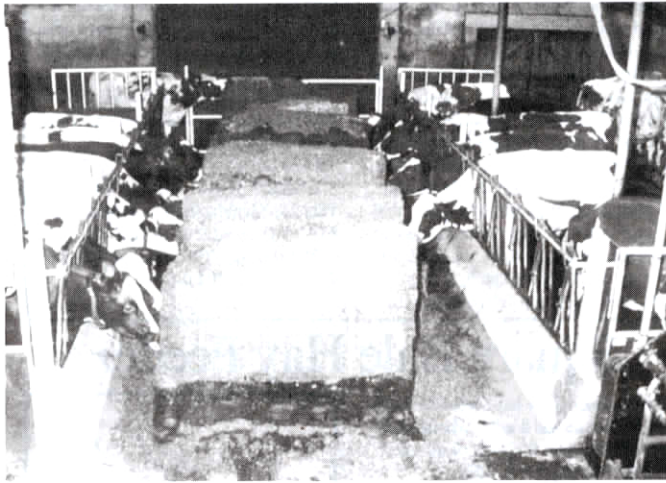


# Latest New Products, Ideas From Europe



## Labor-Saving Dairying System Lets Cows Feed Themselves

Dairy cows feed themselves in a new labor-saving feeding system that's catching on fast in Europe.

Once a week, silage is loaded into a feeding alleyway with movable stalls on each side. As cows eat into the silage pile, the feeding stalls, driven by electric motors, are moved forward.

"With a conventional stall system serving 100 cows, one person working alone spends about an hour a day on feeding chores. With our system, he gets the job done in only one hour per week," says Frits Bennink, sales manager of the Weelink Co., headquartered in Holland and one of several companies selling the new-style system.

Individual cows can eat any time they want day or night. There's always an empty stall.

"Because cows don't all eat at once, you only need to provide one feeding stall per 2.5 cows," explains Bennink. "A dairyman adapting our system to an existing barn can increase herd size 25 to 30% without increasing size of the building."

Maximum capacity for a single Weelink system is 36 stalls — 18 on each side. It handles 120 to 130 cows. Additional full or partial-length movable stall sections can be installed as needed. "The largest we've installed to date is a 320-cow system in East Germany," notes Bennink.

## Handy New Calf Puller

"It's handy and hygienic," says the Hanewacker Co. of its new wheelbarrow-style calf puller.

For pulling, the wheel serves as a rope winch. The wheelbarrow handles fit over the cow's hip bones, serving as a body-fitted anchor to provide leverage for pulling without injuring the cow or her calf.

The puller, made mostly of aluminum, weighs only 35 pounds, allowing one person working alone to keep it aligned and tensioned, whether the cow is standing or lying down.

After delivery, the puller converts into a handy wheelbarrow for transporting the new-born calf.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup,

Doing the daily feeding chores is as simple as going to the barn once or twice a day to push the switch to start the electric motors which move the feeding stalls on each side forward a few inches.

When standing in a feeding stall, the cow's front feet rest on a 3-ft wide platform. It separates feed and manure, helping to keep feed fresh and clean. If cows are feeding when you want to move the panels, they can stay put.

In Europe, silage for dairy animals is generally grass silage put up in trenches or bunkers. It's tightly packed and removed in huge blocks up to 8 or 10 feet wide.

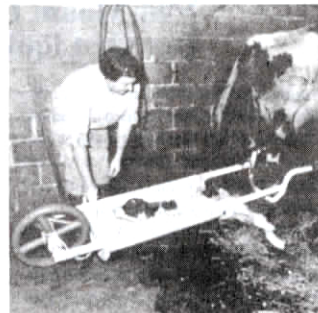
"Dairymen in North America could feed alfalfa silage but it would be less compacted and you'd have to haul in silage more often — probably two or three times a week," says Bennink.

For more information on the popular new feeding system, contact:

FARM SHOW Followup, Weelink Co., Tynaarlosestraat 58a, 9481 AD Vries, Holland (ph 003105921-428129).

FARM SHOW Followup, Wopa, E.T. Malt & Son, Elm Farm, Shippdham, Thefford, Norfolk, England (ph 0362 820254).

FARM SHOW Followup, Meekes Groenlo, Industrieweg 7, 7141 DD Groenlo, Holland (ph 05440-65180).



Hanewacker & Zn, Oude Oppenhuizerweg 34, 8606 JC Sneek, Postbus 180, 8600 AD Sneek, Holland (ph 05150-20000).



MultiTrac MT12

## All-Hydraulic Tractor Gives Driver Unobstructed View

"It gives the driver a clear, unobstructed view of all the action," says J.J. Steketee, designer and manufacturer of an all-hydraulic tractor for cultivating and spraying young trees and specialty crops.

The front wheels are each equipped with a hydraulic drive motor. The rear wheels do the steering. Forward speed is infinitely variable from 0 to 30 mph. Both front and rear wheels feature adjustable row spacing.

Model MT18, equipped with an 18 hp

Briggs and Stratton engine, is designed for both cultivating and spraying. It sells for about \$18,000.

Model MT12, equipped with a 12 hp Briggs and Stratton engine, is designed for cultivation but not for spraying. It sells for about \$12,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Machinefabriek, Steketee by Ovezandseweg 6A, 4436 RE, Oudelande, Holland (ph 01104-8233).

## New Calf-Feeding System

"Give your calves individual attention in a group environment. Save time. Raise healthier calves."

You can do it all with the new Wydale calf feeding system, says designer Robin Wyatt, who raises about 100 calves per year on his English dairy farm.

The new-style feeders are available in a 5-teat model and a 3-teat model. They're made of polyethylene and are fitted with galvanized mounting hooks. By moving them from pen to pen, one person using two 5-teat models can feed 70 calves in an hour, says Wyatt.

Using the Wydale system, you group 3 to 10 similar age calves per pen. You hang the feeder on the pen gate in such a way that the teats are level with the calves' backs.

"The head-up position and sucking action provided by the Wydale feeder encourages the release of saliva, which aids digestion," says Wyatt. "A typical calf can be weaned on 31 lbs. of milk replacer, as against 70 lbs. using the Ad Lib method."

The cowling on the front of the plastic feeder is designed to protect each calf from its neighbor, and to ensure that even the slowest drinker gets his fair share.

Dimensions of the 5-teat model feeder are 50 in. long, 13 in. deep and 20 in. wide. It weighs 21 lbs. and retails for about \$157. The 3-teat model weighs 15 lbs. and is 31 in. long, 13 in. deep and 20 in. wide. It retails for about \$107.

Each teat compartment holds 5-1/4 pints of milk replacer. You only need to fill as many compartments as you have calves in the pen. A sick calf can be given medicated milk, and newly-purchased calves



can be fed electrolite without a struggle, Wyatt points out.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Wydale Plastics Ltd., Cathole Bridge Road, Crewkerne, Somerset, England TA18 8RF.