

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS

The Canada Plan Service, a Canadian federal/provincial organization, promotes the transfer of technology through factsheets, design aids and construction drawings that show how to plan and build modern farm structures and equipment for Canadian agriculture.

For more information, contact your local provincial agricultural engineer or extension advisor.

WARNING This Waft gives structural choices you must select to meet local climatic loads (wind, snow), soil-bearing capacity and other local conditions. You must ensure that these requirements are met. Consult an engineer if you are not familiar with the details required.

This leaflet describes an expandable lambing unit. The facility can accommodate a 50-ewe flock and be expanded to lamb groups of 100 ewes per month. It can also be used for housing ewes, feeding lambs, or shearing sheep.

The building is of pole frame construction with a 12.0 m (40-ft) clear-span trussed rafter. Clear-span construction allows penning to be arranged a number of ways. The lambing unit can be built in different sizes or stages.

STAGE 1: 50-ewe flock. The facility in Fig. 1 can be used to house 50 ewes during the year. Expectant ewes are held in the open front shed and pen until they drop their lambs. The lambs are then picked up and moved with the ewes to the claiming section for several days. From here they are moved into group hardening pens, (4-5 ewes plus lambs per pen) set up as required in the open front shed. The pens can be dismantled when the lambs and ewes become accustomed to a group situation.

STAGE 2: 50 ewes lambing per month. The facility in Fig. 1 can be used to lamb groups of 50 ewes per month. Several groups can be lambed in the facility each year. All ewes in a group are moved in and out at the same time. This allows for cleanup and disinfection between groups, providing good disease control. Additional housing facilities for each group must be provided elsewhere.

STAGE 3: 100 ewes lambing per month. By adding a hardening section and moving the office/work room out of the claiming section, the facility can be expanded to lamb 100 ewes per month (Fig. 2). Several groups of 100 ewes can be moved through the facility in lambing season. Cleanup between groups is possible if ewes are moved in and out as a group.

LAMBING SECTION

This section has an open front uninsulated shed with an outside loafing and feeding pen. The expectant ewes are held in this area until they drop their lambs. Lambs are then moved with their mothers into the claiming section. Normally, ewes follow their lambs when they are carried into the claiming pen.

In the shed, good air flow is required at all times to provide fresh air and remove humidity. Openings under the eaves and along the roof ridge allow natural air flow. The size of openings required will depend upon wind exposure. A fascia board along the eave will reduce snow infiltration.

For bad weather lambing, the open front shed can be closed in with plywood and plastic curtain panels. The bottom 1.2 m (4 ft) panel between each post can be made of plywood on a 38 x 140 mm (2 x 6 in.) frame. Sections can be hinged to flip up or slide aside so the sheep can go in and out. Panels above this 1.2 m (4 ft) height can be made with clear

reinforced polyethylene plastic fastened to a 38 x 89 mm (2 x 4 in.) frame. During good weather, hinged sections can be flipped up to improve air circulation.

CLAIMING SECTION

This section has an insulated shed with an office/work room. There is enough space to set up 11-1.2 x 1.5 m (4 x 5 ft) claiming pens (Fig. 1). When the operation is expanded a new office/work room can be attached to the barn, leaving enough space to accommodate 14 claiming pens. Claiming pens should be provided for at least 10% of the ewes lambing within a month. Extra pens should also be available for orphan lambs and problem cases. An ewe and her lambs are held in a claiming pen for several days. Once ewes have claimed their lambs, they are moved into group hardening pens.

Heat lamps or infrared heaters are suggested for supplemental heating. Use only CSA-approved heat lamp reflector-receptacles, properly suspended from screw-eyes and plugged into ceiling outlets. If lambing takes place in very cold weather, a 5 kW electric space heater may also be desirable.

A small thermostatically controlled exhaust fan 25-100 L/s (50-200 cfm) is required for shed ventilation. Locate the fan on the south side or away from prevailing winds. Install several self-closing ceiling air inlets to provide well-distributed fresh air.

HARDENING SECTION

This section has an uninsulated shed where 3.6 x 3.6 m (12 x 12 ft) portable group claiming pens can be set up. Each pen should hold five ewes and their lambs. When ewes and lambs become accustomed to a group situation they can be moved to a larger pen. The claiming pens can be set up or taken down as required.

Ventilation in the hardening section is provided by natural air flow similar to the lambing section. The open front of the shed can be closed with panels during cold weather. In warmer weather, groups of ewes and their lambs can be let out into the pen for exercise and feeding.

FEEDING

Expectant ewes in the lambing section can be fed outside in fence-line feedbunks. During bad weather, they should be fed in the barn with portable feeders.

In the claiming pens, ewes are fed and watered individually. Plastic pails for water can be attached to a corner.

In the hardening section, ewes are fed from racks attached to the pens. Water can be provided in drums filled by a garden hose. If the sheep are let outside, they can be fed in feedbunks. A lamb creep feeder is not required until the lambs are several weeks old.

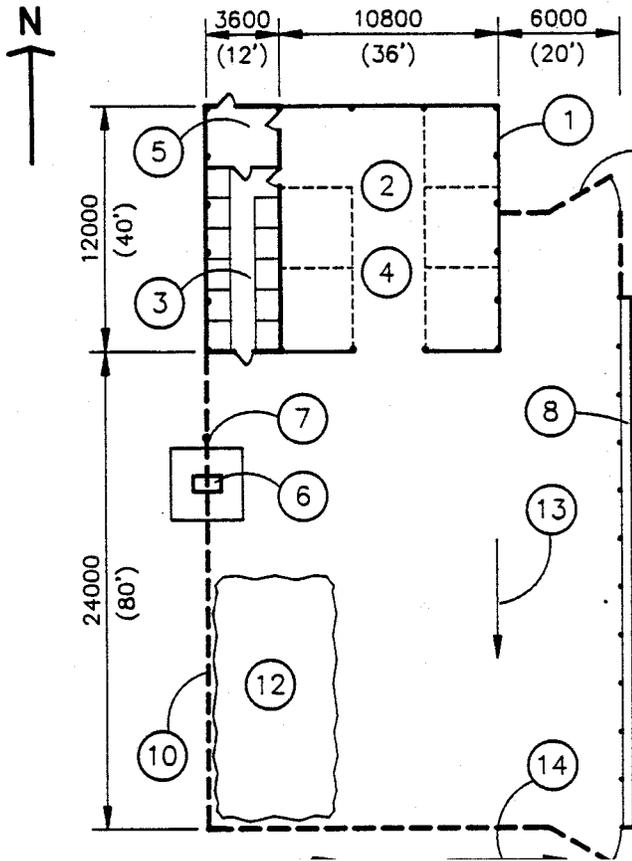


FIGURE 1 SINGLE LAMBING UNIT (STAGE 1)

- 1 pole frame sheep barn.
- 2 lambing section; uninsulated, naturally ventilated, enclosed front.
- 3 claiming section; insulated walls RSI-3.5 (R20), 1.2 x 1.5 m (4 x 5 ft) pens made with portable panels.
- 4 hardening section; uninsulated walls, naturally ventilated, enclosed front, 3.6 x 3.6 m (12 x 12 ft) pens made with portable panels.
- 5 office/work room; insulated walls RSI-3.5 (R20), heated.
- 6 electrically heated waterer on concrete pad.
- 7 floodlight on pole.
- 8 fenceline feed bunk; optional 1800 mm (6 ft) wide concrete pad sloped 1:10 (1 in./1 ft) from feeder.
- 9 feed alley.
- 10 windbreak fence, 2400 mm (8 ft) high, 20% porosity; see Leaflet 8368.
- 11 3600 mm (12 ft) gate to match 10.
- 12 bedded earth mound.
- 13 pen slope 2-6%.
- 14 contaminated runoff to approved holding pond

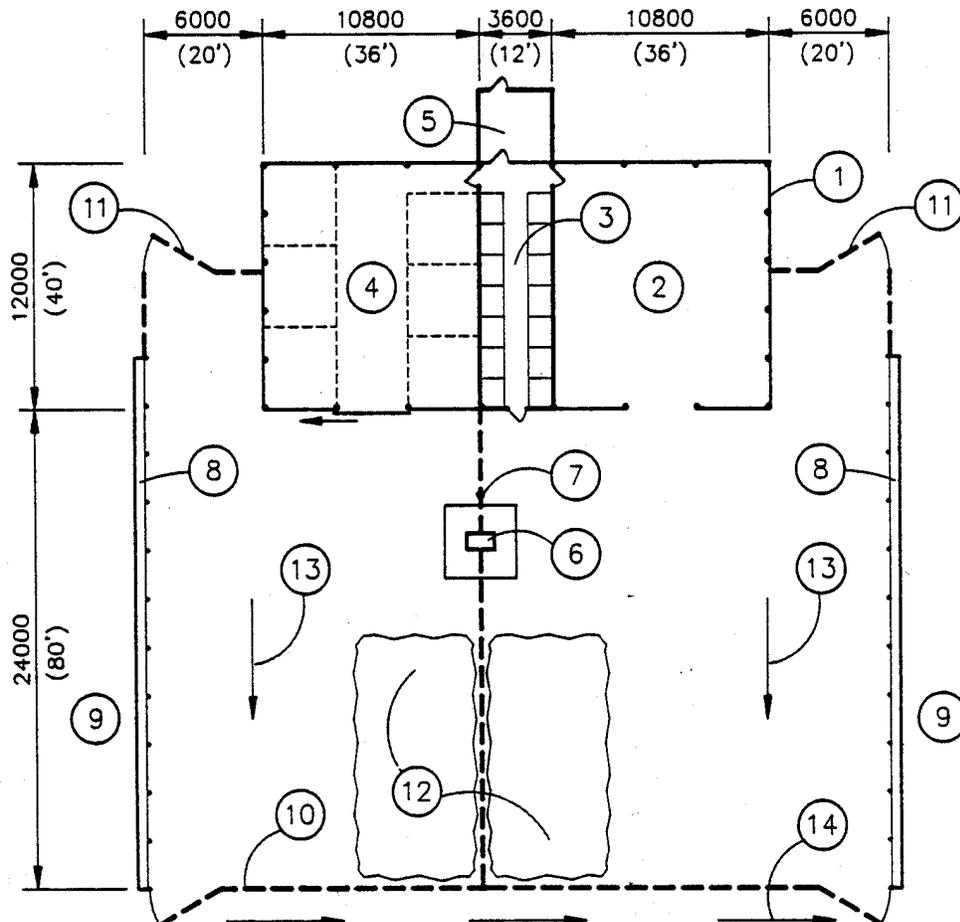


FIGURE 2 LARGE EXPANDED LAMBING UNIT (STAGE 3)

DRAINAGE

Slope the outside pens for good drainage. An eaves trough across the front of the open shed can divert roof runoff from the pen.

To prevent pollution of surface or ground water, contaminated runoff from the pen area should be retained in a holding pond. Obtain plan approval from proper authorities before starting construction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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