

We market our products in many countries of the world. Again and again we and our partners in the field receive interesting reports from dairy farmers and scientists. We are happy to process this information to you and hope that you will find it helpful. Send us your suggestions – we count on them to help us give you a better product!

Many thanks, your KRAIBURG Team

ISSUE 37 - March 2016

## CUBICLE RENOVATION

Cow barns from the nineties are as comfortable as a Golf 1. They don't fulfil the needs of the significantly bigger and more productive animals nowadays.

The question is: how can the cubicles be modernised efficiently? The ground plan of a lying area cannot be altered much after construction. However, improvements are possible – and certainly meaningful, as this practical example demonstrates.

### PROFILE:

- 45 dairy cows
- elevated cubicles with rubber mats

**Three measures for improving cow comfort were implemented:**

### 1. Raising the neck rail



By installing variably adjustable distance pieces, the neck rail can be raised.

### 2. Improving lying comfort



Defective mats were replaced.

### 3. Installing brisket boards

**Before alterations**



As brisket boards, upright boards and timber beams were used.

**After alterations**



In their totally lateral resting position, cows enjoy the comfort of the renovated cubicles to the fullest.

For the test, various brisket board variants were installed:

### KRAIBURG maxiBOARD



The solid rubber cleats are 175 cm long and 11 cm high. For installation holes have to be drilled into the floor every 35 cm. Afterwards they are fastened, so that the first centimetres of the rubber mats are overlapped.



Completed: the maxiBOARD makes it possible for the animals to stretch out their front legs; simultaneously this brisket board influences the lying down process of the animals very well.

### KRAIBURG ergoBOARD



The rubber is available in lengths of 115 and 120 cm. At 18.5 cm it is higher than the maxiBOARD brisket board. But the rubber is softer and the incorporated rounded indentations are advantageous for positioning the front legs and head when lying down.



Starting the very first day the animals acted very comfortable with the ergoBOARD. Combined with a little straw as litter material, this brisket board comes closest to providing optimal lying comfort by fulfilling the animals' needs.

**By the way: as a pleasant side effect of this renovation, it turned out that despite higher neck rails, the animals did not excrete more in the cubicle, but tendentially less.**

