


How We Manage Our Barn



**Ron & Clayton Christensen
Spencer, IA**

South Dakota State University | USDA Agricultural Research Service | IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach | Nebraska Extension

Overall Layout


Barn Length: 480' 2 End Pens Working Area



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Why Two End Pens?

West End: 24'x88'	East End: 30'x88'
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Barn Width – 100' with Back Alley



15'

100'

27'

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Barn Alleys & Bunks

Back: 12' x 480'

Front: 16' x 480'




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Pens

Two Pens: 234'x88'


Center Manure Bay: 12'x78'







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Density

- ◆ One-time feedlot capacity: 999 head
- ◆ Pen capacity: 499 head
- ◆ Square ft/animal: 41











Walls

End of Barn

Center of Barn

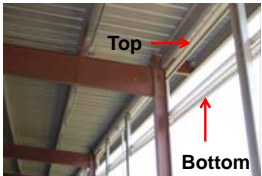









Roof & Curtain




Roof - Steel



Curtain - Split









Waterers & Lights












Why We Chose This Type of Facility



- ◆ Like concrete and steel
 - long-term use
 - durability
- ◆ Good air flow
- ◆ Provides cattle comfort
- ◆ Ease of working cattle
- ◆ Size of cattle lot
- ◆ Easier manure handling
- ◆ Built for “Bad” days








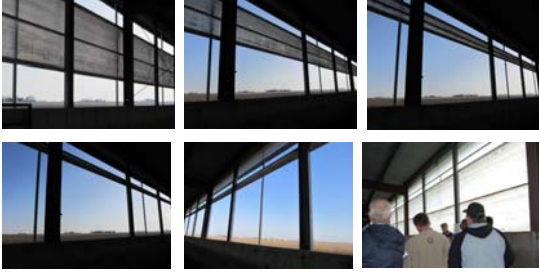
Kind of Cattle We Feed

Beef Steers: Calves Weighing 500-550 lbs





How the Curtain is Managed




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How Cattle Are Checked



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Moving & Processing Cattle





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Back alley is too narrow!


Feed Mixing

- ◆ Balancer
- ◆ High Moisture Corn
- ◆ Wet Distillers Grains with Solubles
- ◆ Corn Silage





Feeding

Two times/day



3 loads/day



Structures for Manure Handling



Scraping and Cleaning

- ◆ Usually once per week
- ◆ 12-16' around the pack



Scraping and Cleaning

- ◆ 8-12 loads/week
- ◆ Try to maintain the pack between closeouts











Scraping and Cleaning





- ◆ 5-6 hours/week
- ◆ Depends on distance manure is hauled




Bedding









Bedding


- ◆ 4-6 bales/pen
- ◆ Twice/week
- ◆ After feeding
- ◆ 1 hour/bedding event (2 people)
- ◆ Who enjoys it?









What Would You Change?

- ◆ More room to get into manure alley
- ◆ Less lights
- ◆ Put working facility in barn
- ◆ Have only one door in end walls
- ◆ Omit outside end pens





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Thank You!



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