



# Reducing Labor at Lambing Time

Presenters:

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[www.pipestonesheep.com](http://www.pipestonesheep.com)

Host/Moderator: Jay Parsons

## October 8, 2013

This webinar is being offered in cooperation with the  
American Sheep Industry Association Rebuild the Sheep  
Inventory Committee.



# Pipestone Lamb and Wool Program

[www.pipestonesheep.com](http://www.pipestonesheep.com)

- \* Established in 1972
- \* Initially funded by the National Sheep Industry Development Board (SID) and Minnesota Department of Education
- \* Sheep Producer Group
- \* Online On Site Sheep Management Education



# Keys to Reducing Labor at Lambing

- \* Housing
- \* Barn Layout Flow
- \* Easy Watering systems
- \* Easy Feeding systems
- \* Easy Bedding systems



# Housing

- \* Environmentally controlled

- \* Warm

- \* Well Ventilated

A good ventilation system must:

- \* Provide fresh air

- \* Control the moisture buildup

- \* Move air to dilute airborne disease

- \* Control temperature extremes



# Housing Space Requirements

## Building Floor Space

Dry Ewes 150-200 lbs.	12-16 Sq. Ft.
Ewes plus Lambs	15-20 Sq Ft. Lambing rates above 170 add 5
Pre-wean Lambs, 5-30 lbs.	1.5-2 Sq. ft. Creep Space/lamb

Source: Sheep Housing and Equipment Handbook – MWPS-3



# Barn Layout Flow “Low Labor”

- \* Sheep movement and handling
- \* Logical Lambing Barn Layout  
(short distance principle)
  - \* Drop Area
  - \* Lambing pens
  - \* Grouping pens
  - \* Artificial rearing area



# Easy Watering Systems

- \* Water pens without carrying water
  - \* Most essential nutrient
  - \* Water availability and quality
  - \* Labor savings
- \* 6" diameter tubes work best
- \* 24-27" height
- \* Water opening















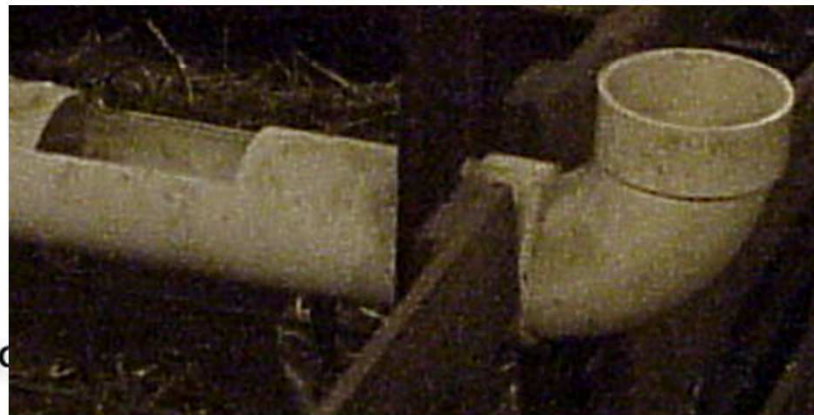
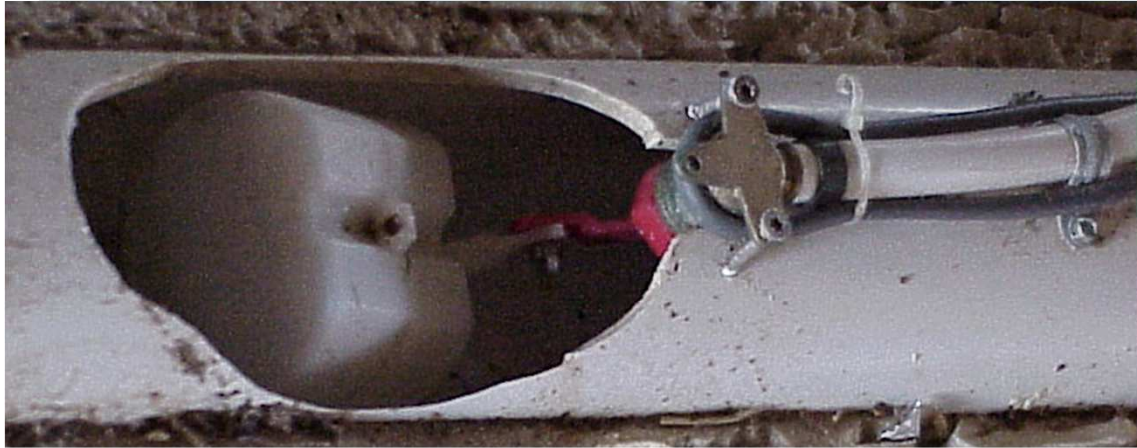














# Easy Feeding Systems



# Easy Feeding Systems





# Easy Feeding Systems





# Easy Bedding systems



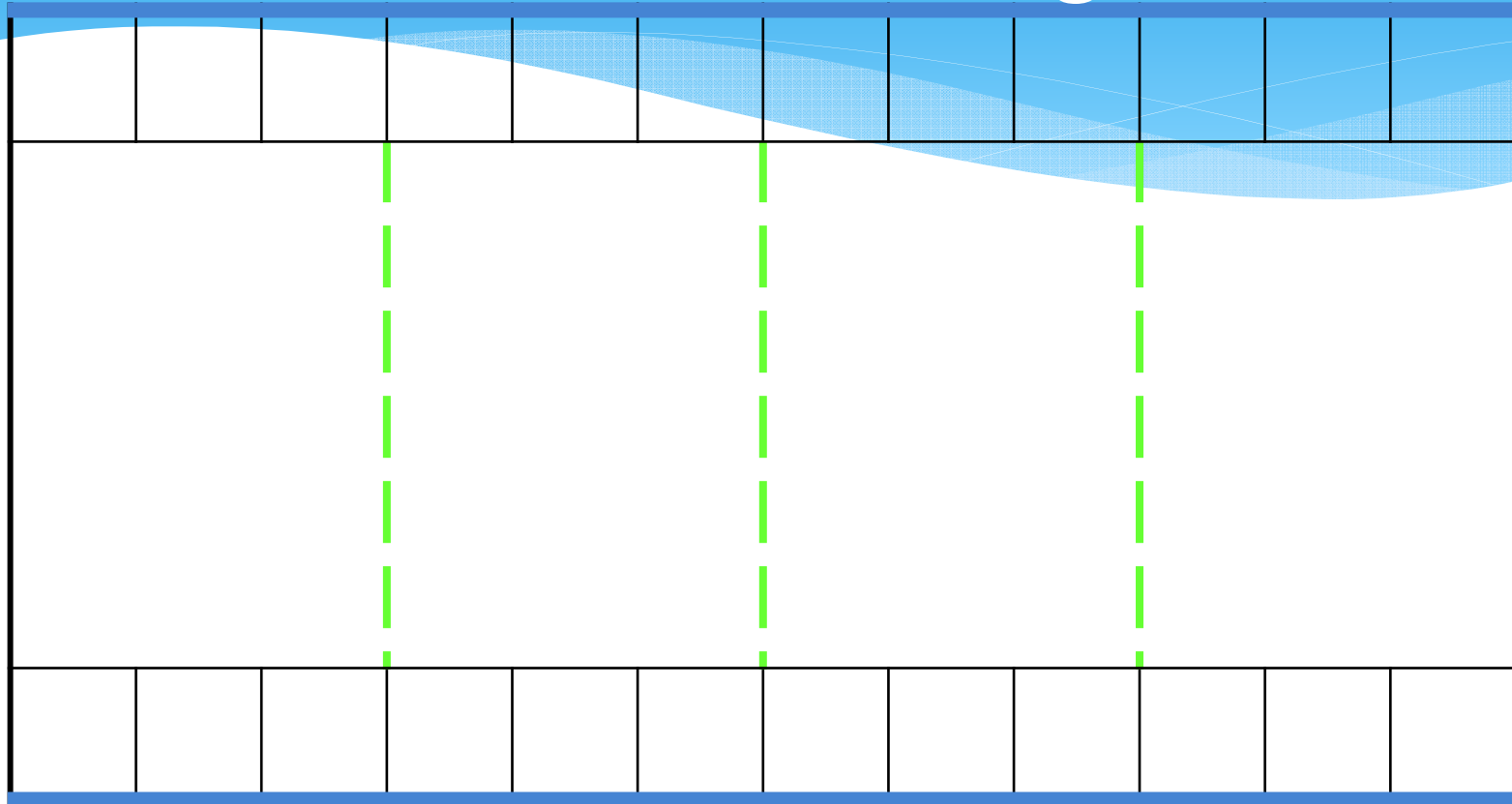
# Other make it easy practices Walk through gates





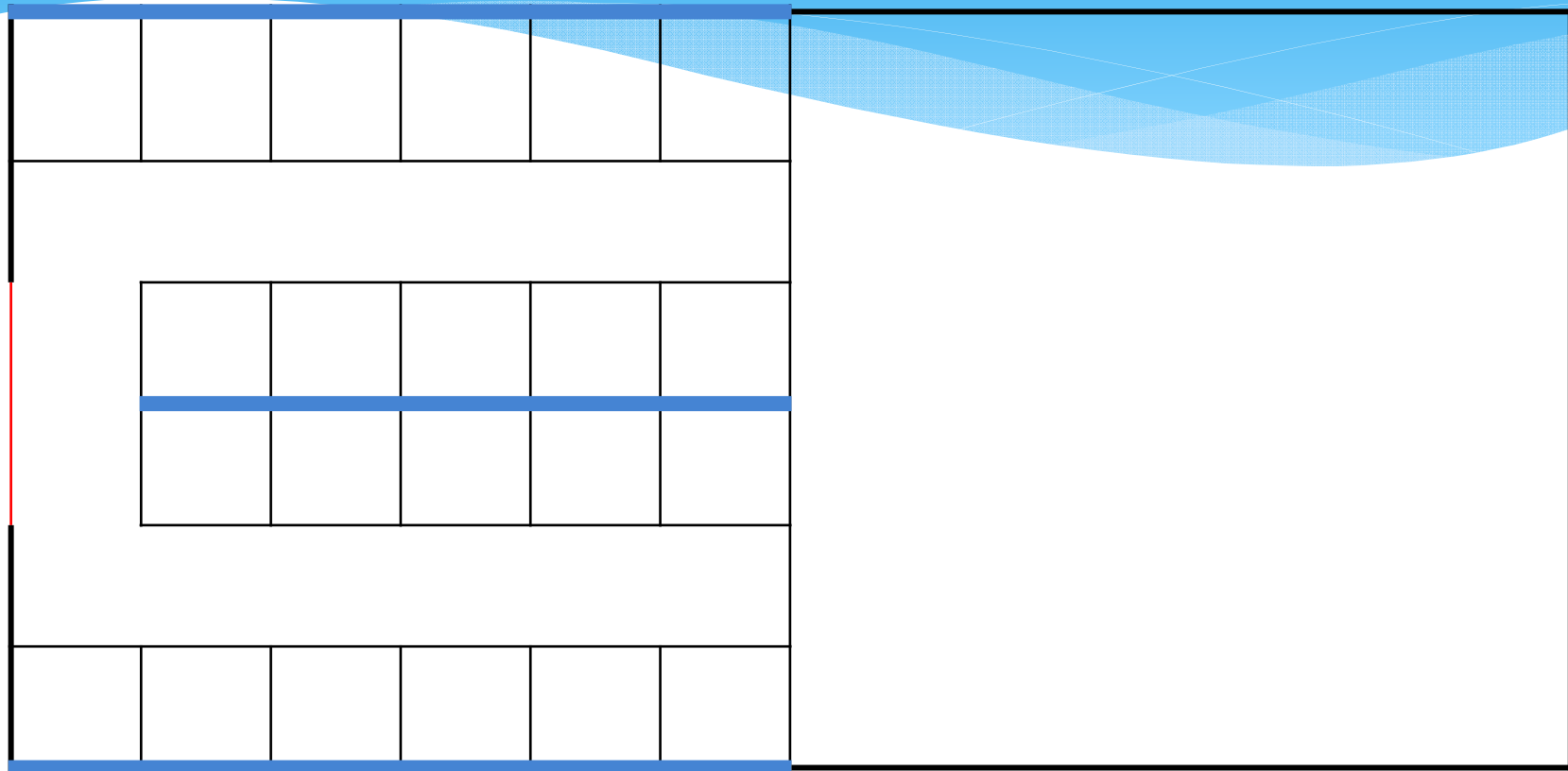
# Example building layout

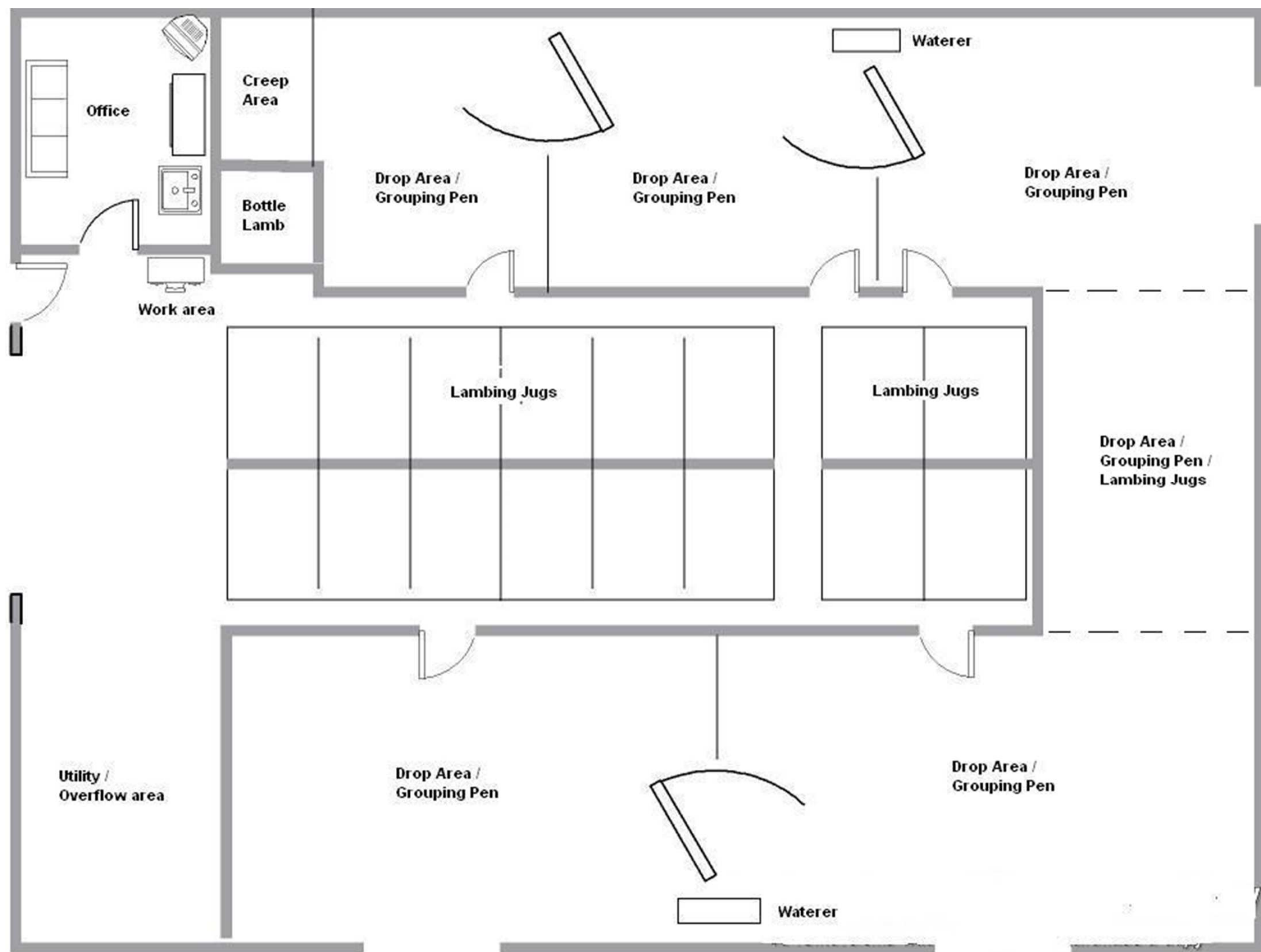
## Narrow Building



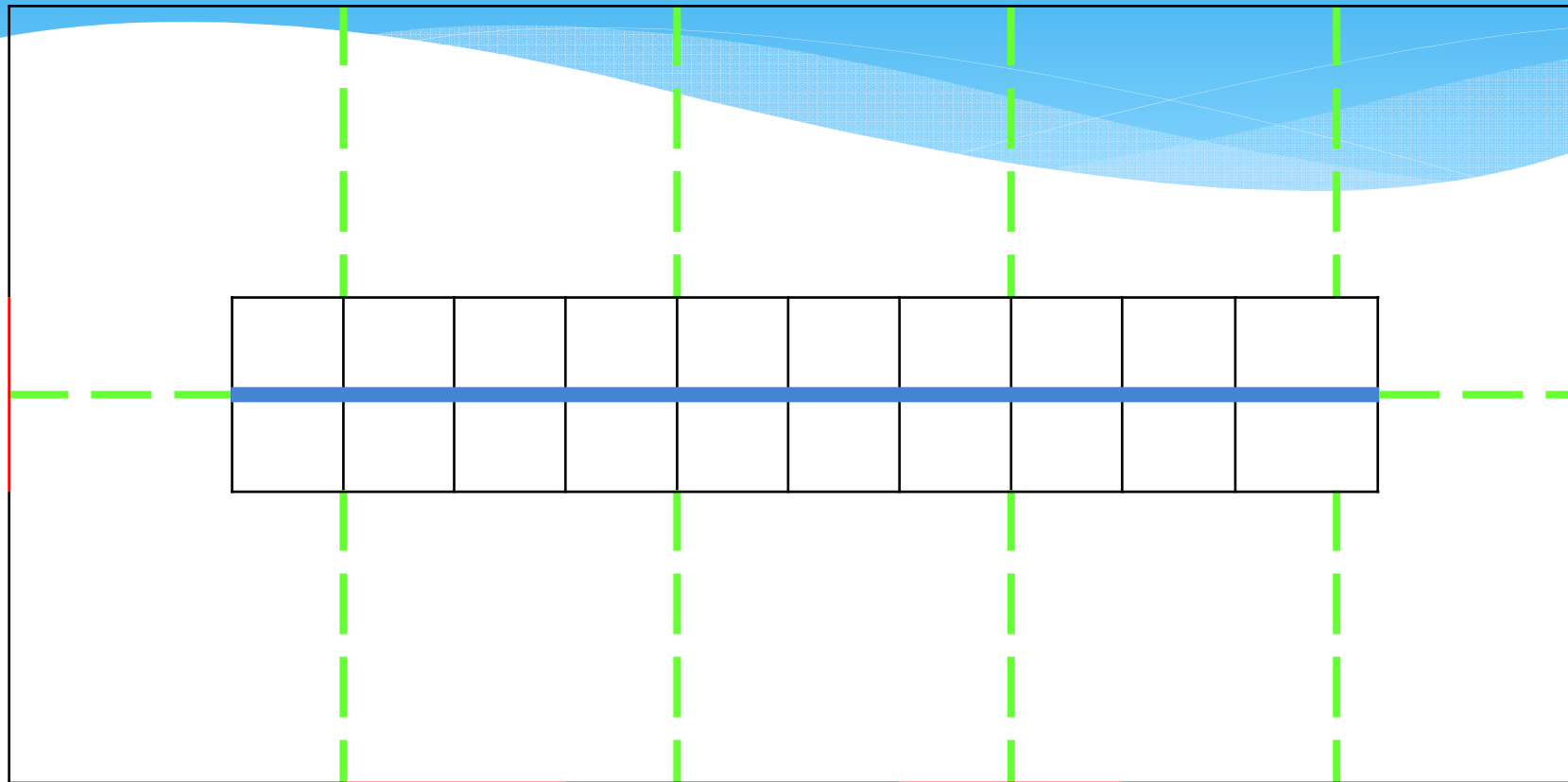
# Example building layout

## Narrow Building





# Example building layout



# Flow through Lambing Shed

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