



*the perfect partner*

## STOCK CUBE™

USER TESTIMONIAL



# Beefed Up Cube Handling System Matches Sunny Expectations

Ritchie has provided farmers with stock handling systems designed to make life easier and safer for both stockmen and cattle for over 140 years. Third generation farmer Gus Soutar's family have been farming Suttieside Farm for over 100 years and a new Ritchie Stock Cube™ handling system has recently been introduced to help maintain the farm's safety record whilst easing stock management.

Suttieside Farm is mainly a livestock unit comprising of cows and heifers, which can peak at 150 head. With the need for regular handling and TB testing, Gus was looking for a simple, effective unit that made his job easier and safer. TB testing used to be a traumatic time with stock unhelpful and tempers short. The introduction of the Ritchie Stock Cube™ has changed everything with the animals being much quieter whilst enabling Gus to run them through the system on his own if necessary.

Self contained and easily moved from site to site, Gus uses his Manitou telescopic loader to set the unit down at the chosen site, be it yard or field and then unfolds the free standing pen. Additional holding pens are easily added if necessary depending on stock numbers and the whole set-up takes no more than 15 minutes for two people to be 'ready to go'.

One of the biggest benefits of the new handling unit to Gus is the inclusion and automatic operation of a creep gate within the main stock pen. This creep gate moves as the main swing gate corrals the stock in the curved pen towards the crush or head yoke. Stock cannot become wedged into corners and thus move forward willingly into the curved raceway.

Operation of the gate is all done from behind the stock with the swing gate locking itself

automatically every 30 cm to stop cattle stepping back or turning. Gus particularly likes the human safety element which Ritchie has designed into the unit, where he is able to enter the pen behind the stock from a side entrance/escape gate, whilst allowing quick access to the cattle held in the crush/head yoke.

The cube unfolds from 3.2m x 2.5 m to a size of 3.2m x 5.5m and is capable of holding stock of various sizes and weights including horned cattle. Up to 20 x 2.5m hurdles can be stored upright and transported within the cube so the unit becomes a self-contained system.

The Ritchie Stock Cube™ has quickly had a favourable effect on stock at Suttieside Farm whilst Gus's wife appreciates the much improved sunnier language now forthcoming at TB testing times rather than the previous 'suttier' element!

