

DAIRY SHED UPGRADES AND ROBOTICS

Self-managing cows with access to housing

CHANGES in New Zealand's dairy farming systems are advancing at a great rate as farmers react from environmental and public pressure.

This fundamental shift in dairying systems is being driven by leading farmers lifting milksolids (MS) production while exceeding animal welfare and environmental standards through the use of partial housing systems.

Newly designed off-paddock shelters are giving farmers far greater options in carrying capacity, grazing and effluent management.

With New Zealand's temperate climate and knowledge of pasture based grazing systems, a unique hybrid dairying system is emerging.

The farming shift is related to partial housing or a "hybrid grazing" (HG) system which combines an animal shelter with a pasture-based grazing



Give me shelter: A HerdHomes® Shelter is a covered area in which animals can relax, be fed, and lie down in comfort - all with a built-in and sustainable effluent system.

system, as opposed to the historical "European" style barn (fully enclosed housing).

A hybrid partial housing system eliminates many of the historical issues faced in the European barns which use a total mixed ration minimal grazing system. This type of management leads to potential animal welfare issues and

often comes with less profitability.

Farmers can benefit from adopting a hybrid system through pastoral, animal welfare, environmental and production improvements. Dairy farmers have begun to realise that stock will seek shelter if given a choice.

Allowing cows to do so,

reduces lameness, lessens animal maintenance energy requirements (from temperature stress), decreases soil damage and lowers environmental impacts.

The public is becoming more and more aware of where food is coming from. As New Zealand's primary industry, dairying standards need to be superior. Export markets and the urban population will continue to demand improvements on farm systems.

Consumers expect a high quality products from an environmentally and animal friendly agricultural industry. These hybrid grazing systems are already exceeding standards in this area.

HerdHomes® is a recognised expert in this space having developed and refined its system over the past 10 years. For more information, contact on 0800 HerdHomes or visit herdhomes.co.nz.



DESIGNED FOR NZ FARMERS BY NZ FARMERS

A simple easy to use system, whether for milking, calving or wintering—HerdHomes® shelters do it all — without increasing work load or effluent problems

The future of productive farming www.herdhomes.co.nz

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INNOVATIVE FARMING SYSTEMS

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