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A SIMPLIFIED MULESING CRUSH

By G. T. Halpin, B.Sc. (Agric.)

DURING the last two years Mr. Tom Flanigan, a mulesing contractor in a large area centred at Katanning, has performed the mules-tailstrip operation on many thousands of lambs and sheep.

Mr. Flanigan follows the Department of Agriculture's recommendations and has been using a crush of the type described in Bulletin 3055. He has found this crush satisfactory but considers there are two features of the design which could be improved, these are:

1. The Swinging Crossbar
   There are occasions when a sheep escapes the catcher's grip and in its struggling displaces the bar rapidly towards the operator's face. The same thing can happen when the operation is finished and the operator frees the bar to allow the catcher to drop the sheep.
Besides this, the time needed to release the bar, step back and then replace the bar for the next animal is wasteful.

In the new design the bar is adjustable for height and is fixed when the adjustment has been made. The catcher holds the sheep in position for the operation then releases it through the right hand frame as he pivots to return to the catching pen or truck body.

This means that the operator does not have to take part in the release of the treated sheep and is protected from the risk of injury from a kicked bar. Further, the sheep after release drops away from both the operator and the skin pieces from the preceding operation.

2. The Footboard

In the earlier design the lower edge of the footboard extends towards the operator and beyond the face of the tubular frame. Because of this the operator's hand action can be impeded.

In the new design the overhang of the tube frame beyond the platform edge gives
a considerably greater freedom of hand action when operating, especially on older sheep. The crush is designed for use in either shed walls or from stake-sided trucks in the same way as the earlier design.

Although the crush shown here is collapsible for ease of transport in a car, it could just as easily be built as a permanent structure if desired.

All the necessary dimensions are shown in the illustration.

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**BACONER CARCASS COMPETITION, 1964**

THE 1964 Baconer Carcass Competition will be conducted by the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Pig Society.

The competition carcasses will be judged on the Western Australian modified Hammond System which was used at last year's competition.

Pigs should be despatched to Watsons, Spearwood. The receival dates are from May 25 to September 9, 1964, inclusive.

A schedule of prizes and conditions of the competition will be available soon and interested growers should apply early for a copy if they do not receive one.

Further information about the competition can be obtained from the Society's office at 239 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, or by telephone 23 2951.
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