

**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 ft ² | 17 ft ² | 20 ft ² |
| Held overnight | 45 ft ² | 50 ft ² | 60 ft ² |

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 ft ² | 800 ft ² | 1000 ft ² | 1200 ft ² |
| Example dimensions | 12' x 50' 20' x 30' | 12' x 70' 20' x 40' | 12' x 85' 20' x 50' | 12' x 100' 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 5-6. 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, ft ² | 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, ft ² | 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.