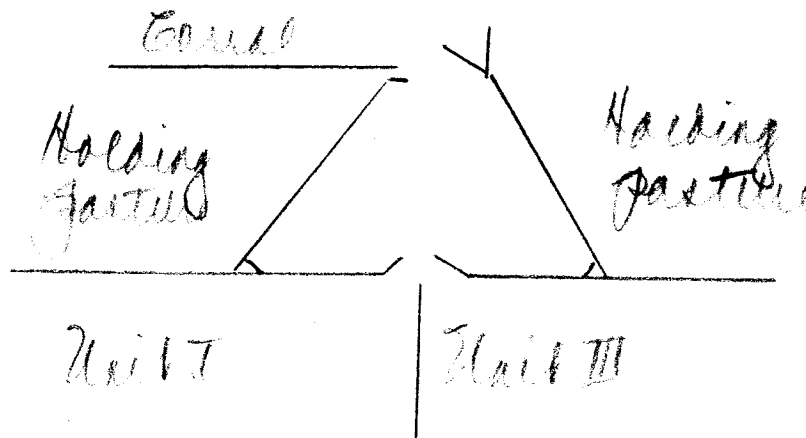


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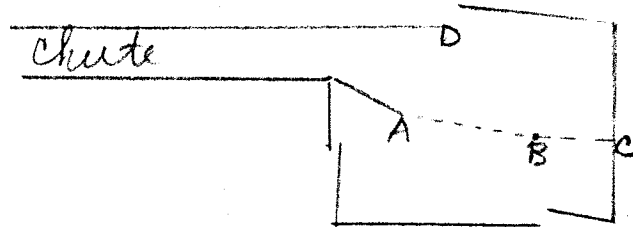
RR-CAL, RESEARCH PROGRAM, Harvey Valley

During a recent trip to the Lassen I happened to be on hand when the cattle were being weighed out of the Harvey Valley allotment. This was the second time that I have taken part in the weighing and it was also the second time that the new scale-corral installation was used. Even though this installation represents a considerable outlay of finances it is still inadequate. After the weighing-in last spring Ranger Lessel and I went over the entire installation together, pointing out the inadequacies and agreeing on changes for improvements. None of these changes was made during the summer, except for one or two make-shift substitutes which worsened the situations they were supposed to remedy. This situation is no longer concerned only with ease of manipulating and handling of cattle, there are safety features which can no longer be ignored. Somehow we have got to find money and means of making a few changes before further cattle weighing is done. Following are some of the important items which need attention.

1. The approach to the corral from the south is a narrow, wire-fenced lane. Last spring the fencing was barbed wire, now it is woven wire. It is still nearly impossible to corral cattle thru this lane and calves are jammed unmercifully against the wire as the animals crowd along. Instead of being long and lane-like, this approach should be A-shaped with facilities for closing it completely and with strong substantial gates once animals have entered the "A". The fence should be heavy woven-wire supported by wooden posts with at least two poles on the inside and one on top. The following sketch illustrates the arrangement we should have.



2. Next, the crowding pen at the head end of the chute, as constructed it is too large, thus requiring the services of two men working on foot. This is extremely hard work and as you can appreciate is a hazardous activity with rather wild range cattle involved. Re-designed as suggested sometime ago the wrangling could be done easily and quickly by one man on horseback. This would lighten the work and remove the hazard. The following sketch illustrates how the crowding pen is now and how it should be changed. Solid lines indicate present construction, dotted



lines needed additional construction. The changes involve one 8-foot section of new corral fence, line A-B and a new gate, line B-C. As a substitute this fall a gate A-D was installed but this reduced the crowding pen too much and increased the work hazard. One of the hinges turned over soon after the gate was put into use and thereafter it had to be carried back and forth. I personally suffered several bruises while handling this gate and observed, first hand, the inadequacies of the arrangement.

3. As you know, the floor of the chute and the approach apron are of concrete. The apron is steep and without cleats. Nearly every animal traversing this apron falls on it. Some method of securing a few horizontal cleats on this slick, steep surface should be worked out.

4. The head gate on the chute is a heavy, wooden guillotine operated with ropes and three pulleys. The weight of this gate is greater than one man can lift even with the pulleys, so a 5-gallon bucket of sand has been attached to the rope on each side. To close the guillotine someone has to lift about a 100 pounds of sand and to open it considerable pull on one of the ropes is required. The required lifting is a hazard in itself but nothing compared to the danger of a fatal injury occurring if one of those buckets dropped or if someone lifted a bucket on one side of the chute without the knowledge of a worker on the other side. There is also danger of injuring cattle as this gate frequently comes down on the backs of animals entering the chute. This guillotine has got to be removed. A workable wooden gate of the sliding type on rollers that can be operated easily by a man on the ground from the south side of the chute is desired.

5. The chute itself lacks any means of confining an animal adequately for identification. Each animal must be identified by number before entering the scale and to do this a sliding door should be installed one cow length from the scale to form a stall. A make-shift bar arrangement now exists which is hazardous to workers and injurious to the legs of animals. A bar placed higher in the chute would be less injurious but would be equally hazardous to operators. With the present arrangement a good deal of time is lost due to the animals moving back and forth in the chute and frequently a chute full of cattle will go thru to the scale because there is no way to stop them.

6. Finally, the gates on the scale are the swinging type and definitely not suitable in such a location. Both these should be replaced with sliding wooden doors that can be operated by a man on the ground from the south side of the scale. Ranger Lessel suggested metal semi-revolving doors similar to the entry door on the metal squeeze chute for this purpose but I think these are less desirable than the wooden sliding doors. Doors in these positions must be capable of rapid manipulation from the side to stop charging animals. I believe they would jump the semi-revolving type doors.

I have written at too great length here and I regret the necessity of writing at all. I don't mean to be critical of Ranger Lessel or anyone else on the Lassen. They have all worked hard and cooperated wholeheartedly. I know, too, that the installations cost a great deal of money but I am certain that the small additional amount needed to make these necessary modifications can be made available. If the desired changes are not understood, I would be glad to go on the ground again and point out the various items covered here. I hope these changes can be made before another season rolls around.

cc: SRC

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