



Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc.

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Canadian Livestock Space Requirements with US Equivalent

adapted from [Canadian Organic Regulations](#), published Nov. 25, 2015

Livestock	Indoor Space		Outdoor Runs and Pens	
	Canadian Measurement	US Equivalent	Canadian Measurement	US Equivalent
Adult beef cows	6 m ² /head	Under terms of the US – Canada Equiv. Agreement, ruminants raised in US are exempt from meeting the CA stocking rate requirements. (NOP 1.27.2012) ¹	9 m ² /head	Under terms of the US – Canada Equiv. Agreement, ruminants raised in US are exempt from meeting the CA stocking rate requirements. (NOP 1.27.2012)
Dairy cows – tie stalls	Stall size appropriate for size of cow		6.5m ² /head in spring and fall when not on pasture	
Dairy cows – bedded pack	11 m ² /head		No minimum area required	
Dairy cows – individual maternity pens ^a	15 m ² /head		—	
Dairy cow – group maternity pens ^b	11 m ² /head		—	
Calves	Incremental increase of 2.5 m ² /head for young calves to 5 m ² /head for growing (1-year old) steers and heifers		5 m ² /head to 9 m ² /head, depending on the size of animals	
^a With justification, space requirements may be reduced for small breeds of cattle ^b With justification, when new constructions or major renovations are underway, the addition of maternity pens can be integrated into the building plan (see Canadian Standards 6.12.1.1b).				
Sheep and goats	1.5 m ² /head plus 0.35 m ² /head for each additional lamb/kid	Exempt – see above.	2.5 m ² /head plus 0.5 m ² /head for each additional lamb/kid	Exempt – see above.
Sows and piglets (up to 40 days old)	7.5 m ² for each sow and litter	80.7 sq. ft. for each sow & litter	Not Required	
Growing pigs				
a) up to 30 kg. (66#)	0.6 m ² /head	6.5 sq. ft./hd.	0.4 m ² /head	4.3 sq. ft./hd.
b) 30 – 50 kg. (66# - 110#)	0.8 m ² /head	8.6 sq. ft./hd.	0.6 m ² /head	6.5 sq. ft./hd.
c) 50 – 85 kg. (110# - 187#)	1.1 m ² /head	11.8 sq. ft./hd.	0.8 m ² /head	8.6 sq. ft./hd.
d) > 85 kg (> 187#)	1.3 m ² /head	14 sq. ft./hd.	1.0 m ² /head	10.8 sq. ft./hd.
Sows in group pens	3 m ² /head	32.3 sq. ft./hd.	3 m ² /head	32.3 sq. ft./hd.
Boars in individual pens	9 m ² /head	96.8 sq./ft./hd.	9 m ² /head	96.8 sq./ft./hd.

1 meter = 39.27 inches
1 kilogram = 2.2046 pounds

1 meter² = 10.76 sq.ft.
1 meter = 3.28 feet

¹ NOP Policy Memo 10-3 <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP%20Policy%20memo%20Canada.pdf>

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Livestock	Indoor Space		Outdoor Runs and Pens	
	Canadian Measurement	US Equivalent	Canadian Measurement	US Equivalent
Laying hens	6 birds/m ²	6 birds/10.8 sq.ft.	4 birds/m ²	4 birds/10.8 sq.ft.
Pullets 0 – 8 weeks ^a	24 birds/m ²		16 birds/m ²	
Pullets 9 – 18 weeks ^a	15 birds/m ²		10 birds/m ²	
Broilers	21 kg./m ²	46 # /10.8 sq.ft.	21 kg./m ²	46 #/10.8 sq.ft.
Turkeys, geese and large birds	26 kg./m ²	57.2 #/10.8 sq.ft.	17 kg./m ²	37.4 #/10.8 sq.ft.
^a Canadian Standards: Outdoor runs are not required when flocks are undergoing an immunization program.				
For pasture based operation and mobile poultry units (moved daily)				
Laying hens			2000 / hectare	800 / acre
Broilers			2500 / hectare	1000/ acre
Large Birds			1300 / hectare	540 / acre

	Canadian Measurement	US Equivalent	Canadian Measurement			US Equivalent Outdoor runs & pens
			Outdoor runs & concrete exercise areas	Outdoor Pasture	Mobile Pens	
Rabbits						
Young rabbits - from weaning to slaughter	0.3 m ² /head	3.2 sq. ft./head	2 m ² /head	5m ² /head	0.4 m ² /head	21.5 sq.ft./head
Pregnant Does	0.5 m ² /head	5.4 sq. ft./head	2 m ² / head	5m ² /head	0.5 m ² /head	21.5 sq.ft./head
Does and litters	0.7 m ²	7.5 sq. ft. of floor /doe and litter	2 m ² / head	—	0.4 m ² /head in shelter 2.4 m ² /head for grazing area	21.5 sq.ft./head
Bucks	0.3 m ² /head	3.2 sq. ft./head	2 m ² /head	5m ² /head	0.4 m ² /head	21.5 sq.ft./head

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