

# New World News



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A publication of Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development LLC

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## Cold Weather Tips for Equipment

With the cold weather setting in, it's time to focus on ways to keep equipment warm and running properly. Paul Vander Hoff offers a few suggestions on what can be done to minimize equipment failures during cool weather.

### 1. Use an external block heater to heat and circulate the engine coolant.

Most tractors will come

with a plug. However, an external block heater has more power for keeping the cooling system warm.

The main function of the block heater is to heat or recirculate the engine coolant, which allows

a diesel engine to combust more easily on start-up.

An external block heater costs about \$55.00 and can be purchased at an

autoparts store. Paul suggests using an external block heater of 1500 watts for bigger equipment such as the tractor you may use for feeding or a payloader.



### 2. Drain the water from the fuel filter daily.

Water remaining in a fuel filter will freeze during cool weather and prevent the engine system from working correctly.

*Continued on page 2.*



### School Closings

Cold weather can cause

schools to delay their start or to cancel school for an entire day. Check with your school to find out how school delays are announced. Most school delays will be announced by a local radio station or TV news station.

## Market Data

The Mideast Federal Milk Marketing Order, which includes Michigan, Ohio and the majority of Indiana, experienced increases in three milk price classes.

For more information on the milk marketing system, visit the resources page at [www.vrebahoff.com](http://www.vrebahoff.com)

November 2002 Prices announced on 11/29/02		
Class of Milk	Price per 100 pounds (or 45.36 kg.)	Change from Previous Month
I	\$12.80	+\$ .45
II	\$11.26	+\$ .14
III	\$9.84	-\$ .88
IV	\$10.58	+\$ .08

\*The Class I price is adjusted based on location and will range from \$12.40—\$12.90.

### Vreba-Hoff Office—



### Holiday Schedule

Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Vreba-Hoff office will be closed on the following days: December 25, 26, 27 and January 1.

## Cold Weather Tips for Equipment continued from page 1.

The water can be drained from the fuel filter by turning a knob on the bottom of the fuel filter. Watch the draining closely as the water will come out first and then the filter will need to be closed to keep the fuel inside.

### 3. Have the air dryer and air compressor serviced regularly.

Most dairies' crowd gates are operated by air and if the air dryer does not remove all the moisture from

the system, the remaining moisture can turn to ice causing the gate to freeze up. The best way to prevent the crowd gate from freezing up is to have the air dryer system regularly serviced.

### 4. Hang plastic strips between the cows entrance to the parlor and the holding area.

Hanging plastic strips by the holding area can prevent heat loss in the milking parlor area. The plastic

strips serve as a windbreak and heat barrier between the parlor. The plastic strips can be purchased from FarmTek at 1-800-327-6835 or [www.farmtek.com](http://www.farmtek.com)

If you have cold weather tips you would like to share with the other Vreba-Hoff clients, please email them to [kimberly@vrebahoff.com](mailto:kimberly@vrebahoff.com)

Source: Paul Vander Hoff

## Announcements

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### Watch Your Mailbox for Ohio Compliance Information

Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development will be sending out information to its Ohio clients on the Livestock Environmental Permitting Program guidelines. The information will be mailed in the next few weeks.

### Address Changes



A special welcome to the VandeKolk family who arrived in the US in late November and the Van Raay family who will arrive in late December. Please update your directories with the following information.

Karel and Ada VandeKolk  
305 Barbara Drive  
Wauseon, OH 43567  
Phone: (419) 335-6802

Ted and Cindy Van Raay  
3969 Summerford Rd  
South Charleston, OH 45368  
[stcvanraay@hotmail.com](mailto:stcvanraay@hotmail.com)

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## The Blackboard

If there are specific dairy terms or phrases you've found helpful to use on your dairy operation, please email them to [newsletter@vrebahoff.com](mailto:newsletter@vrebahoff.com)

### Spanish Dairy Terms

Number	English Word	Spanish Word	Spanish Pronunciation
1	cold	frio	FREEoh
2	frozen	congelado	cone-hay-LAW-doe
3	warm	tibio	TEE-bee-oh

Source: Simplified Dairymen's Spanish; Utah State University

# Another Michigan herd suspected of bovine tuberculosis

Michigan State Department of Agriculture authorities recently revealed that they quarantined a dairy herd in Alcona County on Nov. 27 due to suspected bovine tuberculosis (TB) infection. At question is a 5-year-old cow from which researchers isolated a suspicious organism. More tests are currently underway that will provide a more definitive diagnosis — final results are expected in mid-January.

This herd tested negative for the disease in 1998, 2000 and 2001, but tests last August revealed the current problem. This case is particularly troublesome because there has been sig-



nificant movement of cattle from this farm to other operations in the area. State officials are tracking animal movement and contacting people who have had cattle sales and purchases with the dairy.

The affected herd resides in one of the "infected" counties designated by the state's TB eradication program. The four counties where the disease was first discovered are classified as infected, while the six surrounding counties are classified as the surveillance zone as a buffer around the disease. The state's remaining 73 counties are classified as

disease free. The zones may only be changed after public comment and a thorough investigation that identifies significant infection risk and disease prevalence in the region.

More than 20 cattle herds in Michigan have been identified as TB-positive since the mid-1990s and destroyed to prevent further spread of the disease.

For more information about bovine TB or Michigan's eradication program, go to the web site at: [www.bovinetb.com](http://www.bovinetb.com)

Source: [dairyherd.com](http://dairyherd.com)

## Look for "Green" Cows in the Future

You might be surprised at what's headed for dairy farms in the future: specially bred cows that naturally produce lowfat milk, designer milk that boosts the immune system, and "green" cows engineered to produce less methane to help stem global warming.

All of these things could happen within the next 50 years, according to the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, a peer-reviewed publication of the American Chemical Society.

Among the predictions to be published in the Dec. 4 issue of the *Journal*:

- Designer milk. Organic milks are already available at supermarkets, but new breeds of de-

signer milks are on the drawing board that will boost immunity, improve lactose utilization and relieve diarrhea. Advances in biotechnology have made it all possible.

- Naturally lowfat milk. Recent advances in biotechnology have identified a gene for milkfat synthesis that may one day allow scientists to selectively breed cows that naturally produce lowfat milk. This and other developments are moving closer to reality as scientists identify genetic markers in cows for diseases and desirable traits.



- Green cows. No, not green-colored cows, but environmentally cleaner cows. Cattle, via belching, produce a significant amount of methane as a result of digestion. Methane is a contributor to the greenhouse effect in the atmosphere — second only to carbon dioxide. Researchers believe that they can alter cattle digestion, either by removing the microorganisms that produce methane from their stomachs or by creating microorganisms that can produce metabolic products other than methane.

Source: American Chemical Society and [dairyherd.com](http://dairyherd.com)

### *New World News*

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1290 N. Shoop Ave. Suite 140  
Wauseon, Ohio 43567

Phone: 419.337.5000

Fax: 419.337.5411

Email: info@vrebahoff.com



### New Arrival

Congratulations to Cindy Te Voortwis and Les Hagan on the birth of their daughter, Nicole Marie. Nicole was born on October 29th.



# A Happy New Year!

## Van Ham Dairy LLC

In this issue of New World News, we visit with the Van Ham family.

Jan and Anja Van Ham relocated from the Netherlands to the US in July 2001 to pursue their goal of growing their dairy business. Prior to moving to the US, the Van Hams owned and operated the Netherlands dairy farm pictured at right.

"Before you decide to relocate," says Anja, "you need to find out as much about the area as possible. Some people may be against a new dairy, and it's important to be aware of that upfront.

People have to realize that moving is not always easy but you will have a lot of satisfaction once everything is arranged."

The Van Hams felt that the biggest adjustments to living in the US were the language and the school system.

"The language takes a while to adjust to," explains Anja. "There are also a lot more grades in school and

much more discipline."

The US school system requires children to attend school from ages five through sixteen.



The Van Hams farm in the Netherlands is pictured above and their new dairy in the US in pictured to the right.

However, most children attend school through the completion of high school, which is at age 17 or age 18.

The Van Hams have three children. The youngest, Mark, is 16 and he attends high school in Continental, Ohio. Aukje is 19 and she is attending school in the Netherlands to become a teacher. The oldest daughter, Neeltje, is 21 and attending college in Bowling Green with plans to become a doctor.

Some of the things the Van Hams really like about the US are the American way of life and the weather.



Above: Van Ham's dairy herd is milked three times a day in a double-16 parlor.

"The American people have a relaxed way of life that you will adjust to very easy," tells Anja. "And the summer is nice warm with the

sun shining a lot.

At this time of the year, the thoughts turn to celebrating the holidays and the New Year. The Van Hams still keep in close contact with friends and family in the Netherlands. "We still celebrate Christmas just like we did in the Netherlands," says Anja.

When looking to the future, the Van Hams "hope to have a competitive milk price in the future and continue to have a good way of life now and in the future."