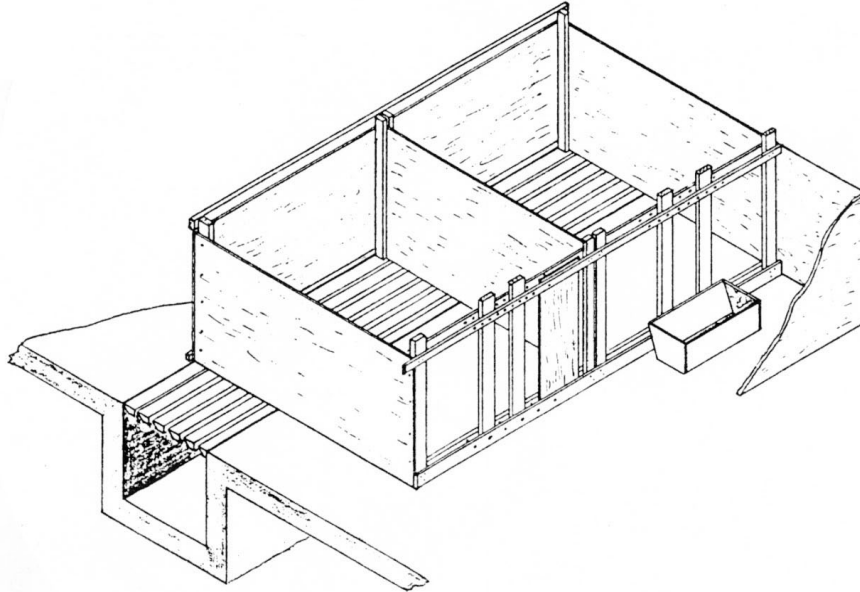


STANCHION LAMBING PEN

CPS 4391



Operation and Planning

Stanchion lambing pens are a new method of reducing death losses, reducing labour, and handling ewes which are poor mothers for various reasons. Though this plan provides the basic idea and details, there are many ways of adapting them.

1. Try only a few stanchion pens at first.
2. Move ewes into pens at day 140 to allow a few days to adapt.
3. Most ewes take to the pens well, and no ill effects have been noted from long term confinement.
4. Lambing death losses are greatly reduced, particularly with ewes which may otherwise refuse their lambs. Extra lambs from quads or triplets are easily adopted.
5. Because difficult births are much less, labour is reduced, in particular the "night shift".
6. Sheared ewes seem more comfortable than unshorn sheep.

Construction Details

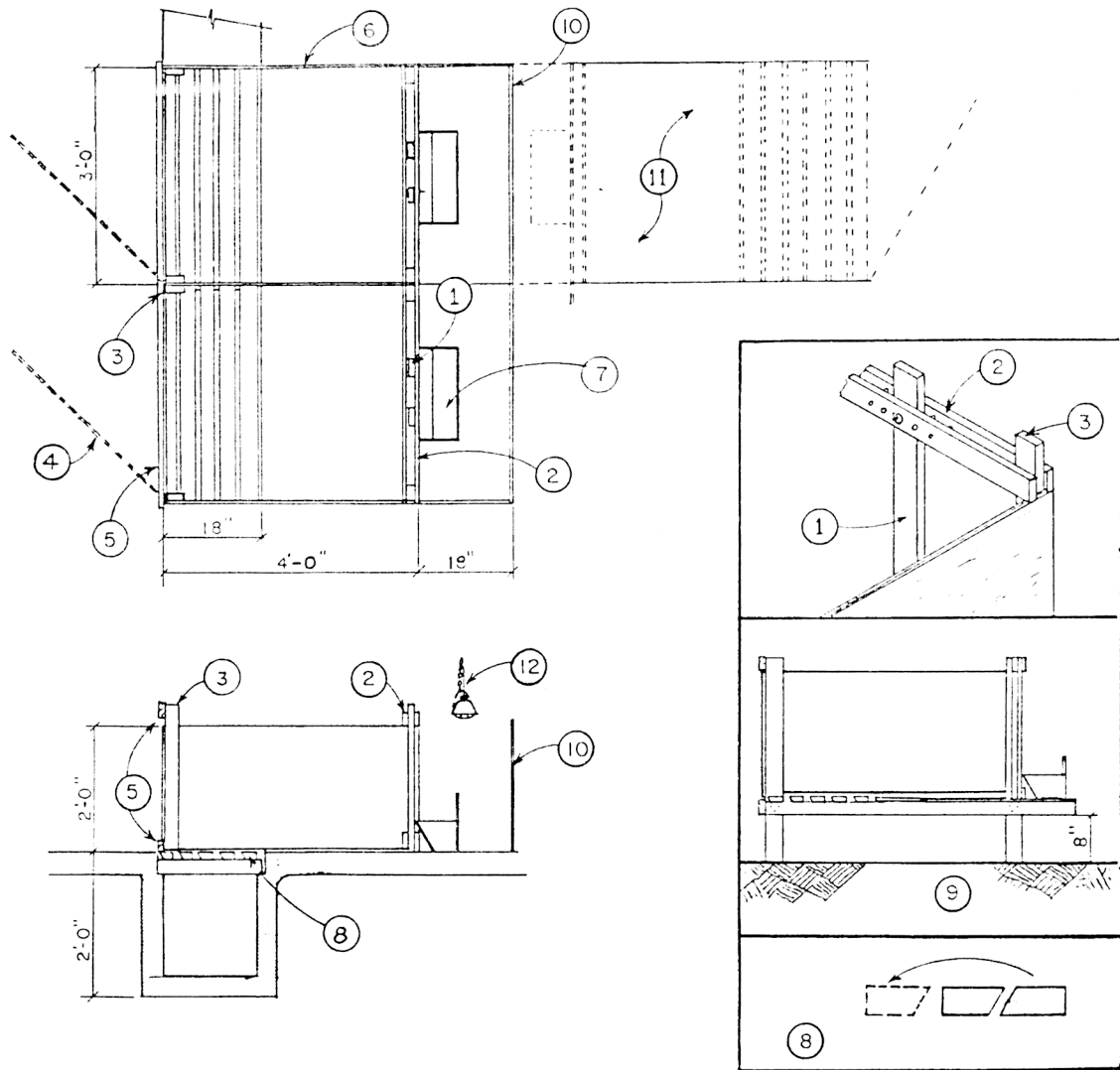
Stanchion pens are simply constructed of 12.5 mm. plywood and common lumber, following details on this plan. Pens may be arranged in groups of 4 or 6, face-to-face, or in rows. Rear gates should swing across the alley to aid sheep handling.

Manure handling and building environment is critical to animal health. Ammonia from urine and manure is the main problem in confinement barns. Ideally, manure should drop into a liquid trench, as shown; but this is an expensive system.

Stalls can also be raised for easier cleaning, or a few pens set on a bedded floor. Ammonia from wet floors will be a problem, and it is best to have a cold, dry barn such as an open-front or well ventilated shed.

Another type of stanchion restraint is to build the stanchion rail across the corner of a claiming pen. Note that a solid panel is required for each side of the stanchion for ewes that do not accept lambs to keep them from seeing the lamb.

DEVELOPED BY CANADA PLAN SERVICE



1. Stanchion uprights, 1 x 2; insert a solid panel beside for problem ewes
2. Top and bottom guides of 1 x 2, with holes 3/4 inch o.c for 1/4-inch chrome bolts and wing nuts
3. Corner uprights, 1 x 4 or 2 x 4
4. Gates of 12.5 mm plywood swing to close off alley behind stalls
5. Pen cross tie above and below gate, 1 x 4 or 2 x 4
6. All pens of 12.5 mm plywood
7. Feed and water pail
8. Slats from 1 x 4, bevel cut, as shown space 3/8-inch; supported on pressure treated 2 x 4 or steel pipe
9. Optional elevated freestanding stall 2 x 4 framing and plywood floor
10. Use a solid front if pens face-to-face
11. Second row here in groups of four or leave an alley between rows of stalls
12. Locate heat lamp outlet above lambs