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Standard Dimensions Used in Laying Out Barn Plans
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Standard Dimensions Used In Laying Out Barn Plans

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Floor plans of barns should be carefully considered before building operations begin. The future arrangement of equipment is dependent upon the spacing of supporting columns. If the plan is not made at the time of construction and if it is later desirable to install equipment, a column may be in the center of a proposed alley, stall, or manger. It is often quite discouraging to attempt a rearrangement after construction.

The purpose of the accompanying plan is to avoid any such difficulties when the barn is planned and to aid in remodeling an old barn. The dimensions shown are for barns 32, 34, and 36 feet wide. They are practically standard but could be slightly changed to meet conditions in barns of different widths. For instance, if a barn was 34 feet wide outside, with two-foot stone walls, the dimensions shown would need to be altered. It is suggested that the dimensions of the alleys be changed rather than the gutter, stall platform, or manger, which should be about as shown.

For cows facing in, perhaps the minimum for litter alley would be three and one-half feet, although alleys as narrow as three feet have been used. It is difficult to keep the walls clean, and it is inconvenient to clean the barn or to carry pails of milk along the alley behind the stock if the litter alleys are narrow. For cows facing out, the litter alley should be not less than 4 feet 6 inches.

The 16-inch gutter is commonly used. Only in extreme cases would one be justified in changing this dimension. A narrow gutter results in a littered platform and alley. Gutter depths are shown in Figure 2.

The length of the stall platform may be varied to fit the particular size of animal housed. See table on length of stall platform for different breeds of stock. It is a good plan to taper the platform from the longest to the shortest dimension shown for each breed. Then the largest animals are stabled in one end with the smaller animals in the opposite end. The depressed platform in front of curb is optional. It prevents the cows from slipping while reaching for feed. The curb should be six inches wide to securely anchor the steel equipment or columns.

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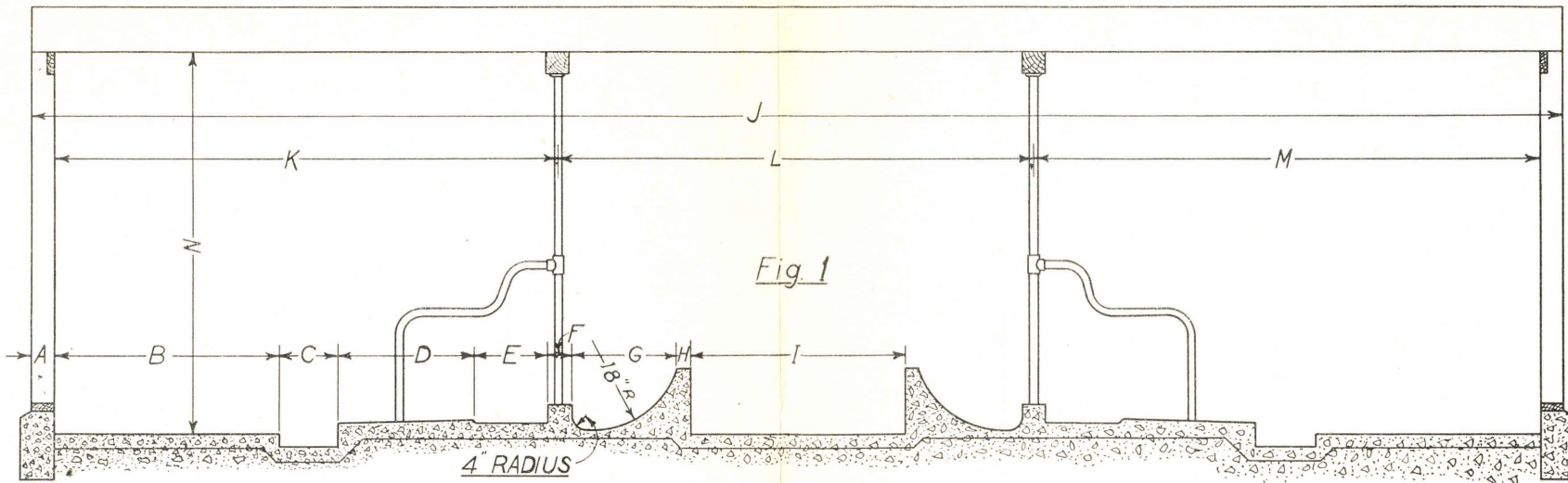


Fig. 1

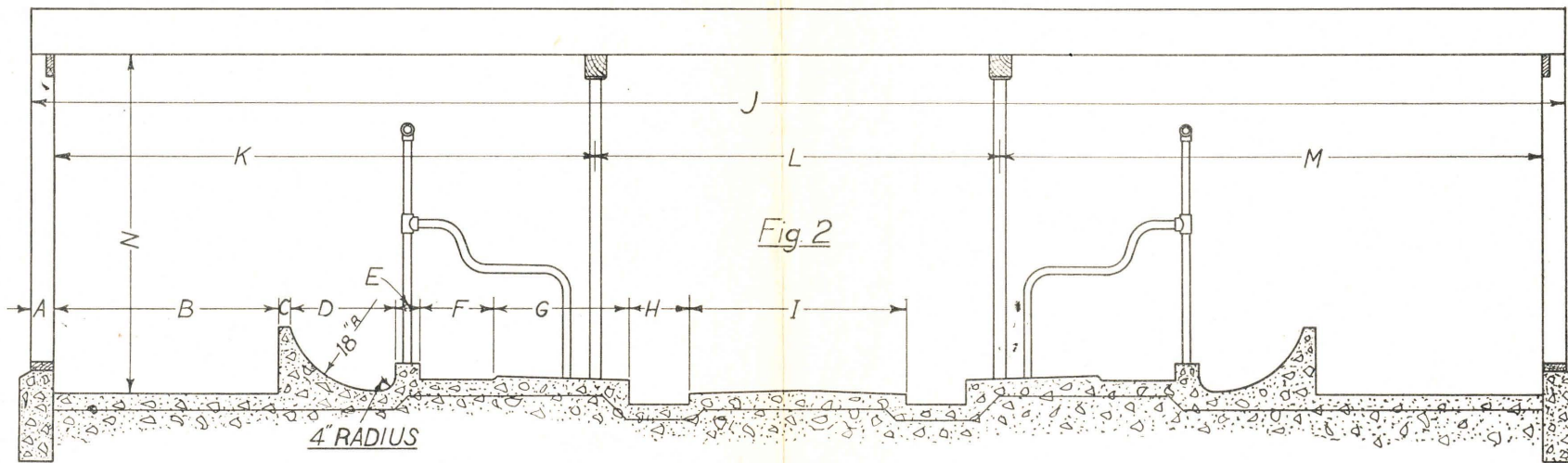


Fig. 2

Fig. 1

J WIDTH OF BARN	32 FEET	34 FEET	36 FEET
A STUD	0'-6"	0'-6"	0'-6"
B L. ALLEY	4'-5"	5'-0"	5'-0"
C GUTTER	1'-4"	1'-4"	1'-4"
D PLATFORM	3'-0"	3'-0"	3'-0"
E DEPRESSED PLATFORM	1'-8"	1'-8"	1'-8"
F CURB	0'-6"	0'-6"	0'-6"
G MANGER	2'-4"	2'-4"	2'-4"
H MANGER CURB	0'-3"	0'-3"	0'-3"
I FEED ALLEY	4'-0"	4'-10"	6'-10"
K LEFT BENT	10'-8"	11'-3"	11'-3"
L CENTER BENT	9'-8"	10'-6"	12'-6"
M RIGHT BENT	10'-8"	11'-3"	11'-3"
N HEIGHT	7'-6"	7'-6"	7'-6"

Fig. 2

J WIDTH OF BARN	32 FEET	34 FEET	36 FEET
A STUD	0'-6"	0'-6"	0'-6"
B FEED ALLEY	4'-0"	4'-5"	4'-5"
C MANGER CURB	0'-3"	0'-3"	0'-3"
D MANGER	2'-4"	2'-4"	2'-4"
E CURB	0'-6"	0'-6"	0'-6"
F DEPRESSED PLATFORM	1'-8"	1'-8"	1'-8"
G PLATFORM	3'-0"	3'-0"	3'-0"
H GUTTER	1'-4"	1'-4"	1'-4"
I L. ALLEY	4'-10"	6'-0"	8'-0"
K LEFT BENT	11'-0"	12'-0"	11'-6"
L CENTER BENT	9'-0"	9'-0"	12'-0"
M RIGHT BENT	11'-0"	12'-0"	11'-6"
N HEIGHT	7'-6"	7'-6"	7'-6"

BREED	LENGTH OF PLATFORM		
	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
HOLSTEIN	4'-10"	5'-2"	5'-8"
SHORTHORN	4'-8"	5'-0"	5'-6"
AYRSHIRE	4'-6"	5'-0"	5'-6"
GUERNSEY	4'-6"	4'-10"	5'-4"
JERSEY	4'-4"	4'-8"	5'-0"
HEIFERS	3'-8"	3'-10"	4'-2"

Experience has shown the wide manger to be more practical. About 2 feet 4 inches has been found convenient. If the mangers are narrower the cows will lose much of their feed in the feed alley. However mangers as narrow as 20 inches have been used with apparent satisfaction.

Where the cows face out, the feed alley should be not less than 3 feet 6 inches although narrower ones are sometimes used. With the cows facing in, wider alleys are sometimes more convenient because the two rows are fed from the one alley. Perhaps 4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 0 inches would be wide enough in any case. This is one reason why it is not considered good economy to face the cows toward a central feed alley in a 36-foot barn. The wide feed alley is unnecessary. In most cases, 3 feet 6 inches will be ample for cross alleys.

The width of the stall will depend upon the type and size of animal stabled. Three feet 6 inches is the standard for average cows, 4 feet 0 inches is often suggested for large cows, and 3 feet 2 inches for small cows and yearlings.

A cow pen should be not less than 8 feet x 10 feet, a bull pen not less than 10 feet x 10 feet and 10 feet x 12 feet is better. Calf pens should be at least 7 feet wide and as long as required for the number of calves to be kept.

