

## 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

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#### 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.

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## 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?

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## 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. 

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## 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.

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## 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.

