

Farm Structures FACTSHEET



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Developing Good Dunging Habits of Swine on Partially Slotted Floors

Pigs are creatures of habit. Generally, once started in a particular manuring pattern, pigs tend to continue in that pattern. A good manager realizes the importance of initial development of good dunging habits. He will also realize that the greatest advantage of a partially slotted floor system is the labour saved when pigs are trained to dung on the slots and then trample the manure through the slots.

The following building and management recommendations will encourage good pig dunging habits in barns with partially slotted floors. However, some pigs may adopt poor dunging habits no matter what you do.

TABLE 1
RECOMMENDED OCCUPANCY AND PEN SIZE

Type of Pig	No. of Pigs (per pen)	Area per Pig		Pen Size	
		m ²	(ft ²)	m x m	(ft x ft)
Weaner (18 kg max)	12	.25	(2.7)	1.2 x 2.4	(4 x 8)
Grower	12	.60	(6.6)	1.5 x 4.8	(5 x 16)
Finisher	10	.75	(8.0)	1.5 x 4.8	(5 x 16)
Dry Sow	4	1.80	(20.0)	1.5 x 4.8	(5 x 16)

1. Provide the proper space per pig in each pen. The recommended occupancy and pen size for various types of pigs are shown in Table 1.
2. Make the pens long and narrow. The length should be about 2.5 times the width. (See Table 1)
3. Place the slats at the back of the pen with the slats running in the same direction as the pen length. Slats 1.2 m (4 ft) long are adequate. Slats should be level.
4. Consider the front of the pen as the resting area. This area is furthest away from the dunging area.
5. Locate the feeding area along one side of the pen between the front of the pen and the manuring area. This arrangement causes the least stress on resting pigs being bothered by other pigs moving between the feeding and dunging areas.

6. Have an open-type partition in the slotted floor area. Vertical steel bars are very well suited.
7. Have a closed type partition in the solid-floored resting and feeding areas. Concrete block or poured concrete is adequate.
8. Have an open pen front.
9. Place the waterer over the slotted floor area and away from the wall.
10. Slope the solid floor 40 mm per meter (1/2" per ft) from the front resting area to the rear dunging area.
11. Construct the floor with a 25 to 50 mm (1" – 2") step-down from the solid floor to the slotted floor.
12. Prevent drafts in the resting and feeding areas by ensuring the proper ventilation rates and patterns are used.
13. Wet the slotted floor area before moving pigs into the pen.
14. Spread manure from the incoming pigs on the slotted floor area before moving pigs into the pen.
15. Feed on the floor in the feeding area for the first couple of days, after moving new pigs into the pen.
16. Provide supplemental heat in the resting area for small pigs during cold weather.

A good pig pen plan indicating the recommendations discussed here is shown in Figure 1.

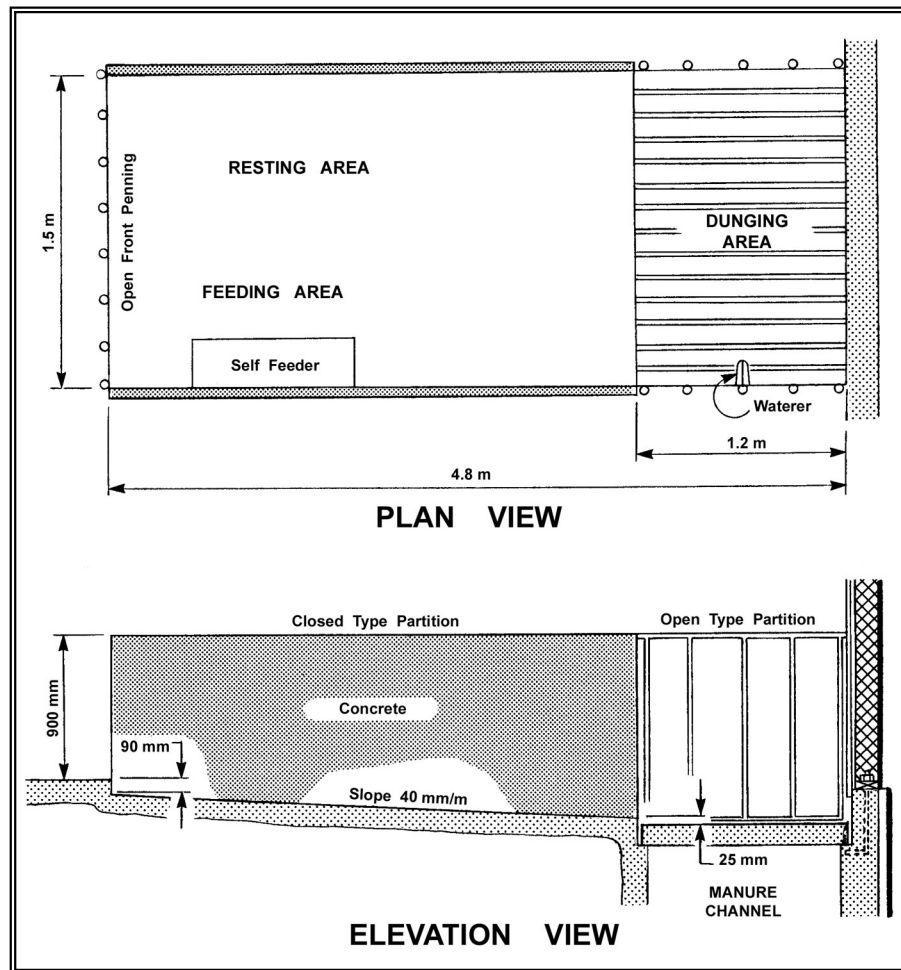


Figure 1 Pig Pen Plan with Partially Slatted Floor

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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