



SCOTLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Livestock Guidelines

Pasture: A pasture is a fenced area that has vegetation cover of edible forage on at least 50% of the surface area, for a minimum of six (6) months of the year.

To support a grazing animal without killing the vegetative cover under normal weather conditions in our area the minimum space needed in acres are as follows:

Animal	Minimum space needed (acres)
Cattle	$\frac{3}{4}$ acres per head, 1 acre for cow and calf
Horse	$\frac{3}{4}$ acre per horse
Goats/sheep	$\frac{1}{4}$ acre per Adult

Vegetation Cover: Digestible grass or forage that is non-toxic and at least somewhat nutritional for domesticated animals. Weeds and most brush plants are not digestible and should not be included in this group.

Dry Lot (Feed Lot): A confined (fenced) space where animals are kept, but does not support their daily nutritional requirements. Dry lots are too small to support forage growth and occasional green growth that occurs in this should not be considered a part of their daily feed. Feeding lots should be well drained to avoid standing water and should have some available space that is not covered in mud during reasonable weather patterns.

Natural Shelter: Any naturally occurring part of the landscape that provides protection from the elements. The two (2) main weather elements that these natural barriers provides relief from are as **sunshade** (summer) and **wind breaks** (winter).

Species Considerations for Shelter:

Cattle - do exceptionally well with nothing but natural shelter.

Horses - need protection from the sun (prone to sunburn) and suffer without windbreak, with exposure to prolonged cold.

Goats/Sheep - a barn, shed, or lean-to is often necessary for their welfare.

Swine (outdoor) - must have a more permanent shelter.

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