

Recommendations from Wilson Agriculture for cubicle dimension

Jersey Cows

Cubicle sizes:

Single row facing a wall, if possible we look for **8ft** [2438mm]. When you observe a Jersey cow getting up she will lunge as much as 8'6" [2581mm], and it is essential to provide this lunging space for her in any cubicle environment.

Head to head rows, we will compromise and accept 14ft [4267mm] as the cows will share the lunging space, however in most cases we recommend **15 feet** [4572].

We usually recommend that Jersey cow cubicles are installed '*rail mounted*' as adjustments are more common than with Holsteins, and the rails allow for width adjustments to be made. Jersey cubicles are commonly being installed at 40-44 inches wide [1010 to 1120mm wide]. Most aim for 41inch centres. This is important to keep the cows lying straight. When they lye at an angle, you will tend to find that manure will accumulate on the back corner of the bed.

Heel curb height:

Current opinions state that the heel curb should not be too high (e.g. 4-5 inches), however we have found that by installing the neck bar at 45 inches [1372] high, instead of many Jersey stalls with lower neck bars, we can get the cow to stand in the cubicle with all four feet instead of standing half in half out. We use a measurement of 80inches [2032] at a diagonal from the heel curb to the neck bar to allow the cows to stand in the stall with all four feet. This is very important to reduce feet problems etc, and increase herd health. Therefore the heel curb can be at about 7or 8 inches [178 – 203], which works really well in terms of scraping out and slurry not splashing onto the beds.

The beds should have about 2 to 4 inches [50 – 102] fall over the total length. More than this has resulted in problems keeping the bedding on the beds.

We use the Poly Pillow as our brisket barrier, which should be positioned at 64-66 inches [1625 – 1676] from the heel curb for Jersey, and will position the cows perfectly in the cubicle. Sometimes we will install the Poly Pillow on a piece of wood to enable adjustments for your cow sizes.

Passage widths:

To a feed barrier, the passage should ideally be no less than 11 feet [2794] wide. Between cubicles, we will accept anything from 8 to 12 feet [2438 – 3658]. Most common would be about 9 feet [2743].

Cubicle bedding:

As you know we like to use the Pasture® Mat mattress on all our cubicle beds. This will increase lying times considerably when compared to concrete. You will need to use bedding on these mattresses for two main reasons:

- It gives the any manure something to stick to thus helping to keep the beds clean;
- It will reduce friction between the animal and the surface. This will reduce potential of hock abrasions and damage etc.

Approximately 80% of our customers will use sawdust and a mix of lime as bedding. The other 20% tend to use chopped straw etc.

For further information check out the Wilson Agriculture web site: www.wilsonagri.co.uk

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