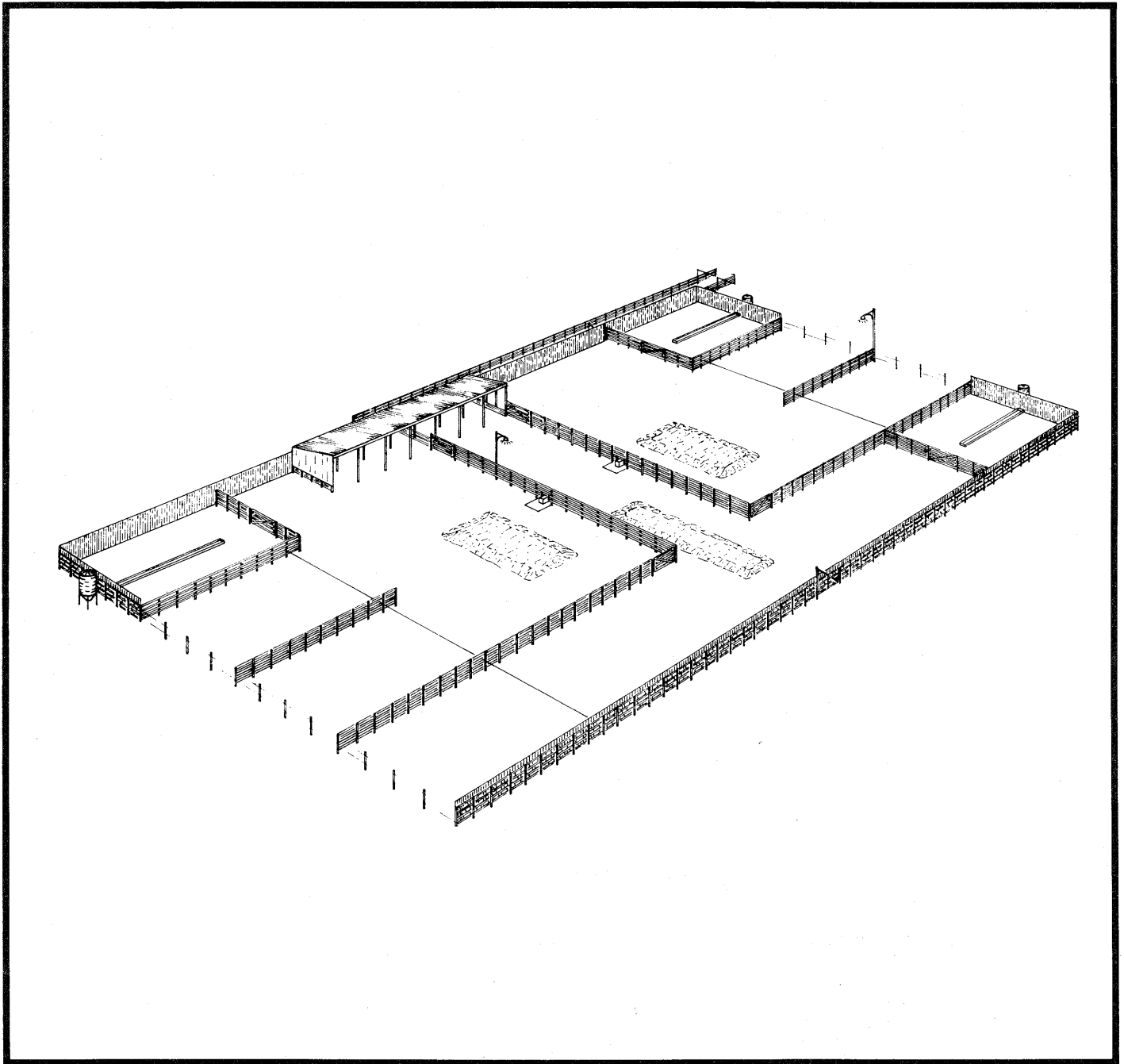


COW-CALF FEEDLOT FOR 50 COWS



The Canada Plan Service prepares detailed plans showing how to construct modern farm buildings, livestock housing systems, storages and equipment for Canadian Agriculture.

This leaflet gives management information and describes one of these detailed plans. To obtain a copy of the Canada Plan Service detailed plan, contact your local provincial agricultural engineer or extension advisor.

COW-CALF FEEDLOT FOR 50 COWS

PLAN Q-1455 NEW 84:01
(SASKATCHEWAN PLAN S-140)

This plan is for a western feedlot for 50 cows and their calves. It may be expanded later for feeder cattle. Suggested pen schedules are:

Dates:	Sept. 15–Jan. 1 (100 days)	Jan. 1–Apr. 15 (100 days)	May 15–Sept. 1 (100 days)
Pen "A"	50 cows		50 feeders 800 lb finish
Pen "B"	50 calves → finish or pasture		
Pen "C"	50 feeders 800 lb → finish	50 feeders 800 lb → finish	50 feeders 800 lb → finish

GRAIN FEEDING Processing or mixing of feed is not required, other than rolling the grain. Rolled grain is stored in small bins adjacent to the feed troughs. The troughs can be evenly filled using 5-gal. pails or feed carts. Fill the troughs before the gates are opened to let the cattle into the feeding pens. Provide enough space on both sides of the trough for all cattle to eat at once.

HAY FEEDING Place sufficient good quality large round hay bales tightly together in the feeding area after the fall rains. No hay has to be moved all winter. Cattle feed facing up the slope to keep drainage away from the hay.

Electric wire feeding is from the rounded side of the bales (see Plan Q-1461). You must trim a little hay with a fork each time the wires are moved closer to the bales. Adjust the wires to give the cattle just enough to eat. Waste is minimal if the wires are not moved until the cattle eat all the hay they can reach.

BEDDED AREAS AND SHEDS A bedded mound in each lot gives cattle a dry place to bed down. For cows, calves and feeder cattle under 500 lb, provide a cattle

shed (such as Plan 8162 or Plan Q-8164) for protection from winter snow and summer heat. An 8-ft windbreak fence gives sufficient protection, without a shed, for feeder cattle over 500 lb.

FEEDLOT DRAINAGE Unpaved feedlots drain faster and dry better if the ground slopes 4-8% away from feeding and bedded resting areas. This plan is laid out for a south-facing slope.

Before building perimeter fences, feed bunks, etc., shape the site for drainage. A bulldozer, road maintainer or earth-mover may be needed if large amounts of fill must be moved. For sites sloping uniformly to the south, landscape as shown in the plan. The longer dimension of bedded mounds should run parallel to the direction of the slope to prevent ponding.

COLLECTING FEEDLOT RUNOFF It is important to prevent discharge of feedlot runoff into surface and groundwater supplies. Build shallow diversion dikes or ditches around the perimeter of facilities. This keeps "clean" runoff water from surrounding fields and roadways out of the feedlot.

Shape shallow ditches or dikes leading into a holding pond, to collect runoff near the perimeter of the lots. Spread topsoil and seed grass on all ditch and banks that are outside the cattle pens.

WIND AND SNOW CONTROL IN PENS Research shows that 20% porous windbreak fencing provides better shelter than solid fencing; it can reduce wind-speed at the ground to a downwind distance of twenty times the height of the fence. For lots sized as shown, fencing 8 ft high is recommended.

TREE SHELTERBELTS Plant these as soon as possible on summerfallowed strips to preserve moisture for the trees. To trap snow between the trees and facilities, allow a distance of 100 to 150 ft. This will let summer breezes blow through the feedlot. Shelterbelt location will depend on prevailing winds.

