

Introduction to **Livestock**



**Pennsylvania
Grazing Lands
Coalition**

Species *Overview*



{ Beef cattle }

Common Name: Beef cattle

Weight: Adult: 1100-1500 lbs

Scientific Name: *Bos taurus*

Water Intake: 20 gallons per day

Dry Matter Intake: 2.5% of body weight

Uses:

Beef cattle are generally used to produce meat. Their hides and bones can also be used for various purposes. Grassfed beef is one of the most common pasture produced products.

Fencing:

There are many types of fences that can be used for bovine based on production goals. Examples include: woven wire, high tensile wire, and barbed wire - often times these wires are electrified. Posts should be placed at least every 50 ft (woven wire at least 10 ft).

Photo: Beef Research from Kyle Spradley, MU, 2014 (flickr) CC 2.0.

Common Name: Dairy cow

Weight: Adult: 1400-2000 lbs

Scientific Name: *Bos taurus*

Water Intake: 35 gal/day

Dry Matter Intake: 2.4-4.0% of body weight

Uses:

Dairy cattle are used to produce milk. Adults are generally not used for beef products, though younger calves (usually bull calves) are often used to produce veal.

Fencing:

Typically, high-tensile wire and woven wire fencing are used. It is never recommended to use barbed wire, however, as a cow could damage their udder. Posts should be placed the same as with beef cattle.

Photo: Grazing calves at Warea from Dave Young, 2010 (flickr) CC 2.0





{ Small ruminants }

Common Name: Sheep or Goat

Weight: Adult: 175-300 lbs

Scientific Name:

Water Intake: 2-3 gallons per day

Sheep: *Ovis aries*

Goat: *Capra aegagrus hircus*

Dry Matter Intake: 1.8-4.0% of body weight

Uses:

Small ruminants are often raised for meat, wool, or milk. Goats can also be used as an effective tool for managing invasive species.

Fencing:

Several types of fencing can be used to house small ruminants. The most popular being multiple strand single wire or woven wire that is <9" or <4" to prevent entanglement. Fences are often electrified.

Common Name: Horse

Weight: Adult: 1000-1200 lbs

Scientific Name:

Water Intake: 12 gallons per day

Equus ferus caballus

Dry Matter Intake: 2.0% of body weight

Uses:

Horses have many recreational uses, such as dressage, rodeo, and showing. They are also raised for work uses. Thousands of these strong and powerful animals are used for activities such as police work, draft power farming, and cattle ranching on a daily basis.

Fencing:

Fencing should be highly visible - avoid strand wire, as this is hard for them to see. Horses are often fenced with wire mesh (2"-4") or wooden board fence, as these minimize potential injury.

Photo: Pose from Niels Linneberg, 2011 (flickr) CC 2,0.

{ Equine }





{ Poultry }

Common Name: Chicken, Turkey, Duck

Scientific Name: *Gallus gallus domesticus*,
Meleagris, and *Anas platyrhynchos*

Dry Matter Intake:

Approx. 1/3 lb of feed per day

Uses:

Chicken can be raised for eggs (layers) or for meat (broilers). Different breeds are designed for different purposes. Chicken can also serve as fly control for bovine operations, as they will consume fly larvae.

Fencing:

Mesh electric fencing (2"-4") can be used to contain chickens and/or protect them from predators. Chickens also need a house and layers will need nest boxes.

Weight:

Chicken: 4-6 lbs

Duck: 2-3 lbs

Turkey: 23-28 lbs

Water Intake:

9 gallons/100 birds per day

*Photo: Chicken portrait from Ady
Negrean, 2014 (flickr) CC 2.0*

Common Name: Pig

Weight: 200-250 lbs

Scientific Name:

Water Intake: 1.5 gallons per day

Sus scrofa domesticus

Dry Matter Intake: About 70% of body weight

Uses:

Pigs are most commonly known for producing varieties of pork products. They also produce insulin and over 40 other medications people use worldwide. Additionally, swine heart valves are used daily to replace damaged heart valves in humans.

Fencing:

Woven "hog wire" is best used for hog operations outside. Fences should have a height of 40 inches, with 1.5-2 inches of ground clearance. Fence should have barbed wire at top/bottom, or be electrified.

Photo: Pig from Jeremy van Bedijk, 2006 (flickr) CC 2.0

{ Swine }



More Info?

Breeds?

Looking for more information about specific livestock breeds? Go to the Oklahoma State University Dept. of Animal Science Breeds of Livestock database:

www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds

Pennsylvania Grazing Lands Coalition

For more information about the newest grazing technology and methods visit our website:

www.paglc.org



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Cover Photo:

Sheep grazes at PaSu Farms, *Heidi Schuyt Photography, 2014 (flickr) CC 2.0*