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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

Linwood Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – 12pm **Hwy 89 Clinic:** Mon-Sat 7am-1 pm
NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday
24 Hour Emergency Vet Service call any clinic number 1-800-663-2941 519-698-2610 519-323-9002

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

Clinic News

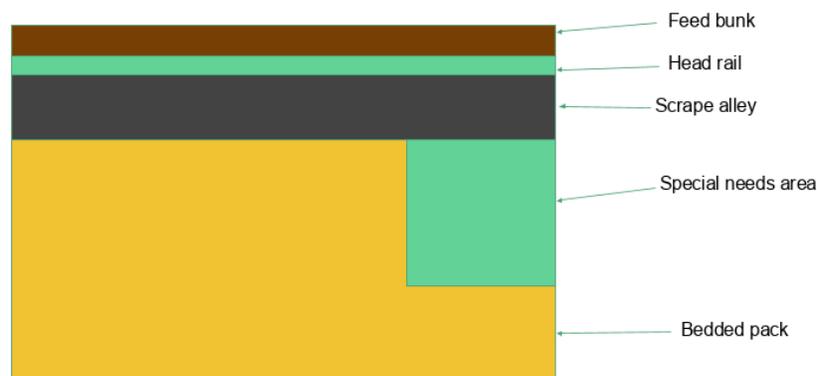
Monday February 18, Family Day, is a Statutory Holiday. **There will be no delivery service that day.** Clinics will be open only in the morning and vets will be available for emergencies.

Dry Cow Housing

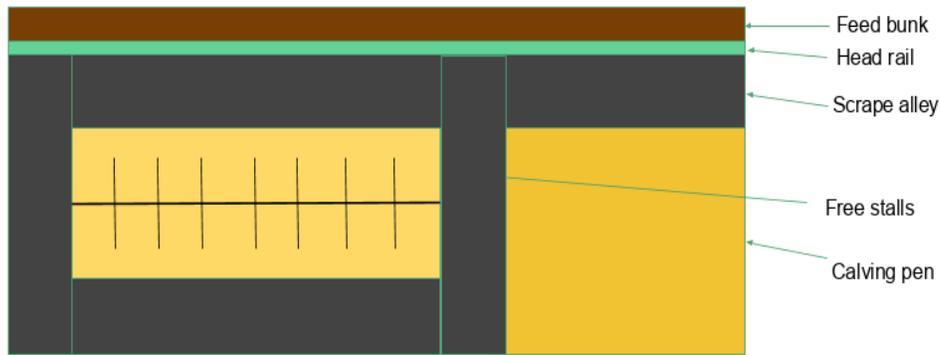
There are many important components to dry cow management. One of the most important components to be considered is dry cow housing. Housing for dry cows should be comfortable, clean, and prevent social stress.

There are many different types of dry cow housing and what works for each individual producer will be different. It is important to consider the space you have, what bedding you would like to use, how you want to manage feed and manure, and handling facilities. Some examples are packs, free stalls, outdoor yard with a run-in, or keeping them in a tie stall. It is also important to consider how you want to manage them around calving. Some examples of different ways to manage them are to have them calve in the same pen, have a dry pen and close-up/maternity pen, or to have dry stalls and a close-up/maternity pen. Here are two example diagrams of a pack and free stall dry cow housing area:

Example: straw pack



Example: free stall



Pack	Free Stall
Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very comfortable for all size cows - Can calve out cow in same pen if desired or easily have section for calving 	Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy to clean and maintain - Requires less bedding - Can be comfortable for most size of cows - Possibly a more efficient use of space
Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bedding can be expensive - Requires frequent bedding to stay clean 	Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If varying size of cows, not ideal for comfort or cleanliness - Often not as comfortable as pack depending on type of bedding - Need a separate calving area

Once you have decided on the type of facility you would like to have for your dry cows, there are some key components to make sure are incorporated into your housing. It must be **clean and dry**. Dry off period is one of the top times for new mastitis infections. It needs to be **comfortable and prevent social stress**. Cows that move around a lot during their dry period are prone to calving issues such as uterine torsions. There needs to be good **heat abatement** in the summer and **ventilation** year-round. This will assist in reducing pneumonia issues. There needs to be plenty of **access to water**, at least 2 sources per pen if there is more than one cow in a pen. There needs to be enough **space**. The benchmark recommended is 150 sq ft per cow and to keep it 80% stocked. Build your facility for 140% of calvings so that you aren't overcrowded during those slugs. **Feed** 2x/day for 5% refusals if possible. This will help ease a dry cow into her transition as a lactating cow who needs to eat a large amount twice a day. Lastly, it is important to incorporate some sort of **handling facilities**. You need to be able to give a dry cow her vaccines, boluses, or any other treatment by yourself. There are many good options that are relatively inexpensive out there.

If you have any questions about dry cows and ways to improve their management, just ask your herd health vet! We are very happy to help in any way we can. If you are considering building a new barn or addition, we are also happy to consult with you on facility design.