

During the conference, the NRAES, a cooperative extension effort formed by 14 universities, offered attendees resources with the latest information on dairy housing and animal care.

Housing Conference

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figure out how to do a better job at what we're doing," said Stiles. "I found out a lot about what housing systems work and what didn't work and why they work or don't."

For John Mueller of Clifton Springs, NY, the conference taught him as much about what to improve as it did about what's new. He milks 1,100 cows on Willow Bend Farm.

"We wanted to see what was new in dairy housing," said Mueller. "But I am finding out as much about what's wrong with my existing operation as I am about building a new one."

Mueller plans to go home and fix some of the problems he

didn't know he had. "We thought we were doing things perfect," said Mueller. "Now I know where we can improve."

Another New York farmer is looking into a minor expansion. Russell Miller from Arcede, NY, milks 1,000 cows on Plato Brook Farm. He wanted to see if there were any new things he could use in the new facility.

"These meetings are always an opportunity to interchange with farmers we know and farmers we don't know," said Miller. "Hopefully we can take these information tidbits and put them to use."

"The conference also gives us the opportunity to sit back and

take a fresh look at how we can do it better," said Miller.

A Bradford County farmer came to the conference because he is either going to expand or have to get smaller. Tim Beardslee from Lottahill Farms milks 180 cows.

"I am getting a lot of different ideas, and I need new ideas when I do expand," said Beardslee. "I am finding out what people I can go to for help."

Beardslee is most interested in finding ways to handle manure and nutrients to best benefit the environmental.

"I want to design the system so I can handle them better," said Beardslee. "It will take me three to four years of looking

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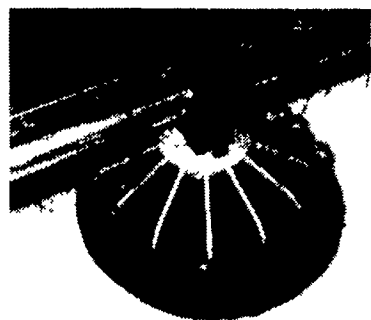
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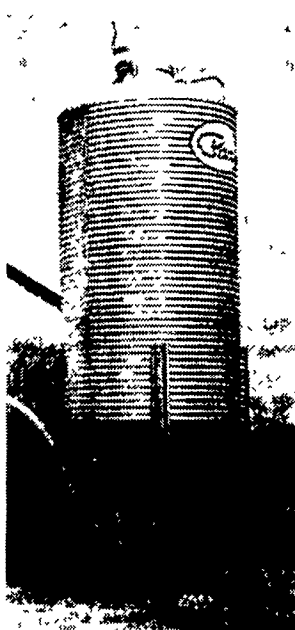
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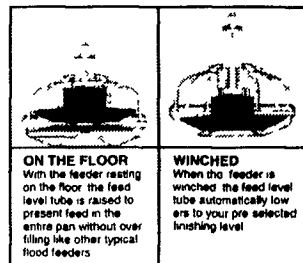
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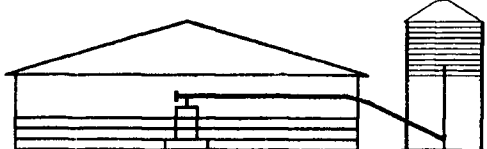


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