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# Monthly Safety Blast

February 2014

*Produced by the Southwest Center for  
Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education*

## Livestock Safety for All

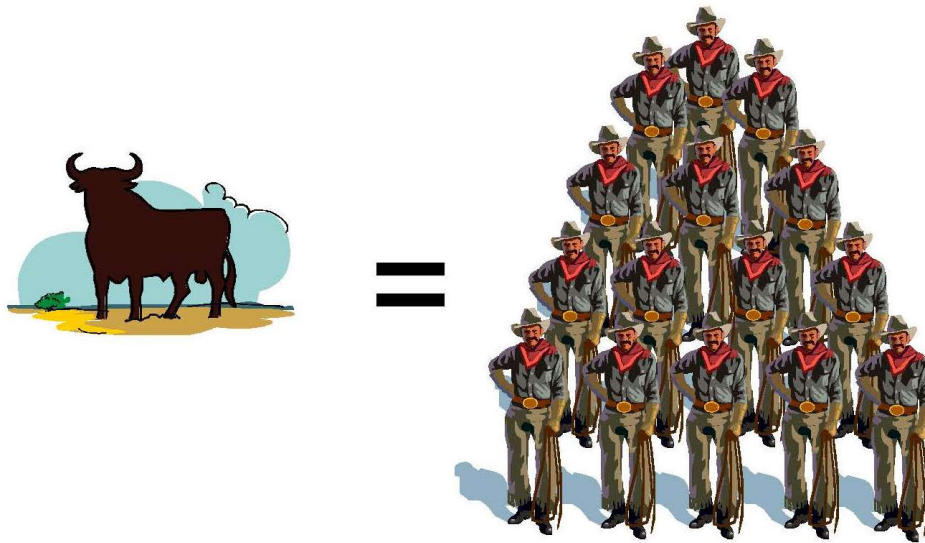
January 23, 2014- For the residents young and old in Bracken County and beyond, Tom Stephenson was a gem with a wealth of knowledge that will be hard to replace. On Wednesday, while working with cattle on a Mason County farm, Stephenson died after being injured and attacked by a bull, officials said.

[http://www.maysville-online.com/news/local/bracken-county-man-dies-in-farming-accident/article\\_7412aeab-3587-5938-a9da-98265b07b796.html](http://www.maysville-online.com/news/local/bracken-county-man-dies-in-farming-accident/article_7412aeab-3587-5938-a9da-98265b07b796.html)

Stephenson was an experienced cattleman who served as a county 4-H agent for 26 years. He was a safety advocate and service-oriented community member. One friend of Stephenson said, “[h]e was an advocate in the promotion of agriculture and continuing the legacy of farming.”

Livestock is consistently reported among the top three major contributors to agricultural injuries for men, women and children. Working with livestock often requires many hands-on activities, including moving, grooming, feeding, administering medications or vaccinations, milking and branding. In a livestock show setting, youth perform many activities to prepare animals for public exhibition.

Agricultural animals pose serious injury risks due to their size and unpredictable nature. An adult bull can weigh up to 3000 pounds which roughly equals 15 grown men. Animals, just like humans, can also be unpredictable. Horses are easily spooked by loud sounds or threats of danger. Cattle are known to be aggressive during feeding, after calving and during the breeding process. Even smaller animals like goats have been known to jump and head-butt their handlers. We can decrease the risk for injury, however, by understanding their natural behavior and instincts. Using low stress handling techniques can also improve the working experience for animals and people.



Whether you have three decades of experience or 3 three months, livestock can be unpredictable and dangerous. The following videos provide more information about how to be safe around livestock. Videos make excellent educational tools for workers and agricultural science students. Check them out before you head to the field or the livestock show this season.

Right from the Start: Safety Awareness for the Next Generation of Livestock Producers

<http://www.swagcenter.org/resourcesvideos.asp>

Cattle Handling Safety

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffkLY6kYO0I&list=ULGu5HhdMxZvs>

Livestock Safety for Kids

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueJZr7XBZ04&feature=mfu\\_in\\_order&list=UL](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueJZr7XBZ04&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL)

Cuidados al estar con Animales de Granja

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu5HhdMxZvs&list=ULueJZr7XBZ04>

US Agricultural Safety and Health Centers-Livestock Safety Playlists

<http://www.youtube.com/user/USagCenters>

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Produced by the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education. For more information, contact us at 903-877-5998 or by email to [agcenter@uthct.edu](mailto:agcenter@uthct.edu).

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