

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

TOPIC: FARM STRUCTURES AND BUILDING

CLASS: JSS2

WEEK: 2

FARM STRUCTURE

Farm structures are very simple buildings designed to serve specific purposes on the farm so that farm operations are more easily carried out examples are barns, cribs, silos, etc., while farm building needed in the farm to carry out certain aspects of production.e.g. Building for storing fertilizers, farm tools, harvested crops etc.

They are simple erections on the farm site which makes farm operation easier and more efficient. Farm structures are common agricultural structures associated with an agricultural use such as growing and harvesting crops and raising livestock.

TYPES OF FARM STRUCTURES

Farm structures are grouped into different types and they are;

PRODUCTION STRUCTURE: these are structures which facilitate production processes in the far. Example is poultry battery cages, fish pond, shelter, rabbit hutches.

- a. Nursery: this is the structure used for raising seedling, that is young developing plants that have been grown from seeds before they are transplanted to the field .crops such as cocoa ,kolanut, orange, tomatoes pepper etc.
- b. Cages: these are made of galvanized iron used in the raising livestock such as layers, for table eggs production. Also used for raising grass cutter.
- c. Hutch: a structure made of wood and wire netting for rearing rabbit.
- d. Fish pond: a body of water where fishes are raised.
- e. Paddock: a fenced area of pasture where livestock are kept allowed to graze

PROCESSING STRUCTURES: these are structures designed and constructed to speed up the processing of farm produce. Examples are smoking houses, shelling and hulling barns erected to accommodate processing machines such as grinding machines, feed mills and rice mills.

- a. Processing sheds: structures designed to accommodate processing machines such as grinding machines, shellers, oil-palm press etc.
- b. Drying pavement: a concrete floor used for drying harvested farm produces such as cocoa, maize cob, yam chips, cassava chips, etc.
- c. Smoking chamber: A structure for smoking meat, fish etc.

STORAGE STRUCTURE: these are structures used for storage and preservation of farm produce e.g. silos. Cribs, barns, rhombus.

- a. Silos: these are big cylindrical containers in which grains like maize, rice, sorghum, etc. are stored.
- b. Rhombus: structures built with clay and thatched roofs. They are used for storing smaller quantities of grains.
- c. Barn: they are structures used for storing yams and cocoyam
- d. Cribs: structures used for storing maize cobs (unshelled dry maize).
- e. Cold storage structure: they are used for storing vegetables, fruits, meat, and fish so as to keep them fresh. Examples deep freezers, refrigerators, and earthen pots.

PROTECTIVE STRUCTURE: These are constructions made to protect crops and livestock from possible attack by pest and diseases. They include;

- a. Fences: construction of farms where animals are kept
- b. Spray devices: used to spray chemicals such as acarides on the body of livestock to kill ecto parasites attached to them.
- c. Animal dip: these are shallow pits constructed in the ground, containing a mixture of water and chemicals in which animals are dipped to swim through to get rid of the ectoparasite on their bodies.e.g. Lice, ticks, mites, and fleas.

UTILITY STRUCTURE: these structures include well, canals, irrigations, pumping houses.

MAINTENANCE STRUCTURE: These include workshops for maintenance of farm tools and machineries

MAINTENANCE OF FARM STRUCTURES

- a. Silos should be coated with aluminum paint to prevent rust and also reflect light
- b. Dams and ponds should be dredged regularly to maintain water level
- c. Broken pipes/taps should be mended.
- d. Feeding and drinking troughs should be cleaned
- e. Wood should be painted or sprayed with preservatives materials such as paints, vanish etc.

FARM BUILDINGS

These are bigger and more elaborate erection which are designed and constructed to serve different purposes.

Types of farm building and their uses

- a. Living houses for the farmer and worker- these are houses which provide accommodation for the farmer is expected to live outside the farm.
- b. Production houses- building used for production .examples are poultry house, hatcheries, and pens.

- c. Storage houses: these are building used for storing farm tools, feeds, chemicals, and fertilizers.
- d. Special shelters: these building include milking parlour, sick bay, isolation sheds or quarantine houses, abattoir or slaughter houses.

MAINTENANCE OF FARM BUILDINGS

Farmers need to regularly check on the condition of their building to maintain building and safety.

- i. Repairs should be carried out regularly once wear and tear is noticed
- ii. Paints should be used for wooden and metal parts of farm structures that are constantly exposed to rain
- iii. Preservatives should be applied to wood to protect it against insects such as termites.
- iv. Fences should be inspected for cracks and holes
- v. Drainage canals should be washed periodically with water and disinfectants.

ASSIGNMENT

1. What is a farm building?
2. Give 2 examples of processing structures.