

# Grober Inc. Presents A Modern Veal Raising Facility

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the feed station are two wings consisting of three bays each with 60 stalls in each bay. Each bay is really a large room for raising calves.

Running the length of the front of the barn, is an enclosed 10-foot wide corridor.

From the dock, supplies and equipment can be taken right across the corridor, straight into the feed preparation and distribution area. Directly behind that room is the computer control room, and a side room which contains the backup generator.

But from the dock, to the left and right, the corridor allows calves to be taken to the respective bays and the stalls.

Looking down the length of the corridor, with each bay having a dutch door (a half-door), the appearance is more of a horse stable. But there is a reason for this.

Forced hot air heaters are at either end of the building and hot air (computer controlled) is forced through ducts along the top of the inside corridor wall.

At eye-level along the corridor wall are 12 vent openings for fresh air (estimated to be about 1-foot by 4-foot shuttered openings). They can be manually adjusted for optimum fresh air flow.

The effect is that fresh air from outside is drawn through the vent openings and is mixed with the hot air inside the corridor.

At the rear of each bay, a pair of 20-inch fans draws the heated fresh air through the bays and out the back of the building.

Each of the 60 stalls in each of the six bays was designed as an intricate part of the facility, down to the spacing between slats on the stall sides and floor.

Temperature sensors send information directly to the computer, which is run on a program that adjusts the heat automatically. If, for any reason, the public electricity supply is knocked out, the backup generator automatically kicks in, fueled by propane, as are the heaters.

The computer also has some automatic controls in it, such as automatically informing the Grober Inc. headquarters when feed levels are such that more needs to be brought to the farm.

And, if the computer has a problem, it can automatically call the company's headquarters in the Netherlands and can be reprogrammed and fixed automatically.



The entrance to the Blue Mountain View Farm veal facility states that it is a farm raising fancy milk-fed veal, though the facility structure on the ridge doesn't appear out of the ordinary to the Pennsylvania farmscape, and the dry cows in the foreground also make the farm appear to the passerby as a dairy operation.

According to Yelle van der Urift, designer of the facility, the idea was to create a microclimate within each stall so as to achieve maximum health conditions for the calves.

According to van der Urift, the draw of the fans is rated at 3,600 cubic feet per minute, which translates through design to be 150 cfm for the calves.

on the age and size of the calves, since cattle produce more heat and moisture as they grow larger.

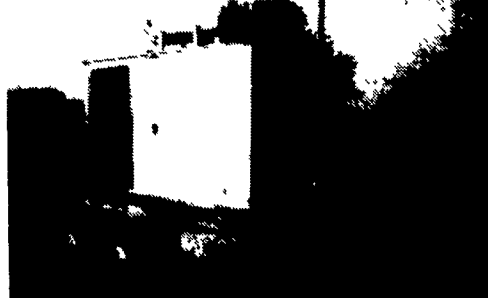
The facility is also designed with a unique manure handling

(Turn to Page A27)

The ideal temperatures depend



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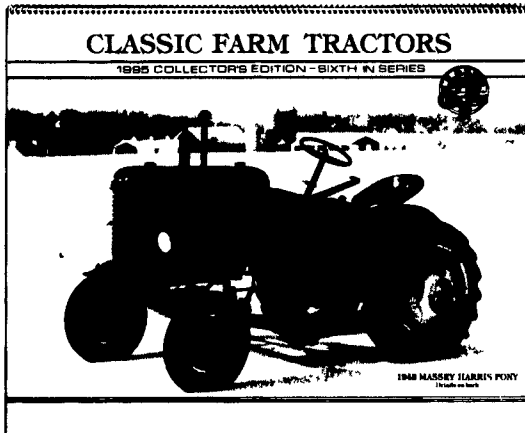
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