

# **Priefert®**

## **Ranch Equipment**

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### **Squeeze Chute**

Owner Operator's Manual

**Model '04**

ASAE SAFETY – ALERT SYMBOL  
FOR AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT



Throughout this manual, you will see this symbol adjacent to various numbered items and/or paragraphs. When the symbol is seen, it means **“Attention! Become Alert! Your Safety Is Involved!”** On various decals, you will see different colors, but the shape and design of the symbol is the most important.



# DANGER!

Serious injury or death may occur unless care is taken to insure the safety of both the operator and other persons in the area.



1. Take care when beginning installation and/or use to carefully cut and dispose of any wire material used in shipping.



2. Due to the size and weight of the squeeze chute, the handling of it requires proper mechanical and manual assistance as well as good judgment and caution. The optional squeeze chute carriage is available for ease of mobility. Back injury, muscle strains, etc., may result if proper care is not taken.



3. When handling and working animals, the operator and others in the area should be aware that cattle are unpredictable and powerful. Care must be taken to avoid injury.



4. During operation of the squeeze chute, bystanders and workers must stay clear of the side exit (right side). When the side exit is opened, the force of opening can cause injury. Also the exit of the animal from the side can be hazardous.



5. After using the side exit, make certain that the side exit is closed and locked securely before the next animal enters. An unsecured side exit gate can be dangerous if bystanders are near when the animal enters the squeeze chute.



6. The best general rule to follow is to always stay alert, use foresight, have good judgment, use common sense, and maintain an awareness of the dangers involved in operation of this type of equipment.



7. Lubricate the lock boxes with WD-40 or similar lubricant. DO NOT use grease or oil in the lock boxes. These substances will cause the locks to slip.

ASAE Safety-Alert Symbol  
For Agricultural Equipment



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# **Priefert<sup>®</sup>** **Ranch Equipment**

## **WELCOME....**

If this is your first Priefert Product, we welcome you to the Priefert family of quality cattle, horse, and hay handling equipment. If you already own some Priefert Products, we appreciate your patronage and this opportunity to serve you further. We want you to receive the maximum benefit from your Model '04 Squeeze Chute. Therefore, please take the time to read this owner's manual thoroughly before operating your Chute.

# **Operator Instructions**

## **Tailgate: (Entrance Gate)**

The tailgate is the entrance for the squeeze chute. The tailgate is operated by the two handles on the top of the operator side of the squeeze chute. The tailgate is designed to open for animal entry and lock closed to prevent the next animal from entering the chute until the operator is ready. To open, pull downward on either of the two handles mentioned above. When the handles are straight down, the tailgate will be in the locked wide open position. To close the tailgate, push up on either of the handles. When the handles reach the full upright position, the tailgate is closed and locked. This tailgate also includes an option to open only one side of the gate, which is useful when working calves. To enable this feature, pull the pin on the top of the gate. This will allow only the right side of the gate to operate. To re-enable both sides of the gate simply close the gate and replace the pin. The tailgate needs occasional lubrication at the pivot points on both the top and the back linkage. To insure ease of operation, be sure the guide channels at the bottom of the tailgate are free of debris or obstruction.

## **Side Exit Gate**

To open the side exit, pull down on the rope located directly behind the headgate. This unlocks the side exit, and the gate swings open. To close the side exit pull out the side exit return handle until it makes a 90 degree angle with the frame then press straight down with vigorous force. Return side exit return handle to its cradle. This will insure that the side exit returns to the locked position. Please note: In order for the side exit to work correctly, the side exit gate must be free to swing to the wide open position. If a fence or other object prevents the side exit from opening fully, the side exit will not close securely. Also, if the side exit safety latch is engaged, the gate will not open or close properly.

## **Side Squeeze**

1. The squeeze side (operator's side) of the chute is designed to adjust in or out to accommodate different size animals. To adjust the side squeeze make sure the squeeze handle (which runs parallel to the top chute frame) is all the way up. Then flip the side squeeze adjustment lever to the outside of the chute (this lever is attached to the top chute frame and is located in the middle of the chute). As you pull down on the lever the side of the chute will swing freely. Using your foot, move the side of the chute to one of the five settings available and slowly release the handle. Return the adjustment handle to the normal position.
2. To apply squeeze, simply pull down on squeeze handle, which runs parallel to the top chute frame. To release squeeze, simply push the lever up to the normal position.
3. To insure a long chute life ease of operation, the floor should be cleared of debris and manure and rinsed off after each use.

## **Side Top Gates (Drop Gates)**

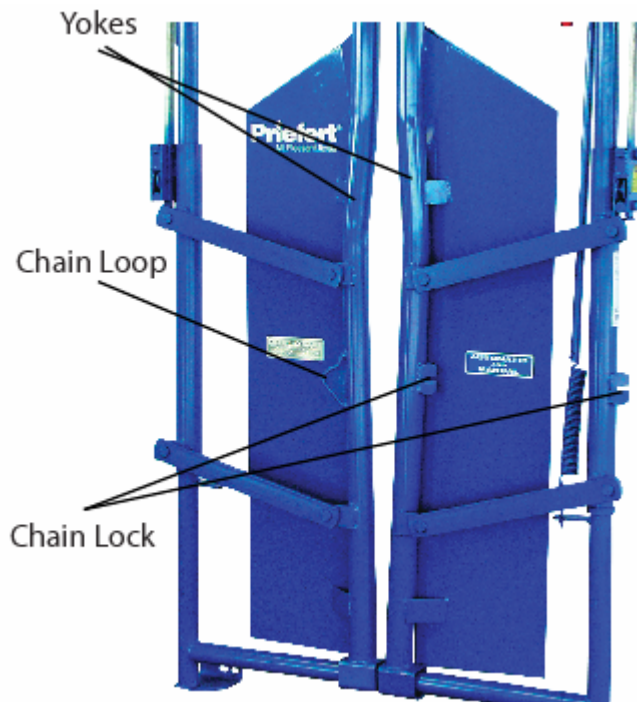
The 10 drop gates (five on each side) allow you full access to the top part of the cow's body. When the animals head is securely held by the headgate, any or all of the gates may be opened without danger of releasing the cow. To open the gate, lift up on gravity latch and fold down gate. When finished, push the

gate back up to its locked position latches will self engage. Occasional oiling of the gravity latch will improve the ease of operation. If it is necessary to work on the right side of the animal, the safety latch, located approximately half way down at the headgate end of the side exit gate, should be secured to avoid accidental opening and injury. To secure, turn the L-shaped rod outward until it is free to slide forward in the pipe collar. Push the rod forward and secure by turning downward in front of stop. When the work on that animal is completed, release safety latch by turning out and sliding back. Note: Side exit will not operate with latch engaged.

## Bottom Access Panels (Side Panels)

The bottom access panels allow access to either side of the cow. To open the panels, release the gravity latches at the top of the panels. You can then fold down or remove the panels for access. To replace side panel, place pivot cups (located on the bottom of the access panel) over the bottom pipe of the side frame and rotate inward until gravity latches catch. When working on the cow's right side secure side exit safety latch as described above. Occasional oiling of gravity latches improves ease of operation.

## Head Chain



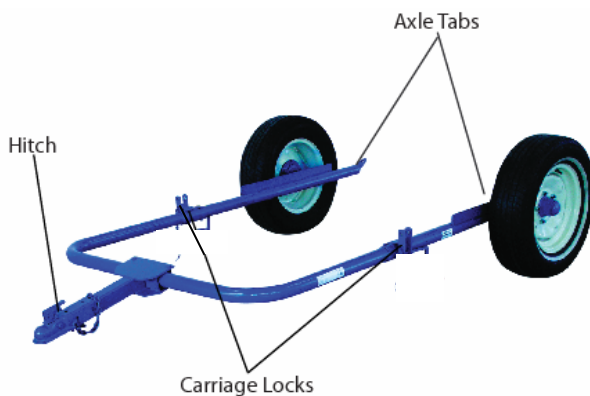
Each Squeeze Chute comes with a head chain to secure the animal's head for dehorning or facial work. To use the head chain, catch the animal's head in the headgate and squeeze the animal with the side squeeze. Pull the chain through the chain loop. Pull the end of the chain, next to the animal, across the bridge of the animal's nose and secure in the chain lock on the yoke. Pull the other end of the chain until the animal's chin is pulled snug against the headgate yokes. Pull the chain upward until it catches in the V at the top of the chain loop. Bring the remainder of the chain across the animal's neck, secure the chain by engaging the appropriate link into the chain lock on the outside of the headgate frame. When finished, remove the chain by releasing the chain from the chain lock on the outside frame first.

# Optional Equipment

## Chute Carriage

The chute carriage is used to provide portability for the Chute.

Position the carriage in front of the chute with the axle tabs on each side of the headgate. Raise the front of the carriage and roll it toward the rear of the chute until you are able to insert the axle tabs into the slotted axle on the chute. When the axle tabs are fully engaged into slots on axle, push front of the carriage down by applying pressure to the carriage hitch. Push down until the carriage locks pass the mounting slots on the mounting ears on both sides of the chute. Place the pin in the appropriate hole to secure carriage to



chute. Position the transport vehicle in front of the carriage and raise the hitch and attach to the ball hitch on the transport vehicle. Use safe lifting procedures and, if necessary, get help when lifting the chute onto the hitch to avoid muscle strain or back injury. To remove the carriage, first position the

chute in the desired location (front of chute will be resting on the ground) and remove the transport pins. Use caution since the operator will be manually lowering the rear of the chute to the ground and some leverage is required. Allow the carriage to rise slowly until the chute rests on the

ground. Remove the carriage from around the chute.

## Palpation Cage

The palpation cage is used for pregnancy checking and artificial insemination. To attach it to the back of the chute, insert the mounting ears into the four mounting slots at the rear of the chute. Secure in place with the lynch pins attached to the palpation cage. To enter, turn handle straight out and slide to rear until it releases. Swing door in and lock door by turning handle and sliding into latch receptacle at opposite back corner. This blocks the next animal's access to the chute. When finished, return door to side position and lock to allow the next animal to enter the chute. Do not transport the squeeze chute with the palpation cage attached.



# TROUBLE SHOOTING

## Most Commonly Asked Questions

Q. When my cow enters the headgate she goes right on through. The headgate won't catch her. Why won't my headgate hold?

A. There could be a couple of reasons why the cows are not being caught.

1. Possibly you are setting the headgate too wide to catch the animal. Try setting the headgate one setting narrower.
2. Another possible reason is that someone has put heavy oil or grease on the headgate locks. If this has happened, wash the oil and grease out. When the headgate locks are thoroughly cleaned, lubricate the locks with WD-40 or a similar light lubricant. (Use lubricant sparingly)

Q. My side squeeze releases the cow while I am trying to work on her. Why isn't it holding?

A. The side squeeze is designed to hold in any position. With extended use the lock can wear. It may be that your lock has worn to the point it needs to be replaced. If so, please call your Priefert Dealer for replacement parts.

Q. How should I care for my chute? Does it need to be put on a concrete slab? Should it be put inside?

A. The main threat to the life of the chute is animal waste and rust. After use, the chute should be washed to remove manure and other accumulations. It is not necessary to put the chute inside or on a cement slab. It is beneficial, for the chute and the operator, to have a slab for the chute to set on. If the chute is going to be set on the ground, blocking the ends will extend chute life and prevent dirt from accumulating on the side exit shaft under the floor. The chute does need regular lubrication at all pivot points on the headgate and tailgate and the side squeeze. The gravity latches and collars will also benefit from lubrication.



## Operator Instruction

### Priefert Model 91 Automatic/Manual Headgate

#### 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 1/2" bolts. Lag screws are not recommended (DIMENSIONS: Inside holes are 33" apart and outside holes are 36" apart, horizontally; top holes and bottom are 61 3/4" 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

Gate does not work smoothly

Gate failure to stay locked

Gate hangs in open position

Gate is slow to close in automatic position, or does not close and cow backs out.

### Solution to Problem

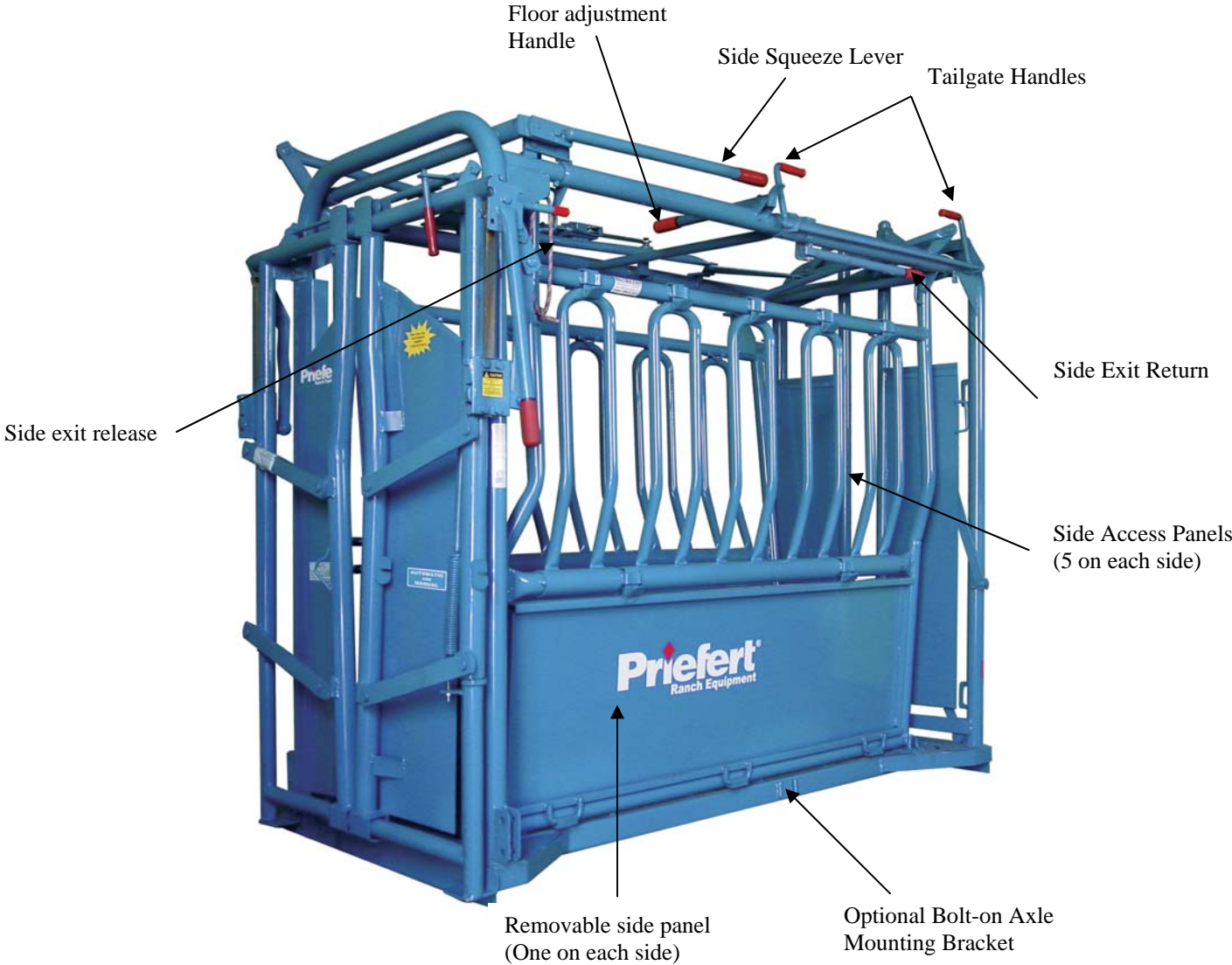
Clean and lubricate all moving parts.

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

Lubricate top rollers and all pivots and slides

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 gat can not close.
5. Lubricate slide rod.

# Model '04 Squeeze Chute Parts List



# Priefert 91 Headgate

## Parts Description:

- Part #**
- Latch Box** - The locking mechanism containing locking rollers, release rollers, locking bar, release lever and the lift arm.
  - Top Rollers** - These are synthetic rollers that are inside the top collars and are 1 7/8" long, and permanently lubricated.
  - 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)
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Lift Arm** - The flat bar that lifts the release rollers in latch box.
  - 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.
  - Operator Headgate Handle** - The handle is used by the operator in operating the headgate. It is 1" pipe, 24" long.
  - 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)
  - Automatic Selector 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.

