

spinder

DAIRY HOUSING CONCEPTS



I farm

with love for the cow

Space creates cow comfort and facilitates production

It's not just the farms that are getting bigger; so are the cows! Housing must grow along with the animals. Cow comfort is strongly determined by the space that the barn offers the animals. Each animal has a comfortable bed, with enough room to lie down and stand up easily, walking space to move easily, and an accommodating feeding place.

The benefits of comfort | spinderdhc.com

“Cow comfort: all cows lie comfortably ruminating”

Jan Altenburg
Dairy farmer, Koufurderrige, Friesland (NL)



“The better laid out a barn is, the smaller the differences become between the best cows and the rest of the herd.”

Nico Vreeburg
Vetvice

“All too often, the concept of cow comfort is still confused with things like pampering and luxury for the cow. That’s not what it should be about. Cow comfort is about providing the necessary conditions for the cow. Animal welfare and economic return are not opposing concepts but rather go hand in hand.” Nico Vreeburg is a veterinarian and has been a trainer of Cowsignals at Vetvice since 2000. He advises dairy farmers worldwide on their barn design, both for new builds and renovations.

Think 20 years ahead when building a new barn

In the Netherlands there are still a relatively large number of freestall barns from the 1990s. These barns are well built and can easily last a number of years. The problem is that they were built with the knowledge and dimensions of the past, often with a cubicle width of 110 cm. “With the size of today’s dairy cow, this cubicle width is really too small,” says Nico Vreeburg. “For high-yielding Holstein herds we recommend 120 cm as a minimum size. For a separate group of heifers, the width can perhaps be changed to 117 cm, but for the dry cows, for example, up to 10 cm extra is needed. When

designing a new barn, first measure your cows and then think 20 years ahead. This is not easy, of course, but it is necessary in order to arrive at a good cubicle width and feeding place size.” Space makes cow comfort and facilitates production. Often a new barn is built for the dairy cows and the old barn is converted for the young stock. This is perfectly possible according to Nico.

“The 1995 barn, by now, is actually a modern young stock barn.”

Bringing comfort from the pasture to the barn

The cow spends 70% of her time indoors, even when being put out to pasture on a daily basis. From the cow’s point of view, the pasture offers her grip and enough space to move forward when lying down and standing up. “We need to offer her this comfort in the barn as well. The cow needs generous dimensions and, above all, sufficient headroom.” For the comfort of the dairy cow, Vetvice favors deep litter or sand in the stalls. Whatever type of bedding is chosen, the dairy farmer’s workmanship is at least as important. A comfortable, clean and dry stall is essential for the cow’s udder health and claw health.

Fully exploiting the genetic potential of your cows

Dairy farmers often talk about their best cows giving lots of milk. “It is actually interesting to look at the differences in lactation numbers. The genetic differences in the herd are often small because many are bred from the same lines. That means every cow has the same great genetic potential. So where does that difference arise?” The cows are kept in the same barn and offered the same feed. To give all cows the right conditions for a higher milk yield, the competition between the animals in the barn must be reduced, Nico Vreeburg concludes. In an older barn, a few stalls can be sacrificed in favor of better access to feed and water for all cows. Although there is then room for a fewer number of cows, the efficiency goes up. “The better equipped a barn is, the smaller the differences become between the best cows and the rest of the herd.”



Features

- Universally applicable
- Steering effect on the cow
- Cubicle enlargement
- Wide range of positioning possibilities
- Coupling per 2 lying places

Available for cubicle widths:

- 110 cm - 112,5 cm - 115 cm
- 120 cm - 122 cm - 125 cm - 131 cm

Make optimal use of cubicle space with a waved neckbar

By replacing the straight neckbar with a waved neck bar, you give the cow considerably more room when lying down and standing up. The height of the cubicle can be increased by up to 30 cm. An additional advantage is that the shape steers the cow towards the middle of the cubicle and the cow lies straight in her stall. Because of the steering effect of the waved neckbar, less manure will end up in the cubicle. Depending on the type of bedding, sand or litter is therefore saved.



Arena calf pen, for a good start for the calf

For years, an individual calf pen has been considered the best solution for providing a hygienic and protected environment for calves during their first few weeks of life. With its plastic walls and plastic floor, the Arena calf pen is easy to clean. The handy standard castor wheels enable you to move the calf pen outside for this purpose. Both the inside and outside are smooth so that dirt easily loosens. The floor has a number of drainage holes and, weighing only 7 kg, is easy to remove for cleaning.



Features

- Plastic calf pen
- Lightweight plastic floor
- Galvanised front fence with fixation function
- Easy to clean
- Movable with castor wheels

Specifications

- 91 x 150 cm
- 101 x 160 cm
- Mono
- Stereo (2 calf pens linked)
- Various accessories available

It starts with the careful rearing of your calves

Bertjan Westerlaan
Vetvice



The current average lifetime production of a dairy cow in the Netherlands is around 31,000 kg. “We’re all convinced that this could easily go up,” says Bertjan Westerlaan. He too is a vet and Cowsignals trainer at Vetvice. “Two more lactations is our goal. Cow comfort and the right design of the barn are important to ensure that the cow ages healthily. But the basis for this already lies in good calf rearing.”

In recent years there has been a lot of investment in building for the expansion of dairy cows. This has not always included investment in the young stock barn, even though the calf is the dairy cow of the future. “For the youngest calves we recommend individual pens. Every dairy farmer should have 15% pens available for his dairy cows. These can be placed outside under a roof. The same goes for the first straw pens as group housing. Important is the all-in-all-out principle: create small stable groups of 6 to 8 calves. In practice, it has been shown that a group size of more than 10 calves increases the risk of respiratory infections.”

Sufficient attention for the climate in the barn

“The 1995 barn is indeed a great modern young stock barn,” says Bertjan Westerlaan. Calves up to 5 months are housed on straw, preferably with a two-floor principle with a slatted floor between the straw and the feedfront. “Important is attention for the climate in the barn. Tube ventilation is a good supplement to natural ventilation, and an important factor in protecting the calves’ lungs from toxins and bacteria. Fresh air provides oxygen. Avoid drafts, at all costs, though!”

A proper mattress makes a big difference in comfort

From about 5 months of age, calves can be housed in cubicles. When doing so, invest in a good calf mattress. “For a relatively small additional cost, mattresses offer a big difference in comfort over a simple rubber mat. Regular dusting of the mattresses gives the dairy farmer visibility of the animals, makes the calves calmer and has a positive influence on the later udder health of the adult dairy cow,” says Bertjan.

The right feedfront increases the quality of work

For the smallest calves, a tumbstone feedfront is the right choice. It is available in the right size for each group. The calves already learn to put their heads through the feedfront and, even when dehorned, they experience the comfort of a large head opening.

“Young stock should be trained for the transition to the dairy cows.”

From about 7 months onwards, but especially with pregnant heifers, a self-Locking feedfront is recommended. A feedfront prevents crowding at the feed, creates a calm atmosphere and gives the dairy farmer the opportunity to treat the animals: hoof trimming, condition scoring, insemination or a last check on young stock before they go to the dry cow section. A self-closing feedfront prevents stress for both the calf and the dairy farmer, and this increases the quality of work.

Age category (months)

	0,5 – 3	3-6	6-12	12-18	18-22
Cubicle width (cm)	60	70	80	90	100-110
Cubicle length - outside row (cm)	130	160	180	200	220
Cubicle length - inner row (cm)	130	160	180	190	210
Walking- eating space (cm)	175	200	220	275	350
Feeding width per animal (cm)	35	40-45	45-50	50-55	55-60

Spinder quality; more than just a strong story

Spinder products are easy to mount and offer decades of reliability. The best example of this can be found in practice. We regularly encounter Spinder products from the 70s or 80s which still function without any problems. When these feedfronts are renewed, this is done because they unfortunately no longer fit the dimensions of the modern cow. The feedfronts are often still in good shape and can be re-used for young stock.

Spinder distinguishes itself by using extra strong constructions. We can deliver 'old fashioned' quality because we still have 'old fashioned' machines in our modern production hall to efficiently cut and handle thick steel strips. Our fastening clamps are made of thicker steel, making our clamps the strongest clamps available.

Would you like to experience the Spinder quality for yourself?

Request a free information package with a sample clamp from us.

Scan the QR code or go to our website spinderdhc.com/informationpack



“The feedfront is still regularly used to secure the cows for insemination or gestation checks. It moves as smoothly as it did in 1986.”

Anne Jetske Kuipers

Strong international network of Spinder dealers

Spinder serves the Dutch as well as the international market via dealers throughout all of Europe and Canada. This requires a strong dealer network which brings Spinder and the end user closer together.

Spinder work exclusively with dealers who share Spinder's core values: quality, reliability and professionalism. And that is clearly reflected in the competence and service of our dealers.

Don't hesitate to contact our Spinder dealers for:

- Any questions you may have about the Spinder range
- Professional advice and information
- Sales, service and warranty matters
- Solutions to suit your specific needs

Stock

In order to be able to deliver quickly, Spinder keeps a large stock.

Custom products

Another of Spinder's distinguishing values is the capability of offering tailor-made; custom solutions based on the requirements of the farmer. We have in-house engineers who can translate your requirements into a workable and feasible plan and who can produce a draft for the workshop to work from. Non-regular sizes and shapes are no problem and can be supplied within a few weeks.

Spinder, since 1973

Spinder is a reliable supplier of dairy housing equipment. Our company is located in Friesland, a province of the Netherlands with a long and leading position in the dairy industry. Thanks to our knowledge of dairy farming, we can properly advise you and provide you with products that function without problems for decades. Our dairy housing concepts are used by dairy farmers throughout Europe who rely on solid quality and smart solutions for the daily activities of the cow.



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