

# Efficiency, welfare, environmental gains

THE changes in New Zealand dairy farming systems are advancing at a great rate as farmers react to environmental and public pressure.

This fundamental shift in dairying systems is being driven by leading farmers lifting production of milk-solids while exceeding animal welfare and environmental standards by using 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, an unique hybrid dairying system is emerging.

The farming shift is related to partial housing or a hybrid grazing system, which combines an animal shelter with a pasture-based grazing 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 pas-



**Superior standards . . . Cows that have access to HerdHomes® housing will have less lameness, lower animal maintenance energy requirements (from temperature stress), and there will be less soil damage along with lower environmental impacts.**

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toral, animal welfare, environmental and production improvements.

Dairy farmers have begun to realise that stock will seek shelter if

they are 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

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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 high-quality products from an environmentally and animal-friendly agricultural industry.

Hybrid grazing systems are exceeding standards in this area.

HerdHomes® is a recognised expert in this arena, having developed and refined its system during the past 10 years.

For further information contact 0800 HerdHomes or go to: [www.herdhomes.co.nz](http://www.herdhomes.co.nz)

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NZ Patent Numbers: 521150, 544190, 550635, 545042. Further patents pending. International Patent Numbers: 2003267874, 03748807.9. Further patents pending