



THE SUN AND THE STARS CATTLESLED

ROTA GUIDO

The conditioning resulting from the environmental regulations and the consequent necessity to minimize the environmental impact due to the zootechnical activity, led to a progressive reduction of the open areas within the farming, up to their complete disappearance.

At present, designs of new cattlesheds and restoration of existing ones provide for solutions without open areas. Animals, perpetually confined, are always kept inside a sunless shelter, in an environment that can never assure the perfect conditions, both microclimatic and air quality, existing outside.

The "total covering" solution of the cattleshed surface is clearly "endured" by farmers because of environmental requirements, but it is not shared from the zootechnical-veterinary point of view, as it worsens the animals' condition and, generally speaking, the sanitary level of the cattleshed.

"The sun and the stars cattleshed" is a special covering frame that allows to slide parts of the covering so as to get a partial covered surface, thus changing the ratio between covered and open areas.

This structure has a covering that slides variably, according to specific requirements, thus exposing most of the cattleshed to the sunlight or the moonlight.

The movement is obtained by a powered control shaft that carries the sliding part of the covering by means of special connections. The sliding line is given by the bearing structure itself without considerable rises in costs.

This is a very interesting aspect as the moderate rise in costs makes this solution really practicable and certainly worthwhile as to revenue from investment.

The covering opening and adjustment is controlled by a special microclimatic station that senses the various parameters (temperature, relative humidity, irradiation, rain, air speed) and processes them with a specific software developed in order to assure the best comfort conditions for the animals.

It is widely known that assuring the best comfort conditions to cows is extremely important.

During the night hours in the summertime, the "open cattleshed" assures the heat exchange and benefits from a greater ventilation and a faster drop in temperature.

The "closed cattleshed" assures perfect environmental conditions even in the coldest winter days and nights.

In summer daytime the "closed cattleshed" allows to shade and to avoid the excessive sun irradiation.

In winter daytime the "open cattleshed" benefits from the direct sun irradiation on animals and litters.

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