

UNIT : CATTLE HOUSING

STAFF

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Unit is to introduce the need for well planned housing in order to achieve the best production from animals, ensure better stock-manship and minimise the threat of disease being incubated and spread.

On completion of the Unit students will have a good understanding of requirements and the options open will make sure that money spent on new housing is well spent or that the most is made of existing buildings.

KEY WORDS

Requirements -

- The animal's well-being (welfare codes and assurance scheme standards should apply as a minimum) – adequate space, freedom from bullying, protection from the weather, a clean bed, good ventilation, access to feed and water
- The farmer's safety and ease of management – easy human access to animals (and escape), lighting to enable easy inspection, safe handling facilities, machinery access for feeding and cleaning out.

Features

- Housing system – suitability, simplicity, adaptability
- Location of building – air movement, accessibility

Type of Housing

- Roofed or un-roofed
- Wood chip 'corals'
- Conventional buildings
 - slatted floor
 - cubicles

- bedded pens or yards

Health and welfare – esp. pneumonia

- Ventilation – adequate air space, open ridge, little additional dust from bedding and feed as possible
- Group size – matched
- Quarantine

Feeding and watering – feed storage and feeding space

Handler safety – access, handling and loading

RESOURCES

EBLEX (2009) EBLEX Beef BRP Manual 3 – Improving Cattle Handling for Better Returns

EBLEX (2010) Beef Briefing – 10/08 – Putting the priority on bedding management

Farming Connect (2010) Ventilation for Pneumonia control March 2010

HSE (2006) Handling and Housing Cattle Agriculture Information Sheet No 35

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Exercise - EBLEX Beef BRP Manual 6 – Better Housing – Spot the faults – p12 OR as per sheep building Farmers Weekly Dec 31 2010 p40