

Squeeze

AgSafe Safe Work Procedure

1. 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).
2. A squeeze will have a locking front gate and yoke (ideally self-locking) to allow the animal's head to be firmly held.
3. Additional head bars will prevent the animal tossing its head up and injuring people.
4. A squeeze should be secured to the ground or, if mobile, to a vehicle.
5. 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.
6. Gates etc. should open smoothly with a minimum of effort and noise. Regular maintenance will help.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. A good head gate will hold the animals firmly. This should be adjustable and be easily operated both to hold and release animals.
10. The most common type of head gate has double gates meeting in the center, with a strong quick release device. Ensure the operator of the head gate knows how to use it effectively.
11. Avoid standing in front of a head gate
12. To afford better cattle movement remove people from the flight zone into which you are asking the animal to move.
13. Consider building a partition at the head gate for the “catcher” to stand behind eliminating him from the view of the oncoming cattle.

Please use the following **Safe Work Procedures** as a guideline to building your own safe work procedures.