

Planned Barnlot Saves Labor In U. of Missouri Dairy Operation

The building arrangement shown in the drawing includes some of the good principles of dairy building arrangement, says Ralph Ricketts, University of Missouri extension agricultural engineer. Such an arrangement stresses efficiency, labor saving, and attractiveness.

The milking parlor is located on the service court. This allows

trucks and other vehicles access to the parlor from the service court without going through lots or opening gates. The exit door of the parlor stalls is on the near, or south end, of the building.

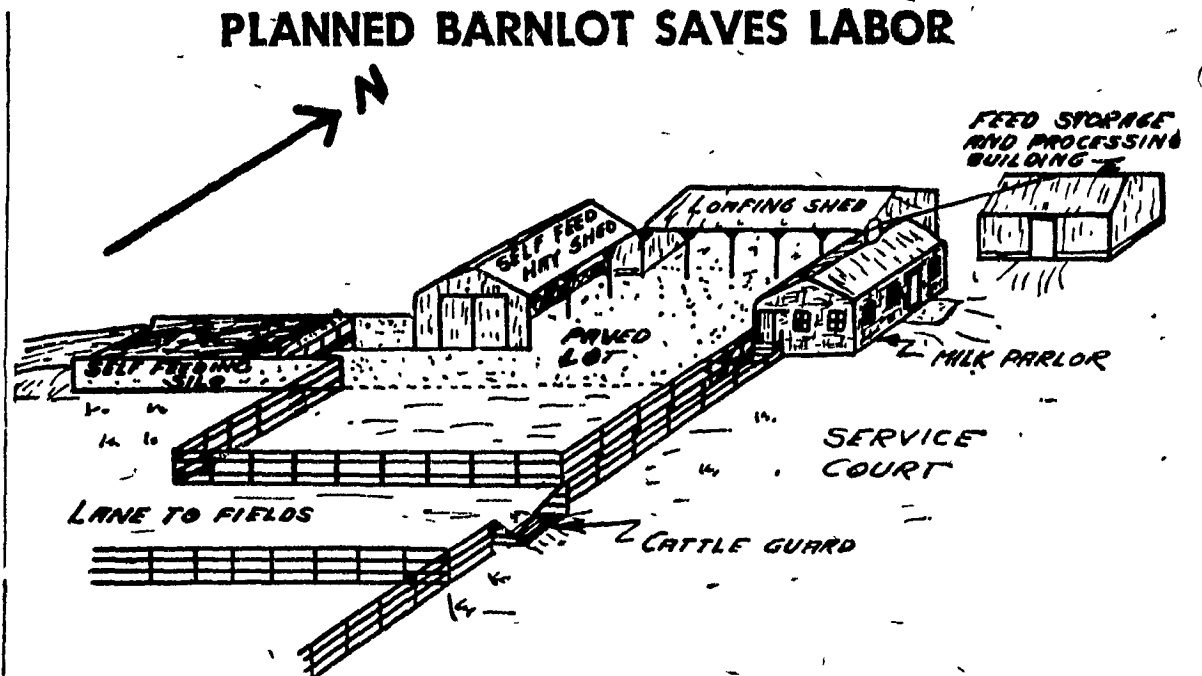
Ricketts calls attention to the lane or alley leading to fields. During summer months, cows can be turned directly into this lane. In the winter, a gate swung across the alley directs cows back into the lot.

The milk parlor isn't connected directly to the loafing shed but is located about 12 feet away. This space is covered and has a north and east wall but no west wall. In the winter cows can come from the loafing shed into the milking parlor via the covered passage-way. In the summer, they can be held in the lot and brought into the parlor by the same route.

The feed storage and processing building is located convenient to the service court in the diagram, Ricketts notes. The feed grinder is spotted in this 20 by 30-foot building so that grain can be shoveled directly from each of the four bins into the grinder.

With this arrangement, the grinder can be used to grind, mix, and deliver feed into the milking parlor's feed room.

The loafing shed is a simple, open-front type of structure generally 40 feet wide. About 60 to 70 square feet are needed per cow. This portion of the arrangement is to be used only for a bedding



IF PRESENT buildings are not serving as efficiently as they might, a long range barn-lot renovation project may be in order. Planning and forethought can make many present buildings serve a new

capacity. The above drawing can be used as a guide for future plans. The layout can be changed to meet a farm's specific needs. (Drawing by University of Missouri.)

area. Such a shed needs cleaning only once or twice a year and a manure fork on the front of a tractor makes an ideal cleaning tool.

The hay feeding shed corners with the loafing shed and opens to the east. Hay, stored from the ground up, is fed with movable self feeder managers.

A self-feeding, above-ground concrete trench silo corners on the southwest corner of the hay

shed. The east end is the open end. Such a self-feeding silo accommodates two cows per foot of width.

A very important part of the arrangement above is a mechanical device for scraping up droppings and loading them into a manure spreader. A frontend, tractor-mounted scoop does the job nicely. The paved area around the lot and silo works best when scraped every day or two.

Since every farm is an indivi-

dual case in itself, this specific plan would fit very few. However, these principles will apply to most, Ricketts says. Perhaps a remodeled barn would replace the loafing shed or other variations would be in order.

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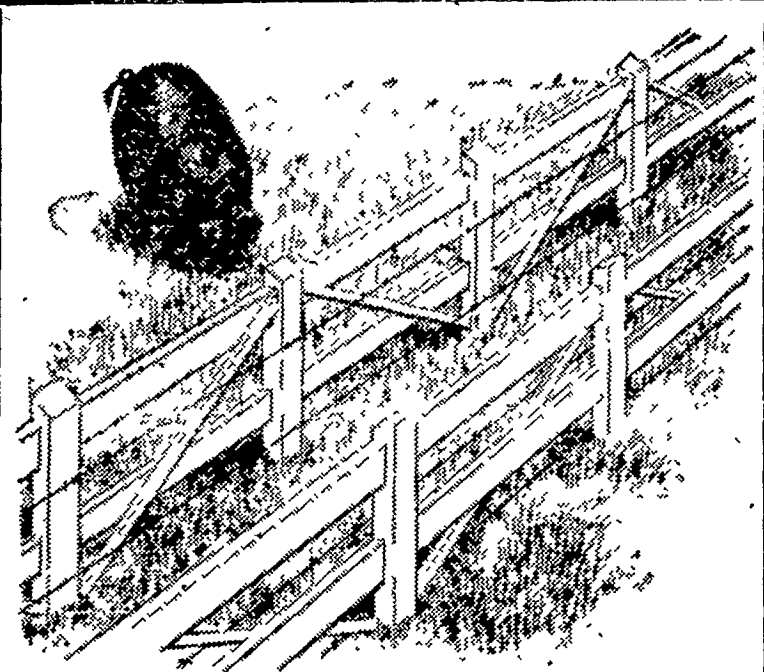
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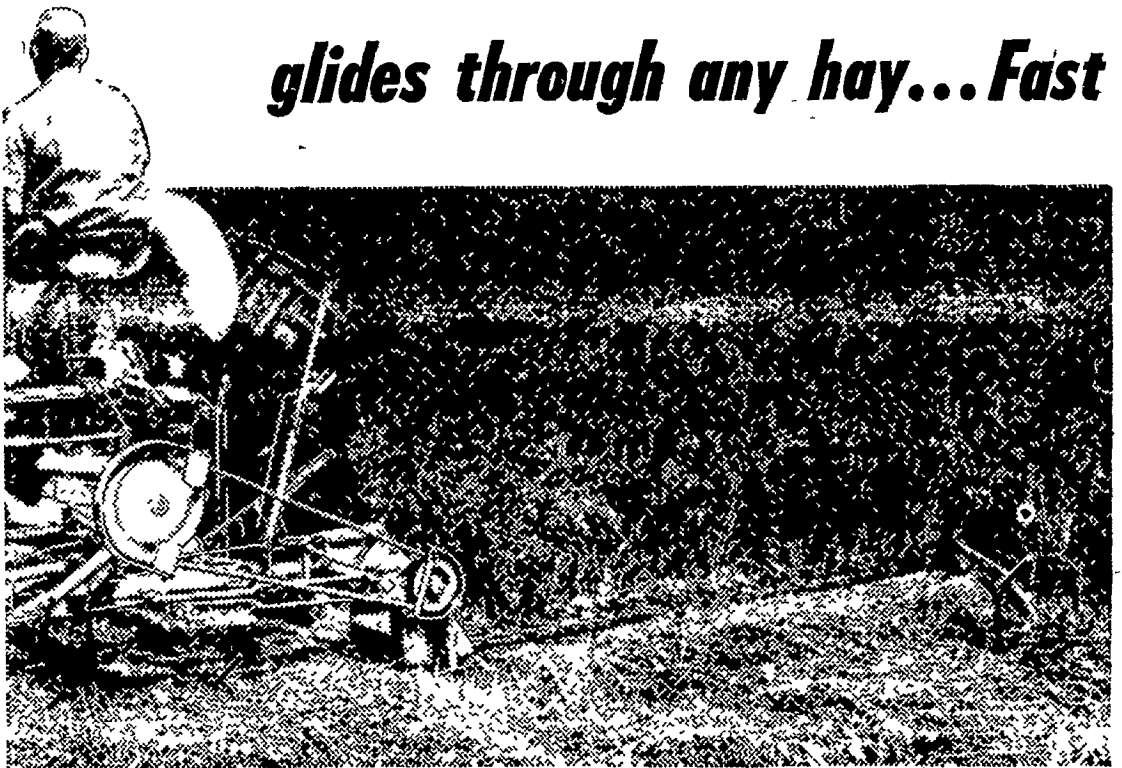
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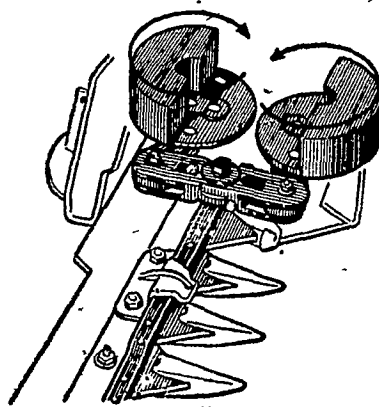
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