

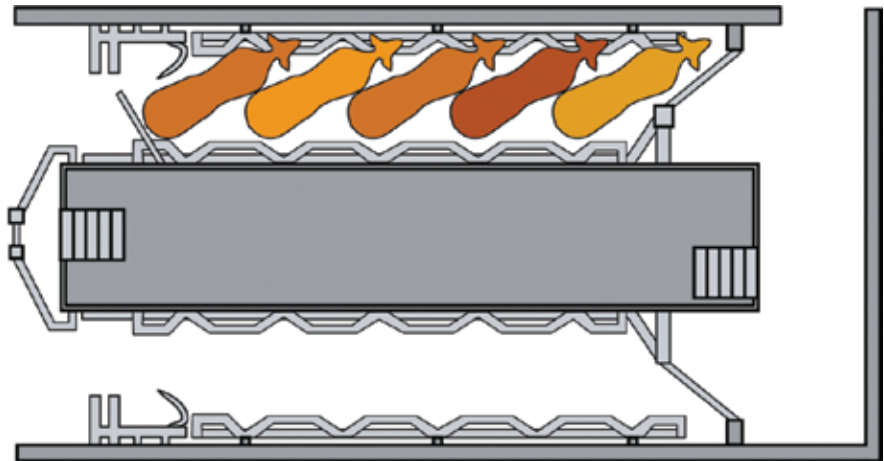
# Moving dairy animals to and from the parlour

**When dairy cows are moved to and from the milking parlour, special care should be taken to avoid placing any undue stress on the animals, as this will affect their milk production.**

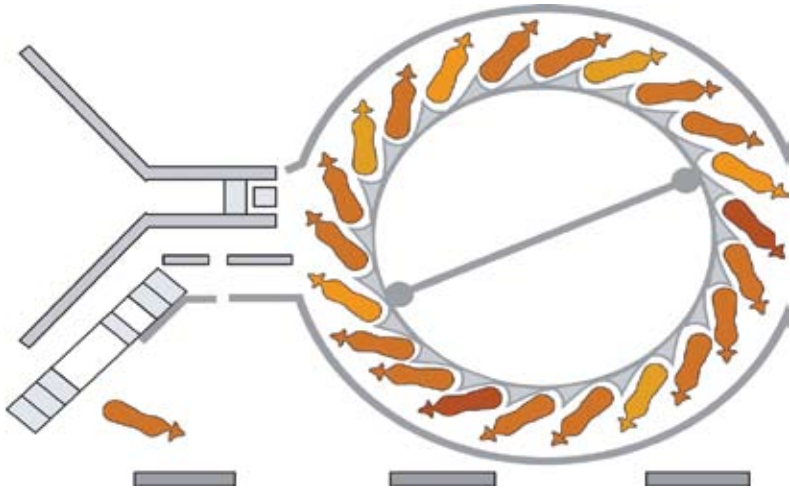
Animals have a natural fear of humans. If you get too near to an animal, it will usually move away from you. If the animal cannot move away from you, it will move towards you. Animals also have a natural fear of anything that enters their protective space. We call this space their flight zone.

## **Take note of the following when you have to move animals:**

- Do not shout or make sudden movements, as this can frighten animals.
- Do not put an animal in a situation where its flight zone is closed off and it does not know where to go. If this happens, it will try to find a way to escape and can seriously injure you or itself.
- Do not use sticks or prodders to herd animals.
- Announce your presence to the animal by talking to it.
- Animals will not move into dark places, so make sure that there is adequate lighting.
- Make sure that the path to the milking parlour is wide enough for the animals to walk comfortably and that there is no risk of slipping or injury.



Herringbone structure



## Rotary structure

### Moving cows to the milking parlour

There are different types of milking parlours. The way we handle the cows will depend on the specific type of milking parlour.

### Herringbone

This type of structure can be single or double sided. This relatively cheap construction is ideal for an expanding herd.

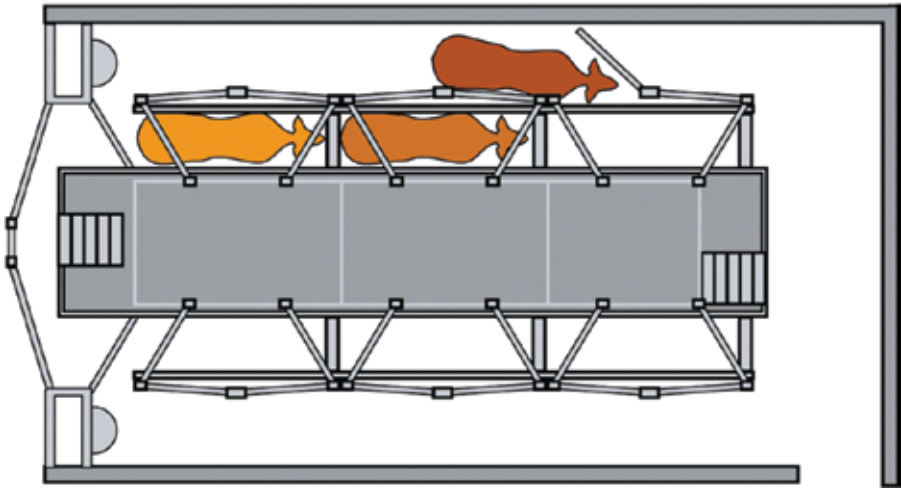
The herringbone milking system is one of the most labour effective batch milking parlours available today and the milkers don't get tired. It offers high throughput and efficient labour usage by promoting calm, harmonious cow traffic. The system actually supports shorter milking sessions. This means cows can spend more time eating, drinking and resting to achieve higher milk production.

### Rotary

This usually has an elevated platform and produces a steady cow output with easy operation. The milking speed is regulated and the milker doesn't have to walk up and down the parlour.

In a rotary milking parlour the cow walks onto a rotating platform. The platform rotation moves the cow to the operator position. The operator can then perform the necessary tasks to milk the cows properly. After milking the cow exits the milking parlour.

Cows are constantly entering and exiting the rotary parlour. The continuous flow is the main contributor to the high parlour throughput. Cows have a very short walking distance



Tandem parlour

into the milking stall and are brought to the operator. The operator does not waste time walking from cow to cow. The platform operating continuously at a constant speed controls the pace of the operators.

### Tandem parlour

Tandem parlours are designed for side milking. The cows stand in separate stalls along the pit edge, where you have a full-length view of them. They can also see you and soon get used to your presence. This results in a placid herd, where individual attention is welcomed by the cows and administered easily by the milker. This personal, hands-on attention allows you to identify udder health problems, irregularities and the status of every cow in your herd.

Cows are moved into the milking parlour one by one if it is a rotary or tandem parlour and in groups if it is a herringbone parlour. We do not use any restraints in the milking parlour. After milking cows are taken out of the holding pen and back to their paddocks.

### Restraining animals in a humane way

We usually do not restrain animals individually in the milking parlour. Gates are used to keep cows still while milking. In some rotary parlours a chain is closed behind each animal to keep cows in their stalls.

When we milk by hand we can use a restraint to keep the cow still during milking. Make sure to place the restraint above the cow's knees. [UM](#)