Right From the Start

Dairy Cattle
Characteristics

- Docile
- Easy to work with
- Poor vision clarity
- Poor depth perception
- Panoramic vision
- Very sensitive hearing
- Good memory
- Small flight zone
Danger Points

- Body mass
- Head
- Feet
Equipment

- Halter
- Lead rope
- Grooming tools
Safety

- Approach animal slowly and calmly toward the shoulder
- Be aware of the animal’s blind spot—directly behind its body
- Handlers should always have adult supervision
- Ensure appropriate match between animal and handler
- Abandon project if unsafe for animal or exhibitor
Haltering & Leading

- Use lead rope to secure calf during haltering
- Apply appropriate discipline
- Move calf side to side to upset their balance and regain control
- Let go if you are off balance and falling forward
Haltering and Leading

NIOSH/CDC Cooperative Agreement #U54-OH07541
Footing

- Start training process on dirt surface
- Footing is important for handler and animal stability
- Footing is crucial for handler control
- Move animals slowly across areas of poor footing, like pavement
Grooming

- Use for gentling process
- May require animal to be tied up
- All handlers should work from the same side
  - Allow animal to have an escape route
Acclimatization

- People
- Environments
- Sounds
- Lights
Tying

- Use only stable objects
- Tie animals high
- Use a slip knot
Approaching

- Be calm
- Make the animal aware of your presence
- Do not linger in danger zones
  - Behind the animal
Exhibitor/Animal Match

- Consider handler:
  - Size
  - Age
  - Experience
- Younger handlers should be matched with smaller, more docile animals
- Young handlers should never interact with bulls
Exhibitor/Animal Match
Animal Health

- Needle stick risks
- May need to be done by someone else
Production Dairy Cattle - Bulls

- Particularly dangerous
- Aggressive
- Unpredictable
- Always identify an escape route
The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

www.swagcenter.org
903-877-5998
agcenter@uthct.edu

Support for this resource was provided by NIOSH/CDC Cooperative Agreement #U54-OH07541 and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™

NIOSH/CDC Cooperative Agreement #U54-OH07541