

Design a farm

If you had to design a farm, you would have to think very carefully where you might put the farmhouse, the outbuildings and the fields for the animals.

Use the following list of features to help you plan an ideal farm. You could draw it on a piece of A3 paper and then perhaps make it from recycled materials and use it for your toy farm animals.

Not all farms will need all the following features, but these are the most common:

- Driveway
- Farmhouse
- Livestock sheds
- Milking parlour
- Machinery repair shop
- Grain store
- Hay storage – a Dutch barn
- Chicken run
- Sheds for tractors and other machinery
- Fields
- Housing for farm employees (might be mobile homes)
- Manure heap
- Slurry pit

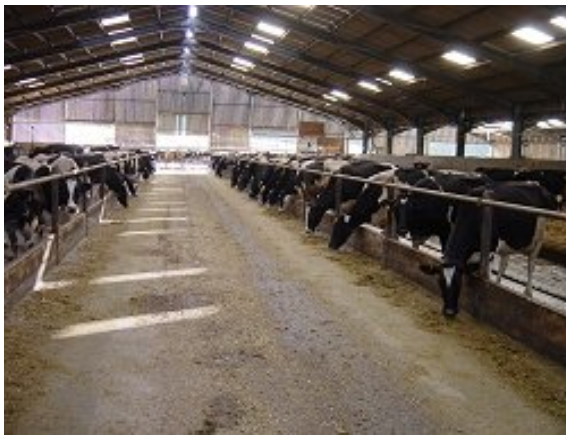
Ideas for the layout

The **driveway** should be straight and able to reach all the buildings, with a large turning area suitable for tractors with trailers (hay trucks, cattle lorries). The driveway should reach to the road.

The **farmhouse** should be in the middle, ideally with windows on every side allowing you to keep an eye on your livestock and the rest of the property at any time.



You will need to have **livestock sheds**. The sheds should be fairly near the farmhouse but not so close that farm smells reach the house. They should be placed so that the entrances do not face the prevailing wind.



The milking parlour should be next to the shed where the cows are housed in the winter and be easily reached from the fields when the cows are out at grass in the summer. The milk is stored in a large tank next to the dairy until the milk tanker collects it. These large tankers need space to turn and a concrete surface to drive on right up to the tank so it is a good idea to site this near the yard.

The **machine repair shop** is a large garage. It is where farm tools are stored and repairs can be done. Many farmers find that having the machine shop closer to the house than the barns works well.



Grain stores are usually located beside the driveway so that tractors and lorries can reach them easily.



Hay storage is in an open Dutch barn and is usually close to the livestock sheds, but not right next to them in case of fire.



The **chicken run** may be located fairly near the farmhouse if only a few hens are kept for personal egg production. Keeping the chicken run close to the house has several advantages. There is less risk of predators like foxes attacking the hens when they are let out in the daytime, and you do not have far to go to put the birds back in at night.



For security reasons the farmer might want to locate the **sheds for tractors and other machinery** in sight of the house. The diesel tank could be kept inside the tractor shed.

Most farmers want to keep their animals in fields close to the farmyard, with fields further away being used to grow crops. It is a good idea to divide the grazing land into several fields. That way when a field has been grazed, the grass there can have time to regrow while another field is being grazed. It is a good idea to have some smaller fields near the house, for the younger animals that may need special care.



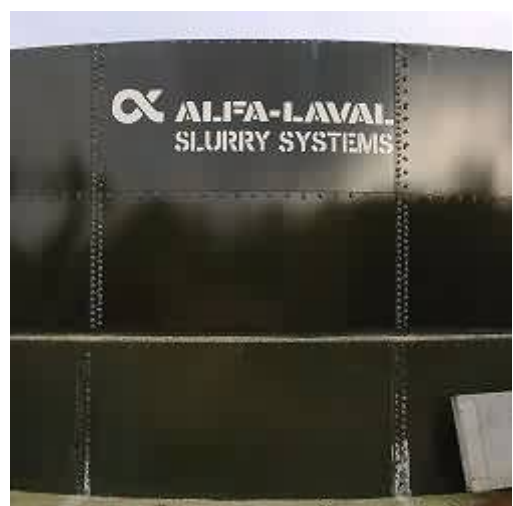
Housing for people who work on the farm is often set a little distance from the farmhouse, to make it more private for them. Workers who are employed all year round might have cottages on the farm. Seasonal workers who are only there for a short time might live in caravans or mobile homes.



You will also have to decide where you will store all the manure. It is collected in a pit before being spread on the land. It can smell quite a lot. The **slurry tank** (for runny stuff) and **manure pit** (for muck and dirty straw bedding) need to be quite a way from the farmhouse but close to the livestock sheds.



Manure Pit



Slurry Tank