

An Efficient Sheep Sorting Chute

Merle R. Light, Robert Amundson and Dexter Johnson

Proper equipment for sheep handling reduces labor requirements for routine and other jobs requiring individual attention. Here is a plan for a 5-way sorting chute with a two-foot working area that works very well at the North Dakota State University for a 500-ewe flock. This chute was designed to fit existing barn and lot space. Pen dimensions were governed by available space and should be considered to be flexible. It is suggested that a more rapid flow of sheep into the sorting chute would be attained if the angle of entry were not so sharp. We would suggest a holding pen at point of entry be shaped to funnel sheep more directly into the cutting chute.

Light is professor, Amundson was former instructor, Department of Animal Science, and Johnson is Extension agricultural engineer.