

Build a milking shed

In the previous edition of *Ubisi Mail*, we stressed the importance of planning for the future of your dairy operation. This time we look at a well-constructed small-scale milking shed.

A milking shed consists of the following sections and parts:

A milking parlour: The milking parlour contains two tandem crates (stalls that are next to each other) with side gates, in which the cows are milked. The crates consist of wooden poles and planks, fastened with wire. Horizontal poles prevent the cows from pushing against the wall. Feeding troughs cut from plastic fertiliser drums, are fixed in front of the crates on shorter poles.

A milk room: This room is used as a cooling room, where the milk cans are stored to keep the milk cool. It can also be used as a wash room, where the equipment is washed.

A feed room: This room is used for storing feed.

A floor: The floor should be made from concrete, as it can be kept clean easily. On the one side of the floor, there is a manure canal which runs between the crates and supporting poles. The floors should have a coarse finish, so that the cows don't slip easily. The floor should slope slightly to one side, so that water can run off.

Walls: Walls can be made of bricks, clay or reeds. Reed walls should be about 1,7 m high. Brick walls should have foundations of 450 mm x 230 mm, with a 220 mm foundation wall (three bricks high). It should have a 110 mm upper wall, and the whole brick wall should be 1,7 m high when finished.

The roof: The roof can be made from flat corrugated iron (sinkplaat) with a slope of about seven degrees. At the lowest point of the roof, there must be a halved polythene pipe, which will serve as a gutter for collecting rain water for later use. You can also use a rain gutter if you wish. The roof is supported by wooden poles that are 100 or 125 mm in diameter.

Plan your shed so that the cows will walk in on the right side, and will walk out on the left side. The first cow will walk straight into gate one, which will be closed when the cow is in. This cow will exit at a second gate. The second cow will automatically pass gate one, and walk into gate three, and will exit from gate four when she has been milked. This milking shed is designed so that the cows can enter and exit one by one.

In the next edition of *Ubisi Mail*, we will start constructing our milking shed, by preparing the terrain and planting the poles.

(Source: *Small-scale milking shed*, Jordaan & Lindeque, Agricultural Research Council, 2000. For more information, phone them on 012 842 4000). 

Build your own milking shed

Construct the following areas in your milking shed:

- **Milking parlour:** The area where you milk your cows
- **Milk room:** Store the milk cans and keep the milk cool.
Washing room for equipment
- **Feed room:** Storage for the feed.

Building materials

- Wooden poles to support the roof
- Planks for the gates and crates
- Make feeding troughs from plastic fertiliser drums
- Concrete floor: Coarse non-slip finish
- Walls from bricks, clay or reeds
- Roof from corrugated iron.



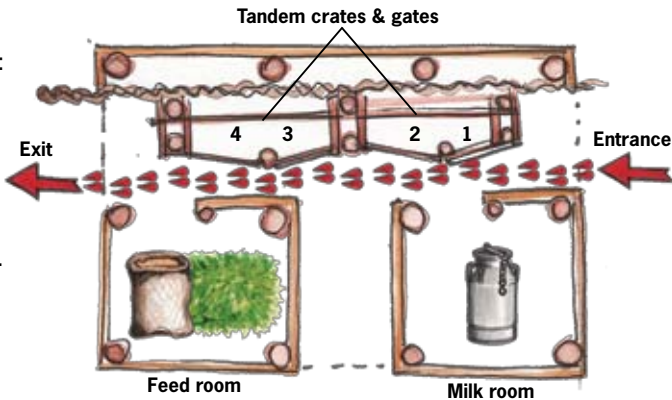
Bou jou eie melkstal

Bou die volgende areas in jou melkstal:

- **Melkery:** Die deel waar jy jou koeie melk
- **Melkkamer:** Waar jy die melkkanne stoor en die melk koel hou. Dit is ook 'n waskamer waar toerusting skoongemaak word
- **Voerkamer:** Vir die stoor van voer.

Boumateriaal

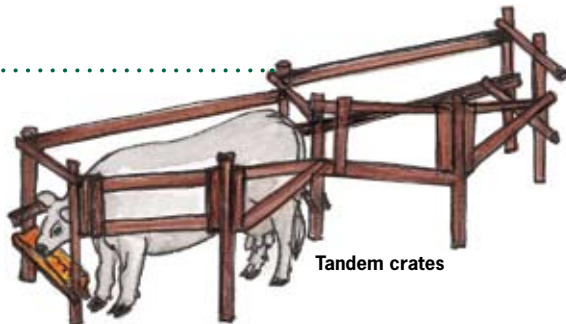
- Houtpale om die dak te ondersteun
- Planke vir die hekke en kratte
- Betonvloere: Growwe, glipvrye afwerking
- Mure van baksteen, klei of riete
- Dak van sinkplaat.



Ikahela lesaka la ho hamela

Aha dibaka tse latelang ka hare ho lesaka la hao la ho hamela:

- **Sebaka sa ho hamela dikgomo:** Moo o hamelang dikgomo tsa hao teng
- **Phaposi ya lebese:** Beha makotikoti a lebese ka moo mme o boloke lebese le phodile. Phaposi ya ho hlwekisa disebediswa



- **Phaposi ya ho boloka dijo tsa diphoofolo:** Sebaka sa ho boloka dijo tsa diphoofolo.

Thepa ya ho aha

- Dipalo tsa patsi ho tshhehetsa marulelo
- Mapolanka bakeng sa diheke le mabokoso a ho kenya dibotlolo tsa lebese
- Etsa dibaka tseo diphoofolo di jellang ho tsona ka diteromo tsa plasetiki tse tshelang manyolo
- Fatshe ebe konkereiti ho be mahwashe, ho se thelle
- Mabota ebe a setene, letsopa kapa lehlaka
- Marulelo masenke.

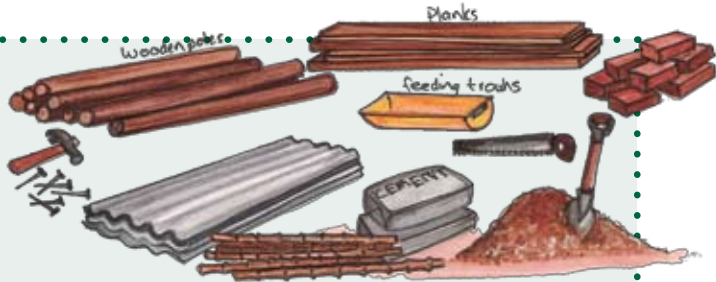
Yakha ishede lakho lokusengela

Yakha lezi zindawo ezilandelayo eshedeni lakho lokusengela:

- **Indlwana yokusengela:** Indawo lapho osengela khona izinkomo zakho
- **Indlu yobisi:** Amakani obisi agcine, ubisi ulugcine lubanda. Indlu yokuwashela izinto zokusebenza
- **Indlu yokufidela:** Indawo yokucina ukudla.

Izinto zokwakha

- Amapali okhuni: ukwesekela iphezulu lendlu
- Amapulangwe: amasango namakhreyithi
- Yenza izinto zokudlela ngamadramu kamanyolo epulasitiki
- Phansi usimende, ohhadlazelayo ongasheleli
- Izindonga: izitini, ubumba noma umhlanga
- Phezulu: uthayela.



Ukuzakhela ishedi yakho yokusengela

Yakha ezi ndawo zilandelayo kwindawo yakho yokusengela:

- **Indawo yokusengela:** Indawo osengela kuyo iimazi zakho.
- **Igumbi lobisi:** Gcina ubisi ezinkonxeni uze ulugcine ubisi lupholile. Indawo yokuhlambela izixhobo ezisetyenziswayo.
- **Igumbi lokutyisela:** Indawo yokucina ukutya kwezilwanyana.

Izinto zokwakha

- lipali zomthi: zokuxhasa uphahla
- Amaplanga: iigeyithi namakhreyithi
- Yenza iindawo zokutyisela izilwanyana usebenzisa imigqomo yezichumiso yeplastikhi
- Umgangatho waphantsi wesamente: apha ngaphezulu mawungabi myibilizi, ube rhabaxa
- Iindonga: izitena ezincinci, udongwe okanye iingcongolo
- Uphahla: amazinki. 