

Column Name- The Heartland Minute

By: Lindsay Shorter

K-State Research and Extension Greenwood County

Agriculture Extension Agent

*“A Bud Box for Cattle Handling- Simple &Efficient”*

The Greenwood County Extension office recently held their Summer Cattle Health Workshop. Participants learned about different health concerns for their cattle along with a large focus on cattle handling. A large portion of the program was focusing on utilizing a Bud Box System. Dr. A.J. Tarp hoff, K-State Extension Veterinarian shared with participants how simply and efficiently a Bud Box System can be utilized to work cattle.

Cattle handling can be a time-consuming and complicated task, which is why many cattle operations invest a substantial amount of money in cattle handling systems. A well-designed system should allow the operator to work more efficiently by saving time and reducing animal and handler stress. When looking at corral layouts, operators should consider available space, cost, and ease of installation.

The Bud Box was designed by stockmanship instructor Bud Williams and is essentially a rectangular pen in which the alleyway leading to the chute is placed at a right angle at the point of entry into the box. This type of facility is simple in design and highly effective. Cattle are brought into the box and the position of the handler along the opposite side of the box stimulates cattle to move past the handler and into the alleyway. The gate that is closed behind the cattle as they are moved past the alley forms the box. The handler then takes a position along the fence adjacent to the alley. From here the handler applies pressure to the cattle by moving forward along the fence toward the closed end of the box, stimulating the cattle to move past the handler and into the alleyway.

The effectiveness of this design and the manner in which cattle flow into the alley is a result of several basic principles of cattle behavior and movement: 1) Cattle want to move past the handler; 2) cattle want to be with other cattle (herd instinct), and 3) cattle want to go back the way they came in. It should also be noted that this design should not be used as a holding pen and only as many cattle that will fit down the alley to the chute should be brought into the Bud Box at one time. The Bud Box requires a basic understanding of cattle handling principles and may require additional training for inexperienced individuals. As with any cattle working facility, the cattlehandling skills and attitude of the handler influence the success of the facility

K-State Research and Extension has prepared a publication with details and illustrations on designing your own Bud Box System, and can be picked up from the Greenwood County Extension office.

For more information regarding Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H Youth Development, or K-State Research and Extension call the office at 620-583-7455, email me, Lindsay Shorter, at [lindsayshorter@ksu.edu](mailto:lindsayshorter@ksu.edu), or stop by the office which is located inside the courthouse. Be sure to follow K-State Research and Extension- Greenwood County on Facebook for the most up-to-date information on Extension education programs and the Greenwood County 4-H program.