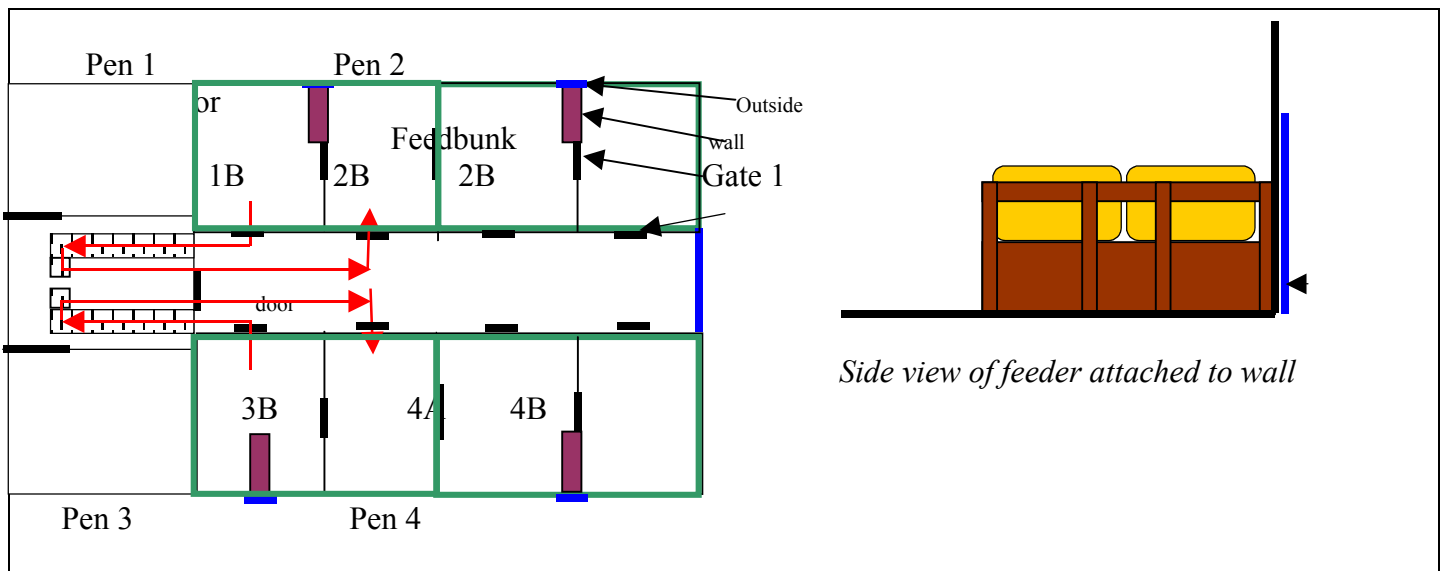


	Barn types on farm	Milking setup	Stand	Feeding	Equipment
Farm 5	Remodeled barn. Multiple outbuildings.	Lowline pipeline	Cement double 8	Small square bales of hay, fed from <i>outside</i> the building, directly into the indoor pens (This idea could be adapted for round or lg. square bales)	Tractor

**Remodeled older barn and outbuildings with external feeding setup.**

This idea came from a farm where they used small bales. They had their feeders set up to intersect the outside wall of the building, enabling them to feed the goats without entering the pens. The goats were able to eat off of three sides of the feed bunk, with the fourth side attached securely to the wall. The farmer opened a sliding door, pulled a wagon right up to the opening and loaded the small bales directly into the feeder from outside the building. The man then stepped up into the feeder, opened the bales and shook the hay out, distributing it in the feeder. When he was done, he simply slid the door back into place. The inside bunk was made of two by fours, and was very strong.



You could use the same idea for large bales. Put a sliding door into the wall of each pen, build any of the feed units above, attach them to the wall so they line up with the door opening, and then load round bales into them from outside the building with a skid steer. The door would have to be wide enough to accept the bales. There would be an upfront cost for door rollers and track and for building the doors themselves, but you wouldn't have to clear the goats out of the pen in order to bring the skid steer into the building to load the bales into feeders, so the savings in producer time and aggravation would more than make up for those expenses. See the diagram below:

If you look at the #2 floorplan, you will see that this plan builds in a lot of flexibility for pen use. If you look at the flow of goats out of Pen 1, you see that the farmer can put all of the goats into the left half of the pen (1A), shut the small gate between 1A and 1B, allowing them to eat hay before they are milked. This ensures a good rumen mat, which will enable slow fermentation of the grain which is fed in the milkingparlor.

When you are ready to milk the goats in 1A, you open the small gate that leads into the main walkway. This allows the goats to flow into the parlor. When the first group of those goats are milked and come back to the pen, you can put them into 1B and keep them separate from the goats that haven't yet been m

go back and take the next set of goats from 1A and repeat until all the goats from that pen are milked. Finally, open the small gate between 1A and 1 B so the goats have access to the entire pen. That small gate in the center of the pen also enables you to clean one half of the pen at a time, shifting the goats from pen to pen as you clean. It also allows you to separate out single goats for medical care.

You may feel that you do not need the ability to split the pen in two parts when you first start your herd and have small numbers of goats. You may be able to just put the same number of goats in a pen, as will fit on the milking stand at one time, so it is just a matter of letting them out either of the walkway gates, and when they've been milked, letting them back in the same gate. But it is important that you plan right from the start to be able to fill that building to it's maximum capacity. Why? Because (1) right now you have loan money for remodeling and you won't have any left later if you need to make changes, (2) Why waste labor if you can set it up correctly the first time? and (3) What are you going to do with the goats if you need to remodel later? Your herd will expand quickly as the goats birthed on your farm enter the milking herd. Prepare your pens to handle the maximum number of goats the building will hold in a humane manner. (See stocking rates in the Goat Dairy Library "Building Planning" section.) Make sure you don't have to crowd the goats. Stress reduces milk production and robs goat health.

The babies and young stock on this farm were kept in separate out buildings. The babies were kept in pens of 10 with a heat lamp in the corner of each pen and were kept there until weaned. The weaned babies were moved into another building in pens of 50.