Design and Operation of the Milking Platform
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Prioritize Your Goals

• How may cows?
  – Add 20%?
• How long to milk?
• Time for strategic and operational management versus the harvest of milk
• Evaluate your strengths, weaknesses’ and what you like
• Parlor is part of the system
Barn Design

- Parallel
- Parabone
Barn Design

- Rotary
Barn Design

- Herringbone
Barn Orientation and Location

- Regards to grazing system
- North-South: East West Orientation
- Slopes
- Environmental issues
Key to Efficient Cow-Through-Put

• Cows walk past barn/holding area and exit to main grazing system
  – Herd mentality
  – Fresh forage
Holding Pens

Circular

Rectangular
Crowd Gates

• Critical issue of efficient cow flow

• Do Not leave the pit!
  – You train the cows, not the cows train you!
Feeding System

• Feed in or out of parlor?
Clean-Up and Waste System
Access to Cows
Feeding and Access
Ability to sort and cut cows easily
Comfortable...

winter and summer
Easily Cleaned
Key to Successful Milking Platforms

• Develop YOUR barn and YOUR system that matches the goals and strengths of YOUR operation!