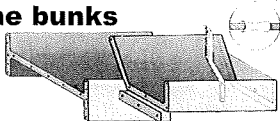


Huber Slats

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

Get cow health in order before calving

We have made it through the bulk of winter, and spring will be here before we know it. Cows calving in March and April will be in their third trimester and any animal health activities designed to benefit the calf should be administered as soon as possible.

The first health consideration for the beef cow is her plane of nutrition. This is a critical time to assure that the nutritional needs of the gestating cow are being met. Winter weather is still with us, and the cow may need supplemental energy to deal with freezing temperatures.

The cow will very shortly begin lactation, which will be a major nutritional drain so she needs to be in the best shape possible. Prior to lactation beginning, the cow will start concentrating antibodies to form colostrum for the calf. In order to produce the best possible colostrum, the cow needs to have adequate nutrition to produce sufficient antibodies. Immune function is an active process that can only occur after the cow has met her maintenance needs.

An additional feeding issue is that the fetal calf is growing rapidly and nutritional intake must meet the calf's needs as well.

Consider supplemental needs

Besides energy, the cow will need adequate protein, mineral and vitamin intake. Vitamins and minerals such as vitamin A and E, copper and zinc are important for immune function and may need to be supplemented. Vitamin A is also important in fetal development and should be supplemented as liver stores of vitamin A will have been depleted.

Vaccinations

Once the cow's nutritional status is taken care of, we can consider supplemental vaccinations to enhance the quality of the colostrum. A scours vaccine needs to be administered at least four weeks prior to calving to allow opportune ability for the cow to respond to the vaccine, produce antibodies and begin storing antibodies in colostrum. Generally, vaccines given 10 weeks prior to calving will have reduced impact on colostrum quality and later calving cows may need to be re-vaccinated.

Culling may be needed

Other health problems should be addressed now or consider culling the cow immediately. Cows with a chronic condition such as lameness, eye issue, etc., will have a harder time getting through the next couple of months. She may have a hard time competing for feed with healthy cows and be losing weight. This will adversely affect her and the calf and there is an increased risk of either her or her calf not making it through the spring.

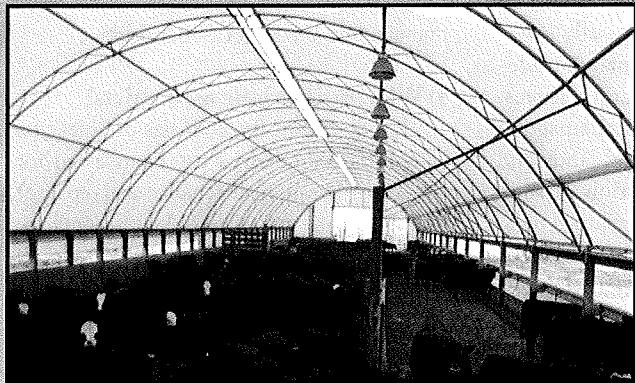
Careful evaluation of your cow herd to identify at-risk cows is important. Either separating the cow to provide more intensive management or marketing when she is still a viable candidate to make it through the marketing channels should be done now.

Contact your veterinarian about specific vaccination and other animal health recommendations. Being prepared can help make your calving season more pleasant.

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