A strong, convenient corral is necessary to handle beef cattle safely and easily. The corral illustrated combines some of the many good ideas developed and proven by ranchers in handling cattle. Some requirements for a satisfactory corral are:

1. **Height** at least 5½ feet. (6 or 6½ feet for horses or wild cattle).

2. **Strong Construction.** Plank or strong poles; closely spaced, heavy posts, set at least 2½ feet in the ground; gates and cornerposts 3 feet. Ample bracing; bolts instead of nails at points of strain.

3. **Gates.** Braced for strength and to prevent sag; free swinging. Gate posts “tied” across top above height of a rider. Quick, sure fastener (eye bolt and chain with hook shown). Strong, free turning hinges.

4. **Sorting arrangement.** More than one pen, and a sorting gate. (Two types of sorting gates shown, a 12 foot alley with gate to cut cattle “by” or into pen, such as used at most public stockyards; and a positive 3-way sort operated from above with a stop gate to control movement of the cattle.)

5. **A Chute** to confine cattle for observation, branding, spraying, etc.

6. **Smooth** inside surface to prevent bruises.

**Other Desirable Features:**

1. **Easy entrance.** Corral in corner of pasture. Pole or plank the line fence out 5 to 10 rods. “Wing fence” 5 to 10 rods long at an angle from end of gate back into pasture.
2. **Easy movement of cattle.** Corners rounded where cattle are crowded. Fence poles or planks close enough cattle can't get legs through. Solid sides of chute to prevent climbing. Gradual crowding of cattle to chute. Gates hinged at the end to "follow" and crowd cattle. Corral near level — cattle move up a slight grade easier than on level or down hill.

3. **Chute.** At least 20 feet long for fast handling. Base narrow (not over 1 foot) sloping out to 30 inches at belly height.

4. **A Squeeze.** To hold cattle for dehorning, branding, etc. (Side opening style shown is faster than end opening). **A Loading Chute. A Dipping Vat.**

5. **Size.** The corral shown (60 x 72) will handle herds up to 40 or 50 cows. For larger herds larger pens and larger chutes will be required.
Some Construction Suggestions: Rods at side of squeeze drop through eye bolts and into holes so they may be removed to work on cattle. Head gate of squeeze should be hinged at side (not shown) so cattle may go through the front to the loading chute. Gates at each side connect squeeze and loading chute; they swing back when head gate is being used. A short piece of pipe is slipped back of cattle to hold them in the chute, or a drop gate can be built at each end of the chute.
CHUTE DETAIL

POST EXTENDED AND CROSS TIED AT EACH END OF CHUTE—SEE CORRAL DETAIL

94" HIGH
ADD ANOTHER IF NEEDED

CHUTE APPROXIMATELY 20' LONG

CUTTING GATE DETAIL

CHUTE CROSS TIE

HANDLES
2 4'
CUTTING GATES

8" HINGE

8" HINGE HERE

2"X4"

STOP GATE 3' SIDES

OPERATOR'S PLATFORM

1 1/2"X1 1/2"X24" ANGLE IRON UNDERNEATH TO SUPPORT PLATFORM

2"X8"
CHUTE DETAIL
POST EXTENDED AND CROSS TIED AT EACH END OF CHUTE—SEE CORRAL DETAIL
CHUTE APPROXIMATELY 20' LONG

CUTTING GATE DETAIL
CHUTE CROSS TIE

HANDBLES
2 4'
CUTTING GATES

6" HINGE

6" HINGE HERE

2"X4"

STOP GATE
3' SIDES

OPERATOR'S PLATFORM

1 1/2"X1 1/2"X24" ANGLE IRON UNDERNEATH TO SUPPORT PLATFORM

2"X8"
This view at front of gate shows detailed gate construction, length and size of parts and easily built, positive action latch. Sect. EE is a cross section of handle mounting showing the mounting.
Neck squeeze is useful for many operations. It may be built separate from complete cattle chute. The 2" x 6" should be changed to 3" x 8" for mature animals.
End elevation showing details of end of chute, the bracing and size and length of materials. Sect. B-B shows iron pipe details. Properly built, such pipe may be removed individually for convenience of the operator.
Careful bracing is necessary to hold full grown cattle. Heavy, strong hinges, large bolts, lock washers, straight strong iron bar should be used in building.
Wood used in construction should be knot free or without loose knots. The chute may be built as portable or permanent. The barn door track should be of a type that is not easily dislocated.

The plans are reproduced for Washington cattlemen through courtesy of R. E. Dunn and the Montana Livestock Board, Helena, Montana.