BEEF CATTLE REQUIREMENTS

Feed lots should be hard surfaced. It is practically impossible to keep dirt lots from becoming a mire because of the amount of rainfall in Georgia regardless of the slope. Feed conversion and rate of gain is less and maintenance of lot surface around bunks and waterers is a continuing chore in dirt lots. Feedlot run-off should not be allowed to enter streams. If, however, a person does feed on unpaved surface some guidelines are listed but cannot be guaranteed to be trouble free.

Access roads must be all-weather because of the heavy vehicles hauling feed, manure or animals. Always look at possibility of expansion of the lot.

Consider the proximity of subdivisions or neighboring houses or the possibility of population growth toward the feed lot location. The location should be downwind from all residence areas or neighbors to limit disagreeable odor complaints.

Electric power, water, manure handling and surface run-off must be planned and made adequate for present and future lot size.

Space Requirements

Feeding and Finishing Cattle. (All the following dimension should be modified according to the size of the animal, from calves to 1100 pound cows.)

Lot area per head:

Unsurfaced - 300-800 square feet
Completely surfaced - 40-75 square feet
Slope - 1/2-inch to 1 inch per foot = 4 to 8 percent

Earth mounds should be constructed in unpaved lots for resting areas at 25 to 40 square feet each for feeding or finishing cattle.

In unsheltered lots, feed bunks should be covered mainly to protect mechanical feeding equipment and wooden bunk and for shade in summer.

Shade should be provided in unsheltered lots. Area should be 25 to 35 square feet per animal under shade. Temporary or permanent shade structures or shade cloth suspended over cable supports may be used.

Bunk Space Per Head

Limited feeding (all animals eat at once):

Calves - 18 to 22 inches.
Finishing cattle, 600 pounds to market - 20 to 26 inches.

Free choice feeding (feed kept before animals at all times):
Complete ration or supplement - 3 to 4 inches per head.
Hay - 4 to 6 inches per head.

**BUNK DIMENSIONS:**

Throat height (max.)

Calves - 12 to 18 inches.
Feeders and slaughter cattle - 22 inches.

Bunk depths

18 to 20 inches.

Bunk widths

Feed from both sides - 42 to 48 inches.
Feed from one side - 24 to 30 inches.

Concrete aprons

Slope 1/2 to 1 inch per foot = 4 to 8 percent.
Width 6 to 8 feet from edge of bunk (minimum).

Watering:

One waterer per 40 head.
5 to 10 gallons per head per day.

**Housing, in addition to lot area**

Pole type shed, back wall toward bad weather.
Open on south side. Ridge vent preferred.

20 to 30 square feet per head.

Recommended width of barn:

35 to 45 feet (helps prevent drafts yet ample ventilation.

**Additional Area Recommendations**

Alleys (animal movement):

8 to 10 feet width.
Alleys (tractor cleaning):
10 feet minimum width.
Leave 2 feet clearance at each end of scraper blade.

Gates (animal movement):

   6 to 8 feet width.

Gates (tractor cleaning):

   10 feet minimum width.

Alleys and Gates (tractor-wagon feeding):

   12 feet minimum width.

Gates and Fence height:

   5 feet minimum.

Medical pens:

   10 feet by 10 feet minimum.

Cow Herd

Shelter - Georgia winters are mild enough that shelter is unwarranted for beef cows
if brush patches or wooded lots are available.

If shelter is desired:

   Resting area under shelter - 25 to 30 square feet per cow.

Bunk feeding space:

   All cows eat at once - 26 to 30 inches.
   Feed available at all times - 4 to 6 inches.