Housing of sheep

sheep housing

Sheep Housing Requirements

Feature	Description
Location	Elevated, well-drained site, away from stagnant water and wind
Ventilation	Good airflow is essential to reduce heat and ammonia buildup
Roofing	Leak-proof and made of local or durable materials (e.g., zinc, thatch)
Flooring	Should be dry; can be **earthen**, **cemented**, or **slatted wood**
Space Requirement	1.0–1.5 m² per adult sheep; 0.5–1.0 m² for lambs
Drainage	Slight slope in floor for easy cleaning and drainage
Fencing	Strong fences to prevent escape and protect from predators
Shelter Height	At least 6–8 feet high to allow air circulation and worker movement

Types of Sheep Housing

Type	Description	Common In
Open-sided Shed	One or more open sides with a roof, ideal for tropical climates	North-central, Southern Nigeria
Fully Walled Barn	Enclosed barn with windows/vents; better for intensive rearing	Commercial farms
Elevated Wooden Floor	Raised slatted floor allows waste to fall below; keeps sheep dry	Wet/humid regions
Pen System	Partitioned space for age/breed groups, helps in feeding & record-keeping	Research & breeding units

Management Practices

Daily Management

- **Feeding & watering**: Clean feed and water must be provided twice daily.
- **Clean housing**: Remove dung, urine, and soiled bedding regularly.
- **Observe sheep**: Check for signs of illness (coughing, limping, discharges).

Routine Management

- **Hoof trimming**: Every 2–3 months to prevent overgrowth and foot rot.
- **Deworming**: Every 3–4 months depending on grazing pattern and weather.
- **Vaccination**: According to the national schedule (PPR, CCPP, etc.)
- **Shearing (if woolly)**: At least once a year (mainly for exotic breeds).
- **Breeding**: Keep accurate breeding records; separate males and females when necessary.

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Housing Design Example (Basic Open Shed)

Component	Dimension/Feature
Length & Width	6m × 4m (for 20 sheep)
Roof	Sloped with overhang to protect from rain
Flooring	Raised wooden slats or compacted earth
Wall Height	1.5–2 m (front) and 1.2 m (back) for ventilation slope
Partitions	For separating lambs, pregnant ewes, and sick animals

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