

Animal Handling

Objectives

- Locate the blind spot on livestock
- List likes and dislikes for livestock in regards to animal handling
- Define flight zone

Domestic Livestock

- All domestic livestock have contact with humans at some point in their lives.
- Reducing stress during these interactions makes livestock more productive by reducing stress hormones that can negatively impact economic factors such as growth rate and feed efficiency.



Domestic Livestock

- Calm animals are less likely to injure themselves & have carcass damage
- Viewing human-animal contact from an animal's point of view makes handling less stressful



Animal Reactions

- An animal's reaction to people depends on prior experience and the animal's genetic makeup.



COWBOYS ROUNDING UP RANGE CATTLE. NEAR MILES CITY.



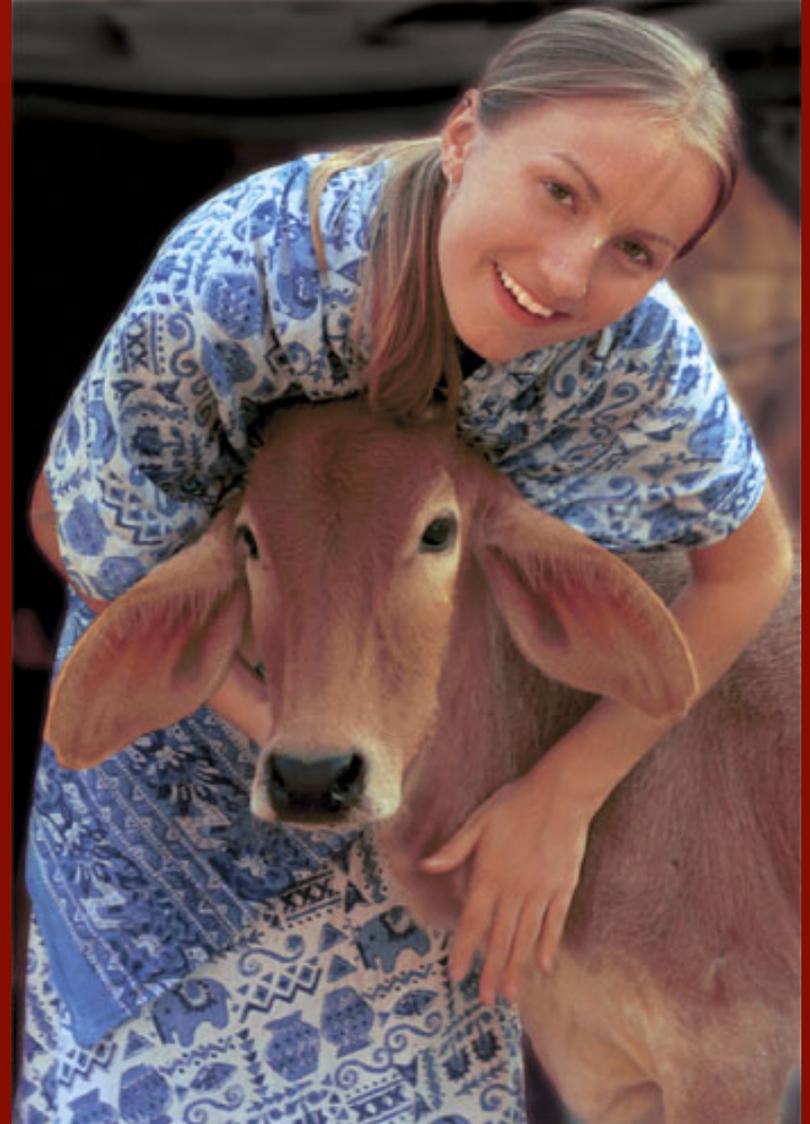
Animal Reactions

- Past unpleasant associations with people make animals skittish when they are moved or handled.



Animal Reactions

- Good experiences with people make the livestock easier to handle. However, some animals are genetically programmed to be more cautious and nervous.



The Way They See

- Livestock have wide-angle vision, they see most of the world surrounding them
- A small blind spot exists directly to the rear of animals



Likes and Dislikes

- Livestock generally avoid and dislike:
 - loud noises
 - strong wind
 - changes in flooring type or elevation
 - moving from light into darkness
 - Dead ends



Likes and Dislikes

- Most livestock are social animals, preferring to move in groups



Flight Zone

- Livestock also have a "flight zone" or personal space
- When a person enters this area, animals will retreat



Flight Zone

- The point of balance is at the animal's shoulder
- Entry into the flight zone from one side will cause the animal to retreat in the opposite direction.



Flight Zone

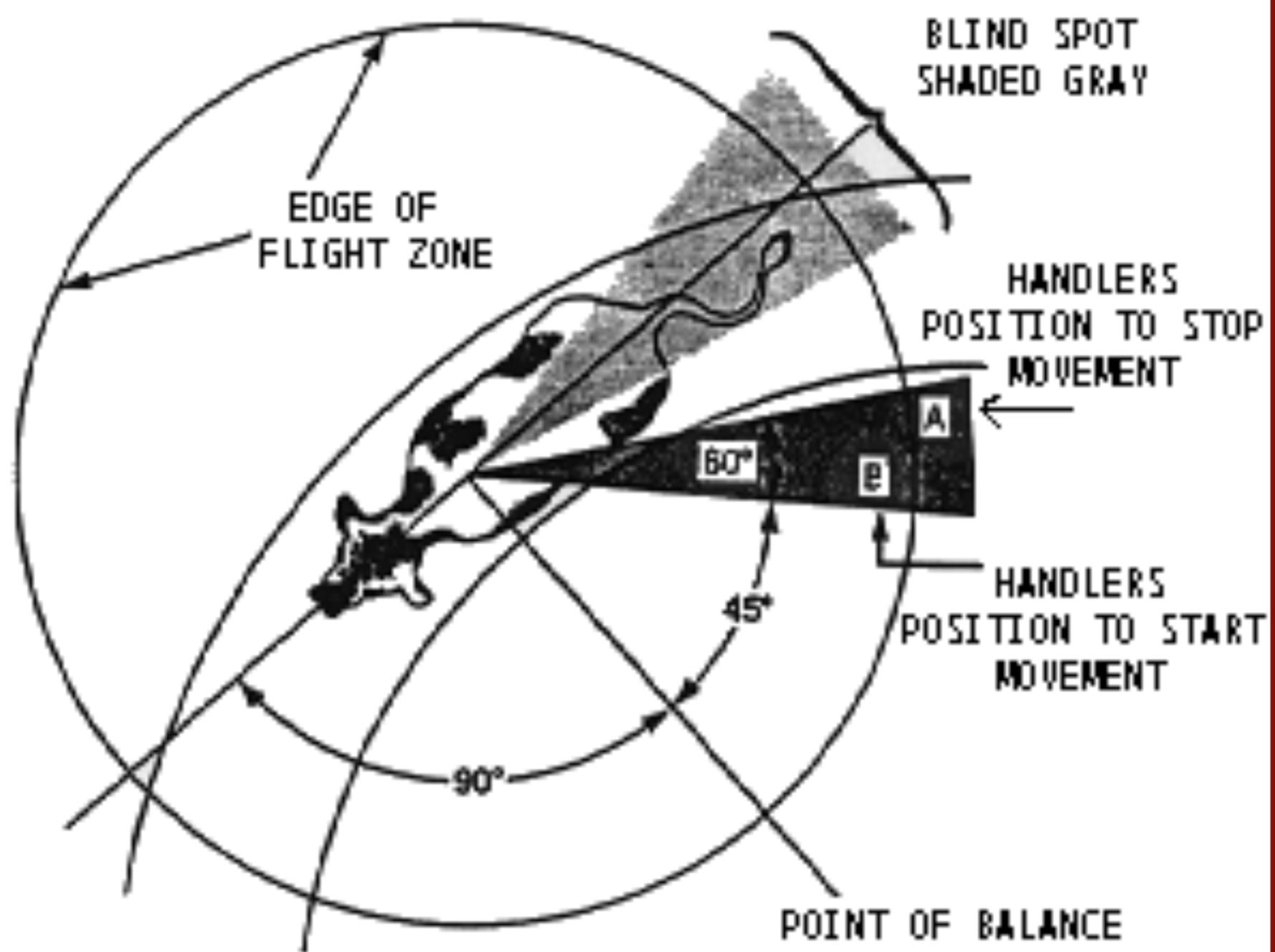
- Entering a flight zone from the rear of the point of the shoulder will generally cause animals to move forward.



Flight Zone

- Flight zone entry ahead of the point of the shoulder generally causes animals to turn.





BLIND SPOT
SHADED GRAY

EDGE OF
FLIGHT ZONE

HANDLERS
POSITION TO STOP
MOVEMENT

60°

e

HANDLERS
POSITION TO START
MOVEMENT

45°

90°

POINT OF BALANCE

Entering the Flight Zone

- When the handler **enters the flight zone** the animals will turn away



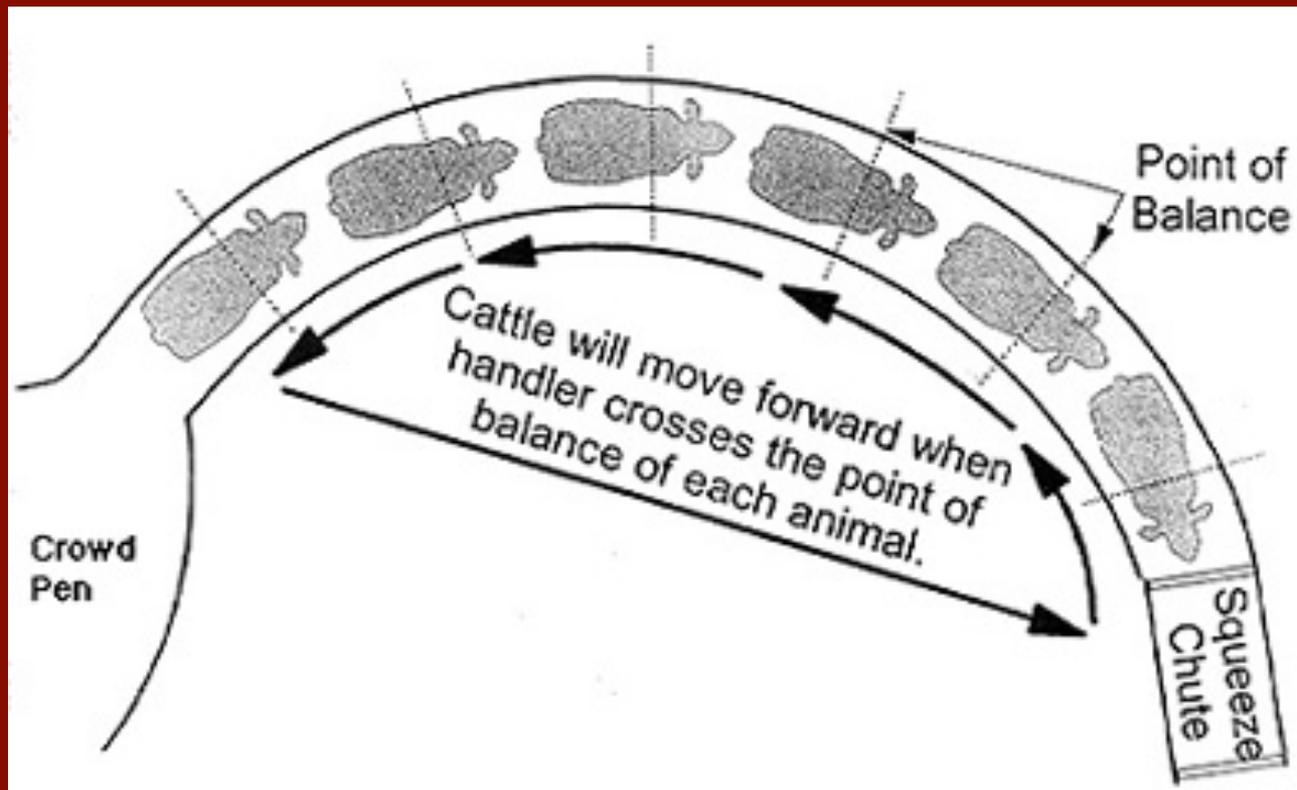
Leaving the Flight Zone

- When the handler is **outside the flight zone** the animals will turn and face the handler, and maintain a safe distance.



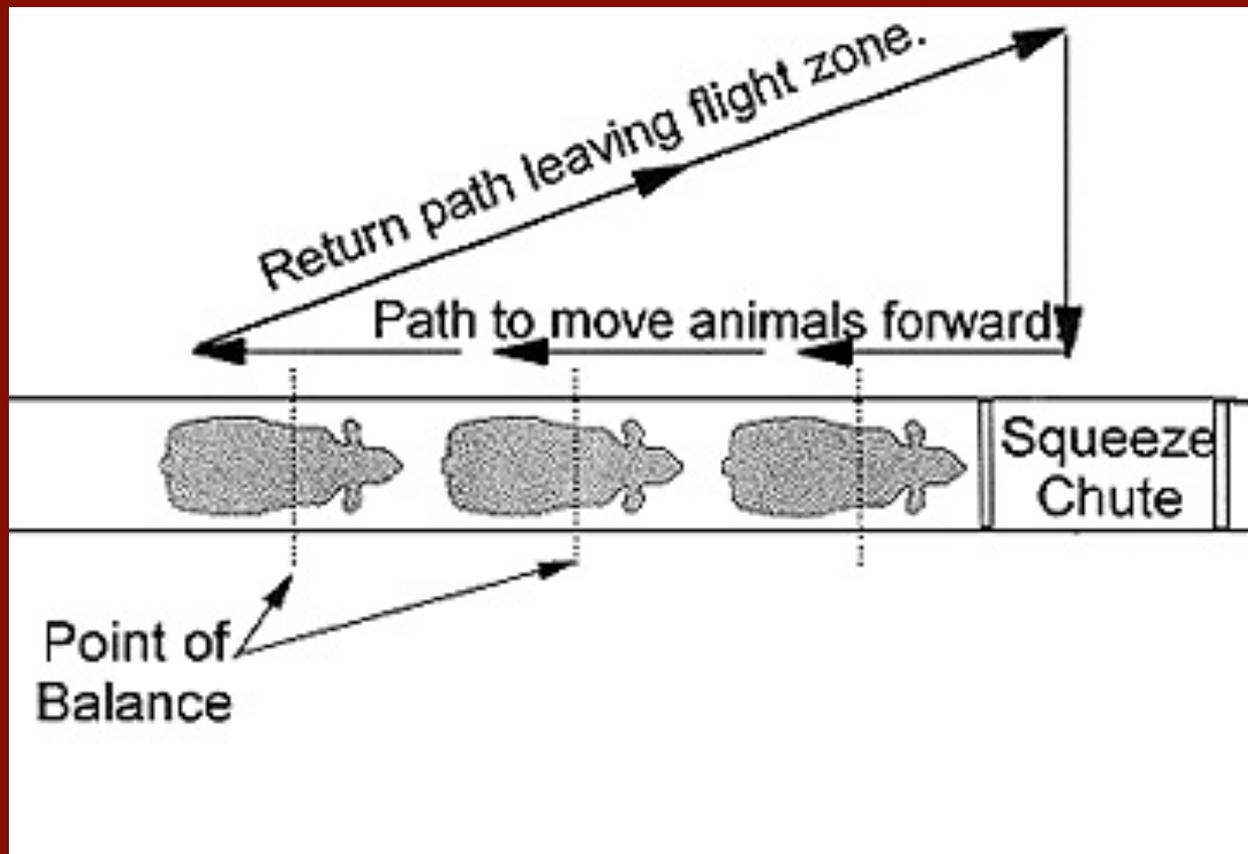
Handler Movement

- Handler movement pattern to keep cattle moving into the squeeze chute in a curved chute system.



Handler Movement

- Handler movement pattern to keep cattle moving into a squeeze chute or restrainer



Fight Zone

- When “pushed” too hard into a positions that is uncomfortable, some animals will choose to defend themselves with fight

