



Low-Stress Cattle Handling Training: Identifying and Managing Risk in the Work Force and Cattle Herd

Washington State University Extension

Washington State University Extension worked with cattle handlers and producers to implement improved risk management strategies by utilizing low-stress cattle handling techniques, improving safety, morale, retention in the workforce and health, performance, and meat quality in cattle. Two hundred seventy seminar participants including cattle producers, managers, employees, family members, youth, vets, etc. represented the production/harvest of over 800,000 cattle. The health, stress and wellbeing outcomes experienced by these farm operations contributed to improved economic performance of the ranches and feed yards that participated in the project.

Results indicated that 270 producers had improved understanding of how low-stress cattle handling techniques can improve animal safety, health, performance, meat quality, and perception of the beef cattle industry and can improve caregiver/worker/transporter/family safety, morale,

and retention in the cattle industry, reducing the potential for injury, days off work, and compensation claims; 100 implemented one or more low-stress cattle handling techniques; 50 cattle feeding and animal harvest owners/managers/supervisors required employees to implement one or more low-stress cattle handling techniques to increase cattle performance, carcass quality, worker safety and public perception of animal care at concentrated animal facilities.



“The most beneficial part of the program was creating a positive environment for both livestock and employees. We want the public to know that we are proud of what we do and how we do it. We have the comfort of our livestock in the front of our minds every day. We understand that it is not only the right thing to do, but it is the only way for our livestock to reach their maximum genetic potential. As for our employees, our company is only as good as the people we have working for us. So, it is our top priority that they are safe and well trained. We want them to feel that they are part of something worthwhile and important, and we are all on the same team regardless if we are managers or laborers.”- Cattle Producer





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United States
Department of
Agriculture

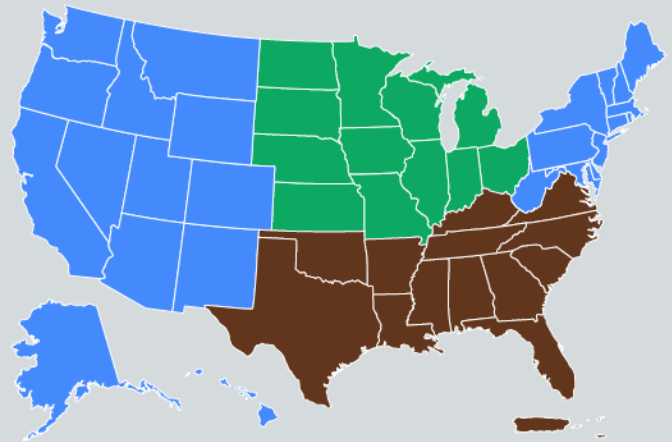
National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

**“Educating America’s farmers and ranchers
to manage the unique risks of producing food
for the world’s table.”**

Extension Risk Management Education (ERME) is delivered through four regional centers that provide grant funding and leadership within their regions.

Projects are producer-focused, results-based and encourage public-private partnerships. Funded projects must identify targeted results that will help producers manage risk and then describe how the project will measure those results.

Extension Risk Management Education has funded innovative programs that have generated tangible results for producers in every state. ERME is committed to funding results, providing transparent accountability, and encouraging collaboration. View the accomplishments of all funded projects on our website.
<http://ExtensionRME.org>



ERME Regional Centers



**NORTH CENTRAL
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University of Nebraska
Dept. of Agricultural Economics
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**NORTHEAST
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