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Do You Know About KDDC's Programs?

KDDC has been committed to bringing programs and opportunities to Kentucky dairy producers since inception in 2005. For 18 years we have been developing programs and partnering with industry organizations for our producers benefit that follow KDDC's four goals: 1) To increase producer profitability, 2) To improve dairy farmer's competitiveness, 3) To enhance dairy farm families' quality of life and 4) To assist in the viability of KY's dairy industry. Be sure to follow each issue of the 2023 Milk Matters as we highlight our current programs and ways we help other organizations provide services to dairy producers. Next up is Young Dairy Producers of Kentucky.

more information on page 11

2023 KDDC Board of Directors & Staff

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Sec./Treasurer: Tom Hastings
EC Member: Greg Goode
EC Past President: Richard Sparrow

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Kentucky Milk Matters produced by Carey Brown

President's Corner Freeman Brundige



An issue that is starting to reach the top of dairy farmers concern list is transporting our milk from our farms to processing. Several issues are affecting this situation, (1) higher fuel cost, (2) higher equipment costs, (3) inability to find qualified employees, (4) less farms, more miles to obtain a full load, (5) less processing facilities so further to travel to one. These problems are occurring both in Kentucky and to some degree across the entire country. Many producers are paying nearly a fourth of their milk price to get it to their market.

No results have been announced from the Federal Order Hearing held earlier in the year, but it is expected to increase Transportation Credits in Federal orders 5, 6 and 7 and may include credits for milk moved inside orders. This would provide more money to handlers for milk movement and hopefully move some of the cost of transportation to the consumers. Three-day pickups is now allowed both in Kentucky and most all our adjoining states. Although some handlers are being resistant to participate in this program. One of our hopes is that increasing production in our state and others in the Southeast can decrease the need for milk from outside our area. We at KDDC are continuing to look for ways we can help with this issue. Several ideas have been discussed. Making sure it is a plan that helps all our producers equally is our goal. Your thoughts and ideas are always needed.



KDDC Fall Tour

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 3-6, 2023

Tour includes travel to Madison, WI for a day at World Dairy Expo and several farm stops along the way.



Executive Director Comments

H H Barlow



I'm writing this sitting on my porch while it is raining beautifully. Looking out at the beautiful cows, green grass, healthy corn and soybeans reminds me of how great God's creation is. He's blessed me as well as my fellow dairymen with the responsibility of being the caretaker of his resources and as my friend Jimmy Wright used to say, "be the shepherd for these cows"..

During this July 4th holiday season, we need to pause for just a few moments and think about the freedoms we enjoy and the sacrifices so many made to give us these freedoms. I believe we should also pray for the dairy farmers in the Ukraine who are fighting for their life survival.

I have commented on the above factors to encourage everyone to look at the good things even when in many ways we are in a very tough time in the milking business. It's painful to realize where we are today compared to a year ago concerning milk prices. 2022 was the highest milk price year of all time. I don't think any of us expected prices to stay that high, but I don't think anyone predicted the drop in price would be this severe and this fast. A 30% drop in price is an unsustainable number for any dairy farmer especially when input prices have not declined.

Unfortunately, future prices indicate recovery will be slow. The reasons given for such a drop appear to be a significant drop in US consumption of most dairy products as well as exports lagging behind last year.

The rapid decline in milk price has once again proven the need for price risk protection. The Dairy Margin Coverage Insurance Program has been a lifesaver for many dairy operations. This month's DMC payment of \$5.84 was the highest ever. The July Dixie Dairy Report predicts August prices to be \$1.00 less than June; therefore, DMC payments will remain high.

The \$4.00 difference in Class III and Class IV prices highlights the critical need for the return of "higher-of" pricing for the Class I mover. The current formula of averaging Class III and Class IV is costing producers over \$1.00/cwt.

I recently went to two Farm Bill listening sessions. One was sponsored by Representative GT Thompson, who is Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and principal writer of the new farm bill. It was held in Lebanon, TN. I was able to personally talk with him about dairy issues, especially the need to keep DMC and return to the "higher-of" pricing formula.

The other session was hosted by Senator McConnell in Lexington. His guest was Senator Boozman of Arkansas, who is the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee and will be a principal writer of the farm bill. I gave written testimony to Senator Boozman about dairy issues and asked for continuation of DMC while requesting a raise in the limit of coverage from 5 million to 10 million pounds. This would be a great benefit to many Kentucky dairymen who milk over 200 cows. I appreciated the opportunity to testify on behalf of Kentucky dairymen and I have high hopes this new farm bill will have new provisions for dairy farmers.

There were many June Dairy Month activities for KDDC staff and our farmers to participate in. The dairy night ball games in Lexington and Bowling Green were great venues for dairy families to have fun. There were over 400 dairy folks at the Bowling Green Hot Rods game.

Governor Beshear hosted a proclamation for June Dairy Month in the State Capitol Rotunda. Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles also issued a proclamation for June Dairy Month in his office. Both events were attended by farmers, KDDC staff and other state dairy officials. Barren and Adair counties hosted Dairy Appreciation events.

The National Holstein Convention was held in late June in Lexington. According to all reports it was a great success.

One great event which has become an annual affair is the Casey County Dairy Expo. I would call it an extravaganza. It's held at the Central Ky. Ag. Expo Center, in Liberty, Ky. The State Holstein, Ayrshire and Brown Swiss shows are held one day. The 4-H and FFA District Dairy show is on another day and then the Casey County Dairy Show is held which has become the largest show in the state behind the State Fair. There were exhibitors from Tennessee who came as well.

The shows are great, but the highlight of the expo is the youth events held on Friday. They have dairy husbandry training, including vaccinating, tattooing, proper clipping and fitting exercises. Associate Professor Kristy Daniels of Virginia Tech conducted most of the clinics. Sixty-two youth registered for the clinics. The fun event of the day was the showmanship contest. It starts with the Pee wee class where thirty pre-4-Hers led calves, many of whom were decked out for the event!

That was followed by Junior and Senior Showmanship classes, where competition was fierce. Kentucky dairyman Megan Komar did a great job judging the classes, taking time with each exhibitor as they went around the ring.

The day closed with a talk by Warren Beeler, a renowned international livestock judge and an icon in Kentucky agriculture. Warren told several human-interest stories and stressed that Success is Earned. He is always inspiring!

The Expo is an amazing event and special recognition must go to Megan Taylor and Casey County dairymen, Greg and Joy Goode because these three individuals have done the work and taken the lead in making this such a special event.

In visiting with folks at the Expo, I found that many of the families and youth involved in showing, don't own a dairy farm selling milk. It's exciting to know that the love of dairy is alive and well in Kentucky families.

We are in a very tough time as dairy producers. Those of us who have experienced these times before, know that the bad times will pass. Do your best to keep your attitude positive and your spirits up as we navigate this season. Look to friends, family and church family to keep you encouraged.

Seems like a really good time to eat lots of ice cream and sip on milk shakes!



FARM FAMILY FEATURE



Legacy Dairy Embracing Challenge with a Spirit of Courage

by H.H. Barlow

Amid the perilous times of the pandemic, Doug and Genelle Jones along with their children, Ally and Jagger, undertook a courageous feat that radically changed their lives. In March 2020, they entered the world of dairy processing and over the next two years they bravely left the security of former employment for the adventure of a value-added small business.

Doug grew up in Hiseville, Kentucky with his parents and four brothers on the home dairy owned and operated by his mother and father William and Diane. He graduated from Barren County High School in 1987 and joined the Navy where he was a medic. He served our nation in the Gulf War with the Marines in 1989. Before one of his deployments during that conflict, he eloped and married his sweetheart, Genelle. After the war, he returned home and became an x-ray and ultrasound technician. Though Doug grew up working on the farm and showing dairy cattle, the family took a pause on dairying and for several years after his return, they were out of the dairy business. During those years, Doug focused on his healthcare career as he and Genelle raised their two children. Then, in 2009, they bought their daughter Ally a Brown Swiss show heifer.

The purchase of that heifer started the journey to where they are today. The return to showing cattle involved them in various dairy activities around the state which, in turn, exposed the family to new possibilities within our commonwealth's dairy industry. They became friends with Makayla Sanders who was traveling through Kentucky operating the Mobile Dairy Classroom for Southland Dairy. Her promotion work started the idea of on-farm processing for Doug and his family. He learned about Makayla's family who had a very successful dairy processing business in Alabama which ultimately became the model for the Jones' operation.

Doug's first major step was the purchase of his uncle's dairy farm in 2014. It had a good milking parlor and barns for feeding and housing the cattle. They built the processing building in front of the parlor in 2018 and over the next two years, the processing equipment was installed. On the business side of things, Doug also enlisted the help of KCARD (Kentucky Center for Agricultural and Rural Development), a nonprofit organization facilitating rural business development, to guide him in developing a business and marketing plan. A strong banking partnership was equally essential to support endeavors like the Jones' small business

operation. Legacy Dairy had just such a relationship with Terry Bunnell of People's Bank in Glasgow. All of these aspects required a great deal of time and effort for Doug and his family as they ventured this journey. Burning the candle at both ends became a way of life for Doug as he simultaneously maintained his healthcare career until 2022.

A monumental moment in their journey to value-added farming came in March 2020 when they processed their 1st milk from their 15-cow herd with the label Legacy Dairy. Finally, after years of preparing, their dream had become a reality. The inspiration for the name of the dairy came from Doug's desire to honor all the Jones family generations that have milked cows, especially his dad, William. Today, they are milking 26 cows bottling 6 days a week and business is excellent! They sell only whole milk from Brown Swiss cows, and in fact, are the only single source cream line in Kentucky. Currently, white and chocolate whole milk are available in pint and half gallon, while full gallon size is only available in white milk. The milk is low temperature pasteurized only, not homogenized, so the cream rises to the top. And all their herd has access to pasture 365 days per year. When I meet a Legacy Dairy customer, they always brag on the great taste. At the 2022 Kentucky State Fair Dairy Products competition, Legacy won the Gold Medal for best chocolate milk.

The farm business, Legacy Dairy LLC, is wholly owned by Doug and Genelle. Ally helps particularly with social media advertising, and Jagger helps with delivery. Doug's father, William, and his brothers help out too. It truly is a family affair.

I asked Doug for his thoughts on running a small value-added business, and in particular if he had any advice and wisdom for those interested in on-farm processing. He responded, "It's a tough business that takes total commitment of time, perseverance, and patience. I really appreciate all my customers and the folks who have encouraged us through the tough times. You must research your market and have a place to sell your product."

I congratulate the Jones family on their brave endeavor and I am especially proud of Doug whom I have known all his life. They are wonderful ambassadors for the dairy industry here in our great commonwealth. To learn more, check them out at legacydairyky.com.

Holstein Enthusiasts Gathered in Lexington, Kentucky, for the 2023 National Holstein Convention

Holstein Association USA members and the greater dairy industry gathered in Lexington, Kentucky for the 2023 National Holstein Convention and Holstein Association USA's 137th Annual Meeting. Held June 23 to June 27 at the Griffon Gate Marriott Golf Resort and Spa, the convention drew adult and Junior members from across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Though Lexington, Kentucky is known as the "Horse Capitol of the World," the focus for the week was on Registered Holstein cows, as members gathered to celebrate award winners, take part in the Annual Meeting, attend the National Holstein Convention sale, watch youth shine during contests, and more!

Members experienced the sights, sounds, and tastes of the Bluegrass State throughout the convention. Host day tours featured tours of world-class horse farms, a close up look at how bourbon is made, local cuisine, and views of Kentucky's beautiful countryside.

137th Annual Meeting

A total of 96 delegates, from 39 districts were present at Holstein Association USA's 137th Annual Meeting. President Jonathan Lamb presided over the meeting, held on Monday, June 26 and Tuesday, June 27. Members heard reports from the president, CEO, and treasurer on the 2022 performance of Holstein Association USA.

Some Holstein Association USA highlights reported from 2022 included two new lifetime milk production record breakers, the "Million Reasons Why Conformation Matters" study, and the expansion of the multi-breed classification program. Holstein Association USA leadership also emphasized the value the association's robust Junior programs bring to the future of the dairy industry.

The 2022 Herds of Excellence and Star of the Breed were also honored during the Annual Meeting, followed by the recognition of 40-year members and a moment of silence for those on the memorial list.

Directors Elected

Three members retired from Holstein USA's Board of Directors this year, including Peter Dueppengieser of Fund du Lac, Wisconsin, At-Large Director; Steve Keene of Canton, Maine, Region 1 Director; and Benjamin Newberry of Lizella, Georgia, Region 4 Director.

A board candidate forum was held on the afternoon of Monday, June 26, and elections took place on Tuesday, June 27. Nine candidates ran for the board of directors this year. Re-elected for a second three-year term on the board was Spencer Hackett of Rice, Minnesota.

Betsy Bullard of Turner, Maine was elected as the Region 1 Director; Scott Yocum of Salvisa, Kentucky was elected as the Region 4 Director, and Andy Lenkaitis of St. Charles, Illinois was elected as an At-Large Director.

Award Winners Celebrated

Holstein Association USA's annual Awards Banquet was held on Sunday, June 25 during the National Holstein Convention. Members gathered to honor Holstein Association USA's 2023 award winners. Receiving the Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder award was Ty Etgen of Harrod, Ohio. The first-generation farmer has garnered much success with his herd of Registered Holstein cows.

John Marshman of Oxford, New York was also honored as the Distinguished Leadership award recipient for his service to Holstein Association USA and the Holstein breed. Finally, the prestigious Elite Breeder award was presented to Bomaz Farms of Hammond, Wisconsin for the positive impact their herd has had on the Holstein breed.

For more coverage from the 2023 National Holstein Convention, including recording of CEO John Meyer's State of the Association Address and President Jonathan Lamb's Address, visit Holstein USA's YouTube channel or www.holsteinusa.com.

Next year's 138th Holstein Association USA Annual Meeting and 2024 National Holstein Convention will be held June 24 – 27 in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information about the 2024 convention, visit www.holsteinconvention.com.



Ever-Green View NH Licorice VG-85 greeted convention attendees during Family Night. Licorice is one of the Registered Holstein cows at the WKU SmartHolstein Lab in Bowling Green, Kentucky.



Holstein Association USA members experienced something beyond dairy cattle genetics when they toured Keeneland during Host Day Tours.



Junior Holstein members take a break from their activities and enjoy a treat at the dairy bar during the 2023 National Holstein Convention.



Bob and Kay Zwald of Bomaz Farms in Hammond, Wisconsin were presented with the 2023 Elite Breeder Award during the Awards Banquet.



Holstein Association USA President Jonathan Lamb addressed delegates during the 137th Annual Meeting.

The National Holstein Convention Sale 2023 has wrapped up at the gorgeous Fasig Tipton Sales Arena in Lexington, KY! The same circular ring that saw eventual Triple Crown winners American Pharoah and Seattle Slew sell, was the focus of the night.

The sale started with 20 elite genomic lots and then moved into 50 high-type lots. At the end of the evening, 95 lots grossed \$1,009,650 and averaged \$10,627!

Congratulations to the sale staff, and to all the good folks in Kentucky that worked so hard to host and organize on the final state-run National Convention!

CLASSIFIEDS

Are you ready for a Division of Water regulatory inspection of your farm? Planning an expansion of your operation? Stay compliant, update your Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), and take advantage of financial assistance programs for livestock manure management, crop nutrient management, and water quality BMPs. Contact - Ben Koostra - Professional Engineer and NRCS Technical Service Provider - Bowling Green - 859-559-4662

Kentucky Milk Quality Conference

August 29 – 31, 2023

Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green, Kentucky

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29	
Moderator – Mike Wernigk, Quality Director, Bluegrass Ingredients	
9:00 - 9:10	Opening Remarks
9:10 – 10:00	Session 1 Foss Analytics
10:00 – 11:00	Session 2 Charm Sciences
11:00	Lunch on own
12:00 – 6:00	Golf Outing/Alternative Events
7:00	Evening Activities

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30	
Moderator – Heather Clements, Quality Control Supervisor, Bel Brands	
9:00 – 9:45	Session 3 Food Safety Plans - Denise Dufresne, Saputo
9:45 – 10:30	Session 4 Pasteurization Basics
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:00	Session 5/6 Break out sessions for small producers (Getting started in processing)(Meet at alternate site) University Updates Biodigester Basics Off Flavors in milk exercise – Mark Brackett, Kentucky Milk Safety Branch
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch on own
Moderator – Brian Mcanelly, Branch Manager, Kentucky Milk Safety Branch	
1:30 – 2:15	Session 7 Dairy Farming Basics/Robotic Milking Operations)
2:15 – 3:00	Session 8 Cultures
3:00 – 3:15	Session 9 3M Petrifilm/media
3:00 – 4:30	Food Safety Culture Panel Discussion
5:00	Cash Bar reception
6:00	Banquet - Keynote Speaker - State Fair Dairy Awards - Live Auction Benefitting 4H/FFA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31	
Moderator - Matt Morehead, Program Evaluator, Kentucky Milk Safety Branch	
9:00 - 9:45	Session 10 OPEN
9:45 – 10:30	Session 11 USDA/FDA Updates
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 - Close	Session 12 - NCMIS/KY Milk Safety Update (Brian McAnelly)

2023 Kentucky Milk Quality Conference Industry Attendees and On Farm Processors Registration

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Company/ Farm Name:

Date: August 29- 31st 2023

Location: Holiday Inn University Plaza/ Sloan Convention Center

Address: 1021 Wilkinson Trace, Bowling Green KY, 42103

Registration Fee: \$50 for Dairy Farms/On Farm Processors
\$200 for Industry Attendees

****Make checks payable to KMQC****

Please Return Registration info via Mail or Email

Checks must be mailed in, you can purchase online, or at the door

Mail: KMQC C/O Amanda Riddle

759 Fairview Ct

Harrodsburg KY 40330

E-Mail: Amandad.Riddle@ky.gov

Website: kymqc.square.site



Dixie Dairy Report

July 2023

Calvin Covington

Dairy product prices. Cheese prices are struggling. The June CME block cheddar average price is \$1.4039/lb., the lowest June average since 2009. So far in July there is no price improvement, as of July 5th, the CME block price is \$1.3525/lb. and barrel \$1.3425/lb. Cheese plants continue to be offered all the milk they can handle, with much priced well below the class price. Butter continues to remain steady with the June CME average at \$2.3902/lb., only \$0.04/lb. lower than May. The nonfat dry milk powder (NDM) price is steady as well. The June Dairy Products Sales Report (DPSR) price is \$1.1674/lb., slightly higher than May, but \$0.65/lb. lower than last June. Dry whey continues to move lower with the June DPSR price \$0.06/lb. lower than May at \$0.3220/lb. Last June, dry whey was over \$0.60/lb..

Dairy demand. April was a poor month for domestic demand, only 0.56% higher than last April. Export demand was better, 2.24% above a year ago. Combined, total April demand was up 1.08%. For the year-to-date, total demand is up 1.60%. Export represented 16.5% of total demand, slightly below a year ago when it was 16.7%. April was also a poor month for fluid milk sales. Nationwide, April fluid sales were 6.7% below last April. In the three southeastern federal orders, combined, April fluid sales were down 8.5%. For the first four months of the year, fluid sales in the southeastern orders are 4.4% below a year ago. The cumulative effect of inflation and a struggling

economy is impacting dairy demand. Hopefully, lower dairy product prices will eventually be reflected in dairy cases, restaurants, fast-food, and pizzerias which will help improve demand.

Milk production. USDA reports May milk production 0.6% higher than last May. Dairy cow numbers remained constant in May at 9.43 million, 11,000 more head than last May. Through May, milk production is 0.8% higher than the same period last year. In the Southeast, May milk production was up 0.6% in Georgia, but 6.7% lower in Florida and down 2.4% in Virginia. Dairy farmers sent 249,100 dairy cows to slaughter in May. This is 23,900 more head than last May, and the highest May slaughter number since 2019. Strong cull cow prices, and the continuing decline in milk prices will accelerate dairy cow slaughter

Milk prices. May blend prices were about \$0.50/cwt. higher than April. However, June prices are projected \$1.50/cwt. lower than May with prices continuing to decline in coming months. Blend prices for the last half of 2023 are projected about \$2.00/cwt. lower than the first half. The remainder of 2023 will be financially challenging not only for the Southeast, but dairy farmers nationwide. It will take a combination of improved demand for dairy products, and less milk production before there is a significant upward movement in milk prices. Current cheese and dry whey prices indicate a Class III price in the \$14.00's for June and July which will impact milk production in cheese-making areas

Milk Prices

FMMO 5

www.malouisville.com

June 2023

Class 1 Advanced Price

(@3.5%BF)

\$21.41

July 2023

Class 1 Advanced Price

(@3.5%BF)

\$20.72

FMMO 7

www.fmmlanta.com

June 2023

Class 1 Advanced Price

(@3.5%BF)

\$21.81

PROJECTED* BLEND PRICES – BASE ZONES – SOUTHEASTERN FEDERAL ORDERS

MONTH	APPALACHIAN	FLORIDA	SOUTHEAST
	(\$/cwt. at 3.5% butterfat – base zone)		
April 2023	\$21.17	\$23.28	\$21.54
May	\$21.72	\$23.95	\$22.18
June	\$20.35	\$22.50	\$20.86
July	\$19.73	\$21.86	\$20.30
August	\$19.39	\$21.39	\$20.08
September	\$19.63	\$21.46	\$20.13

*Projections in bold



CONTINUED FROM COVER

One of KDDC's founding goals was to support young dairy producers with the understanding that they are essential to the future of the Kentucky dairy industry. This has included hosting the Young Dairy Producers Meeting held annually in conjunction with the Kentucky Dairy Partners Meeting, the Fall Tour to the World Dairy Expo was designed with the young people at the heart of it, and many events and tours have been planned in an effort to provide support to those establishing themselves in their dairy businesses.

That effort has taken a new look recently under the group called the Young Dairy Producers of Kentucky (YDPK). This group was established at the end of 2022, in response to requests from young producers for a space for discussion amongst like-minded producers. A committee made up of KDDC producer and advisory members was appointed to address these requests and YDPK was created. The goal is to provide an environment that allows for young producers (ages 18 to 35) to see what the industry has to offer, how other producers manage their operations, and spread ideas among peers. As dairies are becoming spread further apart, it's more important than ever before to know there are plenty of people in the next generation, eager to continue dairying.

This group will revolve around events that are intended to be casual and discussion-based, including farm tours, online Zoom meetings, and in-person speakers intended to discuss topics that producers would like to hear more on. Events will be bi-monthly, with every other one tentatively planned to be a tour. So far this year, YDPK has held a couple of events, including a farm tour of 3 farms between Springfield and Lebanon and a live video event discussing the SDBII grant opportunities.

Our upcoming events include a tour of facilities in Western Kentucky on July 13th, a speaker discussing milk marketing and pricing structure in September (tentative), and a tour of facilities near Bowling Green in November. On November 10th our tour will be unique in that we will have the opportunity to tour farms and have supper with a group of producers from Indiana.

If you're interested in learning more about YDPK and getting updates on events directly, please contact Tori Embry at 859-516-1966 or visit kydairy.org to sign up.



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606.877.3333

SHELBY INSURANCE AGENCY

Explore the risk management options available to you in addition to Dairy Margin Coverage that can work with DMC or stand alone.

Dairy Revenue Protection protects against the decline in quarterly revenue on an area basis.

Livestock Gross Margin Dairy covers a squeeze between milk prices and feed cost.

Pasture, Rangeland and Forage covers lack of rainfall over two month intervals on an areas basis determined by NOAA.

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Wildcat Wisdom

Donna Amaral-Phillips

Retired UK Dairy Specialist



Today's Management Practices – or Lack Thereof--- Impact Tomorrow's Performance

Today's management practices definitely impact future cow performance and the profitability of dairies. This concept can easily get forgotten as one gets busy with fall forage and grain harvest coupled with the multitude of cow management chores needing to be completed daily. Attention to these details sets the foundation needed to capitalize on better early lactation production, reproduction, and health. Take a few minutes to review these management areas to make sure you are not letting the details slip today. This is time well spent as it will pay financial dividends later this fall and winter.

Corn Silage Harvest Practices Impact Milk Production, Cost of Grain Bill, and Overall Profitability

- Moisture of the corn plant determines the time to harvest corn silage. Corn plants have been bred such that the plant stays greener longer. Thus, the corn kernel can be more mature and contain more starch at the optimum time for harvest. Measuring the moisture (or dry matter) content of the plant should be the governing factor when to harvest, not the stage of maturity per se. Harvest at 62 to 65% moisture (35 to 38% DM) (Choppers without kernel processors should be harvested a little wetter—32 to 35% DM to allow breakage of corn kernels.)
- Healthy corn plants dry down 0.5 to 1.0%/day.
- Corn is generally harvested 40 to 45 days post-tasseling or silking.
- Adjust rollers on kernel processors such that the corn kernels and cob are processed adequately. No more than 2 or 3 half or whole kernels of corn (cob broken into 8 pieces) should be found in a chopped sample filling a 32 oz. plastic cup. Spacing between rollers should be such that a dime does not fit between the rollers. Kernel processors do increase power requirements and thus diesel usage. However, for each additional gallon of diesel at \$6/gallon used only 0.05 lbs of milk (\$22/cwt) is needed to recoup additional fuel cost with 20 ton/acre corn silage yield. Extra diesel costs can very quickly be recouped from additional milk volume and thus income.
- For bunkers and piles, pack the chopped silage with a tractor weighing 800 times the number of wet tons delivered per hour at a tractor speed of 1.5 to 2.5 mph. Harvesting more silage per hour results in silage being under packed and takes longer to occlude oxygen decreasing the quality of the feed at feedout. Drive over piles should have side slopes not to exceed 3:1 (3 ft wide to 1 ft tall) to allow water to drain off the pile and for safer packing with equipment.
- Prior to filling, line the sides of bunker walls with plastic with extra plastic overlapping the outside silo walls. Drainage tile can be slit and then attached to the top of the bunker walls to prevent tearing of the plastic while filling and pulling the plastic over the sidewalls. Plastic should line the entire inside wall of the bunker and be weighted with feed at the bottom (inside) of the bunker to prevent movement of the plastic when filling. Enough plastic should overlap the walls on the outside to allow at least 3 to 4 feet of overlap of the top-covering plastic on the top of the silo. This process prevents air from entering the silage through the sidewalls and as importantly water from running down the sides and contributing to silage rot and lost feed.
- Once full, cover top of uprights, piles, and bunkers with plastic. For piles, plastic should be weighted down around the perimeter with a 6- to

12-inch layer of sand, soil, or sandbags to prevent air from getting under the plastic and causing spoilage. Plastic on the top of bunkers and piles should be weighted down with tire walls or sandbags that touch so the plastic will remain in very close contact with silage throughout the entire storage timeframe.

Manage Springers as the "Girls in Waiting"

- Provide a comfortable, "clean" place to lie down which is stocked at less than 100% of capacity.
- Ensure they have adequate bunk space (at least 30 inches/cow) to maximize intake. This concept can easily be violated when larger numbers of cows and heifers are due.
- Provide appropriate rations (adequate, but not excessive amounts of energy and protein). Feed additives, such as anionic salts, rumensin, or ruminally protected choline, can help cows transition smoother back into the milking herd.
- Heifers should be given a 4 to 6 week adjustment period prior to calving. This period is needed to adjust to competition from mature dry cows and changes in housing, especially if raised on pasture previously.
- Identify cows, which are starting to fail. Protocols utilizing technology definitely have a place in the management of transition cows. However, they cannot replace the need for a "cow person" to walk around, observe cows, and implement protocols. This serves as a reminder that people with good cow sense and who pay attention to details are invaluable in avoiding potential disasters.

Heat Stress Negatively Impacts Reproduction During and After Heat Events

- Heat stress decreases estrous duration, follicular growth, conception rates, and early embryo survival irrespective of use of AI or natural service.
- Heat stress 1 to 2 days before AI and during early pregnancy decreases fertility.
- Some reproductive physiologists estimate negative effects last 6 weeks past heat stress events.
- Bulls also have decreased fertility associated with heat stress and negative effects last well past heat stress events.
- These negative impacts reemphasize the need for fans and sprinklers in barns, at feedbunks, and in holding pens.

Foot Care Needs to Include Preemptive Practices to Reduce Incidence of Lameness

- At least twice yearly, hooves should be examined and trimmed if needed. Routine hoof trimming corrects the claw angle so that weight is evenly distributed between the two claws of each foot. Cows should be evaluated and trimmed as needed around 80 to 120 days in milk and at dry off. Trimming only last 4 to 6 months.
- Minimize contact of hooves with manure through routine scraping of concrete surfaces.
- Footbaths are used 4 times weekly to prevent, not treat, hairy heel warts. Breeding age and older heifers should go through the footbath in addition to cows.



**Special
Olympics
Kentucky**



A Moo-ving Experience at Special Olympics Kentucky

The Kentucky Special Olympics completed their 2023 Summer Games the first weekend of June and Southland Dairy Farmers were thrilled to continue to be a part of this incredible event. Kentucky dairy farmers care about being part of their local communities and Southland Dairy Farmers want to make sure that dairy farmers are represented in their hometown areas.

Since 2015, Southland Dairy Farmers have been a part of the excitement at the Special Olympics Summer Games. Special Olympians look forward to receiving their free ice cream sandwich and seeing the Mobile Dairy Classroom. Southwest and Southland Dairy Farmers currently partner with seven state Summer Special Olympic Games and each state event looks forward to the dairy presence that arrives at their events.

With over 1,000 athletes attending the Kentucky event, Southland Dairy Farmers was able to spread the message of dairy in a daily diet and how milk makes it from cow to table. Southwest/Southland Dairy Farmers CEO, Jim Hill, shared "We look forward to attending the Special Olympic Summer Games every year. Experiences like these are so rewarding for our staff and the local producers who want us to be at these events. We truly see the joy that comes from an ice cream sandwich and a visit with the dairy cow from Olympians and their families.

Athletes and families come prepared to compete and encourage those around them. Being able to be a part of this experience is truly moo-ving for all those involved.





Real Milk Starts Here™

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.REALMILKSTARTSHERE.COM

MAKING EVERY DROP COUNT | **THE DAIRY ALLIANCE**

Billboard Pilot Showcases Local Dairy Farmers to Kentucky Residents

Kentucky residents may have noticed The Dairy Alliance's three recent Making Every Drop Count billboards featuring Kentucky dairy farmers. Each ad features a dairy farmer or farmers standing with their cows with the slogan "Real Milk Starts Here™" and a prompt to learn more online.

The billboards are part of a pilot program in Kentucky aiming to connect communities to their local producers. Though dairy farmers' work is vital to providing nutritious, affordable milk to American families, they receive little recognition for their dedication to their communities. These billboards serve as a visual reminder to residents across Kentucky of the hard work of dairy farmers.

The billboards are part of Making Every Drop Count, an ongoing program highlighting the benefits of checkoff promotion of the consumption of milk and other dairy foods to consumers. For more information, visit realmilkstartshere.com.

R&T Farms Teaches Local Ag to Kentucky's Students

The Dairy Alliance and Discover Dairy's Adopt a Cow is an educational program teaching children about agriculture and animal care. Through the program, students learn agricultural practices, the importance of dairy and the importance of dairy cows, including what their adopted calf's name is, when her birthday is, where she lives and how the dairy farmer takes care of her as she grows to produce nutritious milk.

Kentucky students learn about dairy farming from farmer Hope at R&T Farms



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MAKING EVERY DROP COUNT | **THE DAIRY ALLIANCE**

in Magnolia. Hope has hosted the Adopt a Cow program for Kentucky students since the 2020-2021 school year, virtually bringing students onto the farm to discover what local agriculture looks like.

"We're happy to share our calves with schools across Kentucky and connect kids to where their milk comes from," says Hope.

This year, 1,024 Kentucky classrooms registered for Adopt a Cow, representing 34,570 students. Throughout the school year, these students received updates from farmer

Hope regarding their calves: Maddie Cakes and Renegade.

The Dairy Alliance's partnership with Discover Dairy to bring Adopt a Cow to Southeast classrooms continues to be an impactful way to connect students to an agricultural industry they may otherwise never interact with.

Registration for next school year's Adopt a Cow program is now open.

R & T Farms Magnolia, Kentucky



Adopt A Cow Live Chat
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Calendar of Events

JULY 20	KDDC Board Meeting, Nelson County Extension Office
JULY 27-29	Southeast Value -Added Conference, Nashville TN
AUGUST 17-27	Kentucky State Fair
AUGUST 17	Commodity Breakfast @ Kentucky State Fair
AUGUST 18	Youth Cheese Auction @ Kentucky State Fair
AUGUST 24	Ky Farm Bureau Ham Breakfast @ Kentucky State Fair
AUGUST 29-31	Kentucky Milk Quality Conference, Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green KY
SEPTEMBER 7	CPC Fall Field Day, Fountain Run, KY
SEPTEMBER 21	KDDC Board Meeting Glasgow, KY
OCTOBER 3-6	KDDC Fall Bus Tour to Wisconsin