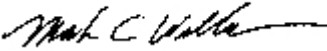




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1) Purpose

- a. This document outlines the standard operating procedures for housing cattle in the stall barn. The stall barn is designed for short-term experiments (e.g., a few days to a few weeks) that involve intensive measurements (e.g., frequent collection of blood, digesta samples, excreta samples) on cattle weighing approximately 300 to 1,000 lb. Specific experiments may warrant modifications to the general procedures described below.

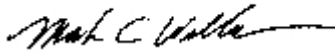
2) Preparing the barn: Before cattle are brought to the barn, the facilities and water should be checked.

- a. Inspect water bowls for any damage or debris.
- b. Check to ensure that main water valve is closed.
- c. Remove drain plugs from the bottom of the water bowls.
- d. Open valves to the water supply to the stalls and to the washout hose.
- e. Close the drain valve in the southwest corner of the lab.
- f. Connect the main water supply at the north end of the storage section. Open the main valve.
- g. Allow water to run through the water bowls in the stalls for 1 minute to flush out stale water and debris.
- h. Close the main water valve.
- i. Reinstall drain plugs in the water bowls.
- j. Turn the main valve on again and inspect water bowls for leaks.
- k. Wash out any accumulated dirt or debris from the floor, pens, and feed buckets.
- l. Move the adjustable head gate to the narrowest position.
- m. Latch the front head gate, and pin the chain down securely. If the chain is not pinned down, animals may be able to lick the chain off the hook and escape.
- n. Hang the scales from the stalls and plug them into an electrical outlet.
- o. Hang the feeder buckets from the scales, and tare the scales.
- p. Arrange the rear stall gates so that all gates are open to the south.
- q. Open the small side roll-up doors, and close the main overhead door.
- r. Arrange portable panels to funnel cattle into the roll-up door openings.
- s. Double check corral gates to ensure that they are closed.

3) Loading Cattle into the stalls:

- a. Bring cattle up to the holding area south of the stall barn.
- b. Select the animal that will be in the first stall on one side.
- c. Maneuver this animal to the panel funnel and use the panels to maneuver the animal up the stall lane.



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- d. When the animal is in the first stall, close the gate behind it.
- e. Load the second animal in a similar manner, and proceed until all animals are loaded.
- f. If desired, close the rear stall gates behind the animals such that the stalls are approximately 4.5 feet long rather than 7 feet.

4) Maintaining Cattle in the Stalls:

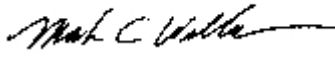
- a. Adjust the head gate post as needed. Animals should be able to easily get their head through the gate but should not be able to get their shoulders through.
- b. Observe the cattle for 1 hour following loading into the stalls.
- c. Observe the cattle twice daily while they are in the stalls.
- d. Check each water bowl twice daily for water level, leaks, or damage.
- e. Feed animals at least once daily while they are in the stalls.
- f. Wash manure out from under the cattle once daily. Open all three doors and wash from north to the south (see instructions below for washout hose pump).

5) Releasing Cattle from Stalls:

- a. Unplug scales.
- b. Remove feeder buckets and scales from the stall.
- c. Clear the center aisle of any debris. Shut the doors to the lab area. Open the center overhead door in the barn. Double check gates in the corral to be sure they are closed.
- d. If necessary, remove water bowls to allow cattle to exit the stall. Turn off the water supply. Unscrew the stainless steel hose from the water bowl. Remove wing nuts from the rear of the water bowl, and pull the water bowl out of the stall. Take care to avoid being injured by cattle during this process. If cattle are sufficiently small, leave the water bowl in place, and let them walk by it.
- e. Open the front head gate, and allow cattle to exit the barn into the south alley.

6) Closing Down the Barn when the Trial is Done:

- a. Wash all manure and debris from the barn floor and stalls.
- b. Return all equipment (hose, shovels, appliances, etc.) to its storage location.
- c. Return scales and power adapters to their storage box.
- d. Neatly stack feeder buckets in the lab. Stack upside down so they do not get filled with dirt.
- e. Reinstall water bowls, connect stainless steel hoses, and remove drain plugs.
- f. Turn on water supply to rinse bowls and water lines.
- g. When bowls have rinsed for 1 minute, shut off main water supply.
- h. Disconnect the water hose at the main supply.

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- i. Open the drain valve in the southwest corner of the lab. Water will drain down the pipe onto the floor.
- j. Open the sink faucet to drain the water.
- k. Disconnect both hoses from the water pump. Cycle the pump fro 1 to 2 seconds to remove water from the pump.
- l. Close all windows, latch the doors, turn off the lights and other equipment.

7) Specific Equipment Instructions:

- a. Washout hose pump: Turn on water valve to allow water through the pump. Then turn on switch by the pump to activate the pump for increased pressure. Turn off the pump before turning off the water supply. The red nozzle is best for washing the floor. The blue nozzle can be used if desired; however, do not use the pump with the blue nozzle (the blue nozzle does not allow for sufficient water flow, and the pump senses the backpressure and starts and stops repeatedly, which will burn it up).
- b. Appliances: Leave refrigerators, etc. plugged in. Do not turn off circuit breakers to the refrigerators unless you are sure they do not have samples in them.
- c. Centrifuge: Balance samples before they are loaded into the centrifuge. Unbalance tubes will cause vibration and damage.

8) Emergencies:

- a. If a person is injured and requires immediate attention, call 911 immediately.
- b. If any other emergency occurs, contact Dr. Michael Galyean, the Clinical Veterinarian, Kirk Robinson or Ric Rocha as appropriate. If you are unsure who to contact, contact Dr. Galyean, and he will decide who needs to be contacted.

Contact Phone Numbers:

Dr. Galyean (office) 806-742-2453  
Dr. Galyean (home) 806-794-1242  
Burnett Center 806-746-5097  
Kirk Robinson (home) 806-746-6260  
Ric Rocha (home) 806-746-9830  
Veterinarians 806-834-8588 or 7373

- c. Do not attempt to repair or modify any equipment or facilities without approval from Dr. Galyean or Kirk Robinson

SOP Number: **SOP024**  
Title: **Stall Barn Cattle Housing**



**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

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