

Cull Animals Based on Disposition

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Are there animals in your herd that scare you? If so, then those animals should be culled. Each year beef producers get hurt working around animals with bad dispositions. Exercising caution and having the best equipment may not be sufficient to protect you from injury.

Most producers have a culling program based on age of animal, production, physical problems, etc. without having disposition as a component.

Each herd has at least one animal that makes it difficult to work with the remainder of the herd. Has thought ever been given to culling these animals? Other animals that should be considered for culling include those that go crazy in the working chute. Trying to perform recommended management practices on an out of control animal is difficult and dangerous. The noise created also gets other animals excited thus making the whole cattle working more difficult.

Cows that get too aggressive when they have a new calf should also be considered for culling. Everyone wants a cow that is a good mother, but those that go to an extreme can cause serious injury to producers.

Are there animals in the herd that start pawing in the dirt or dropping their head in an aggressive manner when you enter the pasture? No one can always predict what they are going to do. The safe thing to do is cull these animals

Always be careful when working around cattle. Even docile animals may become agitated.

Mentally make a note of a way to escape if something unexpected happens and an animal attacks.

In short, cull animals that may pose a risk of injury to you. After you get hurt it is too late. For more information on culling animals from the beef herd, contact the local Extension office.