

Natural Lighting on Animal Farms

"Importance of Daylight"



One of the most important construction elements in livestock and poultry facilities is proper lighting. Yet, lighting is an environmental factor that is often overlooked in the efficient design of agricultural buildings. Even though it is just as important as proper ventilation, heating, and cooling.

In recent years, there has been an increased interest in making farm buildings and structures more sustainable and improving the well-being of domestic farm animals. Research has proven incorporating more natural daylight into a building design delivers

a good cost benefit ratio. The added cost can easily be justified by numerous welfare, health, and production benefits.

In livestock and poultry facilities, bringing natural light into the building has a profound effect on animal and bird comfort, behavior, and productivity. It can also improve both the profitability and working conditions on a farm. More natural lighting means artificial lights can be dimmed or even turned off. Daylighting saves energy!

When it comes to lighting on animal farms, the most crucial factors include the length of day and the intensity, distribution, and color of light. Polycarbonate skylights, ridge caps, and sidelites are among the most durable glazing options that provide good, natural daylighting.

Like people, most animal's lives revolve around a regular day-and-night cycle. Access to adequate periods of light and darkness encourages a natural circadian rhythm. Starting at an early age, natural lighting affects many distinct aspects of an animal's productive life.

Proper lighting is essential in areas where farm animals are handled. Light illumination should be diffused and uniform. Bright spots and shadows minimized. Polycarbonate glazing diffuses light evenly while maintaining elevated levels of light transmission. Natural light is scattered in many different directions throughout the building, creating a shadow-free environment.



Studies show an animal's stress level can be reduced when moving through an alley or chute by illuminating the interior of a building with diffused, natural light. In



general, when farm buildings are filled with natural light, the animals are less aggressive and calmer. Daylight makes them feel happy, just like farmers!

Daylighting not only saves energy; it also produces many positive results. As energy codes become more stringent and the demand for green buildings continues to rise, implementing natural lighting into both new construction and renovations will become even more important.



There are many advantages to using polycarbonate versus other types of glazing material for daylighting applications. Available in a variety of colors and translucencies, polycarbonate is very impact resistant, highly flexible, and offers a high degree of light transmittance. The UV-protected outer surface helps to maintain the superior toughness of the material — polycarbonate panels will last for years!

To learn more about the advantages of using polycarbonate glazing for your next project, please call 888-602-4441 to speak to a friendly and knowledgeable member of the A-Team.

Featured Product

Agrilite™ PVC Corrugated Liner Panel



Agrilite™ Corrugated PVC Liner Panels are strong, rust-proof panels that are naturally resistant to most chemicals. Virtually indestructible, these panels are

perfect for use on the most demanding agricultural, industrial, and commercial applications.

- High Gloss White Finish
- Easy-to-Clean Surface
- Resists Marking & Scratching
- Economical Alternative to Metal

Easy to handle, install, and maintain, Agrilite™ panels will not rot, corrode, develop structural cracks, or require refinishing if kept reasonably dirt and debris free with routine washing and cleaning.



Agrilite™ Corrugated PVC Liner Panels come with a 10-Year Limited Warranty.

[Visit Product Page](#)

DIY Tip of the Month

Polycarbonate Patio Cover

Covering your patio will provide protection from

Polycarbonate Sheet Tips

the elements as well as the comfort of shade. You'll be able to hang out in your favorite outdoor space more – rain or shine!



Here are several good reasons why polycarbonate panels are a great material choice for covering your patio:

1. Polycarbonate is light in weight, easy to handle, and requires less structural support than other glazing materials.
2. Panels can be cut to size and drilled on site using ordinary wood working tools. No special tools needed!
3. Highly flexible and virtually unbreakable, polycarbonate panels can be cold formed on site without cracking or splintering.

Polycarbonate patio covers not only offer a break from the sun's heat; the panels also block harmful ultraviolet rays. This UV blocking feature helps prevent sunburn while letting in natural light. And your outdoor furniture won't fade as fast!



If you would like advice on the best polycarbonate panel to cover your patio, please contact us at 888-602-4441 or send an email to info@amerilux.com



Q: What is the best way to transport, handle, and store polycarbonate sheets?

A: Stacking sheets from longest to shortest on a sturdy pallet or in a wooden crate is the best way to prevent any damage to the sheets while in transport.

Ideally, sheets should be stored flat on a raised platform in a cool, dry place indoors.

Sheets should be covered with an opaque material, allowing for proper ventilation.

To avoid damaging the sheets surface, pick up and carry instead of dragging sheets.

Do not walk, jump, or drive on sheets!

[More FAQs](#)

Types of Polycarbonate Sheeting

**CORRUGATED
POLYCARBONATE**

VS

**MULTIWALL
POLYCARBONATE**

Both corrugated and multiwall polycarbonate panels are great options for bringing natural light into a structure. Understanding the differences between the products, will help decide which one will work best for you next project.

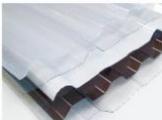
Corrugated polycarbonate is a single layer panel with either a wave or box-type profile, similar in design to metal roofing panels. Corrugated panels make adding a skylight, roof, or canopy to a structure simple and cost effective.

Multiwall polycarbonate has a rectangular hollow structure "flutes" that trap air and provides thermal insulation. Multiwall panels are ideal for greenhouses, pool enclosures, or applications where thermal properties are important.



**MULTIWALL
POLYCARBONATE PANEL**

- Flat w/Multiple Walls
- Excellent Thermal Insulation
- Limited Optical Properties
- High Rigidity



**CORRUGATED
POLYCARBONATE PANEL**

- Corrugated Single Wall
- Low Thermal Insulation
- High Optical Properties
- Extremely Flexible

Corrugated and multiwall panels are ideal for a variety of commercial, industrial, agricultural, and residential daylighting applications.

Links of Interest

- [This home located in Gumma, Japan is wrapped with corrugated polycarbonate](#)

panels, providing cover from bright sunlight during the day while transforming into a glowing beacon at night.

- Located in Portugal, this indoor padel club is a timber structure clad with translucent polycarbonate. The four 'suspended boxes' emit a soft, illuminating light.
- Designed to adapt to different scenarios, a tiny cabin located on the Turkish-Green border features insulated laminate wood panels and large polycarbonate windows.

Company Highlights

A-Team Golf Outing 2022



On Friday, July 22nd AmeriLux held its second annual employee golf outing at the scenic Hilly Haven Golf Course. A family-run business nestled into the Niagara Escarpment just south of De Pere, Wisconsin.

The outing included 18-holes of 'scramble format' golf, golf carts, and rental clubs for those who needed them. While there was a competitive element to the event, all skill levels were invited to participate and enjoy some time together outside of work. After a very warm afternoon of golfing, A-Team members gathered for dinner, drinks, and prizes at the Hilly Haven clubhouse.

Taking home first place this year, was the team of Kurt Voss, Chris Wesolowski, Diedra Wilmet, Raif Giese, and Tessa Hanold. It was a fun event for all who attended. An afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition, and some A-team bonding!



"Communication is Our Currency"

"We prioritize face-to-face interaction over electronic communication in a world going the other way. We seek deeper, more profound connections that build authentic relationships. We look to create maximum value in our daily exchanges with one another through presence of mind and body."

July's Brand Ambassador:

Heather Tiedtke, Driver Business Leader - AT

How We Succeed at AmeriLux

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Shape Products

