

THE BARN; A SOURCE OF COMFORT



2015 TRAINING SESSION PLAN*

OBJECTIVE

TO EXPLORE PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR MAKING PROFITABLE IMPROVEMENTS WITH REGARDS TO COW COMFORT IN THE BARN.

TEACHING METHOD

FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF A DAIRY FARMER, ACTIVELY MOVE THROUGH THE PROCESS THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO PLAN A COW COMFORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN YOUR BARN.

TRAINING PLAN

1

THE COW

Objective: Understand the cow's behavior in her natural environment.

- Why doesn't my cow want to jump the gutter?
- Why doesn't my cow want to move forward?
- Why doesn't my cow want to enter the hoof trimming chute?
- How do I reduce stress for my cows and me?
- Why is bunk space so important?

ACTIVITY

A COW'S PERSPECTIVE

With the help of videos, get inside a cow's skin to better understand her behavior in her natural environment.




* Depending on the version of the course (free-stall, tie-stall or mixed) the content could slightly differ.

2

COW COMFORT

Objective: Explore various recognized methods used to detect discomfort problems and their associated causes. Evaluate cow comfort in my barn.

- How do I know if cows are comfortable in my barn?
- How does a cow normally stand up and lie down?
- Why are my cows getting injured?
- Why are my cows perching?
- What's the comfort situation in our barns?
- VIDEO: Bofran Farm, a Traditional Source of Comfort. 

ACTIVITY






WHY DOES IT HURT?

What is our tolerance level for injuries to our cows?
What are the causes?

3

HOUSING

Objective: To discuss the recommended cow comfort standards and potential solutions for the typical housing types.

- What are the stall dimensions required to optimize rest, feed intake, health, cleanliness and movement?
- Priorities and acceptable compromises.
- On what criteria should I base my choice of resting and alley surfaces?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of various bedding types?
- VIDEO: The barn, a Ventilated Source of Comfort (with an engineer). 
- VIDEO: Irma Farm, a Source of Comfort. 
- VIDEO: Vaudal Farm, a Pastured Source of Comfort. 

4

THE PROJECT

Objective: To integrate the notions of comfort and profitability by creating a case of improving cow comfort in the barn.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

MY COMFORTABLE BARN

Using of one proposed case, the participants will propose modifications according to the recommendations, priorities, budget and expected impact.

5

THE PROFITABILITY OF COMFORT

Objective: To demonstrate the economic interest of improving cow comfort in the barn.

- Is improving comfort a productive investment?
- Which are the most profitable improvements to comfort?
- If I improve the comfort level in my barn, will I recoup my investment?

ACTIVITY

EXCEL BARN IMPROVEMENT SIMULATION TOOL

Based on the calculations of our tool called Profitable Milk, you will participate in discussions regarding the impact of changes to comfort and herd performance.

