

Farm Structures FACTSHEET



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DAIRY GOAT HOUSING

There are two main methods of housing dairy goats:

1. Loose housing.
2. Tie stalls or individual confinement.

1. LOOSE HOUSING

The Advantages of Loose Housing are:

- a) a more natural state for the animal.
- b) frequency of manure handling is lessened as bedding is added, when required, to the sleeping quarters and the barn is cleaned periodically.
- c) construction is relatively less expensive as it is only a pole or frame-type building with no insulation or solid floors. Fifteen to twenty square feet of bedded area should be provided for each goat and the pen dividers made from 1/4" welded rod.

Disadvantages to Consider are:

- a) as all the animals have their freedom, they should be polled or dehorned as they may cause injury to each other.
- b) more bedding will be required than with stalls.
- c) the goats will become dirtier.

2. CONFINEMENT HOUSING

This type of housing has several Advantages:

- a) less bedding is used.
- b) because of individual pens, more attention can be given to the particular needs of each animal.
- c) for smaller herds, as existing building can be adapted to suit.

Disadvantages to Consider are:

- a) expense to construct is greater as insulation, concrete floors and individual pens are required.
- b) manure removal, requiring considerable hand labour is more frequent.

Ventilation is advisable in both types of housing (unless the building is open on one side) with a fan that will move 20 cubic feet of air per minute per goat.

MILK ROOM AND PARLOUR

For large herds of 100 and up, it is more efficient to use a modified form of cow milking parlour. For smaller herds, a conventional milking platform 14" high will suffice.

The milk room and parlour should be constructed to conform to the Milk Act. Consult your local Dairy Inspector, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food before building.

[Plan No. 355-01](#) shows a suggested milk room and parlour which can be varied in size and construction materials (stud framed or concrete blocks).

The platform height should be built to suit individual requirements, generally level with the top of the leg and grounded with the floor as [Plan No. 324-50](#) shows.

These plans are available from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Resource Management Branch.

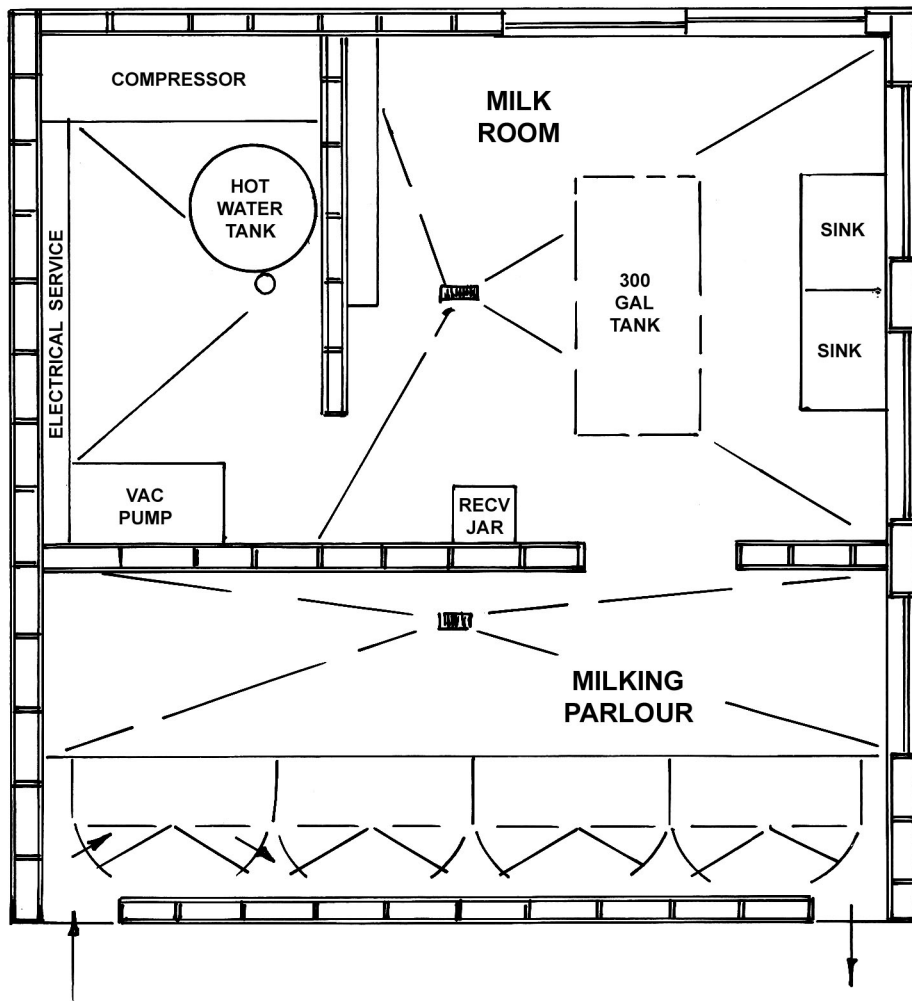


Figure 1

GOAT MILKING PARLOUR PLAN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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