

# CASE

*Curriculum for Agricultural  
Science Education*

**Principles of Agricultural Science – Animal**

# Animal Behavior and Handling

## Unit 3 – Lesson 3.2 Manipulating Manners

# Animal Behavior

- Reaction of organism to stimuli or the environment
- Ethology – The study of animal behavior in their natural habitat
- Behaviors:
  - Instinctive
  - Learned



# Types of Behaviors

- Social
  - Interactions with each other – herding/flocking
- Reproductive
  - Courtship and mating
- Ingestive
  - Eating and drinking
- Maternal
  - Caring for young
  - Protective of newly born offspring
- Combative
  - Positioning for dominance within group
  - Defensive

# Instinct

- Behavior that occurs automatically to a stimulus
- Genetic
- Examples: eating, drinking, and breeding



# Communication

Animals communicate with sight, sound, and smell.

- Visual signs:
  - Position of ears and tail
  - Posture
- Sounds:
  - Grunts
  - Squeal
  - Whinny
- Smell:
  - Marking
  - Estrus

# Learned Behaviors

- Imprinting
  - Animals attaching themselves (socializing) to an individual early on
- Conditioning
  - Training an animal to respond to a stimulus
- Habituation
  - Getting used to or ignoring a stimulus

# Working with Animals

- Understanding the behavior of animals aids in safe handling
- Major considerations:
  - Temperament
  - Degree of tameness
  - Perceptions of animals



# Novelty

- New or different things in the environment of an animal causes it stress.
- The effect of novel items on animals is dependent on training and temperament.
  - Flighty animals will spook more easily.
  - Flighty animals are also more curious about new objects when left alone.

# Vision

- ❖ Livestock can see a wider range than humans
- ❖ Blind spot is directly behind them
- ❖ Depth perception tends to be poor
- ❖ Changes in flooring surface, lighting, color, and movement cause distraction and possible fright and balking

# Noise

- Animals have a different sensitivity to noise than people
- Unexpected and loud noises increase the likelihood of stress
- Continuous sound, such as music, can condition animals to be less stressed around noise

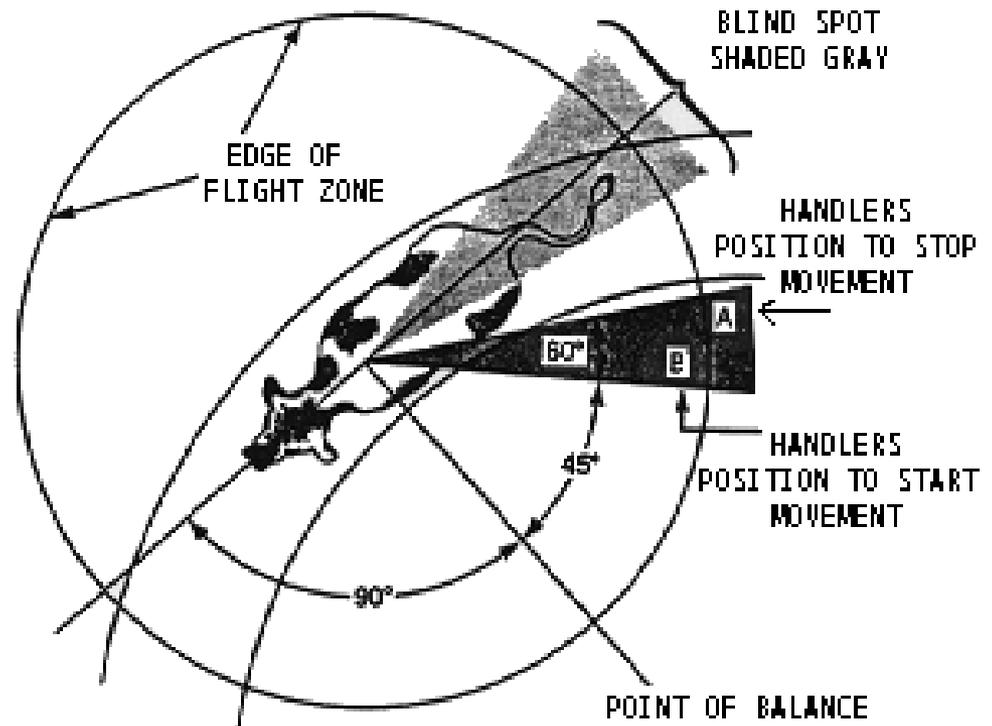


# Flight Zones

- Personal space of an animal
- Size is based on familiarity with people
  - Tame animals have no flight zone
- In the flight zone
  - Animals turn and move away
- Outside the flight zone
  - Animals face and look at person

# Flight Zones continued

- Point of balance
  - Shoulder
  - Stand in front of it and animals will move backward
  - Stand behind and they will move forward



# Safe Handling

- Calm and orderly movements and mannerisms
- Avoid yelling, running, or entering the blind spot of an animal
- Move into the flight zone behind the point of balance to start animals moving forward

# References

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