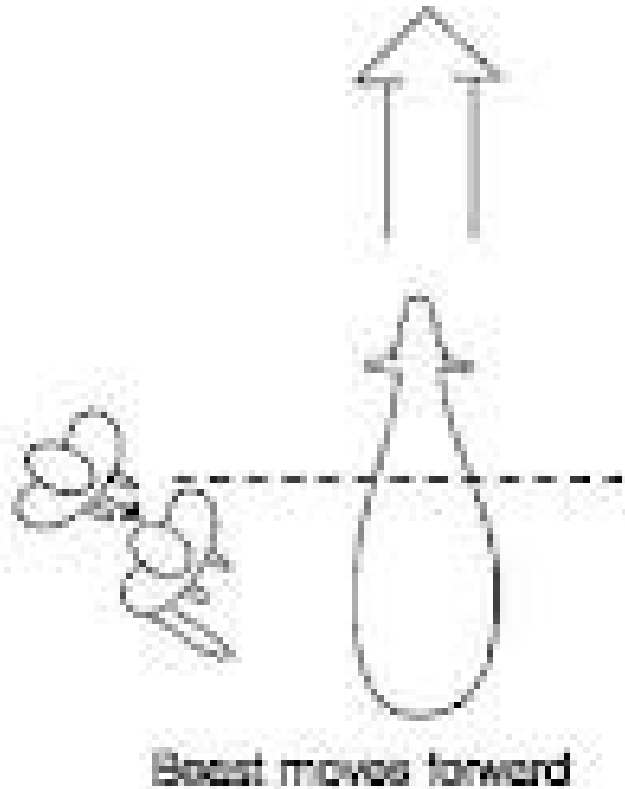


Properly Handling Sheep and Goats

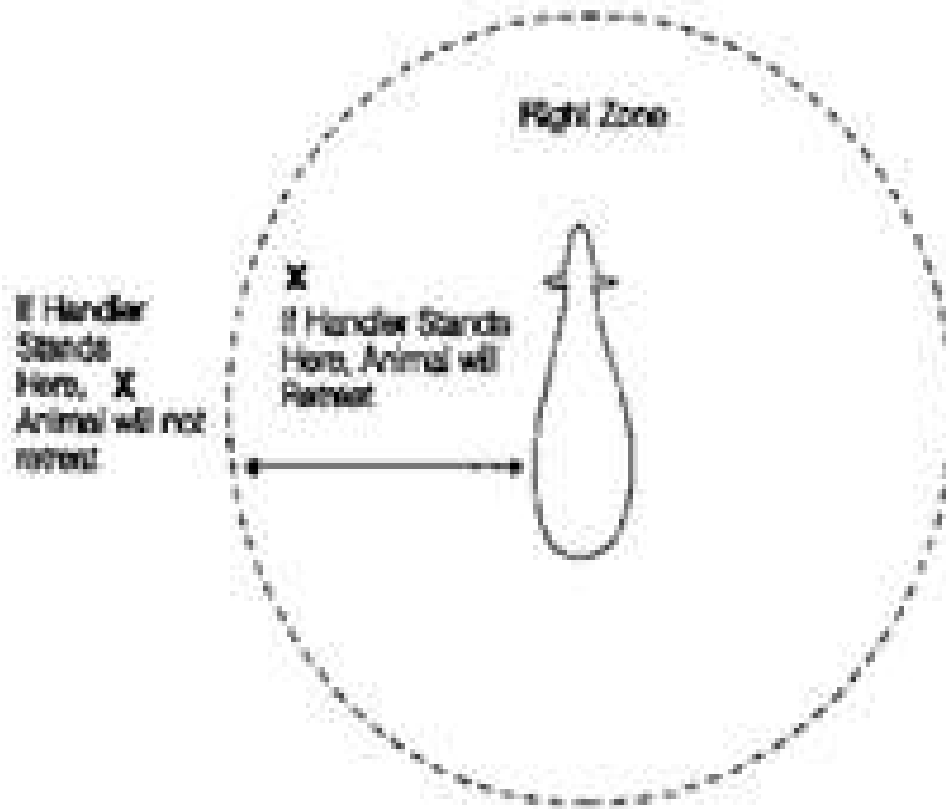


- Sheep are herd animals and do the best when they are kept together with each other. It is easier to move a herd of sheep than to move one sheep

When moving sheep forward, always try and stay behind the shoulder of the animal. Standing in front of the line drawn on this sheep will make it turn to the side or back up.



All animals have a flight zone. This is the area that the animal feels safe around humans. If the herder gets inside the flight zone of the sheep then the animal will run away.



This shows the flight zone of this
herd of sheep



- Usually a sheep will refuse to move if they see a human in front of them. Always move sheep slowly. Do not allow sheep to form little groups to themselves. Move sheep slowly , calmly and quietly.

If you want a sheep to go backward stand in front of it. If you want it to turn to the left then stand to the animals right side. To the right stand to its left side.



Remember, sheep always will move the best when you walk behind them. Using a low voice and keeping the flock together.



Catching Sheep

Sometimes you will need to catch an individual sheep. If you can, put the sheep in a small catch pen. Approach the sheep from the rear and try and maneuver the sheep into a corner.



When catching a sheep or goat place your hand on the boney part of the jaw. Keep the animal's head up. Sheep and goats have much more power when their head is down.



A good way to hold a goat or a ram is by its horns. However, be careful that the horns are attached securely to its head. You can break off loosely attached horns.



Sheep are easier to handle when they are put in a sitting position.



They are easier to give medicine, trim their hooves and to examine if the animal is sitting.



Sheep are easily managed when sitting.
Shearing is simpler if the animal sits.



Trimming hooves is accomplished quicker and easier when the sheep is sitting.



Tipping a Sheep

Stand to the side of the sheep.

Put your left hand under the jaw of the sheep and your left knee in the left shoulder of the sheep.

Your right knee in the sheep's left hip.

Put your right hand on the sheep's back over the hips.

Turn the sheep's nose away from you towards its shoulder.



You will feel the weight of the sheep
against your legs.

Take a step back with your right leg.
The hind leg of the sheep will start to
go down.

Continue to bring the head of the
sheep around until the sheep is sitting
down

Some farmers will use a, “SHEEP CHAIR,” to work on or to help medicate sheep with. This keeps the sheep still and comfortable.



If possible, never catch a sheep or goat by the front leg. This could result in injury of the animal. Always catch the animal by the rear leg.



In conclusion sheep and goats will be healthier and more productive if they are handled in a safe and sound manor.

