

# Dairy Tiestalls Boost Profit Potential For Some Producers

**DAVE LEFEVER**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.)** — Are tiestall barns obsolete?

Not at all, according to Galen Kopp, Lebanon County dairy agent. Many dairy producers in the area have been relying on their tiestall setups to give them an edge in cow care and milk production.

Kopp joined Dan McFarland, extension ag engineer, and Clyde Myers, Berks County extension agent at a meeting here Thursday to discuss how good tiestall design can be used to get the most from the milking herd. About 25 local farmers attended.

The top reasons some dairy managers prefer tiestalls over a freestall setup is that the tiestalls allow more individual cow care, observation, and feed monitoring, McFarland said.

That can be a matter of individual management preference. According to McFarland, the main thing is that the facilities "excite the caretaker" and result in a well-kept herd.

While tiestalls tend to be more

economical for smaller herds of less than 80 cows, McFarland noted a growing number of producers putting in tiestalls for herd sizes of 80 to 200 cows.

A significant number of producers with tiestall facilities have "very high production per cow," McFarland said. In his travels throughout the area, however, he has also seen a number of tiestall operations that provided "substandard" attention to the cows.

Any animal housing arrangement needs to apply five basic things, McFarland said, and tiestalls are no exception. These animal shelter "basics" are a clean, dry, comfortable space; good ventilation; good feed access; good water access, and sure footing.

McFarland outlined the components of good tiestall barn design, including stall dimensions, bedding, feed and water access, and ventilation.

In many cases, older tiestall barns can be modified to enhance cow comfort and performance.

McFarland pointed out some trends in tiestall systems. Natural ventilation systems are becoming

more popular in the area, and the use of sand for bedding is on the rise, he said.

As an inorganic substance, sand has been noted for reducing somatic cell counts and mastitis.

In addressing the all-important topic of ventilation, McFarland went back to the 19th century to quote W.D. Hoard, founder of Hoard's Dairyman.

"We are rapidly coming to understand that we have to furnish pure air to our cows," Hoard pointed out in 1885.

Types of air-exchange in dairy barns today include fan-driven positive and negative pressure systems and natural ventilation. Natural ventilation relies on adjustable sidewalls and ridge stacks, and depends on the cows' heat to move air out through ridge venting.

McFarland said he doesn't recommend tunnel ventilation for year-round use. In this system, where air is drawn lengthwise through the barn, air exchange is too rapid for cold weather, he said. Another drawback is that a fan tends to lose its ability to pull



From left, Galen Kopp, Dan McFarland, Kevin Schlagel, and Dave Kopper discuss tiestall barns at a dairy meeting Thursday.

air at distances of more than 75 feet.

An ideal ventilation system provides fresh air to the cows on a constant basis.

"The goal is to have air quality inside equal the air quality outside," McFarland said.

McFarland quoted Robert Graves, Penn State ag engineer, in summing up the principle of complete air exchange.

"If it smells like a barn, it needs better ventilation," Graves said.

Kopp noted the benefits that some dairyman are seeing from well-designed tiestall facilities.

One Lebanon County dairyman saw his herd average jump from about 19,000 pounds to 29,000 pounds over a 14-month period after moving his herd from freestalls to a new tiestall barn. While other management practices also contributed to the production boost, the new tiestalls were a major factor, according to Kopp.

## Pa. Ag Committee Sets Hearing On Pooling Issues

**DAVE LEFEVER**  
Lancaster Farming Staff

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — The Pennsylvania Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will conduct a public hearing March 19 on the establishment of an over-order "pooling" rule for premiums paid to dairy farmers for Class I (beverage) milk produced, processed, and sold in Pennsylvania.

The pooling regulation, first submitted last year by the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB), would require 45 percent of the over-order premium to be distributed among all Pennsylvania dairy farmers.

The hearing was called by Mike Waugh, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Committee.

"This issue has proven to be quite contentious, divisive, and complicated," Waugh noted in a statement. "As a result, and after receiving questions from several members, I am announcing a public hearing to receive testimony from the many affected parties on this issue."

Several major milk cooperatives in the state have weighed in on different sides of the issue.

The House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, chaired by Raymond Bunt, will also participate in the hearing.

The hearing will take place at the Toftrees Resort and Conference Center in State College on March 19 at 10 a.m.

## Keystone Farm Holstein Tops Convention Sale

**BETHLEHEM (Northampton Co.)** — A consignment by Keystone Farm, Easton, topped the Pennsylvania Holstein Convention Sale here Feb. 20.

A first choice Morty or Champion by Keystone Con Precious sold for \$10,300, highest bid at the sale. Michael and Cynthia Weimer, Emlenton, were the buyers.

Second high-selling lot, at \$8,800, was a first choice Finley by Miss Solid Gold LL Lash, con-

signed by the Weimers and purchased by Sharon Gentile of Glen Rock.

Peachey Lee Tina, consigned by Tyler Peachey of Petersburg,

went for \$7,000, third highest at the sale. Tina Syndicate of Harrisburg was the buyer.

The sale averaged \$3,373 on 73 lots for a gross total of \$246,200.

## Act Quickly For Crop Insurance Benefits

**CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.)** — Pennsylvania is one of 15 states where farmers can significantly increase their crop insurance coverage without paying a higher net premium, but producers must sign-up by March 15, according to Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

The "Targeted States Crop Insurance Financial Assistance Program" offered by USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) will provide the financial

assistance to farmers in states that have been underserved by crop insurance.

"Crop insurance premiums have just been discounted for Pennsylvania farmers," said Joel Rotz, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Director of National Legislative Program. "Farmers should contact their crop insurance agent immediately to take advantage of the new benefit."





### C&M Farm Services Inc.

Elizabethtown • Pennsylvania

*"Unique Farm Services"*

**RONI CLARK** • Licensed & Insured  
Phone: 717.361.6065 • Fax: 717.361.0867  
E-mail: cnoflies@paonline.com

*We offer the following services for the most complete pest control possible. Whether your need is to control pests, eliminate harmful bacteria, or encourage beneficial insects, we have the tools to help you.*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BALANCE</b> (kills adult flies &amp; beetles)</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small;">Flies and beetles are susceptible to many naturally occurring diseases. Applied twice a week, BALANCE (a naturally occurring fungus) works to reduce the adult fly &amp; beetle population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fumigation</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bird control (Avitrol)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spraying for common flies and destructive beetles</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hister Beetle trapping</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rodent control (PEQAP Trained)</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fly Parasites and Hister Beetles</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Supplies for the "Do-it-yourselfer"</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GET READY FOR SPRING!</b></li> </ul>	

### Early Order Program – Save Big On All Grain Equipment And Dryers In March





- Weight-Tronix Feed Mill
- Utility Augers
- Air Drying Systems
- Transport Augers
- Feed Bins
- Grain Dryers
- Bucket Elevators
- Wet Tanks
- Parts & Motors
- Strring Systems
- Grain Bins

We Sell and Install Farm and Commercial Bin Packages. Or We Provide Free Bin-Jack Use With Your New Bin Purchase.



ACE Hardware  
Your Helpful Hardware Folks!



**EMHERR**  
FARM & HOME CENTER  
464-3321 or 800-732-0053  
www.aceretailer.com/emherr  
Herrville Rd & Rt 272 South  
2 1/2 Miles South of Willow Valley Square  
Not Responsible For Typographical Errors

Mon Fri  
6 30 am-8 00 pm  
Sat  
7 30 am-6 00 pm