



## CASE STUDY



# BUILDING ON BEST PRACTICE AT FROME LIVESTOCK MARKET

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When Tom Rogers first joined Frome Livestock Market ten years ago as a fieldsman, helping with droving and the day-to-day running of market. Today, as an auctioneer, he's seen first-hand how safety practices have evolved, and believes MartSafe training has played a key role in that progress.

"The MartSafe training is always enjoyable," says Tom. "We completed some online learning beforehand, but nothing compares to doing the training in person. Being able to discuss real-life situations and learn alongside colleagues makes a huge difference."

One of the biggest changes Tom has noticed is the confidence the training has given staff, particularly those with less experience.

**"They're much more aware of where they should stand around livestock and understand just how unpredictable animals can be. They're also more confident speaking up and directing others to safe positions. Communication has improved enormously."**

That increased awareness has gone hand in hand with improvements to the market's infrastructure. A new shedding race now allows cattle to move through the market with minimal handling, reducing stress for both livestock and staff.



"Nobody has to physically handle the cattle anymore. We simply operate the gates, which creates a much smoother flow through the market."

The introduction of a clockwise livestock movement system has also improved organisation and efficiency.

"With the improvements to the facilities and the MartSafe training, we're getting the very best out of the infrastructure. The livestock are calmer, movements are smoother and everyone knows exactly what they're doing."

For Tom, however, one part of the training stood out above all else.

**The section on mental health and wellbeing was brilliant. It encouraged people to open up and reminded us that looking after each other is just as important as looking after ourselves."**

The conversations started during the training have continued back at the market, helping staff become more aware of colleagues' wellbeing and the pressures faced by the farming community.

"It's changed how we look out for one another and for the farmers who come through the market every week.

"It's given people the confidence to speak up, work together and create a safer environment for both people and livestock. That's made a real difference," adds Tom.



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## About MartSafe

MartSafe is an initiative launched by the Livestock Auctioneers Association Limited, designed to promote health and safety in the livestock market. The initiative supports LAA members by providing bespoke health and safety guidance and a training programme for all staff within the livestock market.

For more information, contact:

Zanna Dennis, Development Officer, Livestock Auctioneers Association Limited

T: 07930 115838

E: [zanna.dennis@laa.co.uk](mailto:zanna.dennis@laa.co.uk)