

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Milk parlour update

Jaco Vermaak from George writes:

I would like to comment on your article in the *Ubisi Mail* of March 2009 regarding "The right parlour for the job".

With regard to ***herringbone milking parlours***, I would like to note the following:

We have some 60-point herringbone parlours down in the Tsitsikamma. The new trend now is to do a double-up system (two herringbones next to each other). In the 60-bale herringbone we are milking up to 600 cows an hour.

With regard to rotary milking parlours: At this stage we regulate the speed of the platform so that the cows would be finished milking by the time they get to the exit side of the rotary (usually about 7 to 9 minutes per rotation). Ten per cent is an excepted figure for second round cows (cows that take longer to milk than the average cow).

When adjusting the speed of the platform, also keep in mind that there will be enough time for the cow to finish the feed that was allocated to her (this is if you are doing in-bail feeding). If the platform is turning too fast for the operator, a second operator should be added.

Today you don't actually see steel platforms any more. Most of them are concrete. We have 2 x 100 bale (cow) rotaries in South Africa, both with an automation system installed. The biggest one in the world is a 116 bale rotary.

Over-milking and under-milking: Most of the farmers with rotaries (and herringbones) are now installing a dairy automation system. This will prevent over-milking, even if you only install ACR's (automatic cluster removers).

Rotary versus herringbone: My comment will be that a rotary is much easier to manage and much cleaner. Herringbones do milk faster though, with an equal amount of bales.



Send your letters to:

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