

Recommendations from Wilson Agriculture for cubicle dimension

[please note: we can supply cubicles to fit any length beds – these are just ideals]

Cubicle sizes:

Single row facing a wall, if possible we look for **9 feet** [2750mm]. When you observe a cow getting up she will lunge as much as 10 feet, and it is essential to provide this for her in any cubicle environment. Often we accept a shorter bed length, but a open front to allow the cows to lunge through.

Head to head rows, we will compromise and accept 15 feet as the cows will share the lunging space, however in most cases we recommend **16 feet** [4850mm].

All cubicles are currently being installed at **45 inches wide** [1150mm]. We tried a lot at 4ft, however it proves a lot more difficult to keep the cows lying straight. When they lye at an angle, you will tend to find that manure will accumulate on the back corner of the bed.

Heel curb height:

Current opinions state that the heel curb should not be too high (e.g. 4-5 inches), however we have found that by lifting the neck bar up to 50 inches, instead of 45 inches we can get the cow to stand in the cubicle with all four feet instead of standing half in half out. This is very important to reduce feet problems etc, and increase herd health. Therefore the heel curb can be at about 7or 8 inches [170-210mm], which works really well in terms of scraping out and slurry not splashing onto the beds.

The beds should have about 2 to 4 inches [50-100mm] fall over the total length. More than this has resulted in problems keeping the bedding on the beds.

We use the Poly Pillow™ as our brisket barrier, which should be positioned at 66-68 inches [1680-1730] from the heel curb and will position the cows perfectly in the cubicle.

Passage widths:

To a feed barrier, the passage should ideally be no less than 11 feet wide [3350mm]. Between cubicles, we will accept anything from 8 to 12 feet [2440-3660mm]. Most common would be about 8 to 10 feet.

Cubicle bedding:

As you know we like to use the Pasture Mat® mattress on all our cubicle beds. This will increase lying times considerably when compared to concrete. You will need to use bedding on these mattresses for two main reasons:

- It gives the any manure something to stick to thus helping to keep the beds clean;
- It will reduce friction between the animal and the surface. This will reduce potential of hock abrasions and damage etc.

Approximately 80% of our customers will use sawdust and a mix of lime as bedding. The remaining 20% tend to use chopped straw, paper, sand etc.

Pasture Mat fitting:

Wilson Agriculture have a few fitters available and a ball park cost is usually around £4.50 per cow space. Alternatively we supply a comprehensive fitting booklet and fitting video/DVD to enable self installation. Over 90% of customers fit their own mattresses.

For research and information supporting these recommendations please take a look at:

www.wilsonagri.co.uk

Wilson Agriculture

Recommended dimensions



Age in months	Single row beds	Head to head beds	Height of neck rail	Width of cubicles
>22 months	2750 (9ft)	4880 (16ft)	1270 (50 inch)	1150 (45 inch)
16 - 22 months	2400 (8ft)	4570 (15ft)	1140 * (45 inch)	1000 - 1100 * (39-43 inch)
10 - 16 months	2100 (7ft)	4270 (14ft)	1000 * (40 inch)	900 - 1000 * (35-39 inch)
5 - 12 months	1900 (6ft3)	3650 (12ft)	900 * (35 inch)	800 - 900 * (31-35 inch)
0.5 - 5 months	1600 (5ft3)	3000 (10ft)	750 * (29 inch)	650 - 800 * (25-31 inch)

* measurements are approximate and will need adjusting depending on animal sizes
(dimensions in mm unless otherwise stated)

Pasture Mats®

Where *Pasture Mats®* are required the standard mattress sits comfortably at 1150 (45 inch) centres. You will therefore need less mattresses than spaces as cubicle widths are reduced for young stock.