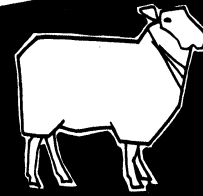




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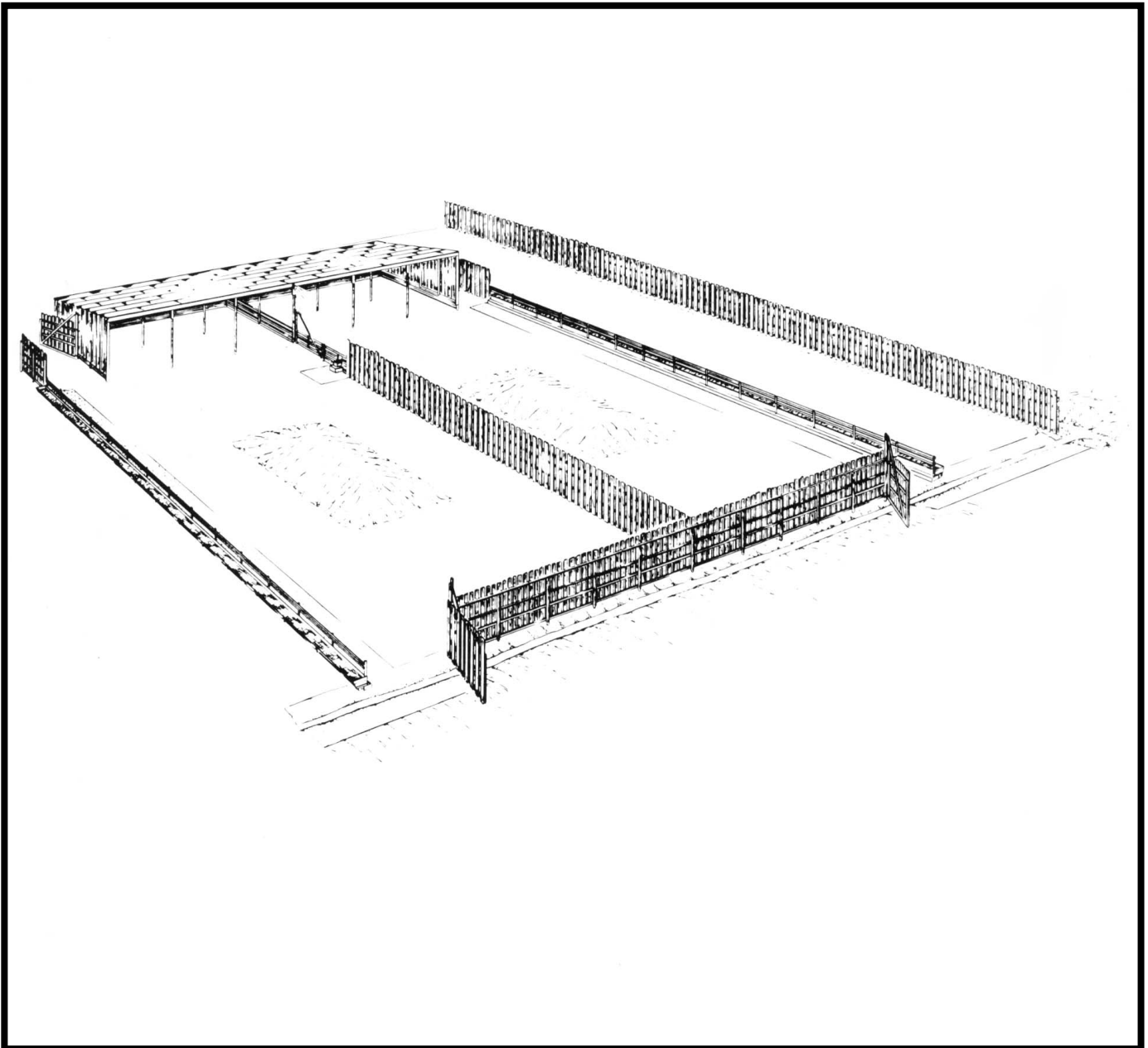
# Agricultural Building Systems Handbook



PLAN

351-22

## SHEEP DRYLOT UNIT



DEVELOPED BY CANADA PLAN SERVICE

# SHEEP DRYLOT UNIT

**CPS  
PLAN 4122 NEW 10:75**

This plan is for a sheep drylot unit as one component of a western-type semi-confinement sheep facility (Plan 351-21). This unit consists of an earth lot with outside fenceline feed bunks, windbreak fencing and an open-front pole shed for a sheltered bedded area. The components are arranged for year-round sheep housing in areas of low precipitation (under 20 inches per year).

The following table illustrates the space requirements for multiple-use operation of the sheep drylot unit; two sizes of lot and shed are shown, to correspond with the production program outlined in Leaflet 351-21.

		Production Period			
		Dry Ewes	Pregnant Ewes	Ewes with 1.5 lambs	Lambs
Unit A 136' x 138'	No. of sheep per unit	300	200	170	500
	Shed Area (ft <sup>2</sup> /animal)	10.5	15.7	18.4	6.3
	Feedlot Area (ft <sup>2</sup> /animal)	51.3	77.0	90.6	30.8
Unit B 108' x 138'	No. of sheep per unit	230	170*	120	400
	Shed Area (ft <sup>2</sup> /animal)	10.2	13.8	19.6	5.9
	Feedlot Area (ft <sup>2</sup> /animal)	53.6	72.5	102.6	30.8

The pole type open-front shed is located along the north side of the pen. It can be enclosed with curtain panels (polyethylene fastened to wooden frames) for additional protection from the weather (see Plan 350-03).

A windbreak fence 8 ft high with boards spaced for 20% porosity is recommended between pens to reduce winter wind effect. If the location is well sheltered by natural windbreaks such as trees, a rail fence could be used. A 12-ft swirl corner is provided at each end of the shed to reduce wind turbulence and snow-drifting in front of the shed. If the barn is very long, divide it with a windbreak fence near the center to help control drifts and snow inside.

The feeding driveway should be well drained, and at least 24 ft wide for snow removal. If it is a common driveway between two pens it should be at least 30 ft wide. If fodder is stored in the center of the driveway it should be 45 to 60 ft wide.

A paved feeding apron may be constructed inside the pen along the feed bunks. This apron should be as wide as the tractor used for cleaning and should slope away from the feed bunk.

## Management

The larger "A" unit is based on the area required to house 170 ewes with their lambs. The smaller "B" unit is based on the area required to house 170 pregnant ewes.

The ewes are moved through a central lambing unit for lambing and then returned to their drylot pens. The ewes from pen "A" should lamb first and then return to their pens with lambs. The ewes from pen "B" will be regrouped after lambing so that 120 ewes with their lambs will be returned to each unit. The remainder can be regrouped, with the last group to lamb remaining in the lambing unit.

If no central lambing unit is available, then portable claiming and hardening pens could be set up in the back of the shed.

At weaning time the ewes can be moved to pasture or elsewhere. The lambs can remain for market finishing in the drylot.

## Feeding

Distribute feed with a self-unloading wagon or portable mill directly into the fenceline bunks. The 110-ft feed bunk in each pen is based on limit-feeding of 85 ewes. Additional space would be required if more ewes are fed. Baled hay or straw can be stored along the driveway and moved across to the feed bunk if additional space is provided adjacent to the feeding driveway.

Use a lamb creep-feeder with portable fence sections and a creep-feeder fence in the shed for nursing lambs. After the lambs are weaned they can be self-fed to market weight. To use the feed bunk as a self-feeder, replenish as soon as the old feed is used up; this way, you don't need feeding space for all the lambs to eat at once. Another alternative is to add covered portable self-feeders in each pen when required.

## Drainage

Dry, well-drained facilities are essential in any sheep operation. A location with at least 4% southward slope is preferable. An earth mound in each pen will provide a well-drained area during wet periods.

The pens drain better if manure is scraped up and piled periodically, either in the pen or into an adjacent storage area. Scrape manure into a pile while still partly frozen in the early spring, then haul and spread later when the fields are dry.

All runoff should drain out of the pen. A shallow V-shaped ditch below the pens collects the pen runoff and diverts it into a holding pond. A culvert or preferably a shallow V-shaped paved runway should be constructed where the ditch crosses each driveway.

To control water pollution, all contaminated runoff should be collected in an approved manner. Obtain approval of your plans from proper local authorities before you start construction.