

# WORKING WITH CATTLE



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

## Every year cattle accidents account for at least four or five deaths.

Many of the deaths to farm workers happen because they become complacent and do not take precautions to make sure they are protected against the instinctive behaviour of their cattle. Injuries can lead to significant amounts of time off work – and the accidents can also happen to others on the farm – your vet for example.

## When you are working with cattle think about what increases the risks

- Using makeshift gates instead of a well maintained, well designed race and crush
- Animals not used to being handled, such as those from the hills or moorlands
- Assuming an animal is 'soft as butter', especially bulls
- Underestimating the protective instincts of a newly calved cow
- Keeping cattle known to be aggressive in your herd.
- Working alone with cattle, especially if dealing with cows and calves
- Not providing or planning your escape zone – this could be designed into the structure of the pens – use a vehicle if you are out in the field
- Not considering your age, agility and health when deciding what tasks you can do, especially alone



Visitors **must** be notified of any potential hazards – you have a legal duty to ensure they remain safe whilst on your farm.

For more details of cattle handling equipment and safe systems of work see [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais35.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ais35.pdf)

Make sure you and your employees are adequately trained and competent to work with cattle.

For advice on training contact Lantra on 01982 552646

**NEVER ASSUME  
CATTLE ARE GOING  
TO DO WHAT YOU  
EXPECT THEM TO DO**

To find out more about on-farm health and safety, visit  
[www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture](http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture)

