Right from the Start

Outline

Safety Basics

Attire
- Closed-toe shoes
- Close fitting clothing
- No dangling jewelry
- Tie back long hair

Attitude
- Handlers should possess the following qualities:
  - Sense of responsibility
  - Calm demeanor
  - Patience
  - Determination

Flight Zone
- Distance that animals like to keep between themselves and a threat of danger
- Animal’s safety zone
- Varies among animals
- Increases when an animal is excited or approached from the front

Approaching
- Make animals aware of your presence.
- Approach where the animal can see you.
- Approach calmly and quietly.
- Never approach an animal in its blind spot.

Danger Points
- Danger points vary depending on the species of livestock.
- Typical danger points include:
  - Body mass
  - Head
  - Feet
**Equipment Risks**

- **Lead rope**
  - Use a thick, cotton lead rope. Nylon lead ropes are more likely to cause rope burns.
  - Do not wrap the lead rope around your hand.
  - The lead rope for cattle should be about 2 feet long to avoid tripping over the slack. The lead rope for horses should be 9-12 feet long.

- **Neck chains**
  - Neck chains should have a plastic covering or a leather piece for the handler to hold in order to reduce pinching risks.

- **Squeeze chutes**
  - Chutes require regular maintenance to stay in good working order.
  - Avoid pinch points.
  - Be aware of the tipping risk. Use restraints to keep animals in the appropriate place inside the chute.

- **Grooming tools**
  - Grooming tools could pose a burn or cut risk. Wear gloves while grooming to protect your hands.