

Farm Structures FACTSHEET



BRITISH
COLUMBIA


Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Order No. 360.000-5

CPS: 3000

April 1986

Swine Housing and Equipment

PLAN
360.000-5

SWINE HOUSING AND EQUIPMENT

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS

REVISED 86:04

In Canada, the trend in swine production is toward totally enclosed, well-insulated buildings with controlled ventilation. Pigs have specific temperature and space requirements depending on the age and stage of growth. For this reason, buildings are usually partitioned into rooms where each age group can be housed in the best possible environment.

Canada Plan Service swine plans show the various components that satisfy the needs of each age group or each part of the production cycle.

BREEDING-GESTATION

Dry sows are confined either in group pens or in individual pen stalls for much of the gestation period (16 weeks). Pen stalls prevent fighting and competition for feed during the breeding-gestation period. To improve breeding, intermix boar pens with sow pens to promote sexual stimulation by sight, hearing, smell and touch.

FARROWING

Standard-size farrowing pens (with a crate to confine the sow and a creep area for the piglets) can be fitted into one-room systems for small herds, or into multiple-room systems for large operations.

Farrowing barns must have good pen drainage and a separate warm creep area at each pen to ensure the piglets' comfort without overheating the sow.

WEANLING

In small operations the weanling area may be a part of the farrowing barn. In larger operations, one or several specialized weanling rooms let the producer maintain the warmer environment preferred by the weanling pig.

Weanling pigs must be kept especially clean to maintain good health. The traditional way to do this was to use ample bedding and clean the pens frequently. Now, pens with slotted, perforated or mesh floors (without bedding) are used to keep pigs clean enough at this stage.

GROWING-FINISHING

Growing and finishing pigs develop better housekeeping habits in long narrow pens. Pens can be as small as 1.5 x 4.8 m (5 x 16 ft) for 20 growers or 10 finishers. Larger pens and correspondingly larger groups may be used but the pen length must remain at least 2.5 times the width. Pigs stay cleaner on totally slotted floors, but if only part of the pen is slotted, they suffer fewer foot injuries and make better gains on less feed. The pigs' dunging habits also improve if solid pen partitions surround three sides of the sleeping areas and open partitions or gates divide the dunging-watering areas.

DEVELOPED BY CANADA PLAN SERVICE
Agricultural Engineering Plan Service
BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

This leaflet contains valuable information on the trend in totally enclosed, well-insulated buildings with controlled ventilation for swine production. Pigs have specific temperature and space requirements depending on the age and stage of growth. For this reason, buildings are usually partitioned into rooms where each age group can be housed in the best possible environment. To obtain a copy, please contact:

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Website: <http://www.cps.gov.on.ca/>