

# Farm Structures FACTSHEET



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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## Site and Building Planning for Swine Production

PLAN  
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### SITE AND BUILDING PLANNING FOR SWINE PRODUCTION

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This plan deals with site planning, pig populations, room arrangements and building layouts. Recommended pen space for pigs of all ages is summarized in Plan 360.000-1. Plan 360.000-3 covers construction and services for pig buildings.

**SITE SELECTION**

When considering new barns or just expansion and renovation of existing facilities, one of the most important steps is the selection of your best site. Bad planning can result in continuing dissatisfaction at home and at the neighbor's, over the life of the facility. Any odors, flies or water pollution caused by your unit may result in neighborhood protests, petitions and even lawsuits. Important site requirements include:

**Essential services**

- feed
- water
- electricity
- heating fuel
- driveways

**Sufficient area for**

- barns
- feed and manure storage
- control of snow, wind and runoff
- manure application on productive land
- expansion

**Suitable surroundings**

- topography and drainage
- natural screening
- far enough and downwind from home and neighboring residences
- compatibility with land uses nearby
- compliance with local zoning and environmental separation distances

**COMPLIANCE INSTRUCTIONS**

**ZONING AND PERMITS**

Before starting construction, obtain any required municipal or building permits. In addition, some provinces require an environmental permit or code of practice compliance certificate.

These permits will commit you to specific separation distances from wells, watercourses, highways, neighboring properties and lands zoned for uses other than farming. In all likelihood the code of practice will also limit the number of animals on your farm in relation to your land base available for spreading manure.

If your region has a prevailing wind (in particular during the summer and fall), use it to advantage to carry unavoidable odors away from neighbors and your own farmhouse. Also, locate swine buildings and manure storages as far as possible from neighboring dwellings to maximize dilution of odors and to minimize nuisance from noise and flies.

Before starting construction, obtain any required municipal or building permits. In addition, some provinces require an environmental permit or code of practice compliance certificate.

Manure and wastewater production calculations should be carefully checked. Plan your manure storage capacity to handle all the wastes produced during periods when manure spreading is dangerous to the environment, for example from late fall through to spring when snow, frozen soil or waterlogged soil will cause manure runoff.

Choose manure storage, transport and field spreading equipment wisely to ensure that they compliment your buildings and manure system. Field spreading equipment should be sized to your tractor power, your soils and their drainage capabilities. The storage period may have to be lengthened to go with your cropping plans and rainfall conditions; storage capacity for at least 6 months' production is desirable in most of Canada's pig-growing areas. In fact many are now increasing to 1 year's storage to minimize spreading costs and maximize fertilizer value.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

This plan deals with site planning, pig populations, room arrangements and building layouts. Recommended pen space for pigs of all ages is summarized in Plan 3000. Plan 3003 covers construction and services for pig buildings. This plan also details the debate between continuous and all-in/all-out farrowing and describes how you can use "pig psychology" to aid in your handling of the animals. To order a copy, please contact:

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