

# Roll-up or Drop-down?

...and 4 other choices you'll have to make before purchasing an agricultural curtain.

Agricultural curtains, also called ag curtains, barn curtains, or livestock curtains, seem simple enough — they're just some fabric you put up around a barn to help keep your animals healthy.

But go to purchase one, and you'll quickly realize these curtains are more complex than they appear. Buyers have several choices to make that will affect their curtains' price, effectiveness, and lifespan.

**Pro Tip:** Use this graphic as a worksheet! Select one option from each of the choices below and give the finished sheet to your supplier for a fast and easy purchase process.

## STEP 1: Curtain System



Roll-up	Drop-down
Roll-up curtains are attached to the top of the barn opening, and are rolled onto a bar by a pole attached to a motor or hand-crank.	Drop-down curtains are attached to the bottom of the barn opening, and are raised and lowered via a system of cords and pulleys.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for rapid and precise cooling of hot environments</li> <li>• Popular for freestall barns</li> <li>• Difficult to replace</li> <li>• Can allow drafts</li> <li>• Fabric is less exposed when in open position</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ventilates more slowly than roll-up systems, but prevents drafts</li> <li>• Popular for young animals</li> <li>• Easy to replace</li> <li>• Folds in fabric can lead to rodent issues</li> </ul>

## STEP 2: Crank Mechanism



Hand-crank	Motorized
Hand-crank mechanisms make use of a pole and handle to raise and lower curtains.	Motorized mechanisms open and close barn curtains quickly with electric motors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• Hard to break</li> <li>• Must be secured to the barn, limiting adjustability</li> <li>• Require manual effort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be operated remotely</li> <li>• Allow for maximum adjustability</li> <li>• More expensive than hand-crank mechanisms</li> <li>• More moving parts</li> </ul>

## STEP 3: Fabric Quality



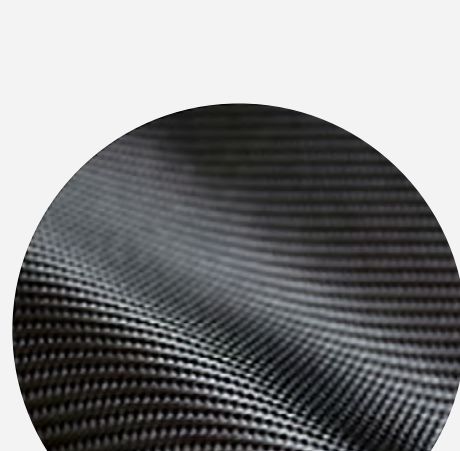
High-performance	Low-cost
High-performance ag curtain fabrics like those from Herculite are built to last and can even be customized.	Low-cost ag curtain fabrics will save you money in the short-term, but will need to be replaced more frequently.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less likely to rip</li> <li>• Stronger hems</li> <li>• Mildew- and UV-resistant</li> <li>• More expensive in the short-term</li> <li>• Last longer, leading to reduced total cost of ownership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less expensive in the short-term</li> <li>• More likely to become damaged</li> <li>• Higher installation costs due to frequent replacement</li> <li>• Higher total cost of ownership</li> </ul>

## STEP 4: Fabric Breathability



Light	Heavy
Barn curtain fabrics ranging from 4 to 10 ounces per square yard are considered light.	Barn curtain fabrics ranging from 11 to 22 ounces per square yard are considered heavy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More flexible than heavy fabrics</li> <li>• More compact when rolled up</li> <li>• More likely to rip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less likely to rip</li> <li>• Less flexible than light fabrics</li> <li>• Bulkier when rolled up</li> </ul>

## STEP 5: Fabric Color



White	Black	Clear
Light-colored barn curtain fabrics let some sunlight into the barn.	Dark-colored or "blackout" barn curtain fabrics limit the amount of light that comes in from outside.	Clear fabrics let almost all sunlight into the barn, and act as a window for workers and livestock to see in and out.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can reduce energy costs by taking advantage of natural light</li> <li>• Light colors reduce heat transfer</li> <li>• Can't be used to control animals' light exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used to carefully control animals' light exposure</li> <li>• Light control can lead to increased productivity</li> <li>• Require more use of electric light</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used to carefully control animals' light exposure</li> <li>• Light control can lead to increased productivity</li> <li>• Require more use of electric light</li> </ul>

### Questions about barn curtain fabrics?

Herculite manufactures some of the highest-quality agricultural curtain fabrics on the market. To learn more about our products, become a distributor, or find a distributor, visit our website or give us a call.

[Learn More](#)

(800) 772-0036