

# Veal Producer Pins Hopes On Climate Controlled Barn

A veal producer in Kempton, Pa., hopes to rear his calves to market weight totally without medication.

Chuck Dixon, general manager of Kammerle Farm, said he hopes to accomplish that feat in a new 5,000-square-foot, \$125,000 barn with a sophisticated climate control system. Dixon designed the barn in conjunction with Air Engineers, Inc., of Allentown.

One of the major aims was to provide the maximum amount of air circulation with the minimum amount of disturbance; to

provide a continual soft blanket of fresh air without drafts.

A Ceramaguard ventilating ceiling developed by Lancaster's own Armstrong Cork Company, was specified for the new barn because it allows air to be distributed evenly over the entire area without drafts and because it is not affected by high humidity conditions necessary for the health of the calves.

The entire area above the ceiling acts as a plenum supplied with fresh air from two giant fans located at the end of the barn.



Chuck Dixon, general manager of Kammerle Farm, Kempton, Pa., stands in his new calf holding barn which is making it

possible to hold calves for 14 weeks with virtually no medication.

The air is automatically heated when necessary, then mixed with water vapor to provide the required humidity. It then drops through thousands of tiny holes in the ceiling to provide an even distribution of conditioned air throughout the barn.

Space between the barn's inner and outer walls serves as both insulation and an exhaust chamber. The air is pulled through vents in the outer walls near the floor by exhaust fans.

Fresh air comes down to the floor and is pulled out at floor level so that fumes are pulled away from the calves.

This is expected to greatly reduce the possibility of lung problems as well as to provide a more relaxed environment that will keep the calves on their eating program.

The new barn houses 216 calves, and replaces an old facility of the same size. Besides automatic climate control, the new barn was designed to reduce labor costs by a good 50 percent.

Dixon said one of the problems in the old barn was the constant need for changing fan settings throughout the day in order to keep the air flow and temperature even. Frequently changing outside conditions also created the need for closely watching the inside atmosphere.

The new barn will let Dixon keep the temperature at between 55 and 60 degrees and relative humidity at 40 to 60 percent. The air conditioning system includes intake and exhaust fans, pads that are wetted by pumps to cool


and to provide moisture and automatically controlled louvers. The barn is warmed in cold weather by steam heat. A humidifier that can add water to the air is also contained in the plenum.

### Adapted Flag

The District of Columbia has a flag consisting of two horizontal red bars on a white field and three red stars in the top white space. It is said to have been adapted from George Washington's family coat of arms.

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