

# The University of Arizona

Tucson

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## COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

CIRCULAR No. 38

JUNE, 1921

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### Agricultural Experiment Station

D W WORKING, Director

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## THE ADOBE MILKHOUSE

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### INTRODUCTION

A properly constructed milkhouse is one of the first essentials in the production of pure, wholesome milk. No matter how careful the milker may be in drawing the milk, it cannot be put on the market in suitable condition or as economically as it should without a suitable building to house the equipment necessary for cooling, aeration, and storage. The milkhouse should be placed on a well-drained site convenient to the milking shed and to the farmstead driveway. Water should be piped in and good drainage provided for waste water. Filth of any kind, which would afford a breeding place for flies, should never be allowed to accumulate near or in the vicinity of the building.

### HOW TO CONSTRUCT AN ADOBE MILKHOUSE

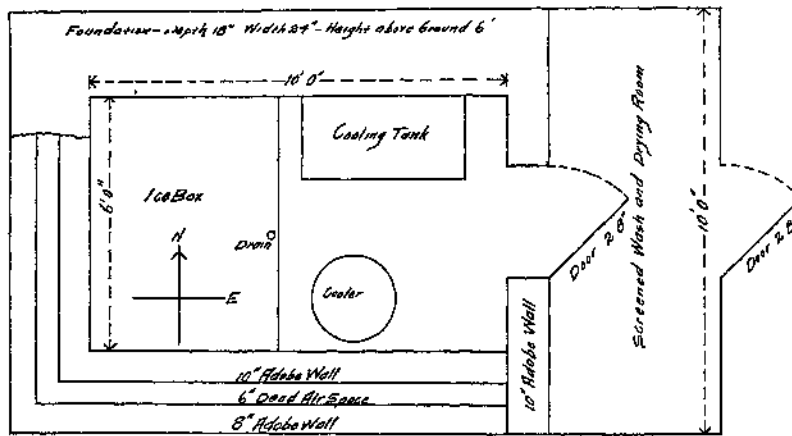
Any one acquainted with adobe houses knows that they are cooler in the summer time than any other kind of house. This is no doubt due to the insulating effect of the adobes which do not conduct heat as rapidly as do other materials. For this reason an adobe milkhouse will reduce the melting of ice to a minimum and discourage the entrance of flies.

The following plan for the construction of an adobe milkhouse

was taken largely from one near Tucson, which has been in use for some time and given very satisfactory results. The dimensions given are suitable for a dairyman milking twelve to thirty cows.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

*Foundation.*—Concrete foundation made of 1:2:4 mixture, 18 inches deep and 24 inches wide, except in front where it should be 12 inches wide. The foundation should extend 6 inches above the ground level.

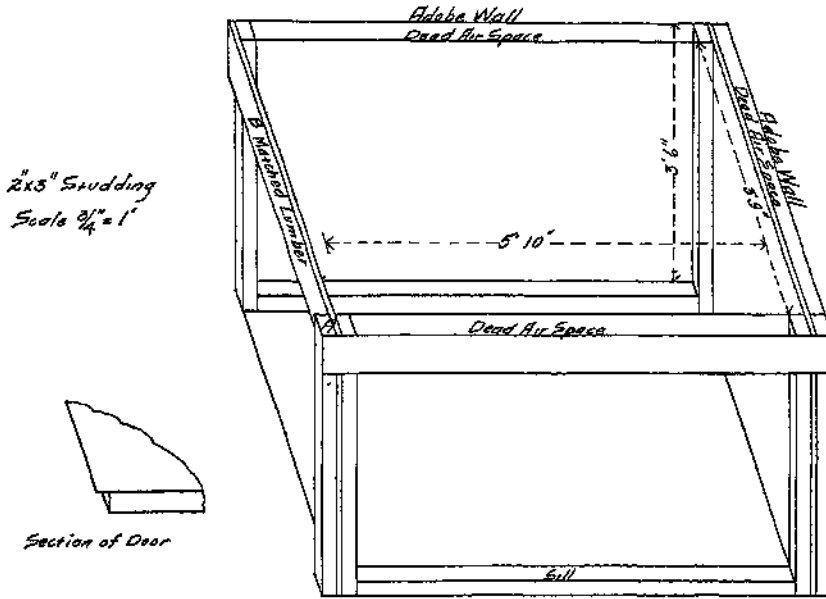


*Floor Plan*

*Floor.*—There should be a 3-inch concrete base composed of a 1:2:3 mixture. On top of this should be placed a one-inch wearing surface composed of one part cement to one of sand. The floor should have an inch slope toward the front, including the screened wash room. Before the concrete begins to set, four bolts must be embedded on which to fasten the sills of the ice box. A drain pipe should also be placed through the floor in such manner as to insure complete drainage.

*Ice Box.*—This should be built before the walls of the building are put up for the reasons that the work can be more conveniently done and a better fit can be secured. No. 1 grade lumber should be used throughout, and it should be free of imperfections. The dimensions given in Fig. 2 are inside measurements. This size box will

hold 9 blocks of ice (2700 pounds) with an unoccupied space of 2 inches around the sides and 6 inches at the top. For studding use 2x3s arranged as shown in diagram of front elevation. Heavy building paper or card board (oiled) should be on both inside and outside



Ice Box

of the studding. This arrangement will prevent moisture from passing through and increase the efficiency of the dead air space. The matched lumber "B" should go between the two corner 2x3s as shown at corner "A." This will insure a good tight corner. If desired, the sides of the box next to the adobe walls need not be covered with matched lumber. The concrete floor may serve as the bottom of the box.

The door of the ice box is to open from the top. At the back a 2x12 may be nailed on the top, forming a dead air space. The remainder of the top opening on each side may be sealed up by nailing on a 2x4 flatwise. The front air space may be closed up with a 2x6

nailed flatwise with the projection inside the box. To provide a dead air space for the top 2x4s can be nailed edgewise onto the outside edge of the covering of the dead air space. At the back another 2x12 can be nailed on, which will make a 4-inch dead air space. The door may be made of matched lumber with a 4-inch dead air space, the top extending out flush with the outside of the box. The door should be made with considerable care so that it will fit snugly all around. A 1x4 should be nailed to the under side of the 2x12 to which the door is hinged so as to leave it projecting out about 1½ inches, which will break the joint.

*Walls.*—The walls should be laid as shown in Fig. 1. The appearance of the outside of the house may be materially improved by stuccoing. In order to increase cleanliness and sanitation the inside walls, by all means, should be plastered.

*Roof.*—The building should be covered with 2x12s and a good quality of roofing paper. Retaining walls may be put around the outside. Several inches of earth may then be thrown on and leveled so as to leave a slope of about 2 inches for drainage. Screen door for wash room and solid panel door for milkhouse should be used.

*Screened Wash and Drying Room.*—Studding should be of 2x4s spaced about 2 feet apart, and covered with galvanized screen. The roof should be good composition roofing nailed onto solid sheeting.

*Exposure.*—If possible, the building should face the east.

