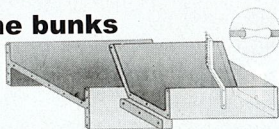


Huber Slats

1497 - 170th St. • Wellman, IA 52356
Bill Huber • Ph. 319-646-2907

Fenceline bunks

Key Benefits



- Acts as both a feeder & a fence for human protection
- Rounded interiors reduce feed waste
- Camphor edges reduce neck abrasions
- Bunks align to form any length
- Bunks are poured with 7,500 psi concrete
- Reinforced with solid rebar frame welded in place
- Optional concrete ends with drain holes available
- Features recessed post to prevent cattle from rubbing on post or cable
- Cable shim reduces wear & lengthens the life of cable
- Concrete step poured in the end of each bunk provides support for adjacent bunk
- Optional end steps are also available

Yard bunks

Key Benefits



- Allows livestock to feed from both sides and ends.
- Rounded interiors reduce feed waste and prevent damage from freezing.
- Rounded camphor edges reduce neck abrasions.
- Solid concrete ends feature drain holes. Drain holes may be plugged for use as a waterer.
- Concrete footing poured on the end of each bunk keeps feed at the appropriate height.
- Bunks are poured with 7,500 psi concrete using 3/8-inch aggregate reinforced with solid 1/2" rebar on 6"x 6" wire mesh squares.

VET'S VIEW

Grant Dewell, DVM, Veterinary Diagnostic and
Production Animal Medicine, Iowa State University

Reevaluate times to work cattle

Traditionally, we do not handle the cow herd very much in the summer time. Cattle are normally out on pasture and the operation tends to focus on other items. However, this can be an ideal time for some routine herd health procedures. Paying careful attention to your cattle herd will assure you that they are productive now, and in the future.

A critical part of productivity is making sure that cows get pregnant early in the breeding season. For most operations, this would be about half way through the process. Although it is too early to pregnancy check, you can get an overall idea of fertility in your herd. Applying a heat detection patch on some of your cows, and monitoring them for the next week, will give you an estimate of how many cows are still cycling. Monitoring your cows during the breeding season can help identify potential problems before productivity is hampered.

Watch for signs that cows are cycling more than they should as the breeding season progresses. Diagnosing why cows did not get bred is very difficult to determine three to six months after the breeding season has ended.

Another area to pay attention to through the summer is calf health. Regular observations can identify health issues before calves are severely affected.

Schedule your preconditioning vaccinations as early as possible. The Iowa Green Tag program requires that calves are at least three months of age before the initial vaccinations are given. Most calves are not that old when they go to pasture in the spring, but by mid-summer calves should be old enough to receive their vaccinations as part of a preconditioning program. Calves are generally better able to respond to a vaccine at this age, so if you have had problems with summer pneumonia or pinkeye, vaccinating now may be beneficial.

Fly and parasite control

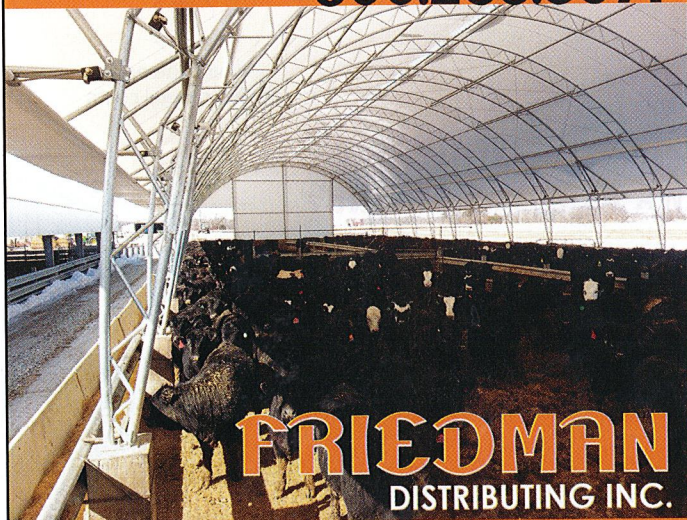
Warm summer temperatures can promote a heavy fly season, and it is an ideal time to apply some individual control methods. Either pouring cows and calves with a topical insecticide product or applying insecticide ear tags can be more effective at this time compared to spring applications. Administering a dewormer now accomplishes the same effect as administering a long-acting product in the spring.

Unlike calves in confinement, calves on pasture are harder to evaluate. Calves that are not feeling well have lots of hiding places and can be easily overlooked among the mature cows.

Historically, we have not taken advantage of this period to time animal health interventions when they could be a huge advantage. However, pastures are not that far away and there are many portable corals available so that you do not have to bring cows all the way home. Talk to your veterinarian about ways to improve your summer herd health program to make sure you get the most return from your cow herd.

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