

TEACHER'S GUIDE

MOOOOVE ALONG

EQUIPMENT AND HANDLING

Learning Target: Identify the tools needed to keep beef animals comfortable, safe, and healthy.

Engagement Strategy:

Ask the class *"How is a school lunchroom like a cattle operation?"* Have students describe what things in their lunchroom help students move through the line and get what they need safely and efficiently. **Why don't students just walk up and get what they want in whatever order they can?**

Talk about the need to create order and facilitate distributing meals as well as keeping track of who got what. What does a school lunchroom need to distribute food, track students, and provide a place for students to eat?

Compare how a school lunchroom is like a cattle operation. Here are some examples:

What Is Needed	School Lunchroom	Beef Cattle Operation
<i>guide individuals through an area efficiently</i>	<i>ropes, rails, walls</i>	<i>fences, panels, gates, chutes</i>
<i>distribute food</i>	<i>serving dishes and counters</i>	<i>tractors, front-end loaders, trailers</i>
<i>hold food and drink</i>	<i>trays, cups, and dishes</i>	<i>feed troughs, hay rings, water tubs</i>
<i>track how much food was distributed and who got it</i>	<i>student numbers and student accounts</i>	<i>ear tags, separated pens, log books</i>

Why is important for a lunchroom to run efficiently? Talk about how you only have so much time in the school day. Beef cattle operations are the same way. Would it be very efficient if it took producers half a day to feed the herd or if not all the cattle could get access to the feed?

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Learning Activity: "What Do You Call That"

Cut out and show the pictures of tools and equipment used in raising beef cattle.

Ask students if they can guess what the purpose is for each one. Use the Teacher's Guides to describe what each does. Then have students make up names based on use (these can even be silly).

Give students the real names and have them try to match them to the photos/descriptions.

- **hay ring:** holds large round bales of hay so cattle can eat it without wasting as much
- **feed bunk:** trough for mixed feeds that contain ingredients like grain and allow the herd to eat and space out
- **head gate:** holds cattle still so health checks and procedures can be performed safely
- **sweep tub:** set of curved metal panels that funnels a group of cattle into a line of panels (a chute)
- **ear tagger:** creates a hole in the cartilage of an animal's ear so an identification tag can be applied
- **rope halter:** goes around the head of an animal to hold it still or to lead it (if it has been trained to do so)
- **mineral tub:** like a vitamin distribution system for cattle, holds a solid or liquid supplement they can lick
- **hay spear:** tractor attachment for moving and distributing round bales of hay

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EQUIPMENT



image credit Hi-Hog



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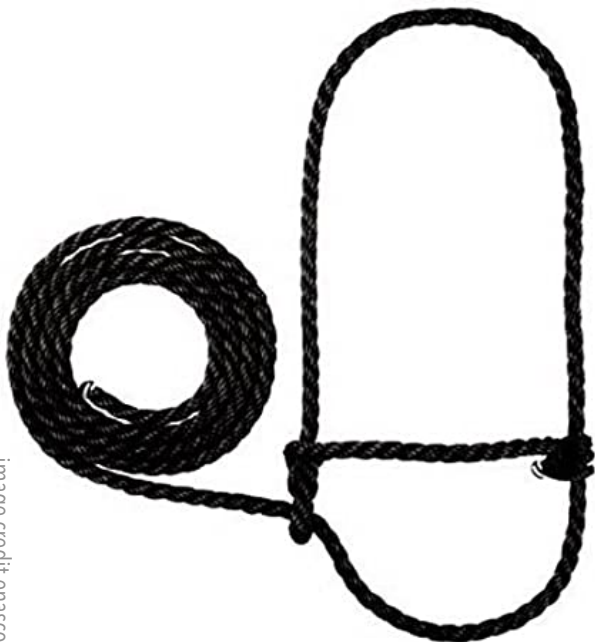


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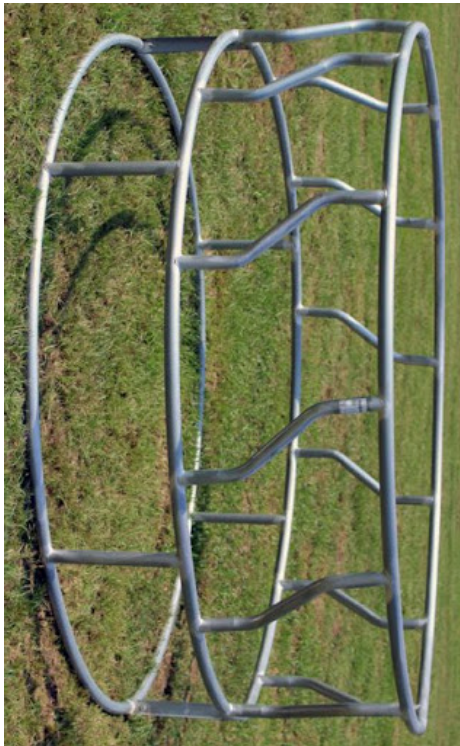


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HAY RING

A metal ring that can be placed in a pen or pasture and round bales of hay are put in the center. It allows many cattle to eat hay at one time with much less waste.



FEED BUNK

A long trough or box that holds bulk mixed feeds such as grain. These can be made from plastic, metal, and even concrete. It elevates the feed off the ground and allows a group of cattle to eat at one time while keeping the feed clean and contained.

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HEAD GATE

This metal set of doors catches the animal behind the head on the neck.

It holds cattle still so health checks and procedures can be performed safely and then the animal can easily be released back into the herd.



SWEEP TUB

This set of curved metal panels funnels a group of cattle into a line of panels (a chute).

The design moves cattle to a holding area or trailer calmly since they can't see what is ahead and will naturally follow the curve.

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EAR TAGGER

This tool makes a small hole in the cartilage of the ear while securing a numbered tag in place. It is very similar to a human ear piercing.

The colorful piece of plastic helps the producer to identify and keep records on the cattle in their herd.



ROPE HALTER

This goes around the head of an animal with the one part behind the ears, a fixed piece over the nose, and an adjustable loop under the chin.

It holds the animal still or allows a person to lead it (if the animal has been trained to do so).

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MINERAL TUB

A free-choice mineral delivery system that contains a solid block of nutrients. The cattle lick the tub because it is appealing in taste. These are placed in pens or pastures to supplement the diet of cattle by providing minerals and vitamins in addition to their forages.



HAY SPEAR

Round bales of hay can weigh over 1000 pounds so producers need a way to move them easily. An attachment on the front of a tractor can lift bales and allow producers to load them on trucks or place them in feeders or pastures for cattle to eat.