



**Leaving Cert Agricultural
Science**

Free Notes

Animal Housing and Welfare



Topic: Animal Housing and Welfare

Q) What is a notifiable disease?

- A serious infectious disease of plants and animals that has to be reported to local authorities to prevent it spreading

Difference between an infectious disease and a contagious disease

Infectious: disease caused by microorganisms (bacteria, fungi or virus) or other agents that enter the body of an organism

Contagious: disease easily transmitted by contact through bodily fluids or through contamination of buildings, clothing or vectors.

Five factors to animal welfare

- 1) Freedom from thirst and hunger
- 2) Freedom from discomfort
- 3) Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- 4) Freedom to express patterns of normal behaviour
- 5) Freedom from fear and distress

The purpose of housing welfare in Ireland

- 1) Provide shelter from the harsh winter weather conditions
- 2) Facilitate adequate supplies of feed and water.
- 3) Housing conditions should have an efficient source of light or artificial light (helps discomfort)
- 4) Housing should be ventilated (allows dispersal of gases and waste gas like methane out)
- 5) There is an energy demand on the animal during winter so it uses its energy as its wetter and colder outside.

Q) Give the advantages and disadvantages of 4 different types of bedding:

Type	Advantages	Disadvantages
Sawdust	Good for haired animals like cattle	Not good bedding for wool sheep as it gets caught in their faeces
Straw	Cheap	Less absorbent than rest
Wood chips	Lasts longer than straw	More expensive than straw
Shredded paper	More absorbent than straw	Can be difficult to handle.

Q) Make a brief comment on the notifiable diseases in farm animals.

Notifiable disease	Animal it affects	Infectious agent	Comment
Anthrax	All mammals	Bacteria	Fatal Zoonose
BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy)	Cattle	Prion	Zoonose spread through contaminated meat and bone

Bluetongue	Ruminants	virus	Treated by vaccination
Brucellosis	Cattle	Bacteria	Zoonose, causes undulant fever in humans (herd testing)
Foot and mouth Disease	Cattle, sheep + pigs	Virus	Highly infectious blisters
Scrapie	Sheep and goats	Prion	Same as BSE
Bovine Tuberculosis	Cattle	Bacteria	Herd testing needed

Note: a metabolic disease is a nutritional deficiency that affects animals metabolism i.e. milk fever and grass tetany

The precautions a farmer takes when bringing in new livestock to the farm.

- Maintain a closed herd system and only buy in stock from disease resistance free location.
- Quarantine all bought in animals in a separate area or building (feed water and glucose solution initially)
- Limit access to farm
- Don't house sheep and cattle together as cattle can become infected with malignant catarrhal fever during lambing time
- Feed colostrum to all newborns.

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