

Farm Structures FACTSHEET



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COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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ESTABLISHING A FEEDLOT IN B.C. - Legal and Practical Considerations -

This Factsheet details the legal and practical considerations in establishing a feedlot in BC. Note that the following are to be used as a guideline only. Requirements vary throughout the province depending on the land in question to be developed, the type and size of the feedlot operation and municipality or regional district in which the land is located.

Legal Planning Requirements

Building Permit	These should be obtained for all structures such as sheds, silos, lagoons and dwellings. Requirements for farm buildings are found in the <i>Canadian Farm Building Code</i> .
Land Zoning	The land in question must be zoned for the use of a feedlot. Check with the municipality or regional district and/or the BC Land Commission. Consult the municipality, regional district or the regional office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
Public Health	The Ministry of Health issues permits for domestic waste disposal. Some municipalities may require approval of the feedlot proposal from the Ministry of Health.
Waste Disposal	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, (Pollution Prevention Branch), administers the <i>Waste Management Act</i> and the <i>Code of Agricultural Practices for Waste Management</i> . No permits are required for agricultural operations provided that all runoff and manure is applied to land for the promotion of crop growth. Ministry of Agriculture and Food has published a set of guidelines, Environmental Guidelines for Beef Producers in British Columbia , which define good practice for waste and manure management. If the feedlot is located in close proximity to a fish bearing watercourse, it is advisable to obtain approval of the feed lot proposal from Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Creek Alteration	Approval from the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (Water Management Branch) is required where work is planned to divert water from a stream, to alter a stream or channel, to drain farm land or a development site into a stream or ditch, or to fill or excavate land adjacent to, or draining into, a stream or ditch. Failure to do so could result in action taken or penalties levied under the <i>Water Act</i> .
Water Supply	To draw water from a surface watercourse, obtain a water licence from Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (Water Management Branch). This Branch also has information on most wells that may have been bored in the area of the feedlot site.
Road Access	To obtain a road access to a public road or highway, check with the Ministry of Transportation and Highways

A Checklist for Good Planning

Dust and Odour	Consider the proximity of the feedlot to neighbours and situate the feedlot to make the best use of the prevailing winds to carry dust and odour away from neighbours and to dilute odour before reaching neighbours.
Landscaping	Use terrain and vegetation to screen the feedlot from residences and public places.
Runoff	Runoff from the pens must be collected and stored. Clean up-slope runoff should be diverted around the pens. Use natural terrain where possible but excavation to slope the pens is always worth the expense.
Waste Disposal	Plan for disposal of the liquid runoff and for the solid manure from the pens.
Space Requirements	Ensure there will be adequate pen space for all types of cattle to be held including sick animals.
Roads	The feedlot must be serviced by compacted, well-drained and properly graded roadways.
Shelter	Consider the effect of prevailing winds on the cattle. Sheds and windbreak fencing may be required. Take advantage of sunlight when planning the feedlot.
Precipitation	Snowfall affects the planning of roadways for snow clearing in the winter. Pens may require surfacing and roofed pens may be necessary in high rainfall areas. Mounds in pens and shaping for drainage in open pens are recommended.

Hard Surfacing	High animal traffic areas at feedbunks and waterers normally require hard surfacing. Laneways and corral pens and chutes may also require hard surfacing.
Water	Provide heated water bowls or troughs for each pen. In feedlot operations, animal access to surface watercourses is not permitted.
Feed Storage	Allow adequate space for storage, processing and handling of all feeds at or near the feedlot site.
Power	Ensure there will be adequate power available for lighting, waterers, pumps and feed processing equipment.
Cattle Handling	Plan for good cattle movement and adequate corral and handling facilities at the feedlot site.
Allow for Expansion	Select a site that will permit expansion of the entire feedlot operation.
Plan on Paper	Turn no earth before the feedlot operation is completely planned on paper. Planning assistance is available from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Resource Management Branch. A good set of plans expedites acquisition of permits.

For More Details

Refer to the Resource Management Branch [Publications List](#) for numerous other publications related to beef cattle.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

Lance Brown, Regional Engineering Technologist
 Phone: (604) 556-3100
 Email: Lance.Brown@gems6.gov.bc.ca

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
 162 Oriole Road
 Kamloops, BC CANADA V2C 4N7