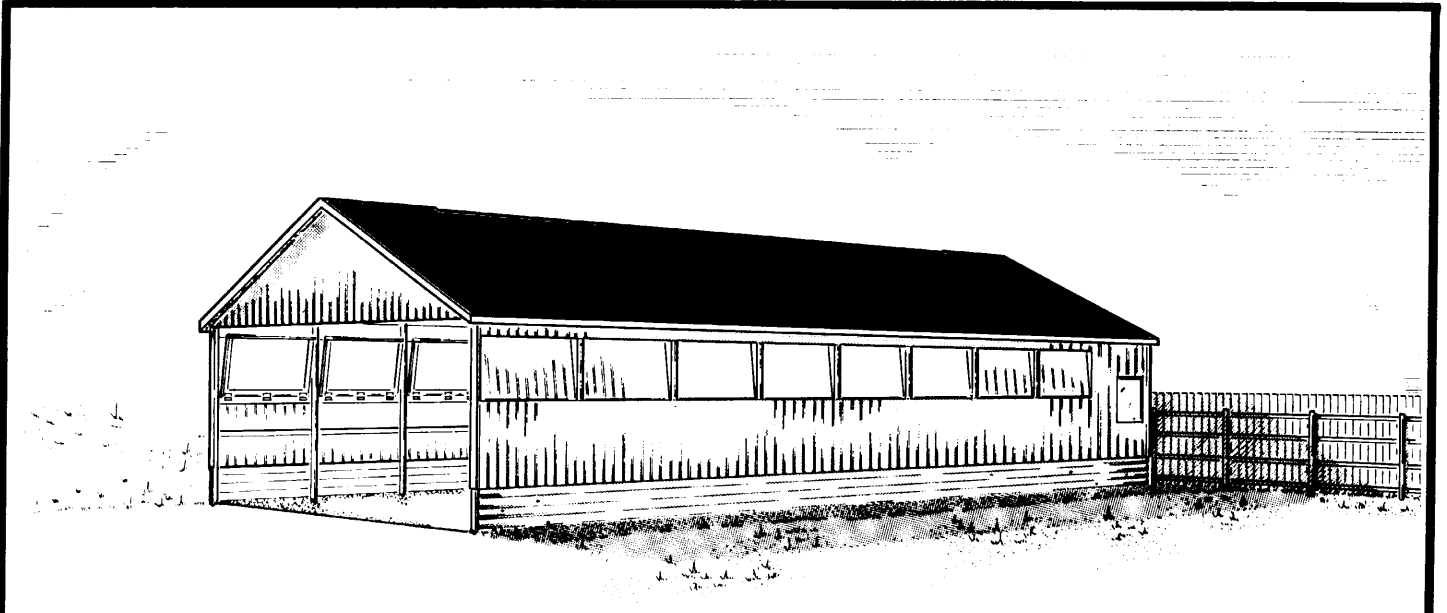




## CALVING BARN



REV 85:10

Every spring, ranchers lose many calves that could be saved by a good calving barn. A small operator can often fit calving pens into existing barns or sheds, but a larger rancher or breeder of purebred or 'exotic' cattle may need a specialized calving barn.

This plan gives construction details for a pole-frame calving barn 10.2 x 21.6 m (34 x 72 ft), with a clear-span trussed roof. Some ranchers may prefer to use ordinary rafters supported on four rows of poles, but this costs as much or more and lacks the versatility of clear-span construction.

The barn contains a loose housing area, box stalls that can be increased or decreased in number by using removable panels, a chute for holding and treating cows, and a small service room complete with records storage, a refrigerator for medical supplies and a cot for the herdsman.

Box pens are 3.6 x 3.6 m (12 x 12 ft). By removing panels these can be opened up to make group nursing or calf pens. The panels can also be removed completely for cleaning with a tractor and manure loader. Manufactured steel pen partitions are shown, although farm-made wood or steel gates could be substituted.

A cool dry building is better for calving than a warm humid one. This barn is well ventilated through the south-facing open end and a continuous open slot at the roof ridge. The open end facing south is much better than an open side wall, as the end opening reduces draftiness in the barn and is not blocked by snow and rain that drops from the roof. Avoid completely enclosed buildings unless you are prepared to add full insulation and an automatic ventilating system.



The Canada Plan Service prepares detailed plans showing how to construct modern farm buildings, livestock housing systems, storages and equipment for Canadian Agriculture.

This leaflet gives management information and describes one of these detailed plans. To obtain a copy of the Canada Plan Service detailed plan, contact your local provincial agricultural engineer or extension advisor.