

September-October 2013  
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## Farmers Rock - A True Inspiration

Find out how one dairy farmer is making the best of a bad situation on page 6

## Tax Planning for Farmers

More info on page 11

# Kentucky Was Well Represented at World Dairy Expo

By: Teri Atkins

**H**ard to believe that it has already been a year since the last World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI. The KDDC Young Dairy Producer Organization went on their 7<sup>th</sup> trip north to tour farms and visit the World Dairy Expo. This year the Kentucky dairy industry was well represented in many different areas.

Day one began early with 65 KDDC participants gathering to catch the buses. The first day tours consisted of two small scale registered Holstein farms. The first tour was at Ludwig Farmstead Creamery in Fithian, IL. Ludwig only produces the amount of milk needed to supply their artisan cheese making process. The second stop was at Luck-E Holsteins in Hampshire, IL. They milk 200 cows in a 38-cow tie stall barn but the cows are housed in free stall barns. Luck-E Holsteins takes pride in their genetics and even has several bulls in stud.

Day two was full of tours varying from 100 to 3000 cow dairies, with all of the stops being set up by Tom Lorenzen of Alltech. The

first three stops were all old barns that have been retro fitted for the newer generation to take over. We had the pleasure of seeing an old tie stall barn made into a double-8 parlor with a recently built free stall barn; a Brown Swiss herd that milks in a new parabone parlor built inside of an old stanchion barn that was established in 1854 and a 100-cow tie stall herd. The final stop on day two was at Larson Acres. In 1968 they were milking less than 50 cows. After several expansions they are now knocking on 3000 cows. Their newest barn houses all of the dry cows, fresh heifers, fresh cows and high producing mature cows. It is a cross ventilated free stall barn with

*Cont'd on page 14*



Dairy producer Gary Reese of Simpsonville, KY smells one of the winning forage samples at the WDE. S Y Dairy from Guthrie, KY received the prestigious Grand Champion Dairy Hay Award for the nation.



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## President's Corner

Bob Klingenfus



We are getting reports of greater than expected corn and soybean yields throughout the country. When compared to last year with the drought it is a welcomed sight. My crop yields are up considerably and the additional forage and grain will allow me more flexibility in planning feed and marketing strategies.

How, though will a good corn and soybean yield affect my over-all bottom line as a dairy farmer? History tells us as cycles occur in crop yields, livestock markets respond with fluctuations in beef herd size and milk production in the dairy sector. Of course other factors play into this, especially the cull cow market, demand for products both domestically and internationally and amount of products in storage.

Typically, dairy prices have a lag affect in relation to lowered feed cost due to the nature of the lactation curve and time to raise replacements. It has always been said in the dairy industry, "Cheap corn will make cheap milk." But it takes a little while after you have high priced grain prices for that to take effect. That "lag" time often is the best time to make the most and prepare for lower milk prices as supply increases.

There are a few factors which might affect that lag period, holding it off or speeding it up as compared to former cycles.

1. Although domestic use of fluid milk has steadily decreased, overall consumption of dairy products is increasing. Cheese continues to make gains so actual demand is up.
2. In 2012 exports equaled 13.2 percent of total U.S. milk-solids production. In June and May of 2013 this number has increased to over 16 percent.
3. The drivers of these export increases are: steady increase in global demand, faltering production from other suppliers and favorable pricing

with the weakening of the U.S. dollar.

4. The U.S. milk production is up 118 percent since 2002 and stands at 200.3 billion lbs. However in 2012 increases in demand and exports have helped balance domestic production increases.

5. Higher stocks of cheese, butter and other products will push prices down in 2014 somewhat too.

6. Cull cow prices have lowered, but are still strong. Estimated U.S. April 2013 cull cow prices (beef and dairy combined) averaged \$81.70/cwt. This is down \$1.20/cwt. from March's revised estimate, and \$3 .80/cwt. less than April 2012. But when you can sell a 1,400 lb. cow and receive \$1,000 to \$1,200 for her it's not nearly as hard a decision to send her to the market.

The USDA forecast for the all-milk price in 2014 is off nearly \$1.00 per cwt. The 2013 All-Milk price was lowered this month to \$19.50-\$19.80 per cwt. and to \$18.70-\$19.70 per cwt. for 2014. These prices did not provide enough margin when corn and bean prices were at their highest.

As I fill my silage bags and begin shelling corn I wonder how the increase in yields will affect next year's milk prices. How much more milk will be produced from the good quality crop we are harvesting this year? How harsh will this winter's weather be? What changes might take place internationally? How can I be ready for any of the above? A lot to ponder.



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## Executive Director Comments

Maury Cox

### Are you optimistic about the future of dairy farming?



For those of you who do not use Facebook or email or were not aware, I had open heart surgery September 6<sup>th</sup> to replace a faulty mitral heart valve. After the surgery it was determined I would also need a pacemaker because my heart rate was too slow. All surgeries went very well and I was released September 11<sup>th</sup>.

The cardiologist advised me I would need six weeks of recovery and would not be allowed to drive during that time. Remarkably I have been doing so well, at my four week check-up I was released to drive but can do no lifting over 10 pounds and he has enrolled me in cardiac rehab for 10 - 11 weeks. Healing of course will be ongoing and my sternum should be fully healed in six months. I have been back to work at my home office but I rest as needed.

There are so many people to thank I do not have the space to mention everyone here. Please accept my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the outpouring of thoughts, prayers and actions. I am blessed.

In our last newsletter we featured Commissioner Comer and the unveiling of "Udderly Kentucky", the new 100 percent source identified Kentucky produced and processed branded milk. We wish to thank Commissioner Comer and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture folks that worked hard to help make this happen. We also thank Prairie Farms, Somerset milk bottling plant and the Wal-Mart Corporation for making "Udderly Kentucky" available to consumers. Additionally we thank these partners in mapping a strategy to return over \$0.80 per hundredweight on each gallon sold, back to the KY dairy farm families that produce this excellent quality product. I might add Compton Dairy and H & H Dairy, both of Adair Co. received the number one and two prestigious 2013 KY top Milk Quality Awards at the KY State Fair. Both farms' milk goes in the "Udderly Kentucky" jug. Also, we are excited that Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt is now using "Udderly Kentucky" exclusively as its milk source. We look forward to seeing this model expanded and having "Udderly Kentucky" available statewide. Look for it in your local Wal-Mart or when you want a wonderful treat, at Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt Stores. If you wish to learn more about "Udderly Kentucky" you can view information at this website: <http://www.udderlyky.com/index.html>

Lastly, the U.S. House of Representatives have announced the conferees for the farm bill. These members of the House hopefully will work with the Senate to develop a five-year farm bill. We don't know at this time how the Dairy Section of the Farm Bill will be addressed. Will the Dairy Security Act with

Market Stabilization, (supply management) be incorporated into the program? Will the Dairy Freedom Act, a margin insurance program only be the chosen program? Or will the latest recommendation by Ohio Economists, John Newton and Cam Thraen be incorporated. It includes a MILC Program option with increased production caps and margin insurance much like the marginal insurance in the DSA, but capped with a \$6.50 limit on margins? This program does not include a market stabilization program, but as of this printing there haven't been a CBO score as to the cost. The House earlier rejected the DSA on a 2:1 vote; however the Senate passed the measure. We will have to wait and see what is decided, but you can still voice your concerns in letters and phone calls. KDDC will keep you informed.

Listed below are the appointed members according to their parties. There were 17 Republicans and 12 Democrats named.

### House Committee on Agriculture conferees:

Rep. Frank D. Lucas (R-OK), Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee

Rep. Steve King (R-IA)

Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R-TX)

Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)

Rep. K. Michael Conaway (R-TX)

Rep. Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA)

Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)

Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR)

Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)

Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD)

Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA)

Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL)

Rep. Steve Southerland (R-FL) Leadership conferee

Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Rep. Tom Marino (R-PA), House Ways & Means Committee

Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI), Chairman

Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX)

Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-IL), Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus

Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), Ranking Member

Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)

Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)

Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN)

Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR)

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)

Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA)

Rep. Gloria Negrete McLeod (D-CA)

Rep. Filemon Vela (D-TX)

Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

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# Farmers ROCK - A True Inspiration

By: Teri Atkins

“God spared my life for a reason. This is just the beginning of the climb to the top of the mountain”, said Gary Rock, a 54-year-old Kentucky dairy farmer who lost the majority of his dairy farm structures due to tornado damage in late June and then lost both of his legs in a silage chopper accident almost two months later in August.

The only building left standing at the dairy after an EF2 Tornado swept across Slack Road on June 26 was his double 5 parlor and office. The free stall, hay and calf barns and commodity shed were dismantled by the wind and spread across several acres of pasture land. A few cows were killed immediately or had to be euthanized due to severe injuries. And with all of that weighing on his mind, the first words out of his mouth to Teri Atkins, his KDDC Consultant, were, “God gave me an opportunity.” Never once did Gary say anything about “tragedy.”

“I realized since the milk parlor and tank room were spared from the damage that maybe it was meant for me to milk cows,” said Gary. “It gave me a reason to want to push forward and if you want to know how KDDC can help KY dairymen listen to my story how they have helped and supported me.”

So with the help of family, friends, local dairy farmers, and other dairy industry representatives, Gary was able to relocate his herd to a dairy in Russell Springs. Rebuilding was going to be life-changing for Gary, but also for his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter (Samantha, Chris and Taylor) who had just moved back in with Gary so Samantha could finish her college degree without the financial burden on the family.

After visiting other dairies with Teri, Ricky Hines of Burkmann Feeds and consulting with Dr. Jeffery Bewley, UK Assistant Dairy Extension Professor, Gary decided to build a compost bedded pack barn in the same location where his old free stall barn once stood.

Without much delay a construction crew began working on his new barn and on Saturday, Aug. 24, Gary held a reunion with his animals and moved his cows back home. His son-in-law, Chris, said, “He couldn’t have been happier if you gave him a million dollars.” He was elated to have the cows back and was ready to start rocking and rolling, or so he thought.

From Saturday to Thursday, Gary and his farm hands, Justin and Bradley, milked and began the normal late August silage chopping. On the evening of Thursday, Aug. 29, Gary was injured while working on his clogged silage chopper. He lost both legs above the knee. While lying there Gary said all he could think of was that he could not possibly survive. But he did. Gary knows that he was spared for a reason and that was to make his life bigger. He stated to Teri after both the



Above: Gary milking in August when the cows returned.

Below: Terry Rowlett, a Kentucky dairy farmer and DFA board member, visited with Gary Rock to give him a donation from the DFA Cares Foundation.



tornado and the faming accident that, “If I can’t give back to humanity I don’t want to do this (rebuild and keep milking) because without giving to humanity I would lose my cause.”

After 14 days at the University of Louisville Hospital and many procedures to repair the wounds where Gary’s legs once were, he was promoted to Fraizer Rehabilitation for five days. During his stay in the hospital Gary was faced with talking to other amputee patients in the unit that were not handling their change as well as he. Gary feels like the opportunities to reach out to others will continue to unfold.

At home, Gary is doing all he can, like mowing his yard with a zero turn mower, talking to churches about his story and reaching out to others whenever he is given the opportunity.

At this time Gary is healing tremendously well. He wants to get his new prosthetic legs so he can get back to farming. On October 10, 42 days after the accident, Gary was still receiving encouraging mail every day from family members, churches, old schoolmates and friends. The outpouring of love and support has been very beneficial to his attitude. But there is one hitch in Gary's new giddy up; the new legs are going to be very expensive, upwards of \$100,000 each. And unfortunately Gary was uninsured at the time of his accident.

If you would like to make a donation or keep up with Gary's progress you can follow him on his website [www.keepgarymilking.com](http://www.keepgarymilking.com), or on Facebook and Twitter at [keepgarymilking](#). There are also shirts being sold with a cow on them and the saying "Farming ROCKS." If you would like to purchase one you can contact Megan Dohn at 270-766-2703. On Saturday, Nov. 2 there will be a benefit at the Larue County Sportsman Lake.

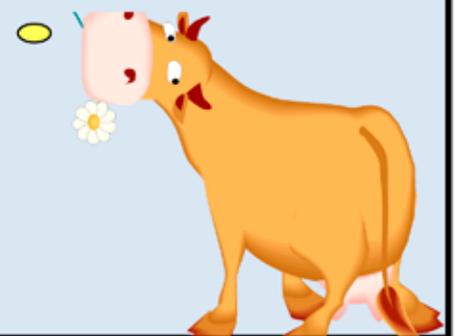
Below left: Tornado damage at Gary Rock's Farm in late June 2013.

Below right: The cows returned to Rock's Farm only to find a brand new barn.



## Have you Herd?

- There are four new dairies under construction in Western Kentucky that will be up and going later this year.
- Willy Campbell took a new job at the Fleming Co School District as the Transportation Director.
- Maury Cox had heart valve replacement surgery in September and is recovering well.
- Josh and Doug Jones revived an old family dairy barn in Barren Co and started milking in late August.
- Amanda Coomer and Allen Hood renovated the former Randall Coomer dairy in Barren Co and started milking in September.
- The former B&H Dairy, in Russell Springs, was purchased by Glen Miller of South Carolina. He plans on milking around 750 cows.



# Coach Cal, Commissioner Comer Unveils Udderly Kentucky At Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt Shops

**O**range Leaf Frozen Yogurt will use only Udderly Kentucky milk in its frozen yogurt products in 11 Orange Leaf shops in Kentucky.

Agriculture Commissioner James Comer and University of Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari made the announcement Tuesday at the Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt Shop in Brighton Place Shoppes.

"We formed the Udderly Kentucky brand for milk processed in Somerset, Kentucky, and produced by 105 dairy farm families — all small farms, salt-of-the-earth people," Commissioner Comer said. "We think this brand is going to continue to grow. We're going to continue to help keep dairy farmers in Kentucky on the farm. And one reason is because of people like Coach Cal who support our product."

Calipari credited Orange Leaf for its community involvement. "You guys [came] up with the idea, 'Let's just be about Kentucky,'" Calipari said. "What a great idea. Let's just be about Kentucky. Let's make sure whatever we're doing, we're giving back."

"Behind grocery stores, we are the biggest buyers of milk in Kentucky right now," said Evan Morris, co-owner of Orange Leaf. "We're excited to help out the dairy industry."

Comer said participating dairy farmers earn a premium on sales of Udderly Kentucky milk that amounts to average new



University of Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari speaks to the crowd at Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt Shop in Brighton Place Shoppes in Lexington as Agriculture Commissioner James Comer, left, and Evan Morris, co-owner of Orange Leaf, listen in. (Kentucky Department of Agriculture photo)

income of \$19,000 per farm per year, \$2 million in all. Udderly Kentucky milk is processed by Prairie Farms Dairy of Somerset, Ky. Commissioner Comer unveiled the Udderly Kentucky brand in July.

To find out more about Udderly Kentucky, read about some of the participating producers, and find a location where you can buy Udderly Kentucky milk, go to [www.udderlyky.com](http://www.udderlyky.com).

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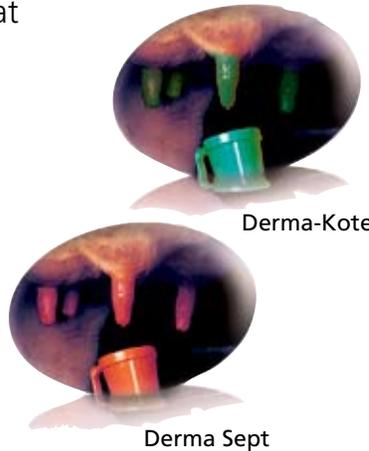


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## Part One: Got Scheduled Maintenance?

Submitted by Josh Kemp of Dairy Express Services and GEA Farm Services

The most intensely used equipment on a dairy operation is contained within the milking system. And, well-documented research proves that proper performance of this equipment has a positive influence on milk quality, cow health and parlor throughput.

However, because of its intensive use under tough environmental conditions, milking system performance and reliability will deteriorate over time, if proper care is not given, having a significant impact on profitability.

A correctly performed scheduled maintenance program will evaluate and benchmark the milking system operating parameters, and replace and/or clean parts that can impact machine function - both of which help to provide a continually optimal milk harvesting process.

If a dairy is not part of a scheduled maintenance program, they are compromising milk quality, cow health, and parlor performance. In short, they are compromising their profitability.

### Scheduled Maintenance and Milk Quality

The Standard Plate Count (SPC) is the most common measurement used to determine the number of bacteria found in raw milk produced and stored on the farm. SPCs normally remain consistent from day to day, but increases can point to problems with dairy facility and cow hygiene - and sometimes elevated SPC counts specifically indicate a problem with milking equipment hygiene.

High SPCs affect milk quality, which is important to producers because as milk quality improves, typically the amount of bonus dollars milk processors offer to dairymen improves as well.

In combination with proper facility and cow hygiene, a good scheduled maintenance program will help maintain equipment performance and, consequently, help protect milk quality.

Below are a few highlighted examples:  
*Cont'd on page 12*

## What is the Kentucky Milk Quality Conference?

Lewis Ramsey - Milk Safety Branch

Several years ago members of the Kentucky Dairy Industry expressed an interest in having a meeting to discuss milk quality issues along with current affairs that were occurring in the industry. It was stated that all sections of the dairy industry should be involved including production, hauling, academia, processing, chemical and sanitization experts, equipment manufacturing and dealers, laboratories, antibiotic companies such as IDEXX/Snap and Charm, retail, research, regulatory, and anyone and everyone else. The intent was for all interested parties to stay abreast of the most current updates of the dairy industry. What actually has been occurring is all the mentioned identities above are realizing how dependent we are on each other, and how one party helps another one survive, improve, and prosper. Of course, not everyone agrees on each issue, but generally that's when things get interesting. After all, this is the Milk Business.

The first conference was in late August 2011 and was held at Lake Barkley Resort in Cadiz. It was a two day meeting starting around noon the first day and ending at noon on the second with a small banquet at the end of day one. Dr. Bill Crist discussed dairy production, Dr. Charles Townsend, Veterinarian, talked about animal health, Ecolab and GEA Farm Technologies both informed everyone about the important part they play in cleaning up. There were three cheese presentations and attendees of the conference got the chance to sample each cheese. The meeting was a success, and it was decided to continue the next year.

The 2012 Conference brought a larger crowd with more expectations. Speakers included: KY Farm Bureau discussing the National Dairy Policy; FDA talked about the Food Safety Modernization Act; Pfizer discussed how medications administered to animals affect humans; Dr. Stout, Kentucky State Veterinarian spoke; there was a panel discussion which included a FDA representative, SUDIA, a Dairy Producer, and a Processor concerning raw milk; DFA talked about how a Balancing Plant works; Rodem equipment discussed what new and innovative updates were coming in the processing arena; Neil Linebaugh of DFA, told us about a

Changing Cooperative World; and Pete Skarka of Flav-O-Rich Dairy, brought us up to speed on Operational Issues in a bottling plant.

None of this may sound interesting to a person outside the dairy industry, but by this time it was catching the eye of people outside of Kentucky. Progressive Dairyman had mentioned the conference in their magazine along with a few of the sponsors posting the conference in their newsletters. Once again, it was decided to have another conference the following year.

This year at the 2013 Conference, Dr. Steve Oliver of the University of Tennessee discussed Antibiotic Resistance. As you have noticed, antibiotics are a big issue in the dairy industry. Elizabeth Chaney, representative of Alltech, talked about Value Added Products. We had a speaker from Silliker Inc. tell us about Safe Quality Foods (SQF) audits. Dr. Jeffrey Bewley, of the University of Kentucky, spoke on one of the projects that UK is involved with, The Southeast Milk Quality Program. Dan Clark, of LeCows Dairy, from McCracken Co, KY spoke about the ups and downs of dairy farming. Lewis Shuckman, owner of Shuckman's Smokehouse, in Louisville showed us how he smokes the KY State Fair Blue Ribbon cheeses. Glenn Thompson, of Dippin Dots, brought us up to date with what they are doing and told their story from how they got started until present. WT Campbell, of The Kroger Company, explained to everyone the responsibilities of a processing plant General Manager.

Well now that everyone has been brought up to date with the Kentucky Milk Quality Conference. This meeting would not be possible if not for all the individuals that donate their time and sponsorships. Our sponsors include the following entities: Alltech, Bluegrass Dairy and Foods, Charm Sciences, Custom Dairy Performance, DFA, Dairy Products Association of Kentucky, Eastern Lab Services, GEA Farm Technologies, Inc., IDEXX, Kentucky Dairy Development Council, Kenny's Country Cheese, The Kroger Company, Organic Valley, Rodem, Inc., Shuckman's Fish Company and Smokery, and SUDIA.

A special thanks goes out to the staff of Lake Barkley Resort, the University of Kentucky's Dairy Systems Management Team, and also to the Kentucky Milk Safety Branch.

If anyone is interested in attending the 2014 Kentucky Milk Quality Conference, it will be held at Lake Barkley during the last week of August.

See you there.



## Milk Prices

### FMMO 5

[www.malouisville.com](http://www.malouisville.com)

September 2013  
Class I Advanced Price  
(@ 3.5% BF)  
\$22.56

October 2013  
Class I Advanced Price  
(@ 3.5% BF)  
\$22.60

### FMMO 7

[www.fmmatlanta.com](http://www.fmmatlanta.com)

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Class I Advanced Price  
(@ 3.5% BF)  
\$23.00

## Tax Planning for Farmers

Contributed by Susan Gainous, IRS Stakeholder Liaison, Lexington, KY

Incorrect reporting of farm income and expenses accounts for part of the estimated \$345 billion per year in unpaid taxes, according to IRS estimates.

### Income Sources

Farmers may receive income from many sources, but the most common source is the sale of livestock, produce, grains, and other products raised or bought for resale. The entire amount a farmer receives, including money and the fair market value of any property or services, is reported on IRS Schedule F, Profit or Loss From Farming.

Other income sources include:

- Cooperative distributions
- Agricultural program payments
- Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans
- Crop insurance proceeds and federal crop disaster payments
- Bartering
- Custom hire (machine work) income

### Deductible Expenses

The ordinary and necessary costs of operating a farm for profit are deductible business expenses. An ordinary expense is an expense that is common and accepted in the business. A necessary expense is one that is appropriate for the business.

Among the deductible expenses are amounts paid to farm labor. If a farmer pays his child to do farm work and a true employer-employee relationship exists, reasonable wages or other compensation paid to the child is deductible. The wages are included in the child's income, and the child may have to file an income tax return. These wages may also be subject to social security and Medicare taxes if the child is age 18 or older.

Another deductible expense is depreciation. Farmers can depreciate most types of tangible property — except land — such as buildings, machinery, equipment, vehicles, certain livestock and furniture. Farmers can also depreciate certain intangible property, such as copyrights, patents, and computer software.

To be depreciable, the property must

- Be property the farmer owns
- Be used in the farmer's business or income-producing activity
- Have a determinable life

• Have a useful life that extends substantially beyond the year placed in service

Some expenses paid during the tax year may be partly personal and partly business. Examples include gasoline, oil, fuel, water, rent, electricity, telephone, automobile upkeep, repairs, insurance, interest and taxes. Farmers

must allocate these expenses between their business and personal parts. Generally, the personal part of these expenses is not deductible.

Information about other deductible expenses and reporting requirements can be found in IRS Publication 225, Farmer's Tax Guide or on the IRS Agriculture Tax Center.

### Recordkeeping

Devoting some time to putting your tax-related documents in order right now should make it easier for you to prepare your tax return when the filing season arrives.

Here are some things the IRS wants farmers to know about recordkeeping:

• What to keep – Typically, keep all your employment tax records for at least four years after the tax becomes due or is paid, whichever is later. Also, keep records documenting gross receipts, proof of purchases, expenses and assets. Examples include records from selling crops and livestock, bank deposit slips, receipts, purchase and sales invoices, credit card charges and sales slips, Forms 1099-MISC, canceled checks, account statements, petty cash slips and real estate closing statements. Electronic records can include databases, saved files, e-mails, instant messages, faxes and voice messages.

• How to keep them. Although the IRS generally does not require you to keep your records in any special manner, having a designated place for tax documents and receipts is a good idea. It will make preparing your return easier, and it may also remind you of relevant transactions. Good recordkeeping will also help you prepare a response if you receive an IRS notice or need to substantiate items on your return if you are selected for an audit.

Find farm recordkeeping information in IRS Publication 225, Farmer's Tax Guide. This publication is available at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676). Also available are new video and audio files explaining recordkeeping requirements in detail, located on our IRS video portal at [www.irsvideos.gov](http://www.irsvideos.gov).

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- **Monitoring Air Flow Reserve:**

Effective air flow reserve refers to the capacity of the vacuum system to cope with unplanned air admitted into the milking system. Milking systems with less than recommended air flow reserve can influence vacuum drops during attachment and detachment of milking units, adding risks of machine related udder infections. Low air flow reserve can also influence the system's cleaning performance by reducing turbulence, or the physical cleaning force required during the CIP washing process. Periodically measuring a vacuum system's effective air flow reserve allows for early detection and prevention of cleaning problems, before build-up can occur, bacteria counts increase, and milk quality is affected.

- **Checking Air Injector Operation:** Correctly adjusted and maintained air injectors are necessary to assure proper cleaning of the milking system. Air injectors control the size and length of the water slugs needed to clean within the CIP process. Their performance can be affected by blocked filters or aged components.

- **Checking Milk Pump Seals:** A defective milk pump seal will reduce the volume of solution pumped per second. This influences milk quality by not efficiently removing milk from the pump to storage. Also, this change in pump capacity will reduce the flow of wash solutions from the receiver, causing an incomplete wash cycle due to a system "trap-out". Replacing seals periodically is the best way to prevent this problem.

- **Performing Visual Inspections:** Performing visual inspections on critical points in the milking system like receivers, claws, flow meters, and milk pipelines helps keep key components operating optimally.

- **Replace Rubber Goods:** Aged rubber components are difficult to clean, and they harbor bacteria, driving up SPC numbers. Rubber components always need to be replaced in a timely manner.

## "Hey Doc, Why Aren't My Cows Bred?"

*Charles Townsend, DVM*

I've been asked this once, I bet I've been asked this a thousand times. This summer is no exception; in fact it is probably more prevalent. This is something that a dairyman can see very easily, either the cow is open or she's pregnant. So, usually after a poor herd check the question that I get is, "Hey Doc, why aren't my cows bred?"

That is the thousand dollar question. There are numerous things that can contribute to poor reproduction, such as infections from Lepto, Neospora, Vibrio, BVD, Brucellosis, IBR, just to name a few. It can come from Environmental factors, such as Heat (summer of 2012), cow comfort, footing, cow lameness and many more. Other factors are poor heat detection, poor semen quality, poor A.I. technique and the main factor that I want to discuss in this article is Nutrition.

Nutrition is a vital part of the dairy's well-being, as well as the reproduction of the dairy. This doesn't mean just the lactation ration, but also the dry cow ration; close up ration and heifer rations. But today I want to zero in on the lactation ration.

So what about the milk cow ration? What are some of the things you can check to make sure that your ration is good enough to make milk and also get cows bred. Energy is very important in the ration when it comes to reproduction. This can be very subjective, but the most important thing to watch for is body condition and the change of body condition from when the cow freshens to when the cow peaks in milk (around 60-75 days in milk). You should only see a drop of 1 body score during that period, usually about 150 lbs. of weight. There is research out there that has shown that Omega-3 fatty acids are improving reproduction in the early lactation cows. This type of product has

shown increase conception rate in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> services and also has shown to reduce early embryonic death. They should be fed to cows from freshening to 120 to 150 days in milk.

Protein is another vital part for reproduction success. The amount in the ration depends on the milk production of the herd, days in milk and the type of protein that you are feeding. There is a simple test that most milk plants and DHIA run that can help you evaluate your protein health, Milk Urea Nitrogen or MUN. This test tells us how the cow is utilizing protein; MUN should be between 12 and 15 mg/dl. When this test starts running over 18 mg/dl, then it can effect reproduction by causing early embryonic death. There are numerous things that affect this test, such as high crude protein, high soluble protein and low carbohydrates to protein ratio. So your best option is to talk to your nutritionist and let him know that the test is running high.

Trace mineral and vitamins are important in reproductive health of the herd. I recommend the use of organic trace minerals and selenium yeast, which are more readily available to the cow. These products are essential for good immune health, and a good rule of thumb is to provide one fourth of the required trace mineral from these organic minerals. Vitamin E is important to the immune system of the cow and the ration should have a minimum of 600 IU per cow per day. Herds that have problems with metritis, mastitis and/or lameness should consider increasing that level to 1000 to 1500 IU. All these products cost extra, but they have shown over time and research that they are economical for your dairy.

The point is: keep communications open with your nutritionist and veterinarian, ask questions and get answers. We are here to help you make a profit. As I tell my clients, "If you don't stay in business, then I can't stay in business."

# Custom Manure Pumping and Hauling List

In an effort to provide information of companies that custom haul or pump manure here is a list of those available in the Kentucky area.

If you know of any other companies that custom pump and/or haul manure please contact your local KDDC consultant or contact KDDC at 859-516-1129.

<b>Company Contact Info</b>	<b>Area/Radius of Service</b>	<b>Pumping</b>	<b>Hauling</b>	<b>Other Services</b>
<b>Pat Urlick</b> 502-507-3898	Bardstown / 40 miles	X		
<b>Custom Ag Service</b> (Dan Young) 270-692-0666	Lebanon / 200 miles	X		Custom Chopping
<b>Mayslick Farm Supply</b>	Mayslick / 200 miles	X		Silo Moving & Repair
<b>Nutrient Management Partners</b> (Justin Wagler) 812-360-6283	Morgantown, IN / 300-400 miles	X	X	
<b>Preachers Pumping</b> (Larry Gorham) 270-776-4255	Franklin / 90 miles	X		
<b>R and R Pumping</b> (Bruce Uhls) 270-776-4584	Franklin / 50 miles	X		
<b>Chad Burton</b> 270-634-0867	Columbia / 110 miles	X		
<b>B &amp; C Pumping</b> 270-606-3100	Franklin / 75 miles	X		
<b>Haley Bryson</b> 270-670-5163	Metcalfe County / 50 miles	X		
<b>Double C Irrigation</b> (Eddy Copass) 270-427-6700	Monroe County / 100 miles	X		<a href="mailto:tccopass@yahoo.com">tccopass@yahoo.com</a> (Tony Copass) 270-427-6776
<b>H&amp;R Irrigation</b> 270-634-0473	Adair County / 115 miles	X		
<b>Joe Jerrigan</b> 270-776-2659	Franklin / 100 miles	X		
<b>Premier Pumping</b> 270-776-2325	Franklin / 120 miles	X		

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evaporative cooling. The WI countryside is full of culture and great cows.

Day three included a fun-filled day exploring the WDE. There were a total of 843 commercial booths, 2,225 cattle, 1,616 cattle exhibitors and 70,903 attendees. If you have never had the chance to visit the WDE you should try to make the trip. It is focused on everything dairy. No matter how big or how small your farm, you will walk away with a new idea while looking over all the exhibits.

Dairy folks from KY were seen in all parts of the Expo. The Brown Swiss show was fortunate to have Joe Sparrow as the Associate Judge of 361 Brown Swiss animals. The KY Judging team finished Fifth Overall team, with High Brown Swiss Team, and Tenth in Team Reasons; while team member Tyler Goodlett finished Fourth Individual Overall. Cory Briggs was an attendee at the 4-H National Dairy Conference during Expo. Several KY show participants won classes in their breeds also:

### Ayrshire

- Kailey Barlow, First Place Summer Yearling Jr. Show
- Tyler and Dylan Tindle and Kelsey



World Dairy ExpoTour at Voegeli Brown Swiss Farm in Monticello, WI.

Bishop, First Place Winter Yearling Open Show

- Joscelyn and Caleb Elliott, First Place Fall Yearling Jr. Show

### Guernsey

- Sidney Willingham, First Place Winter Yearling Open Show
- C&R Nicley, L M Tormoehlen and EL Crowshaw, First Place Junior 3-Yr Old Open Show

### Holstein

- Junior Champion of the Holstein Breed was Bred by Cameron Ridge Holsteins R&W Holstein
- Katie Muntz, First Place Junior Calf Open and Jr Show



Leslie Belt, KY Alltech Representative, taking time to network with Jerry Gentry, a dairy farmer from Pulaski County.

- Jordan Elmore and Kady Gibson, First Place Fall Calf Jr Show and Junior Champion Jr Show

And last but not least was the Yoder family who participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> World Forage Analysis Superbowl. Simon, Henry and Elmer Yoder of Western KY won Grand Champion Dairy Hay. Their alfalfa hay tested 23.85% Crude Protein, 224 Relative Forage Quality and 67.63% TDN. However, reading the analysis does not do the hay justice. The hay smelled, looked and felt like top quality alfalfa hay. Who ever said we can't grow good hay in KY?



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- Browning Tent and Party Rental
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- Kentucky Veterinary Medical Assoc.
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- Stockyard Farm & Dairy

### Bronze

- Advantage Hoof Care
- Bagdad Roller Mills
- Central Farmers Supply of Green Co.
- Chaney's Dairy Barn
- Clark Dairy Supply
- Cornerstone Vet Clinic
- Cowherd Equipment
- Ditsler Insurance Agency - Nationwide Insurance
- Double "S" Liquid Feed
- Genetics Plus
- Hartland Animal Hospital
- KY Holstein Cattle Club
- KY Women in Agriculture
- Logan County Animal Clinic
- MD/VA Milk Producers
- MultiMin USA
- Premier Crop Insurance
- Thomas Vet Clinic

## 2013 Dairy Calendar of Events

### October

- October 25 AFI MILK Israel Dairy tour (October 25 - November 2)
- October 25 KDDC Board Meeting, Hardin Co Extension Office @ 10 AM EST
- October 25 Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom, Frankfort, KY
- October 26 Dare to Dairy - University of Kentucky Coldstream Dairy, Lexington, KY
- October 26 Kentucky Incredible Food Show, 9 AM- 5 PM Rupp Arena, Lexington, KY
- October 28 SUDIA District 12 Meeting, 7:00 PM Haub's Steak House Haubstadt, Ind.
- October 29- 30 GOAP Conference - Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green, KY
- October 29 SUDIA District 10 & 11 Meeting, 7:30 PM - Blue Licks State Park, Carlisle, KY

### November

- November 1 SUDIA District 9 Meeting, 7:30 PM - Historic Lodge Restaurant, Mt Vernon, KY
- November 1-2 Alltech National Horseshow - The Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington KY
- November 2 Benefit for Gary Rock, 2 PM EST - Sportsman Lake, Laure, Co.
- November 4 SUDIA District 1 Meeting, 7:00 PM CST - Patti's, Grand Rivers, KY
- November 5 SUDIA Districts 2, 3 & 7 Meeting, 7:00 PM CST - Cave City Convention Center
- November 5 Adair County Field Day - Randall and Chad Burton's Dairy - 10:00 A.M. CST
- November 7 SUDIA District 5 Meeting, 7:00 PM EST - Taylor Co. Ext. Office, Campbellsville
- November 8-12 North American International Livestock Exhibition, Louisville, KY
- November 11 SUDIA District 6 Meeting, 7:00 PM EST - Marion CO. Ext. Office, Lebanon, KY
- November 14 SUDIA District 8 Meeting, 7:00 PM CST - Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, KY
- November 14-15 Kentucky Agriculture Council Summit, Louisville, KY
- November 19 SUDIA District 4 Meeting, 7:00 PM EST - Claudia Sanders, Shelbyville

### December

- December 4-7 Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Meeting- Louisville, KY
- December 27 KDDC Board Meeting - T.B.A.