

Innovation Farming

Location: Oberfeld, Schötz, Switzerland

Application: Dairy Facility

Building Series: TITAN®

Building Size: 100' wide x 180' long (30.4m x 54.8m)



Optimal Cow Comfort in Innovative Switzerland Dairy

When Werner Muri, Edwin Wiler, and Hans Battig of Schötz, Switzerland began researching innovative dairy practices, they came across a local company by the name of Gruter Handels AG, an authorized Cover-All dealer in Europe. They researched a number of applications and discovered Cover-All at EuroTier 2004 in Hanover, Germany. That is where they were introduced to the innovative building design of Cover-All. "The climate, bright light, and good air inspired us to choose Cover-All," Werner Muri commented. Once they had the opportunity to experience the inside of a building, they knew it was the right choice for their dairy operation.

At first sight, the Cover-All reminds passersby along the road from Schötz to Gettnau, of a simple fixed tent. The white Duraweave® fabric tensioned over the steel frame gives that initial impression, but the foundations are from concrete, the ViperSteel® frame is galvanized to prevent corrosion, and the fabric has a 12 ounce weight creating a sound, engineered structure that is built to last. The building is 54.8 meters long, 30.4 meters wide, and has a height of 13 meters. This clear span structure requires no supports in the middle, and is engineered to withstand local wind and snow loads. The building features side wall curtains that can be opened or closed to maintain the proper environment inside the building. The ability to extend the building in the future along with designing a free-stall system inside made the Cover-All® the right choice.

Werner has had a lot of interest in his building since it was installed, attracting over 15,000 visitors from across Europe, 5 TV shows, and 6 radio stations. Werner and his colleagues have also won 2 innovation prizes through Emmi, the leading Swiss company for cheese and fresh dairy products. They won for their innovative building project, which consists of a variety of different technologies which are designed to increase the comfort of the cattle inside. Werner believes that the comfort of the cow is very important to achieve higher milk production and maintain a profitable dairy farm. "The animals are calmer and there are less rank fights," comments Werner. By using Cover-All, the environment inside the building simulates the natural light outside, while maintaining air quality and temperature with the proper ventilation techniques.

This Cover-All® is the first of its kind in Switzerland. As future industry demands continue for the dairy industry, farms will continue to look for innovative ways to improve cow comfort and increase milk production.



The clean white cover of the building attracts attention from the adjacent roadway.



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Interior comfort and design led to two prizes with Emmi for innovation in dairy business.



Open Door Days held in August, 2006.