



*Renovations to Cover-All Dairy Innovation Centre and Milk House on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

## **Dairy Barn Construction Is A North American First**

There's another North American "first" planned for the 2009 Canada's Outdoor Farm Show (COFS) - so the spring and summer have been filled with lots of construction at the Woodstock site. The revamped facility will host two live robotic milking demonstrations, showcasing the Lely Astronaut A3 *Next* and the DeLaval 2009 VMS Voluntary Milking System.

The old Cover-All structure has been completely refitted and recovered to accommodate the robots and 70 cows – and will be known as the Cover-All Dairy Innovation Centre – featuring Lely & DeLaval. With participation from a host of dairy industry sponsors, the barn will showcase not only the latest in robotic milking technology but numerous innovations and industry technologies. And the new milk house, built just outside the 4-H Pavilion, is a stunning addition to an amazing complex.

"The Cover-All Dairy Innovation Centre is a unique partnership opportunity for our dairy exhibitors," says Robin Fines, COFS Sponsorship and Programming Coordinator. "Where else can producers see the latest in dairy technologies at work under one roof?"

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show will be the first in North America to demonstrate two milking robots working side-by-side on two herds of 35 cows each. Cover-All Building Systems Inc. has put a roof over everyone's head by again stepping up to renovate and extend the existing structure. Lely Canada Inc., the cornerstone tenant in the dairy barn for the last nine years, will demonstrate the Juno feed pusher and the Discovery mobile barn cleaner, in addition to the new Astronaut A3 *Next*, the 'new kid on the block' for 2009 will be DeLaval, showcasing their new VMS housed in a feed-first cow traffic configuration.

Much of the technology that helps to keep the facility running smoothly is supplied by additional dairy partners, giving producers the opportunity to see other barn products 'in action.' The cows will munch on B-W Feed delivered from a Supreme Mixer supplied by Brodie Ag and pulled by the new 135 hp Kubota M135X tractor. And pasture mats from Promat will help to keep the cows comfortable during their three week stay at the Show.

With plans for adding an anaerobic digester to the barn in 2010, the ability to provide 'fresh green' manure to the Greatario Slurrystore is imperative and Penner Farm Services has installed a manure delivery system that will meet important standards for a future biogas system. And, with all this 'green energy' happening in the barn, Provision Solar will demonstrate how using solar power can help save money in any farm operation.

"We need a facility that can showcase the newest technologies over time," says Doug Wagner, COFS Director and V.P. of Park Logistics. "We can't provide that degree of flexibility without the help of industry partners like Stubbes Precast Concrete who stepped up to supply slats for the entire barn without a lot of notice. Thanks to Stubbes, barn construction is right on schedule."

The Cover-All Dairy Innovation Centre will also host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Robot-Ready Dairy Heifer Auction being held at noon on Thursday, September 17, 2009. This unique sale will be managed by David Carson Farms and Auction Services, meeting a growing need for replacement heifers trained on robotics. Producers can talk to Farm Credit Canada about financing cattle or any of their production needs.

COFS continually strives to showcase what's new and exciting in agriculture and to allow producers to see technology in action – and this new dairy facility will be no different. Designed to allow producers to experience two robots milking live cattle; to see and smell Mycogen's BMR corn; to feel how well Artjen North America's Big Ass Fans and Faromor's curtains help to ventilate a barn; to see the difference energy-saving Agrilight products can illuminate a barn; to learn more about the ongoing dairy research being conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs - the future of dairy will be in Woodstock this September!

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show will be held September 15, 16 & 17, 2009 at Canada's Outdoor Park, Woodstock, ON. For more information, visit [www.OutdoorFarmShow.com](http://www.OutdoorFarmShow.com)

