

# Basic Animal Husbandry

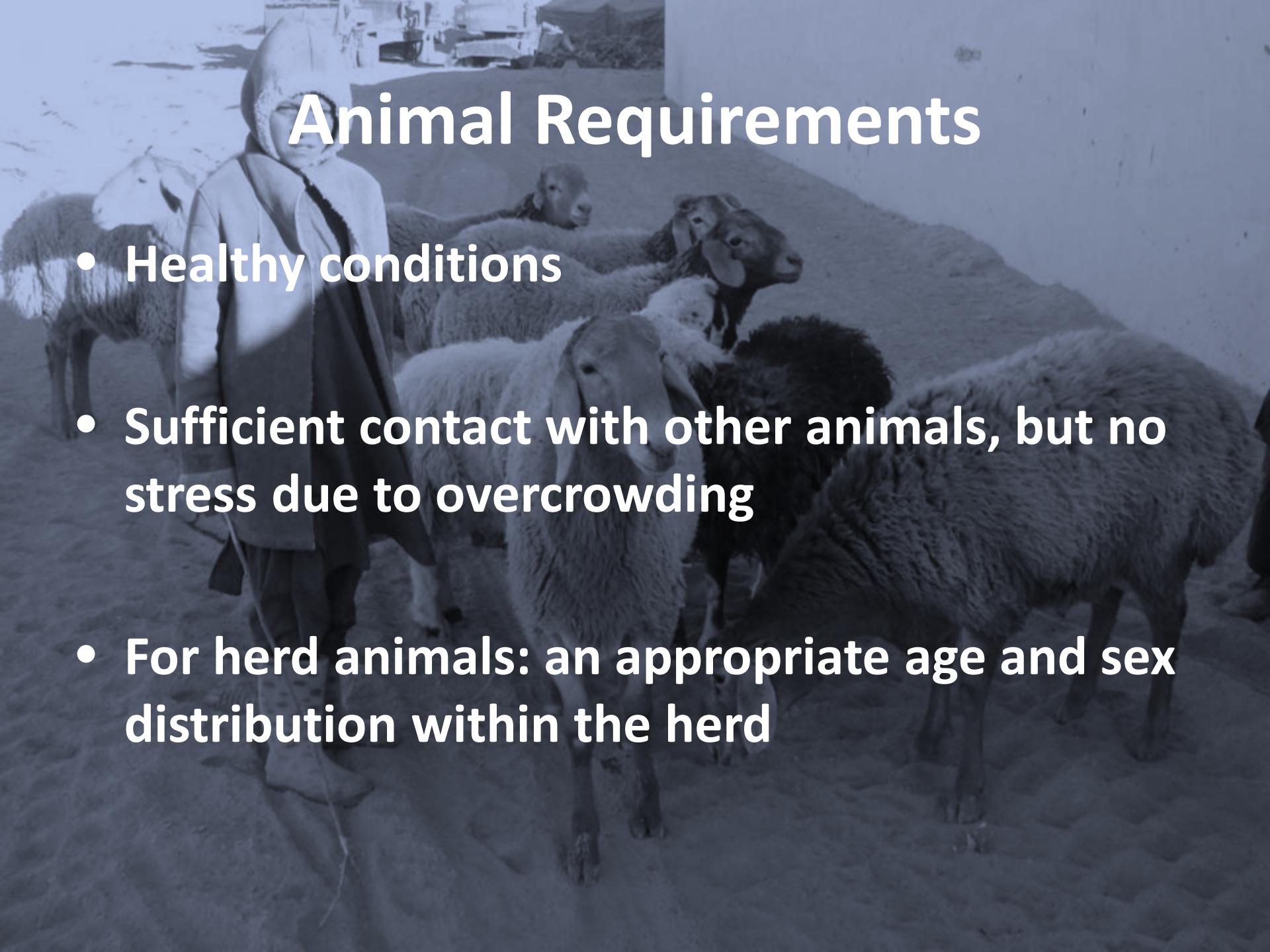
Caring for the Needs of Farm Animals



A black and white photograph showing a person from the side, wearing a long coat with a fur-trimmed hood and a dark vest. They are standing in a field with several sheep. In the background, there are hills and some buildings under a clear sky.

# Animal Requirements

- Adequate fodder quality and quantity
- Sufficient access to clean drinking water
- Clean sheds of sufficient size and with adequate light and fresh air
- Sufficient freedom to move around



# Animal Requirements

- Healthy conditions
- Sufficient contact with other animals, but no stress due to overcrowding
- For herd animals: an appropriate age and sex distribution within the herd

A black and white photograph showing a person from behind, wearing a long, light-colored coat with a dark fur-trimmed hood. They are walking through a herd of sheep and goats on a dry, hilly terrain. In the background, there are simple, low buildings.

# Animal Requirements

## Factors Determining Numbers

- Fodder Availability
- Carrying capacity of pastures
- Size of shelters
- Amount of manure the fields can handle
- Available labor for looking after the animals

# Housing

- Sufficient space to lie down, stand up, move
- Sufficient light
- Protection from sunlight, rain, and extreme temperatures
- Sufficient ventilation, but no draft

# Housing

- Appropriate beddings
- Elements to exercise natural behavior
- Sheltered pits or heaps to collect and store manure

# Housing

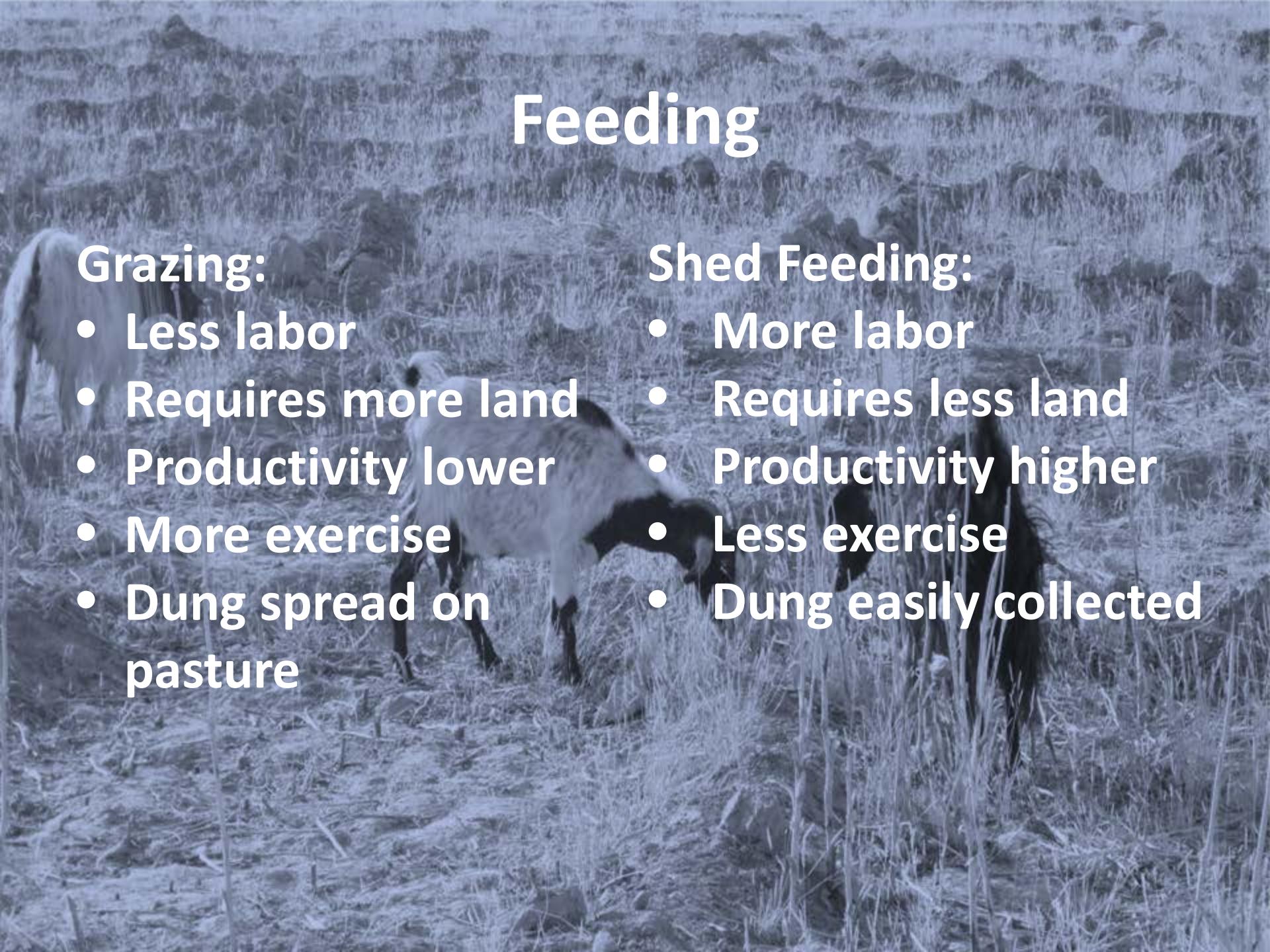
## Bedding:

- Keeps floor soft, dry, and clean
- Absorbs excrement and needs to be replaced
- Straw, leaves, twigs, husks can be used

A black and white photograph showing a group of horses in a field. In the foreground, a dark horse is grazing on the left, while a light-colored horse is on the right. Behind them, more horses are visible, some partially obscured by the tall grass. The scene is set in a rural, open landscape.

# Feeding

- Diverse and balanced mixture of food
- Grazing and shed feeding have advantages & disadvantages
- Fodder cultivation can be integrated
- Overgrazing is a major threat to soil fertility

A black and white photograph showing a sheep from behind, grazing in a field of tall, dry grass. The sheep's body is angled towards the right of the frame, with its head down in the grass. The background is a dense, rolling landscape of similar vegetation.

# Feeding

## Grazing:

- Less labor
- Requires more land
- Productivity lower
- More exercise
- Dung spread on pasture

## Shed Feeding:

- More labor
- Requires less land
- Productivity higher
- Less exercise
- Dung easily collected



# Feeding

- Pastures must be managed
- Overgrazing is most significant threat
- Rehabilitate pasture land with improved grass varieties

# Animal Health Care

## Considerations:

- Bacteria, Viruses, Parasites
- Amounts & quality of water, fodder, & exercise
- Housing
- Hygiene
- Social contacts
- Man-animal interaction
- Breed / variety
- Veterinary care

# Animal Health Care

## Causes of Disease:

- **Germs: bacteria, viruses, protozoa**
- **Parasites: worms, insects**
  - infestations: external parasites
  - infectious: internal disease
- **Injury: handling, facilities**
- **Inherited Genes**
- **Poor Nutrition: easiest to correct**
  - toxic materials in plants, nitrogen content
  - chemicals for insect control

# Animal Health Care

## Sources of Disease:

- **Infectious Disease**
  - spread by contact
- **Confinement Systems**
  - disease easily spread
- **Animal Waste**
  - host for germs

# Animal Health Care

## Sources of Disease:

- Water & feed
  - chemical residues, waste
- Air
  - germs, chemicals, mosquitos host disease
- Soil-borne Disease
  - live in soil
    - anthrax: bury animals deep, cover with lime or burn
    - do NOT drag dead animals
    - alternate pastures

# Animal Health

Diseases divided according to how rapid they progress:

- Acute
  - rapid progression (cholera, bloat, mastitis)
  - generally have a rapid increase in body temperature
- Chronic
  - last a long time (cancer), costly to fight
- Some are localized
  - mastitis, pink eye

# Animal Health

## Vital Signs:

- Pulse
  - high under left fore flank or over jawbone
- Respiration
  - rate of breathing
- Temperature
  - rectal temperature most reliable
  - rise of 3 deg F is considered serious
- Symptoms
  - not eat, isolate self, lack alertness, mucous discharge, droopy, lowered head, swelling, bleeding, abnormal bowel movements, worms in feces, unusual walk, abnormal behavior

# Animal Health Care

## Prevention:

- **Keep breeds adapted to local environment & available food**
- **Herd Health Plan**
  - Provide adequate nutrition & clean, fresh water
  - Maintain adequate livestock facilities; avoid overcrowding
  - Keep facilities clean and disinfected
  - Use proper immunization
  - Develop procedure for parasite control
  - Isolate new or returning animals for 3-4 weeks before combining with herd
  - Rotate pastures
  - Keep animal stress to a minimum
  - Control possible disease spread by visiting humans
  - Work closely with veterinarian in developing prevention programs as well as treating diseases



# Animal Health Care

- Veterinary health care
  - Vaccination: build up antibodies to fight disease
- Some diseases (tetanus) animals can't be saved once they show signs
  - separate from herd
  - humanely kill and dispose of
- Parasite control
  - worming usually done in spring

# **Animal Health Care**

## **Veterinary Care Guidelines:**

- Management practices should be directed toward the well-being of the animal
- Sick & injured animals should be given prompt and adequate treatment
- Vaccinations/de-worming should be used only when diseases/parasites are known or expected to be a problem in the region

# Breeding Goals

- High fertility
- Good resistance against disease
- Long life with continuous production
- Able to utilize roughage and farm by-products

# Animal Welfare

- Treat animals well
- Provide for their natural behavior
- Prevent suffering and death

A wide-angle photograph of a vast, green mountain valley. In the foreground, a large flock of sheep of various colors (white, black, brown) are grazing on the grass. The valley slopes upwards towards a range of mountains in the background, which are partially obscured by mist or low-hanging clouds.

# Questions?