

# Hoens Happy After Barn Remodeled



Roger and Rich Hoen, of Cologne, MN, needed to make improvements in their barn.

In their old barns, the cows were getting injured in the stalls, the water pipes were very vulnerable and the cows were lunging into the stalls each time they got up. The brothers milk 78 cows on one site near Cologne, MN. They milk in two barns that are connected in an L configuration.

"There was a lot of injuries to their hooves and hip bones," Rich said. "We noticed swelling in that area and they would be limping. The old tie-stalls were outdated; in one barn they were installed in 1957 and the other in 1971.

Last year the brothers decided to make a change. They had Storms Welding and Manufacturing install stanchion barn loops in both their barns with the loops between each cow as well. The first project was completed in June the other in October. Since completion the Hoens have noticed several benefits.

"When the cows got up (in the old barns) they used the stalls to get up, now when the cows get up, they don't use the pipe at all. It's unbelievable," Roger said.

He also noted the cows are cleaner now because they are not laying in the other cows beds. The water problems are gone as well. The team at Storms was able to run the water through 2 galvanized pipe below the rail pipe.

"There is much more water coming to them faster," Rich said. "We have this style drinking cup that has a little pistol in here where the cows can push ahead. The cows naturally push that way."

"We haven't shoveled water since," Rich added.

The brothers said they were extremely pleased with the efficiency of installation; it took three days in the 44-cow barn and just two days in the 34-stall barn.

"When they come in here, they work," Roger said. "He's done some very good work, and not only in stalls, repairing farm equipment, everything."



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