

New World News



Keeping the Milking Parlor Running Smooth

You may have heard the expression, "Success is what happens when preparation meets with opportunity." In this article, we look at how the Van Loon family has prepared their milking procedure to improve milking parlor efficiencies.

The Van Loons relocated from Belgium to Michigan in May 2001 and began operating Mibelloon Dairy in April 2002. Since establishing Mibelloon Dairy with 1,000 cows, they have been able to expand

their dairy herd and currently milk 1,400 cows in their double sixteen herringbone parlor. The total herd size is 1,700 cows.

"It's important to follow the right milking procedure so you can minimize the milking time," says the Van Loons.

"We run our parlor 24 hours a day and we milk 1,400 cows a day: 760 cows 3 times a day and



Above: Over 3,500 milkings are completed each day at Mibelloon Dairy.

640 cows 2 times a day. Now, we have 3 milkers in the milking parlor per shift. One of the milkers is responsible for bringing cows in the holding pen."

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Weight-loss claims could appear soon on Dairy Products

By summer, you may see



weight-loss claims on certain dairy products. Applications

for the weight-loss claims became available Monday at the annual meeting of the International Dairy Foods Association.

Market Update

The Mideast Federal Milk Marketing Order, which includes Michigan, Ohio and the majority of Indiana, milk prices are shown to the right.

For daily milk market information, visit: www.dairy.com and go to the "Dairy Reports" section.

*The Class I price is adjusted based on location and will range from \$15.64–\$16.14 in the Mideast Order.

December 2003 Milk Prices (announced on 1/02/04)		
Class of Milk	Price per 100 pounds (or 45.36 kg.)	Change from Previous Month
I Fluid Milk for drinking	\$16.04*	-\$0.53
II Soft products: yogurt, cream cheese	\$11.30	+\$0.31
III Cheese	\$11.87	-\$1.60
IV Butter, powder milk	\$10.52	+\$0.22

Research at the University of Tennessee has shown that calcium can rev-up a person's metabolism, thus contributing to weight loss under certain circumstances. The research is patented, so in order to make weight-loss claims on labels, companies must obtain a license from the IDFA or other licensing agency designated by Dairy Management Inc.

Source: dairyherd.com

Here's the milking procedure the Van Loons have found works for them:

1. The milkers push the ringing bell so the cows know it's time to come in the parlor.
2. The first milker starts, as soon as the first cow is in position, with forestripping and strips till cow #8. The second milker starts foaming the cows.
3. When the third milker has finished filling up the parlor, he starts forestripping from cow #9 -#16, following by foaming each cow.

During this time, the first milker starts cleaning the udder on the first cow and a fresh cloth is used for every cow.

4. When the second milker is finished foaming cows #1-#8, he starts attaching the units. After the third milker is finished foaming, he starts post dipping the other line.



The treated cows are milked 2 times a day and immediately after this milking, the machines and the parlor are cleaned. This takes about 45 minutes each time.

Here are a few ways to make the milking parlor run smooth:

- Bring slow cows in one group ; we milk them 2 times a day
- Use a ringing bell: the cows know when it is time to come in the milking parlor.
- Make sure the group size fits into the parlor size. For example, the parlor is a double 16; so the milking groups should be a multiple of 16.

Government Funds Available for Environmental Initiatives

Get ready for the release of a new round of funding for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The EQIP cost-sharing grants are available to fund many structural and land management conservation practices on your farm, including manure management systems, comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs), grassed waterways, windbreaks, and critical area planting.

EQIP funding is available in all states, including Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. The final passage of the federal 2004 budget will dictate the program's final timeline. Each

county will set its own deadline, with a typical 4-6 week signup period. Most counties hope to begin official signups in February, with open enrollment through April.

NRCS expects to have established contracts with landowners and producers late spring/early summer.

State and local priority resource concerns determine which projects will receive higher project ranking. While the amount varies for different projects, landowners and producers are eligible for grants providing up to 75% cost share, with limited resource farmers and beginning farmers pro-

vided an additional 15% cost share. Each state and county have a different set of priorities that will soon be available on the NRCS web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/

Year 2003 priorities and project details are still on-line to provide additional program information.

Several clients of Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development in Northwest Ohio received EQIP funding for manure management projects in 2003. NRCS encourages producers to contact their county agents soon to let them know of their interest.

Source: Hull Engineering



Staff Changes at Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development

Joni Kryspin has joined the Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development staff as an accountant. Joni received her associates degree in accounting from Owens Technical College and earned her Bachelor's Degree in accounting at the University of Toledo.

She has worked in the accounting field for over 20 years with various business types such as: real estate, trucking, retail coffee, plumbing and home construction. However, this is her first venture into the dairy industry.



Above: Joni Kryspin has joined the staff as an accountant.

Joni is married to Dick and they live in Maumee, with their 10-year-old daughter, Kelsey; their dog, Abbey; and two hamsters. Joni also has two step children Amy and Jeff, who reside in the Maumee area. In her free time, Joni enjoys reading, traveling, gardening and bicycling. Welcome, Joni.

Many of you have heard the voice of Yvonne Vande Kolk over the past 1.5 years as our receptionist. Yvonne will be leaving to pursue her interests in nursing and assist with the start-up of Chesterfield Dairy, LLC in Lyons, Ohio.

Deb Bracy will also be leaving Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development. Deb assisted with accounting the past 3 years and will continue to provide accounting support to Vander Hoff Bros. Dairy.

Special thanks to Yvonne and Deb for their work with Vreba-Hoff.

Results from Farm Air Quality Research

Summarized by Cecilia C.M. Conway

Ohio State University conducted a study on the odor, gas and dust emissions of three livestock farms in Ohio. Data was collected from a poultry, swine and dairy operation. The dairy farm selected is one of Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development's clients.

In addition to dust concentration and particle size, data was collected on emissions of the following gases - ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and carbon dioxide during the months of March, June and August.

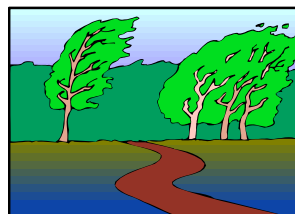
The test results conducted at the dairy, concluded that odor and gas emissions were strongest at the location of the manure pond and highest during the summer months.

Odor levels tested 500 feet downwind of the facility were in acceptable levels. Similarly, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide levels were highest at the lagoon site. However, 500 feet downwind of the facility very minimal levels of these gases were detected. This research helps to provide argument against local opponents that may claim concern on farm gas emissions.

OSU extension plans to continue researching this area and will be conducting more testing at farms over the next two years.

A second presentation discussed

ammonia emissions and livestock production. It was indicated that emissions could be reduced through the avoidance of overfeeding proteins to animals and avoiding the excessive aeration of manures. It was advocated to not feed excess nitrogen to cattle because this increases ammonia content within cattle manure. Additionally, it was advocated to inject manure or compost manure to lessen ammonia loss to the atmosphere. If anyone is interested in the notes and handouts provided at this seminar, please contact the Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development office.



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A Look into the Future

Cornell University recently published information on the future of the U.S. dairy industry. Their data indicated that the number of dairy farms will decline from over 105,000 in 2000 to about 15,000 in 2020.

It is expected that the majority of milk will be produced on farms

with over 500 cows; however there will still be farms of all sizes as follows:

Farm Size	Year 2020
1-49 cows	0.6%
50-99	2.3%
100-199	3.8%
200-499	8.7%
500 or more	84.6%

Announcements

Immigration News

Clients have provided a couple referrals of lawyers who can provide assistance in obtaining a greencard. The referrals include:

William Rosner
Telephone: 216.771.5588

Margaret Wong's Office
Contacts: Lori Pinjuh or
Chi Sevilla
Telephone: 216.566.9908

Roxi Liming
Telephone: 614.488.2053

President Bush's Immigration Reform Plan has also been in the news recently. Please note that current laws state that if someone entered the country legally or illegally and remained out of status for more than 180 days, he or she would not be allowed to re-enter for three years. If the person was out of status for more than 360 days, re-entry would be barred for 10 years.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Web site is located at: [Uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov)

Missing Frikandellen and Dropjes?

From: Yvonne Vande Kolk
These items and other Dutch favorites can be found at Vander Veen's in Grand Rapids, Michigan. You can view information about their products at: www.thedutchstore.com

Here's the contact information:
Vander Veen's Dutch Store
2755 28th Street SW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49509
Phone: 800.813.9538
Fax: 800.850.6466



Job Posting Website

A job-posting feature has been added to the Ohio State University Dairy Web site. The site is for anyone interested in being hired or hiring someone to work in a number of dairy related fields. The site is located at: dairy.osu.edu Click on the "Business Resources" link on the right and then click on "Human Resource Management" and then "Job Postings" Fill out the form to have your job or re-

sume listed. For more information, contact Maurice Eastridge at eastridge.1@osu.edu

Upcoming Events

February 18 LEAP I
10 am—2 pm
Schnipke Inn
Ottawa, Ohio

LEAP is Ohio's Livestock Environmental Assurance Program. This is a voluntary program for all major livestock species in Ohio. It assists producers in managing environmental challenges. The registration deadline for the training is February 15th and the cost is \$10.00. For information call 419.523.6294

April 1-3 Spring Dairy Expo
Columbus, Ohio
April 27-28 Tri-State Dairy
Nutrition Conference
Fort Wayne, Indiana