NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Guiding Principles and Procedures	Effective: 17MAY2018 Revised:
Title: Electric Prod Use in Livestock	Page 1 of 3

Guiding Principle

The use of electric prods when handling livestock should be limited. Electric prods are not to be used on animals that are lame, injured, in pain, or sick. Limited use of electric prods is acceptable on healthy uncooperative animals that have only one direction of movement provided and other measures of motivation have failed.

Personnel using electric prods must be appropriately trained in the operation of the device and acceptable use procedures.

All individuals (regardless of their affiliation with NDSU) are expected to adhere to this Guiding Principle when working with NDSU animals or at NDSU facilities.

Requirements

Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching, 2010, p. 57-Training of animal care personnel in handling procedures should include consideration for the well-being of the animals. During the handling and restraint of animals, care should be exercised to prevent injury to animals or personnel. Animals should be handled quietly but firmly.

Responsibilities

There are times when livestock refuse to move into a trailer, alley or chute. Pushing or pulling the animal may be hazardous to personnel working with the livestock. In these cases, use of an electric prod may be necessary for handler safety. The following information is provided as a guide for the appropriate use of this equipment.

Procedure

1. **Acceptable Use**
   - **1.1.** Electric prods must only be used:
     - **1.1.1.** To assist movement of livestock when animal or human safety is at risk,
     - **1.1.2.** As a last resort when all other humane alternatives have failed, and

1.1.3. Only when livestock have a clear path to move forward.

1.2. Place the prod on the rear flank, hip, or upper rear leg of the animal.

1.3. Proper use of the electric prod is as follows

1.3.1. Tap animal with the wand without an electric shock

1.3.2. Duration of the shock should not exceed 1 second

1.3.3. Count to 5 before administering any additional taps or shocks

1.3.4. Animal should be allowed time to respond before another shock is Administered. If you have already delivered 2 shocks to an individual animal, STOP.

2. Unacceptable Use

2.1. Do not use electric prod on wet animals

2.2. Do not use electric prod repeatedly on the same animal

2.3. Do not prod an animal that is already moving or cannot see a location to move into.

2.4. Do not use electric prod on calves less than 3 months of age or on any animal that can be moved manually

2.5. Use of prods on breeding stock is not recommended.

3. Training

3.1. Personnel must be appropriately trained in the following:

3.1.1. Livestock behavior

3.1.2. Appropriate handling techniques

3.1.3. Equipment use and maintenance

4. Recommendations and Considerations

4.1. Do not attempt to crowd animals into a pen or trailer. Fill pens only half full to avoid pushing the gate tightly against the cattle.

4.2. If animals do not move readily into a single file chute from a crowded pen, explore reasons why before using the prod.

4.3. Adjust handling techniques and positioning according to the response of the animals and situation.

4.4. Continually educate personnel in current livestock handling techniques.

4.5. Use alternative handling tools such as flags, plastic paddles, or rattles to direct animal movement.

4.6. Evaluate your livestock handling techniques regularly and make improvements as needed.

4.7. Stress created by prod use may impair the animal's immune system, reduce weight gain, and reduce reproductive ability.

5. Evaluation Methods

5.1. Track the percentage of animals prodded

- **5.1.1.** 0% animals moved with electric prod-Excellent
- **5.1.2.** 5% animals moved with electric prod-Acceptable
- **5.1.3.** 20% animals moved with electric prod-Unacceptable
- **5.1.4.** >20% animals moved with an electric prod-Serious Problem