

Conference To Focus On Building Free-stall Barns, Milking Centers

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.)—Building and equipment suppliers, general contractors, dairy producers, builders, engineers, and university educators will share their knowledge and answer your questions at the upcoming Building Freestall Barns and Milking Centers: Methods and Materials conference. Valuable experiences and the most up-to-date information will be shared, so if you are considering new facility construction or advise producers in making decisions, you won't want to miss this event.

The conference will take place Feb. 18-20 at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center in Camp Hill. More than 25 speakers will discuss cow needs, construction contracting, preconstruction considerations, construction materials, building methods, environmental control systems, and special considerations in constructing freestall barns and milking centers. The conference is being coordinated by NRAES, the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service.

The conference program is designed to allow ample time for questions and discussion. In addition, a reception/exhibit session where companies will showcase their products and services in an informal atmosphere, is scheduled for Tuesday evening, Feb. 18. Discussion sessions will be conducted the evening of February 19; some possible discussion topics are tie-stall barn construction considerations, robotic milking, concrete, legal concerns, and building codes and agricultural structures.

Conference speakers will include Gary W. Auman, Dunlevey, Mahan, and Furry; Dave R. Bohnhoff, University of Wisconsin; Glyn Boone, Trus Joist; Weyerhaeuser Business; William Croucher, FABRAL; Robert Engle, Westfalia-Surge, Inc.; Paul Garrett, Norbco, Inc.; Curt A. Gooch, PRO-DAIRY, Cornell University; Robert E. Graves, The Pennsylvania State University; Scott F. Inglis, Cornell University; Philip Kresge, Pennsylvania Concrete Promotion Council; Dave Ludington, DLtech, Inc.; Tom McCarty, Penn State cooperative extension; George Mueller, Willow Bend Farm; Richard A. Peterson, New York State Electric and Gas Corporation; Ken Ramsay, Lester Building Systems; Tim Riegel, Rigidply Rafters, Inc.; Jack Rodenberg, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Tim R. Royer, Timber Tech Engineering, Inc.; William C. Stone, Cornell University; John T. Tyson, Penn State Cooperative Ex-

tension; Phil VanLieu, King Construction Company; Andrew Wedel, McLanahan Corporation; Stanley Weeks, Consultant; Brent Whitaker, Butler Manufacturing Company; and Tom Wilson, Penn State cooperative extension.

To register for the conference or request a brochure that includes the program, a registration form, travel information, and more, contact NRAES at (607) 255-7654; fax (607) 254-8770; or e-mail nraes@cornell.edu. For complete conference information and updates, visit the conference web page at www.nraes.org/conferences/building.html.

Electrical Wiring


(Continued from Page 37)

voltage problems include:

- Improper procedures and equipment that result in interconnection of the grounding system (green or bare wire) and the neutral (white wire) supply system. This often happens in sub panels found in utility rooms and feed centers.
- Excessive voltage drop from long service drops or feeder runs to sub panels.
- Poor connections, including over or under tightening of compression lugs, failure to use corrosion inhibitor on connections, and old loose pole top splices.

Electrical systems require proper design installation and maintenance. A regular preventative maintenance routine is important to assure that your electrical system is performing in a safe and effective manner. The National Food and Energy Council provides specific information on farmstead wiring. Their website is www.nfec.org.

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