

University Of Pennsylvania Dedicates Greenhouse Dairy Barn

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Medicine's Center for Animal Health and Productivity needed to conduct some of its comparative experiments.

Each side of the parlor can be dedicated to half of the freestall area.

The barn is designed as an uneven cross.

A straight section comes from

the parlor and serves as the main alleyway and parlor holding area.

The extreme of that section, opposite the parlor, is used for additional freestalls, but appears that it could be easily converted into an alleyway if another couple-hundred cow barn were to be added, as a sister to the existing one.

The freestalls are bedded with

ground-rubber filled mattresses, and each stall has a water dispenser.

Headlocking gates along feed aisles are used, again being especially necessary because of the research work to be done, and the necessity for catching cows.

Part of the facility has a space for 48 comfort stalls where cows can be tied-up at specific feed bins, primarily for nutritional studies.

There is also a commodity building and bunker silos are located to the north of the barn.

The flushing system uses 16,000 gallons of recyclable water, and the manure lagoon can hold 10,000 cubic yards of manure.

It took 130 truckloads of cement to construct the Marshak facility.

But more than all of that, it took support and dedication of men such as Dr. Allum and Marshak, and those in the industry who helped provide support for the project.

The Center for Animal Health and Productivity at New Bolton Center was established in 1986 to implement teaching, research and service programs directed toward the improvement of health and productivity in food animal herds.

The Marshak facility is to serve as a living laboratory for the vet school and as a research and teaching site in dairy cattle health, productivity and economics.

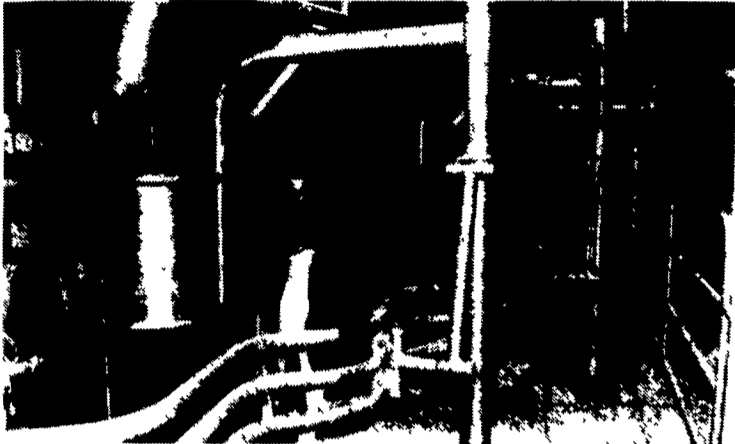
It is also to enhance the teaching environment for veterinary and graduate students interested in the medical and managerial aspects of

dairy operations.

The University of Pennsylvania laboratories also serve as part of the state's tripartite animal health system — Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS). The PADLS is designed as a way for the state to protect both the animals and humans from disease throughout the area, in

addition to providing business support through health checks and verifications.

The research done at the new greenhouse facility should also help provide support to that program, through a better understanding of the actual environment facing domestic dairy cattle under modern conditions.



These wavy retaining bars hydraulically move up and out of the way of the cows for a quick release after milking in this double-10 herringbone parlor in the Marshak Dairy Facility. Notice the plywood Holstein positioned for participants to see how the cows would be situated for milking.



An overhead lights hangs from some of the 6-miles of structural tubing used to construct the greenhouse style Marshak Dairy Facility. Notice the vent that runs diagonally between the top roof arch, and the roof arch beneath and to the side. With sidewall solar and weather screening, the facility has great capacity for ventilation.



Automatic take-offs, computerized readouts, handy teat-dip dispensers and room to move on a good working floor are part of the design of the double-10 herringbone milking parlor incorporated in the new Marshak Dairy Facility for research at University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's Center for Animal Health and Productivity in New Bolton.



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