

Dairymen Like New "Trigon" Parlor

"It's the only way to milk," says Ken Korthis, Lynden, Wa., one of the nation's first dairymen to install the revolutionary new triangular-shaped Trigon milking parlor designed and built by the Clay Equipment Corporation, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

"I like the idea of moving four cows at a time instead of eight. It ties up fewer cows. Another thing I like is that you can milk the same number of cows in 12 stalls as you can in a double-8 or 10," explains Korthis. "The parlor also gives you a better feeling about your cows. Milking is more comfortable."

At present, Clay Equipment has sold about three dozen of its revolutionary Trigon parlors throughout the U.S. and Canada. The system enables one man to milk 80 to 90 cows per hour. It offers advantages to smaller dairy operations which lack the herd size to justify the larger Polygon type parlors. The pit of the 12-stall Trigon is in the shape of a 30-60° right angle with slight variation in angles for the 18 and 16 stall systems.

The 12-stall Trigon milks the same number of cows per hour as a double-8 herringbone, and the 16-stall unit is comparable in through-put to the double-10 herringbone. However, the Trigon requires less square footage, four less stalls, four less detachers, and four less milking machines, the manufacturer points out.

The Trigon can be used in a wide range of herd size — from 150 to 800 cow herds. Here's how other dairymen across the U.S. and Canada who bought the first systems sold size up its performance:

Eugene and Eunice Knutson, Ridgeland, Wis. "This is the parlor that fits our needs best. Our goal is to have one of us handle the milking while the other handles the crop work. With the Trigon, we can eliminate the problems and expenses of hired help," says Eugene. Last year, the Knutson's herd averaged 15,078 lbs. of milk with 608 lbs. fat on a 4.0 test. At present they are milking approximately 150 cows in 2 hours with their Trigon system.

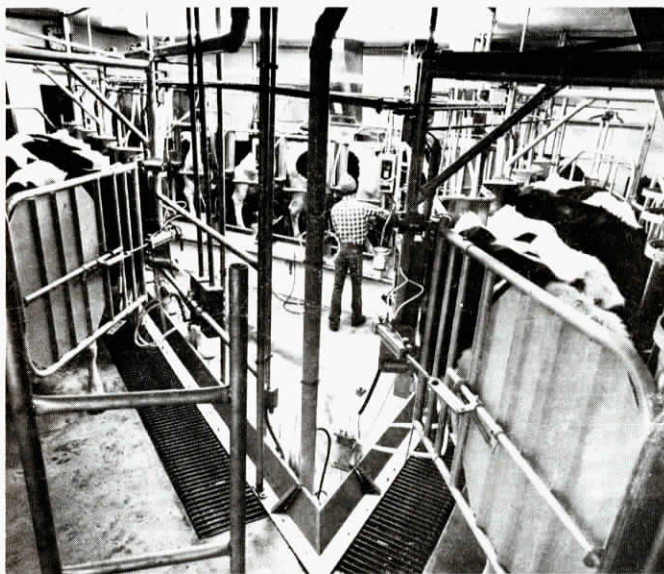
Walt Barthelheimer, Snohomish, Wash. "We like it real well," says Walt of his 12-stall Trigon. Comparing it to a double-8, he says: "The traffic flow is what helps the most. It really has an advantage over a double-8."

Barthelheimer currently milks about 80 cows in his Trigon, but would like to double that number.

Bob Chatlain, Cloverdale, Ore. "Slow cows don't hold me up anymore because there are three groups of cows to work with," Bob points out. "Takes me longer to clean up than it does to milk." Bob has been milking in his 16-stall Trigon for about nine months and hopes to expand to over 100 cows within a year.

Hank Kroeker, Rosedale, B.C., Canada: "The Trigon is really different. We like it. We have been able to increase the size of our herd since we went to this system and may even expand further," he points out. "The Trigon parlor has certainly created interest. Hundreds of people, some from as far away as Texas, have visited our operation to see it."

Kroeker particularly likes the Clay Dribble Meter feeding system with individual timers. It allows him to



The 12-stall Trigon milks the same number of cows per hour as the 16 stall herringbone but with 4 less stalls, 4 less detachers, 4 less machines and 168 sq. ft. less building space.

vary the amount of feed, based on each cow's production. His Trigon system replaced a "Swing Over 6," a double-6 with swing over milking units.

Three basic designs of the Trigon concept are available: A 12-stall unit (four stalls on sides 1, 2 and 3); 16 stalls (six stalls on side 1 and 2, and four stalls on side 3); and 18 stalls (six stalls on sides 1, 2 and 3). The degree of automation determines the amount of labor required to operate each system.

All three systems, including the 18-stall unit, are one-man parlors when fully automated. Parlor automation includes crowd gates, power doors, power gates, udder stimulators, feed bowl closures, and automatic detaching units.

In the one-man Trigon, the operator works in a circular fashion around the pit. The third side gives the operator the option to skip a slow side and continue the milking

routine — a reason why the Trigon is more efficient than double-sided parlors, the manufacturer points out.

"Compared to the production and costs involved in the double-sided parlor, the Trigon's performance is outstanding," explains Cal Schacht, president of Clay Equipment. "The 12-stall Trigon, for example, can milk 80 cows per hour with full automation. Michigan State University has shown that a typical double-8 can milk 70 to 80 cows per hour. That's the same rate of production, yet the Trigon requires four less stalls. The Trigon also requires about 168 sq. ft. less building space than the typical double-8 parlor. In addition, it's questionable whether one man could operate a double-sided parlor even with full automation."

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Clay Equipment Corporation, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

LETS YOU MOW TWICE AS FAST; AUTOMATICALLY STEERS AROUND TREES

Lawn Mower Tow Hitch

"You can mow twice as fast and trim around trees and under bushes the first time around," says Raymond Carson, inventor of a new hitch that lets you tow one or two conventional push-type lawn mowers behind a garden tractor mower.

"You attach the mowers to the hitch, start them up, set the throttles and forget about them," explains Carson. "The hitch is completely automatic. When it bumps up against a tree or other obstacle, a series of rollers along its front edge automatically roll the mower around the tree. Once past, the spring-loaded hitch pulls the mower back into position, just to the left of the garden tractor. The trailing mower, or mowers, will

go anywhere a tractor mower will go, even between trees," explains Carson.

"A big advantage is that the smaller, low-profile trailing mower will slip under hedges and bushes, and right up next to buildings. You don't have to make a second trip over the lawn with a push-type mower to do the trimming," Carson points out.

The hitch will fit most mowers by drilling just 4 holes in the mower frame. It can be extended as far out as needed.

The hitch retails for \$37.50. For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Raymond Carson, Carson Industries, Inc. Faxon, Okla. 73540 (ph 405 597-2462).



Rollers built into tow hitch automatically roll trailing mower, or mowers, around trees and other obstacles.