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Supply Chain Management

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Holy Cow! Platform Scale Stands Up to Bovine Abuse

On the campus of the University of New Hampshire in Durham, a group of red barns houses the Dairy Teaching & Research Center. A student-run herd of approximately 120 head of cattle, as well as various other farm animals, reside on the premises. There is an active dairy on site that, last year, made a profit selling the product wholesale. In order for the students to monitor the health of the animals, their eating habits, growth stages and so forth, the cows must be weighed on a regular basis.

A dairy farm is no place for your average household scale. At the UNH site in particular, the scale is located in a wet, harsh wash-down environment and is used to weigh full-size, milk-producing cows.



After UNH had difficulties with scales using electronic load cells that shorted out in the wet environment, Northeast Scale of Auburn, NH, recommended and installed Emery Winslow Hydrostatic load cell modules and indicator. A specially-built pen with gates on either end and a large stainless steel platform on the floor make up the weighing unit. Located outside the unit is a remote digital indicator in a waterproof enclosure suitable for wet environments.

According to Jon Whitehouse, manager, "The scale has been here for over four years and we've never had a problem. A tech comes from Northeast Scale annually to test and certify the scale and that's it. It does what it is supposed to do. It's been great."

For more information contact Northeast Scale, 88 Priscilla Lane, Auburn, NH 03032 at 800-772-4828.



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