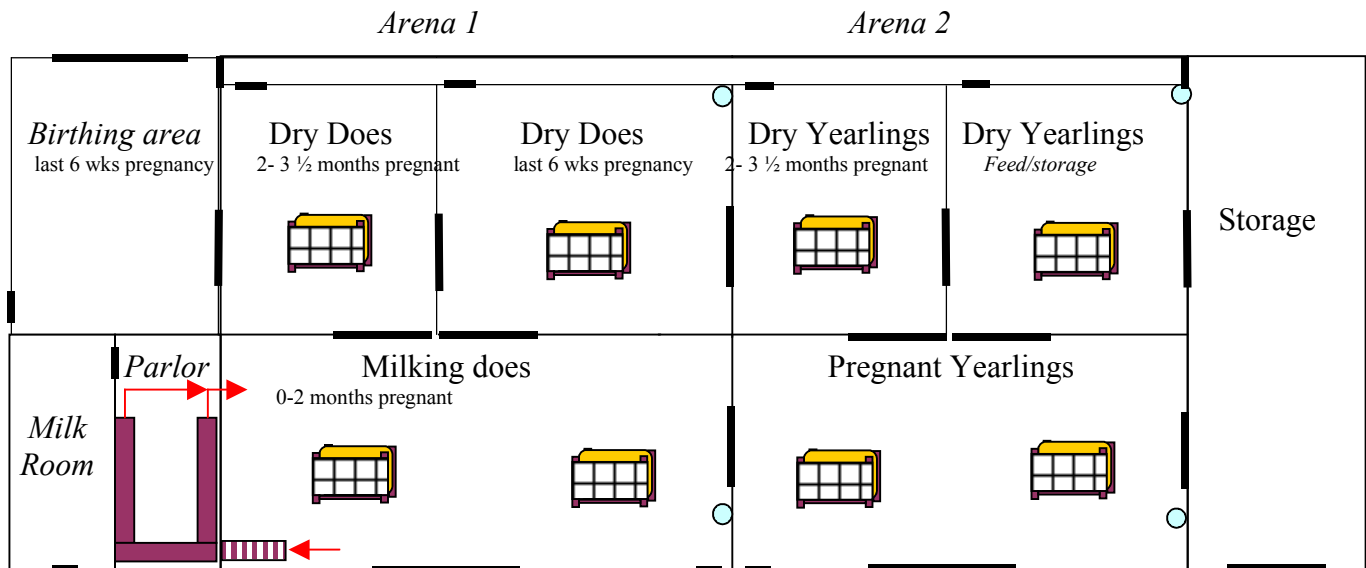


	Barn types on farm	Milking setup	Stand	Feeding	Equipment
Farm 4	Two converted horse arenas side by side	highline pipeline	metal double 6 stand	round bales of hay	skid steer



This is a farm that originally boarded horses. When it was converted to a goat dairy, a milk room and parlor were added on to the end of one arena. The farmer subdivided each arena into huge pens, and put homemade, 4' x 8', large bale feeders in each pen. See the plan for these feeders in the Goat Dairy Library's "Building and Planning", Plans section. Milking and Dry Does, Pregnant and Dry yearlings were housed here, and kids and weaned, non-pregnant doelings were housed in a converted tack room/boarding stall building located across the driveway.

What is important to notice with this set-up, is the *flexibility* built into the plan, so that the pens can be subdivided or enlarged as needed at different times of the year. The drawing above shows how the pens could be used in the late fall and winter, when different groups of goats have very different nutritional needs...early and late stage pregnancy, delivery and early lactation, and continued growth for yearlings (feeding for growth plus pregnancy). Keeping the groups in separate groups based on dietary needs ensures that each group receives adequate nutrition, and makes feeding easier as the producer enters the very demanding birthing season, where he is extremely tired and might be tempted to take shortcuts. Dry goat nutrition is critical for maximum milk production, as well as for kid and doe health.

The lane at the top of the barn enables movement of does and yearlings to the birthing area.

The red arrows in the diagram indicate the circular flow of goats into and out of the milking parlor. That circular flow is a critical when planning a goat dairy. It makes it easier to train new goats to the milking parlor and for smooth milking every day of the year.

A great advantage to this type of barn set-up is the ease of movement with a skid steer, for cleaning pens and for loading large bales into the feeders.

The downside to this plan is that you have to remove the goats from the pen, or isolate them off to the side, before you can come in with a skid steer to load the hay into the feeder. The high ceilings also make huge lights

necessary if you are going to get enough light to do out of season breeding. A larger barn also can also make it harder to keep the goats warm in the winter, and it requires a tremendous amount of bedding.