

Cattle heading down alleyway towards the sorting gate can be directed to pens on left or right, as shown in photos. Arrows show cylinder, and radio-controlled unit which controls it.



Above installation is only half completed. Main alleyway will be extended, and a companion swinging gate added, so cattle can approach sorting gates from either side, as shown in drawing below.

NEW SORTING GATE'S RADIO CONTROLLED: JUST PUSH A BUTTON FROM 300 FT. AWAY

Slick Way to Sort Cattle

Slickest one-man system we've seen for sorting cattle is a new radio-controlled "Cow Catch Carrier" sorting gate introduced by Herb Hoffman, South Dakota rancher and livestock equipment manufacturer.

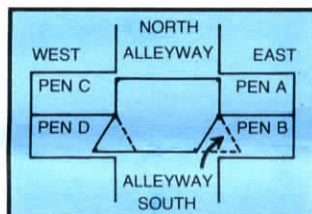
One man, whether in the saddle, on foot or in a pickup, simply pushes the button on a hand-held transmitter to operate the distant automatic sorting gate. The electronic sorter, operating somewhat like an automatic garage door opener, offers several exclusive advantages, according to Hoffman.

"You don't have to have somebody standing by the sorting gate, which makes it a lot easier to drive one or more animals through without getting them riled up," he points out. "With nobody there to spook them, they'll walk right down the sorting alley and up to the gate. As they do, the man or woman driving them from behind simply pushes a button to swing the sorting gate right or left. Heifers, for example, may be diverted to a pen on the left, and steers to the right. By simply pushing the appropriate button, he controls action of the sorting gate from as far away as 300 ft. He can be driving the animals on foot, on horseback, or in his pickup or car.

The sorting gate is equipped with safety chains and, regardless of how many animals are crowded against it, will allow only one animal to pass through at a time. Action of the gate is fast, taking only about two or three seconds to switch from open to close, or vice versa.

Radio signals are transmitted to the "electric over hydraulic" receiver and control unit which regulates action of the gate's opening and closing cylinder. The control operates on a 12V battery pack, or can be plugged into 110V electricity if available.

"You can use the opening at either end of the sliding gate as a squeeze chute to catch and hold individual animals," explains Hoffman. "For



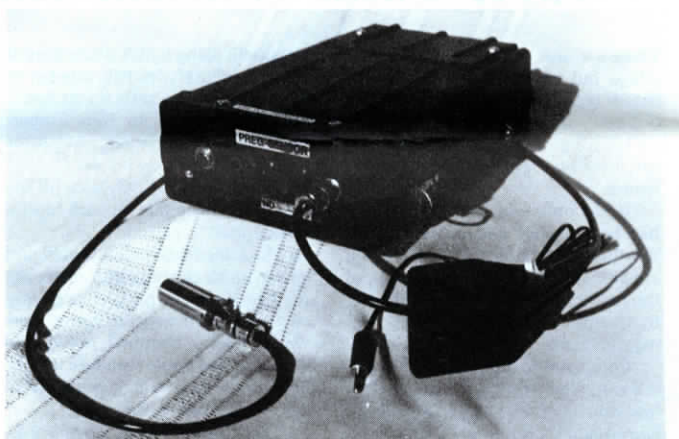
Arrow shows gate positioned for sorting animals into Pen B. Dotted lines show gate positioned for sorting into Pen D. Companion sorting gate serves opposite alleyway and Pens A and C.

example, if a cow won't claim her calf, she can be caught in the opening and held with a restraining bar against the gate while the calf sucks."

The key advantage of the system, Hoffman feels, is that one person can sort cattle without getting them riled up. "I've fed a lot of cattle and quite often have delayed sorting them in extremely hot weather just because I didn't want to get them riled up and overheated. Or, there may be times when the cattle are ready and should be sorted for market. But, if you're short on help at the time, you hold off until extra hands are readily available. There's no need for waiting with the automatic system. One man or woman does it all, and the cattle don't even work up a sweat."

Cost of the standard double unit, which allows cattle coming in from two facing alleyways to be sorted automatically, is \$1,600, complete with the radio controls, four 10 ft. gates made of 2 1/4 in. pipe, control unit and cylinders. An optional kit gives the sorting system down-the-road portability. "We hope to have a similar radio-controlled sorting gate for hogs on the market in the near future," says Hoffman.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herb Hoffman, Cow Catch Carrier Mfg., Platte, S. Dak. 57369 (ph. 605 337-3591).



Preg-Sensor detects pregnancy as soon as 30 days.

RETAILS FOR \$495

New "Affordable" Pregnancy Tester

Here's good news for swine producers who have been waiting for the price of pregnancy testers to come down to a more "affordable" range.

New from Agri-Electronics is the Preg-Sensor, priced at \$495.

"If you're interested in testing for pregnancy only, it does the same job as units costing \$1,300," says Dick Young, sales manager.

Pregnancy can be detected as soon as 30 days and as late as 110 days (if needed).

Testing is accomplished by placing a small amount of gel on the end of the probe and placing the probe approximately in line with the 2nd nipple from the rear and approximately 2 in. up from the nipple line.

A red light indicates not pregnant. A solid blue light and tone indicate pregnant.

A second reading should be taken at approximately 60 days. This verifies that the animals are still pregnant. It also provides the manager with an opportunity to inspect all animals midway through gestation.

The Preg-Sensor is compact and light. Weighs only 2-3/4 lbs. Can be used in stalls, pens or in outdoor lots. In bright sunlight, when lights are difficult to see, the tone is always present to verify pregnancy.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Agri-Electronics, 9742 Humbolt, Bloomington, Minn. 55431 (ph. 612 884-4220).