

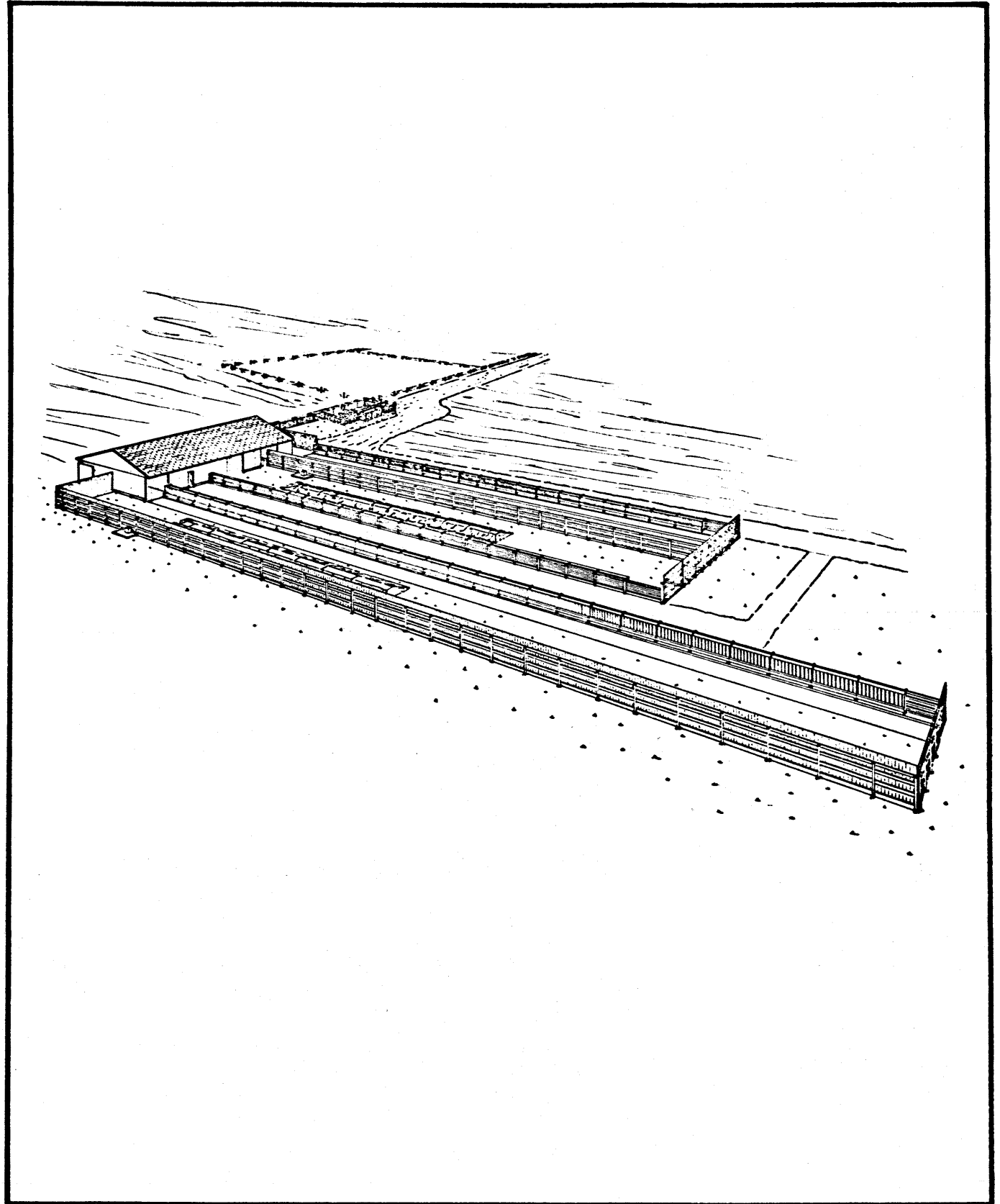


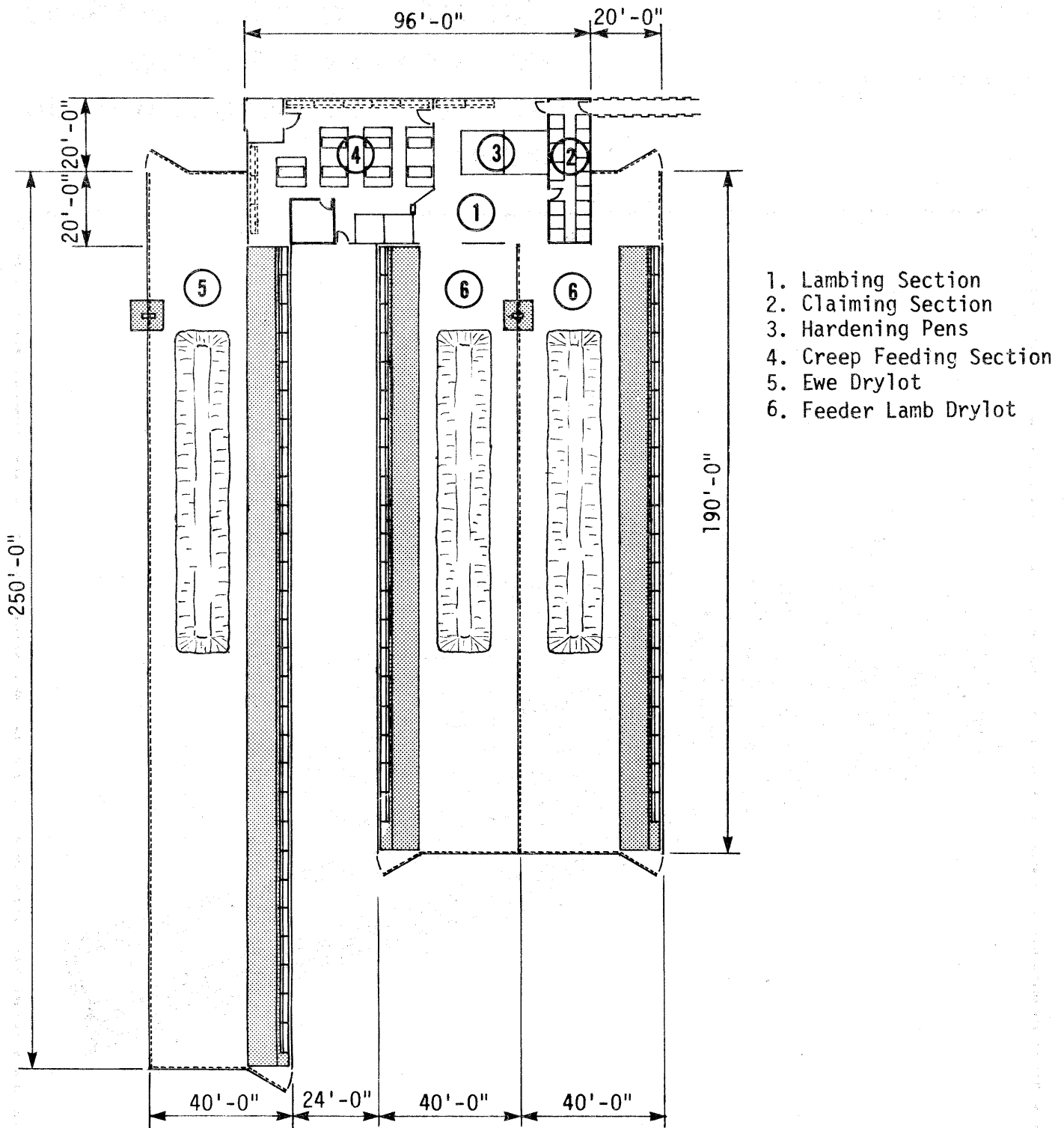
Saskatchewan  
Agriculture

Family Farm Improvement Branch  
Agricultural Engineering Services Section

# Leaflet For Plan S-433

## Semi-Confinement Sheep Facilities (160 ewes/300 feeder lambs)





The Agricultural Engineering Services section of the Family Farm Improvement Branch prepares detailed, large-scale building plans for agriculture. This leaflet describes one of these plans.

Please order plan by number through your Saskatchewan Agricultural Regional Office, or write to: Agricultural Engineering Services, FFIB  
 Saskatchewan Agriculture  
 1260 - 8th Avenue  
 Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 3V7

160 EWE/300 FEEDER LAMB FACILITY

Plan S-433 was developed and designed with the option of future expansion. The initial size of 160 ewes and 300 feeder lambs may be expanded to 240 ewes and 450 lambs.

Construction is simple. Pole frame walls support a 40 ft. clear-span trussed rafter roof. The open side of the shed should face away from prevailing winds, preferably south to maximize solar heat gain.

MANAGEMENT

As all feeders and pens are portable, after lambing those not required may be removed and stored. This allows the entire area to be used for lamb raising, handling and shearing.

Lambs born in the lambing area are moved to a claiming pen. The ewe will normally follow as the lamb(s) is (are) moved. The ewe and her lamb(s) remain in the claiming pen for two days or until she has accepted her lamb(s). At this time, they are moved into a hardening pen with 8 or 9 other ewes and their lambs. After two days in the hardening pen they are moved into the creep feeding section.

Orphan lambs may be housed in a claiming pen.

LAMBING SECTION

The lambing area is the open front, uninsulated section of the shed. A well bedded earth floor is satisfactory for this area. In adverse weather, hinged curtain walls and removable wall sections are used to close the open front.

The required ventilation is by natural air flow through openings under the eaves and out the roof peak opening. Inadequate ventilation results in condensation and frost build-up.

CLAIMING SECTION

The claiming area is the insulated section containing 16 portable pens. A well bedded earth floor is used. A concrete floor is optional.

Ventilation is provided by a thermostatically controlled exhaust fan and an adjustable centre-ceiling air inlet system. Supplemental heat for the lambs is supplied by heat lamps. The minimum recommended temperature is 5°C.

HARDENING SECTION

The hardening area is not insulated and has a well bedded earth floor.

OUTSIDE DRYLOT AREA

When weather permits, feeding can take place in portable or permanent perimeter hay and grain feeders for ewes, and in portable self-feeders with lamb creeps for unweaned lambs. Feeder lambs can be fed in this area, either with the same feeders used for the ewes or with portable self-feeders for concentrated lamb rations. A paved feeding strip with a concrete step-up will keep the feed area dry and facilitate cleaning. The feeding strip should be at least as wide as the tractor and scraper. The frostproof waterers and porous windbreak fencing are necessary for western sheep facilities.

DRAINAGE

Dry, well drained facilities are essential for any sheep operation. A location sloping south at least 4% is preferable. A bedded mound in each pen also helps to provide a well drained area during wet periods.

All runoff should drain out of the pen. Use a shallow, flat-bottomed ditch at the lower end of the pen to collect pen runoff and divert it into a holding pond. A paved ditch is easier to clean where the ditch crosses a driveway.

To control water pollution, all contaminated runoff should be collected in an approved storage. Obtain approval of your plans from the Regional Farmstead Engineer well before starting construction. He can give you valuable advice on construction, drainage and waste disposal.

#### FEEDING

The portable hay and grain feeders used in this plan allow many feeder combinations both inside and out. Hay and grain are hauled into the building through the end sliding door.

##### a) Early lambing:

During the early lambing period, weather conditions require that the ewes and feeder lambs be fed indoors. Under these conditions feed must be before all sheep at all times, since there is insufficient space for limit feeding.

When the pens are no longer required they are removed and this area is used for feeder lambs.

##### b) Late lambing:

During this period, weather conditions permit outside feeding. The feeder lambs may be self-fed either inside or out and limit fed outside.

#### RAM FACILITIES

Six rams are required for this size of an operation. The rams are housed near the ewes, as shown, to stimulate them at breeding time. After breeding, the rams should be housed in facilities away from the ewe flock.

#### HANDLING FACILITIES

Portable fence sections are set up in the back of the sheep shed to treat individual animals (refer to CPS leaflet 4832). A central corral unit could be built for handling the sheep (refer to AES leaflet S-420).