

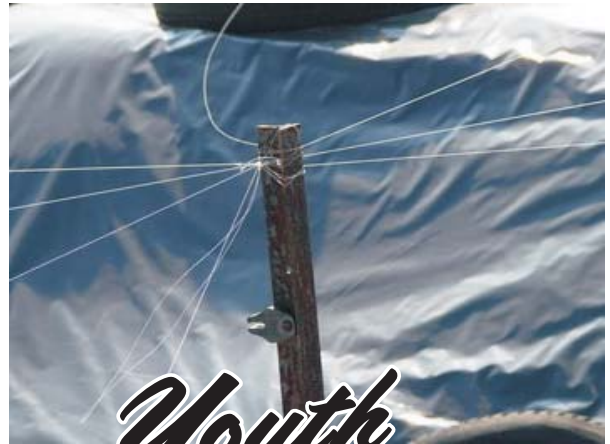
*Youth
Innovation
Challenge!*



Ron Groen,
Age 14
Teeswater, Ontario

Calf Milk Feeder Tune-Up

Calf barns have become more popular over the last couple of years and there have been many new technological advancements that have made the systems better. I find that our URBAN Calf Feeder™ has worked well but there is only one crack in the wall. I found that the smaller calves that were just learning how to drink were getting pushed out of the drinking station by the bigger calves in the pen next to the small calves. I made a system so that if the small calves go to the drinking station, they push the floor plate down that in turn locks the center board so that if a big calf pushes on the other side of the center board it would not move. When the calf goes out of the drinking station the floor plate gets pulled up by springs, which push up a bar that pulls up on a rope and unlocks the centreboard allowing it to flow freely so both pens can access the drinking station. With this locking mechanism it allows the smaller calves to drink without having any disturbances from the bigger stronger calves in the next pen. This reduces calf stress and a weak calf can drink when they want.



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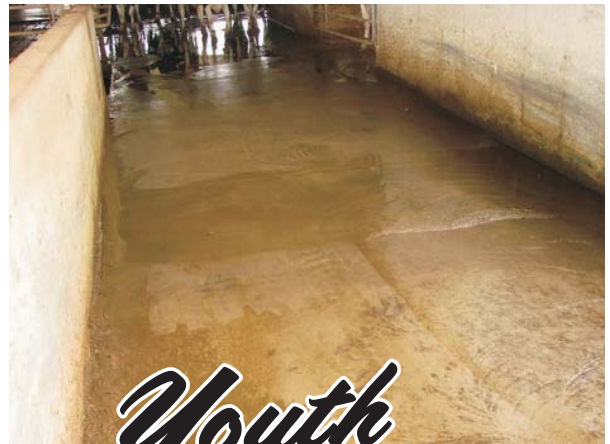
Mirjam Groen,
Age 18
Teeswater, Ontario

Invisible Alternative Scarecrow

There have been countless problems with birds on my family farm. We have bunker silos, and the bird loves to pick holes in the plastic to take advantage of the luscious food. They make an endless amount of holes in the plastic covers, which I helped to tape up again to avoid food spoilage.

Fed up with the birds, we purchased a speaker, which plays various noises to scare the birds off. It is very loud and repetitive and the neighbours do not like it. My invention, or rather idea, further aided repelling the birds. I placed poles on either side of the bunk, and securely tied flexible fishing wire from two poles. Then I tied lot's of fishing wire, crisscrossing. If one breaks, the whole thing doesn't fall apart because the wire is cut at every pole. The birds cannot see it as they land, and are scared off because they do not know what is hitting them. We currently use the mechanism on five of our bunker silos.

This invention has allowed feed for our cows to be less spoiled and my family has been less stressed about the birds attacking the plastic. This aide consists only of poles and wire, but it works like a charm to keep the endless flocks of birds away from the food. This Invisible Alternative Scarecrow has saved the time and energy of the farm staff.



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Alex Sterk,
Age 17
Embrow, Ontario

Easy Walker Foot Bath

When it came time to fill the foot baths, I was usually the guy to fill them. The bulky black plastic tubs are a hassle in every way and the cows do not like them and often need to be forced through them. Durability is another issue with holes emerging often, wasting time and money with repairs. Their location near the milking parlour slows productivity and puts harmful chemicals in the air near workers.

When building an expansion to our facility, I suggested a change in the design of the breezeway to dip the floor. The result is the Easy Walker Foot Bath. A nearby frost-free tap makes filling a breeze while you grab the chemicals. Cows have no problem walking in and out of the pool. They know there is no way around it and can't hurt themselves trying. Cows will defecate less in the bath allowing us to get two more milkings per filling, thus off-setting the cost of any extra chemicals used. Clean-up is much easier too as the manure scraper on the skid steer makes light work of the oversized puddle moving it to the nearby manure pit. I sure enjoy the new system compared to the last ten years and the beauty of the whole thing is that it doesn't cost any extra money to install.