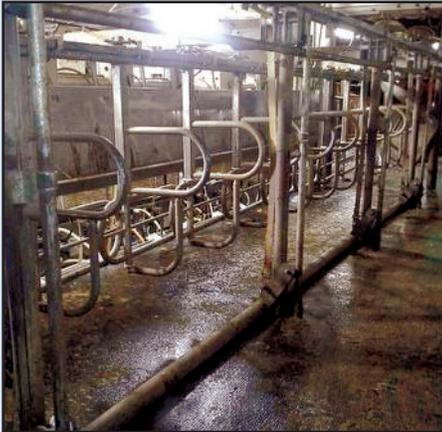


# "The Project Was All Thumbs-Up"



After his first visit with Charlie Storms, Jim Barthel of West Ridge Dairy in Bellingham, MN, knew he made a good choice to call Storms Welding for his parlor renovation.

Barthel, who milks 320 head at his dairy operation with his family and two farmhands, began considering the update in 2011. In February 2013, when the barn was about to turn 20 years old, he called Charlie to explore options.

"I knew after meeting with Charlie, the parlor renovation would be with Storms Welding," Barthel said.

Barthel points out that not only were Charlie and his crew accommodating to his schedule, they were also courteous to his ideas and his insight to the architecture of the barn.

"Charlie combines old-school respect with modern technology," explained Barthel. "The project was unique and he treated it that way."

With the renovation running ahead of schedule, it was completed in about one week. The effects of the changes have been visible in both the cows' comfort and the time needed to complete chores.

Barthel noticed immediately that work time was cut down considerably with a more efficient layout. Milking, which had taken up to four and half hours, now only takes three hours.

The cows are happy with the change as well. With more room and comfortable rubber mats, they are far more content in their surroundings.

"It's all-around a better environment for milking," said Barthel of his parlor. "The project was all thumbs-up."

Barthel was pleased with the renovation from start to finish and is keeping Charlie and his crew on call for the other improvements he wants to make. "Storms Welding will get my repeat business," he said.



Jim Barthel  
West Ridge Dairy  
Bellingham, MN

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