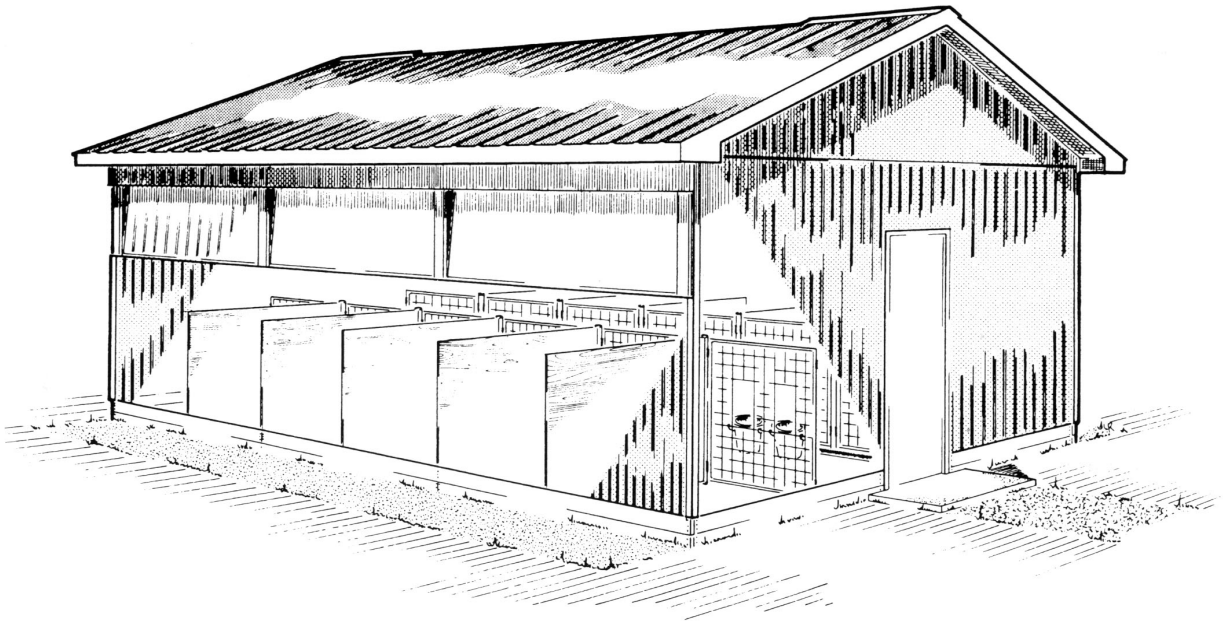
COLD CALF NURSERY



DEVELOPED BY CANADA PLAN SERVICE

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COLD CALF NURSERY

CPS
PLAN M-2342 NEW 86:08

This leaflet describes a plan for a cold nursery for calves to about 3 months of age. Although hutches have proven very successful in raising calves, in harsh winter climates routine chores like feeding can become very difficult and uncomfortable for the operator. This building is designed to provide an environment similar to hutches for the calves, and eliminate the adverse weather problems for the operator.

SIZE

The 5400 x 7200 mm (18 x 24 ft) building has twelve 1200 x 1800 mm (4 x 6 ft) pens and a centre alley. Pen details are shown in Plan 326-36 (CPS Plan M-2834). These 12 individual pens should match the number of calves 0-3 months of age in a 100-cow herd. Removable pen partitions permits running two or three calves together for a short time before leaving the nursery. This allows them to develop socializing habits before entering the next housing system, thus reducing some of the stress of moving. The building could be extended for bigger herds, or to allow for group pens for older calves.

FEEDING

No provision is made for preparing or storing feed inside this building. Typically, calves are fed and watered by pails attached to the pen fronts.

MANURE HANDLING

Pens must be well bedded to remain clean and dry. A small gutter is shown in the alley at the front of the pens; alternatively, the floor can be dropped 50 mm (2 in.) at the front of the pens and the alley floor crowned. If liquid is seeping from the pen into the gutter, there probably is not enough bedding. Clean out pens thoroughly and disinfect them before putting in new calves.

VENTILATION

The nursery is designed as a cold, naturally ventilated building. In winter, inside temperature will only be a few degrees warmer than outside. With side panels closed, air exchange will occur through the open ridge; do not close it off. In warmer weather, the side panels can be opened as required for more air movement. A small amount of insulation is shown in the roof to prevent condensation and dripping in cold weather. In very cold climates, add some insulation to the walls.

STRUCTURAL DESIGN

The nursery is designed as a pole building. The poles are designed to provide total wind resistance, therefore the building can be lengthened in increments of up to 2400 mm (8 ft) without other structural changes.