

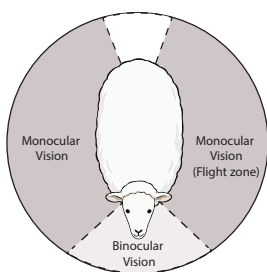
Handling and Safety

Working safely, looking after sheep

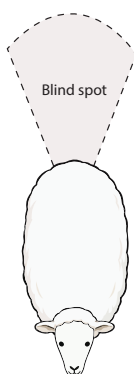
Good handling keeps sheep calm, people safe and the work easy.

SAFE SHEEP BEHAVIOUR

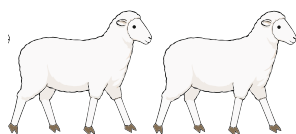
Sheep are prey animals.



Sheep have a wide field of vision 270–320°, allowing them to see almost all the way around their bodies.

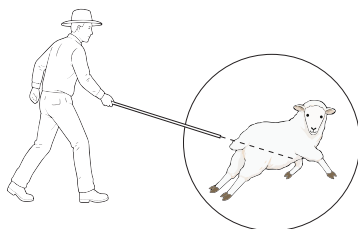


A sheep has a small blind spot directly behind its body where it cannot see. Approaching a sheep from this area can startle it, so handlers should approach from the side where the sheep can see them.



Sheep are prey animals, so they naturally stay together in a flock and follow each other. This behaviour helps protect them from predators and makes them easier to manage on a farm.

Sheep move away when they feel pressure or danger. If you step into a sheep's flight zone, it will move away from you.



Question:

How should people behave around sheep?

Australian link:

Meat & Livestock Australia – Understanding sheep behaviour
mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools

FLIGHT ZONE

- Too far – no movement
- Right distance – sheep move forward
- Too close – sheep flee

Question:

What happens when you are too close?

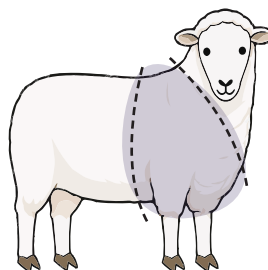
Australian link:

Making More From Sheep (MMFS)

www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/manual/module-11-healthy-and-contented-sheep/chapter-11-5-meet-animal-wellbeing-requirements/

POINT OF BALANCE

The point of balance is the point at the shoulder.



- If you move behind this point, the sheep will move forward.
- If you move in front of this point, the sheep will stop or move back.

Question:

Why is understanding the point of balance important?

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Good handling keeps sheep calm, people safe and the work easy.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Circle the PPE you would wear when working with sheep.



Safety boots



Wide brim hat



Sunglasses



Gloves



Sunscreen



High visibility vest

Australian link:

WorkSafe Victoria – PPE in Agriculture
[vic.gov.au/safework/safework-general-module/personal-protective-equipment-ppe](https://www.vic.gov.au/safework/safework-general-module/personal-protective-equipment-ppe)

Explain why:

Handling and Safety

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ANIMAL WELFARE

Good animal welfare means sheep have:

- Good nutrition
- Clean water
- Shelter
- Space to move
- Prompt care when sick or injured

Question:

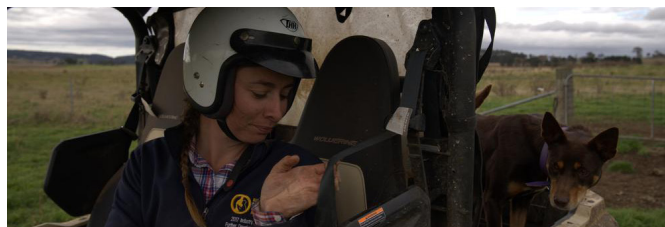
Why is good animal welfare important for producers?

Australian link:

RSPCA Australia – Farm Animal Welfare (Sheep)
rspca.org.au/our-role/farm-animal-welfare/

YARD SAFETY

Look at the photo and list **three important yard safety rules**



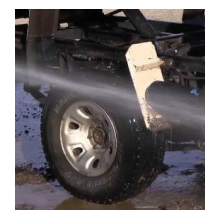
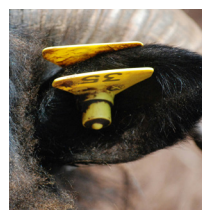
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Australian link:

FarmSafe Australia – Working Safely in Stockyards
farmsafe.org.au/low-stress-stock-handling-

BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity helps protect your sheep and other farms.



What biosecurity practices are shown in the photos?

[illegible]

Australian link:

Australian link:
FarmSafe Australia – Working Safely in Stockyards
farmbiosecurity.com.au

Working safely, looking after sheep

Good handling keeps sheep calm, people safe and the work easy.

Number the steps below to show the correct way to move sheep.

- ☐ Stay out of the flight zone.
- ☐ Use the point of balance to move sheep forward.
- ☐ Guide sheep quietly to where you want them to go.
- ☐ Keep movements calm and steady.
- ☐ Stop and reward – let sheep settle.
- ☐ Prompt care when sick or injured

Meat & Livestock Australia – Low Stress Stockhandling
mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools

How does safe handling help sheep, people and productivity on farm?

A circular inset image in the bottom-left corner of the page shows a laboratory bench. On the bench, there are several glassware items including beakers and bottles, some containing colored liquids. There are also pipettes, a rack of test tubes, and other laboratory equipment. The background of the inset shows a typical lab setting with shelves and equipment.

Women in STEM

Livestock Scientist

- Conducts research to improve animal health and welfare.
- Develops solutions for disease, nutrition and productivity.
- Uses data and innovation to support sustainable farming.
- Works with producers, industry and communities.
- Studying STEM can take you anywhere in agriculture.

