



*the perfect partner*

**STOCK CUBE™**

USER TESTIMONIAL



## RITCHIE Stock Cube enabled us to continue with beef herd

Travelling to an Agricultural Show from their farm near Ringwood, Hampshire, Phill Bascombe and his wife Donna had lengthy discussions covering the need to reduce the family's commitment to stocking and handling beef cattle. Phill having had two hip replacements, Donna was very concerned about his ability to continue handling the beef herd – one more kick from a frisky animal and Phill wouldn't be walking! Phill's farm hand, although in his early 70s, is more agile than Phill, but getting stock through the existing stock crush was not particularly easy or safe for either of them.

"We agreed to pull out of beef for safety reasons" said Donna, "but on walking around the showground we saw the new Ritchie Stock Cube cattle handling system. Realising its benefits and potential on our farm following a walk round with one of the Ritchie team, a deal was done and delivery made soon after".

The self-contained and mobile Stock Cube unfolds easily and quickly to provide a freestanding stock pen which doesn't

need level or solid ground to operate. The 3.2metre x 2.5metre cube unfolds to a size of 3.2metre x 5.5metres and incorporates a unique curved sweep area for handlers to work safely behind the penned animals. The unit has no corner traps or sharp edges for animals to get stuck in or hurt unlike conventional handling systems and the fast exit operator gates enable a single person to manage the system whilst easily accessing a secured animal.

Phill is particularly pleased with the additional safety provided to him and his vet from the Stock Cube, when TB testing. Stock is generally bought in at 5-7 months and kept and fattened for slaughter at 20-24 months. Spending the majority of their lives out in the open fields, the cattle are not used to regular handling and this was part of Phill's worry. Heavyweight beef animals had previously caused concern when handled through a cattle crush causing anxiety as well as injury to themselves, stock and the crush. Although the Ritchie Stock Cube would have worked well with their existing cattle crush, moving to a Ritchie Access crate with the head scoop,

purchased with the stock cube, gives Phill a new sense of confidence when working with the herd, animals move safely through it in a calm manner. Phill says, "that in his experience everything has been thoroughly thought through, from the heavyweight construction, the ease of access on the crush to the Cube's ability to hold twenty pen gates when being transported on its easy accessed forklift bars and can be easily picked up by a loader tractor and put on a bale trailer and be moved around the farm to which ever fields the cattle are in."

Whilst proving safe and easy accommodation for the herd, the notched curve gate system and secondary pens enable Phill to use the Stock Cube for easy loading of animals for market. "Feeding three or four times through the Stock Cube prior to loading for market gets the animals used to the pens. It's a very good hassle-free way of loading the cattle as we no longer have to chase our animals around the fields" explains Phill adding, "We wouldn't have remained in beef without it!"

