

# WHICH MILKING PARLOUR TO CHOOSE (Level 3)

Topic	Milking & milk Hygiene
7.1	Instructions hand milking techno & hygiene
7.2	Instructions machine milking good practice
7.3	Problems during milking
7.4	Scoring of teat condition
7.5	Milk production recording
7.6	Calculation of costs hand vs machine milking
7.7	Which milking parlour to choose
7.8	Testing & maintenance of milking machines
7.9	Milking & cleaning routine in milking parlours
7.10	Storage & cooling of milk on farm



## 1. You will learn about (learning objectives):

- Different milking parlors.
- The differences between parlors.



## 2. No Milking Parlor

- No power/ electricity.
- Low number of cows.
- Low milk production.



### 3. Start thinking about a Milking Parlor

- Training facilities.
  - Parlour milking is a different skill compared with ordinary machine milking.
  - Enough people available for becoming a milker ?
- Which dealers are available, and where do they live.
- Are there mechanics available in case of malfunctions.
- Spare parts can be delivered/are available at any time .





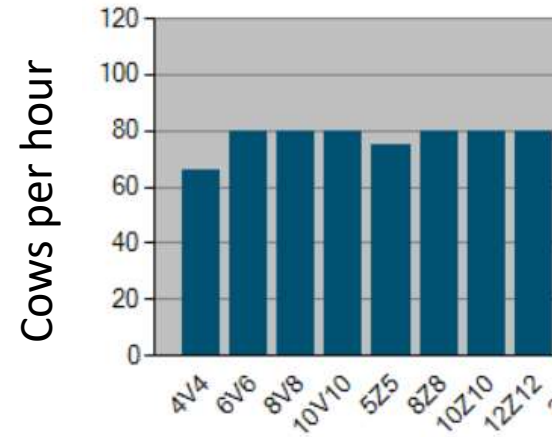
### 3.1. Start thinking about a Milking Parlor. Cont'd...

- Large number of cows need to be milked.
- Production per cow increases.
- 24/7 power available.
- Lack of labor.



### 3.2. Start thinking about a Milking Parlor. Cont'd...

- Parlor is most important building in a dairy farm.
- Let the parlor be your starting point.
  - Cows to be milked.
  - Milk production/cow/year.
  - Milking speed.
  - Labour.
- After having designed and agreed about the parlor the cow barn follows next.



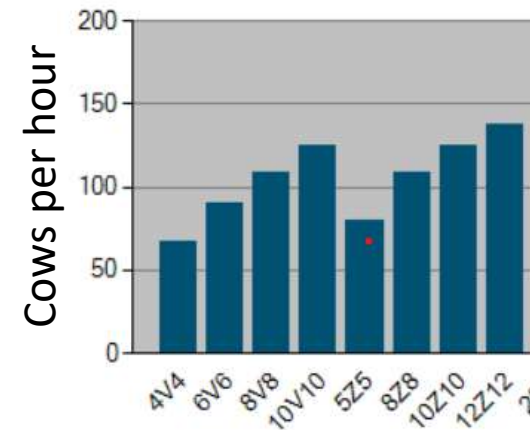
V = Herringbone.  
Z = side by side

150 cows.

6500 kg /cow/year

1 milker

high milking speed.



V = Herring bone.  
Z = side by side.

150 cows.

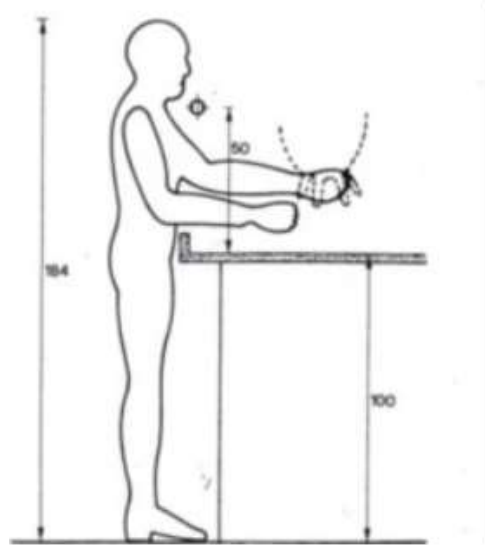
5000kg /cow/year

2 milkers

slow milking speed.

### 3.3. Start thinking about a Milking Parlor. Cont'd...

- Parlour is most important building in a dairy farm.
- Points of attention.
- Who is going to be the milker.
  - Comfort.
- What kind of cows.
  - Holstein cows won't fit in jersey parlour.



From ergonomic point of view, the best position for the milker(184 cm's)



Low, short and narrow  
Different parlour dimensions !!!  
High, long and wide.



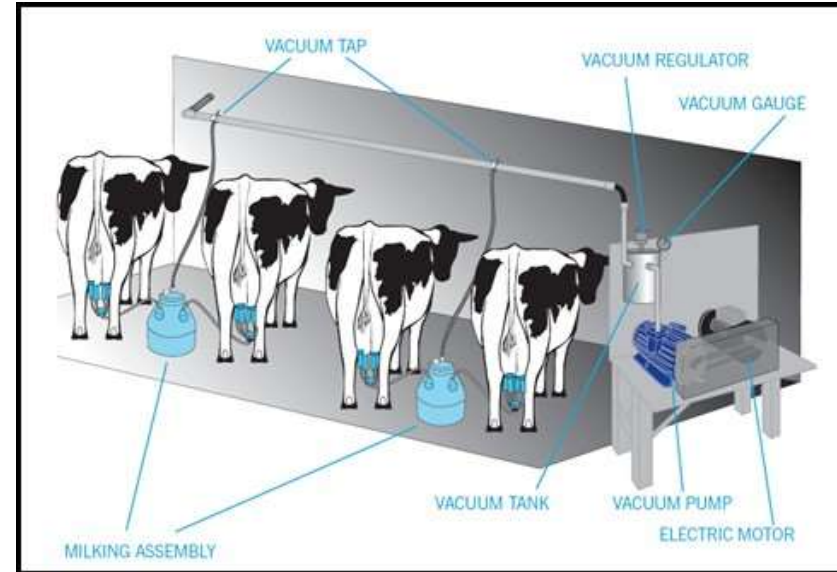
## 4. Different parlors

### Trolley milking

milking is a very logical “in between” step from hand-milking to parlour milking.

Relative cheap solution in case of lacking labour.

One person can easily operate 4 units, means that four cows can be milked at the same time.



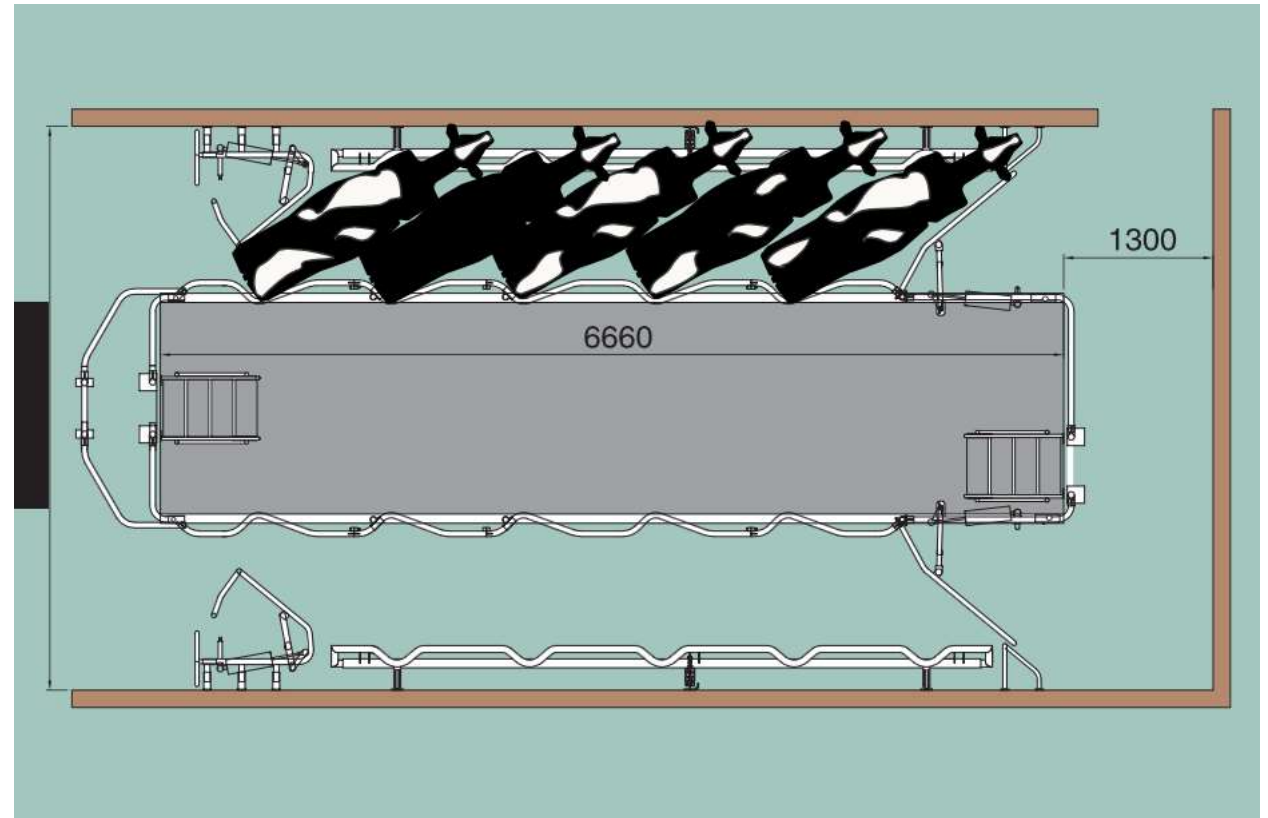


## 4.1. Herring bone milking parlor

A well-known type of milking parlour is the herringbone parlour.

The milker has close contact with the cow and the udder is easily accessible.

The milker has a good overview of the cows.



Herringbone parlours are most usually 30°, nowadays also 50 and even 80° are constructed.

Various versions are possible for a good set-up according to personal wishes. 30°, cows are milked from right/left side, 50-80° are milked between the cow's hind legs.

#### 4.1.1. Herring bone milking parlor

80° Herringbone, more cows & less overview.

Construction costs /m<sup>2</sup> are a bit less comparing the 30°.



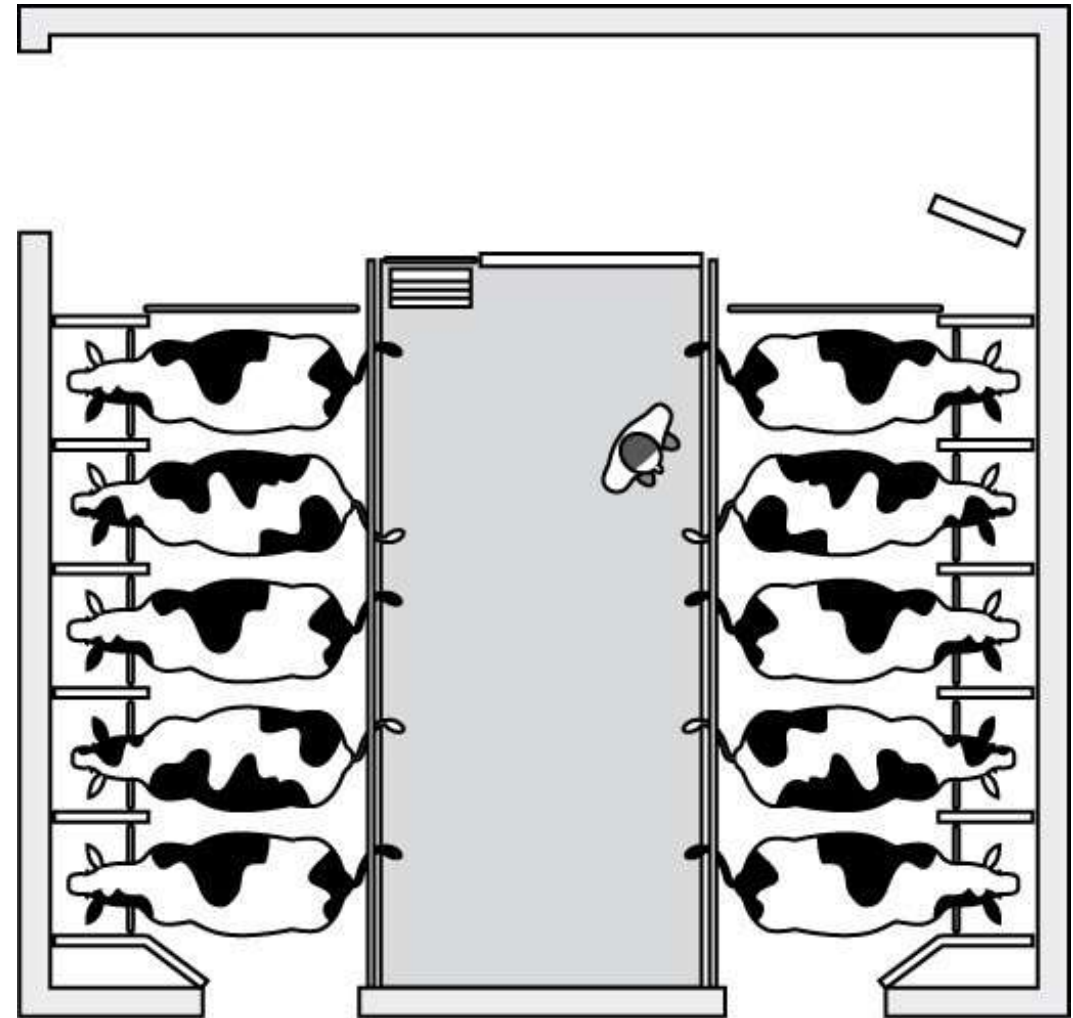
## 4.2. The side by side milking parlour

The side by side milking parlour is very compact. This makes it very suitable in renovation situations.

This type of barn is also used widely in new construction. Milking between the hind legs requires a different approach. The overview and accessibility of the udder is less.

The safety of milking in here is much greater for the milker. The can't really hit you with its hind legs.

The cows are locked during milking. A manure gutter is very useful for collecting the manure . The walking lines of this barn are very efficient.





### 4.3. The swing over milking parlour

Swing over is a sort of herringbone system which is more efficient with less investments.

Swing over is a 1 for 2 principal, 1 unit milks as well the right and the left cow.

Max capacity for one person is approximately 2 x 26 swing over, meaning about 120 cows/hour.

Well experienced milker must be able to make the parlour > 90% efficient.



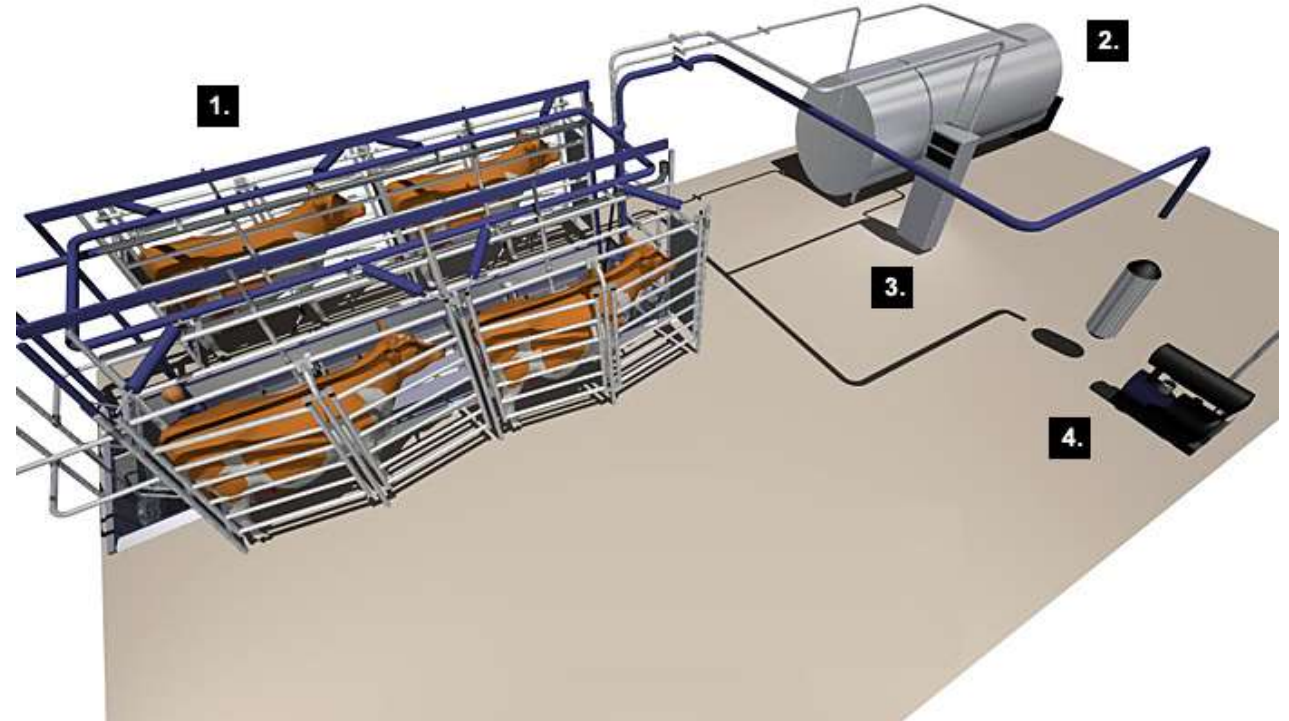


## 4.4. The Tandem milking parlour

The tandem milking parlour is designed to milk the cows from the side. The milker has a complete overview.

The cows can see the milker so that the cows quickly get used to the presence of people. This results in a quiet herd.

Once chosen for this system there are few or no possibilities for expansion.



## 5. Most errors cannot be recovered later

- Correct length, tailored to the cow(s).
- Position of the milk unit must be adapted to the position of the udder.
- Prepare yourself well before you start building, learn from other people's mistakes.



\*In this picture the cow positions are too short therefore;

- cows won't come in easily.
- Stress , poor milk let down.
- Shitting and urinating while milking.

## 6. Light in the milking parlour

Cows don't like to walk from a very light (waiting area) environment into a more dark (milking parlour) environment.

Light coloured walls and roofs feel very comfortable for cows.

Cows are fear fast light transitions.  
Varying light intensities are experienced as unpleasant by cows.



## 7. Milking parlour constructed more than 2 years ago

- Very expensive.,2x 14 herringbone.
- 30 milking cows .
- Average milk production 12 kg/day.
- Cleaned twice a week, still looks new.
- 30 cows are being milked with trolley milker.

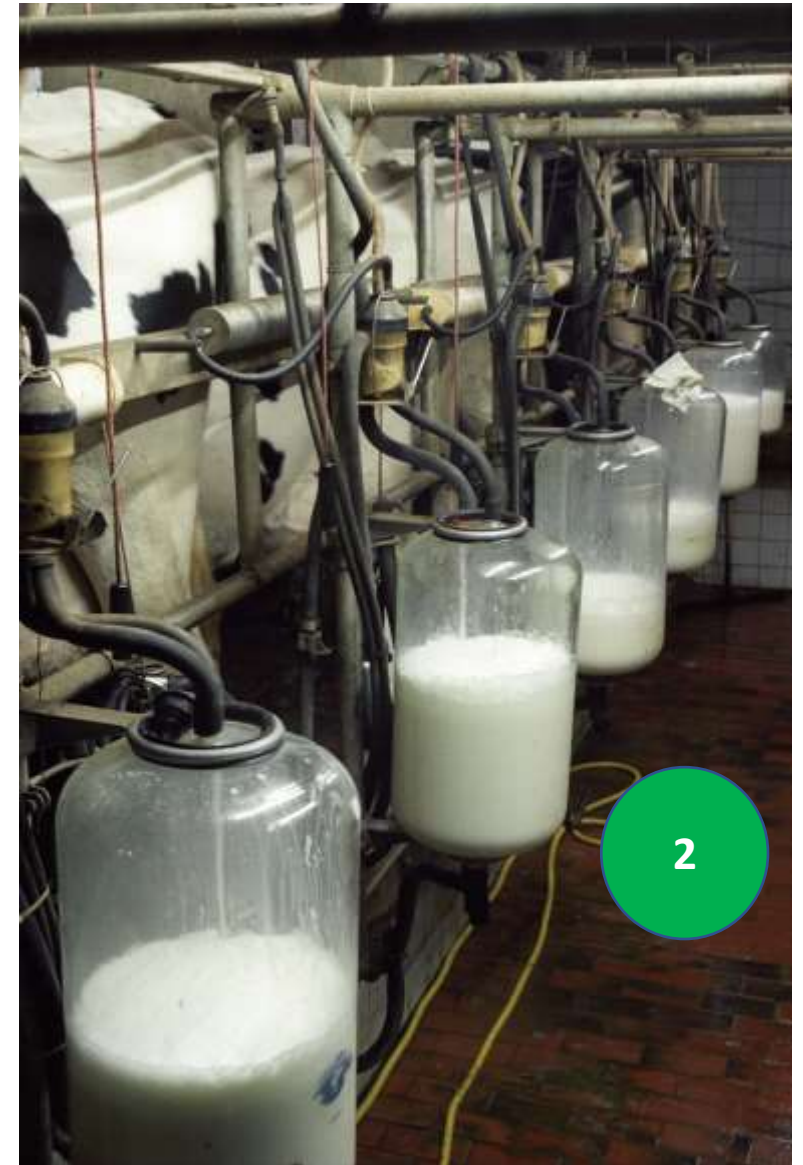
## • DIVESTMENT





## 8. Which version do you choose

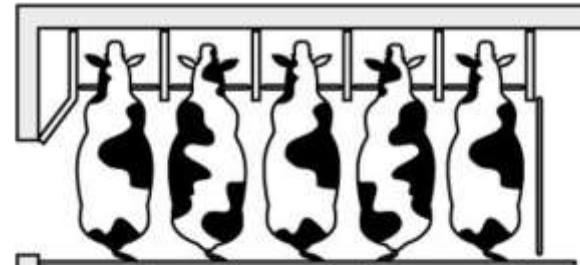
1. Very simple version with only the basic necessities.
2. With Milk jars, will inform you straight away during milking about your daily management.



## 8.1. Which version do you choose.

Cont'd...

1. Look into the future, how will your farm look within five years.
2. How many cows are you planning to keep within five years.
3. What kind of cows will you have within five years.
4. Always make sure that your milking parlour will be the centre of your farm.
5. Keep the (men)working/(cow)walking lines as short as possible.
6. Make sure that your milking parlour can easily be expanded.

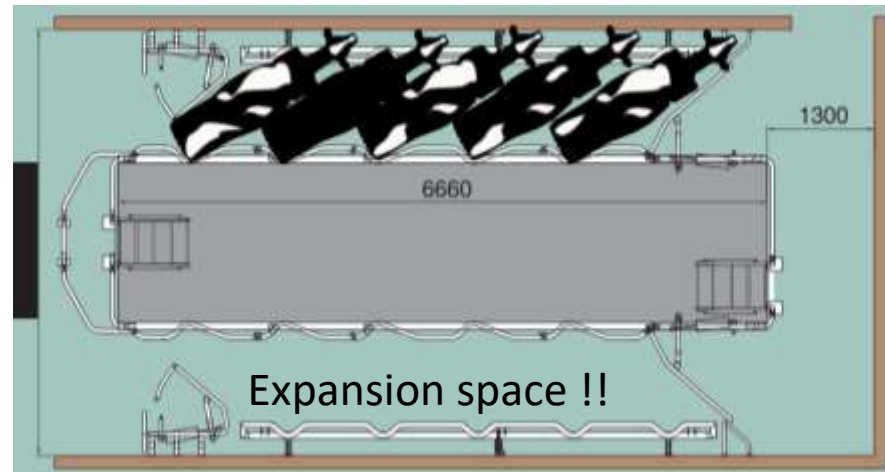


Easy expandable from single 5 to double 10



Easy expandable swing over to unit milking.

"Always take possible expansion into account during construction".



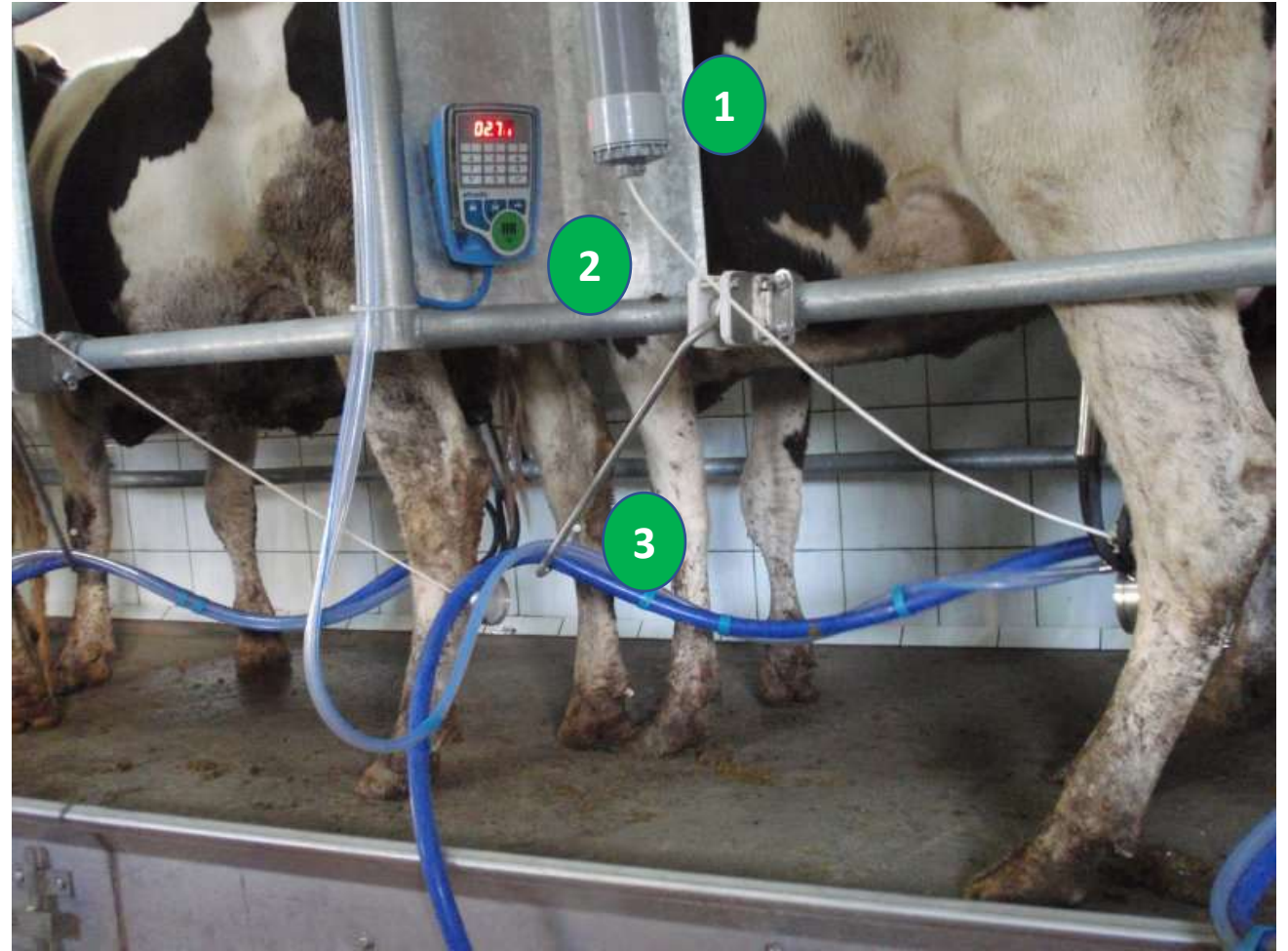
Start with one side and five units, when more cows invest in five extra units.

## 8.2. Which version do you choose. Cont'd...

1. Automatic take off.
  - -/- labour.
2. Milk production registration.
  - Management.
3. Milk hose guides.
  - Better milking.
  - More milk.
  - Faster milking.

Every "extra" means higher investment

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$





## 9. Summary

1. Milking parlour is the most valuable/important machinery in your farm.
2. Choosing the right milking parlour is a time-consuming activity.
3. The location of the milking parlour is very important in case of future expansion.
4. The milking parlour always must be the heart of the farm.
5. Learn from other one's mistakes is a statement you must keep in mind.
6. Mistakes in construction cannot be corrected anymore.
7. Choosing a milking parlour is a decision for the next 15-20 years.

