

# Understanding Animal Behavior Helps Prevent Injury

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—As spring and summer approach, farm animals are likely to be handled and transported more often. A basic understanding of animal behavior can help producers handle livestock more safely.

"Large animals tend to cooperate better when they're handled with knowledge and skill," said Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering and farm safety specialist in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "It's important to know how ani-

mals perceive and react to the world around them."

Many Pennsylvanians are injured each year because of a lack of safety awareness around animals. Accidents also occur because of haste, impatience, anger or not paying attention. While most of these accidents are not fatal, they often result in broken bones, crushed and mashed limbs, missed work days and needless medical costs.

Understanding cattle behavior is critical for anyone who moves, handles or loads cattle. "Animal scientists point to two very impor-

tant concepts—the flight zone and the point of balance," Murphy said.

The flight zone is the space surrounding an animal or group of animals. "If you enter an animal's flight zone, it will move away until it feels safe," Murphy said. "If you stop or retreat from the flight zone, the animal usually stops moving away."

The size of an animal's flight zone varies with the type of animal, the angle and speed of the handler's approach, the animal's familiarity with the handler, whether the animal sees or hears the person approaching, whether the animal is wild or tame, and the animal's recent experiences.

An animal's point of balance is

related to its flight zone. The shoulder is the point of balance for most cattle. "If you approach in front of the point of balance, the animal moves backward," Murphy said. "Approaching from behind the point makes the animal move forward."

Animal scientists offer the following animal handling tips:

- Beef and dairy cattle generally are color blind and have poor depth perception, making them extremely sensitive to contrasts. A shadow across a walkway may look like a deep hole to the animal, making it balk. This is why cattle often hesitate when passing through unfamiliar gates, barn doors, or chutes.
- Farm animals have difficulty

moving from dark places to brightly lighted places, and vice versa. Give animals time to adjust from one light situation to another. Rushing them will cause them to balk.

- Cattle have good hearing and will try to move away from the source of unfamiliar or unpleasant noise. They are calmest when surrounded by familiar sounds.

- Animals draw on past experiences when reacting to a situation. An animal that has been chased, slapped, kicked, hit or otherwise mistreated will fear humans.

- Plan out the process of moving an animal before attempting it.

- To reduce risk, anyone who owns livestock should use a restraining chute.

## Collegiate FFA Honors Instructor

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The Collegiate FFA has honored Penn State Professor Erskine Cash with its Outstanding Educator Award in recognition of excellence in the areas of teaching and advising.

Cash joined Penn State's Dairy and Animal Science faculty in 1972, where his major emphasis is undergraduate teaching and advising. As coordinator of the department's beef cattle program, Cash uses current genetic principles and technologies to make selections and plan matings in the Penn State beef herds, and the Angus herd has gained national and international prominence under his direction.

Cash's expertise in beef cattle production and management has attracted students seeking careers in the livestock industry. He also developed a livestock merchandising course to acquaint students with the many facets of marketing top-quality seedstock. The culmination of this course is an annual student-run production sale featuring Penn State Angus cattle.

Both as former coordinator of advising for the undergraduate Animal Science major and as present coordinator of the department's external relations, Cash aids in the recruitment, advising, and placement of students. His interest in students — as evidenced

by his service as editor, vice president, and president of the National Block and Bridle Club — is recognized nationally. In 1991 he received both the Penn State College of Agriculture Sciences Alumni Society's Excellence in Academic Advising Award and the Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Club Distinguished Honor Award.

Cash also has been recognized by his peers for his excellence in teaching, having received Penn State's AMOCO Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award in 1979 and the College of Agricultural Science's Gamma Sigma Delta Teaching Award in 1984.

Cash was graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in animal science, and was awarded his doctorate in animal husbandry from Michigan State University in 1972. He is a member of the American Society of Animal Science and serves on its editorial board. In addition to being a member of numerous industry organizations, he serves as director to the Pennsylvania Cattleman's Association and the Pennsylvania Angus Association and as an ex-officio member of the Pennsylvania Beef Council.

### Public Auction Register

Closing Date Monday 5:00 P.M.  
of each week's publication

#### JULY

SAT. JULY 8 - 9AM Farm machinery, trailers, new hardware, etc. To be held at 190 Maple Grove Rd Hanover PA from Hanover take Rt 194 NE approx 4 miles turn R onto Maple Grove and go 1/2 mile to auction. Nevin Tasto auctioneer.

WED. JULY 12 - 4PM Tool Auction, Wilson Sales Room, 344 Valleybrook Rd, Chester Hts., Pa. Wilson Bros. Auction.

FRI. JULY 14 - 9:30AM Mid Atlantic Area Contractors' Auction. Frederick Co. Fairgrounds, Frederick Md. West on I-70, take E. Patrick st. exit 56 to Fairgrounds. Trackloaders & dozers, excavators & backhoes, skidsteers, wheel loaders, motorgraders, rollers & forklifts & farm tractor, highlift, strawblower & misc. equip., road tractors, dumps, rollback & wrecker, box trucks & van bodies, bucket truck, service truck and C&C, trash trucks, vehicles, trailers & containers, misc. Wolfe Industrial Auctions, Inc.

FRI. JULY 14 - 4:30PM Machine Shop & Other

equip., van, tractor, surplus auction at Lehigh County Vocational-Technical School, 4500 Education Park Dr., Schnecksville, Pa. PA Rt. 22 to Rt. 309 N. for about 6 miles to blinking light in Schnecksville. John Pfeiffer, auct.

FRI. JULY 14 - 7PM Consignment Dairy Sale. Consigned from John Zook farm, Lewisburg. Info call Clarence Shirk 656-8793.

SAT. JULY 15 - 10AM Mt. Airy, New Jersey. Held at the Hernandez farm located off Rt. #179 between Lambertville and Ringoes, across from the

### PUBLIC AUCTION AT CHARLES S. SNYDER INC. FOR (FORD-NEW HOLLAND CREDIT & CHARLES SNYDER INC.)

25+ TRACTORS, J.D./CATERPILLAR DOZERS, CASE TRACK LOADER, GRADER, FORKLIFT, SKID LOADERS, TRACTOR-LOADER BACKHOES, FARM HAYING/TILLING/FORAGE EQUIP., GENERATORS, TRAILERS, GARDEN EQUIP, & CAR

SAT., JULY 29, 1995  
9 A.M.

LOCATION: 25 Mi. N. of Allentown, 12 Mi. W. of Lehigh, 8 Mi. S. of Tamaqua along Rt. 443 (Between Tamaqua & Lehigh) West Penn Twp., Sch. Co., Penna.

West Amwell Firehouse. Pat Kendig, Warren Peterson, aucts.

SAT. JULY 15 - 9:45AM Repossession Sale, approx. 200 repos & off lease vehicles. Keystone Public Auto Exchange.

### 9TH Annual Menges Mills Historic Horse, Steam and Gas Show

Show opens Friday, July 14 at 5:00 p.m. - continues July 15 & 16

FREE ADMISSION AND FREE PARKING At Elicker's Grove (RD 4, Spring Grove, Labort Road - 1 mile off Route 30)

LOTS OF SHADE Show Quilt Auction - Sat., July 15 - 200 p.m.

• Blacksmith • Kids' and Adults' Pedal Tractor Pull • Children's Games • Flea Market, Antiques, Crafts • Tractor and Small Engine Displays • Antique Farm Machinery Displays • Country Cooking

Music: Friday & Sat., July 14 & 15, 7:00 p.m. "Pigeon Hill Station" Sat., July 15, 1:00 p.m. "Sally Shearer and the Skytoppers"

For info call: (610)683-3607

### REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Sat., July 29, 1995

Swede Hill Road, R.D. 3 Wellsboro (Tioga County). Signs off Rte. 6 east at Roundtop Road.

Dwelling is a 1 bedroom Rambler Style cabin/home with full drive-in basement and enclosed porch, situate on 1(+/-) acre landscaped lot in the country, yet only minutes from town. This little place has a ton of personality! Come take a look! Great scenic area & hunting nearby.

Open House Showing Sun., July 16 from 1-4 PM

Shown other times by appointment with the auctioneer.

717-835-4214

TERMS: Offered subject to owner's confirmation. 10% down at close of bidding - balance at closing within 30 days.

Full terms day of sale or upon request. Also selling July 29 starting at 10AM: 1982 Olds Omega, Lawn Tractor, Lawn & Garden Power Equip., woodworking & mechanic's tools, household furniture & collectibles.

OWNER: Francis Priset Estate Esther Starkweather; Exec.

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### PUBLIC AUCTION

NEW ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES & FIXTURES of a local ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR'S BUSINESS  
JULY 27, 1995

@ 9:00 AM

Location: "The Old Staley's Silk Mill" Corner of Martha Ave. & Marshall Sts., Lancaster, Pa. Just North of Rt. 23 & West of Rt. 30 at New Holland Ave. Exit.

Electrical fixtures, equipment & supplies consist of: All kinds of new rolls of single & multi strand wire, electrical boxes from receptacle to 480V 3ph, switches, controls, conduit, fittings, and thousands of items too numerous to mention. This ad will be more fully listed at a later date. Watch the papers. For a complete catalog of items to be auctioned, SEND \$10.00 to the AUCTIONEER at: 101 White Oak Drive, Lancaster, Pa. 17601-4842.

If you purchase \$500.00 or more, your \$10.00 will be refunded at end of auction. This is an excellent AUCTION for maintenance personnel, Contractors, Jobbers, and Retail stores. Preview day before auction. All items will be sold by lot # with full description and count.

Sale by:

Felix A. Maklout, owner

SANFORD G. LEAMAN, CAIAUCTIONEER Lic. # AU-532-L (717) 569-4264 Toll Free 1-800-836-8113 Good Food

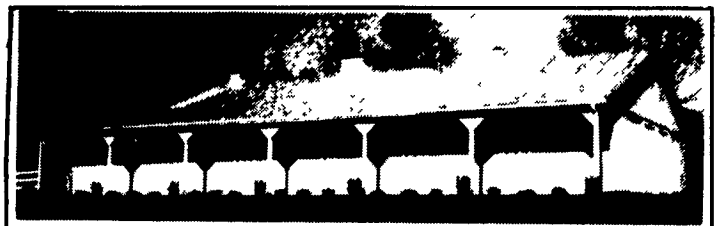


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