ANIMALS
Livestock Shelter

Soil

Water

Air

Plants

Animals

Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife

Livestock Production Limitation

Feed and Forage

Livestock Shelter

Livestock Water

Energy

Livestock Production Limitation - Livestock Shelter
Livestock lack adequate shelter from climatic conditions to maintain health or production goals.

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 or extreme cold weather. Providing sufficient shelter to offset these climatic conditions can be beneficial to animal performance and health. Without adequate upland shelter, livestock may seek shelter in low-lying areas, such as streams, which may cause riparian area deterioration and/or water quality issues.

What can be done about it?
Shelters or windbreaks can be provided using natural vegetation or constructed sanctuaries to give animals sufficient 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 are minimized. Further, use of portable structures that are periodically moved helps prevent areas of heavy use and increased erosion possibilities.

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	
Causes	Solutions
• Exposure to extreme wind and cold in system that supports tree growth • Historical shelterbelt is partially functioning • Exposure to extreme wind and cold in area where plant options are limited or temporary shelter is preferred	• Permanent windbreak establishment using native or naturally occurring plant materials • Renovate partially existing shelter belt • Portable season-long fabricated shelter

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