



MARVILLE HOLSTEINS/
MEL BROUWER
Grand Valley, Ontario

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**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
TEAM**

Builder:

Post Farm Structures Inc.

Engineers:

Tacoma Engineers Inc.

Steel Cladding Supplier:

Agway Metals Inc.

Ventilation:

Sun-North Systems Ltd.

96-Cow Free-Stall Dairy Facility



Post Farm Structures Inc. of Alma Ontario has completed many commercial and small industrial projects, but as the name suggests specialties in agricultural ones. Established in 1974 by E. John Post, the company has developed as a flourishing family business with sons Herman, Neil, and John Jr. all playing significant roles. This case history features a 96-cow free stall dairy facility for Marsville Holsteins/ Mel Brouwer of Grand Valley, Ontario.

The project comprises one building with a main section of 106' x 172' with an attached milk house of 30' x 34'. It includes an office, storage room, vet room, and washroom. It was completed between the spring and fall of 2004. Post Farm has done all the construction for Mel Brouwer since 1975. This facility won Builder Of The Year Award in the dairy facility category at the 2004 Canadian Farm Builders' Association Awards Banquet.

Construction involved foundation, post & beam stud wall, mainly stud frame with two rows of galvanized posts supporting the structure and where the ventilation curtains are located. Interior walls are poly-coated plywood and natural ventilation is provided via sidewall curtains plus 3 Max Air ventilation fans spaced down the centre alley of the barn. The windows are Nova-Lite sliding insulated poly-glass panels by Sun-North Systems of Seaforth, Ontario. Commonly used in milking parlours and equine arenas, they are

virtually unbreakable and allow 99% light penetration. The ceiling is strapped wood trusses with a white PVC liner that is non-corrosive and easy to clean.

Roof and wall cladding and trim is 29 gauge galvanized steel prepainted QC8262 Black in the Diamond Rib profile for the walls and QC8273 Bone White in the Century Rib for the roof and trim. John Post says steel was chosen for low maintenance and high durability. When asked about the effectiveness of competing materials in those types of applications he responded, "As far as I'm concerned, for those qualities there are no competing materials."

Other features of the facility include a Boumatic double eight Xcaliber herringbone milking parlour with adjacent cow-holding area, with rubber matting to the milking parlour, holding area, cow feed alleys, and crossovers. Concrete alleys are grooved and cleaned via alloy manure scrapers to a rear flow tank feeding an exterior 100' diameter manure tank. As well, there is an attic area with appropriate fire separation. Tacoma Engineers specified the firewall plus snow and wind loads for that geographic area, checked Post Farm's design and performed field inspections to ensure compliance with code. All ultimately checked of course by the local building inspector.