



Low Cost Dairy Modernization

Small changes can make a big difference

The Wisconsin dairy industry is under severe competitive pressure. Farmers are looking for ways to become more efficient without investing heavily in brand new facilities.

Extension's Response

The University of Wisconsin-Extension Dairy Team developed a CD called "Low Cost Parlor and Dairy Housing Alternatives." The CD format makes it easy to share design information and photos. The CD offers ideas, resources and advice from dairy agents, agricultural engineers and economists and video testimonials from producers.

Outcomes

Seventeen of 43 people (40 percent) who responded to the question "Did you take any direct actions on your farm as a result of the information contained in the CD?" answered "yes." These actions ranged from getting estimates and making plans to beginning construction.

Almost all of 53 people who responded to a questionnaire said the CD was useful for making decisions and plans about a low cost modernization.

In another survey of CD users, 10 out of 85 respondents said they had made the change to a low cost parlor system because of what they learned from the CD.

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