

ATV & UTV Cattle Handling

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Goals and Objectives

- Understand both the benefits and risks of operating an ATV/UTV for farming and ranching purposes.
- Understand and utilize proper safety and operating procedures to ensure maximum benefit.
- Gain applicable tips for utilizing an ATV/UTV for farming and ranching.

ATV and UTV Safety

ATV and UTV familiarity should not encourage complacency with safety protocols.

Helmets- Full faced helmets are always encouraged.

Face Protection- Even at slow speeds eye protection is crucial whether it be a helmet with a face shield or a pair of safety goggles.

Footwear- Wear boots or over the ankle shoes to protect legs.

Gloves- Gloves should be worn depending on the task.

ATV and UTV Safety

Operating ATVs and UTVs safely ensures owners, employees, and cattle benefits from their use.

- Always be aware of the terrain and intended destination.
- Be aware of surroundings including other ATVs, horse back riders, and livestock.
- Operating/riding an ATV that is an appropriate in size and power for the individual rider.

ATV vs. UTV

While ATVs and UTVs have many things in common, they actually have many differences.

- ATVs are all terrain vehicles. They are smaller than a UTV, and are usually meant for a single rider. (Sometimes two)
 - UTVs/side by sides are off-road vehicles that can seat between 2, 4, and even 6 people. They're designed for rougher terrain, hauling, and more work horse sort of tasks.
 - ATVs you straddle like a saddle to ride. UTVs you sit in bench or bucket seats.
- ATVs steer using a handlebar system. UTVs have a steering wheel similar to a car or truck.
- UTVs usually come stock with windshields and roll cages whereas ATVs usually don't.

Why ATVs and UTVs for Ranch and Farming Work?

Like any good ranch and farm hand ATVs and UTVs earn their keep. If care is taken ATVs and UTVs can be just as effective as a horse and can allow a rancher to perform many duties at the same time and in less time.

- ATVs and UTVs present lower maintenance costs.
- ATVs and UTVs lack the personality of horses including fear, illness, pain, ect.
- ATVS and UTVs also are beneficial in non cattle ranching tasks such as checking fencing, water, and hauling feed.

What to Use and When

It is important when considering to utilize or to even purchase an ATV or UTV for farm and ranch work to consider when you will utilize the vehicle for most.

Conditions to consider:

- The time that is necessary for the intended task.
- Space to store the vehicle including trailer space for travel.
- Again consider the task at hand.

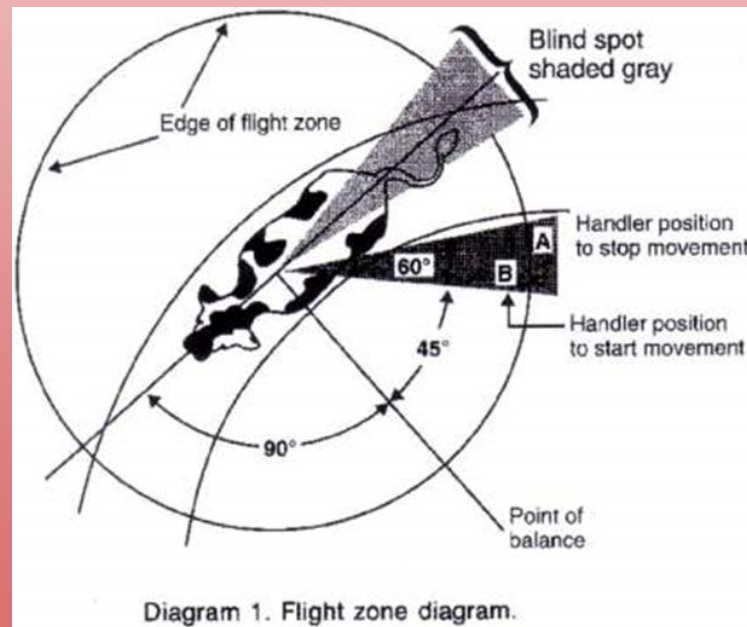
ATV vs. UTV



Moving Cattle with ATVs/UTVs

When deciding to move cattle with the use of an ATV or a UTV one important consideration is the cattle behavior including their vision.

- Cattle have wide angle vision because their eyes are located on the sides of their heads.
- Cattle also have a small blind spot behind and directly in front.



Cattle Behavior

Other factors to consider:

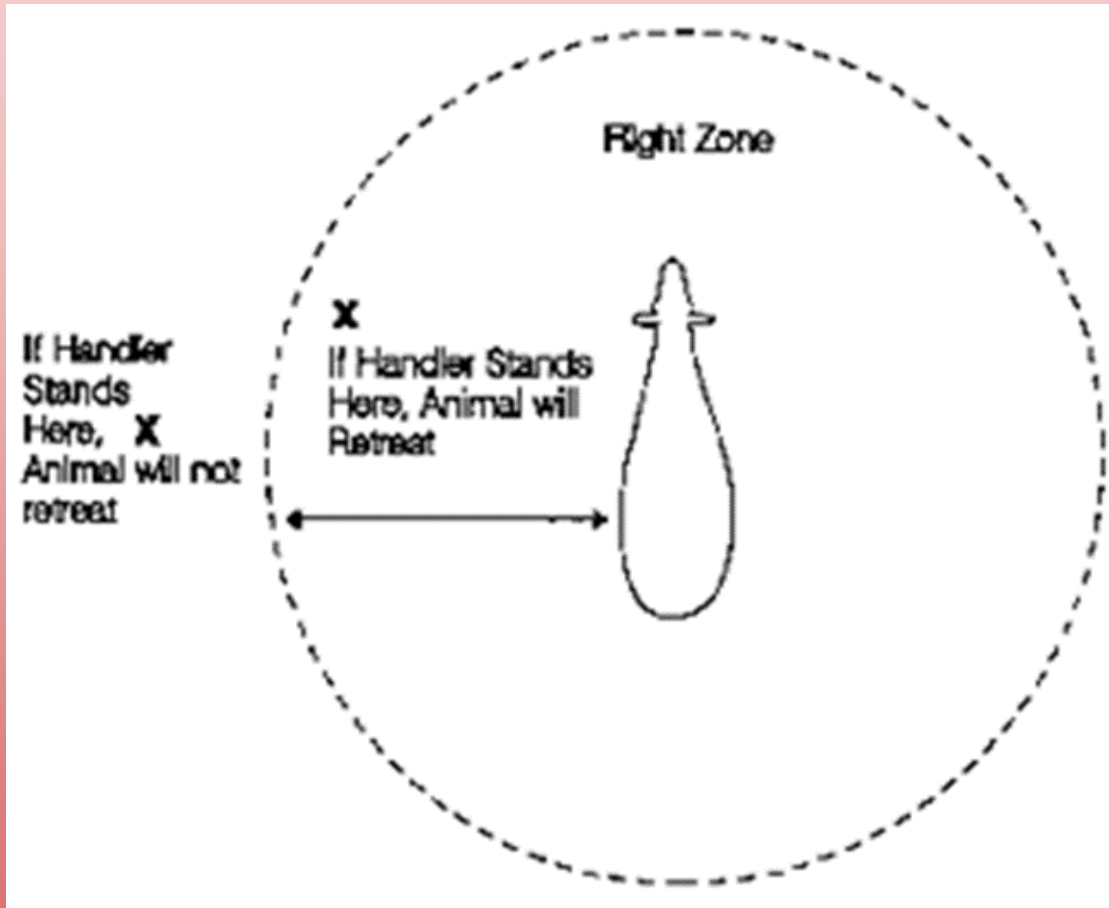
- Herding instinct
- Follow the leader instinct
- Maternal instinct
- Territorial instinct
- Habitual instinct
- Have wide angle vision because their eyes are located on the sides of their heads.
- Have a small blind spot behind and directly in front of them

Cattle's Flight Zone

Understanding a cow's flight zone will reduce stress on the animal and reduce the likelihood of injuries to you and the animal. **A cow's flight zone is similar to your personal space, it is the distance from an animal that a handler must maintain for the animal to feel comfortable.**

- Corresponds to the animal's personal space.
- To locate edge of flight zone, approach animal and note when it starts to move away in opposite direction.
- Deep invasion causes fear and agitation.
- Size of zone relates with tameness

Cattle's Flight Zone



Cattle's Balance Point

The point of balance is at the animal's shoulders. All species of livestock will move forward if the handler stands behind the point of balance. They will back up if the handler stands in front of the point of balance.

Stockmanship

Stockmanship, like sustainability, is not easily defined. However, stockmanship can be defined as the knowledgeable and skillful handling of livestock in a safe, efficient, effective, and low stress manner and denotes a low stress, integrated, comprehensive, holistic approach to livestock handling.

Stockmanship

Some stockmanship qualities include, but are not limited to:

- Work with another person.
- Avoid quick movements and loud noises.
- Respect the size of the animal.
- Plan an escape route.
- Avoid leading cattle into an enclosed area (eg: trailer) without an escape route.
- Remove distractions before moving cattle.

Handling Cattle Generally

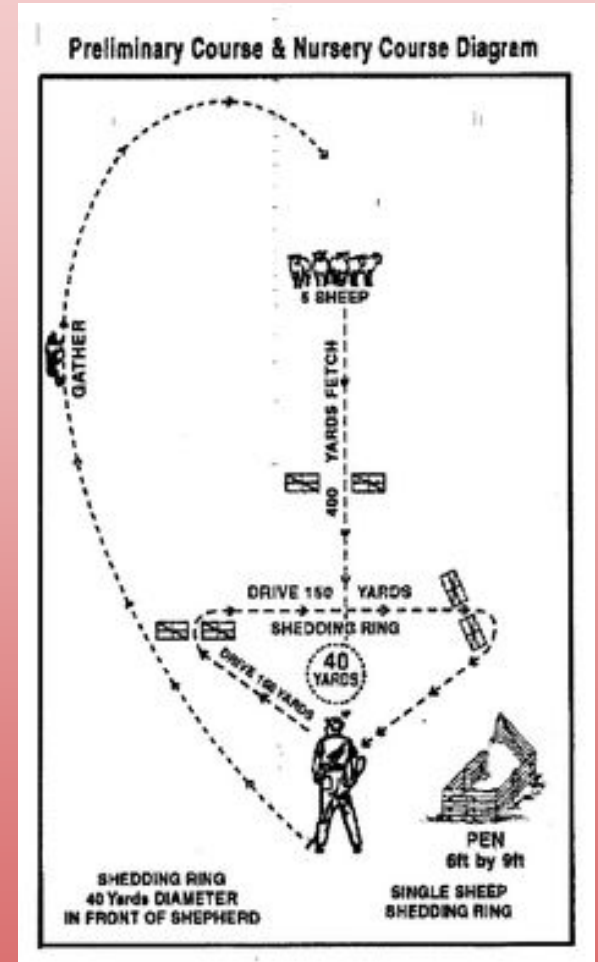
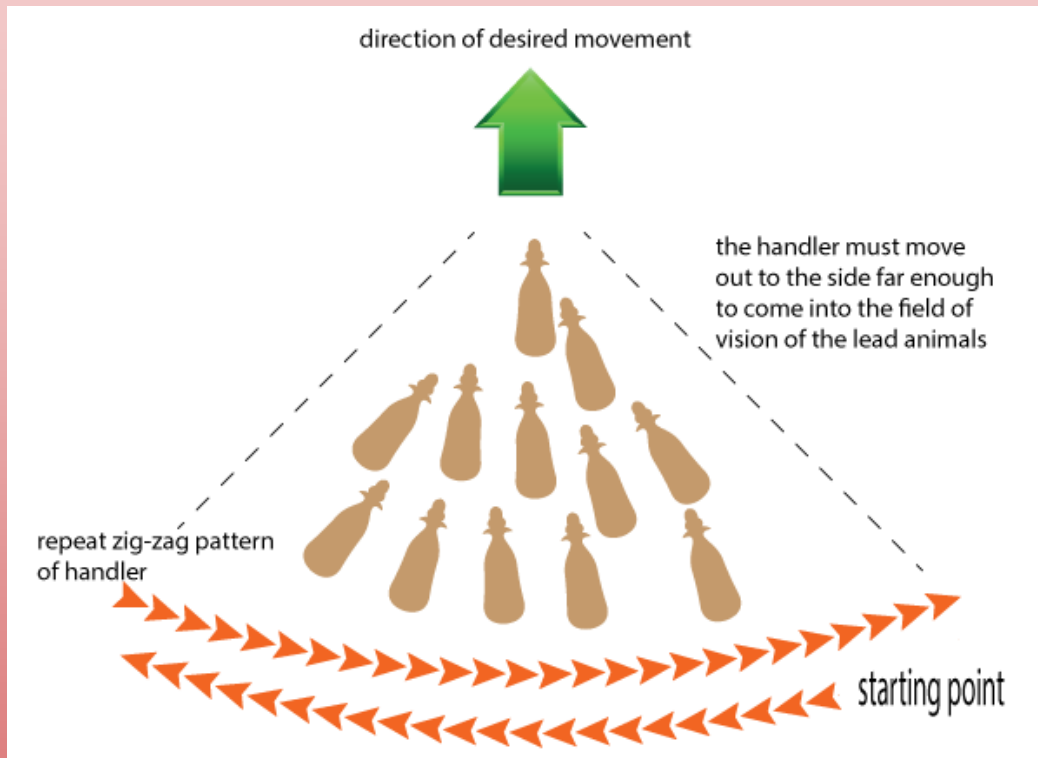
- Cattle must be willing to accept pressure from those handling them.
- Never chase cattle to the point of fear, fear will drive them to the location of origin and travel will be unsuccessful.
- Let cattle initiate the form in which they move.
- Allow the slowest animal to set the speed for the herd.
- When you get to the desired location reduce the pressure on the herd.
- Allow cattle to get oriented with the new location to ensure comfort.
- Ensure that the new location will provide sustainability for the entire herd.

Handling Cattle with ATV/UTV

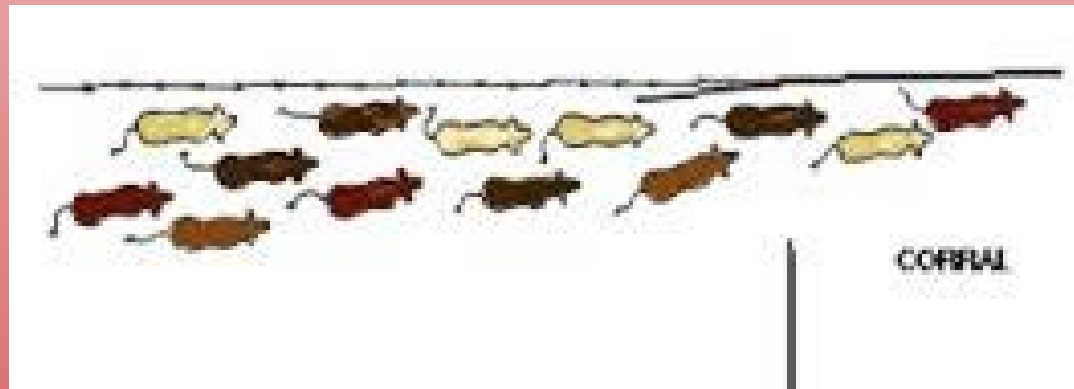
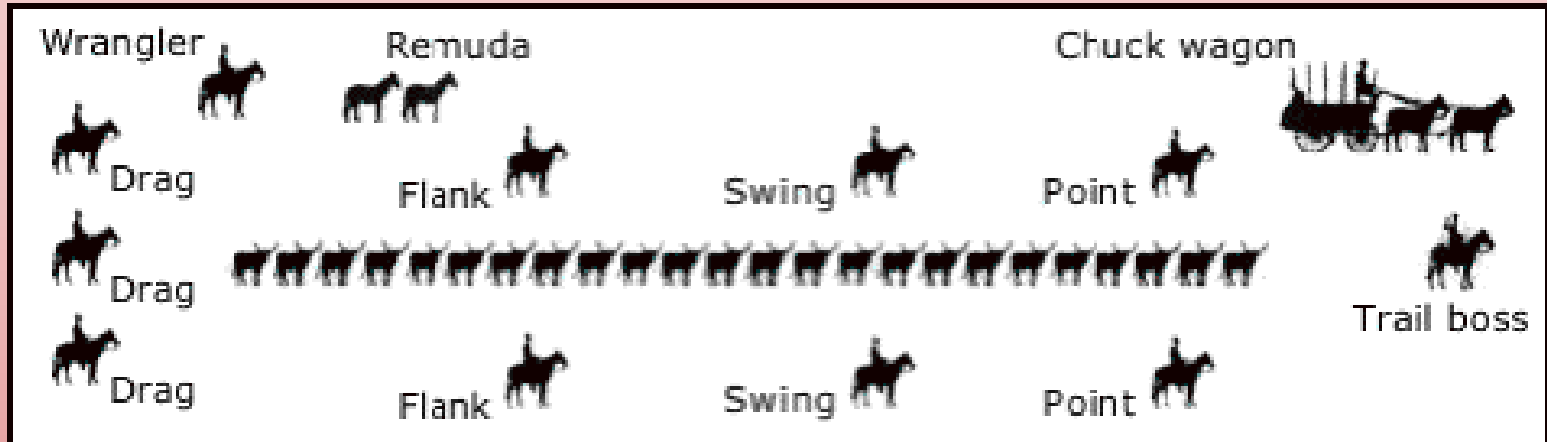
Although cattle should be handled the same way with a horse and with an ATV or UTV there are some factors to consider when using an ATV or UTV.

- Desensitize
- Approaching
- Position yourself at a 90 degree to the wanted drive
- Getting Started Movability
 - Pressure and Distance
 - Control flow

Herding Patterns



Herding Patterns



Handlebars vs. Hooves

Ultimately the choice between using horses or ATVs/UTVs for ranch and farm work is of personal preference, and mother nature.

Some considerations might include:

- Situation & Goal
- Facilities
- Terrain
- Pressure and Precision
- Pasture size

Handlebars vs. Hooves cont.

- Cattle age
- Cattle or Bulls
- Communication
- Noise Level



Effects on Range

When farming and ranching one of the most important concerns is the effects that the job is having on the rangeland in which it sits. In order to be successful in farming and in ranching the environment must be taken into consideration to ensure that the land provides to the best of its ability.

- Avoid vegetation sensitive areas
- Avoid multiple passes in same tracks
- Compaction

Considerations for ATV/UTV Use on Rangeland

- Avoid sensitive areas of vegetation.
- Avoid multipasses through a vegetative area with the same vehicle.
- Soil Compaction.