

**BUILDING REQUIREMENTS.**A: Calf Shed

Due to the inadequate ventilation in this building the decision has been taken to use calf hutches to house very young calves. This building is now being altered to improve ventilation and change the layout and will now house calves as they move out of the calf hutches.

With up to 400 calves born in two 3 month batches in the spring and autumn the need for hygienic well ventilated calf housing is a necessity. This housing must also be efficient as far as labour requirement for looking after the calves and also designed to be quickly cleaned and disinfected for the next calf.

B: Straw Yard

This building is mainly used for calving cows. With up to 50 cows calving in a week at peak times it is simply too small.

Dry cows require additional concentrate feeds in the last three weeks before calving, this is to accustom the rumen to concentrates ready for when they are milking and to help with energy shortages when the growing calf prevents them from eating enough silage. This feeding normally takes place in this group.

Heavily pregnant cows should be housed on straw yards not in cubicles for the last three weeks of pregnancy

C: Cubicle Shed

The replacing of the aging buildings with a modern light and airy building will greatly improve the welfare of the livestock housed in this building.

Some small adjustments to the floor plan are required from what is present now to increase feed passage way areas which will improve welfare.

D: Cubicle Shed

When the milking parlour is replaced part of this area will become available. It will be accommodate one single row of cubicles and a double sided feed passage that will increase at feed area available to the cows and so reduce bullying.

This area will also benefit from a modern light and airy new roof with stepped side wall ventilation and a slatted roof.

E: Cubicle Shed

This modern light and airy building has already shown improvements to welfare and has reduced diseases including mastitis. As the high yielder housing it still requires automatic scrapers, slatted

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collection channel, cubicle mattresses, updated cubicles and automatic rotating cow brushes to bring it up to the highest standard for dairy cows.

#### F: Collecting Yard

Covered collecting yard including enough area for the entire milking herd, calving boxes, sick downer cow pens, automatic sort gate to shed cows into pens for vet treatments and AI as they leave the parlour.

#### G: Rotary Milking Parlour

It is vital for our business to be able to reduce milking time to less than two hours so that there is time left in the day to look after the cows to a high standard. A rotary parlour is the only type of parlour capable of achieving this.

We have chosen this location carefully to achieve good cow flow, next to the high yielders cubicle shed, to the east of the buildings where the majority of the grazing is located to reduce distance the cows walk and for easy access for the milk tanker meeting Farm Assurance and hygiene regulations.

#### H: Cubicle Building

Existing cubicle building with good ventilation, self locking yokes and treatment area to the east with rollover foot trimming crush.

#### I: Store

Storage is required for approximately 1000 large bales of straw, 500 large bales of hay, a large selection of machinery required to run the farm and several straight feeds used to produce a total mixed ration for the cows and young stock.

This building will be dug into the ground by two meters to reduce its impact.

At present the hay and straw are stored outside resulting in 20% to 30% wastage and also implications of using compromised quality feed and wet straw on animal health.

Feed is stored in an aging general purpose building that is struggling to meet Farm Assurance standards. Planning has been recently granted to extend the neighbouring livestock building removing this building its storage area. There are no buildings on farm to store machinery and protect it from the elements.

#### J: Silage Clamps

There is a general shortage of storage for silage that has resulted in some unnecessary spoilage.

It is proposed to replace the existing earth walled clamps with four concrete silage clamps. With a height of three meters but these will be dug into the ground by three meters resulting in little impact. Effluent will drain downhill to the adjacent existing slurry lagoon.

M Else Grange Farm, Staintondale

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