

## CATTLE HANDLING



## **Just What a Stockman Needs**

Brian Winter of Winter Tractors, Salisbury has a wide and supportive customer base of large and smallholder farmers who appreciate well-made and designed quality products and his practical approach when recommending them. Brian set out 16 years ago to build his business reputation around equipment and machinery that, like him, will stand the test of time. The Ritchie range of stock handling equipment, gates, hurdles and bale handling fits in well with this belief and is synonymous with quality and innovation. The added ability of Ritchie's handling systems to adapt to all types and sizes of stock, including New Forest ponies, is an added bonus not lost on Brian's customers.

## Designed by People Who Know What's Needed to Handle Stock Safely

New Forest farmer and cattle breeder, Jeff Townsend was looking to either upgrade his old stock handling system or get out of stock rearing completely. He was becoming increasingly frustrated with the extra burden and time requirements that regular TB testing was placing on his farm business - something had to give! However, cattle and horses are very much part of his family life and enjoyment, and Jeff saw no reason why the 'system' should beat him!

Jeff is a keen advocate on maintaining traditional, hardy British breeds, which finish out well on Forest grazing. Pedigree Shorthorn and Angus breeds form the backbone of the farm, whilst crossbred Blue Greys and Angus provide a commercial suckling herd. An interest in breeding and exhibiting Forest ponies support the families 'Forest' way of life. It was with this need to improve his stock handling requirements that Jeff visited the Bath and West Show and was introduced to the new Ritchie Mobile Crush on local dealer Brian Winter's stand.

## John Wayne Days are Over!

"The Ritchie benefits stood out a mile," said Jeff, and a unit was duly purchased and installed. His old system was adapted by Brian to incorporate the Ritchie unit whilst providing an easy access site for all stock. The mobile unit is easily moved between Jeff's New Forest farms and its safe adaptability enables fat stock calves, ponies and foals all to be handled regularly.

Fully sheeted sides, an automatic head yoke and two sliding gates are items that make the unit perfect for its job. Side gates on either side open to provide access to stock of all ages and sizes, be it calves for tagging or castrating, or cows held for A.I. A head yoke is an added bonus, keeping animals steady. "My John Wayne days are over," remarked Jeff, "now it's a case that if the product is not god enough for me, then it's not good enough for my stock. My name, like Ritchie's is on the product."

