

Portable Calf Gazebo Makes Feeding Easy

Calf huts are easy to move to clean ground for healthier calves. However, feeding those calves in bad weather is anything but easy. Now N-Tech/NTH, Inc. has a new option that is good for calf and worker alike. They call it a calf gazebo, or "ca-Z-bo".

"It's a round calf barn that sets up quickly and can be moved even quicker," says Clint Nesselth.

The 20-ft. dia. structure has 7 pens, the 24-ft. dia. structure has 11 pens, and the 32-ft. structure has 22 pens. Each pen is shaped like a piece of pie 5 to 6 ft. wide at the wide end, 7 ft. long and 2 1/2 ft. wide at the center. Space in the center is left for a feeding and working area and one pie space is left empty as an alley for the worker to reach the center work area.

Nesselth got the idea after ordering a 60-ft. dia. enclosed pen for working horses. However, after spending 2 1/2 weeks with a crew to erect the circular pen, he was determined to make his calf barns simple to erect. He succeeded. The key is a center core that serves as both structural hub and ventilation chimney.

"You lay out the central core on the ground and attach steel rafters and braces to the core and in turn hinge legs to the rafters," explains Nesselth. "The entire frame is assembled on the ground."

A translucent fabric roof is attached over the top along with an adjustable cover to the chimney/core. At that point the

Calf gazebo is a round calf barn that sets up quickly and can be moved even quicker. The 24-ft. dia. model has 11 pens. A larger 32-ft. model has 22 pens.



approximately one-ton structure can be lifted into place by a boom on a tractor loader.

As the center core is lifted up, the legs swing into place. Bolts lock each leg joint. Pegs are driven in the ground, one to either side of each leg, to lock it in place. Removable panels attach to the legs on the outside and on the inside to form the pens. Side panels that can be raised or lowered as needed are added.

"To move the structure to fresh ground, just pull out the pegs, hook on the boom, lift it up and go," says Nesselth. "The pens stay in place."

Nesselth took prototypes to several farm shows before starting production on a final design. He knew he was on to something when he began getting positive feedback



from farm wives who usually do the feeding.

"One guy looked at it and said, 'I sure hope my wife doesn't see this', while others said, 'I have to get one of these for my wife,'" recalls Nesselth. "We got lots of good suggestions that we worked into the final design."

Nesselth says the smaller 7-calf unit is priced at about \$4,900, 11-calf unit is priced at about \$7,200 and the 22-calf unit is priced at about \$13,200.

Booms and trailers to move the Gazebo, as well as a special fast-tach fork for cleaning stalls, are available. A new 40-ft. structure will be available in 2010, which adapts to loose housing and permits inside operation of a skid steer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, N-Tech/NTH Inc., P.O. 136, Barron, Wis. 54812 (ph 715 537-9207 or toll free 800 537-9207; fax 715-537-3861; www.NthUSA.com).

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