



VPP Beef Niche Market Cow earns a premium - BCS #3

DQCTM
Dairy Quality Center
a division of Agri-Education, Inc.

BEEF TRIM



Unworthy of selling into the VPP Beef Niche Market - BCS #1

June 2013

Southwest Region

What Do Birds And Salmonella Have In Common? Ideally, Not Your Dairy!

Salmonella

Your dairy is at risk from Salmonella - it can be brought onto it from tires of feed trucks, from boots, from feed ingredients, dairy replacements and more. A close working relationship with your veterinarian is important to assist you in reducing the risk of salmonella - clinical cases of Salmonella are more obvious but the need to reduce subclinical cases is key.

Biosecurity practices include the management or control of the comings and goings of all visitors to your dairy- those invited and others arriving on their own. Diseases such as Salmonella require an aggressive line of attack to prevent and minimize at the dairy.

How do you control the winged visitors to your dairy? Flocking birds such as Starlings and others can consume up to 50% of their body weight a day, not to mention dropping feces in the free stalls, bunk silos and your commodity shed! The salmonella bacteria can be spread from dairy-to-dairy and through feed at your dairy. Re-feeding leftover feed to young stock/heifers can contribute to increased disease risks. Bird-proofing your dairy will take some effort but in the end it will benefit both you and your cows!

- Don't allow spilled grains to pile up- clean up the mess right away
- Store feed in closed areas or use nets to restrict bird entrances
- The use of plastic strip doors allows people and equipment to enter but discourages birds
- Lower the water level in your waters to 6 inches below the edge so birds can't perch and drink at the same time
- String fishing line horizontally over railings, etc.
- Discourage roosting areas by netting off rafters or laminating rafters
- Check into other commercial strategies to deter birds from making your dairy "home"

Okay, so you've tried everything - even jumping up and down waving your arms to the sky - as a scare



tactic which succeeded only in providing an aerobic workout that drew funny looks. Shooting the birds may not be acceptable as it can prove dangerous to people, animals (remember, one day soon you will be marketing those cows as VPP dairy beef) and the buildings as well as encourage questions of cruelty from neighbors and visitors.

Why not introduce a natural predator...enter the sparrow hawk (a.k.a. the American Kestrel) who is a raptor native to North America. These birds - the Kestrels are "cavity" nesters using nesting boxes mounted 10 feet to 36 feet in the air. Kestrels will assist controlling the rodent population as well as chase off your uninvited winged friends.

Checkout the American Kestrel on the internet to learn more about constructing nesting boxes. The sparrow hawk is a natural approach to a problem and they'll do the job of chasing off uninvited winged guests for you!

www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Kestrel

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Kestrel

animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birding/american-kestrel



**American Kestrel
Screech-Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl**



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Use raw pine or cedar. Do not paint or treat with a wood preservative.

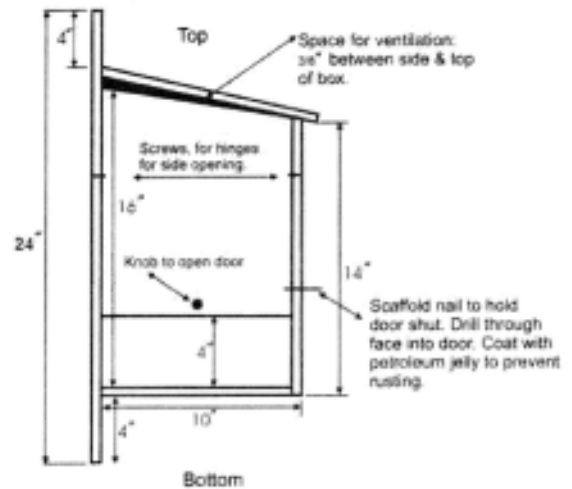
An outside perch is not necessary and may attract other species to the box.

Use 1-5/8" galvanized deck screws for the box.

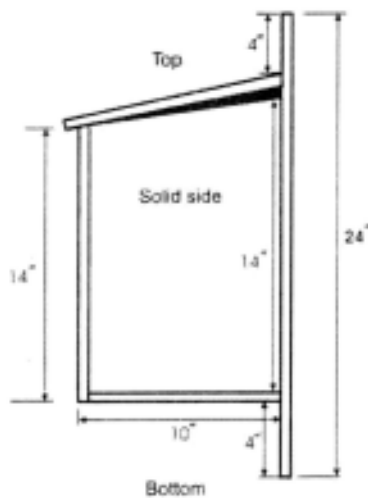
You can place a perch inside (using cutout from entrance) about three inches below entrance hole.

Place 2" of coarse wood shavings (not sawdust) in bottom of box, each year before nesting season.

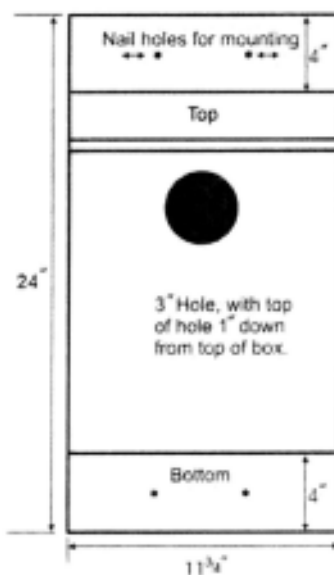
SIDE VIEW WITH DOOR



SIDE VIEW OTHER SIDE OF BOX



FRONT VIEW OF BOX



BOTTOM OF BOX

