

WISCONSIN RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

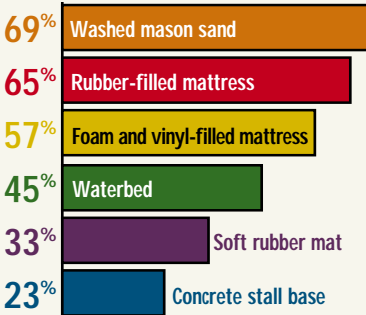
Researchers at the University of Wisconsin used video cameras to record the behavior of cows in a 104-stall free-stall barn. Different stall-base types were interspersed among the stalls. The tendency for cows to choose certain stall-base types over others was recorded four times during the day — at 2 p.m., 8 p.m., 4 a.m., and 9 a.m. — over a nine-month period.

Data are based on the percentage of time that the stalls had cows in them, either lying down or standing.

It should be noted that the 104-stall free-stall barn was divided in half in terms of stocking density. One half had a 100 percent stocking density. The other half had a lower stocking density of approximately 70 percent. On the side with a lower stocking density, sand bedding was not offered as an option because of manure-handling complications.

SIDE WITH 100 PERCENT STOCKING DENSITY

Cows are most likely to lie down in sand-bedded stalls
Percent of time stalls have cows lying in them by stall base type:

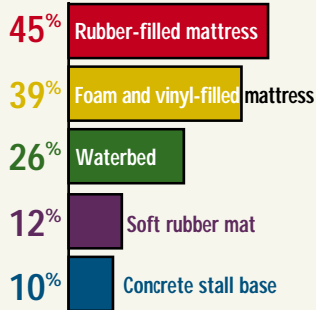


But, overall "occupancy" rates — including both standing and lying — are higher in stalls with rubber-filled mattresses
Time stalls are occupied by stall base type:



SIDE WITH STOCKING DENSITY OF APPROXIMATELY 70 PERCENT

Mattresses rate very high
Percent of time stalls have cows lying in them by stall base type:



And, cows spend more time in mattress-based stalls
Time stalls are occupied with cows either standing or lying by stall base type:

