

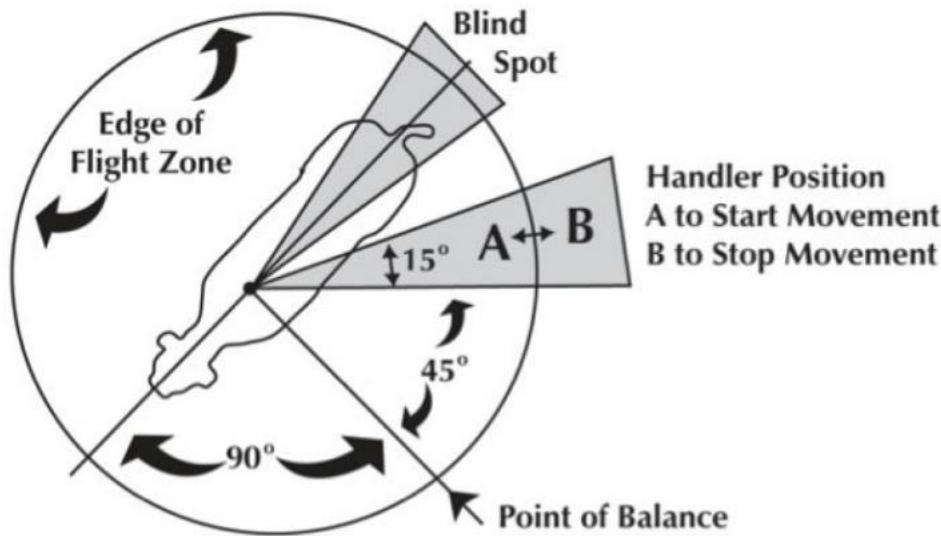
Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](#).

### General Information

When you work with animals don't get complacent. Outlined below are some guidelines to remember when handling livestock, whether swine, sheep, horses or cattle.

### Animal characteristics

- Have limited vision.
- Have a herding instinct and follow a leader.
- Can be "pushed" from behind but usually only need a nudge from behind to move.
- Are easiest to move in groups of two or three.
- Most can see all around but have a blind spot directly behind them.
- Have a flight zone, approximately 5 to 25 feet around them. This is the distance that animals try to maintain between them and the handler.
- The point of balance is usually located at the animal's shoulder. Animals will move forward in a chute or pen when the handler moves past the point of balance in the opposite direction.



### Precautions

- Working alone with animals is not advised, at a minimum, work in pairs.
- Always have an escape route planned.
- Remember, male livestock tend to be more aggressive than females, and may require additional precautions.

Graphic source: National Beef Quality Assurance Training Manual

**Discussion Date:**

**Supervisor:**

**Participants:**

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Source: <https://www.grandin.com/>