

Farm Safety Forums

Dairy Cattle Handling Safety: Preventing Kicks, Crush Injuries & Diseases

Why It Matters:

Dairy cattle can be unpredictable, and improper handling can lead to serious injuries. Additionally, some diseases can transfer from cattle to humans.

Key Safety Points:

- **Stay calm and move slowly**—loud noises and sudden movements can startle cattle.
- **Position yourself safely**—always work from the side, not directly behind or in front.
- Use **proper handling equipment** such as gates, chutes, and headlocks to control movement.
- Watch for **warning signs of aggression**, such as head tossing or pawing the ground.
- Wear Personal Protective Equipment when handling cattle to reduce exposure to **diseases**

Real-Life Risks:

- Many injuries occur when farmers turn their back on cattle, leading to kicks or being crushed against fences.
- Workers have contracted diseases from direct contact with infected animals or bodily fluids.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some ways we can improve cattle handling on the farm?
- How do you recognize when a cow is feeling stressed or agitated?