

# Livestock Monitoring Cameras



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Checking livestock is a time-consuming task, especially during calving and lambing periods. Frequent monitoring of livestock throughout the day and night is required to evaluate if assistance is required. Livestock Monitoring Cameras allow the checking of livestock remotely.

## Why should I consider installing Livestock Monitoring Cameras?

- Gives you the ability to check livestock more frequently than you would be able to do physically (i.e. can check them when you are doing other jobs). This means detecting problems sooner, allowing quicker intervention, resulting in more lives being saved.
- No need to get out of bed to check on livestock at night—you can check them on your smartphone or tablet using the cameras.
- No need to disturb calving cows or lambing ewes by switching on the lights and entering the shed if nothing requires assistance.
- Gives you the ability to monitor lambs and calves remotely to see if they have sucked without disturbing the bonding process between mother and offspring. This results in saved time and costs tubing/hand feeding lambs and calves that do not require it and allows lambs and calves to be quickly identified if tubing/hand feeding is required.
- Allows you to get on with other work instead of hanging about the lambing/calving shed waiting for something to happen.



## Points for consideration when selecting a camera

### Specification of camera:

- Image quality – ultra or full high definition, high resolution with low latency (minimal delay).
- Image range and control – pan, tilt, zoom. Ability to view the whole shed and inspect individuals.
- Entry protocol ratings – dust and waterproof ratings.
- Power requirements – battery, mains, PoE (Power over Ethernet).
- Light settings – infra red, night vision, low light capability.
- Sound settings—microphone. Some cameras have the ability to capture sound as well as an image which is useful at calving time.
- Recording—some cameras have the ability to record and play back footage.
- Alerts—receive motion detection alerts.
- Ability to create multiple user accounts to share camera access with family, business partners and employees.



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## Location

Assess the location of the buildings where the cameras are located in relation to office or house where the network router is located (i.e. the distance the image will be transmitted) and whether a wire should be installed or whether the buildings are within wireless range. Is broadband connection fast enough to cope with video streaming? If not, consider a camera compatible with 4G connectivity.



## Cost, Support & Camera System Set-Up

The cost of camera kits can vary greatly depending on the specification. Some companies offer a support and maintenance package or subscription for ongoing technical support and servicing. Most companies offer to install the camera system for a fee or you can choose to do this yourself.

If a high quality 360 degree camera with zoom functionality is installed in the middle of a shed and has clear line of sight to all areas of the shed, 1 camera may be adequate. Multiple cameras located in different buildings can be linked up to the system. Often installing the first camera is the most expensive because if connecting wirelessly to the network router using WiFi, then the farmhouse WiFi transmitter is already in place for subsequent cameras.

## How does it work?

- Connect wirelessly to the network router using WiFi transmitters mounted on the shed and farmhouse—with direct line of sight some systems allow transmission of approximately 3 km.
- Connect wirelessly to 4G mobile data router—useful when broadband connections are too slow to cope with video streaming.
- Connect to the network router via wired system to which the computer is connected.

If the network router is connected to a broadband internet connection, the camera image can be accessed via the internet from any internet connected device such as a PC, laptop or Smartphone.

