

Animal Care & Handling Seminars for Beef & Dairy offered to English and Spanish Producers and Employees

Why worry about animal care and handling? ISU Extension and Outreach, Iowa Beef Center and the Iowa Beef Industry Council partnered together answering this and demonstrating proper techniques for handling and sorting cattle. For the first time in Northwest Iowa, cattle care and handling seminars were offered in Spanish during the afternoon session at Tri-State Livestock Auction in Sioux Center. Participants attending either session were Beef Quality Assurance certified by Doug Bear, Director of Industry Relations for the Iowa Beef Industry Council which oversees the Quality Assurance Program and governance of the Beef Checkoff.

Dr. Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Program Specialist explained how quality animal care and low stress handling, involving the five animal freedoms, can improve consumer confidence in meat and milk production. Dr. Doran stressed the importance of being pro-active and humane to beef and dairy cattle

Dr. Grant Dewell, Assistant Professor & Extension Veterinarian in the Veterinary Diagnostic & Production Animal Medicine unit at ISU Veterinary Medicine College shared the impact of stress on animal health. Dr. Dewell stated improving animal handling to reduce stress helps vaccines work better improves performance and creates higher quality beef – something all consumers want.



Dr. Kip Lukasiewicz, a practicing veterinarian at Sandhills Cattle Consultants, Inc. demonstrated how to properly move and sort cattle in a low-stress manner. Dr. Lukasiewicz, also assistant to nationally recognized cattle handling expert Dr. Tom Noffsinger, shared many videos of proper handling techniques. Cattle need to be prepared and trained to create voluntary flow. He instructed attendees to avoid human voice, use good posture and be the correct distance from cattle. Outside he demonstrated pressure and release techniques when working the animals.

“Working slow with cattle is actually working fast”, concluded Dr. Lukasiewicz.

“I better understand animal handling and care; how to sort, proper injection sites. The information was very clear and confirms many things I have learned about cattle handling.”
~Castulo Acaxtenco, cattle handler, Sioux Center

During the afternoon session, Kansas State University graduate student Siddartha Torres-Rico presented beef quality assurance practices, including proper injection sites and how to treat calves, to Spanish speaking attendees. Prior to his presentation, he was an interpreter for Doran, Dewell and Lukasiewicz’s presentations.

Low stress handling is not only more humane, but also more profitable. ISU Extension and Outreach supports this understanding by providing opportunities for beef and dairy handlers to become certified. Animal care helps insure a safe food supply, a concern for all Iowans.

For more information about Animal Care & Handling for Beef and Dairy in northwest Iowa, contact:

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