

Off Paddock Systems Comparison & Investment Guide

							
System	Uncovered Feedpad	Uncovered Loafing Pad	Covered Loafing Pad	Mono Pitch Composting Barn	Gable Roof Composting Barn	Centre Lane Composting Barn	Free Stall Barn
New Build Cost Per Cow	\$1,200 - \$1,500	\$1300 - \$2500	\$1300 - \$2500	\$1,200 - \$1,500	\$2200- \$2700	\$2500- \$2800	\$5,000 - \$7,500
Based On A 500 Cow Herd	\$600k - \$750k	\$1.15m - \$1.25m	\$1.35m - \$1.50m	\$600k - \$750k	\$950k - \$1.20m	\$1.05m - \$1.30m	\$2.5m - \$3.75m
M2 Per Cow	3.5 - 5m ²	3.5 - 6m ²	3.5 - 6m ²	4.5 - 6m ²	8 - 10m ²	8 - 10m ²	2 - 5m ²
Surface	Rubber matting options.	Rubber matting options.	Rubber matting options.	Woodchips or sawdust.	Woodchips or sawdust.	Woodchips or sawdust.	Specialist rubber animal beds.
Pros	Designed for short term stand off (1-5 days), this system is relatively low input with minimal ongoing costs while still giving the key benefits of pasture protection and increasing feed utilisation.	All of the benefits of previous system, however gives the ability to winter cows and when used with a flood wash there is minimal daily maintenance outside of 2-3 washes a day.	The most robust housing system, as it offers year round protection from the weather and heat.	Cost effective system that works as both a calving barn and feedpad so is ideal for smaller -medium herds when looking for a low investment that provides options for high pressure parts of the year.	A efficient but capable system that gives adequate loafing space and still the ability to use as a feedpad.	A system that is designed for those wanting optimum loafing and feeding per cow, the centre feedlane gives better protection of feed from weather.	High input and high production system, designed for those seeking to get the most from their cow without the ongoing maintenance of a composting barn system.
Cons	No heat protection, and increases pressure on effluent capacity as rain water is captured.	Higher up front cost when compared to other similar systems, consideration needs to be given to the additional effluent storage requirements.	Higher capital investment.	Due to the low m2 per cow, careful management and maintenance is required to not overload the system.	When using as a feedpad, there are restraints to the number of cows able to feed due to only having two outside feedfaces.	Higher investment as the total footprint is larger and more concrete on the centre lane.	Requires significant investment in additional machinery and farm technology.
Equipment	Feed out/mixer wagon and scraper attachment (if required).	Feed out/mixer wagon.	Feed out/mixer wagon.	Feed out/mixer wagon, tractor with ripper implement.	Feed out/mixer wagon, tractor with ripper implement.	Feed out/mixer wagon, tractor with ripper implement.	Feed out/mixer wagon.
Loafing Time	1 - 5 days	1 week - 8 weeks	1 week - 8 weeks	1 week - 12 weeks	1 week - 12 weeks	1 week - 12 weeks	365 days
Cleaning System	Manual Scraping or Flood wash system.	Flood wash system.	Flood wash system.	Daily tilling of bedding material.	Daily tilling of bedding material.	Daily tilling of bedding material.	Automatic scraper system or flood wash.
Cleaning Time	Scraping (0.5-1hr daily) or Flood wash (5min daily)	5min daily	5min daily	10min - 1hr daily	10min - 1hr daily	10min - 1hr daily	10min daily