The Model Cow Stall

by

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This circular is issued because of the many requests for the plan of construction of a simple and practical cow stall that may be made at home. Successful dairying depends largely upon the comfort and

Fig. 1.—Dimensions of model stall (for Guernseys).
sanitation of the animals and the way in which they are fed. Therefore, it is important that the stalls in which the cows must spend most of their time in winter should be constructed with this in view. The essential requirements of good cow stalls are:—that they keep the animal clean and comfortable, conserve both feed and bedding, make the feeding and handling of the cows easy, prevent the cows from injuring one another, and make the cleaning of the stalls easy. The "model cow stall," which has been in use for many years, and has met with much favor, comes near fulfilling these requirements.

Figure 1 shows the outline of the construction. The dimensions given are for Guernsey cattle. For larger cattle it would be well to make the stalls a little larger. The floor, gutter and manger may either be made of wood as shown in figure 1 or concrete as illustrated in figure 4. Figure 2 is a view of stalls in use.* Figure 3 is a view of empty stalls, these have been cleaned. Note how the cross piece on the stall floor retains the bedding. This also shows the ring and tie rope.

![Stalls being used](image)

The principal features of this stall are:
1. Each cow is given perfect liberty and comfort of position.
2. All the feeding may be done at one time, as the hay rack is separate from the manger.

*We are indebted to Hoard’s Dairymen for views of cow stalls.
3. Each cow may be fed according to her individual needs.
4. The cows are kept perfectly clean by virtue of the bar across the stall just in front of the hind feet of the standing cow, and the slant of the hay rack. The cross bar keeps the bedding clean and dry and causes the cow to step forward a little when lying down. The slant of the hay rack forces the cow to stand back of the bar with her hind feet.
5. The bar across the rear of the stall prevents the waste of bedding.
6. The partitions protect the cows when lying down from having their teats and udders injured from their stall mates.
7. The stall will accommodate both large and small cows. To adjust the stall to meet the length of the cow, bring the cow’s head up
to the rack; then fasten the cross bar (2 x 3) just in front of her hind feet. The cow will soon learn to lie ahead of the bar. The space between the manger and the bar should be filled with bedding.

The cows are tied by means of a rope or neck chain fastened to the base of the hay rack, or they may wear a permanent strap around their neck with a ring fastened to it at the throat into which a tie rope is snapped.

There has been a little complaint about the cows pulling out and wasting their hay with these stalls. This may be largely avoided by limiting the hay to about what they will clean up between feeding periods. Spacing the slats on the rack closer may also help, however, it is recommended to put the slats far enough apart so the cow can get her nose between them.