

# Concrete versus rubber covered slats

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Concern for the welfare of finishing cattle, particularly in relation to housing conditions (floor type and space allocation), has been expressed at national and EU level. Our key objectives are to examine the impact of housing conditions on the performance and welfare of beef cattle.

Under the conditions of our experiments, finishing steers accommodated on rubber mats had enhanced growth and feed efficiency, exhibited lying behaviour indicative of improved comfort, and body cleanliness was reduced at slaughter, compared to steers on concrete slats.

However, growth, feed efficiency,



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cleanliness scores and hoof health of weanling cattle was not affected

by the addition of rubber matting to concrete slats.

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