



## Dairy Team

# Modernizing Wisconsin dairy farms

Keeping Wisconsin's \$20.6 billion dairy industry profitable and competitive is critical to economic development in Wisconsin. In many cases, staying competitive means replacing aging barns and outdated milking equipment with new structures and technology.

### Response:

The University of Wisconsin-Extension Dairy Modernization Team helped 1,804 dairy producers consider modernization options and management practices last year. These new facilities are increasing profitability and easing the back-breaking labor of milking cows.

### Impact:

Dairy farmers report their new facilities make them more productive and more profitable and both humans and animals are healthier.

- "My career as a dairyman was going to be cut short without the knee and hip saving features of a parlor." Bob Van Daalwyk, Hilbert
- "Our somatic cell count has dropped by 100,000, our vet bills have decreased, and our herd average has increased by 2,400 pounds per cow after moving into the new barn." Bryan Voegeli, Green County
- "The new parlor has allowed us to milk more cows in much less time than the old flat barn parlor." Dave Geiser, New Holstein
- "I sold my combine for \$35,000 which I used 5 days a year and built the swing 10 parlor which I use twice a day 365 days a year. We now milk the same number of cows in half the time." Karen Reisinger, Sauk County
- "The only thing I wish is that I would have done this 20 years ago." Roger Dahlberg, Crawford County

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