



Smart Shelter Solutions

Shelter, Reimagined

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Abstract: The conventional method of hand-feeding cattle is inefficient. This research presents an autonomous feeding system designed to follow a fixed trajectory for a set period, providing feed to animals situated by the feeding trough. The prototype is developed using IR sensors interfaced with Raspberry Pi that tracks the path to follow. Advancements in agricultural technology are driving sustainable practices. Automatic feeding systems (AFSs) exemplify this trend by streamlining feeding operations for ruminants. These systems not only reduce labor costs but also contribute to a greener future by minimizing feed waste and optimizing resource utilization.

I. INTRODUCTION

Cow shelters play a vital role in ensuring the well-being and productivity of dairy and beef cattle. These structures provide a controlled environment that protects animals from harsh weather conditions, temperatures, and potential disease outbreaks.

Modern cow shelters are designed to enhance animal comfort and health through features such as proper ventilation, bedding systems, and waste management solutions. By improving living conditions, cow shelters contribute to higher milk yields, better growth rates, and overall improved animal welfare.

They also support sustainable farming practices by facilitating efficient resource use and reducing the environmental footprint of livestock operations.

In addition to offering physical protection, cow shelters play a crucial role in promoting animal health and hygiene by minimizing exposure to disease-causing agents. Properly designed shelters also facilitate efficient management practices, allowing farmers to easily access and care for their livestock.

II. EASE OF USE

In traditional cow shelters, maintaining optimal living conditions is challenging and labor-intensive. Factors such as temperature, humidity, waste build up, and inconsistent feeding schedules can negatively impact cow health, comfort, and productivity. High temperatures and humidity, for instance, can cause heat stress and respiratory issues, while irregular feeding and poor waste management can lead to digestive problems and increased disease risk. Additionally, the manual monitoring of cow health and shelter conditions is time-consuming and prone to delays, which can hinder timely intervention during health emergencies.

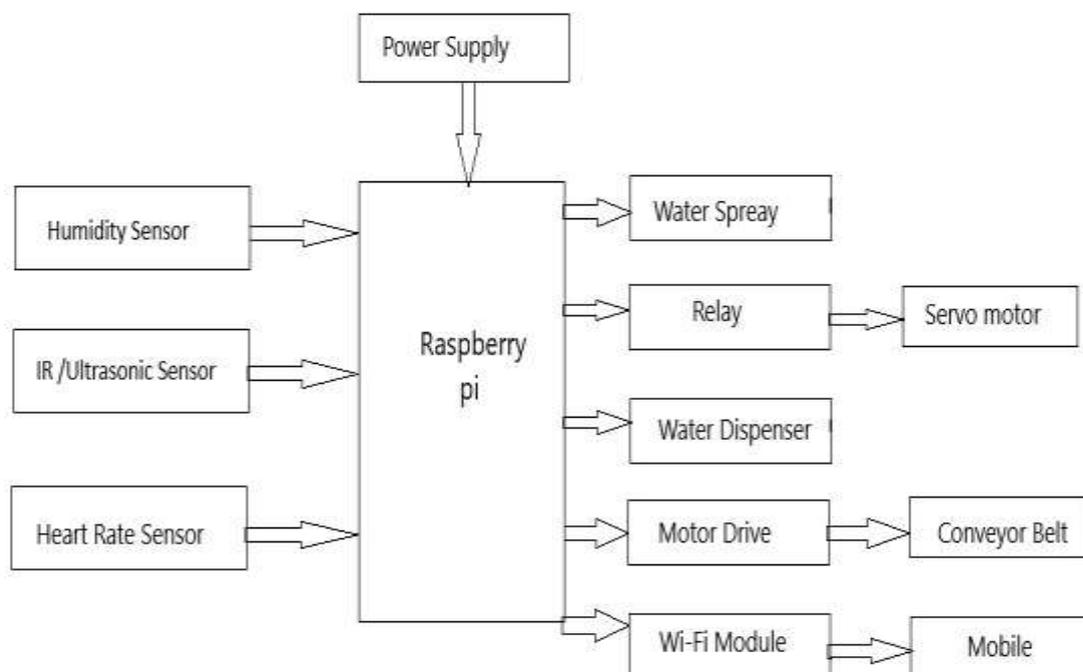
Given these challenges, there is a need for an automated, smart shelter system that can continuously monitor and regulate environmental conditions, manage feeding schedules, and track cow health in real-time. This solution would reduce the dependency on manual labor, minimize the risk of health issues, and improve overall farm management efficiency. By addressing these problems, the Smart Shelter Solution for Cows aims to enhance animal welfare, optimize resource use, and promote sustainable livestock practices

3.2 Data and Sources of Data

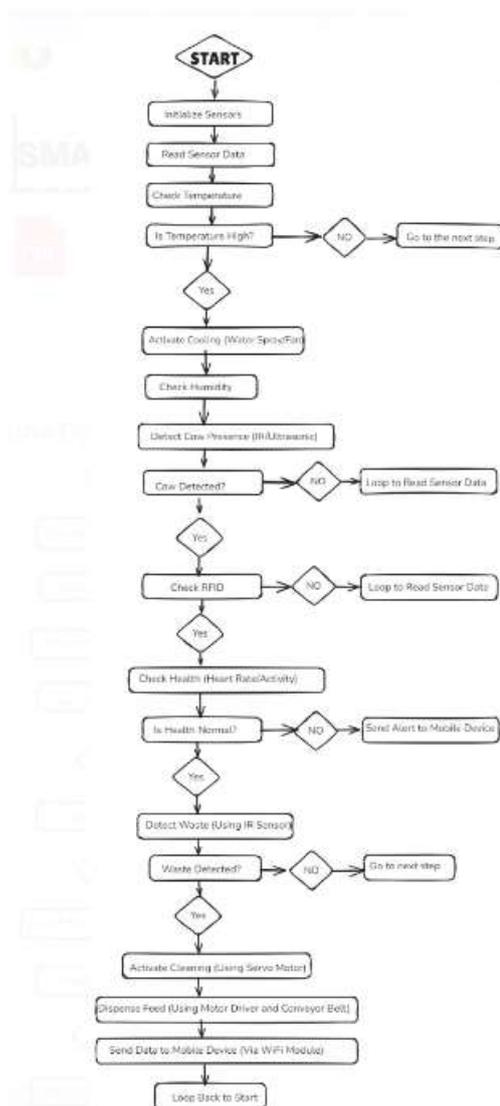
Evaluating an automated cow shelter involves examining various aspects to ensure it meets animal welfare needs and operates efficiently. Key factors include animal comfort, with adequate space, ventilation, and temperature control to prevent stress, as well as good lighting and cleanliness to promote health. Automation plays a critical role in ensuring consistent feeding, milking, and cleaning routines, which are essential for animal comfort and operational hygiene. Health monitoring, often through wearables or sensors, allows early illness detection and integrates well with herd management software. Resource efficiency is another important area, as automated systems should manage water and electricity use carefully to minimize waste and environmental impact, while feed systems should reduce wastage and optimize costs. Labor efficiency also improves with automation, reducing the need for manual labor while maintaining productivity. Sustainability is vital; effective waste management, renewable energy sources like solar panels, and emissions control help reduce the shelter's environmental footprint. A cost-benefit analysis is essential to weigh the initial investment against long-term productivity gains, maintenance costs, and ROI, ensuring the system's financial feasibility. Finally, safety and regulatory compliance are necessary to protect both animals and workers while meeting legal standards. Evaluating these aspects provides a comprehensive view of the shelter's effectiveness and areas for improvement.

3.3 Theoretical framework

3.3.1 Block diagram



3.3.2 Flow chart



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3.3.3 Components specification

Raspberry Pie-

1. Acts as the central processing unit.
2. Receives data from various sensors.
3. Controls output devices like the water spray, servo motor, water dispenser, and conveyor belt.
4. Manages communication through the Wi-Fi module to send alerts to a mobile device.
5. The Raspberry Pi can process the collected data in real-time



Humidity sensors

Humidity sensors in a cow health monitoring system help track environmental conditions, which can impact the cows' health. High humidity can lead to respiratory issues, increased stress, and the spread of diseases. By monitoring humidity levels, farmers can adjust ventilation, bedding, and overall barn conditions to create a more comfortable and healthier environment for the cows. This proactive approach can improve overall cow welfare and productivity.



IR sensor

In the cow waste management system, the IR/ultrasonic sensor plays a crucial role by detecting the presence of waste in the shelter. When waste is identified, the sensor sends a signal to the Raspberry Pi, which then triggers the servo motor to initiate the clean up process. This allows for the automatic activation of the mechanical components, such as the conveyor belt, ensuring efficient and timely waste collection. The IR/ultrasonic sensor provides a non-contact, hygienic solution, which enhances the overall reliability of the system by reducing the need for manual intervention.



Heart rate sensor

Heart rate sensors help monitor the cows health. Abnormal heart rates can be indicative of stress, illness, or other health issues.

A sudden change in heart rate can signal the onset of illness, allowing for early intervention. For example, an elevated heart rate might indicate fever or pain, while a significantly lower heart rate could be a sign of severe distress or health pro Heart rate sensors help monitor the cows health. Abnormal heart rates can be indicative of stress, illness, or other health issues.



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Wifi module

Wi-Fi modules can transmit data from sensors monitoring temperature, humidity, and air quality to a central server or cloud for real-time analysis.

Wi-Fi modules can transmit health data from sensors monitoring cow health, enabling early detection of potential issues.



Conveyor belt

The Conveyor Belt is used as part of the automatic food dispensing system for the cows. It carries the food from the storage unit to the feeding area, ensuring that the cows receive their meals at the appropriate time.



A Servo motor in a cow shelter is used to collect waste, such as:

1. Automated Waste Collection: The servo motor operates a mechanical arm or tray to collect waste when the sensor detects it.
2. Precise Control: The servo motor provides precise control to move the tray to the correct position for efficient waste disposal.
3. Trigger Mechanism: The motor is triggered to rotate based on the sensor's detection, enabling automatic movement for waste management.
4. Energy Efficient: The servo motor only operates when needed, conserving energy.



I. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Requirement Analysis:

- Identify and analyze the essential needs of the cow shelter, such as humidity control, automated feeding, waste management, and health monitoring.
- Determine the specific sensors and components required to achieve these functionalities, including temperature and humidity sensors, IR/ultrasonic sensors, heart rate sensors, a motor drive, and a Wi-Fi module for communication.

2. System Design:

- **Hardware Design:** Create a block diagram of the system to define the interactions between the Raspberry Pi, sensors, motors, and actuators.
- **Software Design:** Develop a flowchart to outline the control logic, data collection, and automated responses of the system. Write and test code for the Raspberry Pi to control devices and process sensor data.
- **User Interface Design:** Design a basic mobile interface or notifications system that allows farm managers to monitor conditions remotely and receive real-time alerts on their mobile devices.

3. Component Selection and Integration:

- Select and procure suitable sensors (humidity, heart rate, IR/ultrasonic), actuators (motor driver, servo motor, water sprayer), and the main control unit (Raspberry Pi) to meet project requirements.
- Integrate these components by connecting sensors and actuators to the Raspberry Pi, following the block diagram and ensuring compatibility with the power supply and communication channels.

4. Programming and Development:

- Program the Raspberry Pi to read data from sensors and execute automated actions based on predefined thresholds (e.g., turning on the water spray if the temperature exceeds a set value).
- Implement code for real-time data processing and decision-making, including activating the motor drive for feeding, triggering waste removal using the servo motor, and adjusting environmental factors for cow comfort.
- Develop code to send alerts via Wi-Fi to a mobile device, allowing remote monitoring and notifications on shelter conditions and cow health..

3.4.1 Conclusion

Automated feeding systems optimize feed distribution, tailoring rations to individual animal needs. By minimizing feed waste and labor costs, these systems enhance farm efficiency and reduce environmental impact. The prototype developed integrates smartphone control and sensor technology to precisely monitor and adjust feed delivery, ultimately maximizing productivity and profitability.

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