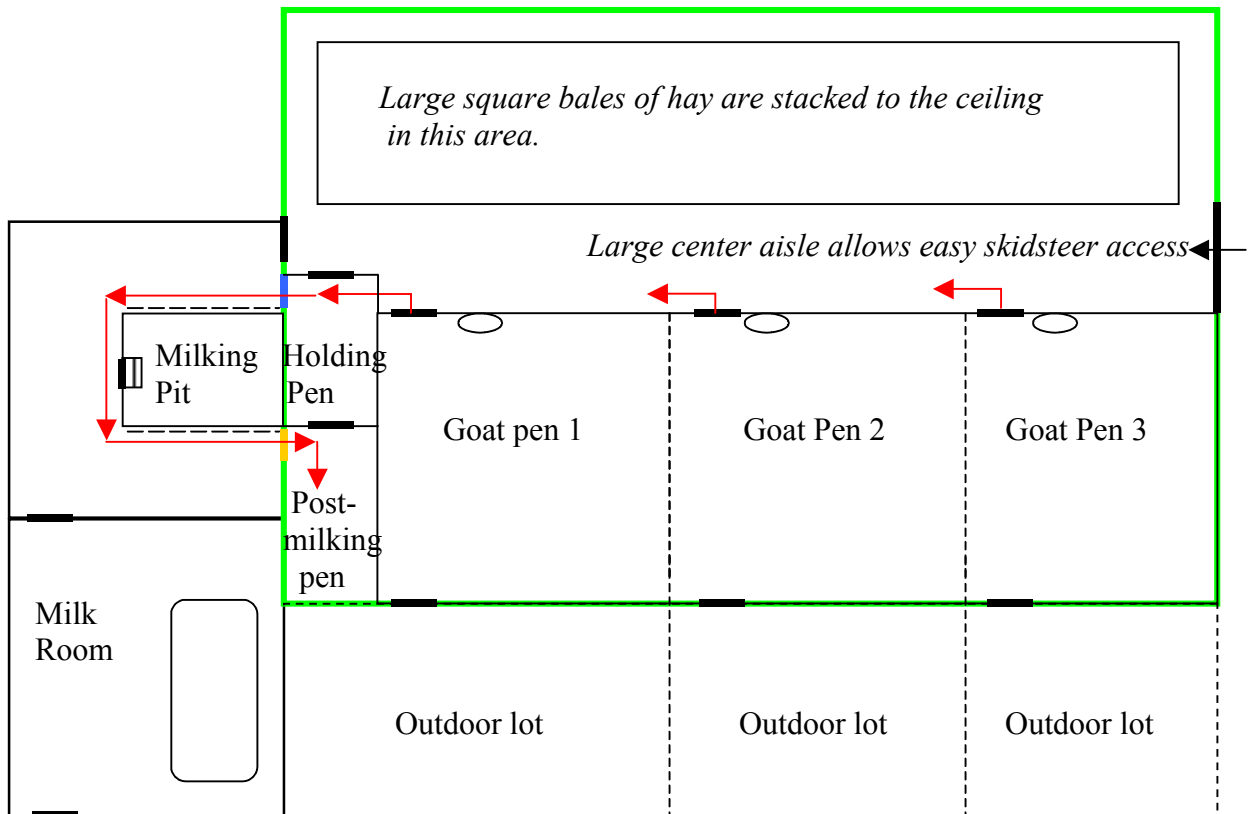


## Farm 6



Farm 6 has a large pole barn (marked in green above) with 2 additions built onto the end of it.

The advantage to this barn setup is that it is very easy to use the skidsteer to move hay into the building and to clean out the pens. The posts for the pens are attached to the cement. The cattle panels are welded together to make the length needed for each side of the pen. The panels on the front of the pen can be removed for easy cleaning.

The floor in the milking parlor is cement, with a pit set below the room floor at just the right height so the farmer can stand up and reach his arms out and put the milkers on without strain. The pipeline is a lowline system mounted along the inside of the sides of the pit.

The two, long stanchion units are bolted to the cement floor on two sides of the milking pit, as indicated by the dotted line in the diagram. There is a fence with a gate on the left end of the pit, to keep the goats out of the pit.

The stanchions have a lever on one end that locks down and releases all of the headstalls in that unit at one time. The farmer said if he had to do it over again, he would use individually operated headstall units, or have a unit that has both options: lock and release all of them, or one at a time. What happens with the current system is that sometimes one goat won't have her head all the way in the unit, preventing him from shutting the headstalls. He has to climb out of the pit to deal with that goat, and then all the other goats come out of their headstalls to see what is going on. He finally gets them all in the headstalls, but by the time he gets back into the pit to close the lever, they're out again. You can imagine the frustration this causes on a daily basis.

When the farmer is ready to milk, he puts the goats he wants to milk, into the holding pen. Then he goes to the parlor and enters the pit. There are two ropes connected to pulleys that are mounted on the ceiling, and each rope operates a door. He pulls the rope on the left, and that opens the door (blue on the diagram) to allow goats to enter the parlor. He counts as they enter, and closes the door when he has the right number

door is weighted, so it closes easily. After the goats are milked, the producer pulls the other rope, and opens the exit door (marked in orange on the diagram.) The goats leave the parlor and go back to the post-milking pen.

The farmer has the option of milking one group, and then opening the gate between the post-milking pen and the holding pen, returning them to their regular pen before he gets the next group, or he can load several groups into the holding pen, and have the milked goats wait in the post-milking pen until everyone is done milking. The post-milking pen is also handy for separating out goats that need medical treatment or that need to be bred.

Young goats are kept in a separate building, which I did not see.