Priefert®
Farm, Ranch & Rodeo

Operator Instruction
Priefert Model 91 Automatic/Manual Headgate

Caution
Be familiar with handling livestock prior to use of this equipment. Working with livestock carries inherent risk of injury or death. See page 3 for additional information on safe practices for handling of livestock.

Manual Operation

1. Turn automatic selector lever (#9) toward rear of gate, disengaging it from operator's handle (#8). This lever is located at the top back corner of the gate above the operator handle.

2. The gate's latch boxes (#1) (locking mechanism) are automatically disengaged when the handle is raised. This allows for opening the gate to a desired opening.

3. Catch cow by opening the gate just wide enough for animal's head to enter; as the cow's head enters, pull handle down locking the animal's neck. Use same procedure for horned cattle, allowing more time for cow to enter.

4. To release cow, simply raise operator handle (#8) to open gate fully, allowing cow to walk through the headgate.

Automatic Operation

1. Turn automatic selector lever (#9) forward to engage it into notch in operator handle (#8). This lever is located at the top back corner of gate (same lever mentioned in sentence #1 under manual operation).

2. Open the headgate to an open width wider than the cow's head to be caught. Raise the automatic trip control handle (#5) (red gripper handle), located at the top front side of the gate. Raise the handle and slide it toward you, thus positioning the automatic slide tube with setting slots (#3) into the desired position with the appropriate slot aligned with the peg on the yoke nearest the operator. Now while holding the automatic trip control handle (#5) "up", allow the gate to close until the automatic slide tube with setting slots (#3) is resting between the pegs thus holding the yokes just wide enough apart for the cow's head to enter, but not wide enough for her shoulders to get through. (NOTE: Recommended settings are 1) slot farthest away from operator is for calf, 2) middle slot is for heifer 3) slot nearest operator is for cow and 4) position the setting bracket "end-to-end" between pegs to catch a large cow or bull).

3. Now the gate is set and ready to catch the cow. Stand back or prod the cow up the crowd alley toward the headgate; as her head enters the gate and her shoulders attempt to spread the yokes, the trip mechanism will release and gate will shut on animal's neck, preventing her from backing out of the headgate. To make the headgate trip easier, you may want to "hair trigger" it by just catching the edges of the pegs in the slots when using the automatic feature on small calves and unusually gentle animals.

Installation

Mount gate on the ground. The holes in gate mounting brackets will accommodate ½" bolts. Lag screws are not recommended (DIMENSIONS: Inside holes are 33" apart and outside holes are 36" apart, horizontally; top holes and bottom are 61¾" apart, vertically.

Lubrication

LUBRICATE ANY and ALL WORKING PARTS with light oil at the beginning of each work day for best performance! It is especially important to lubricate the locking mechanism inside the latch box (#1).

Instruction For Reversing Headgate Operation

TO REVERSE HEADGATE OPERATION FROM THE LEFT SIDE TO RIGHT SIDE, FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS. (NOTE: ALL HEADGATES ARE SHIPPED FROM THE FACTORY WITH THE CONTROLS ON THE LEFT SIDE.) Also, when referring to the left or right of the headgate, consider how the animal stands in the headgate – "their right or their left".

1. Remove operator handle (#8) by removing two ½" bolts and reattach handle to right side of headgate.

2. Remove automatic selector lever (#9) by loosening and removing eyebolt from the lower end of the 10" spring. Now pull selector lever out through the top of the gate. Reinstall on right side by reversing this procedure. NOTE: You will need a screwdriver to stretch the 10" spring in order to get the eyebolt into bottom bracket.

3. Disconnect the automatic slide rod (#4) from one end by removing the lynch pin and sliding the rod out of the holes. Now slide the automatic slide tube with setting slots (#3) off the automatic slide rod (#4). Now reverse the automatic slide tube with setting slots (#3), end-to-end and slide it back onto the automatic slide rod. This process will have the automatic trip control handle (#5) on the opposite side of the gate. The handle will be turned "up". To position it "down", loosen the locking nut that holds it locked in that position. Now, rotate the handle "down" and retighten the lock nut.

Troubleshooting:

Problem	Solution to Problem
Gate does not work smoothly	Clean and lubricate all moving parts.
Gate failure to stay locked	1. Lubricate latch boxes with WD-40 2. Be sure handle falls freely from unlocked position. If not, bolts on lift arms may be too tight. Handle must fall freely in order for lock to hold. 3. Call 800-527-8616, Toll Free
Gate hangs in open position	Lubricate top rollers and all pivots and slides
Gate is slow to close in automatic position, or does not close and cow backs out.	1. Be sure automatic selector is engaged in notch of operator handle. 2. Lubricate all moving parts. 3. If necessary, tighten spring at eye bolt to desired tension. 4. Check automatic slide rod to be sure it is straight. If not, straighten it or replace it. If automatic slide rod is bent, the setting slot will not release; therefore, the gate can not close. 5. Lubricate slide rod.

LIVESTOCK SAFETY

Caution
Be familiar with handling livestock prior to use of this equipment. Working with livestock carries inherent risk of injury or death.

Livestock Safety[1]

One of the most important issues for consideration when handling livestock is safety. Although considered domesticated animals, working with livestock carries with it an inherent risk of danger. It is important to understand that livestock have both instincts and habits, known as behavior patterns, that are based on actions that make them the most comfortable. These instincts and habits allow them to react to changes in their environment. Many instincts and habits are strong and potentially dangerous. Using common sense, practicing caution, and understanding livestock behavior can greatly reduce a handlers risk and enable him or her to work safely with livestock. This article will detail some important livestock behaviors as well as cautionary tips to practice when handling livestock.

Livestock Behaviors

- Animals who are used to being around other livestock can become frightened and agitated when separated, becoming dangerous and difficult to handle.
- The maternal instinct is also very powerful. Many times these instincts are not evident in an animal's behavior until shortly after giving birth. It is important to recognize these behavior patterns and use appropriate caution.
- Another behavior pattern that livestock may exhibit is a territorial instinct. Feed time is when this instinct is most readily observable.
- A valuable behavior is the instinct to follow the leader. Often times, all that is required is to begin one animal moving and the rest will follow.
- Livestock exhibit the most activity at sunrise and sunset. In contrast, livestock are the most inactive during night and at midday.
- The flight zone is one of the most important principles regarding livestock behavior and safe handling. It is an animal's personal space. Livestock will react in a variety of ways according to a handlers activities relative to their flight zone. For example, livestock will face a handler and maintain a safe distance, when the handler is outside their flight zone. In contrast, livestock will turn away from a handler who enters their flight zone. Individual animals will have flight zones of varying size. Working from the edge of the flight zone will generally keep livestock calm and manageable.
- The point of balance is another important behavioral principle to understand. An animal's point of balance is located at their shoulders. An animal will move depending on a handlers position relative to their point of balance. This principle can be used to calmly and easily be encourage livestock through crowding pens, chutes, and squeezes. For example, when a handler stands behind the animal's point of balance, the animal will move forward. When the handler stands in front of an animals point of balance, the animal will stop or back up. To encourage an animal forward, simply walk towards the animal, crossing the point of balance, and it will move forward.

Precautionary Measures

The following are precautionary measures that are recommended to anyone when working with livestock.

- **Be alert.** It is impossible to fully know or predict an animals actions. Always be aware of what is happening around you. This is particularly important when handling livestock at sunrise and sunset when livestock are most active.
- **Keep animals together.** Livestock will be more calm and cooperative when in groups. When alone, they quickly become agitated and frightened making them dangerous and difficult to handle.
- **Carefully approach animals.** Because of the placement of their eyes, cattle have approximately a 270 degree range of vision. Despite their range of vision, cattle have poor depth perception, and are unable to see behind them. To reduce risk, always announce yourself when approaching an animal.
- **Leave yourself an out.** Never enter small enclosed areas with livestock. If unavoidable, always be sure there is always a fast and easy method of escape.
- **Avoid quick movements and loud noises.** Livestock can startle and frighten easily. Move slowly and deliberately around livestock. Be careful not to create excess noise.
- **Be patient.** When working with livestock in a crowding pen, chute, or squeeze, prodding an animal when it has no place to go is dangerous. Animals can react quickly and violently.
- **Respect livestock. Do not fear them.** Underestimating an animal's size, strength, and speed can result in serious injury. Always consider mature males to be dangerous. Be aware of animals who are sick, injured, or otherwise frightened.

Remember that livestock draw upon past experiences and treatment when reacting to a situation.

Caution
Train new workers and handlers before allowing them to work with livestock. The majority of the time, accidents with livestock are the result of human error rather than an animal problem. A lapse in judgment, inexperience, or unpreparedness are major causes of accidents with livestock. Many times, handlers attempt jobs that require more assistance than is available. Whatever the reason, many accidents can be avoided if handlers use common sense, follow safety guidelines, and make every effort to understand livestock behavior.

1. Jill Webster Ph.D., & Mark Gonzalez; Livestock Safety; Agricultural Systems Technology and Education, Utah State University Extension; Utah State University , <http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/AHS-11.pdf>

Priefert 91 Headgate

Parts Description:

Part #

1. Latch Box - The locking mechanism containg locking rollers, release rollers, locking bar, relase lever and the lift arm.

2. Top Rollers - These are synthetic rollers that are inside the top collars and are 1 7/8" long, and permanently lubricated.

3. Automatic Slide Tube With Setting Slots - The slide is made of 3/4" pipe, 17 1/2" long. There are four possible setting located on the backside of the slide. (see #2 under automatic operation on instruction sheet)

4. Automatic Slide Rod - This rod is 5/8" and is 35 1/4" in length. It is the rod that the automatic slide tube with setting slots (#3) slides on. It is held in place with lynch pins.

5. Automatic Trip Control Handle - This handle is attached to the automatic slide (#3) and is used as the hand control in setting gate opening. The lever is "L" shaped, 8 1/2" long, made of 5/8" rod, with 1/2" X 1" bolt.

6. Lift Arm - The flat bar that lifts the release rollers in latch box.

7. Locking Bar - This bar slides through the latch box as part of the locking function. The bar is made of " X 1/4" flat hardened steel, 20" long.

8. Operator Headgate Handle - The handle is used by the operator in operating the headgate. It is 1" pipe, 24" long.

9. Automatic Selector Lever - This is the long vertical rod with an "L" shape at the top and is used to select automatic position or manual position. The rod is 3/4" diameter, 32" in length and connects to the 10" spring (#10)

10. Automatic Selcetor Lever Spring - This is a 10" spring that is attached to the bottom of the automatic selector lever at one end and to a 5/16" eyebolt for tension adjustment at the other end.