

Jody Holthaus, Agent
Meadowlark Extension District
Livestock and Natural Resources

Much Anticipated It's Finally Here!

About six months ago, I wrote about a new publication coming on Cattle Handling Facility designs. I guess the whole process got complicated, but it's finally here! Cattle handling can be a time-consuming and complicated task, which is why many cattle operations invest a substantial amount of money in cattle handling systems. A well-designed system should allow the operator to work more efficiently by saving time and reducing animal stress (both two legged and four legged). When looking at corral layouts, consider the available space, cost and ease of installation.

One low stress option is the "Bud Box". The Bud Box was designed by stockmanship instructor, Bud Williams and is essentially a rectangular pen in which the alleyway leading to the chute is placed at a right angle at the point of entry into the box. This design is very simple and easy to design. The effectiveness of this design and the manner in which cattle flow into the alley is a result of several basic principles of cattle behavior and movement: 1) Cattle want to move past the handler 2) cattle want to be back with other cattle 3) cattle want to go back the way they came in.

This new publication "Designing a Bud Box for Cattle Handling" is now available at the Extension office or you can look it up online at the KSRE bookstore, MF 3349.

The publication has many drawings of the different configurations, plus all the space requirements for the different classes of cattle. There are even drawings for making your cattle tub part of the system.

I am so happy we have this resource! Be sure to check it out.