



PLANNING YOUR CATTLE SYSTEM



ABOUT US



At Seven Peaks Fence and Barn, we're **helping you build the property you've always dreamed of**. You can count on us to deliver durable fencing products. Manufactured in Arizona and Texas, we proudly serve horse and livestock owners from Hawaii to Florida.

We're a **family business**, founded and operated by three brothers—Jeff, Trevor, and Matt Chandler—who grew up with a love for the Western lifestyle and a deep connection to the horse and livestock world. Almost 10 years ago, we turned that passion into crafting fencing solutions that are affordable and durable.

Our main focus has always been outstanding customer service. Need help designing your cattle system? Building out your roping arena? Or just getting started with pasture fencing? We're here to help. **Our goal is to make the process easy, stress-free, and tailored for each of you.**

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Getting Started with a Cattle Handling System

A **cattle handling system** is essential for growing herds. It keeps you and your livestock safer, simplifies everyday tasks, and reduces stress for **healthier, more productive cattle**.

As you start planning out your operation, this workbook will guide you through what to look for, how to prepare your site, and what questions to ask before making your decision.





Understanding Your Operation

First things first: Let's evaluate your current setup and goals. This will help ensure you get what you need for today while planning for growth tomorrow.

Herd Size

- **Current Herd Size:** How many cattle are you handling now?
- **Future Growth:** Are you planning to grow your herd in the next few years?

Primary Tasks

What will your system be used for most often?

- Routine tasks like vaccinations, sorting, or tagging
- Handling during calving season
- Loading cattle for transport

Define Your Workflow

Walk through a typical day or task if you currently have a system.

- Where do cattle enter and exit?
- How do they move through your current setup?
- Where are the bottlenecks or areas of stress for you and your livestock?

Property Constraints

We'll dive into this a bit more, but you'll need to consider space requirements and accessibility.



OPERATION WORKSHEET

Herd Details

Jot down the basics

- Current Size: _____
- Planned Size in 1-3 years: _____

Planned Uses for Your System

Vaccinations Loading Other: _____
Sorting Calving _____

Site Dimensions

- Available Space: _____
- Accessibility Challenges _____

Notes:

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Step 2

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SYSTEM

Durability and Material Considerations

Once you've assessed your current setup and goals, the next step is identifying the system that will meet your needs today and grow with you over time.

Durability and quality are essential to making the most of your investment.

Heavy-Duty Steel: A Rancher's Best Friend

- **Designed for Daily Use:** A system built from heavy-duty steel can handle the pressures of working cattle without breaking down.
- **Weather Resistance:** Our raw steel panels develop a rustic, weathered look over time. This surface rust doesn't compromise durability—instead, it adds character and blends naturally into your property's environment.





Key Features to Look For

- **Heavy-Duty Steel Construction:** Built to last through regular use and tough conditions.
- **Weld Quality:** Clean, precise welds ensure strength and reliability, even under pressure.
- **Secure Connections:** Gates and panels that lock firmly reduce wear and extend the system's lifespan.

Embracing Maintenance

While raw steel requires minimal upkeep, a quick inspection every now and then can ensure everything stays in top shape:

- Check for excessive wear on welds or hinges in high-use areas.
- Keep gate hinges lubricated for smooth operation.

ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF A CATTLE SYSTEM

Every cattle handling system is made up of essential parts, and understanding their function will help you choose a system that works for you today and grows with your herd. A little planning up front can save time and headaches down the road.

Core Elements

- **Alleyways:** Guide cattle to the chute safely and efficiently
- **Catch Pen(s):** Space to hold your herd before you separate them or move them into an alley.
- **Crowding Tub:** Create a controlled space to move cattle into alleyways.
 - **Sweep:** We utilize a 90° sweep rather than a rectangle bud box, utilizing a more natural, low-stress cattle handling method.
- **Sorting Pens:** Useful to separate cattle by size, health, or task.
- **Gates:** Provide flexibility to customize your setup and ensure safe handling of your herd even if you're working alone.



Add-Ons to Consider

While not included in basic kits, add-ons enhance your system's functionality. You'll choose your add-ons based on proposed need.

- **Head Gates:** A simpler, cost-effective option for restraining cattle during minor tasks. Ideal for smaller operations handling fewer animals simultaneously.
- **Loading Ramp:** Do you routinely ship your cattle? A loading ramp makes it nearly effortless to get your cattle onto the haulers.
- **Palpation Cage:** From pregnancy checks to AI, a palpation cage can help you run your breeding program safer and more efficiently.
- **Scales:** Weigh your cattle to monitor growth and health.
- **Slide Gates:** Alley gates attach to the alley frames and help you separate cattle that are already in the alley and prevent them from backing out.
- **Squeeze Chutes:** Keep cattle secure during routine tasks like vaccinations or tagging, regardless of herd size, especially when working alone or performing medical tasks. (Specialty chutes are available for longhorns...because...**long** horns 🐮)

ADD-ON	IMPORTANCE (1-5)	WHY IT'S NEEDED
Squeeze Chute		Vaccines, Tagging
Head Gate		Quick restraint
Scales		Tracking Weight
Palpation Cage		Pregnancy & Vet Checks
Loading Ramp		Easy Loading on Haulers
Slide Gates		Separate Cattle in Alley

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Step 3

UNDERSTANDING THE KITS

Most **cattle handling systems** are sold as kits, giving you everything you need in one package. Here at **Seven Peaks**, we've put together four pre-configured kits to make it easy for you to match the right size to your herd.

Plus, when you choose a kit, you'll enjoy a built-in discount compared to customizing from scratch.

Our kits are designed to grow with your herd, starting with an **8-10 head system** and going all the way up to **70-80 head**.

Each kit comes with our Heavy-Duty panels, available in 5-foot or 6-foot heavy duty options, so you know you're getting strength and durability you can count on.





Here at Seven Peaks, all of our cattle systems are built with **durable heavy-duty panels**. To ensure the best fit for your operation, we offer two height options.

5-Foot Panels

- Perfect for operations where cattle are **handled frequently** or tend to be **more docile**.

6-Foot Panels

- For **larger breeds** or herds that **aren't handled frequently**, a 6-foot rail system is the way to go.

Why Choose Heavy-Duty Panels?

No matter which height you choose, both systems are constructed from our signature 14 gauge, heavy-duty steel for strength and durability.

Whether you're working with 5-foot or 6-foot panels, you can count on a system that stands up to the demands of daily cattle management.



90° Sweep

Designed for efficient and low-stress cattle handling, our 30'x10' sweep and alley system takes the place of a traditional Bud Box. With sturdy sweep and alley frames, this sweep is included in all of our kits.

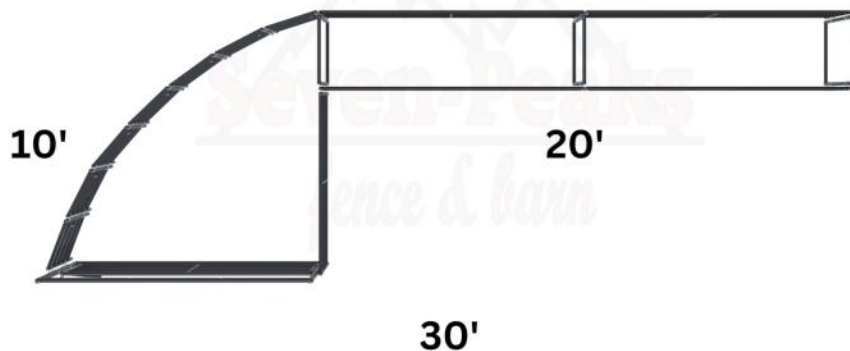
The rounded design will guide your cattle smoothly and safely, making routine loading and sorting easier for both you and your herd.

Size:

- Overall Footprint- 30'x10'

Gates

- Gate: - 1 - 10' Ft HD Bow Gate





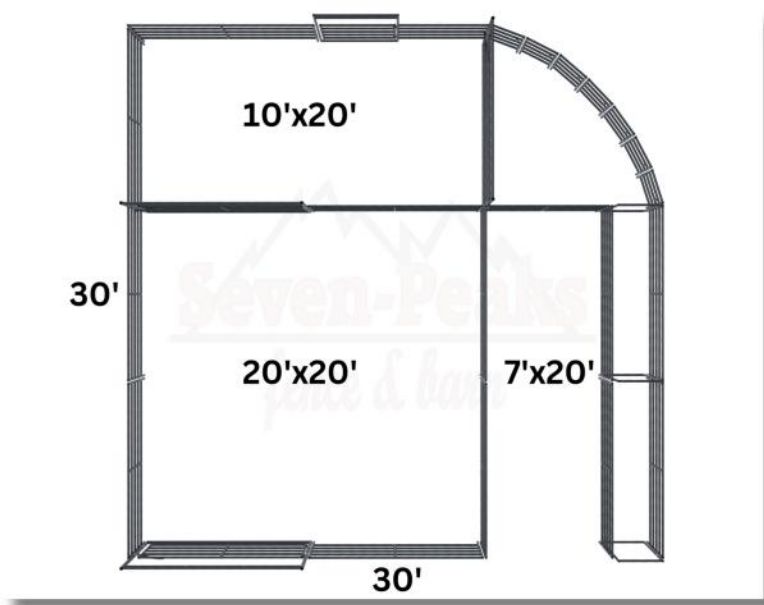
The foundation of all of our kits, our 8-10 head cattle handling system is ideal for your first setup, with plenty of room for growth.

Size:

- **Overall Footprint** - 30'x30'
- **Sorting Pen** - 10'x20'
- **Holding Pen** - 20'x20'
- **All Kits Include** - 90 degree sweep and 20' alley with 3 Alley Frames

Gates

- **Bow Gates** - 3 - 10' Ft HD Bow Gates
- **Panel/Gate Combo** - 1 - 10' Ft HD Panel/Gate Combo





25-30 Head

Adding on to our base system, you'll get **double your footprint without doubling the price.** Enjoy 2 holding pens and a sorting pen that is over twice the length of our base system.

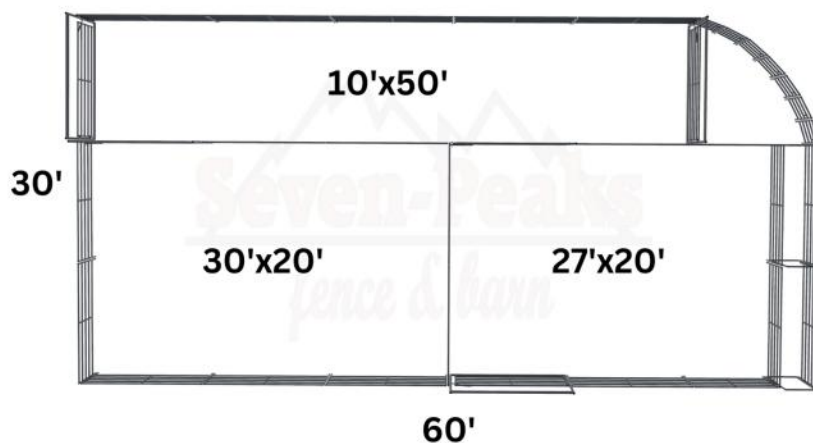
Size:

- Overall Footprint - 30'x60'
- Sorting Pen - 10'x50'
- Holding Pen - 20'x30'
- Holding Pen - 20'x27'

Gates

- Bow Gates - 5 - 10' Ft HD Bow Gates

All Kits Include: 90 degree sweep and 20' alley with 3 Alley Frames





Building on the 25-30 head system, this kit nearly doubles your footprint again, **adding two additional pens behind the sorting pen**. An ideal choice for mid-sized herds looking for more flexibility.

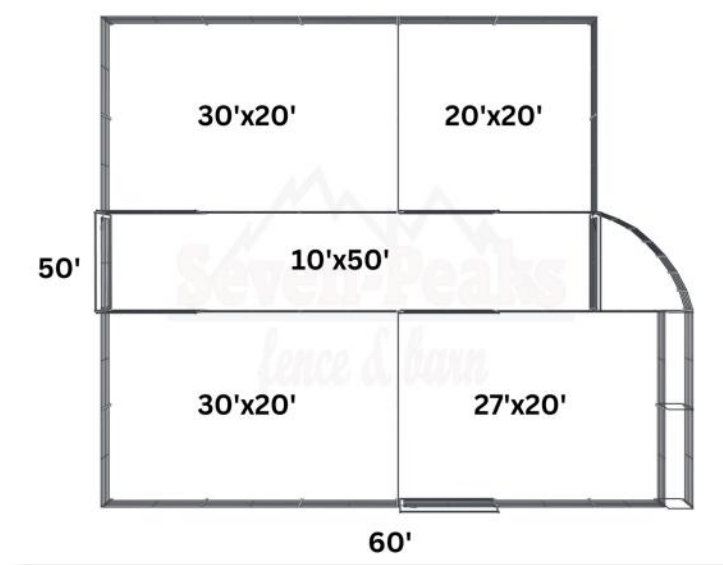
Size:

- Overall Footprint - 60'x50'
- Sorting Pen - 10'x50'
- Holding Pen - 20'x20'
- Holding Pen - 20'x27'
- Holding Pen - 2 - 20'x30'

Gates

- Bow Gates - 7 - 10' Ft HD Bow Gates

All Kits Include: 90 degree sweep and 20' alley with 3 Alley Frames



70-80 Head

Our **largest kit** offers six holding pens, adding 2 more 30x20 pens and extending the sorting pen to 80'. Perfect for **managing larger herds or expanding operations** without sacrificing organization.

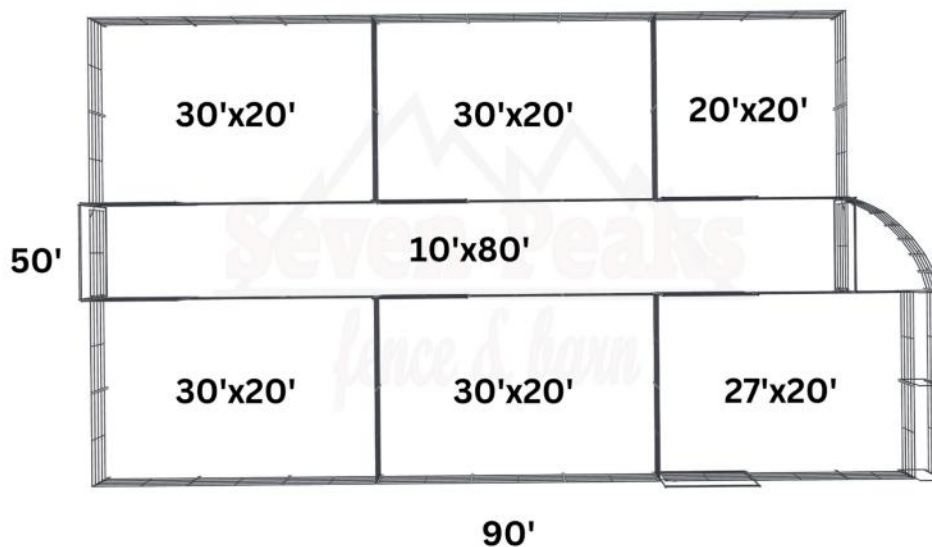
Size:

- Overall Footprint- 90'x50'
- Sorting Pen- 10'x80'
- Holding Pen - 20'x20'
- Holding Pen - 20'x27'
- Holding Pen - 4 - 20'x30'

Gates

- Bow Gates - 9 - 10' Ft HD Bow Gates

All Kits Include: 90 degree sweep and 20' alley with 3 Alley Frames



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Step 4 PREPARING YOUR SITE

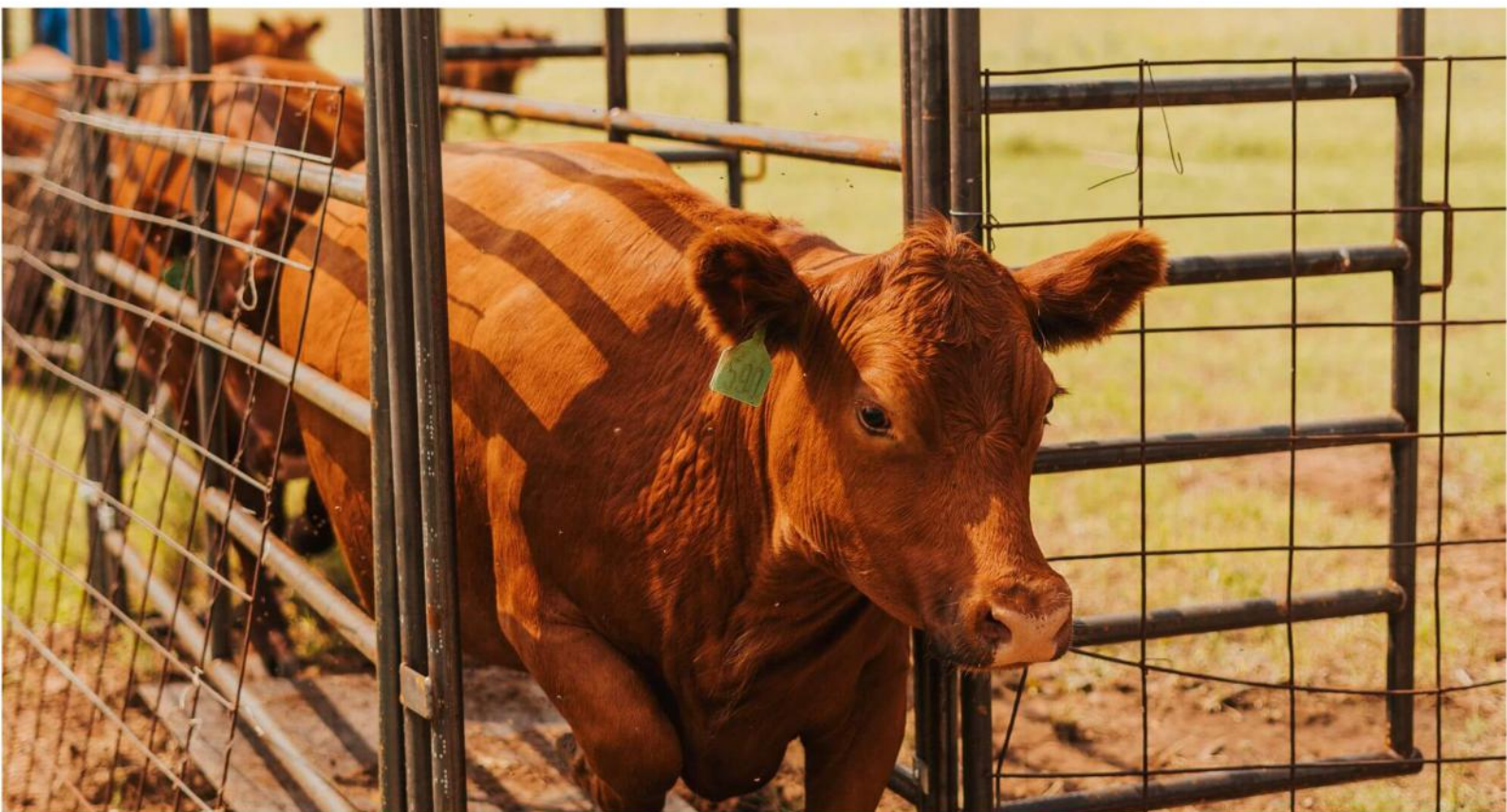
Before installing your cattle handling system, proper site preparation ensures everything runs smoothly and lasts longer. A little planning up front can save time and headaches down the road.

Choosing the Right Location

- **Accessibility:** Ensure the system is easy to reach for both you and your cattle. Consider how trailers, equipment, and people will move around the site.

NOTE: While direct access to a road can be convenient, it may also make your property more vulnerable to cattle theft. Be mindful of security when selecting a location. For tips on preventing cattle theft, check out this resource from the [Texas Department of Agriculture](#).

- **Central Placement:** Place the system in a central location to minimize travel time across your property.
- **Level Ground:** Uneven ground can make installation and operation more challenging.
- **Natural Terrain:** Avoid areas prone to flooding or uneven ground.





LOCATION PLANNING WORKSHEET

Layout

What areas of your property are accessible for cattle and equipment?

- ☐ Near a road
- ☐ Adjacent to existing pens
- ☐ Other: _____

Is the ground level?

Is the ground level?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (If no, what steps are needed to level it?): _____

Drainage

What areas of your property are accessible for cattle and equipment?

- ☐ Near a road
- ☐ Adjacent to existing pens
- ☐ Other: _____

SKETCH YOUR PROPOSED SITE

A large rectangular area filled with a uniform grid of small dots, intended for sketching a proposed site. The grid consists of 30 columns and 40 rows of dots, providing a structured space for drawing and planning.

Site Prep Required

- **Clearing:** Do you have any stumps, trees, or significant rocks that need to be removed before you can install your system?
- **Level the Site:** What will you need to level? Regardless of your fencing material, installation will be substantially easier if you begin with level ground.
- **Improve Drainage:** Adding a slight slope or using gravel can help you avoid mud and standing water during rainy seasons.

Pro Tip: While it is an added expense, having a local contractor level and prep your site can be a worthy investment if your desired location is prone to mud or drainage issues.

Safe and Secure Surfaces

The surface beneath your cattle handling system plays a key role in ensuring safety and reducing stress. Choosing the right material helps minimize slips and falls, keeping your livestock calmer and healthier.

- **Drainage is Key:** Take a look at your proposed site during a rain storm. Note any standing water concerns that might need to be addressed prior to installation.
- **Gravel and Packed Dirt:** Both are cost-effective and practical. Gravel offers the added benefit of better drainage to prevent mud buildup if your property is prone to standing water.
- **Be Cautious with Concrete:** While durable and easy to clean, concrete can become slippery when wet. Adding grooves or texture can improve traction and make it a safer option.



Planning for Workflow

- **Cattle Movement:** Design the layout to support natural cattle flow, minimizing stress during handling.
- **Holding Pens:** Allocate space for cattle waiting to enter the system or being sorted. Consider whether the system will include sufficient space or will you need to add on an additional holding area?
- **Exit Strategy:** Along with ensuring there's sufficient space for cattle leaving the system, ensure there are exit routes for you and the other handlers to get out quickly when needed.

Pro Tip: Heavy-duty steel pipes are easily climbed when you need to get out of the way quickly and you can also add small gates where needed.

Integrating With Existing Infrastructure

- **Fencing:** It seems obvious, but you'll need to ensure that your cattle are in a secure pasture as they approach your handling system.
- **Future Expansion:** Leave space to grow or add components as your needs evolve. Our kits are built to grow with your herd.

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Step 5

ASSEMBLY & USE CONSIDERATIONS

When choosing a cattle handling system, ease of assembly and day-to-day usability are just as important as durability. A system that's simple to set up and operate can save you time and frustration, especially for smaller operations or first-time users.

Why DIY-Friendly Systems Matter

- **Save Time & Money:** Systems designed for easy assembly reduce the need for professional installers or specialized tools.
- **Flexibility:** Modular designs allow you to expand or reconfigure your setup as your needs and your herd evolve.
- **Confidence:** Clear instructions and straightforward assembly mean you can get started quickly and with fewer headaches.





Key Features to Look For

- **Usability for Day-to-Day Use:** Features like slam latches on chutes and smart gate placement make everything easier to operate, especially when working alone.
- **Clear Cattle Flow:** Systems designed with natural cattle movement in mind make handling tasks safer and more efficient.

Embracing Maintenance

While raw steel requires minimal upkeep, a quick inspection every now and then can ensure everything stays in top shape:

- Check for excessive wear on welds or hinges in high-use areas.
- Keep gate hinges lubricated for smooth operation.

Preparing for Your Cattle System

LOCATION

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proper Drainage | <input type="checkbox"/> Easy Access for Tractor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly Level | <input type="checkbox"/> Space for Future Growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Rocks/Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Follows Theft-Prevention Best Practices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close to Pasture | |

FOOTING

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traction | <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Suitability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dust Control | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety/Comfort |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage | <input type="checkbox"/> Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Durability | <input type="checkbox"/> Eco-Friendly |

SIZE

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Size of Herd | <input type="checkbox"/> Frequency of Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Types of Use | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate Space | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Future Expansion? | |

SAFETY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal Gaps | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Exit for Handlers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Sharp Edges | <input type="checkbox"/> Secure Latches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy-Duty Panels | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Durable Long-Term | |



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