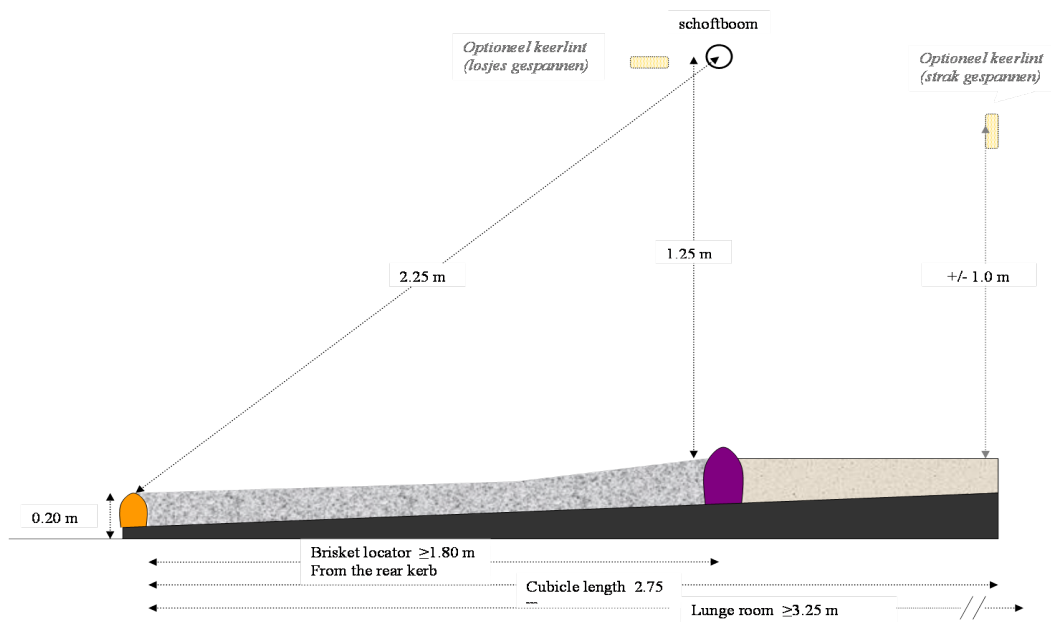


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Cubicle Design - The Important Facts



Now that cows are hopefully outside it is a good time to look at your cubicle arrangements.

The diagram above shows the optimum cubicle dimensions for a 700kg Holstein cow.

Below are six points in order of decreasing importance for the optimum cubicle arrangements:

- **Soft and grippy bed floor:** sand, deep straw or sawdust (15-30cm). Alternatively a very soft rubber mattress.
- **Free head swing space:** 3.25-3.5m from kerb and at least 1m high free space from lying surface.
- **Neck rail out of way:** minimum of 1.25m above lying surface and 1.8m from kerb of cubicle.
- **Low brisket board with enough lying surface behind:** 6-10cm high rounded brisket locator with minimum 1.8m bed behind.
- **Width of cubicle:** minimum of 1.2m measured from the middle of the dividers.
- **Cubicle Divider:** if points 1-5 are OK then the divider is not that important. It should be high enough that it does not interfere with the legs but low enough to not interfere with the backbone.

Parasite Risks in Grazing Lambs

Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is one of the commonest causes of scour and loss of condition in young lambs; typically 4-6 weeks old. Besides scour, the disease causes inappetence, dehydration, general unthriftiness and poor weight gain.



By the time clinical signs are apparent, significant damage to the gut has already occurred. Preventative treatment across the flock is essential to minimise production losses.

Where Coccidiosis has been a problem in previous years it is advisable to treat the lambs seven days before coccidial scours have historically occurred.

A new product has been released, **Baycox Sheep**. A similar product is already licensed for birds and calves and is very effective.



Nematodirus

Nematodirus is caused by an intestinal worm and causes similar clinical signs to Coccidiosis.

Nematodirus and Coccidiosis often affect lambs at the same time.



Nematodirus eggs require a period of extended cold followed by warmer temperatures above 10°C before they hatch out. The weather conditions make this year a high risk one for disease. If this mass hatch coincides with lambs taking in significant amounts of grass then disease will rapidly result.

If Nematodirus is suspected then treat promptly with a white drench (BZ).

Nematodirus can be avoided by grazing young lambs on pastures not grazed by lambs of a similar age the previous year.