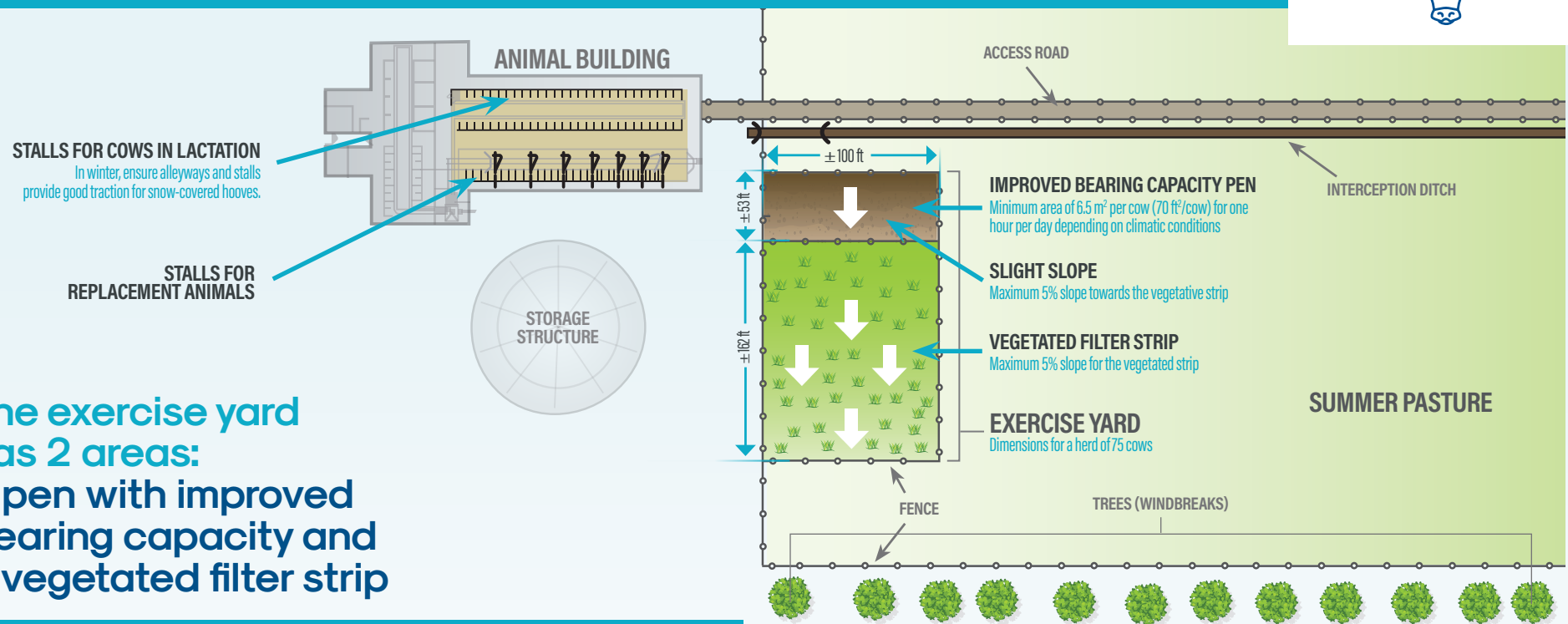


Exercise yard



The exercise yard has 2 areas:
a pen with improved bearing capacity and a vegetated filter strip

The pen with improved bearing capacity should:

- ✓ Have an area of 6.5 m² (70 ft²)/cow
- ✓ Have a slight slope (maximum 5%) towards the vegetative strip
- ✓ Be well drained and created using materials that improve the bearing capacity (e.g., sand, fine gravel, wood waste, coarse lime). These materials must be fine enough to prevent injuries to cows' hooves

In winter, you should:

- ✓ Ensure alleyways and stalls of barns provide good traction for snow-covered hooves
- ✓ Leave the snow in the yard to provide good traction
- ✓ Cover ice with sand (if ice forms) or divide the pen into areas so you can use those covered in snow as needed
- ✓ Provide windbreaks to offer protection against prevailing winds



The vegetated filter strip must:

- ✓ Have a maximum slope of 5%
- ✓ Have a minimum area (provided as a guide) of 215 ft²/cow, to be established with the consulting engineer

To consider:

- ✓ The minimal distance of the vegetated strip must be 197 ft from a ditch or watercourse
- ✓ The vegetative strip can be grazed. However, it should not be mowed or grazed after August 15 to maintain a dense vegetation cover during winter
- ✓ Comply with MDDELCC¹ regulations on exercise yards (Appendix 2). It is strongly recommended that you consult a professional to design an exercise yard that meets environmental standards and suits your needs

¹Applicable to the province of Quebec



General reference for this section - Option 1 of document Solutions pratiques pour offrir de l'exercice aux bovins laitiers biologiques pendant l'hiver [Practical solutions to provide exercise to organic dairy cattle in winter] <https://lactanet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/bovins-laitiers-biologiques-bassereso.pdf>