

February, 2019

## AmeriLux News



### Innovative Calf Shelter Design "Natural sunlight provides animal comfort"

Finding a way to make cattle products more user-friendly is very important to Charles Raml, owner of Iron Ranch Manufacturing in Watertown, South Dakota. Charlie grew up on a farm helping his dad and older brother do the morning chores. Because he was the youngest, it was his job to crawl in the shelters to check the calves and spread the straw around. A not-so-fun job once spring came around!

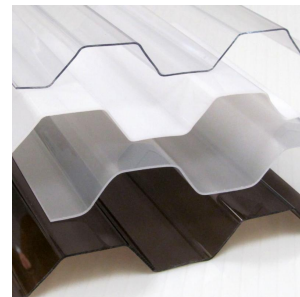
As a kid, Charlie didn't realize what a tough job cleaning calf shelters really was. But when he left the farm to attend college, Charlie watched these chores get increasingly difficult for his dad. Using his skills and education, Charles decided to design a calf shelter that would make life on the farm easier.



"My dad was my main inspiration," Charlie says. "With his help and suggestions, we identified several problems with the shelters on the market at the time: they were hard to get into, hard to bed, often too dark, difficult to move, and didn't have good ventilation."

In 2015, Charles completed his patent-

### Featured Product LEXAN™ Greca Polycarbonate



LEXAN™ Greca polycarbonate offers outstanding features such as high light transmission, advanced UV protection, and excellent impact resistance.

Constructed of a single layer of polycarbonate with 'peaks and valleys', Greca's lightweight construction allows for simple and easy installation. LEXAN™ Greca corrugated is stocked in:

- Clear (90% LT)
- Softlite (85% LT)
- Opal (52% LT)
- Bronze (25% LT)

LEXAN™ Greca panels are a cost-effective daylighting solution for many agricultural and industrial applications including skylights, gable end walls, and full roofs.

*LEXAN is a trademark of SABIC.*

[Product Brochure](#)

### Ask the Tech Expert

pending calf shelter design which includes a walk-thru door, swinging gate, lifting bar, air vents, and polycarbonate skylights.

The walk-thru door provides easy access to checking on the calves and spreading straw. The swinging door helps keep the calves 'in' or 'out' while the lifting bar makes it simple to pick up and relocate a bucket from either side.



The top of the shelter features clear corrugated polycarbonate skylights. After researching the different glazing options for skylights, Charles determined that polycarbonate panels were stronger, more flexible, cost efficient, light weight, and easier to apply than glass or acrylic. "I needed a skylight that would hold up to the heavy winds, hail, and the cold winters. These shelters have been hauled down the road during negative 30° weather traveling 80mph and we haven't had a skylight break in the past 4 years."

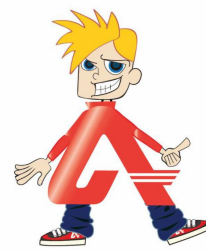


bedding dry, and the calves healthy."

He went on to explain that calves don't like dark buildings. "I wanted the inside of the shelter to be lit up and warm. Skylights allow sunlight to shine in which warms up the shelter and allows the calves to see inside during the daylight hours. Warm air also prevents bacteria from growing, keeps the

Charles Raml's calf shelter design is a great example of polycarbonate being used as a roofing material for letting natural light into a structure.

*If you would like to learn more about Iron Ranch Manufacturing and their complete line of products, please visit their [Facebook page](#).*



**Q.** Is corrugated polycarbonate strong enough to be used as a roofing material?

**A.** With the proper structural support, polycarbonate corrugated panels will stand up against hail storms, powerful winds, and wet snow accumulations.

The UV-protected outer surface ensures long-term durability and strength in a wide range of temperatures. Not only is corrugated polycarbonate strong, it is light in weight and easy to install with basic tools.

**A perfect daylight roofing & cladding option!**

[More FAQ's](#)

## DIY Tip of the Month "Decorative Accent Pieces"



With its wide range of colors and light transmissions, multiwall polycarbonate panels can offer some functional interest to your office or living space.

Polycarbonate is easy to fabricate and install, making it a perfect choice for a variety of unique and creative accent pieces.

- **Back-Lit Wall Art**
- **Transom Windows**
- **Cabinet Door Inserts**
- **Photo Collage Panel**
- **Sliding Barn Door**

Add personality to your next DIY interior design project. Call 888-602-4441 for more product information.

## Company Highlights

Meet the A-Team | Patrick Bassi

Looking for a change of environment, Patrick Bassi joined the fast-growing AmeriLux Logistics division this past November. Patrick brings valuable experience to the team having worked for two years as a freight broker and after-hours support in the transportation industry.



As a Logistics Account Manager, Patrick organizes loads for customers and sources carriers to help provide a safe and timely transit. He also assists with generating competitive rate quotes and finding viable solutions to prospective customers shipping needs such as carrier availability.

"Learning a new TMS system has definitely been a challenging aspect of my role so far, but it helped having experience in the industry," explained Patrick. "Nonetheless, every company does things differently. I've enjoyed the challenge of learning the ropes at AmeriLux Logistics. There's always more to learn and absorb."

**Fun Fact:** Patrick is getting married in May. Counting down to the special day!

*"While working for a larger company, it's easy to feel lost in the mix, but at AmeriLux I could tell everyone was upfront and real. I was received with open arms. It's a great feeling to know you've made the right choice."*



## Annual Neighborhood Food Drive:

Five neighboring De Pere, WI businesses joined forces last month to stock the shelves at Paul's Pantry. A local non-profit organization that provides food needs for low-income families. The month-long food drive 'competition' collected just under 18,000 non-perishable items. And, even though AmeriLux wasn't able to hang on to the trophy, the real prize is knowing together we did some good for others.

### Video Links:

- [Working Together to Feed Hungry](#)
- [Local Businesses Help Feed the Hungry](#)

### Links of Interest:

- [Tips on Preparing Your Greenhouse for Spring Sowing and Growing.](#)
- [Workplace Secret Ingredient: Natural Light and Views of the Outdoors.](#)
- [Polycarbonate Corrugated Panels Protect Japanese Villa from Strong Sea Breezes.](#)

AmeriLux International | AmeriLux Logistics  
Phone: 920-336-9300 or 888.602.4441  
Email: [info@ameriluxinternational.com](mailto:info@ameriluxinternational.com)  
Website: [www.ameriluxinternational.com](http://www.ameriluxinternational.com)

Connect with us

