

Hood Dairy Farms

Location: Paw Paw, Michigan

Application: Dairy Operation

Building Series: TITAN® & Arch™

Building Sizes: 100' x 460', 90' x 120', 50' x 80', 30' x 96'



Cover-All Buildings Ideal for Dairy Expansion

Hood Dairy Farms is a four-generation family farm that expanded its dairy operation from 50 cows to 400 cows in 2000. For many generations, dairy and cash crops were the main business, but consistently low grain prices drove the need to change. After years of planning and research to grow the herd and use the land efficiently, Hood Farms chose Cover-All® buildings for their dairy operation.

"Before we made our decision, we visited another large Cover-All® dairy facility in Wisconsin and we were totally impressed," says Tim Hood. "When I walked into their barn I thought to myself, 'If I were a cow, this is the barn I would want to be in.'" The long-term goal is to expand the dairy operation to 800 cows and have the facilities and cow management systems to accommodate this growth strategy.

"Everyone who walks into our barns comment that the cows look very comfortable because there is so much natural light," says Hood. "The white material reflects light extremely well, reducing our operating costs and allowing us to have proper lumens to control day length in our barns. This is very important, especially on short winter days."

Superior air ventilation and clear-span design of the Cover-All® buildings were also important features to Hood Farms. "Because the roof is so much higher than a conventional barn, we have a large volume of air over the cattle. We were able to design the barn to get all the natural ventilation we need. The air always smells good in our barns."

The Hood family has four Cover-All® buildings. All four buildings are connected to guarantee maximum cow comfort. The 100' x 460' main free stall is attached to a 30' x 96' cross walk which leads to a 90' x 120' barn for close up cows. The close-up cow area is connected to a 50' x 80' Cover-All® holding area and milking parlor.

"We are a family dairy operation, so we need the buildings to last generations," says Hood. "The materials that Cover-All® buildings are constructed with are far superior to anything else. Metal buildings are prone to rust and the treated posts in wood barns can rot." Cover-All® buildings utilize galvanized steel tubing with a triple-coated Gatorshield® corrosion barrier for the interior frame system. The DuraWeave® fabric cover is resistant to rust and virtually maintenance free. The four Cover-All® buildings were installed in just three weeks, preventing any rain delays for contractors to finish pouring the cement floor.

All these benefits add up to a more productive environment for cows and dairy operators. "When you purchase animals from a number of different sources, health issues can be a concern," says Hood. "We are confident that the combination of fresh air, natural light and good cow management are the reasons for excellent herd health. I'm pleased to say that we have maintained exceptional health of our herd during the transition period."

Cover-All has proven to be the ideal dairy barn solution for the business and provisions for another 100' x 460' Cover-All® building are already in the plans for the next phase of expansion.



Hood Dairy Farms 100' x 460' free stall barn attached to a 30' x 96' crosswalk.



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The 90' x 120' barn for close-up cows is connected to the 50' x 80' holding area.



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Building Highlights

- Hood Dairy Farms has four Cover-All buildings - 100' x 460' main free stall, 30' x 96' cross walk, 90' x 120' barn for close up cows, and a 50' x 80' Cover-All holding area.
- The four Cover-All buildings were installed in just three weeks, preventing any rain delays for contractors to finish pouring the cement floor.
- The white fabric reflects light extremely well, which reduces operating costs and allows for greater control of day length.