



ANIMALS

Inadequate Livestock Shelter

Animals

Aquatic Habitat
for Fish and Other
Organisms

Terrestrial Habitat
for Wildlife and
Invertebrates

Feed and Forage
Imbalance

Inadequate Livestock
Shelter

Inadequate Livestock
Water Quantity,
Quality and
Distribution

Inadequate Livestock Shelter

Livestock lack adequate shelter from climatic conditions to meet basic needs.

What is it?

Natural vegetation or landscape features are not adequate to provide shelter for livestock during periods of severe climatic circumstances.

Why is it important?

Livestock performance is reduced during periods of high heat with high humidity or extreme cold temperatures with precipitation. Providing adequate shelter to offset these climatic conditions is beneficial to animal performance and health. Without adequate shelter, livestock may seek shelter in low-lying areas, such as streams or forested areas. Sheltering in stream corridors may cause riparian area deterioration and/or water quality issues. Sheltering in forested areas may cause excessive erosion and/or water quality issues.

What can be done about it?

Shelters or windbreaks can be provided using natural vegetation or constructed structures to give animals adequate protection from harsh climatic conditions. When livestock shelter is constructed or planted with ample buffer distances from riparian areas or water bodies, and in locations not susceptible to runoff and erosion, environmental risks associated with livestock concentration areas are minimized. Further, use of portable structures that are periodically moved helps prevent areas of heavy use and increased erosion possibilities.

Inadequate Livestock Shelter at a Glance

Problems / Indicators—Vegetative, landscape, and/or structural options for livestock shelter do not exist; livestock are exposed to severe climatic conditions	
Typical Causes	Examples of Typical Solutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exposure to extreme wind and cold in system that supports tree growth• Historical shelterbelt is partially functioning• Exposure to extreme wind, cold and heat in area where plant options are limited or temporary shelter is preferred	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permanent windbreak establishment using native or naturally occurring plant materials• Renovate partially existing shelter belt• Permanent or portable livestock shelter structure