



Cows can face into the center or outside of the Rotoflo. Worker in foreground is leaning on cap which seals unit, preventing dirt, debris from spilling into water "pad" underneath.

HAS NO MOVING PARTS AND IS MAINTENANCE FREE

Rotary Milking Parlor Floats On Water

A revolutionary rotary milking parlor that floats on water is virtually maintenance free, a feature which its inventor feels will make it more popular than "herringbones" with dairymen throughout the world.

"Capacity per man hour is about 200 cows with a rotary, versus only about 80 cows with a herringbone system. So, if you're looking for a system that will let you milk up to 250 or so cows twice a day without hired help, this new rotary is just the ticket," explains David Johns, marketing director for Rotoflo.

Key to the revolutionary design is its simplicity. "The main reason previous rotaries haven't caught on is that they've required too much expensive maintenance to keep them in operation. It's a brand new ball game with the Rotoflo which has no moving parts to wear out or maintain," Johns told FARM SHOW.

The basic concept can be visualized by taking two cereal bowls of the same size and shape. Partially fill one with water and place the other on top. The upper bowl floats, resembling the upper concrete deck of the Rotoflo which is similarly supported by water. It's virtually frictionless and, fully loaded with 24 to 72 cows, depending on size, it requires only a 1/2 hp motor to turn it.

"We already have two operating units here in New Zealand — one is 30 stalls and the other 24. By the end of this year, we expect to have 15 Rotoflo systems in this country, and six in Australia," says Johns. "We're looking for farm building contractors in the U.S. and Canada interested in selling and installing Rotoflo milking parlors under a licensing agreement."

Johns notes that, in cold weather areas, the Rotoflo can be "freeze proofed" by enclosing it in a heated building. If necessary, the water can be laced with antifreeze to prevent freezing, or oil or other non-freezing liquid can be used instead of water.

The Rotoflos can be custom designed in "merry-go-rounds" of anywhere from 16 to a practical limit of about 72 cows. Estimated cost is about \$1,100 per cow stall for the Rotoflo itself, excluding milking equipment. A special cover keeps dung and dirt from contaminating the water "pad" supporting the floating platform.

About 6,000 gals. of water are required to float the concrete platform of a 30 cow Rotoflo. This much water gives a depth of about 10 in. under the platform and a cushion about 8 in. wide on the sides. Vertical static displacement, when fully loaded with cows, is less than a foot. If just one half of the platform is loaded with cows, the tilt is less than 1.5° and won't interfere with the parlor's rotation.

A drain built into the center carries away washwater. Johns envisions future systems made up of a Rotoflo milking parlor, and a similar floating circular holding pen which would rotate in "sync" with the Rotoflo milking unit. The holding unit would automatically feed cows to be milked onto the Rotoflo without any of the stress and strain they have to contend with in conventional crowding gates and alleys.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rotoflo, P.O. Box 9305, Hamilton, New Zealand (ph 394-981).



Robert Oldeman "farms" 45 elk and 2,000 deer.

Deer, Elk Farming Popular "Down Under"

If you're fed up with lousy cattle and hog profits, maybe you ought to look into deer farming. You'll get a lot of encouragement from deer farmers from "down under" who, prompted by low sheep and cattle prices, are "farming" deer and, in a few cases, elk.

In New Zealand, where the first deer farming license was issued 13 years ago, there are now more than 2,000 deer farming operations, with an average of about 110 animals per farm.

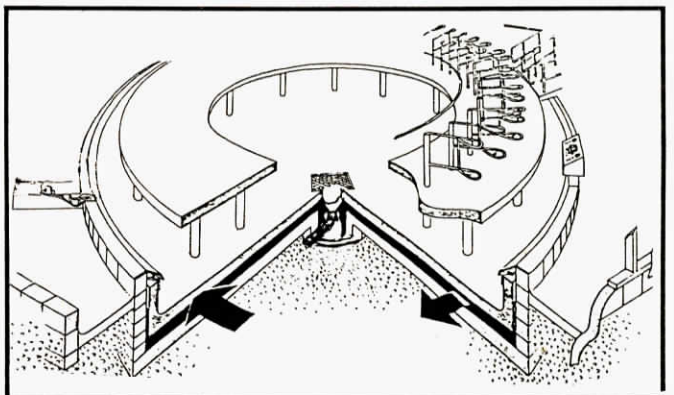
Says Arnold Pickmere, Ag Editor of the New Zealand Herald: "Deer farming has become a valuable if still quite minor diversification, for there are still about 300 sheep for every farmed deer in New Zealand. But it is a farming option which is costing the taxpayer nothing in the way of the supplementary minimum prices on which meat and wool farmers have been forced to depend for some time."

In Australia, livestock producers are being advised to seriously con-

sider deer as an alternative enterprise. Says one official: "Deer could be up to five times as profitable as sheep or cattle, based on the present 250 to 300 commercial deer farms in Australia carrying 20,000 to 25,000 deer."

FARM SHOW visited with Robert Oldeman who, in addition to farming 2,000 Red deer, runs 47 elk and is the first in that country to successfully use embryo transplant. He believes the future belongs to elk and plans to expand to a breeding herd of 400 to 500 cows in the next ten years.

"The main reason for putting more emphasis on elk is their ability to produce top line velvet. An elk bull will yield 30 pounds of velvet which, at \$60 per pound, is worth \$1,800. Deer, on the other hand, only yield eight to ten pounds of velvet. On the meat side, Elk is later maturing than deer. I figure on taking two crops of velvet, then butchering the bulls at 40 months of age when they should dress out at 400 kilos of lean meat."



Arrows and dark area denote water "pad" on which the Rotoflo floats. Entire unit is made of poured concrete.