

concept, not expensive (<300\$ US) with no electricity, no hydraulic, no mechanic and maintenance free (table 1). We encourage our clients to install their chute in such a manner to have an easier life in dairying. Doing more and more production medicine, trying to find the biggest bottleneck, I found that backache was to my lifetime career my worst bottleneck which I have tried to solve the best I could. As a dairy practitioner I sometimes think that my patients receive better care, nutrition and comfort than I can afford myself!

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Table 1. Comparative main characteristics of trimming chutes.

	STANDING	STANDING MODIFIED	TILTABLE
Price	\$	\$ + 300 U.S.	\$\$\$
Electricity	no	no	yes
Hydraulic	no	no	yes
Foot	good	good	poor to bad
Exposure	plantar	plantar	lateral plantar
To Trimmer	view	view	view
Cow's			
Comfort			
In Chute	Standing	Standing	Lateral - bloating !!!
Trimmer's	Bad	Excellent	Excellent
Comfort	bend or kneel	standing	standing
Chute's	Lightweight	Lightweight	Heavy weight,
Convenience	moveable	moveable	space limiting, trailer hitch

Abstract

Novel ELISA for detection of *Neospora*-specific antibodies in cattle

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An enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) to detect antibodies to *Neospora* species in cattle was developed. Whole formalin-fixed *Neospora caninum* (NC-Liverpool) tachyzoites were used as antigen and a monoclonal antibody to bovine immunoglobulin light chain and an anti-mouse horseradish peroxidase conjugate were used to reveal bound antibody. A panel of 46 sera, negative by the immunofluorescent antibody test (IFAT), were used in the ELISA at a serum dilution of 1:500 to calculate the negative cut-off value of OD₄₀₅ =

0.77. There was a 95 percent agreement between the results of the ELISA and the IFAT with 104 serum samples. The specificity and sensitivity of the ELISA were 96 percent and 95 percent, respectively, when compared with the IFAT. No significant cross-reaction was observed with sera from cattle infected experimentally with *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Cryptosporidium parvum*, *Babesia divergens*, *Sarcocystis cruzi*, *Eimeria alabamensis* or *E. bovis*. A significantly modified version of the test is now commercially available.