



Handling livestock in a low-stress way increases their performance, says Bud Williams. Word of his amazing livestock handling powers has traveled far and wide.

Nebraska Stock Handler Earns Worldwide Reputation For "Gentle Effectiveness"

Stockmen from all over the world pay to learn how Bud Williams, Benkelman, Neb., handles cows, sheep and other livestock.

The unimposing 68-year-old's gentle way with animals pays off in less stress on both man and beast. Some people call him the "cow whisperer" in reference to a popular movie but Benkelman doesn't like the nickname. He just wants to provide his stock handling methods.

"Getting others to understand it is what takes a long time," he says. "The trouble is that our instinct is wrong. We think we need to chase animals, but they don't like to be chased. Animals must not perceive us as a threat. Handling livestock in a low-stress way increases their performance and reduces health problems."

According to Williams, every situation is different, and you have to learn to "read what the animal is telling you".

"Learning this method of working livestock is a little bit like driving rush hour traffic in a big city. You must pay attention to many things and be in the right place at the right time."

It's not necessary to use whips or cattle prods, according to Williams, and you don't need to be aggressive to get animals where you want them. You don't have to threaten them or scare them. All you have to do is move and understand what it is that the animal wants. It has less to do with respect than it does trust, he says.

Williams was raised on a farm in southern Oregon and has spent a lifetime observing animals and how they react to what we do. He says he became interested in trying to do a better job of working with animals, and his methods "just kind of evolved." He developed a reputation as a "trouble shooter" by "being a good neighbor and bringing in the ones that got away." As a result, he and his wife, Eunice, have lived all over the world, taking on "projects" that they found both interesting and difficult.

"We learned our trade in the mountains of southern Oregon and northern California, where we would take weaned calves onto unfenced ranges, teach them to stay as a herd and rotationally graze without fences," Eunice explains.

Bud has also worked wild cattle in Old Mexico and the Aleutian Islands. He has herded sheep in Australia, gathered reindeer above the Arctic Circle in Alaska, and managed elk ranches in Texas and Missouri. He has also worked both beef and dairy cattle, goats, fallow deer, bison and hogs.

"I enjoy the challenge of rough terrain, huge areas, and many types of animals," he says. "I have no preference in the animals I work, but found elk to be the most difficult, so that was fun."

Williams has been developing and practicing his methods for 45 to 50 years, but 12 years ago, after much urging from people who didn't want his knowledge to be lost after he is gone, he began trying to teach others. He has done this by offering a two-day course and selling a five-hour long videotape that documents his methods.

As far as herdsmen go, Bud believes he is one-of-a-kind in the world. He credits his abilities and successes to having quick observation skills, a keen memory and pure stubbornness.

Word of his amazing livestock handling powers has traveled far and wide. People as far away as the Ukraine, South Africa, Argentina, and Australia have attended his "Stockmanship Schools."

The cost of a two-day seminar is \$400 U.S. and the couple usually puts on several per year in various locations. Their videotape alone can be purchased for \$100 U.S.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bud & Eunice Williams, Box 512 Benkelman, Nebraska, 69021-0512 (ph 308 423-5624; fax 308 423-5724; E-mail: stockman@bwtelcom.net).



"People thoroughly enjoy semi-truck pulls and drag races," say promoters.

Semi-Truck Pull Attracts Big Crowd

When Jack Pruitt and Melvin Dolan of Richmond, Va., wanted to boost attendance at an annual festival, they hit on the idea of organizing a semi-truck pull.

"We contacted local truckers and contractors and they brought their semi tractors," he says. "They were all just normal, everyday over-the-road trucks. We divided them up into classes for horsepower and type of transmission. And we had an open class in which anyone with a semi-truck could compete. We used the same pulling sled the farm tractors use."

He notes that in addition to semi-trucks, entrants have driven wreckers, concrete mixers and dump trucks. "We also had an antique class in the 180 to 200 hp engine size," he notes.

The truck pulls have been held for three years and crowds keep growing. "We added semi-truck drag races last year, too, and that drew a lot of people," he adds.

"People thoroughly enjoy it," he says. "We may not have been the first to do this, but no one else was doing it in this area when we started it. I've heard of a few other tractor pulls where semi-trucks have been added," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Melinda Gammon, Field Day of the Past, P.O. Box 29643, Richmond, Va. 23242-0643 (ph 804 741-8468; E-mail: Mgammon244@aol.com), or Melvin Dolan, Mega Contractors, Inc., P.O. Box 6387, Richmond, Va. 23230 (fax 804 784-3909).



Butch Arnold's kids asked him to build this mini baler for them.

Baler, Wagon Are "Just Like Dad's"

Ralph Arnold Jr., known as Butch to his friends, farms part time and collects and restores Farmall and International tractors with his partner and brother, Charlie.

As Butch and Charlie, Frostburg, Maryland, were working in their shop one evening, Butch's kids asked if the men could make them a mini baler like the Model no. 47 IH baler the Arnold brothers use on their farm. And while they were at it, the kids also wanted a bale wagon.

Some dads would have shrugged and said something like "maybe" or "someday." But not Butch.

Using 1/8-in. thick by 1/2-in. wide steel strap iron, he welded together a miniature baler frame nearly like the Model no. 47's frame. Then he carefully bent thin sheet metal onto the frame and riveted it in place. He added an axle made of 1/2-in. pipe and attached a couple of 6-in. lawn mower wheels. He made a telescoping power take off drive shaft, complete with a universal joint.

He added a swinging tongue up front so the kids could tow the baler behind their Farmall Super M pedal tractor. And on the back, he mounted a drawbar so they could



Baler is designed after the IH model 47 that the Arnold brothers use on their farm.

pull a wagon.

Of course, he finished it all off with red and white paint and IH decals.

"The baler doesn't work, and it's not exactly to scale, but I copied the Model no. 47 baler frame and sheet metal as closely as I could," he says.

To make the bale wagon, Arnold used angle iron for a frame and made the sides of 3/8-in. steel rod. The rear axle is a 1/2-in. steel shaft and the steerable front axle is made of bolts welded onto steel pipe.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Butch and Molly Arnold, 392 Sampson Rock Road, Frostburg, Maryland 21532 (ph 301 689-0558; E-mail: lovey@hereintown.net).