

Fenceline

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Livestock-Natural Resources

### Cattle Working Facilities

There's a lot of talk about working cattle designs using either Temple Grandin's plan or Bud William's Bud Box. There are quite a few YouTube videos on the subject.

Whatever system or design you go with, using the cattle's natural behavior will be beneficial. These are the five traits to keep in mind. Cattle like to go back through which they came. If you gather them into an alley on the north end that is where they will likely want to escape to. If you are in the pen putting pressure on them, then they will want to go around you. This is part of their predator instinct. They want to be able to see you, so no sneaking behind fence posts. They are herding animals, so they will go with other cattle. The last trait, they can only process one main thought at a time.

The Bud box, is a design with an open box theory. Temple Grandin's designs are usually curved and closed. Temple Grandin is a renowned Animal Behaviorist, she has made designs for most of the packing plants and admits that her designs are "idiot proof". They are usually more expensive and take more land but with less walking for the human worker.

Bud William's Bud box, is cheaper to build, takes less land, requires a better understanding by the operator and requires more walking by the humans.

Stockmanship is more important than whatever design you have. As our Ag Engineer Joe Harner says, "Working cattle is different than a rodeo—it is not a timed event". Which he is saying, take the time required to use the cattle's natural behavior.

The goals for working cattle should be to keep the people safe with less stress, keep the animals under control, keep them safe with less stress. Be efficient, in your walking distances, fence passes-so you can get away from cattle if need be and keep the chute conveniently located.

I'm looking forward to a new publication on working facilities. It should be available in 2017. Let me know if you'd like a copy.