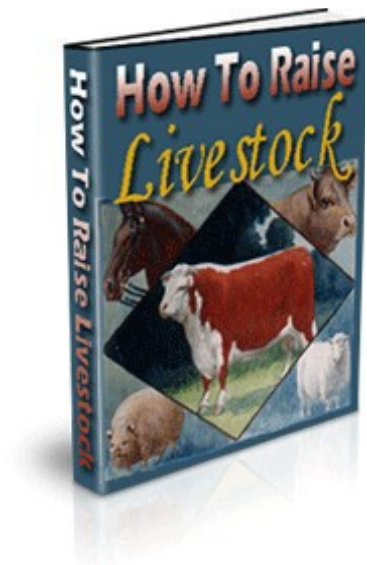


# How To Raise Livestock

## Manual



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**Know Anyone Else Who Would Be Interested  
In Livestock Farming!**

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### Please Start By Reading This - Then Pass It On

- "The man who can drive himself further once the effort gets painful is the man who will win." Roger Bannister

- "The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much important than the events that occur." Vince Lombardi

- "Success in our calling is the result of a person's love of and belief in the work he has undertaken. Earnest and conscientious labor often accomplishes more in the end than the brilliant genius." Anonymous

- "Food offered without affection is like food offered to the dead." Hindu Proverb

- "What you have to do and the way have to do it incredibly simple. Whether you are willing to do it, that's another matter." Peter F. Drucker

- The best motivation is self motivation. The guy says, "I wish someone would come by and turn me on." What if they don't show up? You've got to have a better plan for your life. Jim Rohn

- "How does one measure time? No, not in days, months, or years. It is measured by the most precious of all things: Love. Without which all beings and things whether brave and/or beautiful would perish." Irish Blessin

**Table of Contents:**

- A Look Into Raising Livestock.....5

- How to Know If Livestock Farming is for You.....6

- The Different Types of Livestock to Farm.....7

- A Look Into Livestock Feed Equipment.....12

- Why and How To Brand Your Livestock.....14

- Steps To Transporting Your Livestock.....15

- How to Sell Your Livestock at Auctions.....16

## ▶ A Look Into Livestock Farming

Throughout hundreds of years, farmers improved their livestock through various breeding methods.

Today, many livestock breeders enter their animals in livestock shows, which are incorporated most part of the world.

Livestock owners engage their animals to different methods of breeding methods because they wish to take the step to the next stage of such profession.

Animal farm owners slot in their animals to these breeding processes, first off, because of the additional income they might earn.

The more healthy the certain animal would be, the larger the gain would be if it were sold. Also, no livestock owners want a weak animal in his farm and the better way to prevent that is to mate their animals with more healthy animals and of top quality and breed.

An animal farm would die down if the animals residing in it is unhealthy and constantly sick. So, it is simply important to look after health inside an animal farm because the possible diseases that may occur there could infect not just other animals but also people.

And in this modern time, lot of ways to breed animals are being done already and are now used by nearly all of the livestock owners all over the world.

Livestock breeders select certain animals for reproduction. Such livestock might be picked out as they have a rate of growth or produce large amounts of meat, eggs, or milk.

This practice, called, selective breeding, which allows farmers to continually improve their livestock. Farmers select only healthy and fertile animals for breeding purposes. Most of other offspring of such animals inherit the characteristics of their mothers and fathers.

There are three ways of selective breeding and these are random mating, inbreeding, and out breeding.

Random mating is the easiest type of livestock breeding. Livestock producers place selected males and women of one species in the same area and let them mate indiscriminately.

Farmers practice inbreeding by mating animals that are closely related to one another. This method makes a pure [variety of livestock](#).

Livestock owners select animals for inbreeding by studying their pedigrees, which list the traits of animal's ancestors. Livestock that are closely related to one another have similar genes, which are transmitted to their young.

These offspring may have a high concentration of the parents' favorable genes. Nevertheless, inferior genes, which were not visible in the mothers and fathers, may show up also strongly in the young. Consequently, inbreeding may produce a tiny animal that lacks immunity to illness.



Outbreeding is the mating of unrelated animals. Outcrossing and crossbreeding are the two techniques of outbreeding that are oftentimes used by farmers.

Outcrossing is the mating of unrelated animals of the same breed. Farmers make use of this method to introduce a preferable trait into a line of livestock. Crossbreeding is the mating of animals of different breeds.

Most of other offspring have a higher performance level than the normal performance level of the mothers and fathers.

Many breeders use synthetic insemination to improve the caliber of their livestock. Diluted semen (sperm-carrying fluid) from a high-quality male is injected into the reproductive tract of the female at the right time for fertilization.

Synthetic insemination adds to the amount of offspring that may be produced by superior male animals.

## ▶ How to Know If Livestock Farming is for You

**N**ot everyone is fit for livestock farming. You need to possess certain traits to successfully manage a well balanced livestock.

Also, you need to be prepared to meet the demands of this awkward activity.

Is raising livestock a valuable hobby, or perhaps a money making venture, for you?

To help you produce a wise decision, here is an index of considerations you should consider.

● *Your financial resources* – Raising livestock can be costly, particularly when the markets go awry or when your animals suffer from diseases. Ensure you find the money for to spare should unexpected expenses show up.

● *Your time* – Being a proprietor of livestock means devoting much of your time feeding your lambs, treating sick horses, and cleaning the barn, among a few other tasks. You need to be committed, even if that suggests missing your favorite TV shows or foregoing your dates. As a proprietor of livestock, expect that you will be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

● *Your power to market the livestock* – This is obviously important if you are intending to raise animals for profit. Consider your willingness to trade the sheep you have grown to love or to bring your favorite cattle for slaughtering.

The job also entails regularly keeping track of the trends in the market to guarantee sales and profits out of your animals. Consider also your abilities and failings when it comes to promoting your produce and looking after a steady flow of income from selling the animals you have bred.



● *Availability of help* – Do you have family members or friends who can lend you a helping hand when you require it? Remember, [raising livestock](#) involves a great deal of tasks that can consume your entire day.

So if you have someone who is willing to lend a hand, that will make life a lot easier for you. It may be better to think about hiring a person or two to assist you in your day to day routines in managing your livestock.

● *What you can do to cope with problems and to stay resilient despite challenges* – More often than not, things will definitely turn out against your will when you run a farm animal business.

For instance, a few of your animals may get injured or die. Are you prepared to handle such unpleasant occasions properly? When things go wrong, you must know how to keep your stress level at a minimum to avoid bigger disasters.

● *The climate in your area* – Can your chosen variety of animals live in your climate? Make sure that the climate you live in is right for your livestock.

● *Sufficiency of your facilities* – Before you purchase livestock, be certain that you have adequate facilities for them. You also need to secure all the permits and licenses needed in your state regarding livestock ownership. If your facilities are not enough, you should have the available funds to spend for the necessary improvements.

## ▶ The Different Types of Livestock to Keep

**T**he evolution of the markets and economy has loosely brought the term “livestock” to common language.

Key element in a modern agriculture is animal husbandry, which signifies raising animals in an agricultural setting. This is because large production of commodities such as food and fiber, which increased profit, necessitated raising domesticated animals in an agricultural setting.

As a result, livestock is any domesticated animals raised for commercial purposes. Shown below are eight common types of livestock humans today raise for different reasons.

### ● Pigs





The domesticated pig is generally farmed for meat such as pork, hotdog, sausages, and bacon to name a few. Pigs are seldom used for fiber since most of their species haven't much hair covering on their skin. An exception is the Mangalitsa pig that is known for its woolly-coated skin.

### ● Sheep



The sheep is one of the oldest animals being domesticated for agricultural reasons. Lamb and hogget or mutton are terms referring to meat of a sheep. Apart from that, their milk is drinkable and their wool used to make different cloths'. In addition, sheep are also raised for fleece.

### ● Goats



The domestic goat is intimately linked to sheep. It is in addition belongs to the oldest domesticated animals. They are raised for meat, milk, skins and hair. Younger goat's meat is known as kid or cabrito and older one's meat is chevon, or “mutton”.

### ● Cattle





Cattle has been domesticated as the early Neolithic age. Like sheep and goats, they are raised for meat, milk, and hides.

The meat of cattle is known as beef. Cattle also serves as draft animals such as pulling carts and plowing the field, although a carabao is mostly employed in the latter. Other products of cattle include leather and manure for fertilizer.

### **Horses**



Horses have various uses. You can employ the horse for transportation, for therapeutic ventures, sporting activities, and for farm operations. If you're raising a small horse, make sure that you provide all the ability required like desensitization, longing, driving, and biting.

### **Chickens**



Many people want to know how to raise chickens and ways to yield more eggs and meat. The yield hinges on various aspects including the kind of breed you grow, the food you use, the shelter you provide and, obviously, the care you provide.

It is relatively simple, but effort consuming to raise chicks healthily. When you provide the right care, you will like fresh and tasty eggs and meat.

## Ducks



Basically, ducks are raised for their meat and eggs. Even though most types are quite poor layers, the flock should be supervised to save the eggs raised for hatching. Most commercial farms raise Peking ducks because they grow fast and are quite good layers. However, Peking ducks are poor settlers and rarely grow a brood or a flock.

## Rabbits



Caring for rabbits is not really too difficult, especially when you consider that the mothers will do most of the work for you when it comes to raising their infants. She will pull fur from her body to make their nest nice and warm. The doe will feed her litter once or twice per day, for about five minutes each time. Rabbit milk is one of the richest milks found in mammals.

## Camels



There are two species of camel—the one-hump Arabian camel and the two-hump Bactrian camel—are both domesticated to create meat, dairy products, and hides. The South American camelids such as llama, alpaca, guanaco and vicuna are also livestock.

### ● Dogs



The domesticated dog is referred to as man's closest friend; it is the domesticated form of a wolf. Dogs are the most common domesticated animal across culture and are helpful to early human subsistence.

For example, successful emigration happened because of sled dogs. Apart from this, they serve many purposes to humankind such as hunting, bodyguards, assisting police and military. It is not ordinary but some cultures also consider the dog's meat as food.

### ● Yaks



The yak is a routine domesticated animal in the Himalayan region. Worth noting yet is the existence of a few in danger wild yak population.

Domesticated yaks are raised for their meat, dairy products, and fiber. Their dried manure is also an important fuel source; occasionally it is the only available fuel in the Tibetan plateau.

## ● Donkey



Donkeys are raised for their durability and vigor. Although donkeys are category of horses, occasionally they're preferred for their more pungent sense of “self preservation.” Donkeys are said to be domesticated around the same time as the horse were. They are used for their meat, dairy products, and draught reasons.

## ▶ A Look Into Livestock Feed Equipment

**W**orking with animals itself is hazardous; handlers are subject to bruises, scratches, and bites.

Therefore, an unsafe environment increases the hazardousness of the nature of work.

Although most farmers may think that small livestock equipments are safer, the majority of hazards in working on a farm happen as a consequence of disorderly arranged livestock equipments.

An instance of such security risk is having the rakes and pitchforks leaning against a wall or dumped on a corner in place of arranged in a rack. These loose tools may be trip hazards or fall near a nervous animal. The noise it creates can cause panic to animals that can result to danger.

## ● Feed Equipments

The first step to security is minimize potential risks in an already accident prone area. To start with, farmers should handle livestock feed equipments adequately and efficiently.





These equipments include feed supplies cattle and hog feeding tools, and horse feed supplies for in the barn and out in the pasture.

Whatever the size of the farm, equipments must hold enough feed for the livestock and are robust enough to go over various kinds of terrain.

A guide to selecting the adequate livestock feed equipment begins at consulting farming experts to establish a livestock feed equipment criteria.

Farmers should likewise evaluate if it would be preferable to buy or lease equipment dependent on the use and future plans. But while it may be much costly, it would always be preferable to buy feed supplies and equipment from high-quality suppliers.

### **Buying Equipments**

First, farmers may talk to a manufacturer for feed equipment. Every farm is uniquely made that each requires varied ways to feed livestock.

Livestock feed equipments vary in uses and operations. Instances of these are vibratory feeder bowl to gravity and horizontal in-line track, placement devices, machine bases and tables or conveyors and storage hoppers.

Second, getting quotes from distributor might help farmers make up your mind whether they would order from a local distributor or purchase from elsewhere.

Local distributors are frequently preferred for delivery and go through purposes, but other distributors may offer other high-quality and advanced equipments.

Third, feed supply and equipment should be adequate enough to livestock. Therefore, it would be preferable to base these on the size of the entire farm.

The reason for this is large and small farms' equipment needs vary. Also, farmers should purchase from a supplier who specializes on various kinds of farms to be in a position to properly advise on proper equipments.

### **Pricing Costs of Equipments**

Determining the budget for livestock feeding equipment ought to be done first. This guides farmers to pin down in to specific vital machines from several machinery options.

For example, farmers may buy new livestock feed equipments from a farm and feed supply company for reliability and dependability purposes.

For future machinery collapses, most businesses offer warranty and offer product substitutes. They can also opt to buy used equipments to reduce costs.

It is advisable though that farmers should be equipped with knowledge on how to operate the machine.

Leasing equipments is another alternative especially for farmers fresh to the livestock business. This alternative offers short-term commitment.

## ► Why and How To Brand Your Livestock Properly



**B**randing livestock has been a long-time practice that started in ancient Egypt.

It demands using a fire-heated iron or other materials to brand a farm animal. Branding of livestock is done so that it is easy to name their owner.

Aside from the conventional hot iron branding, there are lots of different ways to brand animals.

Some of the branding is ear tagging, earmarking, ear tattoos, inner lip tattoos, chemical branding, freeze branding, and electronic branding.

If your going to use the hot iron method, you have to be conversant first with the rules in your state regarding trade marking of animals such as the sort of brand to use and the an area of the animal's body where the brand will be employed.

Now, you can begin branding your cattle. Here are the processes you must follow to ensure safety. Remember, you need to be very careful when branding to avoid injury to you or your animals.

1. *Get the animal ready for branding.* Ensure that the part that will be branded is clean and dry. Branding a damp cattle, for instance may cause scalding or scarring on the conceal. Also, you have to remove the hair from area where the brand is going to be placed.

2. *Prepare the trademarking iron.* Check the iron before employing it on your farm animal. It should be clean and clear of scales, sharp edges, and burnt hair. If it needs cleaning, utilize a steel brush for that purpose. The correct thickness of iron brand to be utilized hinges on the sort of farm animal. For yearlings, you may need a 5-inch iron, and for calves, you may need a 4-inch iron. Since horses have thin skin, a light iron is sufficient for branding.

3. *Plug it in.* Wait for trademarking iron to reach the ideal temperature. You can tell if trademarking iron is ready to use if its color turns into ash. It is significant that trademarking iron has the right temperature so that it will be able to burn and get rid of the hair and exterior layer of the skin.

4. *Place trademarking iron on the animal.* Apply just the right amount of pressure for about 5 to 10 seconds. The correct length of time for applying the iron hinges on the animal's breed, its hair cover, temperature of the iron, and weather.

As a rule, trademarking iron may be taking away when the skin surrounding the branded area seems like dark copper. Be careful not to position the iron for a long time; otherwise, trademarking area will bleed.

After using your livestock branding iron, you have to keep up it properly and regularly so that you can use it again at some point. Do not forget to clean it with a steel brush to get rid of any residue sticking on it. Good upkeep of trademarking iron ensures that the markings on your cattle will be of great quality.

## ► Steps To Transporting Your Livestock

Going with the law that safeguards animals' rights, transporting livestock necessitates extra safeguards to ensure they are loaded, transported and unloaded in a very humane manner.

Of course, the law is not the only existing order that guarantees livestock such as pork, beef, lamb to name a couple of.

The damages and injuries resulting from brutal handling can likewise decrease the livestock's value as a consequence of declining meat quality, flavour and colour.

As a consequence, it is important to know the traveling needs of the animals when looking at livestock trailer. In addition, learning the transportation security is essential for people who are in control of transporting livestock.



### ● Livestock Vehicles

Fundamental to transporting livestock is a fitting trailer that meets their traveling needs. A livestock trailer must be large enough to contain the number and size of animals to be transferred. Law sets proper dimensions and ratios.

It should also be well ventilated because highway fumes are potentially poisonous. One other serious feature of livestock trailers is the nonslip floors.

The reason for this is animals usually panic if they slip. Partitioned areas within the vehicle may also help decrease the chance of injury. This yet depends largely on the animals.

### ● Transportation Precautions

A critical rule in transporting livestock is to know how to handle the type of animal being transported. It is advisable to have an expert en route.

Second, livestock should be loaded gently and silently. This avoids stress and injury because animals who feel threatened and frightened could be potentially hazardous.

Third, keeping an eye on wounded animals is advisable and not turning your back on them is sensible. Injured animals are more tough to control. Also remember is that spaces between animals largely rely upon their kind.

Fourth, it is important to remember common attitude and behavior of the animals. For instance, cattle are inclined to stampeding; pig males have fierce tusks, and horses kick when feel threatened.

Another notable case is that animals like chicken and pigs must travel inside temperature-controlled conditions. For instance, pigs are susceptible to extreme temperatures, stress, and injury.



Last, and another vital precaution, is for handlers to always stay alert and get an escape route when cases get beyond control.

### ● Helpful Suggestions

The first term is called the point of balance. It is the area of navigation around the tough space when the handler needs to coax an animal to move in a correct direction.

Handlers should back clear of that area at diverse angles dependent on where they want the animal to move.

Here, it is advisable to learn the walking patterns to hasten loading and unloading. Another suggested way to move them easily is to begin leading the tamest animal first, which will serve as docile leaders to others.

A further significant consideration is keeping the surrounding environment from tactile distractions.

For instance, keeping extraneous noise to minimum keep the animals moving. Noises include engine, flashing lights, and moving objects.

Generally, the fundamental factors to be considered in transporting livestock are the type of species, age of the animal, the climate and weather conditions, and the length of journey.

## ▶ How to Sell Your Livestock at Auctions



**S**tatistics show that a majority of sheep owners sell their livestock through sale barns or public auction markets.

The same goes for goats that are primarily sold in public auctions, though a considerable amount of goats are slaughtered on-farm.

Selling through stockyard, sale barn, or public auction is an easy and convenient way to make profits from your livestock.

In the majority of cases, it yields regular earnings each week. You get increased sales particularly during religious holidays when there is a [high demand for livestock](#).

Another advantage of selling through public auction is that you obtain the repayments in a moment. You also get protection from the Packers and Stockyards law.

To get the most profits out of marketing your livestock at a stockyard or public auction, here are the rules of thumb you must take into account:

- When breeding meat goats, consider getting colored goats because buyers prefer them over white goats.

- Sell your livestock when the reported prices are low. This is why at the next sale, the prices may increase and fewer domestic animals will be sold.

- Build a healthy standing as a vender. Figure out what buyers are looking for in livestock. Get feedback from your customers, too, so that you know what to offer them next time.

- When selling livestock, consider the major religious holidays. Muslim holidays such as the Eid ul-Fidr (Festival of Fast-Breaking) and Eid ul-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) are the ideal time to trade sheep and goats in public auctions.

Furthermore, when you aim for a particular holiday, place your sheep or goats in the market place at least one week in advance.

- Keep yourself updated on market reports, but do not rely on them heavily. Although they are a great sign of market trends, market reports are not 100 percent accurate and objective.

- Make sure the hocks or bottom of your livestock are kept clean before selling them at public auctions. Buyers won't ever purchase any animal that looks dirty.

- Avoid placing your livestock at the last minutes since they're more likely promoted at lower prices, specially when it is close to the end of the sale.

- Livestock that is not too fat or thin can be sheared so that they will look safer to the vendees.

- Ethnic buyers prefer non-neutered male sheep or goats since they grow fast. Therefore, avoid castrating your animals if you are planning to market them at public auctions.

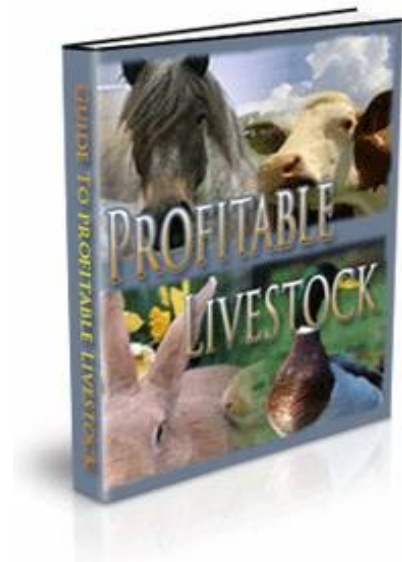
- After you drop off your livestock at the stockyard, keep watch over them to ensure they are fed sufficiently and are placed in a clean and large area. That way, you can remain confident that you will make sales and profits from your animals.

Follow these tips when marketing your livestock in public livestock auctions, and you may be guaranteed consistent sales and large profits in the end.

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To Healthy Livestock!

Best Regards,

*Gerard Dawn*

Gerard Dawn.