

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – HOUSING

What type of sheds are required?

Slats can be used however in the sheds 50% of the area must be of solid construction, bedded and fully accessible to livestock. Stalls or cubicles can be used for housing organic animals but animals must have free access to them. The table below outlines the minimum areas required for each animal.

What bedding materials can be used?

Bedding materials permitted for use include straw, rushes, sawdust and woodchips (timber cannot be treated). Peat is not allowed for bedding.

Do I have to use organic straw?

Straw used for bedding does not have to be organic. If livestock are fed straw as part of their ration, then it must be organic.

What space is required for each animal both in the shed and outdoors?

Livestock	Live weight (kg)	Indoor m ² per head	Outdoor area
Cattle	>100	1.5	1.1
Cattle	>200	2.5	1.9
Cattle	>350	4.0	3
Cattle	Over 350	5 with a minimum of 1m ² /100kg	3.7 with a minimum of 0.75m ² /100kg
Dairy cows		6	4.5
Breeding bulls		10	30
Sheep		1.5	2.5
Lambs		0.35	0.5
Goats		1.5	2.5
Kids		0.35	0.5

Can animals be out-wintered?

Animals may be outwintered if conditions permit but not at a rate of higher than 1LU/ha. Adequate shelter must be provided and poaching must not occur.