

Veteran Colony – Improved Loading Facility

Veteran Colony

Box 500, Veteran, AB T0C 2S0



At Veteran Colony we had a pig loading facility that created considerable stress on both the pig as and staff in loading hogs. As a result we received numerous calls from our packer with concerns about hogs dead on arrival (DOA) and large numbers of stressed hogs.

The loading facility in combination with our hog trailer required the hogs to be loaded at a very steep rate of incline, as a result the pigs would not easily move and continually tried to turn around and walk of the trailer. Because of this, shipping hogs was a difficult job that required extended loading time.

We set out to design a loading facility that would make it easier on both staff and animals during the loading process.

To do this we designed a loading facility that consists of a changeable ramp to reduce the level of incline required for the hogs to be loaded on both upper and lower decks of the shipping trailer.

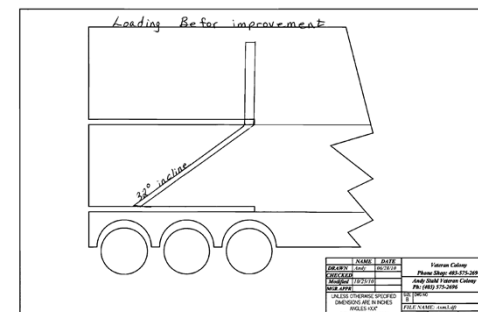
The results were a ramp inside the barn that is 20 ft long and can easily be changed to load both upper and lower decks. (See attached drawings and pictures).

The loading facility is fully enclosed when the trailer is backed up to it with lots of light behind the hogs shining into the trailer. (See attached drawings and pictures).

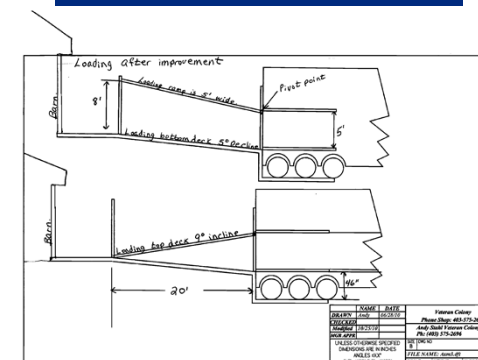
The loading ramp is balanced with counterweights for one man to be able to change ramp from top deck loading to bottom deck loading. (See attached drawings and pictures).

The results from using the new loading facility are:

- 1) Loading time was reduced from 35 minutes to 15 minutes for 190 hogs.
- 2) The hogs only require very minimal encouragement to move on the trailer, resulting in much less stress on the hogs.
- 3) Loading hogs can now be accomplished by one person where it used to require two or three.
- 4) DOA is reduced significantly to the point we are considering dropping the PHIF (hog insurance).
- 5) We have not received any stressed pig complaints from our packer since we started using the ramp 3 months ago.



Loading before improvement



Loading after Improvement

