



## CASE STUDY

# Grotegut Dairy Farm Improves Feed and Herd Management with Ever.Ag's Cainthus Solution

Computer vision technology decreases costs by optimizing herd and workforce operations



## DAIRY OVERVIEW

Grotegut Dairy Farm is a 3,500-cow dairy near Newton, WI. In addition to the dairy, they have 3,300 acres total for raising alfalfa and corn silage. The farm has over 50 full-time employees.

"Every day, I'm looking at the low feed time or the time between push-ups. I also look at cow welfare. I look at the day-to-day comparison from pen to pen. You can really see the whole herd's productivity of their time and budget. I can see the trends of when the cows were standing a lot more as well as perching and how bad it was from day to day."

- Eric Grotegut, Grotegut Dairy Farm

## KEY ROI METRICS

### 1. Feed Efficiency Improvements:

- 4% Increase in feed availability, almost 50 minutes.
- Feed availability on Fridays has notably increased from less than 23 hours to almost 23.5 hours.
- 43% reduction in average low feed hours from initial 0.99 to 0.56 hours.

### 2. Cow Comfort and Welfare Metrics:

- 4% Increase in cow comfort from an average of 84.5% to 87.6%, based on the cow comfort index. The cow comfort index is the proportion of cows in contact with a stall that are lying down and measured during peak lying activity time.

## CHALLENGES

- Inability to collect cow data by group
- Lacked visibility into cow behavior
- Unable to optimize existing workforce protocols
- Lack of data for efficient dairy management
- Making decisions without reliable data
- Prioritizing management's focus on not just urgent, but important issues

"We are committed to our herd's animal welfare. That includes providing cow comfort and maintaining our facilities with well-groomed bedding. Since we have people moving animals around the dairy, we want to be sure that our workers follow the protocols we have in place to handle animals the correct way." - Rosario Ibarra, General Manager, Grotegut Dairy Farm

## OBJECTIVES

- Low-maintenance tech to monitor dairy herd and operations
- Develop reliable cow behavior time budget
- Optimize daily operations
- Establish consistent workforce best practices based on informed decisions



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"It's always been difficult to know what the cows do all day. It was our goal to be better at feed push-ups and delivery in addition to making sure our cows are laying down as much as possible." – Eric Grotegut, Livestock Operations Manager at Grotegut Dairy Farm Inc.



## SOLUTION

Grotegut Dairy Farm sought a low-maintenance monitoring solution for their 3,500-cow dairy. Ever.Ag's computer vision solution, Cainthus, was chosen to ensure data-driven management, including feed optimization and measuring cow comfort. The Ever.Ag team strategically placed cameras in the cross-ventilated facility, providing comprehensive coverage to create feeding and milking key performance indicators.

The dairy implemented key data-driven strategies to adjust feed levels, considering whether the cows have feed and the duration of feed unavailability. Furthermore, they've incorporated varied architectural designs for different barn sections based on cow comfort data. Their goal is to evaluate these designs for optimal cow comfort and determine if retrofitting other areas of the barn is beneficial.

## RESULTS

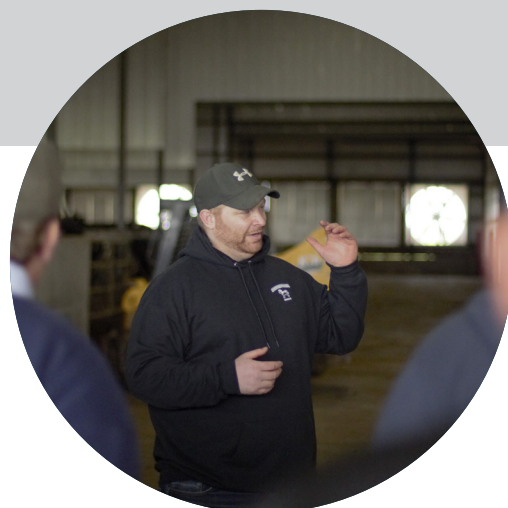
- Identified issues in herd management quickly
- Optimize and ensure labor protocols are followed
- Gained mobile access to key herd data

## GROTEGUT DAIRY CHOSE EVER.AG'S COMPUTER VISION TECHNOLOGY FOR THREE REASONS:

1. Not just knowing feed is out, but the amount of time feed was out.
2. Time the cows spend out-of-pen.
3. Comparing cow comfort and lying time across pens to reach design decisions in the barn.

"You need to find a company you can trust when trying new technology. I am very comfortable with the Cainthus technology. It shows me what is happening, and I've been able to align the data it provides with what I observe in our barns. I've seen proof that Cainthus provides accurate data, and I can use that information to improve our farm."

- Eric Grotegut, Livestock Operations Manager at Grotegut Dairy Farm Inc.



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