MORE INFORMATION

- Guide: https://shorturl.at/dtyAC
- Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@DISARMProject
- Facebook discussion group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/242076006728832
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- Farm Health Team Toolbox: https://disarmproject.eu/search-resources/farm-health-toolbox/
- Podcast on Coaching better biosecurity in poultry production: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2ZEVrfTuEM&t=1s
- Article: 'Factors associated with specific health, welfare and reproductive performance indicators in pig herds from five EU countries': https://shorturl.at/dizV4
- The influence of low temperature on dairy cows: https://shorturl.at/kuG56

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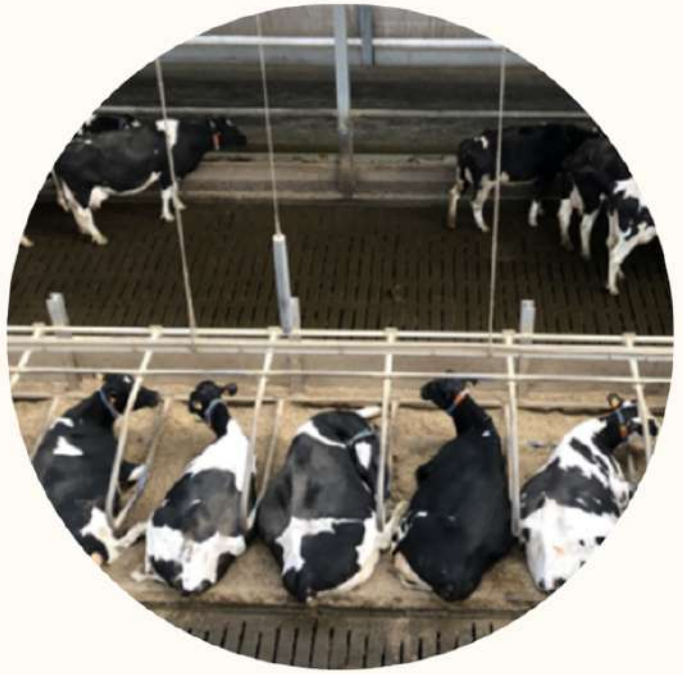
Scan this QR code to know more about the DISARM approach toolbox or visit https://shorturl.at/rCGP3

This guide is one of the 10 Best Practice guides made during the DISARM project. The 10 guides all have the goal to inform you about a specific topic in order to reduce the antimicrobial use in the livestock industry. The other DISARM Best Practice guides can be found here: https://disarmproject.eu/best-practice-guides/

Optimal Housing for Livestock



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The DISARM project aims to reduce antibiotic resistance through a focus on disease prevention and animal health, thereby reducing the need for antibiotic use.

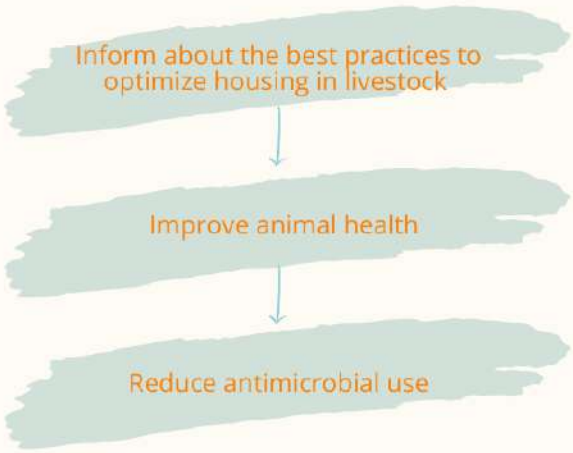
This guide aims to inform you about best practices to optimize housing in livestock to improve animal health and thereby reduce antimicrobial use.

The topic of housing concerns several subjects:

- The housing system;
- The environment;
- Group management.

To optimize housing, facilities can be upgraded to improve animal health and to reduce stress. The environment should also be considered, such as the climate and pen enrichment.

Having attention to group management ensures appropriate social contact whilst minimizing the risk of injuries and diseases.



HOUSING SYSTEMS

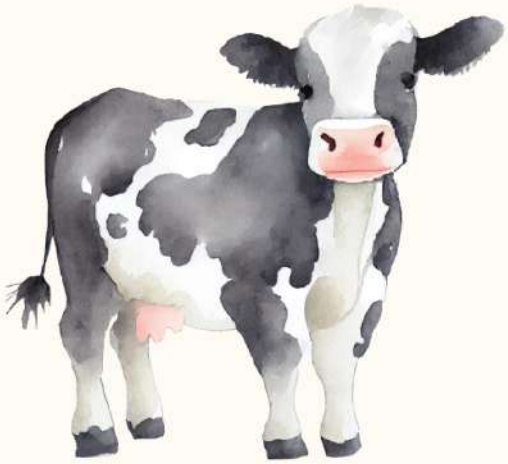
When improving existing facilities or designing a new building, focusing on optimizing animal health and comfort can facilitate animal management and reduce occurrence of injuries and disease.
Accommodation must provide for animals' needs and should consider how they experience the space, as well as how building design and layout can facilitate easy management and sanitation for disease control.

ENVIRONMENT

Providing animals with a clean, dry, comfortable environment that provides for their physical, social, and mental needs can improve production, health, and welfare by reducing negative stress:

- Appropriate disinfectants, bedding, and flooring substrates;
- Regular cleaning, removal of waste, and topping up of clean, dry bedding and litter material;
- Adequate space and facilities in which to rest, exercise and perform species-typical behaviours;
- Suitable social and environmental enrichment.

Providing an environment in which animals are happy, comfortable and content can contribute to lower susceptibility to disease and easier management.



GROUP MANAGEMENT

Effective management of animal groups ensures animals have appropriate social contact whilst minimising the risk of injuries and disease thereby reducing the need for antibiotic treatments:

- Adequate space to avoid overcrowding;
- Animals should be regularly observed to identify early signs of illness or other problems;
- Stable groups should be maintained - mixing animals from different groups should be avoided and young animals should be kept separately from older animals;
- Clean, disinfect, dry, and rest enclosures to reduce pathogenic load before introducing the next group of animals
- Stockpersons should move from young to older animals or change footwear and protective clothing when it is necessary to visit young animals after dealing with adult stock.