

**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'	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 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.