

Free Stall Housing To Boost Dairying

One of the biggest problems in the P.E.I. Dairy Industry today is the barn in which milk cows are housed. The barn is a problem in that it was designed many years ago to hold just a few cows and to have all the work done by hand. To state the problem simply it just takes too long to do a small amount of work.

In last week's column, Earle Adams pointed out the markets available for our milk and it was shown that markets in the Maritime Provinces are available for 30,000 more cows, each producing 10,000 pounds of milk. The big question is "Can we produce milk efficiently enough so as to be competitive with dairy products produced in other areas and still have a worthwhile return for our capital investment and labour?"

Milk production depends upon many, many factors such as cost of feed, buildings and equipment, replacement stock, production per cow, price received for milk and cost of labour and many other factors.

LABOUR EFFICIENCY

What is meant by labor efficiency? One definition would be to have maximum production of milk (or other products) with as little labour and equipment investment as possible. Since labour is one of the big expenses on many farms the more productive work that can be done with the least amount of labour the better it will be and the greater the farm income will be.

FREE STALL HOUSING

Free stall housing is the most efficient method of housing dairy cattle that is now available. This method is being used by larger herds in some neighboring provinces and states. To describe this system you might say that it combines loose housing and stanchion type barns. The cows are milked in a milking parlour, set in a feeding area and are bedded down in open stalls. They are not tied up, but they do have separate and individual stalls where they lie down. In the larger milking parlours one man can milk about 40 cows per hour. The total time per day for chores, feeding and milking works out to about four minutes per cow.

The full commercially equipped milking parlour costs about 10,000 dollars and will handle 30 cows as easily as 20 so you see this is a system for a large specialized dairy farm. This 10,000 is the cost of a complete milking unit that is available commercially and it includes the complete milking parlour, pipeline milker and bulk tank. This would give you the most modern milking setup now available commercially. However, it is also possible, by using our own labour and local resources, to build or set up a milking parlour for less than one-half of this figure. This may not contain all the facilities of the more expensive commercial unit but nevertheless would enable you to increase efficiency tremendously.

The barn that is used in a free stall housing setup is very much cheaper than the conventional dairy barn as it contains only one water bowl, no stanchions, no insulation and no cement in the walls. By using local or farm produced lumber and as much farm labour as possible costs can be lowered very greatly.

So — free stall housing can cost a lot if you want to buy everything commercially. If, however, you want to use local material and resources it will be no more expensive than a conventional barn of comparable size and very much more labor saving.

The advantages of free stall housing are: (1) a large number of cows can be handled easily, (2) one man can milk 40 cows per hour in a milking parlour and total chores take only about four minutes per cow per day, (3) cows remain clean with very little bedding, (4) cows get exercise and finally (5) the setup is very easily expanded. There are disadvantages too, the main one being the high capital cost. It is generally suggested that a milking herd of about 40 cows is required before a free stall housing unit can be justified. Nevertheless with larger sizes of herds these setups will become much more common. There are many of these in our Maritime Market area and we are in competition with them. A free stall housing dairy barn is now being constructed in Kings County, P.E.I.

Many of our dairy barns in P.E.I. require a major remodeling job to make them labour efficient. This work usually involves considerable expense and as a result more milk must be sold to help pay for the added costs. Increasing the milk sold per cow and the number of cows in the herd are the main ways of increasing income in the dairy enterprise.

LOUIS CORMIER

One farm in P.E.I. which faced the problem of housing dairy cattle is that of Louis Cormier and his brother who farm at St. Philip, near Richmond, P.E.I. They now milk 36 high producing Holstein cattle, they also raise all their replacements and most of the feed that is required.

The problem of type of barn to build was considered and it was figured that it would cost as much to fix up the old barn as it would to build a new one. The result is that a one storey dairy stable was built to house the milking herd. A milk room was also added in the new barn. The

old barn is now used for hay storage from the ground floor up and this gives lots of room for hay. The new dairy stable can be easily expanded.

The main reason for considering the new building was cutting down work time. In the old buildings it took two men, one and one half hours to do milking. In the new building this time has been cut in half, one man taking one and one half hours to milk.

In addition to the new barn, a pipeline milking system has recently been installed. In this method the test cups are connected to a stainless steel pipeline above the cows that carries the milk to the milk tank. Each individual cow's milk is weighed with a milk meter. When milking is finished the whole system is automatically washed with a stable cleaner, pipeline milker and carts for carrying feed. The total time for feeding, cleaning and milking the herd amounts to about four hours per day or nearly seven minutes per cow per day.

The Cormier's have plans for future expansion of the herd size but are trying first to obtain real good production per cow. They figure that 20 cows producing much as 30 cows producing 10,000 pounds each. So they are working on improving their herds production as well as increasing herd size.

PRODUCTION

At the present time their herd average from RGP records, is slightly over 14,000 pounds per cow. They hope to raise this to 15,000 pounds per cow in a couple of years.

MILK SALES

The Cormier's have a small fluid milk contract so future production will be geared mainly to the sale of manufacturing milk. They feel that there is a goodly return from the sale of manufacturing milk if there is a large volume production of high quality milk.

OTHER BARN

Many of our dairy barns are modern or nearly new but that doesn't necessarily mean that they are efficient barns. Why is it that your neighbor may be able to milk more cows than you can in the same time period? It is probably due to the use that he makes of his labour. In order to use this labour to do more work it doesn't necessarily mean that a lot of money must be invested. In many barns, for example, by removing a wall or maybe a door sill this would enable a feed cart to be used and thereby save many hundred steps every day.

FEED CARTS

Feed carts might be used as one way of doing work more efficiently and also easier. These can be used for grain silage and hay.

BULK FEED

A bulk feed bin is becoming common on many farms and this certainly saves a lot of time each day in mixing and preparing.

ing the concentrates for the cattle.

CARRYING RACKS

A rack to carry the milk cans and sanitizing equipment as the cows are being milked also would be a way of saving many steps and of course these steps all take time.

MILK ROOM

A well planned milk room is a very important asset to having efficient milk production — it not only helps to give high quality milk but also enables you to produce your milk with less labour.

CLEANING STABLES

This is a job that on many farms takes a great deal of time usually in smaller herds, a conventional type gutter cleaner (that is continuous chain or shuttle stroke) is not economical. But there is produced locally a winch type gutter cleaner and this unit costs one-quarter to one-third as much as the regular type stable cleaner that you are used to seeing. It is produced locally in Prince Edward Island, and is a very labour saving piece of equipment to consider for your stable.

PLANNED WORK ROUTINE

Of course a planned work routine can pay big dividends and doesn't cost a thing but a bit of planning, so that you know once you step inside the stable door where you head for first and what you are going to do.

All these ideas may save a few minutes of time a day, and since time is valuable it can mean increased income either through keeping more cows or using the time to do other work which will result in more income.

If five minutes can be saved per day this amounts to thirty hours in a year or almost three days of labour. If wisely used, this time can be used to produce more income either through more crops or more livestock — either way it will put more dollars in your pockets.

SUMMARY

In free stall housing barns cows can be milked after and milked in four minutes each per day. The Cormier's with a one storey dairy barn, stanchion type are doing it in seven minutes per cow per day. How long does it take you?

Labour efficiency may be improved by new buildings, remodeling, or just in changes in a few simple everyday operations. Just remember that time is

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF CANADA FOR ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD TENDERS

SEALED TENDERS addressed to Secretary, Department of Public Works of Canada, Room B 326, Sir Charles Tupper Building, Riverside Drive, Ottawa 2, and endorsed "TENDER FOR WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, HARBOUR GRACE, N.F.L.D." will be received until 3.00 P.M. (E. S. T.), WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1967.

Tender documents can be obtained on deposit of \$150.00 in the form of a CERTIFIED bank cheque to the order of the RECEIVER GENERAL OF CANADA, through:

Chief Engineer, Room E-448, Sir Charles Tupper Building, Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ont.; District Engineer, P.O. Box 4600, Building 301, Pleasantville, St. John's, Nfld.; District Engineer, P.O. Box 2947, Ralston Building, 1587 Hollis Street, Halifax, N.S.; and can be seen at the Post Offices at Harbour Grace, Grand Falls and Corner Brook, Nfld.

The deposit will be refunded on return of the documents in good condition within one month from the date of tender opening.

To be considered each tender must be submitted on the forms supplied by the Department and must be accompanied by the security specified in the tender documents.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

ROBERT PORTIER, Secretary.

Eavesdropping Cases Slated For Review

WASHINGTON (AP) — The justice department has announced it has begun an extensive review of all court cases—present and past—in which evidence may have been gathered by means of electronic eavesdropping.

The department made the announcement in a paper filed in the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Joseph P. Schipani, who had been convicted of income tax evasion.

The department said it initiates the review in recognition of its "obligation not to use evidence obtained in violation of a defendant's protected rights in any criminal prosecution."

It also said that Acting Attorney General Ramsey Clark has sent a memorandum to all the U.S. attorneys cautioning them that the department "must never proceed with any investigation or case which includes illegally obtained or the fruits of that evidence."

A department spokesman said the current investigation affects all cases which have been brought to trial as well as pending cases.

For further information either on new dairy buildings remodeling or other labor saving changes contact Graeme Linkletter, 230 Water Street, Summerside, P.E.I.

Organizer For PCs Quits Manitoba Post

WINNIPEG (CP) — Progressive Conservative party officials in Manitoba have announced that Fred Groves has submitted his resignation as the province's party organizer.

Party sources said here that Mr. Groves, 41, plans to step down—his resignation has not yet been accepted—because of the way Conservative Leader John Diefenbaker was treated at the party's convention in Ottawa early this month.

They said Mr. Groves, described as feeling a particular debt of loyalty to his leader, was concerned because the provincial executive and most of the Manitoba cabinet had endorsed national president Dalton Camp's call for a reassessment of the Conservative leadership.

G. Campbell MacLean, president of the Manitoba Progressive Conservative party, confirmed that Mr. Groves had submitted his resignation last week.

He said it had not been accepted because discussions still are being held with Mr. Groves in hope that he will reconsider.

Mr. Groves could not be reached for comment. He had been provincial or-

ganizational director of the party, a fulltime post, since 1961. From 1958 until the provincial election last June 23 he was MLA for St. Vital but did not run again for personal reasons.

Present federal practice, adopted in July, 1965, prohibits electronic surveillance "in all instances except those involving the collection of intelligence with respect to matters affecting national security."

Schipani was convicted on five counts charging willful attempt to evade income tax for 1956 through 1960. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment and fined \$12,500.

CCLA GOES UNDER

TORONTO (CP) — The 21-month-old Canadian Civil Liberties Association folded Thursday because of lack of funds.

Lawyer Sidney Linden, 37, returned to private practice after eight months as executive director and counsel for the organization. The CCLA is \$1,000 in debt and it is uncertain whether Mr. Linden will be paid for the month of November.

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