



Economic Considerations for Composting Dairy Barns

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EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION





Overview

- Structure
- Bedding
- Equipment
- Labor



Structure

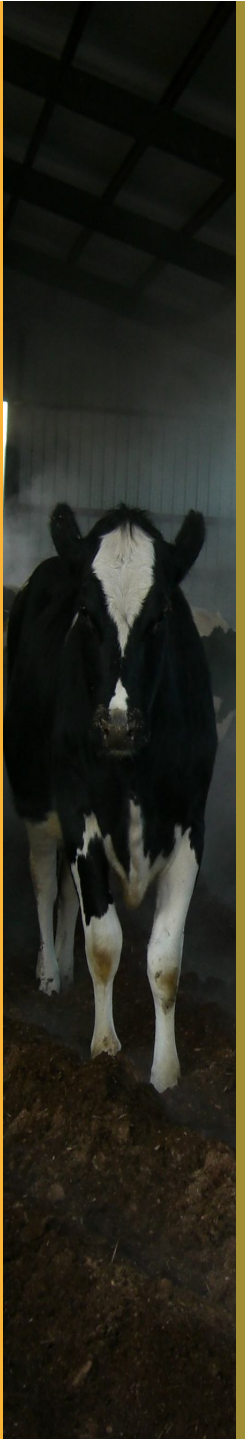
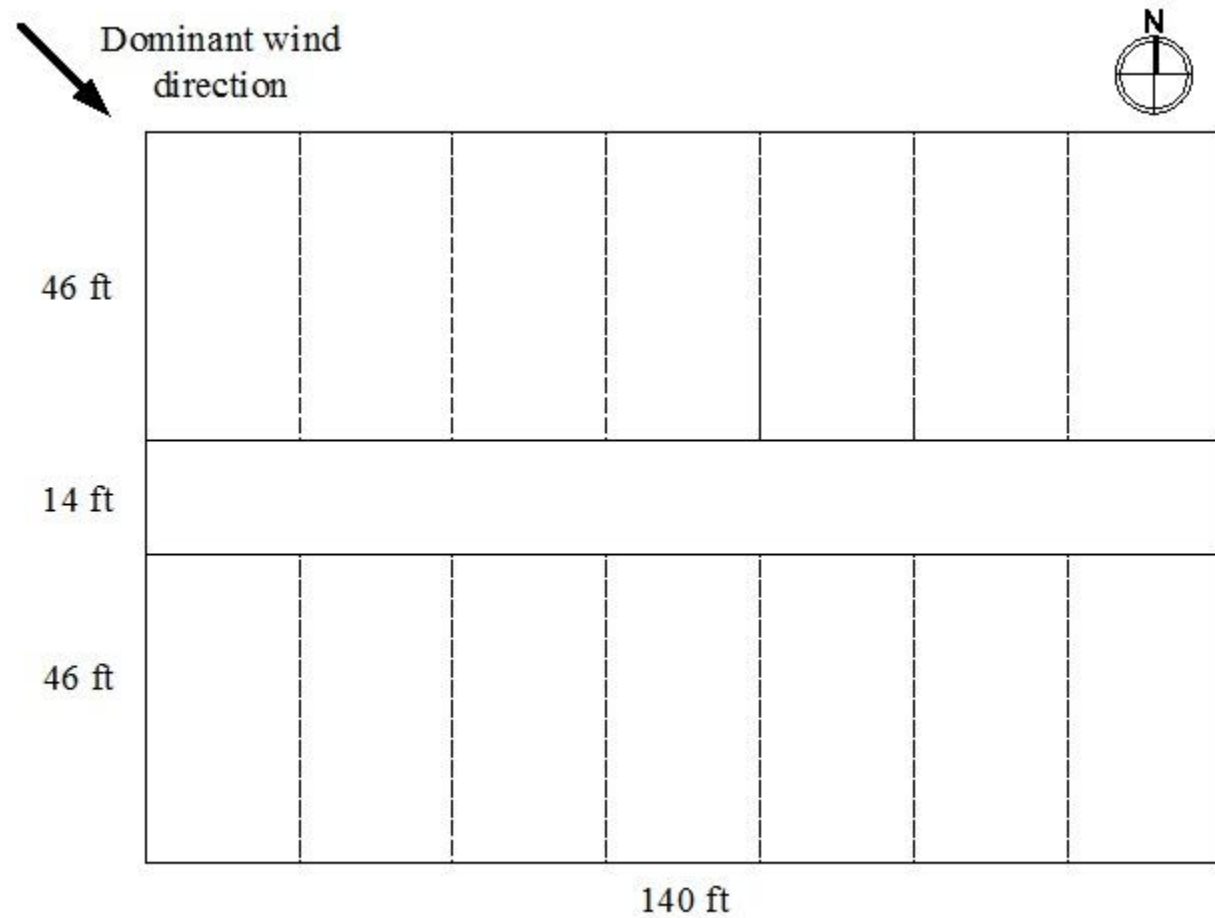
- Likely be most significant cost
- Modifications to current structure may be possible
- EQIP funding for up to half the total cost may be available
- Study farms ranged from \$15-20/sq. ft.
 - 80 sq ft/cow = \$1200-\$1600



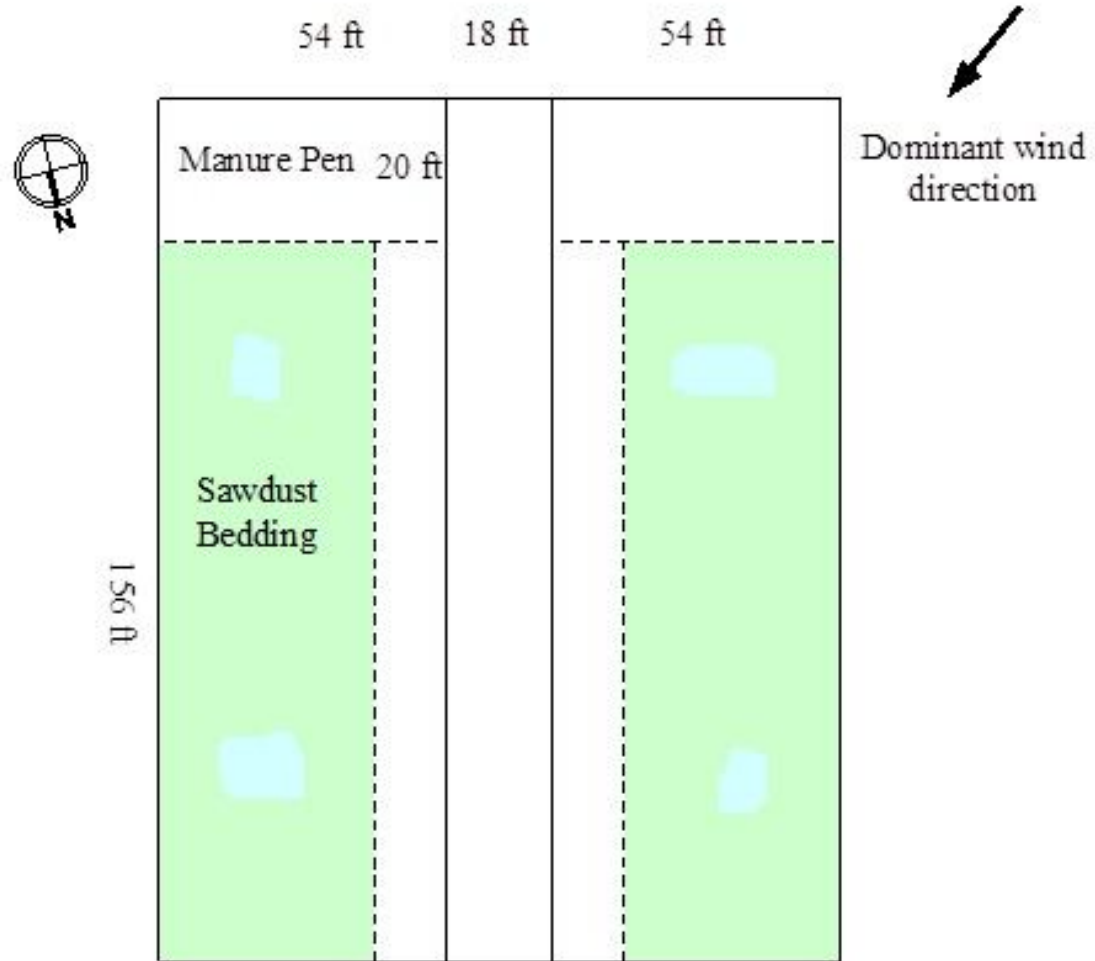
Structure

- Variations
 - size
 - concrete
 - ventilation
 - feed alleys

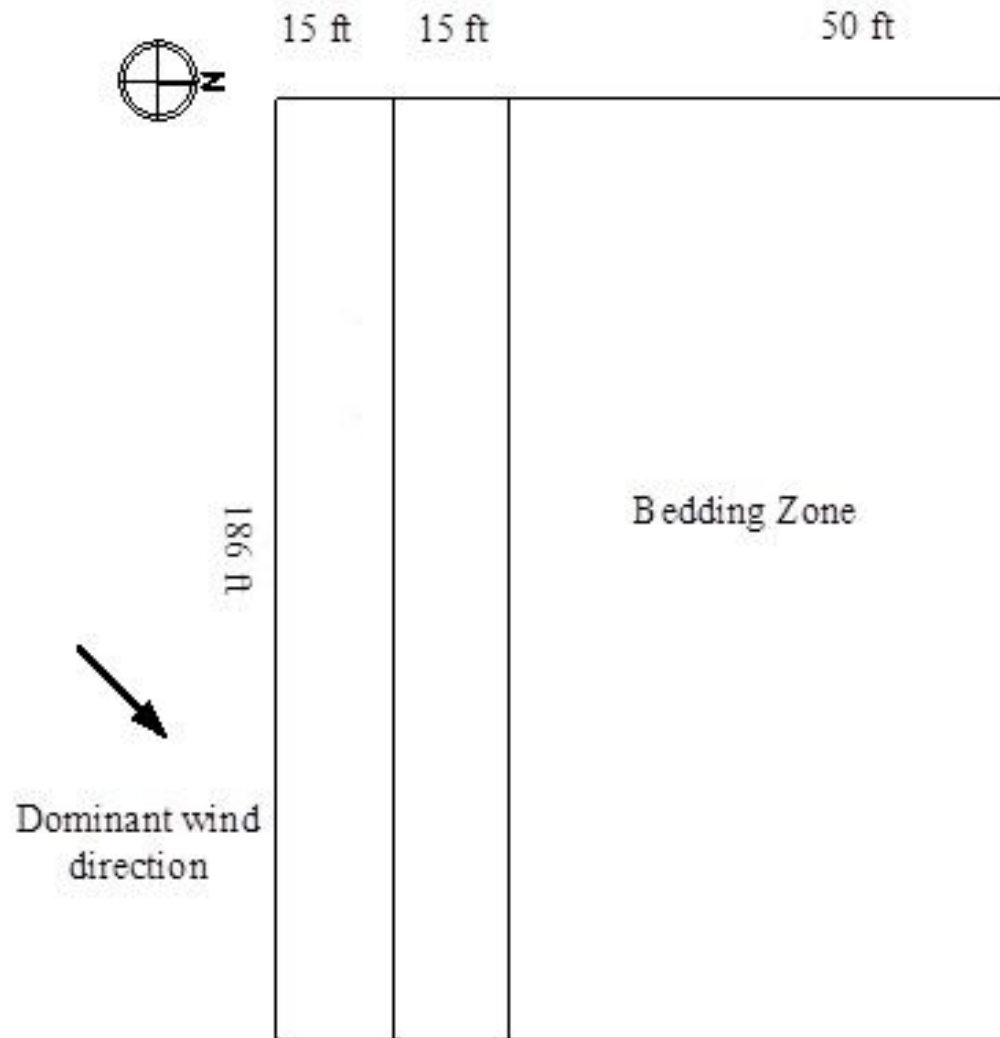
Barn layout



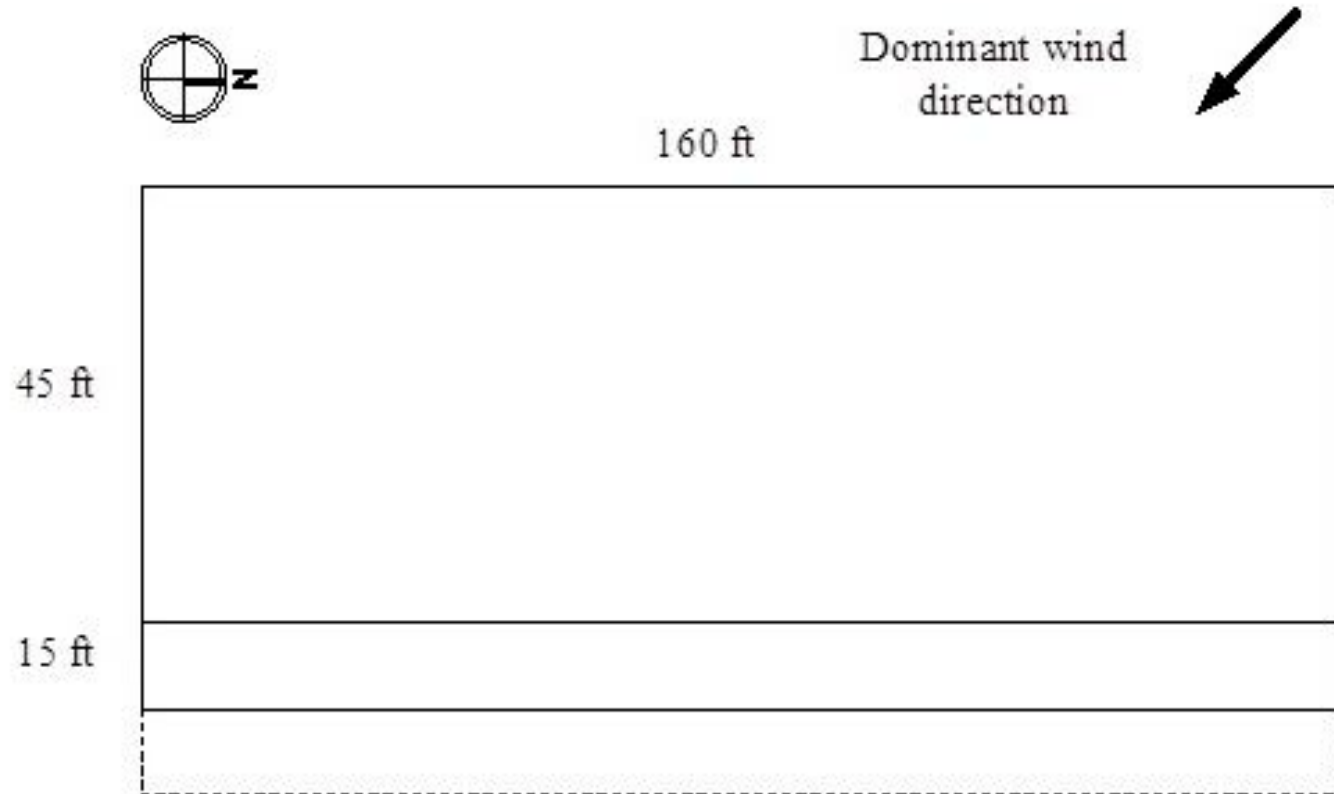
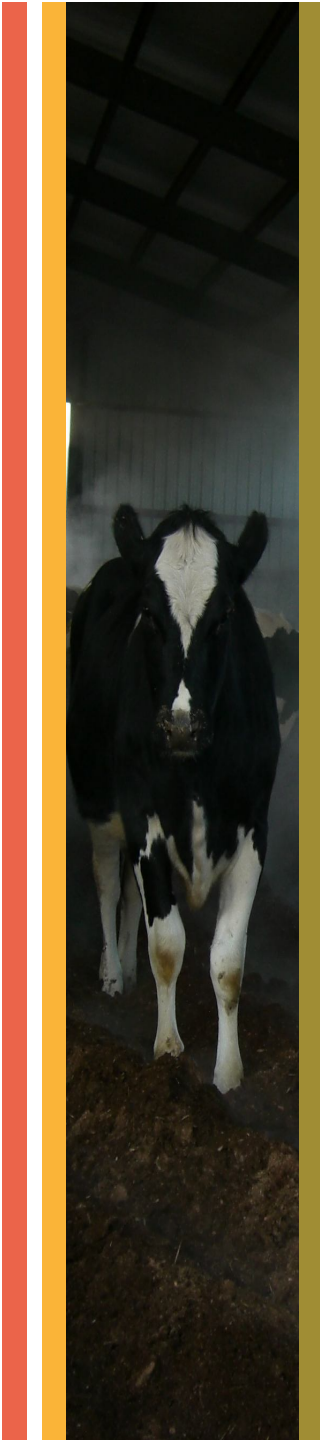
Barn layout



Barn layout



Barn layout



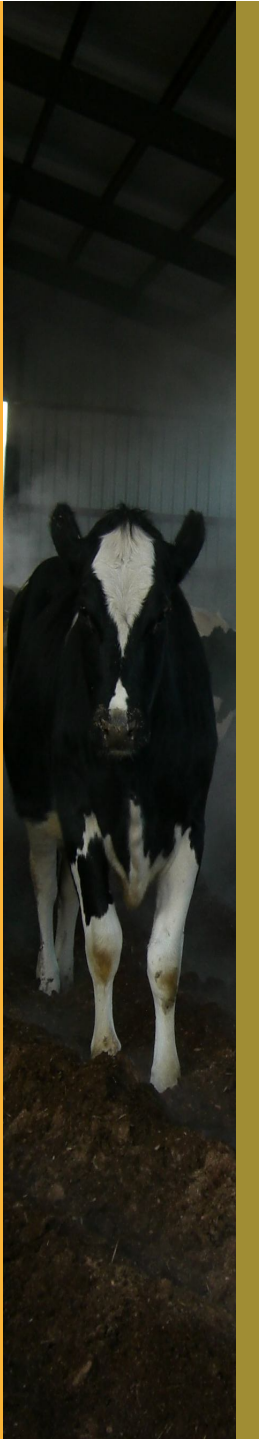
Bedding

- Study primarily used sawdust
- Price and availability can be extreme
- Back-up source



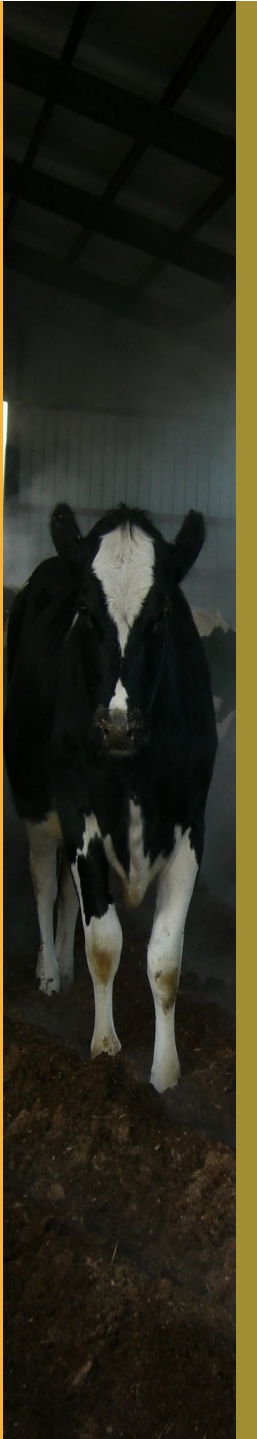
Equipment

- Tractor
- Mixing tool
- Loader tractor/skid steer
- Feed distribution



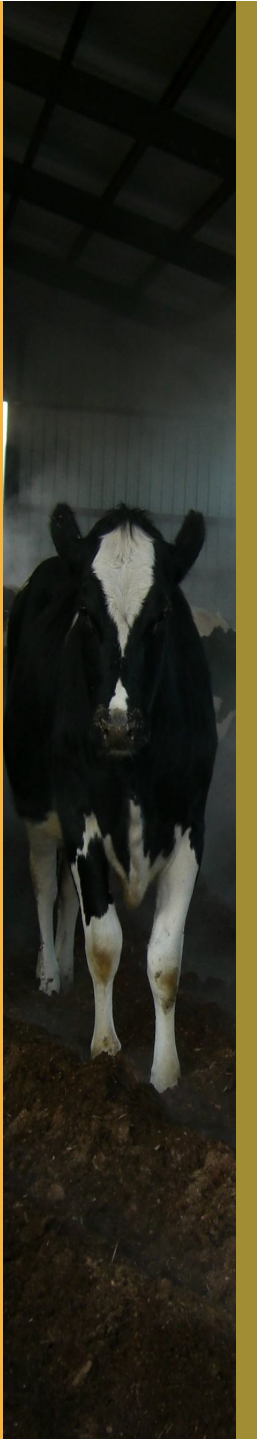
Labor

- 16-22 hours/month
 - Stirring twice daily
 - Scraping any alleyways
 - Adding sawdust as needed
 - \$12/hr = \$192-\$264



Labor

- Sawdust (1hr) added 1/week to 1/month
- Access to pasture
- Compare to current system



Uky Tool

- <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/afsdairy/DairyHousingInvestment>

New Dairy Housing Investment Analysis Dashboard

(Adobe Flash Player required) Please be patient. May take a couple minutes to load.



**University of Kentucky
New Dairy Housing
Facility Investment
Analysis Dashboard**

Created By: Randi Black and Dr. Jeffrey Bewley

This dashboard has been developed as a decision support tool for dairy farmers considering building a new dairy housing facility using their personal situation and housing goals. Everything in this dashboard is changable, allowing parameters to be set to those values appropriate for a particular situation or different from the default values. However, default values are those found in scientific literature or from expert opinion and can be used in situations when a value is not available for the farmer's personal situation.

The white buttons are located throughout the dashboard and may be used to better define a particular input or output in this dashboard. Simply roll the mouse over the button to obtain additional information.

The reset button on this page may be used to reset all values to the defaults.

UK
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see blue.
in everything we do.

Reset