

Premier Handling Equipment

A system that works...at low prices!

For years we were told: "Your equipment is great but it's expensive!"
"Back then we had no options. Now we do."

We can now offer it for much less—so much less that we can, if your order is large enough, ship galvanized equipment to you for the same cost that you would pay at a show for painted equipment—with less hassle for you.

Why all producers need a handling system...

It never ceases to amaze us that so few US sheep and goat producers have serious handling setups—and fewer still have a good one. Visit any sheep operation in England, Australia or New Zealand and you will find such setups—be it mobile or fixed. But not in North America.

Here are a few of the benefits...

- Treat more animals in less time.
- Treat, sort, deworm and/or tag with little risk of injury.
- Requires less strength, effort and frustration to treat animals.
- Less stress on animals, you and your family. Because you control the animals (instead of the other way around), working them is more satisfying.
- Keeps more animals alive and thriving. Why? Because deworming, vaccinations, foot treatments, sorting, etc. can all be done when the animals need it. No need to wait until the entire "on-farm" wrestling team is available.

How do handling systems work?

Good handling systems work with animal instincts to make animals make the choices that you/we want.

Livestock, because they are "prey animals," try to keep their distance from threats. So they prefer to:

- Move from smaller to larger spaces.
- Avoid people and dogs (threats!).
- Follow each other when threatened even if they can't see where the lead animal is going.

These basic points dictate gate choices.

1. Open-bar or welded-wire panels allow animals to see each other. So animals feel safe and move readily into pens with "open walls."
2. Conversely, solid panels block vision. So animals feel less safe and move toward openings. That's why chutes have solid panels—to encourage forward movement toward daylight.



Handling Equipment Comparison Chart

Premier's...

- **Hot-dip galvanized.** This protective zinc coating resists rust for decades if kept out of wet manure. Hot-dip galvanizing creates a professional, polished look that endures years of use.
- **Corrugated 22-gauge tin** provides the strength needed without the excess weight.
- **Oval-shaped connection** offers more forgiveness on uneven ground.
- **Extensions available** to increase 36" panels to 45". The 45" panel/gate intimidates goats and tall/athletic sheep.
- **Frames are made of heavy-gauge steel** to handle impact and strain.

Other's...

- **Often painted steel.** In humid areas, painted steel equipment rusts, corrodes and weakens more rapidly. Paint tends to chip after a few uses, depleting the image of your new investment.
- **Chute sides are solid sheet steel**—effective, but heavy and cumbersome.
- **Round connection systems** are difficult to line up on uneven ground.
- **Height of chute panels is fixed.** Tallest panels are 40" to 42"—won't stop some goats and rams from jumping them.
- **Gates may lack the strength** needed to endure pressure of large sheep.

The “parts” of a good handling system

1. Gathering/Holding Pen(s)

- Able to receive & hold entire flock.
- Has open sides to encourage animal entry. Can be wire panels, bar gates, HT woven wire or open-sided boards.
- Has wood posts for strength.
- Are at least 10 ft wide (to encourage rapid entry and movement) and not more than 20 ft wide (so one person can force animals forward).
- Is rectangular or funnel-shaped to enable small batches to be squeezed by gates, dogs or people into a forcing pen.
- Often dividable into multiple pens.

2. Forcing Pen

- Animals enter from gathering pen.
- Entry controlled by a hinged gate.
- Small size makes it highly effective as a catch pen for individual treatment.
- “Bugle” design and curving, solid walls invite animals to enter treatment chute.

3. Treatment Chute

- Can be either narrow (18 to 21 in.) shown here or wide (36 to 40 in.).
- A wall/panel height of 36 in. is good for shorter breeds and for those who work from outside the chute.
- Tall or lively animals need taller chute panels which, in turn, require working inside the treatment chute.
- Have quick-acting gates at each end to entrap animals temporarily.
- Combination of solid walls and animals “packed” in front and behind in the chute severely reduces the animals’ ability to move about—thereby allowing humans to hold them to vaccinate, tag, drench, brand, weigh, etc.

4. Sort Pens

- Filled by sort gate on front of single file treatment chute.
- Are open-sided to encourage entry flow and movement.
- Have sidewalls & gates tall enough (45 in. plus) to prevent escape.
- Have hinged gates between pens for easier sorting and movement of groups.
- Gates that, until you finalize the layout and herd/flock size, allow changes in layout and pen size.



(large photo) Handling yards at Premier. Animals are gathered into the 18 ft x 200 ft corral/roadway under the trees at right before being moved into smaller holding pens (1.). Next, sheep enter the forcing pen (2.) that leads to the treatment chute (3.) and then into the sort pens (4.). Kerrie operates a rope-controlled guillotine gate with her left hand and a sort gate with her right hand.

Note: There are many different ways to assemble a workable system. Gates do not need to be exactly the length or height indicated here.

System for smaller flocks

Core items (red letters in diagram)

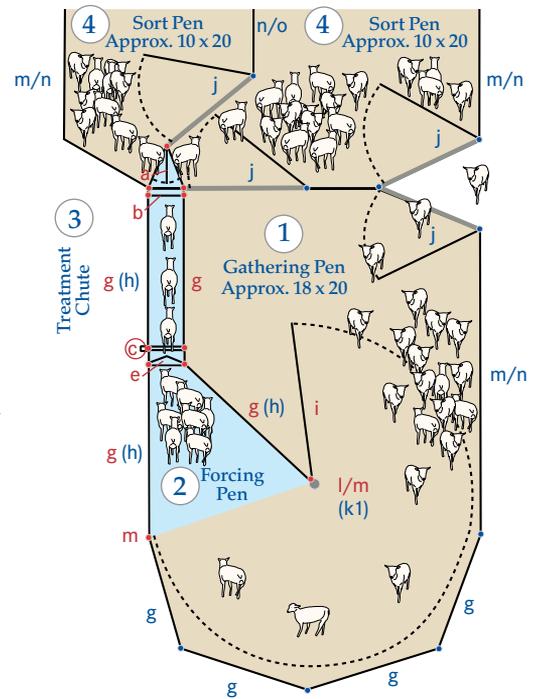
Item	Item #	Qty	Wgt ea
a. Two-Way Sort Gate	#904000	1	53 lb
b. Guillotine Gate	#905801	1	64 lb
c. Rope Tensioner	#905810	1	11 lb
e. Stop Gate	#906800	1	66 lb
g. Solid Chute Panel, 9' x 36"	#911800	4	73 lb
i. Bar Gate (Sweep Gate), 9' x 45"	#913810	1	74 lb
k. Linking Stakes = ●	#917800	11	3.3 lb
l. Snap Clip 3/1.5	#965405	3	0.2 lb
m. Galvanized T Post, 6'	#327600	1	9 lb

**Shipped only by commercial truck lines.
Shipping is not included in the price.

611.90 lb
(Total wgt)

Optional items (blue letters in diagram)

Item	Item #	Qty	Wgt ea
g. Solid Chute Panel, 6' x 36"	#910800	4	53 lb
h. Extensions, 9' x 9"	#911820	3	35 lb
j. Hinged Bar Gate, 6' x 45"	#921810	4	73 lb
k. Linking Stakes = ●	#917800	9	3.3 lb
k1. Lag Bolt Connector	#917820	2	0.3 lb
m. Galvanized T Posts, 6'	#327600	25+/-	9 lb
(Can substitute a wood post)			
n. Wire Panels, 40" x 96"	#964400	12+/-	33 lb



About the diagrams: The sheep depict the path that animals take through the respective systems. Vary the pen sizes according to space available. If more space is needed make them longer, not wider.

Core vs. Optional Items: All systems should include the core items. They're best purchased from Premier (i.e. don't try to make them). However, the optional products can be adapted from existing gates/fences/buildings. But remember—to control the movement of animals, you must have a **complete system**.

See photos and product descriptions on following pages

System for larger flocks

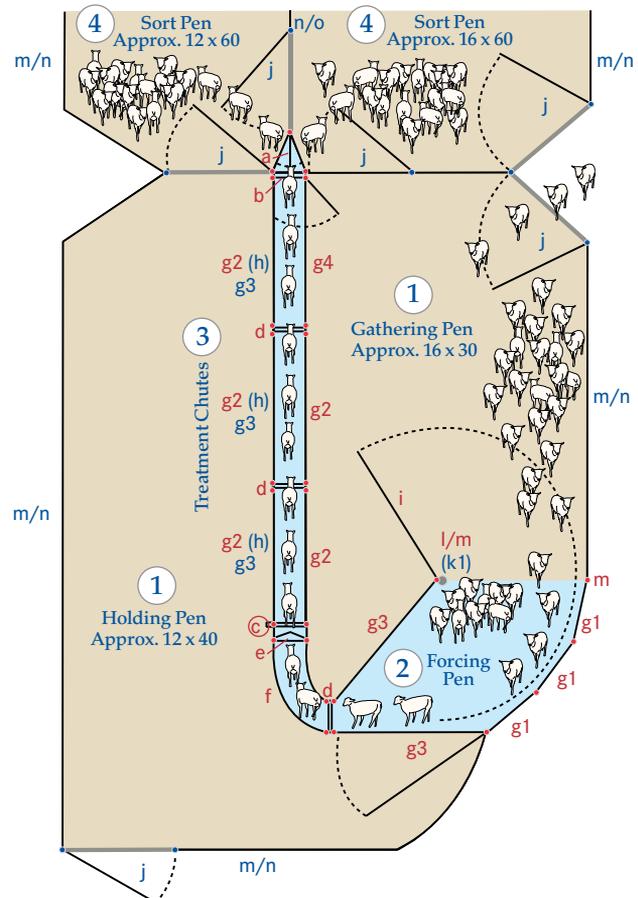
Core items (red letters in diagram)

Item	Item #	Qty	Wgt ea
a. Two-Way Sort Gate	#904000	1	53 lb
b. Guillotine Gate	#905801	1	64 lb
c. Rope Tensioner	#905810	1	11 lb
d. Center Joiner	#907800	3	24 lb
e. Stop Gate	#906800	1	66 lb
f. Curved Panels (2 per set)	#912210	1	109 lb
g1. Solid Chute Panel, 3' x 45"	#909410	3	38 lb
g2. Solid Chute Panel, 9' x 36"	#911800	5	73 lb
g3. Solid Chute Panel, 9' x 45"	#911810	2	89 lb
g4. Chute Panel/Gate, 9' x 36"	#912000	1	95 lb
i. Bar Gate (Sweep Gate), 9' x 45"	#913810	1	74 lb
k. Linking Stakes = ●	#917800	26	3.3 lb
l. Snap Clip 3/1.5	#965405	3	0.2 lb
m. Galvanized T Post, 6'	#327600	1	9 lb

**Shipped only by commercial truck lines. TOTAL 1302.40 lb
Shipping is not included in the price. (Total wgt)

Optional items (blue letters in diagram)

Item	Item #	Qty	Wgt ea
g3. Solid Chute Panel, 9' x 45"	#911810	3	89 lb
h. Extensions, 9' x 9", (for g2)	#911820	3	35 lb
j. Hinged Bar Gate, 6' x 45"	#921810	6	73 lb
k. Linking Stakes = ●	#917800	8	3.3 lb
k1. Lag Bolt Connector	#917820	2	0.3 lb
m. Galvanized T Posts, 6'	#327600	80+/-	9 lb
(Can substitute a wood post)			
n. Wire Panels, 40" x 96"	#964400	40+/-	33 lb



Key components of a handling system



Sorting sheep with less effort. With her left hand, Kylie lifts a guillotine gate to allow sheep to exit. With her right hand she operates a two-way sort gate. Chute has both 36" and 45" tall panels.



a. Two-Way Sort Gate

Uniquely strong, fast and smooth design. We think most others are too slow for our sheep. Sheep can see through it, so they move readily toward it. Pins directly to the front of guillotine, stop gate and some weighers.

The reversible gate handle (can be operated from right or left) has a hook (see inset above) to lock it to either side.

b. Guillotine Gate

By placing this gate at the front of a treatment/sort chute a shepherd can first treat animals inside it from front to back...then, while at the rear, simply pull the rope to allow animals to empty the treatment chute from the front...while using a crook to pressure animals forward from the forcing pen to refill the working chute. 20" wide.



Rope is attached to a cylinder weight suspended inside the vertical tube. Pulley at the top enables easy rope movement.



c. Rope Tensioner

A Premier innovation that, like so many, has been copied by others.

Keeps guillotine rope up and out of the shepherd's way while working animals in the chute. Simple solution to a common frustration.

Fits all gates supplied by Premier.



d. Center Joiner

Holds panels and gates in place in the sorting/treatment chute. Allows unobstructed access to animals inside.

Choice of pin settings (holes) along the base allows chute panels to be tapered in at the base from 18 in. to as narrow as 13 in. for treating small lambs, goats, shorn ewes, etc.

Very strong.



e. Stop Gate

We place this gate at the rear of narrow chutes. Opens and closes by folding in the center. Operated by gripping pin at the top. Has a latch to hold it shut if sheep pressure won't.

Useful for metering sheep into turning cradles and scanning crates.



f. Curved Panels

A set of 2 curved panels (3 ft and 6 ft long) that attach at entry of chute to form a bugle.

A "bugle" approach (curves as it narrows) is best to persuade animals to enter narrow chutes on their own from wider pens. 45" tall.



Solid Chute Panel



Chute Panel with built-in gate



i. Bar Gates

g1-g4. Solid Chute Panels

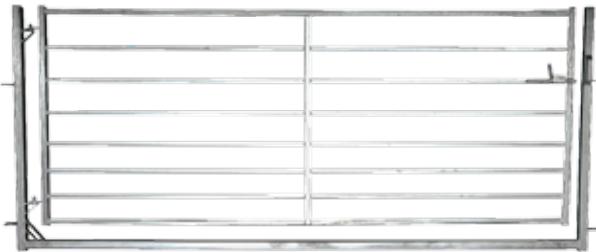
Field research all over the world demonstrates that chute panels should be solid at the level of the sheep/goat's eye. Why? Solid sides block the animal's side vision—so they move forward on their own to the exit.

All panels have hot-dip galv. square steel frames to increase years of life and corrugated sheeting to reduce weight. Use taller panels for goats and large or lively sheep breeds.

Chute panels with side gates allow animals to be diverted out through the side. Enables 3-way sorting with a single pass up the chute. Also allows walk-in access to inside of chute for deworming, vaccinating, etc.

Side gate is 3 ft wide.

- Tall enough to stop the largest or most athletic sheep from jumping.
- Closely spaced bars contains everything except baby lambs and goat kids.
- Strong pin system adapts to many situations (shearing, sorting, lambing).
- Hot-dip galvanized.
- *Note: 9 ft gate can also be used as sweep gate for a forcing pen. For small flocks it's not essential to hinge it (secure an end and drag the other end around). For large flocks it should be hinged to a strong round wooden post. Use a short chain and a Snap Clip (see below) as a latch for the end that sweeps.*



j. Hinged-in-Frame Bar Gates

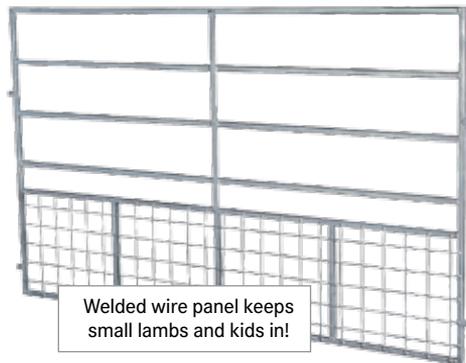
Because they're portable and attach easily to our feeders and welded wire panels, we move these gates about to help with scanning, lambing, shearing and feeding.

Custom-built into U-shaped steel frames. Eyes on ends enable rapid, secure attachment to other gates and welded wire panels. Animal-proof latches.

Lamb and Kid-Proof Portable Gate

Welded mesh near the ground stops baby lambs and kids crawling through bar gates and failing to find a way back. (Lambs and kids stranded from "mom" often become orphans.)

Hot-dip galvanized.



Welded wire panel keeps small lambs and kids in!

k1. Lag bolt connector

Stake

Pin

k. Linking Stake, Connecting Pin & Lag Bolt

Our equipment uses stake-and-eye connections because it's stronger and more versatile. They attach readily to welded wire panels.

Stakes are hot-dip galv. 5/8" dia, 3' long solid steel. Eyes are 5/16" thick steel with oval holes.

l. Snap Clip

For use as a latch for a bar gate when it's used as a sweep gate. 3.5" length, small eye 0.5" and opening 11/32".



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Washington, IA

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Check our website for current pricing and availability.