

HOUSING OF LIVESTOCK

Housing: Housing means giving shelter to the animals to a confinement house for getting higher production (meat, milk, egg, fleece, and energy).

Advantages of housing:

1. To provide more comfortable environment.
2. To protect the animals from rain, sun etc.
3. To protect the animals from thieves.
4. Individual care is possible.
5. To protect from insect, pest, wild animal.
6. To make the animal more docile.
7. Easy milking procedure.
8. It is easy to supply feed to the animal.
9. Desire breeding is possible.
10. Easy to treatment of animals.
11. Easy to collect cow dung.
12. Less labour cost.
13. It helps a close supervision.

Disadvantages of housing:

1. Costly.
2. Spread out contagious diseases.
3. Ventilation problem.
4. Less exercise.
5. Insufficient supplies of pasture grass.

Site selection for livestock farm:

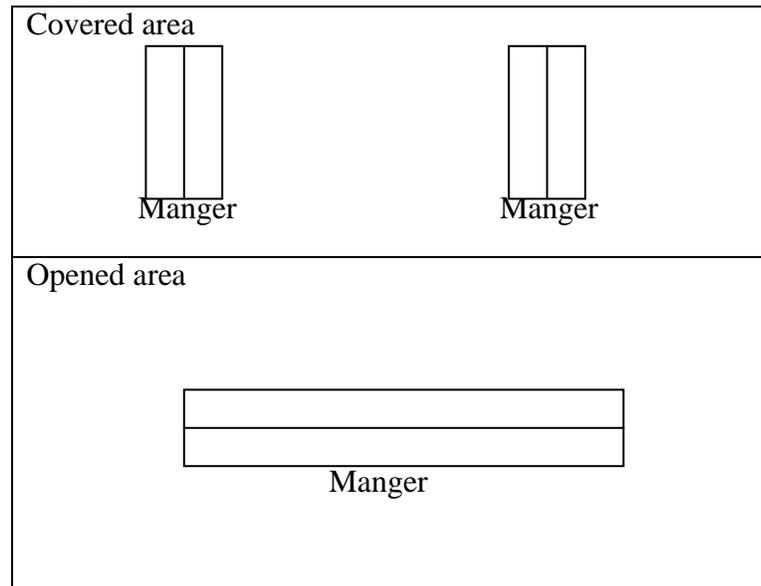
1. Objective setting
2. Marketing facilities
3. Labour: honest, economic and regular supply of labour is available.
4. Availability of fertile land
5. Transport facilities
6. Feed availability
7. Regular electricity supply
8. Water supply (drinking water)
9. Good drainage system
10. Soil type
11. Exposure to the sun and protection from heat

Housing System for cattle-

1. Loose housing system
2. Conventional dairy barn

Loose housing system:

Loose housing may be defined as a system where animals are kept loose except milking and at the time of treatment. The system is most economical. Design of loose housing system are as follows:



Space requirement:

Types of Animals	Floor space per animal (sq. ft.)		Manger length per animal (inches)
	Covered area	Opened area	
Cow	20-30	80-100	20-24
Young stock	15-20	50-60	15-20
Pregnant	100-120	180-200	24-30
Bulls pen	120-140	200-250	24-30

Conventional or stanchion dairy barn

Here the animals are tied with rope or chain in confinement house.

Types of conventional house:

1. Single row- no. of cows <10
2. Double row- no. of cows <100

Double row: 2 types

- a) Head to head (Face in)
- b) Tail to tail (Face out)

Space requirement for livestock:

1. Calf pen: 20-25 sq. ft.
Paddock per calf- 100 sq. ft.
2. Bull pen- 144 sq. ft.
with 55-60 sq. ft. - exercise yard
3. Isolation box: 150 sq. ft.
4. Maternity box: 100 sq. ft. or 150 sq. ft.
5. Goat: 12-16 sq. ft.
6. Sheep: 12-16 sq. ft.
7. Horse: 108 sq. ft.



Face out Housing

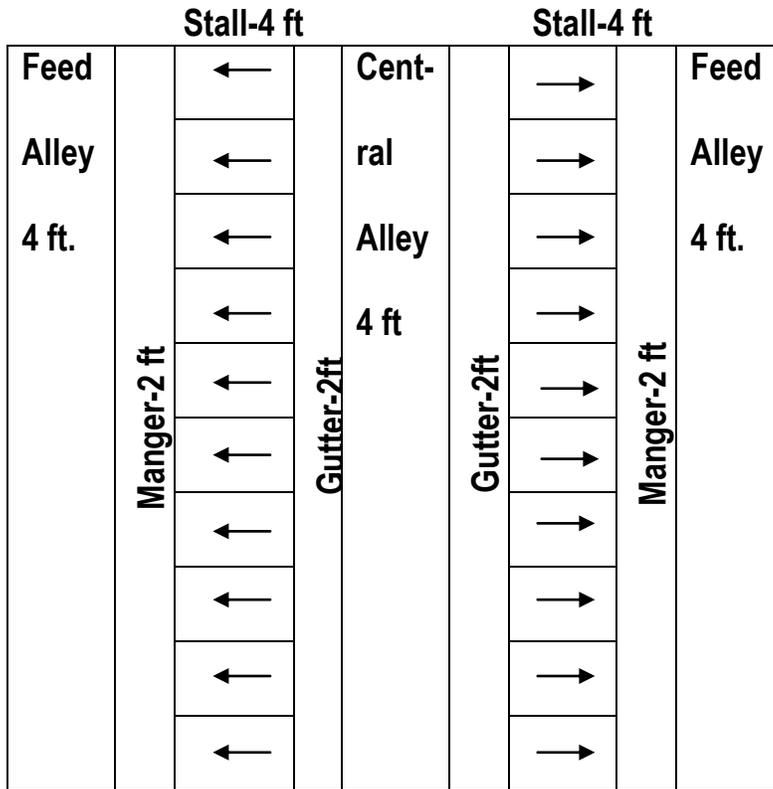


Fig: Face out arrangement of housing for dairy cow

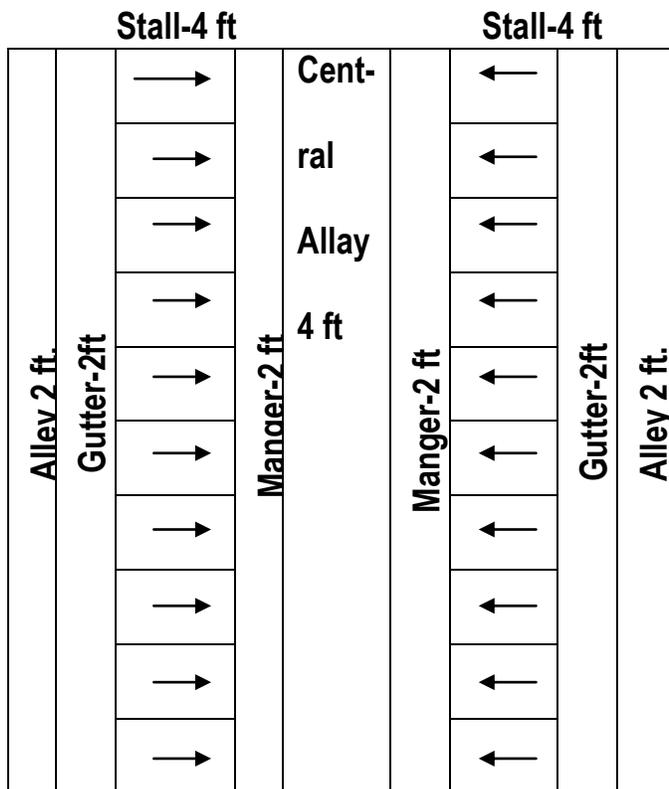


Fig: Face in arrangement of housing for dairy cow

Goat housing

1. Ground level housing
2. House on pillar (pillar height- minimum 1.5 ft.)

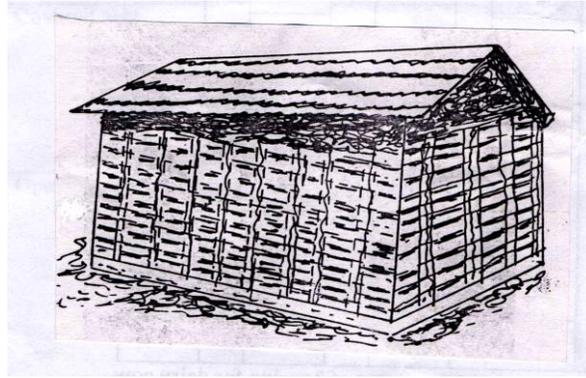


Fig: Ground level housing

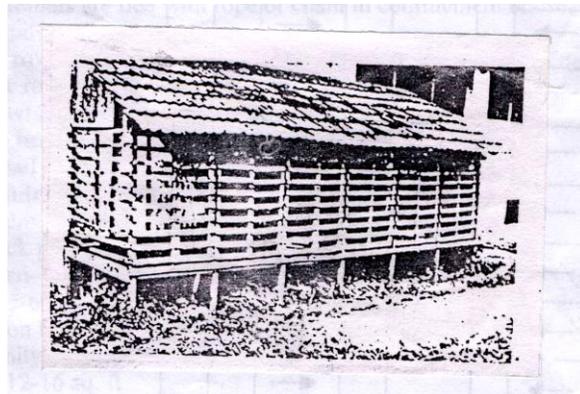


Fig: House on pillar