

#### PLAN 2165

### INDIVIDUAL CALF PEN

This leaflet describes a detailed plan for the construction of elevated pens, for dairy or veal calves from birth to 4 or 5 months of age. These pens are designed to give the young calf the isolation and cleanliness necessary for control of suckling and the common calfhood diseases. Individual pens can be built as single units, or as multiple units of 3 or more in a row. Wood slat floor panels, pen divider panels and fronts and backs can be easily taken apart for thorough scrubbing and disinfecting when required.

### Wood Slat Floor Panels

Removable floor panels of wood slats are not self-cleaning like the metal floors in plan 2164. The slats however provide good drainage for the calf bed; this helps keep calves clean and dry with less frequent changing of the bedding.

## Pen Partitions

Partitions are made from 3/4-inch plywood. The 3 x 5-foot pen size was chosen to permit cutting one side plus one front or back panel from a 4 x 8-foot sheet of plywood.

Calves will lick and chew the plywood, particularly the front panel with the feeding opening cut through; the panels can be replaced when worn out, or for greater durability you can use 'high density overlaid' plywood which is resistant to chewing. It is also advisable to paint around the exposed edges of the feeding opening with a hard-setting epoxy resin paint.

### Feeding and Watering

A pail rack at the front of the pen is designed to hold two easily-washed plastic pails; one is for dry feed (calf starter and/or chopped forage), and the other is for liquid diet (milk or milk replacer, and later, water). Some dairymen with large numbers of calves may prefer to use automatic water drinker nozzles; these should be located in front of the calf and outside the pen, to avoid wetting the bedding.

# Waste Disposal

With bedding, the manure from calf pens is best handled with a gutter cleaner. Locate the row of pens just ahead of the gutter, and drain the floor pit under the stalls directly to the gutter. To keep down odors, this floor

pit should be flushed periodically into the gutter. Be careful not to add excessive quantities of water to the manure unless the manure storage is designed to handle liquids too.

Another method is to separate the liquids from the bedded solids by draining the floor pit to liquid storage.