



# 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 <sup>2</sup> /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) <sup>1</sup> | 9 m <sup>2</sup> /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 <sup>2</sup> /head in spring and fall when not on pasture                      |  |
| Dairy cows – bedded pack  | 11 m <sup>2</sup> /head   |   | No minimum area required  |  |
| Dairy cows – individual maternity pens <sup>a</sup>   | 15 m <sup>2</sup> /head   |   | —   |  |
| Dairy cow – group maternity pens <sup>b</sup>   | 11 m <sup>2</sup> /head   |   | —   |  |
| Calves  | Incremental increase of 2.5 m <sup>2</sup> /head for young calves to 5 m <sup>2</sup> /head for growing (1-year old) steers and heifers |   | 5 m <sup>2</sup> /head to 9 m <sup>2</sup> /head, depending on the size of animals  |  |
| <sup>a</sup> With justification, space requirements may be reduced for small breeds of cattle<br><sup>b</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> /head plus 0.35 m <sup>2</sup> /head for each additional lamb/kid  | Exempt – see above.   | 2.5 m <sup>2</sup> /head plus 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> /head for each additional lamb/kid | Exempt – see above.  |
| Sows and piglets (up to 40 days old)  | 7.5 m <sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> /head  | 6.5 sq. ft./hd.   | 0.4 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 4.3 sq. ft./hd.  |
| b) 30 – 50 kg. (66# - 110#)   | 0.8 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 8.6 sq. ft./hd.   | 0.6 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 6.5 sq. ft./hd.  |
| c) 50 – 85 kg. (110# - 187#)  | 1.1 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 11.8 sq. ft./hd.  | 0.8 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 8.6 sq. ft./hd.  |
| d) > 85 kg (> 187#)   | 1.3 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 14 sq. ft./hd.  | 1.0 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 10.8 sq. ft./hd.   |
| Sows in group pens  | 3 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 32.3 sq. ft./hd.  | 3 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 32.3 sq. ft./hd.   |
| Boars in individual pens  | 9 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 96.8 sq/ft./hd.   | 9 m <sup>2</sup> /head  | 96.8 sq/ft./hd.  |

1 meter = 39.27 inches  
1 kilogram = 2.2046 pounds

1 meter<sup>2</sup> = 10.76 sq.ft.  
1 meter = 3.28 feet

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

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|--|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|  | Canadian Measurement    | US Equivalent       | Canadian Measurement    | US Equivalent       |
| Laying hens  | 6 birds/m <sup>2</sup>  | 6 birds/10.8 sq.ft. | 4 birds/m <sup>2</sup>  | 4 birds/10.8 sq.ft. |
| Pullets 0 – 8 weeks <sup>a</sup>   | 24 birds/m <sup>2</sup> |                     | 16 birds/m <sup>2</sup> |                     |
| Pullets 9 – 18 weeks <sup>a</sup>  | 15 birds/m <sup>2</sup> |                     | 10 birds/m <sup>2</sup> |                     |
| Broilers   | 21 kg./m <sup>2</sup>   | 46 # /10.8 sq.ft.   | 21 kg./m <sup>2</sup>   | 46 #/10.8 sq.ft.    |
| Turkeys, geese and large birds   | 26 kg./m <sup>2</sup>   | 57.2 #/10.8 sq.ft.  | 17 kg./m <sup>2</sup>   | 37.4 #/10.8 sq.ft.  |
| <sup>a</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> /head | 3.2 sq. ft./head                     | 2 m <sup>2</sup> /head                 | 5m <sup>2</sup> /head | 0.4 m <sup>2</sup> /head   | 21.5 sq.ft./head                  |
| Pregnant Does                             | 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> /head | 5.4 sq. ft./head                     | 2 m <sup>2</sup> / head                | 5m <sup>2</sup> /head | 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> /head   | 21.5 sq.ft./head                  |
| Does and litters                          | 0.7 m <sup>2</sup>       | 7.5 sq. ft. of floor /doe and litter | 2 m <sup>2</sup> / head                | —                     | 0.4 m <sup>2</sup> /head in shelter<br>2.4 m <sup>2</sup> /head for grazing area | 21.5 sq.ft./head                  |
| Bucks                                     | 0.3 m <sup>2</sup> /head | 3.2 sq. ft./head                     | 2 m <sup>2</sup> /head                 | 5m <sup>2</sup> /head | 0.4 m <sup>2</sup> /head   | 21.5 sq.ft./head                  |

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