



NFU Mutual

Safe Systems – Livestock Handling

**Ian Jamieson CMIOSH. MIIRSM. FRSH
Chartered Safety & Health Practitioner**

Background

- **NFU Mutual assist numerous Veterinary Clients in producing business specific Health & Safety Systems.**
- **NFU Mutual undertakes Peer review meetings with Vets and Practice Managers throughout UK to assess current safety practices.**
- **RA's and SWP's drafted and circulated for amendment/approval.**
- **RA Training for all Vets and Practice Managers.**
- **Additional Task Specific RA's produced.**
- **H&S Documentation issued to each practice.**
- **Top Down – Bottom Up H&S Training for Practices**
- **Safety Audit / Gap Analysis of all practices, hospitals, etc. ***



Veterinary-Farmer Livestock Operations Assessed

- Pregnancy Diagnosis
- Clipping
- Foot Trimming
- Ear Tagging
- Calving
- De-Horning
- Castration
- Humane Killing
- TB Testing
- Dosing *



Identified Hazards



- **Crushing**
- **Goring / Butting**
- **Impact**
- **Kicking**
- **Slipping**
- **Entrapment**
- **Strains & Sprains**
- **Exertion**
- **Fatigue**
- **Physical Restrictions**
- **Age**
- **Death ***



Contributory Factors

- Familiarity / Bad Habits
- Lack of Experience
- Custom & Practice
- Inadequate Handling Systems
- Financial Restrictions
- Gender / Breed / Temperament
- Safety Culture / Non-Reporting
- Lack of Safe Systems
- Age / Fitness
- Persons Present
- Peer Pressure *

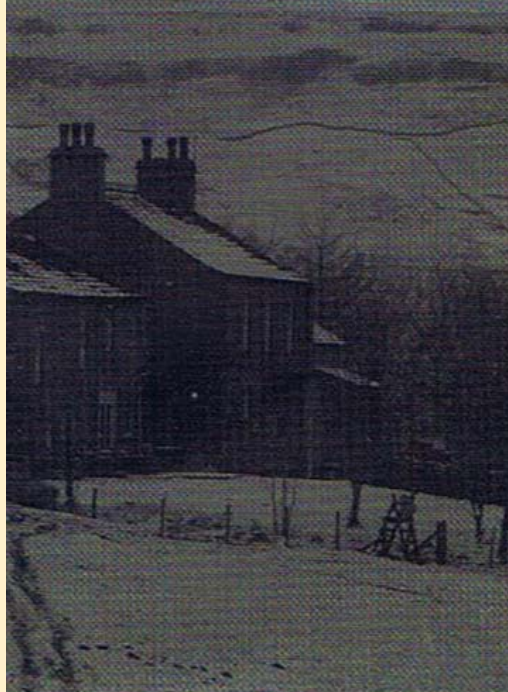


NFU Mutual

What are the Outcomes

DEATHS CAUSED BY CATTLE

Most incidents involving cattle occur to people who are beyond normal retirement age and are less agile.



A 74-year-old farmer was crushed by a bull. He had been cleaning the animal shed while the cattle were feeding but had not realised the bull was still out. An employee found him in a distressed state and he collapsed and died shortly after.

A 50-year-old farmer was trapped against a gate of a cattle crush by one of the animals. He was working inside the crush but the entrance gate at the far end of the race had been left open allowing the cattle into the race whilst he was working.

A 46-year-old farmer was crushed by his cattle inside a pen. He had entered the pen to check the details on the cattle's ear tags but was crushed against the wall by one of the animals. He managed to get to the farmhouse but died shortly after.

A 60-year-old farmer was crushed by a cow whilst tagging a calf. Another worker was tagging the calf while the farmer watched its mother. The cow charged and pinned him against the wall.

A 70-year-old farmer was attacked by his dairy bull. The bull had not been secured when he entered the pen to clean the water trough. He died in hospital.

An 84-year-old farmer was crushed by cattle as she was putting extra bedding straw on the ground inside the barn.

A 68-year-old farmer was attacked by his neighbour's bull. He was helping bring in the cattle for a neighbour who had been taken to hospital after he had also been attacked by his cattle. A bull escaped from the cattle crush and attacked him in the yard.

A 47-year-old worker was charged by a cow which struck and knocked him over. He was flung backwards and hit his head on the yard surface.

A 75-year-old farmer was found in a field with injuries consistent with him having been trampled by cattle. He had gone to feed the cattle in the field.

Anyone working with or around cattle should be in good health and properly trained in safe working methods.

Familiarity with individual cattle can lead to complacency, especially when handling bulls.

Some work with cattle will need two people – always assess the need for help before beginning the task.



It is better to have proper facilities and follow safe working practices than to trust in the good nature of a bull.



NFU Mutual

Researched Solutions






- **Narrow Pens**
- **Curved Forcing Pen**
- **Curved Race**
- **Covered Sides**
- **Catwalks**
- **Solid Gate**
- **Universal Crush**
- **Non-Slip Floors**
- **Noise Reduction**
- **Lighting**
- **Health & Safety ***




NFU Mutual

Sample Generic Risk Assessment (Pregnancy Diagnosis)

No	Potential Hazard(s)	Risks Identified	Persons at risk *			Risk Rating (Likelihood & Severity)	Current Controls (PPE – personal protective equipment)	Further Precautions / Guidance	Priority
			E	C	V P				
36.	Livestock (Pregnancy Diagnosis)   	Crushing, trapping, stressful postures and hazardous substance.	✓			High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vet is qualified, trained and experienced in PD procedures. • Cow is restrained in cattle crush or gates prior to diagnosis. • Dynamic Risk Assessment is carried out by the veterinary surgeon where crush facilities are not available. • Arm used for diagnosis is not that used to write with. Pregnancy Diagnosis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put on an arm's length glove/sleeve and spread some lubricant on the gloved hand. Stand close behind the cow, lift her tail and begin to insert your hand and arm into her rectum. • Feel the back of the cow's uterus, which will be in a downward position, with your inserted hand. Move your hand and arm firmly but gently. After thirty days of gestation, the fetus should be about the size of a softball and will feel like a soft, but distinctive lump under your hand. • Remove your arm and hand from the cow steadily and gently. You should now have an answer to your question of "is she or isn't she" pregnant. 	Refer to Sections 3, 9 & 22 in your Advice Manual.	High





Sample Generic Risk Assessment (Foot Trimming)

No	Potential Hazard(s)	Risks Identified	Persons at risk *			Risk Rating (Likelihood & Severity)	Current Controls (PPE – personal protective equipment)	Further Precautions / Guidance	Priority
			E	C	V P				
34.	Livestock (Foot Trimming) 	Trapping, impact, slips & trips, stressful postures, lifting, handling, fatigue, stress, cold ambient temperature and hazardous substance.	✓			Med	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPE available and good personal hygiene encouraged. Only trained and authorised persons must carry out foot trimming. Handling facilities are available (race, crush), well maintained and in good working order. Aggressive animals are segregated and disposal is considered if necessary. Animal handling facilities should be assessed to ensure they are suitable for foot trimming. A purpose designed crush with foot restraints, belly winches and adequate space, particularly at the rear end should be used. 	Refer to Sections 3, 9, 22 & 23 in your Advice Manual.	Med



Sample Task Specific Risk Assessment (Foot Trimming)

Risk Assessment			
TASK / ACTIVITY:		LIVESTOCK HANDLING (FOOT TRIMMING)	
			
TASK DESCRIPTION:			
Foot trimming is under taken in a specific location within the livestock area where dedicated handling facilities are available. Occasional foot trimming may be carried out by competent trained staff or contractors away from the main livestock area or in open fields in an emergency.			
MAIN HAZARDS:			
Crushing <input type="checkbox"/>	Direct electrical contact <input type="checkbox"/>	Hot ambient temperature <input type="checkbox"/>	
Cutting / shearing <input type="checkbox"/>	Indirect electrical contact <input type="checkbox"/>	Cold ambient temperature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Entanglement <input type="checkbox"/>	Short circuit / overload <input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse weather conditions <input type="checkbox"/>	
Trapping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fire / explosion <input type="checkbox"/>	Asphyxiation / drowning <input type="checkbox"/>	
Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Ionising radiation <input type="checkbox"/>	Significant noise <input type="checkbox"/>	
High pressure injection <input type="checkbox"/>	Repetitive actions <input type="checkbox"/>	Significant vibration <input type="checkbox"/>	
Abrasion <input type="checkbox"/>	Stressful postures <input type="checkbox"/>	Hazardous substance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Slips / trips <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lifting / handling <input type="checkbox"/>	Localised hot surface(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Falls from height <input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue / stress <input type="checkbox"/>	Localised cold surface(s) <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Violence / assault <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>	
		<i>Please specify</i>	
PERSONS EXPOSED:			
Employees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitors <input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance staff <input type="checkbox"/>	
Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Contractors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Vulnerable Groups <input type="checkbox"/>	Cleaners <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Please specify</i>	

CURRENT CONTROL MEASURES:

- PPE available and good personal hygiene encouraged.
- Only trained and authorised persons must carry out foot trimming.
- Handling facilities are available (race, crush), well maintained and in good working order.
- Aggressive animals are segregated and disposal is considered if necessary.
- Animal handling facilities should be assessed to ensure they are suitable for foot trimming.
- A purpose designed crush with foot restraints, belly winches and adequate space, particularly at the rear end should be used.

LEVEL OF RISK?

Low Med High

ADDITIONAL CONTROLS REQUIRED:

Date

- The Safe Working Procedure - Foot trimming - must be followed and supervisors must check compliance.
- A list of authorised personnel to carry out foot trimming is recommended.

NOTES:

Reference

AIS 02 Common Zoonoses in Agriculture
AS 23 Manual Handling Solutions for Farms
AS 34 Preparing Cattle for Slaughter
AS135 Handling & Housing Cattle
Safe Cattle Handling Equipment

ASSESSOR'S NAME: Client in conjunction with
NFU Mutual Risk
Management Services

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

REVIEW DATE:

JOB TITLE:



NFU Mutual

Proactive Solutions for Clients



- **Cost effective alternatives to meet current legislative requirements.**
- **Simplified information reflecting the end users needs.**
- **Practical upgrades using existing systems.**



Safe Systems ?



NFU Mutual



NFU Mutual