**Facilities & Equipment**

* Pens should be equipped with a man-gate or other means of entry/exit.
* Catwalks along chutes and alleys eliminate the need for working in the alley.
* Walking or working surfaces should be free of tripping and slipping hazards for both animals and workers. Eliminate protrusions and sharp corners.
* Lighting in handling and housing facilities should be even and diffused. Bright spots mixed with shadows will often cause cattle to balk or spook.
* Guard the moving parts of a hydraulically operated squeeze chute and tilt table. Ensure operators are comfortable and demonstrate competency in the use of these devices.
* Loading ramps and handling chutes ideally should have solid side-walls to prevent animals from seeing outside distractions with their wide-angle vision. Blocking vision will also help stop escape attempts. Sight reduction also lowers stress levels, having a calming effect on the animal.
* Cattle have a tendency to move from a dimly lit area to a more brightly lit area, provided the light does not hit them directly in the eyes. A spotlight directed on the ramp will often help keep the animals moving.
* Loud, abrupt noises, such as the sound of banging metal can cause distress in livestock. You may wish to install rubber bumpers on gates and squeeze chutes to reduce noises.
* The sense of smell is extremely important to animals, especially between females and newborns. Often animals react to odors humans do not detect.
* Handling facilities should be painted in one color only, since livestock are likely to balk at a sudden change in color or texture.
* All livestock tend to resist movement over a drain, grate, hose, puddle, shadow or any change in flooring texture or surface minimizing this will assist in livestock flow…

**Chute**

* The entrance should have smooth sliding restraining tailboards to keep the animals in place.
* All materials used in constructing the chute should have a smooth finish to avoid injury to stock or the operator.
* A freestanding squeeze will enable animals to be treated on either flank.
* At least one side of the squeeze should be designed to facilitate dismantling.
* Wear gloves when working around these facilities
* When handling cattle on foot appropriate approved safety footwear is required
* Avoid reaching into pinch points, moving gates or areas when you could be crushed by the livestock.
* Use proper locking or stoppages on all crowding pens, squeezes, and chutes.

**Collecting Pen**

* Should be large enough to hold the average number of animals per group normally kept on the ranch.
* Use caution when moving within the collecting pen. Always have an out.

**Squeeze**

“Pressure is calming to the nervous system.”—Dr. Temple Grandin.

* A squeeze will allow most straightforward tasks to be carried out in safety, including oral treatments and work from the rear end of an animal, (but not belly work or foot trimming).
* A squeeze will have a locking front gate and yoke (ideally self-locking) to allow the animal's head to be firmly held.
* Additional head bars will prevent the animal tossing its head up and injuring people.
* A squeeze should be secured to the ground or, if mobile, to a vehicle.
* It should be positioned to allow you to work safely around it, without the risk of contact with other animals and have good natural or artificial lighting.
* Gates etc. should open smoothly with a minimum of effort and noise. Regular maintenance will help.
* A squeeze should have a slip-resistant floor, made of sound hardwood bolted into place (nails are not suitable), a metal chequer plate or with a rubber mat over the base.
* To prevent injuries to inseminators, use a squeeze, or some other means of keeping the animal tightly restrained in an area small enough to prevent movement during insemination.
* A good headgate will hold the animals firmly. This should be adjustable and be easily operated both to hold and release animals.
* The most common type of headgate has double gates meeting in the centre, with a strong quick release device. Ensure the operator of the headgate knows how to use it effectively.
* Avoid standing in front of a head gate
* To afford better cattle movement remove people from the flight zone into which you are asking the animal to move.
* Consider building a partition at the headgate for the “catcher” to stand behind eliminating him from the view of the oncoming cattle.

**Crowding pen**

* Leads from the collecting pen to the race and should be funnel shaped.
* If the tunnel is V-shaped, two animals often try to enter together and block the mouth of the race.
* If possible keep one side of the funnel straight and the other side running at an angle of 25 to 30 degrees. From the mouth of the race, the funnel should taper out to about 3.5 m (11 ft) in width. Never enter the crowding pen; it is designed to be worked from the outside. Ensure the backstops are in good working order.