SOP No: ATT 058
SUBJECT: Cattle mustering, yarding and drafting
DATE ISSUED: 16.07.2014

POLICY: Minimum number of 2 operators required.

Demonstrator: Experience in these procedures.
Students: Competence in cattle handling.
Students should be familiar with the concepts of flight zone and balance point and should be able to use these techniques to move cattle in yards." And replace the last sentence in S3 of Procedure to "Use the techniques of balance point and flight zone to encourage animals to move in the desired direction."

PRECAUTIONS: Wear steel-capped rubber boots and appropriate sun protection.
Cattle should be handled quietly before, during and after the procedure.
Identification of flight zones must be understood.
Cattle should not be overcrowded in yards.
Where mustering has caused physical exertion, cattle should be rested before drafting or handling.
Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling cattle.
Procedure may be repeated if cattle remain quiet and are not distressed by handling.
Cattle remember how they have been handled and will respond to future handling accordingly.

EQUIPMENT: Drafting yards

PROCEDURE:

1. **Mustering.** When mustering, consider the geography of the paddock, gateways, direction of travel etc so that cattle will move in the direction chosen. Allow cattle to gather together in a loose bunch before attempting to move them in the required direction. Stock generally move better up hill than down and prefer to move in an anti-clockwise direction. Dogs, electric prodders and hitting with solid objects must not be used to move cattle.

2. **Yarding.** Cattle should always enter yards via the same entry point and leave by a separate exit gate at the other side of the yards. This will encourage cattle to enter the yard themselves. Docile cattle should be moved through the yards with the stock person on foot.

3. **Drafting.** Drafting should be performed in specially designed drafting yards or through gates between
yards. The excessive use of force is unnecessary. The drafted animal must be able to see where it is to go (ie its ‘escape route’). Visual driving aids are best used to direct cattle or block movement.

On completion of procedure observe animal for signs of distress.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

REVISED: 24.06.2009
20.02.2013

CHAIR OF AEC

REFERENCES