

Technology, Creativity Meet in Jeurissen Barn



When Rick Jeurissen of Lester Prairie, MN, went through the planning stages of his new 180-stall freestall barn and double 12 parallel parlor, he had some creative ideas he wanted to incorporate into his facility.

He wanted to work with an innovative contractor that could implement some of his ideas as well as be the coordinator for the building process.

He chose Charlie Storms of Storms Welding and Manufacturing. He had Storms Welding put in unique holding area ventilation doors, fiberglass gates, the parlor and all the steel work within the freestall barn that was finished last October.

The ventilation doors on the holding area were selected for several reasons. "I didn't want curtains. I wanted something that was a solid structure that kept the rain away and trapped the heat in the winter time," Jeurissen said. "You can open any number of doors you want. It's been working really good."

Storms Welding installed fiberglass gates for longevity and durability purposes. "If you back into steel gates with a skid loader or have cows jump on them they bend. We've had cows jump on the fiberglass gates and they bounce right back. They've been holding up very well," he said. Jeurissen also had them installed along return lanes attached to stainless steel posts.

In the parlor, Storms installed sequence gates that close a full 90 degrees when the cows start pushing on them. Each stall has individual indexing that holds the smaller animals snug in their spot as well.

The facility has been in use over one-half a year and Jeurissen has nothing but praise for Storms Welding and their work. "Charlie was very prompt and helped coordinate the whole project. He caught errors in the blueprint and made changes," Jeurissen said. "Working with Storms was a walk in the park. He works for cow comfort and cow flow."

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