

## Site Survey

### Situation Overview:

A. *How did the team analyze potential sites for construction?* The existing farm and barn layout left few options for our construction project. There was only one logical site for construction of the new free-stall barn.

B. *What variables did the team consider as they reviewed sites?* Setbacks from the other buildings, and placement of the manure storage were two variables we considered during the site survey. Retrofitting the current barn was an option, but we decided against it.

While retrofitting would have been a less expensive option, it would not have been the most user friendly system. Cow flow would not be ideal and ultimately, milking cows during a retrofit construction project would have been a nightmare. We were looking at the long term, and if we were going to do something, we needed to be happy with the facilities. Our banker would rather give us a loan and do it the right way, than be loaning money again in a few years. Building a new barn did increase our cow numbers for a better cash flow. If we had decided to retrofit, cow numbers would not have been as high.

### Challenges and Opportunities:

C. *During the site survey process, did the farm encounter any problems? Yes. If so, what were they?* The manure storage capacity became an issue during our project. Due to the larger capacity of the storage pit, the setback was increased to 200 feet, instead of the typical 100 feet. Thankfully, a neighbor signed a waiver release, provided by our engineer, that allowed for the additional 100 feet setback.

### Actions:

D. *How long, from start to finish, was the site survey process?* November 2009 to January 2011

E. *Approximately, how much did the site survey work cost?* Approximately \$7,200

### Results

F. *Can you provide a PDF of the condensed project blue print with your case study?* Yes. [The blueprint is included in the resources.](#)