>

Each Florida County has an extension office. Do you know about yours? Follow this link to locate your local office and find out about the services they offer. Here you will also learn about the Research Centers and Demonstration Sites in Florida. https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/

Want to learn more about joining the Gator Nation? -

Degrees, admissions, tuition, aid, how to apply, and request information, visit: https://ufonline.ufl.edu/admissions/admissions-team/



An Equal Opportunity Institution

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UF/IFAS Pasco County, Multi-County Livestock Agent

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Biosecurity for Youth Cattle Owners

Biosecurity management encompasses practices that help to minimize exposure of livestock to pathogens and poisons that can seriously affect the health of animals. This is accomplished by keeping disease off the farm through both prevention and animal husbandry practices. Livestock exhibitions are events where animals have an increased risk of getting infectious diseases due to the commingling of animals from different sources.

Several factors interact to determine when disease is going to strike: the host, its environment, and the pathogen/germ involved. The diagram below illustrates this dynamic:

Components of disease spread and their interaction, **Beef Quality Assurance** Host National Manual, page 39. (cattle, people) e.g., age, previous exposure, nutritional **BQA** National Manual status, immune status While animal diseases cannot be eliminated, livestock producers can manage disease risk by implementing a variety of measures including Disease management of visitors, management of Environment Pathogen/Germ replacement animals, storage and (outside factor that (bacteria, viruses, handling of feedstuffs, and manure causes or allows parasites, fungi that disease transmission) cause the disease) management. The vulnerability of the e.g., climate; humidity, e.g., type of pathogen animals to disease is influenced by social structure of herd, or ability of pathogen several factors which include population density, to infect housing, nutrition cleanliness, stress, vaccination status, and nutrition which all can be managed.

An important aspect of sanitation is to prevent fecal material from being ingested by livestock. Additionally, loaning of equipment or trailers presents another opportunity for pathogen introduction to the ranch/farm. Cleaning of facilities and equipment between groups of livestock during processing is a good management practice to reduce pathogen transmission. Cleaning with a brush or pressure washer to remove organic matter and contamination are important first steps followed by disinfection. Aerosol transmission occurs when disease agents contained in droplets are passed through the air from one animal to another. Transmission by direct contact requires the presence of an agent or organism in the environment or within an infected animal. A susceptible animal becomes exposed when the infectious agent directly touches open wounds, mucous membranes, or the skin through blood, saliva, nose to nose contact, rubbing or biting. Sometimes this is transferred on inanimate objects (fomites) such as contaminated brushes, clippers, needles, boots, feed or water buckets, and shovels.

Here are some best management practices to improve biosecurity on your operation:

1. Keep animals up to date on vaccinations.

2. Properly feeding cattle and keeping cattle in proper body condition helps them to resist disease.

3. Be vigilant for signs of disease (coughing, weight loss, runny nose and eyes, difficulty breathing, abortions, stillbirths, etc.).

4. For the welfare of other livestock, never take an unhealthy animal to a show or fair.

5. Do not share feed or water tubs, grooming supplies or other equipment with other exhibitors without using a disinfectant.

6. Keep your area and equipment free of manure.

7. Quarantine your show cattle from other cattle when you return home.

8. Unexplained death loss should be reported to your veterinarian; a necropsy may be necessary.

Biosecurity requires people to adopt management practices to reduce health risks to livestock. Understanding steps to keep an infectious agent from becoming an issue on your farm and implementing biosecurity practices will lower the chances of infection.

Biosecurity EDIS

Biosecurity Resources

Calf Care Basics - Youth Field Day 6/5/2025 Range Cattle Research Station Colleen C. Larson, Regional dairy extension agent

5 C's

Colostrum	- as soon as possible, as good as possible (100 IgG minimum)
Calories	- depends on the weight of the calf, 10-17% of body weight in 1st two
	feedings (3-4 qts within 12 hrs, 1st one asap!)
Consistency	r - feed, water, milk/milk replacer, feeding time, technique
Comfort	- calves don't like wind or being wet - use bedding til navel is dried up
	and gone
Cleanliness	 Everything, everyday! Dip navel (7% tincture of iodine or
	chlorhexidine)

Biggest Challenges: Pneumonia and Scours! Prevention is key.

Milk replacer

Quality milk replacer contains at least 20/20 (protein/fat)

Higher protein if available. Make sure that animal fats and proteins are listed as some of the 1st ingredients. Vegetable or grain fat and protein are acceptable but should not be the only or first source of protein and fat. Medicated milk replacers can help control coccidia and promote growth. A 60-80lb calf should drink 2qts of milk replacer or milk, twice a day (9-14 hrs between feeding). Mix per label directions. At 2 weeks, increase to 3 qts, twice per day. At 4 weeks, increase to 4 qts twice per day. Feed with bottle or nipple feeder (peach teats). Make sure the water for mixing is correct temperature. Mix at 105-110°F degrees to feed at 95-100°F degrees. Make sure to sanitize all feeding equipment daily. When bleach is used to sanitize, make sure to fully rinse 3 times to ensure not bleach remains. Sanitizers can disrupt and destroy the rumen microbes that are beginning to form.

What is normal?

Head righting in minutes Sitting in 5 minutes Attempts to stand within 15 minutes Standing within 1 hour Temp high at birth, declines to 101-102°F by 1 hour Suckling within 2 hours

For dummy calves when they are born:

Postural drainage (place upright) • Topline towel rub from tailhead to poll • Towel stimulation of ears, eyes and nose • Compress and shake trachea • Ice-water in ear • Pinpoint nasal pressure • Suction nose and throat

Tips for using an esophageal feeder:

Standing position for calf if possible • Calf must be able to maintain sternal recumbency • Not for use in calf with respiratory effort • Not for use in calf with abdominal distension • Equipment is sanitized and in good condition • Do not force feed milk/milk replacer without veterinarian's recommendation • Limit forced milk feedings (usually 3 or less)

More tips:

Monitor 2x per day: eyes, ears, nose, skin, appetite, manure

Use injectable vitamin at birth

Use probiotic pastes to help with gut health

Transition everything gradually

Control pests - fly control!

Offer water immediately - empty and refill everyday

Offer feed by day #3. Empty and refill everyday. The sooner they eat feed, the sooner you stop bottle feeding. Do not allow access to wet/moldy feed or hay. To be weaned, the calf should be eating 2-3 pounds of grain for 3-4 straight days. This can usually be accomplished by 7-8 weeks of age. Decrease milk gradually over a 7 day period. Monitor intake closely after weaning. Offer hay or grass after 2 weeks of age. Grain helps the rumen develop, hay/grass keeps the rumen healthy once developed.

Dehorning and extra teat removal should be done asap. Dehorning with paste is effective before day 7. Extra teats should be removed by 6 weeks old. Vaccinate and deworm based on veterinarian's advice and known pathogens/environmental issues. Intranasal vaccines are especially effective during the maternal immune protection from colostrum.



Calf Health Scoring Criteria			
0	1	2	3
Rectal temperature			
100-100.9	101-101.9	102-102.9	≥103
Cough			
None	Induce single cough	Induced repeated coughs or occasional spontaneous cough	Repeated spontaneous coughs
Nasal discharge			
Normal serous discharge	Small amount of unilateral cloudy discharge	Bilateral, cloudy or excessive mucus discharge	Copious bilateral mucopurulent discharge
Eye scores			
Normal	Small amount of	Moderate amount of	Heavy ocular
Far scarse			
Normal	Ear flick or head	Slight unilateral droop	Head tilt or bilateral
Normai	shake		droop
Facal scores			
Normal	Semi-formed pasty	Loose but stave on	Watery sifts through
		top of bedding	bedding

http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/fapmtools/8calf/calf_health_scoring_chart.pdf

Feeding Beef Cows Based on Body Condition Scores

Shane Gadberry Assistant Professor - Nutrition

Introduction

The amount and type of supplementation required for satisfactory performance in beef herds is greatly influenced by the body condition or body reserves, both protein and fat, of the cattle.

To optimize performance, body condition scores of cows should fall within a range of 5 to 7 (optimum condition) at the initiation of the calving season and remain in this range throughout the breeding season. To achieve this goal, cows should be condition scored when calves are weaned. Feeding programs should be planned for cows of varying condition so they will reach optimum body condition by the start of the calving season.

Drastic changes in body condition should be avoided so that supplementation of the herd may be minimized. To achieve this, cattle should be matched to the forage supply and management available, and body condition evaluations should be made at various times throughout the year. For spring calving herds, the logical times are:

- Midsummer
- Weaning, in the fall
- 60 days before calving
- Calving
- The beginning of breeding in the spring

Changes in management and the use of supplemental feed may be warranted, even during the summer, to prevent drastic body weight changes. There are few economical ways to increase body condition once winter has arrived.

Practical Importance of Body Condition Scoring

Variation in the condition of beef cows has a number of practical implications. The condition of cows at calving is associated with length of postpartum interval, subsequent lactation performance, health and vigor of the newborn calf and the incidence of calving difficulties in extremely fat heifers. Condition is often overrated as a cause of dystocia in older cows. The condition of cows at breeding affects their reproductive performance in terms of services per conception, calving interval and the percentage of open cows. Body condition affects the amount and type of winter feed supplements that will be needed. Fat, gestating cows may need only mineral and vitamin supplementation. Thin cows usually need very good quality forage or large amounts of supplements high in energy (+70 percent TDN), medium in protein (15 to 30 percent), plus mineral and vitamin supplementation.

Body condition or changes in body condition, rather than live weight or shifts in weight, are a more reliable guide for evaluating the nutritional status of a cow. Live weight is sometimes mistakenly used as an indication of body condition and fat reserves, but gut fill and the products of pregnancy prevent weight from being an accurate indicator of condition. Live weight does not accurately reflect changes in nutritional status. In winter feeding studies where live weight and body condition scores have been measured, body condition commonly decreases proportionally more than live weight, implying a greater loss of energy relative to weight.

Two animals can have markedly different live weights and have similar body condition scores. Conversely, animals of similar live weight may differ in condition score. As an example, an 1,100 pound cow may be a 1,000 pound animal carrying an extra 100 pounds of body reserves, or a 1,200 pound cow which has lost 100 pounds of body reserves. These two animals would differ markedly in both biological and economical response to the same feeding and management regime with possible serious consequences.

In commercial practice, body condition scoring can be carried out regularly and satisfactorily in circumstances where weighing may be impractical. The technique is easy to learn and useful when practiced by the same person in the same herd over several years.

Body Condition Scores (BCS)

BCS are numbers used to suggest the relative fatness or body composition of the cow. Most published reports are using a range of 1 to 9, with a score of 1 representing very thin body condition and 9 extreme fatness (Table 1). Scoring done by different people will not agree exactly; however, scoring is not likely to vary by more than one score between trained evaluators, if a 1 to 9 system is used. For BCS to be most helpful, producers need to calibrate the 1 to 9 BCS system under their own conditions.

Condition Score	Appearance of Cow ^a
1	Emaciated – Bone structure of shoulder, ribs, back, hooks and pins sharp to touch and easily visible. Little evidence of fat deposits or muscling.
2	Very thin – Little evidence of fat deposits but some muscling in hindquarters. The spinous processes feel sharp to the touch and are easily seen, with space between them.
3	Thin – Beginning of fat cover over the loin, back and foreribs. Backbone still highly visible. Processes of the spine can be identi- fied individually by touch and may still be visible. Spaces between the processes are less pronounced.
4	Borderline – Foreribs not noticeable; 12th and 13th ribs still noticeable to the eye, particu- larly in cattle with a big spring of rib and ribs wide apart. Full but straightness of muscling in the hindquarters. The transverse spinous processes can be identified only by palpa- tion (with slight pressure) to feel rounded rather than sharp.
5	Moderate – 12th and 13th ribs not visible to the eye unless animal has been shrunk. Areas on each side of the tail head are fairly well filled but not mounded. The transverse spinous processes can only be felt with firm pressure to feel rounded – not noticeable to the eye. Spaces between processes not visible and only distinguishable with firm pressure.
6	Good – Ribs fully covered, not noticeable to the eye. Hindquarters plump and full. Noticeable sponginess to covering of foreribs and on each side of the tail head. Firm pressure now required to feel transverse process.
7	Very good – Abundant fat cover on either side of tail head with some patchiness evident. Ends of the spinous processes can only be felt with very firm pressure. Spaces between processes can barely be distinguished at all.
8	Fat – Animal taking on a smooth, blocky appearance; bone structure disappearing from sight. Fat cover thick and spongy with patchiness likely.
9	Very fat – Bone structure not seen or easily felt. Tail head buried in fat. Animal's mobility may actually be impaired by excess amount

of fat. ^a Adapted from Herd and Sprott, 1986.

BCS 1



BCS 4







BCS 2

BCS 3





BCS 5







BCS 8





BCS 9



Low Stress Handling for Cattle

Instructor: Matt Warren

Low-stress cattle handling focuses on moving and managing cattle to minimize animal stress and maximize safety for both the cattle and handlers. This involves understanding cattle behavior, using their natural instinct to move them, and avoiding unnecessary pressure or stress.

The way you handle cattle can have a big impact on safety and your profit margin. You may ask, how does the way you handle cattle make an impact on safety or profit? Well, I'm glad you asked. Safety is the big one. We all have seen that ONE cow that always has her eye on you from the minute you walk out the porch door. The way you handle her in a confined area will determine if she attempts to take you out and crashes through the pen, jumping and breaking all the panels or boards as she goes. That can get costly. Not only that, but the other cows and calves just saw what happened, and they may try to do the same thing. It can be a recipe for disaster in the cow pens.

On the other hand, if we are quiet and slow in our movement, the animals do not feel threatened, and we can work them in an easy moving pattern that is safer for all.

There are some key words that we need to understand and put into use to make low-stress cattle handling a reality.

Flight Zones:

Personal space is the word I like to use, except this refers to cattle. Let's look at you for a second. When you start talking to someone, you have a distance you like to keep from them before you feel comfortable, and you take a step back. This is true in several different situations. What if someone you do not know comes up and starts talking to you and keeps stepping closer and closer? Your instinct is to step back or walk away, depending on the situation. Yet, if it is someone you like or care for, you would not feel nearly as uncomfortable with them in your personal space. Cattle are no different. You can have a cow that only comes to the pens once or twice a year and does not like it, or you can have a cow that is regularly worked in pens, and she gets used to it.

Understanding the flight zone in animals is nothing more than stepping towards them until they move in the desired direction. Every animal may be different in or out of the pens or in the pasture, as they are in a different environment. So, the way they respond to you will be different as well. We call this pressure and release. When you step into their flight zone, you are adding pressure on them, so they will move away from you. Once they take the first few steps, you can relieve the pressure by stepping back. This is sort of like a reward. They did what you wanted them to, so you reward them by stepping back and exiting their fight zone.

While working in and around their flight zone, this should be done quietly and slowly. The less movement and noise that is made, the less stress the animal feels.

Let's go back to your personal space, as we mentioned before, if a stranger comes up talking to you and gets into your personal space you are going to back up. What if the stranger not only gets in your personal space but is doing this while hollering and throwing their hands in the air? At this point, your stress level is going to go up like a rocket at Kennedy Space Center. The same situation applies to the cattle you are handling in the pens.

Point of Balance:

The other term I want you all to learn is point of balance. The point of balance is an imaginary line typically around or behind the animal's shoulder that influences their movement. Let's think about this for a second. The animals' eyes are on the side of their head. So, they can't see everything right behind them or right in front of them unless they turn their heads, then they only see out of the one eye on that side. When stepping to the closest shoulder, they see you moving towards them, and this allows them to step in the opposite direction and go the way you would desire them to move.



Not only does low-stress handling help make your cattle working experience more pleasurable, but it also improves animal welfare: reduced stress can lead to healthier, more productive animals. It also increases efficiency and allows you to get the job done in a timelier manner with calmer, less stressed animals, which have less chance of injury to the person as well as the animals. Also, it is our duty as stewards of the cattle to handle them in a calm, low-stress atmosphere, as you never know who is watching, and this would give you a more positive public image.

BEST PRACTICES

Injection techniques

Make sure all cattle are safely restrained in a chute that allows easy access to the neck and limits movement. Poor restraint increases the risk of injury, broken needles, and incorrect injections.



These areas are used because they are easy to reach, have fewer important muscles, and reduce the risk of damaging valuable meat cuts. Red areas, like the shoulder and hindquarters, should be avoided because injections there can cause bruising, abscesses, or muscle damage that affects meat quality and can be harder to treat safely.



A subcutaneous (SubQ) injection iis a shot placed just under the skin in safe zones. The needle should be inserted at a 45 degree angle to the animal.



An intramuscular (IM) injection is a shot given deep into the muscle of a cow, usually in the neck, at a 90 degree angle.

IFAS Extension

Class of Cattle	Inj Type	Gauge	Needle Length
Calves <500 lbs	IM	20-18	1 inch
	SubQ	20-18	1/2- 5/8 inch
	IM	18-16	1-1/2 inch
Cattle >500 lbs	SubQ	1 8-1 6	1/2-3/4 inch



Restraint

