



SOP 4.12 Mustering, yarding and drafting of cattle

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Purpose

- (1) The objective of this standard operating procedure is to provide guidance to the Charles Sturt University staff on:
 - a. Mustering, yarding and drafting of cattle

Scope

- (2) This procedure applies to any person who is involved in AEC approved projects involving cattle.
- (3) All researchers and teaching staff using animals for scientific purposes must be competent. For definition of competency refer to Charles Sturt University's Policy on 'Animal Care Competency Training and Assessment'

Details of procedure

Mustering:

- (4) 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 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 anti-clockwise direction.

Yarding:

- (5) 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. Flight zones and distances must be understood. Cattle should not be overcrowded in yards. Yards should not be more than $\frac{3}{4}$ filled with cattle, and less may be required in some facilities. Overcrowding prevents the ability to work cattle using their flight zone and point of balance, prevents adequate movement to exit points and increases stress levels in cattle. Stockpersons should observe cattle for excessive jostling, ears pinned back, defecation, tail twitching, and whites of the eyes showing as indicators of stress. Calm cattle are safer and easier to work. Where mustering has caused physical exertion, cattle should be rested before drafting or handling.

Drafting:

- (6) 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 (i.e. its "escape route"). Visual driving aids such as flags are best used to direct cattle or block movement. Hard canes, whips and dogs should be unnecessary.



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Drugs, chemicals, or biological agents

(7) Not required.

Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animals

(8) Minimal if handled quietly. Animals which are regularly handled will be less stressed than others.

Animal care

(9) The use of low stress handling and restraint techniques are necessary for this procedure.

Pain relief

(10) Not required.

Reuse and repeated use

(11) Procedures may be repeated if cattle remain quiet and are not distressed by handling. Cattle remember how they have been handled and will not respond to future handling accordingly.

Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure

(12) Demonstrators should be experienced in the procedure and competent in handling cattle.

Record requirements

(13) N/A

Associated documentation (including pictures if available)

(14) N/A

Glossary

(15) N/A

References and relevant links

(16) N/A