

Farm Structures FACTSHEET



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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-- PORK PRODUCERS -- HELP FOR YOUR VENTILATION PROBLEMS!

Someone once said that if we could solve the ventilation and waste management problems on the average farm, we could solve 50 to 75% of the animal health problems. You may suspect that poor environmental quality in your barns is holding back your pigs and your suspicions are probably true. Poor air quality is likely costing you thousands of dollars annually because of poor feed conversion, extra days to market and higher veterinary and drug costs.

Why is it that so many swine barns in this province are poorly ventilated? In observations, I have made, there are three reasons:

1. The heating and ventilation system was poorly designed or improperly installed to do the job for which it was intended.
2. The operator of the system does not fully understand how to run the system to its potential.
3. Over a period of a few short years, the system falls into disrepair for lack of comprehensive and regular maintenance and cleaning.

Diagnosing the cause of ventilation problems and working out solutions can be done by you, the producer, with the help of some good printed information or with the assistance of someone competent at trouble-shooting ventilation systems. A second opinion is often helpful. Your

veterinarian or feed sales representative is well-experienced at sniffing out symptoms of ventilation problems. Heating and ventilation system contractors and suppliers often have competent people to advise you.

The Resource Management Branch of the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food has staff engineers and technicians who can objectively evaluate ventilation problems and recommend effective corrective measures. Contact them through your local offices listed below:

Abbotsford	(604) 556-3100
Kamloops	(250) 371-6050

The following publications can be ordered from the Resource Management Branch to assist you in trouble shooting your system:

306.400-2 "Environmental Control for Reducing Energy Waste in Farm Buildings"

A good booklet that describes ventilation and heating principles, in general, and has a section on ventilation for swine housing.

306.406-1 "Troubleshooting the Ventilation System"

An excellent checklist of possible causes and solutions for specified problems.

306.407-1 “Manure Pit Ventilation in Confinement Livestock buildings”

A leaflet that describes the principles and guidelines for exhaust extraction of air from below slotted floors.

306.435-1 “Maintenance and Operation of Ventilating Fans for Hog Barns”

An excellent leaflet that describes the importance of and gives guidelines for maintenance, installation and proper operation of fans.

306.435-2 “The Environment in Swine Housing”

Another excellent leaflet that discusses environmental quality for swine with specific information on temperature, disease, gases, odours and penning.

306.450-1 “Livestock Building Exhaust Fans”

This leaflet discusses motors for fans, installation guidelines and maintenance.

In addition to the above information, the Resource Management Branch stocks other publications and plans on swine housing design and management. Call your local office to order a publication list.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

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