



How cows access robotic milking systems will depend on the individual farm set-up.

just for fetching groups of cows and overseeing the whole operation.

“Although you might be thinking that there is little to be gained financially because you will require the same number of machines as a voluntary system, there are some savings to be made.”

He says that manufacturers will

centralise much of the equipment, such as milk and vacuum pumps, because they are grouped together, therefore the cost per unit reduces.

When thinking about the building considerations of a batch milking system, Mr Jones says for farms which are already grouping cows by yield, the groups can remain the

same as they would for a conventional milking.

“So, you can feed more outside, with the additional advantage of centralised handling and separation facilities.”

In summary, there is a huge amount to consider when making the move to automatic milking from

a conventional parlour. Therefore, Mr Jones advises visiting as many robotic farms as possible, to assess which of the above systems is best suited to an individual’s farm.

He says: “Having done this, you will be in a better situation to discuss your requirements with the robotic dealerships in your area.”

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