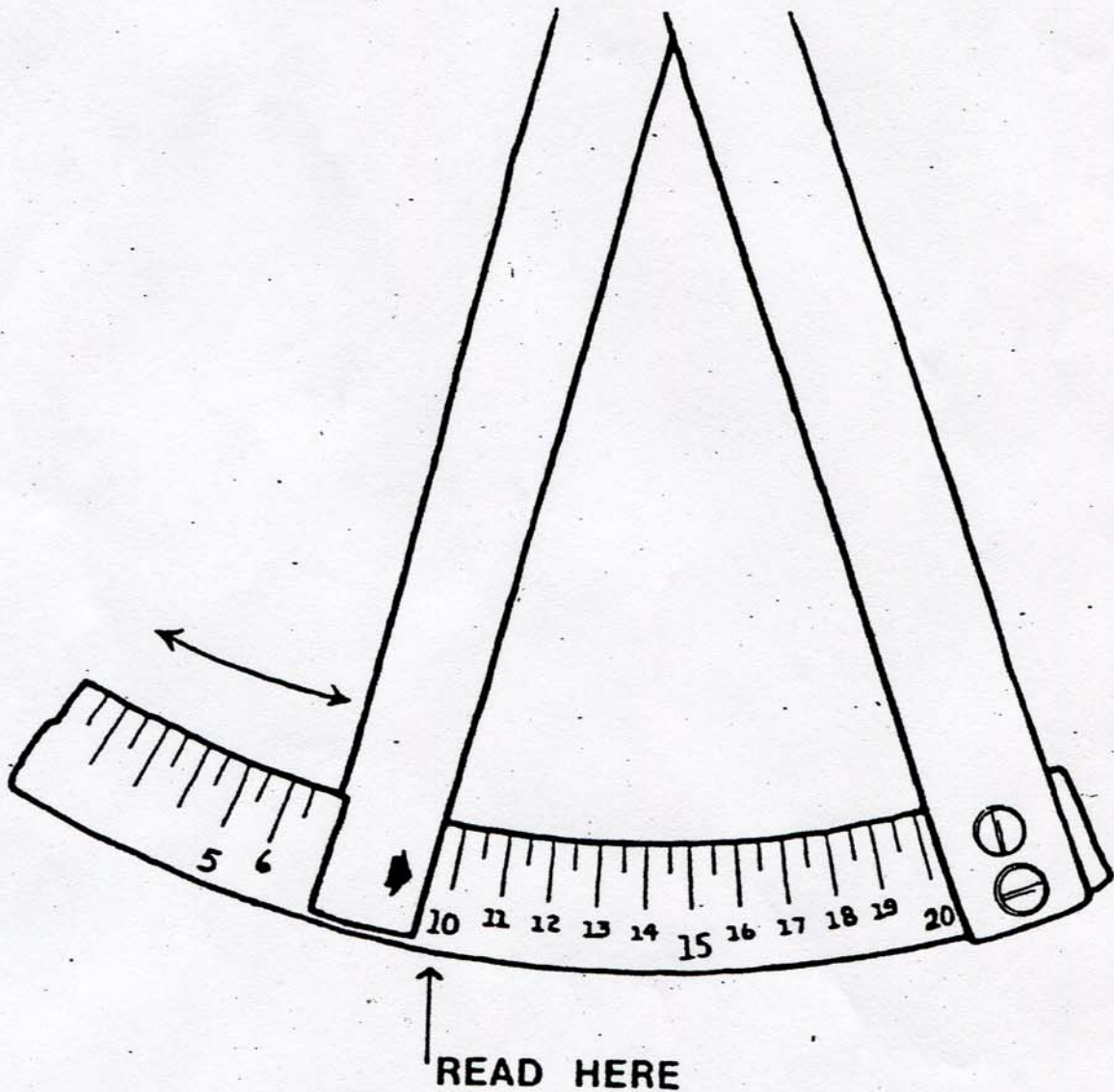


THE RICE PELVIMETER

Donald G. LeFever
Research Technician
Dept. of Animal Sciences
Colorado State University

The Rice Pelvimeter is a measuring device for taking pelvic measurements.

The instrument consists of two cast aluminum arms and a stainless steel scale graduated in centimeters. The measurements are read on the inside of the measuring arm marked with an arrow (see diagram).



I. MEASURING WITH THE RICE PELVIMETER

Two measurements are made via the rectum, a vertical measurement and a horizontal measurement. The vertical measurement is taken by holding the pelvimeter in a vertical position, spreading the jaws slowly while placing the end of one jaw on the symphysis pubis and the other jaw on the sacral vertebrae (refer to the detailed drawing). When taking the height measurement do not squeeze the pelvimeter too hard as the lower jaw may slip off the pubic symphysis or the upper jaw may move off the center of the backbone giving you a larger measurement. The horizontal measurement is taken at the level of the poas tubercles the widest area of the pelvis. The poas tubercles form a depression point in the shafts of the ilium. Generally, most cattle will have a larger vertical measurement than horizontal. When a heifer has a high pelvic symphysis, this will decrease her pelvic height. Two breeds generally have taller pelvic heights. They are Brahman cross and Salers. Some of the Simmental and Gelbvieh yearling heifers are wider than their height measurement. With a little practice the measurement is easily taken. To obtain the relative pelvic area, these two measurements are multiplied together.

