

December 2018 – Volume 19 Issue 2

RIDBA JOURNAL

The Premier Rural and Industrial Building Magazine



P6 | P3

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A Word from the Editor

Reflecting On A Year of Achievement

2018 has been a positive year for RIDBA, so I'd like to take this opportunity to briefly look back at what we have achieved. Early in the year, we signed a Primary Authority Agreement with Dorset County Council Trading Standards in an attempt to improve compliance of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), namely CE marking. RIDBA members remain critical to the success of this partnership by reporting cases of non-compliance, which can be anonymous through RIDBA.

Back in March, RIDBA held its first Industry Day at the fantastic Jaguar Experience. With an impressive line-up of key industry speakers including building design and animal welfare from Jamie Robertson, who has written an article in this edition on the Value of Design on page 5, as well as CDM Regulations, insulation and a technical update from RIDBA Technical Consultant, Dr Martin Heywood. Martin's feature article, covering member and frame stability, can be found on pages 20-21.

RIDBA's New Year has, of course, already begun and all members would have received an invitation to renew their membership, along with an invoice and link to the short annual survey to confirm their details are correct. This is an important part of your renewal so to make the most of the benefits that RIDBA has to offer, please make sure you settle the invoice and complete the survey.

Looking ahead to 2019, the RIDBA Board has set another ambitious strategy, further focusing on CE marking through the funding received from CITB as well as re-printing the Farm Buildings Handbook. Details on both of these will be in the next edition, out in April.



The Jaguar Experience

2019 also sees the return of the RIDBA Building Awards. The deadline for entries has now passed and we look forward to the judging which is scheduled for late January. The Awards Ceremony is due to take place in March at the De Vere East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham; we hope to see you there. More details can be found on page 4.

We welcome views from members of RIDBA, so whether you have completed a fantastic project or have a new product, please make sure you let us know by calling **0844 249 0043** or emailing **marketing@ridba.org.uk**.

Finally, at the time of writing, I am preparing for my maternity leave, which sees me temporarily hand over the reins of RIDBA, until my return in the autumn of 2019. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year and hope to see many of you at the RIDBA Building Awards in March.

Debbie Iley
Trade Association Director



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RIDBA News

Reporting Non-Compliance of CE Marking

Earlier this year, RIDBA signed a new partnership with Dorset County Council Trading Standards Service (DCCTSS) in the form of a Primary Authority Agreement (PAA). The agreement is a legal partnership whereby DCCTSS commits to investigating reports from RIDBA members of non-compliance of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR).

DCCTSS is fully aware of the CPR and the importance of CE Marking, which has often not been the case when dealing with many Local Trading Standards offices. Acting as the main point of contact for RIDBA on all cases, DCCTSS will follow up directly with other Local Trading Standards offices, allowing a more efficient way for RIDBA members to report non-compliance.

Members are encouraged to make RIDBA aware of any cases of non-compliance with CE marking, via admin@ridba.org.uk, which can remain anonymous.



Dates for Your Diary

24 December – 2 January

RIDBA office closes for Christmas

8-9 January

LAMMA 2019, NEC Birmingham – The UK's largest farm machinery, equipment and agricultural services show

5-7 March

Futurebuild, ExCel London – The UK's largest event for specifiers across the built environment

15 March

RIDBA AGM & Building Awards, De Vere East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham

18-23 March

Open Doors 2019 – A unique chance for people to see behind the scenes at major 'live' construction sites across the UK

RIDBA Building Awards 2019 – Join In the Celebrations!

RIDBA is delighted to present the RIDBA Building Awards 2019 showcasing the best in rural and industrial buildings.

The Awards Dinner will take place on Friday 15 March at the De Vere East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham where you can join us for a drinks reception and fabulous three-course dinner to network with stakeholders from across the industry and entertain clients.

This black-tie event will showcase members' standout projects from the past year. Places are limited so book early to avoid missing out!

To book please email admin@ridba.org.uk or call **0844 249 0043**. The booking form can also be downloaded from www.ridba.org.uk.



RIDBA Building Awards Winner, A C Bacon Engineering



The Value of Design

The UK market for livestock buildings can be tough, with suppliers competing not only with each other but with excessive home builds. The latter has a number of attractions to the farmer: a stepped build as finance and time permit, cash flow advantages and a (generally) unrealistic attitude towards the value of their own time and competence. Hey, but it saved me money...

The livestock newbuild market is extremely varied in design, costs and competence that all contribute towards a predictable difficulty in selling the value of good design. A study 30 years ago objectively described a range of naturally ventilated cattle buildings and found approximately 50% as not competent purely on ventilation capacity, before consideration of size, scale, drainage, animal flows and resilience. This situation leads to the statement that there is lots of room for improvement, but struggles because the industry finds it difficult to sell value for money rather than up-front cost. Low cost today may be very expensive for the producer in the long term, and we need to be able to explain why the financial benefits of a capital project may not also be the least cost solution. Very few farmers buy machinery on the least cost approach, but I see lots of buildings built at least cost, which are costing the business a lot of time and money in terms of performance.

Selling Points

Buildings have a range of performance criteria. The composition of structural steel components will be designed and often independently audited, along with the specifications of concretes and the requirements of drainage, for example. The clients pay for this as an internal cost of the project. However, there is little or zero checking of the performance characteristics

of a building beyond the expected number of livestock to be housed. The situation will be better for crop storage, where control of temperature and humidity can be specified; but why do we not sell the same delivery targets for livestock buildings?

Most producers are not familiar with investment appraisals, and the industry could benefit considerably if they were led through the process whilst making decisions on building projects. The building might be 30m x 20m, but what will be the impact on livestock health and performance? Why should a producer buy a building that is 10% more expensive than a competitor building if we cannot explain the difference in cash terms? Why may the business have a better long-term financial return for constructing (at higher cost) two smaller buildings rather than one large one?

Performance

The upfront losses in less than competent livestock buildings are a combination of many factors but may include:

- lower than expected capacity (inadequate drainage, or ventilation, or feed space),
- lowered production (fertility, weight gain, milk output),
- increased costs (time, feed wastage, straw) or
- increased health problems.

The production sector is slowly understanding the value of losses in these areas, so the target for a design is to provide features that can be expected to minimise those losses. Good flooring detail and drainage will help to reduce the rate of lameness, where current costs and prevalence run at £180 per cow per year and 25% respectively. They can also have

an impact on the severity and incidence of mastitis, costing in the region of £200 per cow per year and a prevalence averaging >40 cows per 100. The combination of damp environments and incompetent ventilation contribute to the incidence and severity of respiratory disease, with a single case in a young calf costing an average of £75 and the accumulated losses per heifer calf treated twice in the first 8-10 weeks of life running at £700-£900 by the end of second lactation. Correct ventilation design can increase weight gains by 5% over common poor designs. Consider animal groups of 10s, 50s, and '00s, and the financial losses (or gains) are considerable. A line of cranked crown roof sheets and sidewalls clad with perforated sheeting may look the part and be easy to install, but they will cost the producer major losses for the whole duration of the life of the building.

A significant difficulty for the building provider is that "the farmer is not sure what they want". "They want a calf building where they may at some point want to tip a 16 tonne trailer" and similar and varied stories. The suggestion of this article is that it is up to the building supply chain to be more knowledgeable about the financial and performance benefits of the designs they wish to sell. Many of the design criteria for floors, drainage, roofs and ventilation of livestock buildings were defined decades ago, and yes, to apply them may increase the capital cost compared with a competitor's design, but what benefits will it deliver to the business. If the supplier doesn't know, why would the purchaser?

Jamie Robertson,
Livestock
Management
Systems Ltd





Industry News

How CSCS is Combating Card Fraud



A growth in the value of cards has led to increased criminal activity, but CSCS is fighting back.

In recent years, CSCS has moved decisively towards a new regime in which every card issued represents a genuine qualification. While that is leading to a better-qualified workforce, it also means that the cards are more valuable – and with that comes a new challenge.

To an extent, fraud has always been an issue that CSCS has had to tackle. In the 2000s, the main form of fraud was pretty basic, with people “mocking up the cards with pieces of plastic in their back rooms or garages”, according to CSCS chief executive Graham Wren. In response, CSCS launched smart cards in 2010, which can be read electronically and are almost impossible to counterfeit.

Certified Problem

However, as CSCS started to focus on moving to a fully qualified workforce – thereby increasing the value of cards – it found that criminals moved away from producing fake cards to fake certificates, which could then be used to obtain a genuine card.

“The evidence indicates that we are now dealing with highly organised criminal networks and the number of reported incidents of fraud is increasing,” Mr Wren says. “In our contact centres we have seen an increase in incidents of fake certificates being uncovered. These certificates are supposedly issued by recognised awarding organisations, which, if not properly checked, could lead to the issue of a legitimate CSCS card.”

CSCS requires applicants to send in a certificate before a card can be issued. Certificates are then subject to a visual inspection; if there is any doubt, the CSCS team puts out a call to the awarding

organisation to check it is genuine. The problem is the sheer number of certificates to be checked.

New Threat

In an effort to stay one step ahead, however, fraudsters have now come up with a new tactic.

“The perfect solution for them is to have a valid certificate leading to a valid card,” he says. “So what they’re trying to do now is target specific centres and convert staff within those centres to act criminally – to dish out legitimate certificates without the applicant having done the qualification.”

This is something CSCS can do little to counter by itself, but when fraud is detected at a centre, it will electronically cancel the cards. “In those circumstances, what we’re saying to the awarding organisation is that the arrangements around auditing the centres have got to be strengthened,” Mr Wren says.

Clearly CSCS is doing everything it can to counter fraud – but it also needs help from the industry. To that end, Mr Wren is calling on leaders to ensure cards are read electronically every time someone enters a site to establish the card is genuine and hasn’t been cancelled.

“I think it’s important that leaders understand that the industry has to play its part in being vigilant,” he says. “People have to make sure cards are read electronically and not just given a quick visual inspection.

“There has to be more rigour around checking individuals and their qualifications when they come on site, and checking cards electronically is the most efficient way of doing this.”

Visitor Card Withdrawal

The next step towards ensuring that all CSCS cardholders achieve a qualification is the withdrawal of the Construction Site Visitor card. The card was originally introduced for workers who often did not perform a construction related role but visited site on a regular basis. CSCS has consulted with the industry and agreed a plan that will pave the way for the eventual withdrawal of the Construction Site Visitor card.

All Construction Site Visitor cards issued from **3rd September 2018** will expire on **31st August 2020** and are non-renewable.

CSCS will stop issuing the card from **28th February 2020**.

For the avoidance of doubt, all Construction Site Visitor cards issued before **3rd September 2018** will remain valid until their expiry date.

The good news is many people holding the Construction Site Visitor card will not be required to obtain another CSCS card. CSCS cards are intended for construction related occupations only and many people holding the card work in roles considered to be non-construction related, such as site cleaning and catering staff.

To find out which card is appropriate for your occupation, use the CSCS Card Finder on www.cscs.uk.com. Enter your occupation into Card Finder and follow the steps.



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Industry News

Agricultural Buildings in Demand for Workshops and Storage

With a shortage of industry and workshop space in many areas of the country, Colliers International Tim Davies spoke to Farmers Guardian about how sheds can become the new agricultural crop.

Surplus agricultural buildings can provide a diversification opportunity for farmers, with industrial and distribution space in demand across many areas of the country.

Tim Davies, head of the South West and Wales for commercial property specialist, Colliers International, says the key is to identify locations where there was a 'pent up demand' for industry or workshop space as this will be the real driver.

"Remote locations are unlikely to be as attractive, whereas conversely farms which are close to urban areas are likely to have lots of potential," he says. Mr Davies highlights the south west of England, with industrial and distribution space at an 'all-time' low in many parts of the region. He adds it is 'significantly lacking' in rural locations.

He believes it will become an even greater opportunity as farmers look for more options to diversify their incomes after Brexit. He is expecting an increase in enquiries from farmers considering converting buildings for industry uses or storage as the date for withdrawal of EU Common Agricultural Policy subsidies draws nearer.

"Farmers who have large, under-used barns or other agricultural buildings are often in an ideal position to diversify into commercial property, or 'sheds' as industrial warehouses are known," he says.

"The rise of e-commerce has created unprecedented demand in recent years for warehouse and distribution space, and has resulted in a chronic shortage of industrial space in parts of the South West.

"Often farmers have large surplus agricultural buildings on their land, or have space on their land which could accommodate

large commercial premises. In both scenarios, subject to planning permission, this can present an opportunity to diversify."

He says these assets can be leased out, rather than sold, and will remain in family ownership and can be managed so farmers can get on with the running of their farms. Mr Davies says: "This is something which can be done for a comparatively low initial investment compared to other types of diversification, and even with low rents there will be a good return, with yields as high as 10 per cent and even up to 20 per cent in some cases.

"There is also an added dimension in that the extensive roof areas of warehouses can, in some cases, lend themselves to hosting solar panels, subject to planning permission, thereby augmenting opportunities for new income streams."

"Farms with good access to main roads and motorways will be at a particular advantage for attracting industrial users because of their strategic location, but the shortage of industrial space in some parts of the South West is such that even less accessible sites will attract demand from potential users," he said.

Mr Davies added that under planning regulations, Class R, allows a change in the use of buildings to uses such as B1 Business and B8 Storage and distribution, as well as other use classes.

Permitted Development Rights only allow for change of use, so a planning application would be required for building works. He advises farmers who have some redundant buildings they think may be suitable to seek advice from a qualified surveyor to establish how viable a conversion is.

"They will be able to give advice about demand but also the likely cost of works to make the property appealing to an occupier."

Article sourced from www.fginsight.com/news.

Future of Steel Fabrication

ERP/MRP styled software programs are often overlooked by steel fabrication companies looking to invest in new technology. The shiny new CNC saw draws us in, understandably so because after all most of us are engineers at heart.

How can we compare a DVD with a CNC machine? We can't, hence the difficulty to generate a passion for something barely tangible such as an MRP type program like STRUMIS for instance.

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Industry News

Construction Firms Targeted in New Health Inspections

Earlier this year, construction firms across Great Britain were targeted on their health standards by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). These inspections were the first time the regulator has targeted the industry with a specific focus on respiratory risks and occupational lung disease, looking at the measures businesses have in place to protect their workers' lungs from the likes of asbestos, silica and wood dust.

Inspectors visited construction businesses and sites across the country throughout October and were specifically looking for evidence of construction workers knowing the risks, planning their work and using the right controls.

HSE's Peter Baker, chief inspector of construction said:

"Around 100 times as many workers die from diseases caused or made worse by their work than are killed in construction accidents. Annually, work-related cancers, mainly linked to asbestos and silica, are estimated to kill 3,500 people from the industry. Thousands of others suffer life-changing illnesses from their work. Not all lung diseases take years to develop. Some, like acute silicosis or occupational asthma, can occur more quickly.

"As a result, we launched this inspection initiative to find out what exactly businesses in the construction industry are doing today to protect their workers' health, particularly when it comes to exposure to dust and damage to lungs.

"We want construction workers to be aware of the risks associated with the activities they carry out on a daily basis; be conscious of the fact their work may create hazardous dust; and consider how this could affect their health, in some cases irreversibly. We want businesses and their workers to think of the job from start to finish and avoid creating dust or disturbing asbestos by working in different ways. We want to see construction firms encouraging their workers to firstly keep the dust down and wear the right mask and clothing.

"Ultimately, we want construction workers' lungs to be protected from ill health, so they can go home healthy to their families and enjoy long careers in this important industry."

For more information on the programme of inspections and to download our free #DustBuster selfie cards visit: <https://bit.ly/2QWLYib> and follow the campaign on Twitter at @H_S_E.

One in Four Admits Leaving Job due to Mental Ill-health

One-in-four employees has left a job because of mental health issues, according to an online survey by charity St John Ambulance. Nearly two thirds also admitted that they would feel uncomfortable asking for a mental health sick day and more than a quarter said bosses did little or nothing to provide support. Six out of ten surveyed said they felt their employer should be doing more to support employees with mental health issues.

The survey of 1,000 employees who mainly work in human resources and administration revealed also that a further 43% had considered leaving a job due to stress or mental health issues.

Respondents cited embarrassment as the top reason why they would not ask for a mental health sick day, followed by not liking to take time off work and not wanting to let colleagues down. Comments ranged from "I would feel judged as they wouldn't understand", and "I would not get paid".



St John Ambulance conducted the survey in August, which was sent to employees on its database. Most of those surveyed work in human resources and administration and are responsible for booking first aid courses with the charity.

Debbie Adwent, operations manager for St John Ambulance, said: "We believe these results reflect the experiences of the wider workforce and urge employers to take the mental health and wellbeing of their workforce seriously."

In a separate online survey, which was carried out in September and which sampled

800 employees who had attended St John Ambulance's general first aid courses, 94% said their organisations should have a mental health policy in place.

Last year, St John Ambulance joined forces with Mental Health First Aid England to provide mental health courses to raise awareness of mental ill-health.

Article sourced from www.ioshmagazine.com.



Industry News

Construction Growth Slows

Growth among construction SMEs slowed in most parts of the UK in the third quarter of this year, according to the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

Key results from the FMB's latest State of Trade Survey include:

- Construction SME workloads remained positive in Q3 2018 but grew at a slower rate than they did in the second quarter of 2018;
- 86% of builders reported increasing material prices in Q3 2018, up from 76% in Q2 2018;
- More than half (58%) of construction SMEs expect salaries and wages to increase over the next six months.

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, said: "Growth among the UK's construction SMEs slowed in the third quarter of this year. A range of factors are at work here, not least ever increasing material prices. Anecdotally, we are hearing worrying reports of banks withholding previously agreed funding for projects which is delaying start dates and dampening growth. This may or may not be related to Brexit-nerves. The construction skills shortage is also taking its toll. More than two-thirds of construction SMEs are struggling to hire bricklayers – brickies are easily the most sought-after

tradespeople in the building industry currently.

Berry concluded: "This slowdown in growth should ring alarm bells for the UK Government and give rise to a total rethink of its misguided post-Brexit immigration proposals. Currently, the Government wants to significantly limit the number of construction workers coming into the UK post-Brexit, labelling them 'low skilled' and therefore somehow surplus to requirements. Migrant construction workers are indispensable with 13 per cent of our construction workers being from outside of the UK. If construction firms are unable to hire migrant workers post-Brexit, the already severe skills crisis will worsen. This will mean we won't be able to build the new homes the Government is keen on delivering and infrastructure projects will grind to a halt. It is imperative that the post-Brexit immigration system allows construction firms to continue to hire workers of varying skill levels. We hope the Government heeds the warning that these latest results show, before it is too late."

The full report is available here:

www.fmb.org.uk/state-of-trade-q3-2018

Updated Guidance from the Advisory Committee for Roofsafety



Advisory Committee
for Roofsafety

The Advisory Committee for Roofsafety (ACR) is a body dedicated to making working on roofs safer. It was established in 1998 and is made up of nominees from Trade Associations and Organisations involved in roof work, including RIDBA, who provide the experience of many years of involvement in working on roofs in the advice given in their documents.

As well as defining the UK's only test, recognised by the Health & Safety Executive, which determines the non-fragility status of roofing products, producing publications about safe working practices on both fragile and non-fragile surfaces and other roof safety issues, the Committee also operates a complaints procedure to settle disputes about the validity of non-fragility claims made by manufacturers, installers and suppliers of roofing products.

One of the latest free publications to be updated is 'Safe Working on Fragile Roofs or Roofs with Fragile Elements' otherwise known as the 'Green Book'.

Working on a fragile roofs is an extremely hazardous activity. Even a simple inspection is highly dangerous without adequate knowledge and planning. Many of these accidents happened

because the people carrying out the work or the inspection were not competent to do so. Consequently, the work was carried out without the necessary planning or management and, often, without suitable equipment.

The hazards coupled with working at height, are exacerbated by some clients who may have had no guidance on how to commission safe work on fragile roofs.

The Green Book is intended to give health and safety advice on how to control the risks involved in working on fragile roofs and is aimed at informing the following:

- Building Owners and Property Managers
- Building Professionals e.g. Building and Estate Surveyors, Architects, Surveyors, Heating and Ventilation Engineers
- Sole traders
- Contractors carrying out construction work.

It describes safe practices and procedures to adopt for inspections, refurbishment, repair and replacement of fragile surfaces and recommends acceptable safe techniques to employ to comply with Regulation 9 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The document can be downloaded at www.roofworkadvice.info.



Industry News

What You Need to Know About the Agriculture Bill

Michael Gove's long-awaited Agriculture Bill was released on 12 September 2018. Here, Land Agents, Youngs RPS give us their thoughts.

The Agriculture Bill sets out the Government's proposals for farming and land management policies and payments following the UK's exit from the European Union. The Bill is a proposal for a new law and may be amended as it is debated in parliament, or following a potential change in government after a general election, but it does provide us with an intended framework and direction for agricultural policy.

The main points of the Bill are as follows:

Direct Payments

Basic Payment Scheme income has been guaranteed, as we know it, until 2021 so long as the current government is in power. This will be followed by a seven year transition period when payments will gradually reduce to nil.

Exceptional Market Conditions

Financial assistance will be made available to farmers following severe disturbances or threats in agricultural markets. This will include extreme weather conditions or outbreaks of disease if they result in an agricultural market being disrupted and therefore affect producers' incomes.

Environmental Land Management Systems (ELMS)

The Health and Harmony Consultation Paper introduced new Environmental Land Management Systems (ELMS) to pay farmers and landowners for providing environmental benefits. From 2021, ELMS would offer multi annual agreements where payments are made in return for "public goods" such as improved air, water and soil quality, climate change mitigation, public access to the countryside and animal welfare.

It is clear that the government is willing to continue to provide funding to farmers and it is clear that public perception of this funding is becoming increasingly important. The current support budget for UK agriculture is around £3.2bn and is set on a seven year cycle. It is unknown what budget will be available once the UK leaves the EU and how often this budget will be set.

Taking all of this into account, our best advice for businesses is to start to prepare a set of forward budgets taking into account likely diminishing direct subsidy income. This will allow consideration of ways in which productivity can be maintained going forward, with investment made now if required to strengthen businesses. Our team at YoungsRPS are on hand to help farmers and landowners across the north of England and Scotland with business planning or other specific concerns about the possible effect of changing agricultural policy.

Article sourced from www.stackyard.com.

In response to the introduction of the Agriculture Bill to Parliament, NFU President Minette Batters said:

"The NFU, alongside the whole food supply chain, has been absolutely clear about the essential ingredients for a progressive, profitable, and sustainable food and farming sector post Brexit.

"It is vital that in the future British farmers can continue to meet the food needs of a growing population. A future agricultural policy that ignores food production will be damaging for farmers and the public alike. The public demand and deserve safe, high-quality, traceable affordable food, whatever their income. And moreover they want British farms to supply that food.

"Farmers across the UK will be very concerned that the Bill provides only a short term commitment to improve their competitiveness; we cannot future-proof farming businesses based on the 'time-limited' initiatives outlined in this announcement.

"Along with other farmers I will also be looking to the Bill to set out means to address the clear market failure in food chain that means farmers are not rewarded fairly for the risk and investment they make. British farmers will need to compete with farmers all over the world, nearly all of whom are supported financially to produce food. If British farmers are to underpin the nation's food security, then they will need the right financial and policy framework to do so in a competitive and volatile global marketplace.

"We will look closely at the government's proposals for a seven year transition period, during which direct payments will be phased-out, to ensure we're satisfied that this will be sufficient. In particular, the Bill must provide government with the powers to pause the process if it is proving unmanageable for farmers, and if our domestic food supply and food security are under threat.

"We are entering an historic period for farming with legislation setting the path for the next generation of farmers and the countryside. With critical decisions still to be taken in the months and years ahead it would be foolhardy for the government to embark on such a path without knowing trading environment in which it will be set. A free and frictionless trade deal with our biggest trading partner, the EU, is absolutely critical to the farming industry."

Article sourced from www.nfuonline.com.



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Industry News

Ammonia Emissions from Livestock Buildings

Following on from Nigel Penlington's article in the previous edition which introduced the AHDB Environment and Buildings Team and the government's 25 Year Environment Plan, I write to add some detail about ammonia emissions from livestock buildings and possible mitigation measures.

As part of the 25 Year Plan, to help meet the requirements of the EU National Emissions Ceiling Directive, and to tackle poor air quality at home, a Government consultation paper was released in May 2018, which, whilst inviting responses, gave a clear indication of the intended direction of travel to meet demanding emission reduction targets.

Ammonia is a serious pollutant as it reacts with other gases creating fine particulate matter which damages sensitive habitats and contributes to human respiratory and cardio vascular diseases. It is produced as a result of the animal excreting surplus nitrogen that is not utilised in the body.

Measures to be introduced by government have the potential to have a huge impact on farming generally, and the dairy sector especially, as 88% of all UK ammonia emissions come from agriculture.

So, what can be done to reduce the amount of ammonia emitted from farming activities? Feed management has a part to play, e.g. careful control of protein feeding could reduce the surplus nitrogen excreted. But livestock housing is the biggest single source of ammonia so building design and manure management will be a key area of focus for any future regulation.

Contaminated floors are an important emitting surface so research and developments have focused on producing a clean dry surface to reduce emissions. There is an added benefit for both farmer and cow in improved cow foot health.

AHDB recently completed a study tour to the Netherlands to learn how farmers have managed the regulations introduced by the Dutch government to help meet the EU Directive.

Dutch dairy farmers have been required to install approved, low emission flooring systems in all new dairy housing for the last 5 years and 85% of Dutch dairy farms have slatted floor systems in dairy buildings.

Recent installations focus on drainage to remove urine rapidly from the floor and reduced air exchange from the space above the slurry in the store. Registered floor systems are documented in a manual (rombou.nl) and given an emission factor. Currently less than half of the 32 floor systems catalogued meet the current standard of 8.6 Kg NH3 per head per year.

New flooring systems first undergo theoretical emission calculations



before being submitted for official testing. Floors are installed in four separate testing barns in different parts of the Netherlands and emissions are monitored over 12 months. These tests give the floor system (the combination of floor design and scraping efficiency) an emission factor which can be used in planning new buildings with emissions below the permitted maximum.

The principle is to design the floor for effective drainage (min 2% fall with grooves to assist drainage) to separate the urine from the faeces and frequent scraping (ideally every hour) to remove the manure to enclosed storage (see top image).

Examples include solid floor panels, factory produced with drainage grooves and laid in position to very fine tolerances to deliver effective drainage with frequent scraping to leave a clean dry surface. Slatted floors are designed with pre cast grooves to encourage drainage or retro fitted rubber mouldings to achieve the same drainage. Slatted floors are often also scraped with auto scrapers. Slats are often fitted with plastic flaps to reduce the air circulation between the slurry pit below and the building.

Permitted levels of ammonia emissions from approved floor systems are being lowered so the technical performance of the floors needs constant development to meet the new standards.

Current research focuses on alternative flooring and bedding systems, which broadly follow the principle of separating urine and faeces as soon as possible, and include novel geotextile membranes, composted wood products and slurry treatments (see above image).

A more detailed report of the study tour and an ammonia emissions factsheet are available from AHDB.

David Ball, Senior Manager, Environment and Buildings, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.



Build UK News



Open Doors to The Future

Open Doors 2019 sees live construction sites and offices open their doors to the public to provide an opportunity to see behind the scenes. Open Doors Week will run from Monday 18 March – Saturday 23 March 2019.

The skills shortage in construction is one of the main focuses for those in the industry. Open Doors aims to inspire and recruit the next generation to choose a career in construction. Led by Build UK in partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and supported by the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS), Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) and Construction News, Open Doors showcases the variety of career options available in the construction sector.

From the acquisitions departments of the developers, to the bricklayers on site, this year we would not only like to showcase the fantastic sites across Great Britain, but the offices, factories and workshops that all play a huge part in the industry.

Visitor Registration opens on 7 January 2019, but there is still time to get involved and open up your site, office or factory.

To find out how to register your site, please contact info@opendoors.construction.



The Importance of Occupational Health

Under health and safety legislation, employers are required to assess, manage and control health risks to their employees as a result of the work they undertake. With the support of Build UK, B&CE are creating an occupational health management scheme for the entire construction industry which will be digital, transient and reduce administration and cost to employers.

Over the summer, they consulted with the industry on the proposed framework, a three-year plan that clarifies the complex health and safety legislation that employers need to comply with. The framework was developed in collaboration with an Occupational Health Steering Group made up of employers, occupational health professionals, regulators and Federations, including a number of Build UK members. This has now moved on to the pilot stage which will conclude in January.

Build UK is working closely with B&CE to develop the scheme and ensure that it meets the industry's expectations. For the latest information, visit www.bandce.co.uk/occupational-health. B&CE are looking for companies to test the product further in January as part of a panel, and if you would like to be involved please email Alice.Cook@BuildUK.org.

Being Smart

Build UK has published the results of its annual audit of industry skills cards which was carried out across member construction sites on 3 October 2018. The Build UK SmartCard Audit, delivered in partnership with CECA, CSCS and Reference Point, saw over 47,000 cards checked across 711 sites. 80% were read smartly, using either the Go Smart App or Site Access machines.

With the vast majority of CSCS cards now requiring the cardholder to obtain a qualification, they have become harder to obtain and the number of reported incidents of card fraud is increasing. Ensuring cards are read using Smart technology every time someone enters a site establishes that the card is genuine and has not been cancelled due to suspected fraud. It also offers a quick and cost-effective way to check not only the validity of a card but the qualifications held by the cardholder which helps to improve productivity and safety on UK construction sites.

To read the full report, please go to www.BuildUK.org/information.

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Individuals or companies that are allied to the rural and industrial design and building industry, most likely offering a consultancy service

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Technical Update

Member and Frame Stability

Several technical articles to date have considered aspects of the structural design of agricultural buildings, including loading, member design and the use of load tables for member sizing. This guidance focused on the strength of the steel frame and its connections, but this isn't the only consideration for the structural engineer. The aim of this article is to introduce the concept of stability, its importance in building design and the means of ensuring that members and frames have adequate stability in practice.

In general, the term stability refers to the tendency of an object to return to or move further away from its equilibrium position when disturbed. In a stable system, the further the object is moved away from its equilibrium position, the more it will try to move back towards it, e.g. a pendulum swings back and forth about its equilibrium point and will eventually come to rest there. By contrast, in an unstable system, as the object moves away from the equilibrium point, the tendency to move further away increases (try balancing a golf ball on top of a football). In building design, the same philosophy can be applied to the behaviour of a structure when it is displaced from its rest position, for example, by a gust of wind. Will the frame resist and return to its correct shape as soon as the wind dies down, or will it topple over?

There are two types of stability to consider:

- Member stability
- Frame stability

Member Stability

Member instability, or buckling, occurs when a member or flange is insufficiently restrained to withstand a compressive force. This applies to columns (stanchions), which are subjected to compression loads from the roof and floors, and may also apply to beams in bending. In the case of columns, the instability is generally referred to as flexural buckling and is prevented by restraining the column's weak axis. In a beam, the instability is known as lateral-torsional buckling and is prevented by restraining the compression flange against lateral movement (more on this below). In the case of a portal frame, the columns and rafters are subjected to compression and bending, so must be designed for flexural and lateral-torsional buckling.

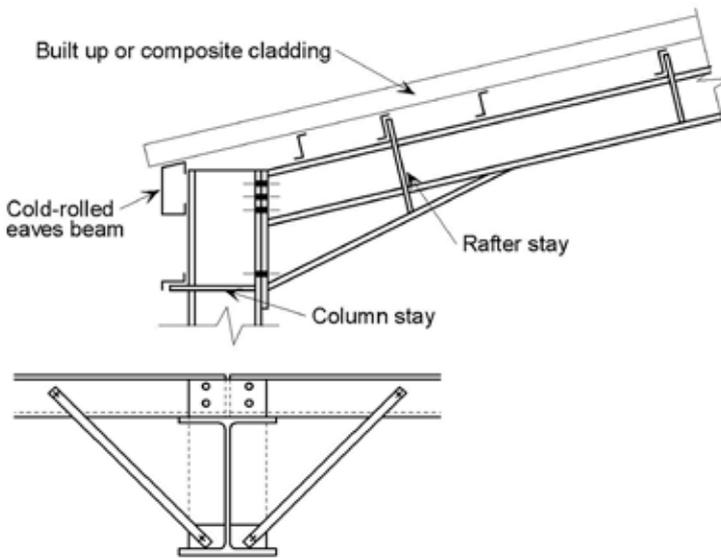
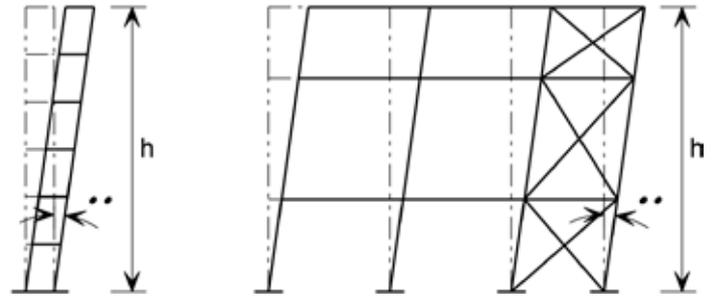
Flexural buckling will occur between points of restraint, where provided, or between the end supports where there is no intermediate restraint. For portal frame columns and rafters, lateral restraint is usually provided by the cladding rails and purlins respectively. The spacing of these secondary members is extremely important, so needs to be decided at the same time as the primary

frame members are designed. Most buildings will have purlins supporting the roof cladding, but not all agricultural buildings will have cladding rails or suitable cladding to provide adequate restraint to the columns. If there is any doubt regarding the column restraint, the columns should be designed as unrestrained members, i.e. the section size selected to prevent buckling without intermediate restraints. Where column restraint is assumed at the design stage, this information should be conveyed to the building owner to ensure that the restraint remains in place throughout the life of the building.



When a beam is loaded in bending, one of the flanges will be placed in compression while the other will be in tension. Lateral-torsional buckling occurs when the compression flange becomes unstable and attempts to buckle in its weak direction. As there is no such tendency in the tension flange (it has no desire to buckle), the whole beam section twists as it moves sideways, hence the term lateral-torsional buckling. As with flexural buckling, lateral-torsional buckling is prevented by providing adequate restraint to the member, specifically to the compression flange. For the simple case of a floor beam, the top flange is always the compression flange and restraint is usually provided by the floor slab or boards. Floor beams may therefore be designed as fully restrained without needing to

consider lateral-torsional buckling. Portal frame rafters on the other hand are less straightforward since their restraint is provided by purlins at intervals along the rafters. Furthermore, in the hogging region close to the eaves, the top flange is in tension under gravity loading, so the purlins by themselves will not provide adequate restraint. For this reason it is essential that rafter stays, as shown below, are installed on the rafter close to the haunch and also at the top of the column (where the bottom of the haunch intersects the column). Lateral-torsional buckling must always be considered when designing portal frame columns and rafters. Portal frame software will show the assumed points of restraint on the computer output. This information needs to be passed to the fabricator and erectors to ensure that restraint is actually provided at these locations.



Frame Stability

For any type of structural frame, stability of the frame as a whole is as important as the strength of the individual members. In general, when assessing the stability of a frame, the following issues should be considered:

- Overall equilibrium (e.g. overturning, sliding etc.)
- Resistance to horizontal forces (bracing, moment-resisting connections etc.)
- The impact of second order effects.

Overall equilibrium is dealt with by ensuring that the column baseplates and the foundations to which they are connected are adequate to resist uplift and overturning (usually as a result of wind loading). Special care should be taken when building on steep slopes or close to the edge of a slope or hollow, where there is a risk of soil slip.

In general, resistance to horizontal forces is achieved through the use of a suitable bracing system, concrete core, shear wall or moment-resisting connections. For portal framed buildings, the in-plane resistance is provided by the haunched connections between the columns and the rafters, while bracing provides the resistance out of plane. The most significant horizontal force acting on the building is usually the wind, but designers should also consider the impact of sway imperfections as illustrated below. According to BS EN 1993-1-1, the angle φ is assumed to be an out-of-verticality of 1/200. This is far greater than the usual erection tolerances, but is intended to allow for imperfections in the members (i.e. bowed columns) in addition to poor erection of the frame.

Equivalent sway imperfections (taken from BS EN 1993-1-1 Figure 5.2)

Rather than modelling the frame with non-vertical columns, the recommended approach is to allow for the lack-of-verticality by applying an equivalent horizontal force at each floor level (in the case of a multi-storey building) and at the eaves. This equivalent horizontal force should have a value of 0.5% of the factored vertical load at that level and should be combined with the other applied loads, including wind. This will ensure that the building structure has sufficient lateral strength not only to withstand the wind loading, but also the potential sway caused by vertical loads acting on non-vertical columns.

The final issue to consider is the so-called second order behaviour of the frame. In simple terms, this refers to the additional forces and moments that may arise due to changes in the frame's geometry under load. For example, in the multi-storey frame shown above, if the applied loads cause the building to sway from the initial 1 in 200 out of vertical to 1 in 100, this would double the horizontal forces acting on the building. Normally, the change in geometry under load is so small (i.e. deflections are small compared to the overall size of the building) that it can be ignored, but portal frames can experience second order effects if they have insufficient in-plane stiffness.

BS EN 1993-1-1 allows for second-order effects through the use of the α_{cr} value. In simple terms, if $\alpha_{cr} > 10$, the frame is sufficiently stiff for second order effects to be ignored.

If $\alpha_{cr} < 10$, the second order effects are deemed to be significant and need to be considered in the analysis of the frame. Most portal frame software will include the α_{cr} calculation and should allow for second-order effects where necessary.

Dr Martin Heywood RIDBA Technical Consultant

Dr Martin Heywood, a specialist in the structural engineering of agricultural and industrial type steel framed buildings, is the technical consultant for RIDBA members.

Martin represents RIDBA on the B/549 committee and the sector on B/525/1 and CB/203.

For further information contact:
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Managing Director Neil Fox with Kaine Sprakes (shaking hands), Louie Peters (Production Manager) and Ricky Lumb (2nd year apprentice)

Member News

Changing Times at Steeltek Structural Steel



Steeltek Structural Steel Ltd has been trading for 30 years, firstly on premises in Cleckheaton and since 2007 at Charles Roberts, Horbury Junction. For many years, the company was a family-run business and, in recent years, a new management team has been introduced but the company retains its family values and staff, which has seen the business go from strength

to strength, whilst maintaining a personal connection to their client base and new customers alike. During the recession, Steeltek experienced some extremely tough challenges and its workforce was reduced considerably. With careful planning, the company has survived in a very competitive market and has recruited over 20 employees in the last 4 years. Steeltek now employs over 40 staff and operatives running a 24 hour shift system producing approximately 6,500 tonnes of fabricated and painted steel per annum.

Simon Oakes, Chairman, said 'Against all odds, this small business has outlasted many major plc and structural steel firms, the Company trading now is celebrating its 30th year in a tough market that has been in decline for a number of years.'

Steeltek is situated in the old bombardier buildings at Horbury Junction, where rolling stock for the rail industry was produced during the late 1800s and a number of the original features can still be recognised. The shape of the buildings makes the 65,000 sq ft site ideal for fabricating and painting long steel sections destined for buildings all over the UK and abroad. In 1974, the site was renamed Charles Roberts & Co. and the site continued to produce train stock until its demise in 2005. The site is ideally located for the motorway networks, crossing the M62 and the M1 links.



When Steeltek identified a bottleneck in their sawing and drilling production process, the senior management team decided to invest in a new Kaltenbach saw/drill and scribe system that would complement their existing 3 year old Kaltenbach shot-blasting system, investing £1 million in this and other smaller projects.

With the introduction of the new machinery in August 2018, Steeltek would increase their current production capacity by 25%, allowing them to meet the demands of their clients.

Neil Fox, Managing Director and co-owner, said 'This is a very exciting time for Steeltek; the new machinery is still in its infancy and the benefits of its speed and varying production options have yet to be appreciated, but since it was installed one month ago, the production has already increased and the steel tonnage produced in August is showing a record month for the company.'

The new KBS 1010 saw coupled with the KDM 1015 drilling system with its unique 'gripper T13' feed process. Louie Peters, Production Manager, said 'On one 10 hour shift, an operative produced nearly 25 tonnes of cut sawn and drilled structural steel, which far exceeded its forecasted production, its capability to 'mark and scribe' will see the decrease of human error when fabricating and an increase in the company's capacities.'

Neil Fox added 'Our apprentices are a vital part of our future and business, with more engineers exiting the industry than people coming into engineering, it is vital that we, as a business, move with the times and accommodate a system that will advance their learning, to ensure we are 'fit for the future', we have an advanced order book with numerous opportunities for new employees to join our established business and progress with qualifications'.

See www.steeltek.co.uk.



Slate blue P6 semi-compressed fibre cement sheets with a cranked crown sheet ridge. P6 offers function for both roofing and cladding applications.

Member News



Accelerate Winter Projects With 3-5 Day Sheet Delivery

Looking for a way to avoid delays and fast track projects? Marley Eternit can deliver Laurel Green and Slate Blue fibre cement profiled sheeting within three to five days of order.

"This instant availability will make building projects faster, easier and more efficient," says Martin Clunn, Profiled Sheet Marketing Manager for Marley Eternit. "The strength and multi-purpose properties of semi-compressed fibre cement profiled sheeting make it the ideal building material for roofing and cladding projects this winter."

British built for British farmers, Marley Eternit has the largest portfolio in the UK with 11 painted colour options available in P3 and P6 sizes – making its building materials fit for purpose on any new or refurbishment project.

"Not only has our colour range been designed specifically to harmonise with the countryside for planning permission requirements, but the diverse portfolio also allows for new sheets to blend in with existing builds in the need of refurbishment," explains Martin. "Fixtures, such as curved sheets and eaves bends, are ideal refurbishment items which can be made to order."

Built for Purpose

Building environments are especially important during winter months for housed livestock due to health risks associated with dark, damp and stagnant conditions.

"Livestock housed in poor conditions are at greater risk for respiratory diseases like pneumonia this winter," says Martin.

Due to its low thermal conductivity properties, which prevent temperature swings, and the capability to absorb 25% of its own weight in moisture, semi-compressed fibre cement sheeting the most recommended roofing material in the livestock industry.

"Semi-compressed fibre cement absorbs a high percentage of moisture, soaking in any condensation into its surface to be dissipated once conditions are right," explains Martin. "When this is combined with proper building design for the right roof slope and ridge construction for air flow, fibre cement profiled sheeting can contribute to decreasing the potential for costly and long-term health-related issues."

Semi-compressed fibre cement is also resistant to rot, rust and corrosion caused by high levels of condensation during the winter months. Along with enhancing its life expectancy to at least 50 years, this also makes it fit for purpose for crop, equestrian and machinery buildings.

Wood Substructure Fixings Now Available

Recently, Marley Eternit added two new wood substructure fixings, including the 130mm stainless steel and 130mm carbon steel to its offering. Engineered specifically to work in conjunction with semi-compressed fibre cement, fixings can be ordered direct to site with sheets to accelerate project completion times.

Up until the development of Marley Eternit's stainless steel fixing, finding a product fit for purpose has been a challenge in coastal region projects.

"Our research found salt water corrosion to be an industry issue due to the lack of products for harsh coastal environments," says Martin. "However, our new stainless steel fixing is an unparalleled development for this challenge, with the ability to resist years of corrosion caused by salt water and chemicals."

For more information on semi-compressed fibre cement profiled sheeting or wood sub-structure fixings from Marley Eternit, call 01283 722892. Alternatively, to order a painted or non-painted P6 or P3, please go to www.marleyeternit.co.uk/ps-products.

Visit RIDBA on Marley Eternit's stand 7.720 at LAMMA '19

Agricultural building stakeholders are invited to speak directly to RIDBA about topical issues at LAMMA '19 on Marley Eternit's stand 7.720 in Hall 7. This will be RIDBA's first attendance to the agricultural and machinery show for a number of years, located at the NEC in Birmingham on Tuesday 8th to Wednesday 9th January.

RIDBA Chairman, Mike Hammond, comments: "RIDBA is thrilled to have a presence at an exhibition again and delighted to be working with one of our members at LAMMA '19. We are the leading trade association for the modern agriculture and industrial buildings industry in the UK, and will represent the views of our industry, so we look forward to speaking with you at the show."

According to Martin Clunn, Profiled Sheet Marketing Manager for Marley Eternit, the UK manufacturer of fibre cement is supportive of the educational and legislative work RIDBA does on behalf of its membership to enhance and foster business practices in the agricultural buildings industry.

"The work RIDBA champions is paramount to not only the business development of the agricultural buildings industry, but the quality and safety of projects," says Martin. "From contractors, fabricators, designers, surveyors, planners to manufacturers – everyone in the agricultural buildings industry is invited onto stand 7.720 to have one-on-one conversations with RIDBA."



Member News

A.C. Bacon Tackles Its Largest Project to Date

Work has begun on what is described as one of the most advanced poultry factories in Europe, which is taking shape in Eye (see above image).

The ambitious scheme takes place against a backdrop of challenges, structural change and consolidation within the poultry sector. In October, Derbyshire-based Chesterfield Poultry bought the assets of Banham Poultry in a pre-pack administration, in which the assets of a company are bought, but its debt left behind. The sale followed a summer of rising costs and falling trade which left the Attleborough-based firm in financial difficulties, but already, Chesterfield has begun recruiting a further 100 workers to its 1,000-strong workforce in Norfolk.

In addition to the Eye project, the largest single investment undertaken by Cranswick, the firm says it will be investing around £70m across its farming and feed-milling infrastructure.

David Park, managing director of Cranswick Poultry, said: "The project at Eye is very exciting and will create one of the most advanced poultry sites in Europe. Since acquiring Crown Chicken in April 2016, we have been committed to ensuring work on the site is carried out by local companies. We are excited to welcome existing team members to the new site at Eye and look forward to creating around 300 new jobs in the region."

More than £10m of project costs have gone to local contractors,

including a £6m groundworks contract with nearby JH Vaudrey & Son, a £1.5m steelworks contract to A C Bacon of Hingham, and £1.5m roofing deal with JBC Roofing of Kings Lynn. The project includes 1,000 tonnes of structural steelwork and 10,000 tonnes of concrete foundations.

Ian Trundle, managing director of Trundle Design Services, of Kings Lynn, which has managed the project design, said: "After over a year in the designing and planning phase with Cranswick, we are delighted that the building of the new food processing facility has commenced and is currently on schedule for completion in October 2019. It is very rewarding to see the building work come to life and our dedicated project team remain focused on the continued delivery of this prestigious project."

This is A.C. Bacon's largest project to date, with A.C. Bacon fabricating and erecting in excess of over 1100 tonnes of hot-rolled steelwork and 103 tonnes of cold-rolled steel. The warehouse consists of both a portal frame and beam & column structure.

It's a humbling feeling, being a part of a project that will be acknowledged across Europe as being one of the most advanced poultry factories around. Our team has put a lot of hard work and effort into this project and when it's complete we will look back on this job passionately and think of how far we come over the past decade.

See www.acbacon.co.uk

Compressed is Best for Corrugated Sheet

Commonly seen on agricultural buildings across the UK, fibre cement was first manufactured in Europe at the end of the 19th Century. Cembrit stepped into this market in the 1930's. At Cembrit, we believe that compression is a vital step in the manufacturing process of fibre cement corrugated sheeting. The reason for this is that the fixing is a weak point in the cladding, whatever material is used. Because it is exposed to the elements a roof is under immense stress and fixing tolerances will be tested to their limit. A higher density cement sheet, such as our Cemsix sheet, will mitigate some of this and provide a more durable fixing location.

Cemsix

Cemsix fully compressed corrugated sheet is produced in the traditional 6" UK profile with six corrugations and overlaps/underlaps on both sides of the sheet. Cemsix is available in three colouration types, all with matching accessories; natural grey, "low

sheen" Cemscape or with Cembrit's three stage coloration process in 7 colours. All sheets are guaranteed for 30 years with a 10 year colour stability guarantee on painted product.

Cemsix corrugated sheet can be fixed to steel or timber purlins. Fixing holes should be predrilled, or self drilling self tapping top fix fixings can be used. Fixing should always be undertaken according to BS 8219:2001.

In addition to over 100 years' experience manufacturing fibre reinforced cement roofing and cladding products, Cemsix comes with all the product quality and environmental management accreditations you would expect. Cembrit corrugated sheets is a high-quality fibre cement product used as roofing and cladding on agricultural and industrial buildings.

To view Cembrit Cemsix, visit the Cembrit stand (Hall 8 Stand 8.402) at LAMMA in January 2019.

See www.cembrit.co.uk.



Member News

Radnor Springs Covered By 3,000m² of EUROSIX Fibre Cement Sheeting

The increased market share and ever improving sales of Radnor Hills Mineral Water Company Ltd has resulted in investment of new plant and machinery, with a further bottle blowing and filling line being installed together with construction of a new warehouse. In 1984, on this family farm, a hole 30 metres deep was dug to provide a back-up water supply for the livestock. The family were all amazed that not far under the surface of the ground there was a constant supply of water that could be used for the animals and themselves. About 45,000 litres of water a day is required for the livestock and chickens. Today both mineral water and spring water boreholes are active.

After discussion at the planning stage on important details including material colour, ventilation, thermal insulation and acoustic qualities, over 3,000m² of EUROSIX fibre cement sheeting was specified. Supplied by Briarwood Products, EUROSIX is considered by many as the standard material for many agricultural buildings and has unrivalled long-term benefits during all seasons.

Briarwood Products knows how important it is for you to receive your order on time and in full so are fully committed to holding the largest stock of fibre cement roofing material anywhere in the UK and alongside this we also hold vast quantities of associated products such as:

- Fibre cement roof sheets and accessories – full range of colours and fittings
- PVC Rainwater products
- GRP rooflights
- Fixings for all materials
- Timber purlins.

Photographs and case studies of EUROSIX fibre cement projects along with other important information are available to view on our website www.briarwoodproducts.co.uk.

Briarwood Products will be very happy to supply you with any further information you may require such as product samples or any advice which will support your future projects, so please do not hesitate to contact us by email or telephone if we can be of any further assistance.





Member News

High Demand for Stilton Cheese Inspires Dairy Farm Expansion

Harry Barnes (21) has his dairying future all mapped out on a five-acre site of levelled Leicestershire ironstone, at Somerby south of Melton Mowbray.

The buildings complex on the site is surrounded by 400 acres, farmed by the Barnes family since 1941. Harry is the fourth generation to work on the farm, which is managed on the grass paddock, spring-calving New Zealand system.

"We aim for low operating costs," said Jane Barnes, Harry's mother. "That, alongside our cheese contract, is essential for the future of the farm."

The cheese contract is from the Long Clawson Dairy co-operative, based in the countryside north of Melton Mowbray. Long Clawson, founded in 1911, is the principal producer of Stilton cheese in the world and has recently completed a £7 million expansion project so that exports can be increased.

The Barnes family are among the 45 members of the Long Clawson co-operative, which takes milk from Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire only, because Stilton cheese has to be made from milk originating in these three counties.

The new farm complex at Somerby, named Alma Bank Farm, should be fully operational before summer 2019. It will replace the old, much smaller buildings at South Fields Farm in Somerby village, and has its own entrance from a minor road linking Pickwell to Owston. Careful siting below a ridge means that the new buildings are hidden from Somerby. The surrounding grassland is permanent pasture, 80 acres of it on the ancient ridge (or rigg) and furrow patterns made by simple ox-drawn ploughs in centuries past.

The 130 Ayrshire and British Friesian Ayrshire milking cows now grazing the land will be joined by 100 more before 2019, the numbers recently augmented by a batch of 51 bought-in heifers. The expansion means that the spring calving pattern is complicated this year with 70 heifers -- the purchased batch plus home-reared -- calving down in the autumn. While herd expansion is in progress, the aim of maximum milk from summer grass has to co-exist with the temporary bulge in autumn calving.

Simplicity and cost-saving extends to breeding with bulls -- eight on the farm -- preferred to AI. Free water is coming from a borehole delivering 4,000 litres an hour, to be stored in a 25,000 litre water tower, and to be used for all drinking and washing down in the yard and buildings. Electricity remains a cost: there are no photovoltaic



The buildings complex includes a herringbone parlour from Waikato Milking Systems of New Zealand.

panels on the farm yet because solar power cannot be stored until it is required.

The milking parlour, 14,000-litre bulk tank, calving area, cow housing, straw storage and visitor education and viewing areas are in a suite of Shufflebottom galvanised steel-framed buildings, erected in less than seven weeks. The roof area of the largest building is 1.3 acres, covered with 80 tonnes of P6R fibre cement roof cladding, with rooflights on one-fifth of the area.

The cattle housing, which should be in use constantly between December and February in a normal winter, has Ventair side cladding above concrete panels for ventilation and protection from the elements.

The two largest buildings are 220 feet long, and just over 110 feet and almost 71 feet wide respectively. The smaller third building is still 80 feet by 20 feet, and all three are 16 feet to the eaves. The eaves beams for the three are the Shufflebottom galvanised integral gutter, incorporated into the galvanised steel frame construction for added strength.

The open-sided galvanised barn on the edge of the site, which has a capacity of 80,000 cubic feet, is 100 feet long, 40 feet wide and 20 feet up to the eaves.

Jane takes part in the 'FaceTime a Farmer' scheme organised by LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) and has a Facebook page, Farmer Barnes' Dairy, for photos and news from the farm. There will be plenty to report as the family's substantial investment in dairying creates a farm enterprise fit for the next 50 years, with Harry ultimately at the helm.

See www.shufflebottom.co.uk.



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