

Livestock Shade Structure

(For Use in the Illinois Watershed Initiative Area)

Arkansas Job Sheet



DEFINITION

A permanent or portable framed structure to provide shade for livestock that are adversely affected by heat from the sun or are excluded from natural shade as a result of a prescribed grazing system.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The structure is constructed of steel pipe and supports a ultra-violet protected polypropylene fabric (shade cloth) specifically designed by the manufacturer to provide at least an 80 percent shade level.

Units should be built on skids to facilitate movement and should be sized for practical relocation. An individual portable unit should not be larger than 25 feet by 42 feet.

The amount of artificial shade is dependent upon the amount of natural shade available and the type of animal. An NRCS technician can help determine the amount of shaded area to be constructed.

Livestock shade structures should be located:

- on well-drained sites,
- no less than 200 ft. from any water source,
- at least 150 ft. from an up-hill well,
- at least 300 ft. from a down-hill well, and
- at least 50 ft. from any building or structure that

would obstruct the circulation of air.

Proximity to livestock water and minerals should be strategically planned so as to create a desired livestock-grazing pattern.

The long axis of the shade structure should be generally oriented in the north-to-south direction to keep the shaded area as dry as possible.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Livestock shade structures properly constructed can last for years; however, the fabric will eventually degrade due to environmental conditions and need to be replaced. Storing the fabric during the winter months can extend the useful life of the fabric. The fabric should always be kept tight so that it will not be damaged by wind.

Livestock Shade Structures must be moved periodically to prevent destruction of vegetation.

REFERENCES

- Standard Drawing – AR-ENG-520
- Construction Specification – Livestock Shade Structure
- Livestock shade Structure Worksheet

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