

# DAIRY FACILITY CHECKLIST

Many items need to be considered when planning or remodeling a dairy facility. Use the following guide and checklist to determine if the facility is adequate.

1. Has the dairy been issued appropriate use permits by local and state regulating agencies? Yes :\_ No :\_

## Site Location

1. Does the dairy facility meet the following conditions:
  - Near adequate feed supply? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Near services required on routine basis (milk equipment supplies, veterinarian, feed supplies, etc.)? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Compatible with existing agricultural enterprises? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Does not contribute to contamination of live water sources (streams, drains, ground water, etc.)? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Convenient for family oriented services? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Availability of labor? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Compatible with long-range growth potential of nearby population centers? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Site orientation in regards to wind, sun, and natural protection? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Future expansion? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Land available for waste water disposal? Yes :\_ No :\_

## Water Supply

1. Is an adequate supply of quality water available? Yes :\_ No :\_  
(Supplies of less than 75 - 100 gallons per cow day are considered undesirable.)

## Milking Parlor

1. Does the milking parlor have the capacity to milk the entire herd in 8 hours or less? Yes :\_ No :\_
2. Are the return lane widths within 32 to 36 inches? Yes :\_ No :\_
3. Are the turning areas within 50 to 54 inches? Yes :\_ No :\_

## Holding Pen

1. Does the holding pen funnel the cows into the parlor efficiently? Yes :\_ No :\_
2. Is there adequate space to hold cows - 14 ft<sup>2</sup> per cow for small breeds and 16 ft<sup>2</sup> per cow for large large breeds? Yes :\_ No :\_
3. Does the holding pen limit capacity of cows to number tha can be milked in 1 to 1 1/2 hours or less? Yes :\_ No :\_
4. Is the floor sloped 2 to 5 percent? Yes :\_ No :\_
5. For large herds, will the holding pen accomodate 1 1/3 corral changes? Yes :\_ No :\_

## Housing and Service Areas

1. Are the following free-stall requirements met? Yes :\_ No :\_

Average Herd Weight	Width	Length	Height Side Rails
1,000 lbs	3'6"	6'10"	40"
1,200 lbs	3'9"	7'0"	42"
1,400 lbs	4'0"	7'0"	45"
1,600 lbs	4'0"	7'6"	48"

2. Are the following minimum alley width requirements for free-stall facility being met?:
- Feeding alley between bunk and front of free-stall - 9 to 10 feet? Yes :\_ No :\_
- Feeding alley between bunk and back of stall row - 10 to 12 feet? Yes :\_ No :\_
- Resting alley between backs of two stall rows - 8 to 10 feet? Yes :\_ No :\_
3. Is at least 50 ft<sup>2</sup> per cow allowed in loose housing? Yes :\_ No :\_
4. Are summer shade areas 30 to 50 ft<sup>2</sup> per cow? Yes :\_ No :\_
5. Are the following lot conditions met:
- Paved lots - 50 to 100 ft<sup>2</sup> per cow plus housing? Yes :\_ No :\_
- Unpaved lots - 350 to 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> per cow with 2% grade away from feed area? Yes :\_ No :\_
- Combination - 350 ft<sup>2</sup> per cow with at least 50 ft<sup>2</sup> paved per cow? Yes :\_ No :\_
- Feed aprons - 12 to 16 feet wide? Yes :\_ No :\_
- Cow traffic areas - at least 12 feet wide? Yes :\_ No :\_
- Water areas - 12 to 14 feet paved around source? Yes :\_ No :\_

## Feeding Facilities

1. Are there 24 to 30 inches of feed manager if all cows are fed at one time? Yes :\_ No :\_
2. Are there 12 to 18 inches of feed if cows always have access to complete ration? Yes :\_ No :\_
3. Are the feed apron on cow pads sloped 1/8 inch per foot away from the feedline? Yes :\_ No :\_
4. Are the recommended distances from top of feedline to feed apron (12 inches) and to cow apron (16 inches) being met? Yes :\_ No :\_
5. Is 30 inches per cow allowed for lock-type stanchions? Yes :\_ No :\_

## Maternity Area

1. Are there 120 to 140 ft<sup>2</sup> per stall? Yes :\_ No :\_
2. Is there one stall per 25 to 50 cows? Yes :\_ No :\_
3. Are the stalls designed for rapid cleaning and disinfecting? Yes :\_ No :\_

### **Hospital Area**

1. Are there separate facilities for sick and /or cows treated with drugs (especially in large herds)? Yes :\_ No :\_
2. Are there individual pens of 120 to 140 ft<sup>2</sup>? Yes :\_ No :\_

### **Manure and Waste Handling**

1. Is the facility designed to meet the following requirements:
  - Designed to provide total retention of all dairy waste, dairy runoff, feed storage runoff barn wastes? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - In compliance with Waste Management Guidelines for Confined Feeding Operations (Dairy)? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - In compliance with specific county ordinances? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Designed to prevent any possible air or water pollution? Yes :\_ No :\_
  - Size of storage to be based on cow numbers, water use per cow, days of storage, drainage area, and seasonal moisture and evaporation data? Yes :\_ No :\_

Answering 'no' to any of the above questions indicates a facility weakness that contributes to management problems and/or lack of efficiency.