

SOP No: ATT 058

SUBJECT: Cattle mustering, yarding and drafting

POLICY: Minimum number of 2 operators required.

Demonstrator: Experience in these procedures.

Students: Competence in cattle handling.

PRECAUTIONS: Wear steel-capped rubber boots and appropriate sun protection.

Cattle should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure.

Identification of flight zones must be understood.

Cattle should not be overcrowded in yards.

Where mustering has caused physical exertion, cattle should be rested before drafting or handling.

Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling cattle.

Procedure may be repeated if cattle remain quiet and are not distressed by handling.

Cattle remember how they have been handled and will respond to future handling accordingly.

EQUIPMENT: Drafting yards

PROCEDURE:

1. Mustering. When mustering, consider the geography of the paddock, gateways, direction of travel etc so that cattle will move in the direction chosen. Allow cattle to gather together in a loose bunch before attempting to move them in the required direction. Stock generally move better up hill than down and prefer to move in an anti-clockwise direction.
2. Yarding. Cattle should always enter yards via the same entry point and leave by a separate exit gate at the other side of the yards. This will encourage cattle to enter the yard themselves. Docile cattle should be moved through the yards with the stock person on foot.
3. Drafting. Drafting should be performed in specially designed drafting yards or through gates between yards. The excessive use of force is unnecessary. The drafted animal must be able to see where it is to go (ie its 'escape

route’). Visual driving aids are best used to direct cattle or block movement.

On completion of procedure observe animal for signs of distress.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE ISSUED: 24.06.2009

REVISED:

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/animal-welfare/research-teaching/policies/sop/cattle/mustering>