

Livestock, Poultry, Game and Fur Management Practices for Small Parcel Agriculture

This factsheet gives information about “small parcel agriculture” in British Columbia. This term applies to all farm parcels of less than 10 acres, which total 29% of all BC farms.

Description

British Columbia has a great diversity of agriculture products that are produced from farms of all sizes. Farms that produce products on lot sizes less than 10 acres are defined as “**Small Parcel Agriculture**”. In British Columbia, small parcel agriculture comprises 29% of all BC farms (2011 Stats Canada). These farms contribute to the surrounding community by providing a greater diversity of farming activities, adding more people within the community, and are usually in ideal locations for direct marketing.



Small parcels can be efficient for producing products through intensive agriculture (poultry barns, feedlots, and/or greenhouses) or may be a combination of mixed livestock and/or horticulture. These farms can be successful because production efficiency is related to the techniques and level of management used on farm.

Small parcel agriculture that produces livestock, poultry, game or fur requires extra attention to proper planning of the site for animal care, manure management and mortality disposal; so that producers can minimize public concerns and show that they are being good neighbours.

Management Practices to Reduce Nuisance Complaints - Odour, Noise, Dust

When planning the farm yard layout producers can reduce nuisance complaints by considering the following:

1. **Scale of Farm Operation / Activity** (resulting frequency, intensity, duration of odours, noise or dust)

It is important for producers to understand how many animals can be supported on their small parcel. Knowing how much manure is produced and how much land is available for appropriate storage and use can help producers design proper paddocks,

storage or composting facilities. This will also help prevent build up of manure on the farm which is one of the main sources of nuisance complaints.

Where the amount of manure produced is more than the land available producers should follow practices recommended for intensive agriculture activities and operations.

More information can be found on the following websites:

[Environmental Farm Plan](#)

[Strengthening Farming factsheet](#)

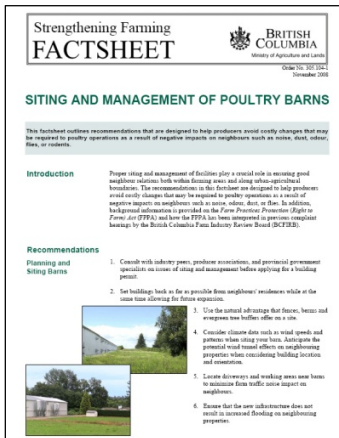
[See Farm Structures factsheet](#)

[Manure Storage and Handling](#)

[Siting and Management of Poultry Barns](#)

[Establishing a Feedlot in BC](#)

[Horses in a Community – a Yea or Neigh?](#)



2. Type of Farm Operation / Activity (resulting offensiveness of odours, dust or noise)

Locating proper manure storage areas, composting areas, mortality disposal sites, pastures and livestock yards on small parcels are particularly sensitive to potential impacts with neighbouring properties. Each activity could be impacted by the distance to neighbours and prevailing winds. Screening and proper storm management are two tools that can reduce impacts. Care and attention should be paid to the following activities:

Ministry webpage for Farm Practices

[Animal Care & Handling](#)

[Livestock at Large](#)

[Mortality Disposal](#)

[Manure Storage](#)

[Manure Storage \(poultry\)](#)

[Manure Storage Structures Poultry & Dairy](#)

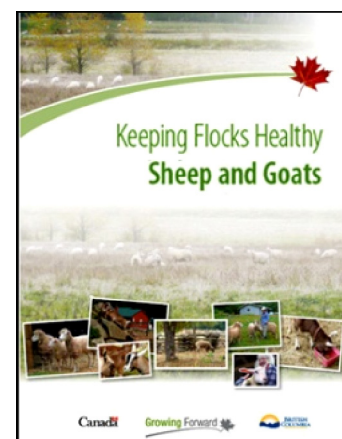
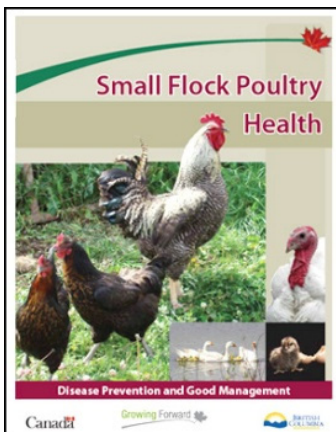
[Composting](#)

Ministry webpage for Poultry Health

[Small Flock Poultry Health manual](#)

Ministry webpage for Livestock Health Management:

[Keeping Flocks Healthy](#)



Recommendations to Reduce Environmental Risk

Many of the management practices that are recommended to reduce nuisance complaints can also reduce the environmental risks related to manure management on small lots. The *Environmental Farm Plan Reference Guide* provides information on how to reduce environmental risks on all farm types. For livestock operations on small parcels, producers should consider the following information:

A. Keep Clean Water Away from Manure

Producers on small parcels can reduce environmental risks to surface water by implementing beneficial management practices related to storm water management such as installing gutters, covers and berms on their operations. More information can be found on the following WebPages:

[Environmental Farm Plan Farm Practices](#)

[Reference Guide – Water chapter Storm water Management](#)

B. Keep Manure Away from Clean Water

Producers on small parcels can reduce environmental risks to surface and ground water by implementing beneficial management practices for drainage, nutrient management, manure storage, composting, wintering site management and pasture management. Proper pasture and grazing management is often critical to successfully managing livestock on small parcels and producers should consider management practices such as preparing a grazing management plan and / or establishing sacrifice areas. Producers should also consider livestock watering options, fencing and restricting animal access to water and riparian areas. The following WebPages provide more information.

[Farm Structures Factsheet](#)

[Environmentally Friendly Horse Farm The Basics of Horse Pasture Management](#)

[Environmental Farm Plan](#)

[Grazing Management Guide Reference Guide - Livestock chapter](#)

