

Huge New Dairy Barn Toured

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at the barn along the driveway. Plus now described the arrangement as completely enclosed free stall housing.

The facility has what Graybill terms a "semi-liquid" manure system. The floor slopes gently toward openings in the center of the building. Each day a tractor pushes the animal waste to the holes which lead to pits underneath.

Although he tries to dispose of the manure more often, Graybill said there's storage area for about six weeks.

Excellent Ventilation

Graybill said the domed structure provides excellent ventilation even in the hottest weather. There was no problem with draft in the winter. There has been no problem with moisture, he said.

He said the hot air rises and escapes at the top and cooler air comes in from the sides just above the floor.

The half-circled structure is held together by long, gently curved, laminated beams about three inches by 12 inches which start at the floor and join at the center of the roof. These wooden ribs are covered with aluminum roofing.

Construction of the entire facility took only six months, including time lost when about half the rafters blew down during a windstorm, Graybill said.

Among those involved in constructing the facility were Calvin Smoke, Honeybrook, carpenter; J. B. Zimmerman, Blue Ball, milking equipment; Fred Frey, Quarryville, stalls and partitions; Arthur Shuk, Myerstown, rafter representatives from Atlantic Breeders Cooperative; and Miller and Bushong were present at the open house.



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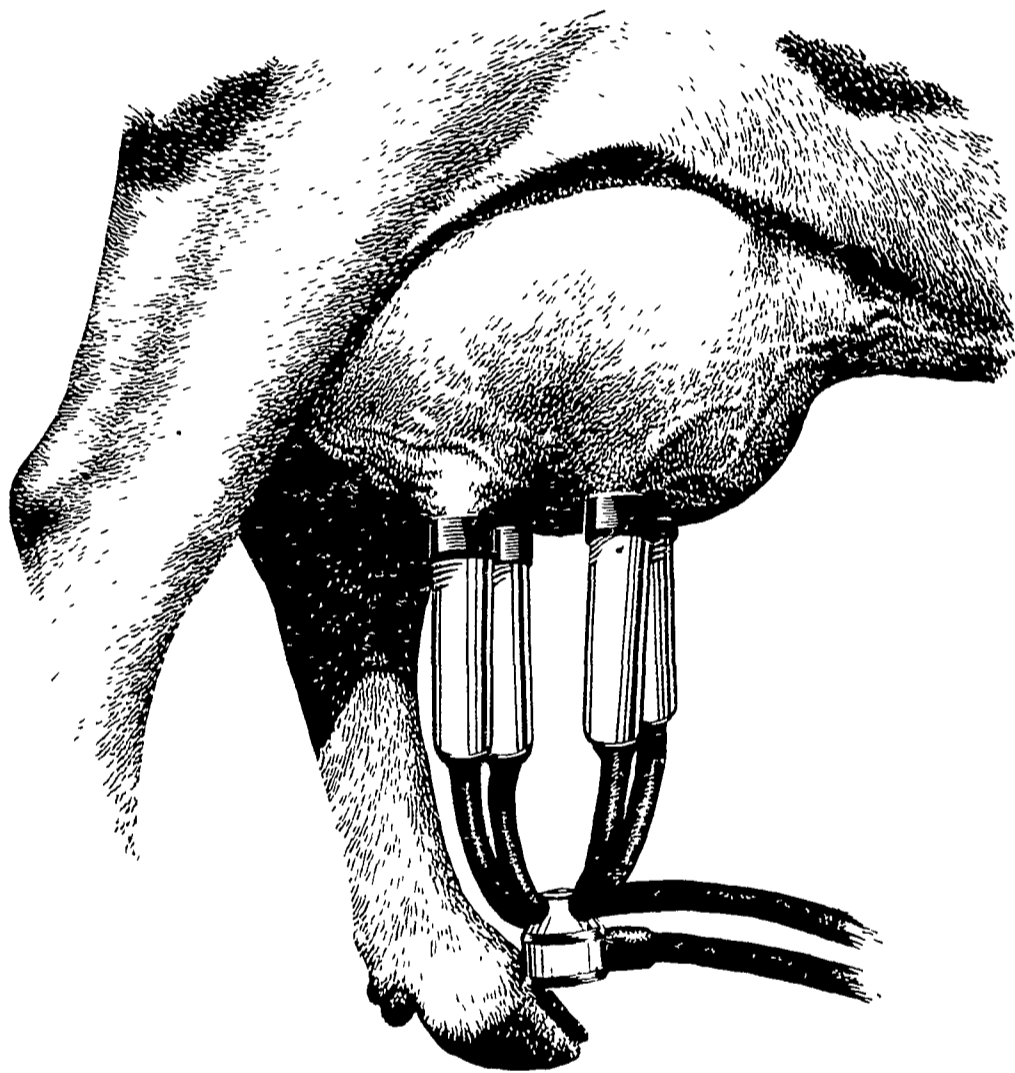
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