



Overview

Adam and Irene Deane are owner operators on a large Dairy farm at Elstow near Te Aroha. Their 600 cow operation grew significantly in 2015 when they purchased the neighbours farm and added another 400 cows to their milking platform, taking it to a 1000 cow operation.

Objectives

Faced with milking times around 5-6 hours per milking they had originally planned to extend the current 34 HB to a 54 HB. On closer inspection of the existing dairy it was decided that there was too much to do to make the existing shed efficient and compliant enough to milk 1000 cows' long term.

After visits to some large HB sheds as well as Rotary's it ended up an easy decision. They both decided a 72 Bail Rotary was what would suit them best based both on labour efficiencies and milking times for their number of cows. Positioning of the new Rotary in a way that they could continue to milk through the existing dairy with minimal disruption as well as a position that was going to create great cow flow to and from the Dairy long term was an important consideration.

Effluent management was another major concern and they wanted a very low labour input and fully compliant system and did not want anything that required constant emptying or attention.

Challenges

With a tight budget in mind, we managed to come up with a simple but effective design for the Dairy with all the rooms fitting within the main building structure and in a position that works well with cow flow and only minimal new race and tanker work. For the effluent it was decided to install a large triple wedge system 27m long with 3 bays at 5m wide that would only need emptying once or maybe twice a year.

Solution

Since the 72 bail Rotary has been up and running milking times have reduced to around 3 hours per milking and can be done with only two people in the dairy most of the time. This is great representation of how DCW dairies are light, airy and have unrivalled cow flow. The triple wedge effluent system has been an ideal solution, and did the first full season without the need to empty it at all or any irrigator blockages.