Milking Parlor Plans for Small Herds
Michigan State University Agricultural Experiment Station
Circular Bulletin – Farm Building Series
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Issued January 1961
4 pages

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MILKING PARLOR PLANS FOR SMALL HERDS

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There are approximately twenty-five thousand small dairy farm operations in Michigan. In most instances the small dairy herd provides a supplementary income to off-farm employment or as income for retirement. Even though the herd is small, it can provide a satisfactory income with an investment in facilities that will insure high quality milk or cream for market and provide labor saving features for the operator.

Equipment and Storage Area

The area for washing and storing the milk equipment and cooling of the milk can be in the same room as the milking parlor. Figure 3 shows the milk cooler, wash vat, water heater and utensil storage area divided from the milking parlor by a partial wall. This makes a conven-
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Figure 3.—Partial wall separates the milking parlor from the cooling, storage, and cleaning area.

ient arrangement as well as facilities for maintaining milk of high quality for market. Every dairyman enjoys working in pleasant, clean, orderly surroundings which these milking parlor-milk room combinations provide.

Construction Suggestions

Construction of these parlors can be very inexpensive. Locating in the corner of an existing building saves considerable building material, as no additional roof is needed.

If a corner can be used, the two outside walls can be utilized by lining these walls with plywood, cement asbestos sheets, or corrugated metal sheets for easy cleaning and maintenance.

If the building is exposed to cold winds, two inches of insulation should be used.

New walls can be of concrete blocks or wooden studs covered with exterior plywood or other sheet material which can be easily cleaned.

The floor should slope 1/4 inch per foot to a water seal drain connected to an underground tile line. A tile leading to an outlet several hundred feet from the parlor is recommended. Slope the floor away from all doors so that water will not run out the door and freeze on the ramp or steps.

The stanchions or stalls can be made of steel or wood, but steel is much easier to keep clean.

Should a welder not be available, pipe connections using bolts can be purchased from dealers selling barn equipment.

Plans for both the V-type and parallel two-stall parlors are shown on the inside pages.