

Housing the dairy cow

Animal Production Systems
A4005

why house?

- weather - cow welfare
 - protection from rain, snow, wind
 - protection from sun
 - thermal neutral zone
- ideal temperature high producing cow = 10°C
- lower critical temperature -20°C
- upper critical temperature 26°C

why house?

- management
 - control environment
 - control diet
 - regulating food intake
 - regulating food quality
- limit damage to pasture
 - poaching

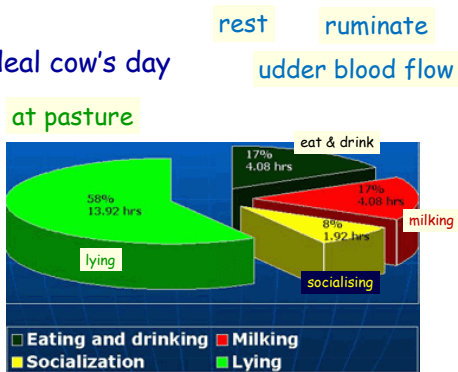


when to house?

- winter
- early lactation and winter

- all year

ideal cow's day



cow comfort

How does a cow lie in pasture



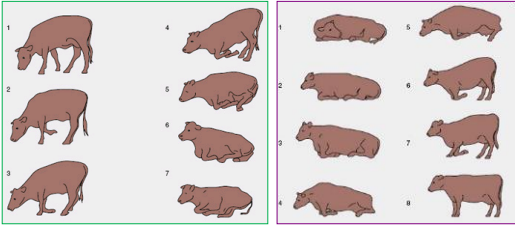
housing should provide comfortable lying area

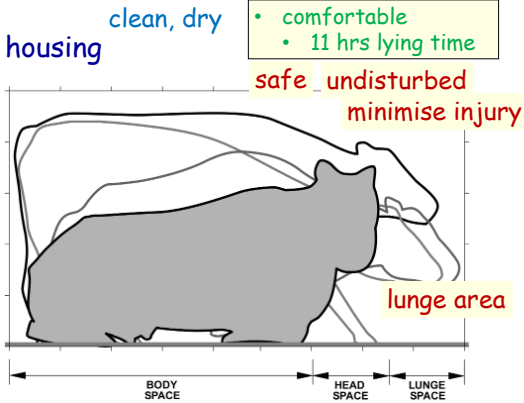


the cow needs to be able to easily move from lying to standing and vice versa

standing to lying

lying to standing





health and welfare

- clean, dry lying area
 - minimise mastitis / SCC
 - maximise milk sold
 - minimise bactoscan
- minimise lameness
 - standing in slurry
 - not lying down
 - injury

housing systems

- comfort
 - free movement
 - bedding
- cost effective
- cubicles
- loose yard
- loafing area
- feeding area

total area / cow

cubicles - 8.05 m²

loose yard - 10.5 m²
