KRAIBURG PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

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TOPIC: FEEDING PLACE

We market our products in Europe, the USA und many other countries around the world. The knowledge we gain through this is compiled and given back to you in the form of helpful tips. Send us your suggestions - we count on them to help us give you a better product!

Thank you very much from your KRAIBURG research & development

FEEDING PLACE

Dimensions:

Neck rail height: at least 150 - 160 cm above stall floor, no contact with the withers

Feeding place width:

At least 75 cm per cow

For designing a feeding table the specified standard gauges are recommended (Wandel, 2006). Elevated feedstalls with side dividers reduce cows pushing others away while eating

walking alley
walking alley

walking to be seen to be s

12 - 20

350 - 400

Tip: feed racks can be slanted forward

about 20°, e.g. if they are too low

If the withers are injured, check the feeding table height and the self-catching feed rack or the bar



Level of feeding table:

15 - 20 cm above stall area (substitutes for lacking "pasture step")

At least 20 cm higher with a step only for the forelegs

Design:

- Self-catching feed rack
- Simple bar without an individually divided place
- Elevated feedstalls (see picture on the right)
 - -> raised and dry stall surface (entire cow)

INTERESTING SOLUTION

60

comfortable reach

are the

Elevated feedstalls have a positive effect on feed intake, lower ranking cows are less often pushed away from the feeding place; animals spend less time in the vicinity of the feeding area without real feed intake (De Vries et al., 2006)

Surface feeding table:

- acid proof (feed acids are aggressive!)
- within a 60 cm reach it is even and easy to clean
- neutral odour (cows can smell 15 times better than humans!)
- smooth, because cows have sensitive tongues

Management:

- cow-feeding place ratio of 1:1
- providing feed twice a day has a positive effect on feed intake
- a soft walking area significantly increases the frequency of visiting the feeding places

Elevated feedstalls are especially recommendable for paved walking alleys in combination with automatic milking systems. Herd feed intake in these systems is less synchronous. In elevated feedstalls cows can feed undisturbed, despite high scraping frequency, and their claws remain dry and clean.



The better the feeding place partition, the more seldom cows are pushed away while eating (Keyserlingk, 2008).



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NEXT ISSUE: 07.06.2010 - TOPIC: LITTER