



SHEEP HOUSING

Sheep production in Canada is divided between range and farm flocks. Sheep on the range require little protection except during lambing. Farm flocks may be allowed to graze during summer months but some protection is required during winter and lambing periods. They may also be raised in year-round confinement housing. Sheep suffer more from drafts and moisture than from low temperatures. Open-front sheds for protection from wind and moisture are adequate. When lambing occurs during early spring or periods of adverse weather, closed housing should be provided for the ewes and new-born lambs. Plants in this series are suitable for both farm and range production.

Location

Buildings and pens for sheep should be located on a well-drained site. A southern slope on well-drained soil is preferred. A central location for farm flocks allows for fly control around the buildings as well as providing some protection from dogs and other predators.

Barn roofs should slope away from the feedlot area, or alternatively eave troughs should be provided to run water away from the pens.

Buildings should have the face opening away from the prevailing winds. Corral fencing should be of the slotted-board type for maximum wind protection.

Ventilation

Buildings used for confinement rearing of sheep or as shelter for farm or range flocks should have adequate provision for ventilation. Eave and ridge openings should be provided in open front sheds for air movement. Hinged or removable panels should be provided for additional summer air circulation. In totally enclosed buildings thermostatically controlled fans may be used. The building should be adequately insulated to reduce heat loss and for better ventilation control. A vapour barrier and sheathing on the inside wall will be required to protect the insulation. Supplemental heat may be required under adverse conditions.



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 the details for a farm building component or piece of farmstead equipment. To obtain another copy of this leaflet, contact your local provincial agricultural engineer or extension advisor.

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Accommodation for Sheep

<i>Accommodation</i>	<i>Ewes and Rams</i>	<i>Feeder Lambs</i>
Feed lot		
hard surfaced	15 sq ft per head	6 sq ft per head
soil*	70 sq ft per head	30 sq ft per head
Open front shed		
floor area	15 sq ft per pregnant ewe 10 sq ft per dry ewe	6 sq ft per head
ceiling height	9 ft min	9 ft min
Slotted floors**		
area per animal	7 sq ft	4 sq ft
% slotted floor area	100	100
slot width	3/4 in	5/8 in
slat width	2 to 3 in	2 to 3 in
Lambing pens (not slotted)		
claiming pen only	4 x 4 ft min	
lambing and claiming pen	4 x 5 ft min	
Feed rack		
length per head	16 in group feeding 6 in self-fed	12 in group feeding 4 in self-fed
height at throat	12 in small breeds 15 in large breeds	10 small breeds 12 in large breeds
Feed storage		
hay	3 lb/head-day (small breeds) 5 lb/head-day (large breeds)	2 lb/head-day
grain	1/3 lb/head-day	1/2 lb/head-day (maintenance) 1 to 2 1/2 lb/head-day (finishing)
Bedding storage	3/4 lb/head-day	1/4 lb/head-day
Water		
surface area	1 sq ft/40 head	1 sq ft/40 head

*Soil surfaced feed lots should be used only where annual precipitation is less than 20 in. With soil surface, a paved feeding strip should be provided adjacent to each feed bunk. This paved strip should be at least 6 ft wide, or as wide as the tractor used for cleaning, and the strip should slope at 1/2 in per foot away from the feed bunk.

**An alternative to slotted floors, for ewes, rams or lambs is 1 by 2 in 10-gauge expanded and flattened metal mesh. Expanded metal mesh floors may be covered with a solid panel to retain bedding for lambing.