

How to build a cheap pig sty

Pig stys, like any other animal enclosures, are designed to give each animal sufficient space, shelter, and access to food and water. The exact size of your sty depends on the breed and adult size of the pigs as well as how many animals you will have.

BY CAROLYNE B. ATANGAZA
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

The word pig sty or pig pen for that matter has connotations of rot; stench and mess which makes one think that pigs can only thrive under those conditions. However, as it happens, pigs do better in a dry bed, ample space, fresh air, and a clean environment.

Size

The exact size you need for your pen depends on the breed and adult size of the pigs (unless it's only for piglets, then base it on their maximum size before being moved to a different pen), as well as how many animals you will have in the pen. Pigs are very sensitive to temperature which makes the spaciousness of a piggery very crucial. They need an environment that enables them to maintain a

body temperature of 97.7° F (36.5° C) with a minimal requirement of energy and oxygen.

In this particular pig pen, Simon Peter Kazibwe, an architect, gives each pen specifications of one and a half metres wide to accommodate one growing pig while the passage is 1.2 metres wide. This pig sty accommodates 14 growing pigs, can fit on a 50Mx30M plot and costs Shs2.1m.

Ventilation

The pig sty must have enough circulation of fresh air to remove water vapour, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and bacteria and assorted bad smells. In this plan, Kazibwe introduces wooden slats that can be opened to supplement the available ventilation. However, because leaving the pens open all the time would affect the quality of the temperature, they can be shut during cold or wet seasons. He advises that the air must be directed so it creates air circulation within the shed without flowing directly on to the pigs.

Shape

When Rosette Batanda first got her two piglets, she was advised to build a long, narrow building facing away from the direct onslaught of the sun. "The eave width on the side of the building exposed to direct sunshine should be an appropriate size so the sun does

Walk way

GUIDELINES FOR ENCLOSED SLEEPING STRUCTURES

- Each pig requires about 4m² of pen space (including the sleeping area, about one-third of the pen).
- The total pen area for six pigs should be about 24m² (4m x 6m).
- Steel gates should be 2m long, with no gaps wider than 15cm between the bars.
- Construct the pens on slightly sloping ground for water run-off when it rains.
- The enclosure needs a feeding trough long enough to provide each feeding pig standing space. The trough can be built from brick and mortar (about 60cm wide and 30cm above ground level) along one of the boundaries. A long concrete sheep drinking trough is also a good pig feeding trough. It is portable and easy to clean.

Source: www.farmersweekly.co.za

2.1m

THE APPROXIMATE COST IN SHILLINGS OF BUILDING THIS PIG PEN

The ground plan. COURTESY PHOTOS



The pig pen needs to be divided into different pens for each phase of the production cycle. The number and the size of the pens depend on the expected numbers of pigs to be housed in each production phase.



not shine on the wall or into the interior of the pig sty," Batanda advises.

Hygiene

Batanda concedes that pigs love play in the mud which is called wallowing. However, she also discovered that letting pigs stay in that muddy surface with puddles of water promotes disease. Therefore, to allow her pigs a chance to wallow while protecting them from infection, Batanda dug a patch of

ground outside the pen that is kept well-watered so they have some mud to roll in, helping them to keep cool in warm weather.

To be able to keep the pens clean, the pens are built with a concrete floor that can easily be cleaned. Dry grass or wood shavings can be put on the floor to reduce the bluntness of concrete.

Construction materials

Kazibwe advises the use of treated sturdy logs that can handle wear and tear from the pigs. He uses concrete, bricks and mortar to construct the entire pen. He, however, recommends metal posts although they are a little more expensive, but definitely worth the cost when it comes to pigs. Remember to cover whatever materials used with a wire mesh to keep the pigs from chewing it to slivers. The pen is roofed with iron sheets although concrete tiles too can do well.