

Sheds4U.co.nz

ANIMAL SHELTERS



For more information get in touch 0800 862 010

Good for stock, good for the environment and great for the bottom line!

As changing weather becomes an ever more important factor in livestock management, animal owners and farmers face the growing challenge of providing optimal care and protection for stock in harsher year-round conditions.

A valuable asset in combating these harsh weather conditions is our range of animal shelter barns. We have a range of kits that will give your operation numerous advantages, enhancing the well-being of your livestock and streamlining farming operations.



Composting Barns

Over the last short while, composting barns have gained popularity with innovative farmers for cattle farming year-round, providing a comfortable environment for the animals to preserving the quality of the paddocks in winter, and shelter from the sun in the warmer months. The by-product of compost also slashes the need for additional fertilization, which means big savings.



Composting barns provide a controlled indoor environment that offers several advantages for cattle and farmers during the winter season:



By keeping any stock indoors, composting barns protect them from the adverse effects of cold, wet, and windy conditions. This reduces stress and helps maintain the overall health and well-being of the animals.

The barns improve comfort and hygiene by providing comfortable bedding for the cattle, promoting proper rest and reducing the risk of injuries. Furthermore, the barns' well-managed composting process helps maintain cleanliness and hygiene, minimizing the likelihood of disease transmission among the herd.



Composting barns' by-product of nutrient-rich compost can be spread on the pastures once winter ends. This enhances soil fertility, promotes healthy plant growth, and reduces the reliance on synthetic fertilizers. This closed-loop system reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers and promotes sustainable agriculture practices.



They ensure that winter pastures aren't over-grazed or pugged and also mean reduced manure management, giving a sustainable solution for managing cattle waste and minimize the need for additional manure applications. Some barns are equipped with systems that capture and compost cattle manure, reducing the amount of waste that needs to be disposed of or stored.



A recent study of farmers who have adopted this practice into their businesses showed that composting barns have emerged as a game-changer in New Zealand's cattle farming industry, offering a range of benefits for both cattle and farmers.

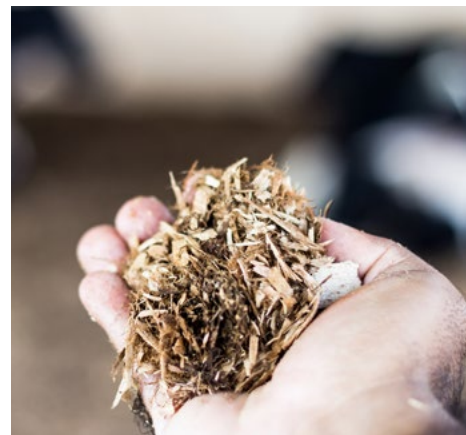
By providing a comfortable and protected environment for the animals during the winter months, these barns improve animal welfare. Simultaneously, they preserve the quality of paddocks by eliminating the damage caused by winter grazing, reducing the need for additional manure, and promoting nutrient recycling through composting.

And, as the demand for sustainable farming practices increases, in particular from overseas trading partners, composting barns present an eco-friendly

solution that supports the well-being of cattle and the productivity of New Zealand's agricultural lands.

While all farmers interviewed as part of the study reported improved financial performance, it was the intangible benefits of composting shelters they weighted most highly, given that labour shortages, environmental performance and animal welfare considerations are all significant challenges that dairy farmers are grappling with on a daily basis.

All farmers interviewed saw increased cow comfort and welfare, better staff working conditions, a lift in labour efficiency, improved environmental performance, and reduced pasture damage as real drivers for their investment. They also noted benefits to animal welfare through the provision of a comfortable environment that protected



cows from both the heat in summer and cold, wet conditions in winter.

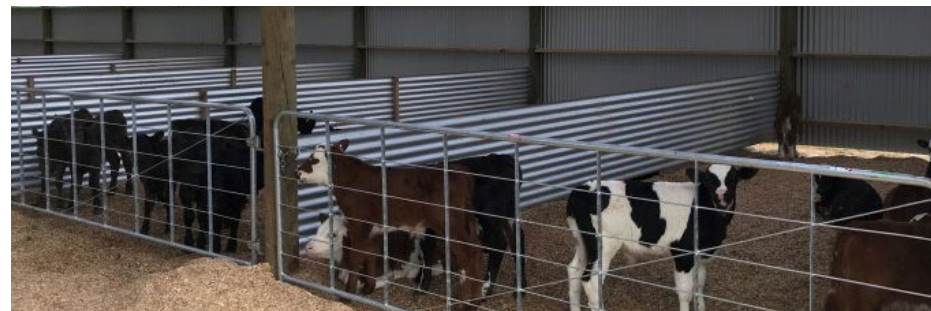
For staff, the shelters mean they can work out of the weather, which is particularly beneficial during calving. Where the shelters replaced winter grazing, there was a significant workload reduction. The ability to manage over-grazing and pugging damage also reduced farmer stress.

Other farmers noted a reduction in calf mortality and a pleasurable experience for staff and animals over the calving period.

One farm has even installed cameras to allow staff to complete night calving checks remotely.

In addition to these intangible benefits, the farmers reported a significant reduction in their winter feed requirements compared to a 24/7 outdoor system, due both to reduced maintenance requirements and feed wastage.

One farm noted a 50% drop in the winter feed allocation relative to their previous winter cropping system.



Wintering Barns

One of the primary advantages of a SHEDS4U wintering barn is providing shelter and protection for livestock during harsh winter conditions. Heavy snowfall, freezing temperatures, and biting winds can be detrimental to the health and safety of animals. A wintering barn offers a warm and secure environment, shielding livestock from the elements and preventing frostbite, hypothermia, and other weather-related ailments.



These barns can be equipped with proper insulation, ventilation and heating systems, which regulate temperature and humidity levels. This controlled environment helps minimize stress, allowing animals to maintain their well-being, promote healthy growth, and maximize productivity.

During winter, it can be challenging to provide sufficient and nutritious feed for livestock. The barn's design allows for organized storage of feed, ensuring its quality and preventing spoilage. With easy access to stored feed, farmers can monitor and control the animals' diet, ensuring they receive the necessary nutrients to stay healthy and productive, and creating much less wastage.

Winter livestock waste management can also be particularly challenging due to frozen ground and limited access to pastures. A wintering barn simplifies manure management by providing a controlled environment for waste collection and storage. This enables farmers to implement effective waste management strategies, such as composting for use on paddocks; it also minimizes environmental impact and maintaining a cleaner and healthier farm and surrounding environs.



The accessibility and design of a SHEDS4U wintering barn greatly facilitates livestock handling and veterinary care. It's more challenging to round up and manage animals in wintery open fields. By creating a designated space in the barn, it becomes easier to handle individual animals, perform routine health checks, administer vaccinations, and address any medical concerns promptly. This results in better animal welfare, overall herd health, and lower veterinary bills.

A SHEDS4U wintering barn will also significantly improve the efficiency of farming operations. By housing animals in a central location, it reduces the time and effort required for feeding, watering, and overall animal care. This centralized approach also helps farmers save valuable

resources, such as fuel and labour, by minimizing travel time between various pasture areas or remote locations.

These barns offer a multitude of advantages for both livestock and farmers alike. By providing shelter, comfort, and protection from extreme weather conditions, it ensures the well-being and productivity of the animals. Additionally, it streamlines operational efficiency, facilitates feed and waste management, and simplifies veterinary care. Investing in a SHEDS4U wintering barn is a wise decision that pays off in the long run, allowing farmers to navigate the challenges of winter while maintaining a thriving and sustainable farming enterprise.



Friendly & helpful team you can rely on and trust



Qualified builders that provide expert advice



Strong durable building designed to stand the test of time



Flexible design personalised to suit your needs



Feed Pads

Feed pads provide an organized and controlled environment for feeding dairy cows, dairy sheep or dairy goats. By using feed bunk systems or automatic feeding technology, farmers can precisely monitor and regulate the nutrition and quantity of feed each animal receives. This level of control allows for more accurate and efficient feed management, resulting in optimized animal nutrition and health.



In traditional grazing systems, a considerable amount of feed can be wasted due to trampling, soiling, or spoilage. Feed pads minimize such losses by providing a dedicated feeding space that reduces contamination and spoilage. With less feed waste, farmers can achieve significant cost savings and maximize their herd's nutritional intake, leading to improved milk production and overall herd health.

Proper nutrition is crucial for maximizing milk production in any herd. Feed pads enable farmers to formulate and deliver balanced diets tailored to the specific nutritional requirements of each animal. This precision feeding, combined with the ability to track individual cow performance, ensures that animals receive optimal nutrition, resulting in increased milk production and improved milk quality.

Feed pads prioritize animal well-being by offering comfortable, clean, and spacious feeding areas. Beasts can feed without competition or aggression, leading to reduced stress levels and improved behaviour. Additionally, the controlled environment of a feed pad allows for better observation and early detection of health issues, ensuring prompt veterinary care and overall improved animal welfare.

Managing manure is a significant farming challenge. Feed pads help streamline this process by providing a centralized feeding area where manure can be collected and managed more efficiently. This facilitates easier cleaning, reduces environmental impacts, and allows for the implementation of nutrient management plans. Proper manure management supports sustainable farming practices and helps mitigate potential environmental concerns. It also saves real money on fertiliser costs.

By reducing reliance on pasture alone, feed pads offer flexibility in feed sourcing. This is particularly advantageous in regions with limited or unreliable grazing periods due to weather conditions. Farmers can supplement or replace pasture-based feeding with carefully formulated and controlled feed rations, ensuring a consistent and balanced diet throughout the year. This adaptability allows dairy operations to be more resilient and less affected by seasonal fluctuations.

By embracing feed pads, dairy farmers can create a more efficient, sustainable, and prosperous future for their business.

SHEDS4U will work hand in hand with you to design and deliver an animal shelter that will add efficiencies to your business. Get in touch today.



Our sheds have withstood the worst the NZ weather can throw at them for years and years. Tried and tested is an understatement.



We can help with all the consents needed to keep the process flowing smoothly.



Keep acidic, damaging bird mess off your expensive machinery, lessen the presence of lice and lower fire-risk from discarded nesting material.



Our clearspans mean room to manoeuvre for machinery or livestock easily.

“SHEDS4U supplied a kitset for our barn. They were easy to deal with, good communicators, great price and assisted us with consents for a seamless build. I would recommend them any day, all the way, to anyone!”

— Johan Strydom





Our Process



Sales Team

Work alongside our sales team to get an approved design and quote.

Plans Drawn

We get our design team to draw up plans.

Engineer

The plans are approved by an engineer who issues a PS1.

Consent

Building consent lodged with council.

Order

Building consent approved.

Delivery

Kit delivered to site.

