



Stock Handling Guidelines



This document has been created to ensure best practice around the handling of livestock during all NZ Young Farmers events. This will ensure the safety of all involved, including the wellbeing of the animals.

If you have any further questions, please contact Carolyn on 021 913 035 or Casey on 027 213 0043.

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Choosing the RIGHT animals

When choosing animals for your event, you need to ensure they will be comfortable in the environment, and that you have the correct person involved in handling the stock and overseeing this section of your event.

- **SHOW STOCK – They're an ideal first choice**, particularly when working with larger animals. They're used to being in places with lots of people and different noises, plus they're usually selected with better temperament for handling.
- If show stock aren't available, then **stock need to be as quiet as possible** to ensure safety of both handlers and stock. Remember, there're usually reporters around and upset animals, or someone getting injured, isn't a good look.
- Minimum number of animals. If you're separating animals in a module, don't leave an animal on its own, with the exception of being in a crush. This can cause the animal to stress and become dangerous. **We recommend for best practice a minimum of FOUR animals.**
- Using more than one animal in your module. If you're running a module like saddling up a horse, **look to use more than one animal.** A horse, no matter how well trained, might not want to be saddled up by eight inexperienced people in one day.
- When choosing animals for modules think about your audience, especially if you're in an urban area. A city resident might perceive screaming piglets differently to us. If using adult pigs in a specific module, they must be supervised by their owner or a pork industry professional.



Animal Welfare

To ensure the animals are comfortable and don't become stressed, it's best practice to bring feed for them. Ensure the farmer you're borrowing the animals from is happy with the feed supplied. Stock must also have access to water, shelter where possible and enough room to move.



The location where the stock are housed should be off to the side and away from the main flow of people/traffic. This is to reduce stress on them.

There is to be no lifting of large animals, unless in crush/crate that is designed for this purpose and is part of the module.

Securing the animals

The use of permanent stockyards is best practice, but not always an option.

- If permanent stockyards aren't available, ensure **adequate secondary fencing is in place** to reduce the risk of the animals escaping. Temporary stockyards are acceptable, as long as they're secured. This can be achieved by using pins, waratahs etc. or in the worst-case scenario tied to a truck or heavy ute. The yards must not be able to move if, for example, stock get a fright and rushed to one side of the pen. The pen must also be large enough to allow the stock to move freely.



- **Horses and show stock must be on lead at all times when outside of fenced area.** They must be supervised by skilled animal handlers and tied up when not required. Try to do this away from areas of direct traffic flow.
- Horses must always have a fenced off area around them to reduce the chance of a bystander being kicked.
- **Sheep must always have a second surrounding pen, in case one jumps out,** or gates must be placed across the top of pens and tied down to prevent jumping.
- The truck/trailer that stock arrive in must stay on-site and a ramp to load them needs to be available at all times should the stock need to be removed.

Animal First Aid

- When working with animals you must ensure that you either have a **vet onsite and/or on call** in case of an emergency. The number for the on call vet must be in the H&S paperwork as well as with the module paperwork.
- **At Grand Final a vet onsite is compulsory** when working with large animals or completing modules where animals could be harmed in front of a large audience i.e. shearing. The vet must carry suitable medications for sedation and an animal first aid kit.
- Be aware that if the vet is the judge of a module, they're not able to be counted as the on-site vet due to being tied up with the running of a module.



Bees and their hives

When working with bee hives please ensure that they're either brand-new or are clean and have not been used for a long period. Hives that are currently been used can cause bees to swam and create a hazard at events. Ensure you check prior to running a module with bees, that no competitors and volunteers involved have an allergy to bees.