



Buildings for Beef Cattle & Suckler Cows



For success in beef housing the following is required:

- Sufficient space
- Good food access
- Generous ventilation
- Effective bedding
- Good water supply

Beef housing should have sufficient flexibility to accommodate different groups of stock which vary in size. Small groups of cattle are easier to manage than large ones and show less individual performance variation. Steers and heifers should generally be kept in groups of less than 40, and bulls in groups of less than 20. Groups should be matched for size and sex.

Providing sufficient lying, loafing and feeding space is a key factor. The following tables act as a guide to minimum areas, particularly for groups of animals. Farmers need to check the areas given against compliance standard. For practical purposes, at least 20% should be added to the minimum space allowances given, to cater for variations in cattle size, extended housing periods and other circumstances.

Recommended minimum dimensions for individual calf pens (up to 8 weeks of age)

BS5502, Part 40, 2005

Liveweight (kg)	Approx age (weeks)	Pen size length (mm)	Width
Up to 60	Up to 4	1500	1000
Up to 80	Up to 8	1800	1000

Recommended minimum space allowances for group-housed calves

DEFRA 2003

Liveweight (kg)	Approx age (months)	Pen area (m ² /head)
Up to 150	4	1.5
150 to 200	5	2.0
Over 200	7	3.0

Copy kindly sourced with the agreement of RIDBA (Rural & Industrial Design & Building Association) The Farm Buildings Handbook. Further information is available from your veterinary surgeon from whose advice should be sought. The SiSAB concept is brought to you by Vetoquinol.

Further information is available from:

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