Table 1. Recommended holding pen area per animal.

Time in holding pen	Animal weight, lb		
	< 600	600–1,200	> 1,200 (and cow-calf pairs)
Worked immediately	14 ft²	17 ft²	20 ft²
Held overnight	45 ft²	50 ft²	60 ft²

Adapted from R. Borg et al. 2002. CAN-723. Alberta Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Table 2. Recommended holding pen area and dimensions to provide 20 ft² per animal.

Holding pen size	Number of animals			
	30	40	50	60
Pen area	600 ft²	800 ft²	1000 ft²	1200 ft²
Example dimensions	12′ x 50′	12′ x 70′	12′ x 85′	12′ x 100′
	20′ x 30′	20′ x 40′	20′ x 50′	20′ x 60′

Table 3. Loading chute dimensions for cattle receiving and shipping.

Loading chute aspect	Dimensions
Width	26 to 30 in
Length (minimum)	12 ft
Rise	3.5 in/ft
Ramp height	
Stock trailer	15 in
Pickup truck	28 in
Stock truck	40 in
Tractor-trailer	48 in
Double-deck trailer	100 in

Adapted from Iowa State University. 1987. Midwest Service Plan. Beef Housing and Equipment Handbook. MWP S-6. Iowa State Univ. Ames, IA.

Table 4. Size and space requirements for cattle handling facilities.

Component	Size/space item	Dimensions by cattle weight		
		< 600 lb	600–1,200 lb	> 1,200 lb
Holding pen	Space per head, ft²	14	17	20
	Pen fence height, in	60	60	60
	Post spacing, ft	8	8	8
	Post depth in ground, in	30	30	30
Crowding pen	Space per head, ft²	6	10	12
	Post spacing, ft	4–6	4–6	4–6
	Solid wall height, in	45	50	50–60
Working chute, straight sides	Width, in	18	22	28
	Length, minimum ft	20	20	20
Working chute, sloped sides	Width at 4-ft height, in	20	24	28
	Width inside at bottom, in	15	16	18
	Minimum length, ft	20	20	20
Working chute fence	Post spacing, ft	7	7	7
	Post depth in ground, in	36–48	36–48	36–48
	Solid wall height, in	54–60	54–60	60
	Top rail height for gentle cattle, in	54–60	60	60
	Top rail height for aggressive cattle, in	60–72	60–72	60–72
Holding/squeeze chute	Height, in	45	50	50
	Straight sides width, in	18	22	28
	V-shaped sides width at bottom, in	6–8	8–12	14–16
	Length including head gate, ft	5	5–8	5–8
Loading chute	Width, in	26	26	26–30
	Minimum length, ft	12	12	12
	Maximum rise, in/ft	3.5	3.5	3.5
	Spacing of 1-in x 2-in cleats, in	8	8	8
	Trailer ramp height	15	15	15
	Pickup truck ramp height	28	28	28
	Large truck ramp height	40	40	40
	Tractor-trailer ramp height	48	48	48
	Double-deck trailer ramp height	100	100	100

Adapted from J. R. Bicudo et al. 2002.Cattle Handling Facilities: Planning, Components, & Layouts. Univ. KY, Coop. Ext. Serv., Lexington, KY.