

# Artificial Insemination Breeding Chute



IRM-13

## Dairy Integrated Reproductive Management

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An artificial insemination breeding chute does not have to be elaborate. Variations in design and type of materials are possible, hence, the producer can use the most readily available materials. The chute must be constructed to withstand animal pressure.

Locate the breeding chute so one person can separate and inseminate animals. Possible locations include near return lanes and resting or feed alleys. Don't attempt to drive a cow through a small gate along a long walk or barnyard fence. Use gates to form a funnel to direct cows into the breeding chute.

The breeding chute prevents a cow from moving forward and left to right. Use a chain, rope or bar to prevent the animal from backing out. Position the rear restraint low enough to allow access to the rectum and vagina and high enough to prevent the animal from stepping over it. If a chain or rope is used, fasten so it can be released with one hand.

Wood is a very satisfactory material, being easy to work with and less noisy than other materials. Certain components like gates can be bought pre-built or the entire chute can be built on site. Good, sound fence posts and boards or rails are a necessity. A head gate is not necessary when a chute is used exclusively for breeding. Minimize other uses of the chute so animals remain calm, which allows optimum breeding efficiency.

Build the breeding chute sides 6 feet high to prevent animals from straining to look out or attempting to jump over the chute. Space fence boards close enough to keep animals from trying to poke their heads between boards. Use rough-sawn hardwood, 6 inches wide and from 1 to 2 inches thick for fence boards. If surfaced softwood is preferred, use nominal 2 x 6 boards (Fig. 1).

Choose posts with a top diameter of 4 to 5 inches and a length of 9 to 10 feet. Set posts 3 to 4 feet deep. Use gate posts a little larger in diameter and set at least 4 feet deep. For long life, select posts that are naturally decay-resistant (red cedar, osage orange, black locust) or pressure preservative treated posts. Treat joints between posts and boards with a wood preservative every few years to help keep the wood from deteriorating.

Machine bolts (3/8 inch) provide most permanent construction. Galvanized 20d nails can be used also. For pressure preservative treated wood (salts treatment) hot dipped galvanized nails are recommended. Clinch nails and counter-sink bolts so they are not sticking out to injure workers or animals.

Approximate materials cost for the illustrated plan is about \$230 (Fig 2).

List of Materials
12—2 x 6 x 8'-0" Rough Sawn Hardwood*
20—2 x 6 x 10'-0" Rough Sawn Hardwood
4—2 x 6 x 12'-0" Rough Sawn Hardwood
1—2 x 4 x 8'-0" Rough Sawn Hardwood
2—6" Heavy Duty T-Hinges
2—8" Heavy Duty T-Hinges
2—8" (Each Leaf) Heavy Duty Strap Hinges
13—4" to 6" Top Dia. x 10'-0" Long P. T. Posts**
4—4" Top Dia. x 8'-0" Long P. T. Posts

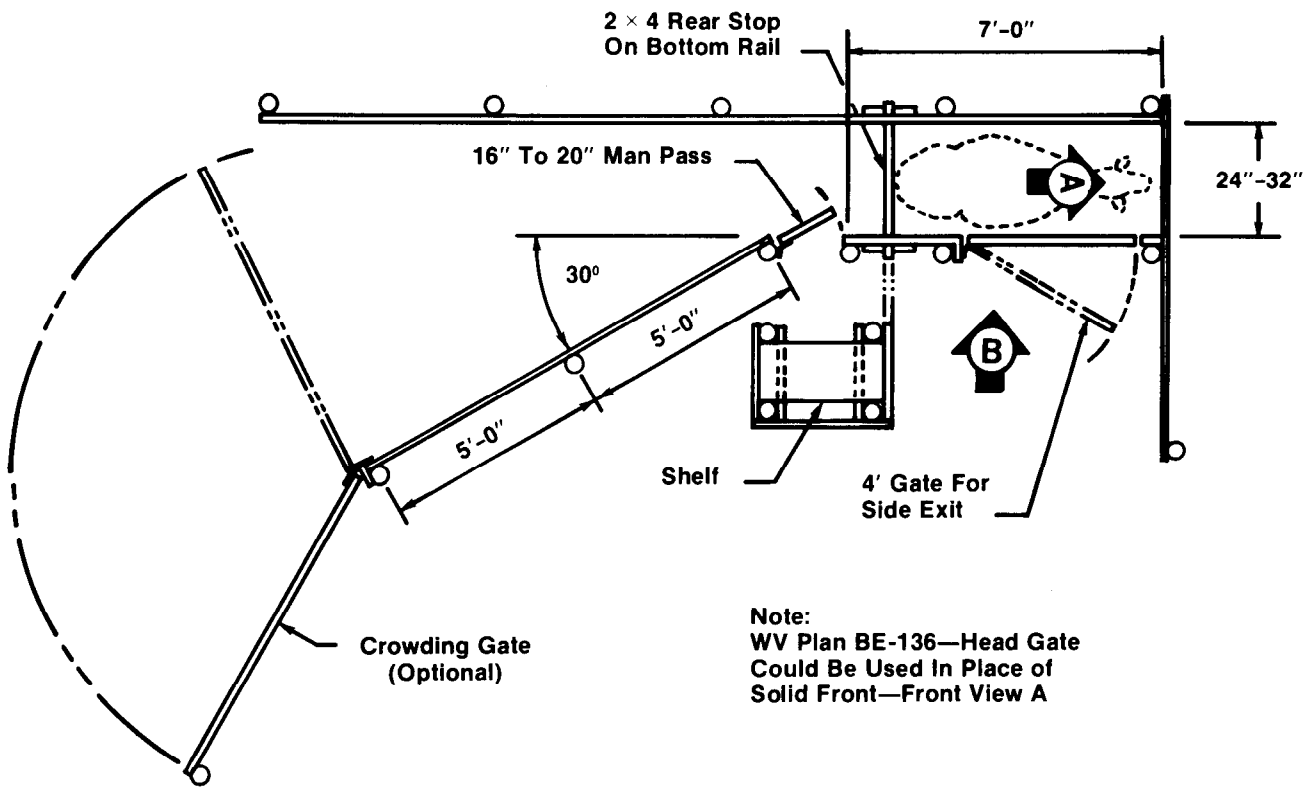
\*1" to 1½" Rough Sawn Hardwood Fence Boards

May Also Be Used

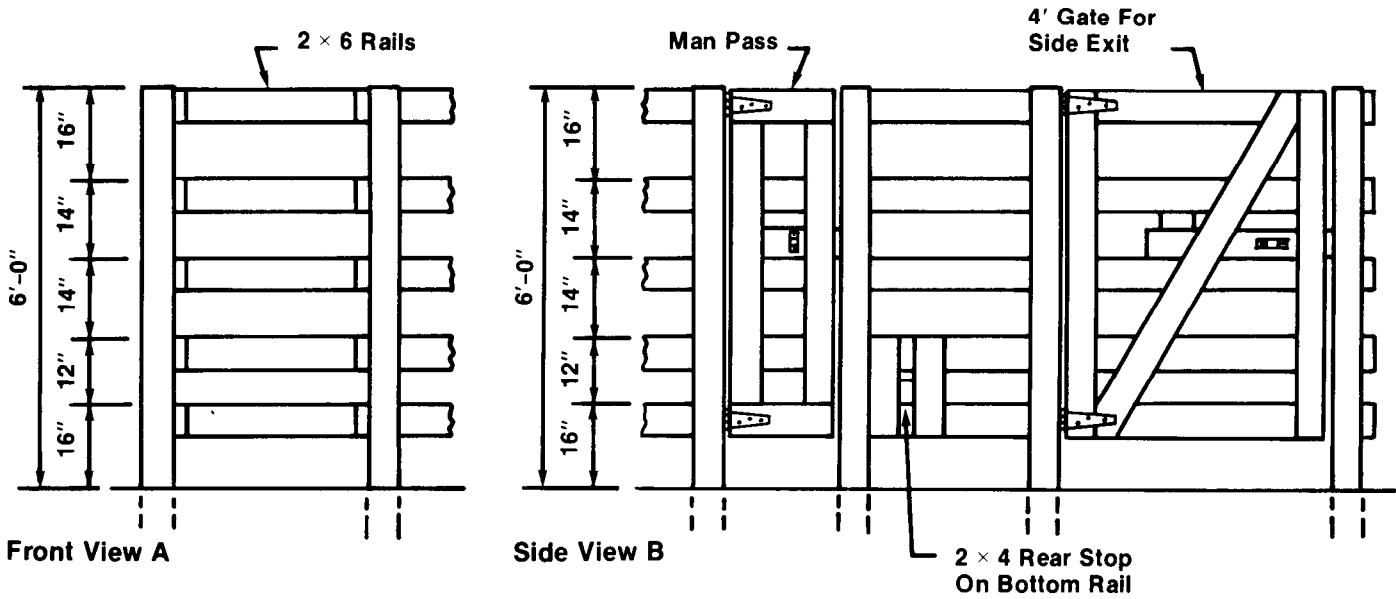
\*\*Locust Posts May Also Be Used

**Fig. 1.** List of materials required.

Trade or brand names are mentioned only for information. The Cooperative Extension Service intends no endorsement nor implies discrimination to the exclusion of other products which also may be suitable.



**Plan View**



**Fig. 2.** Schematic of artificial insemination chute.