

Dairyman

OCTOBER 2009



*IT'S PUMPKIN
TIME ON THE
FARM*



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For over a decade
“CASH FOR CAPS” THRIVES

by Don Boelens

A little over a decade ago, Swiss Valley Farms was the first milk company to develop an innovative program that we hoped would be a great way to give money back to the schools in our member area.

“Cash for Caps” began with big ideas and lots of ambition. Schools were encouraged to sign up and ask their students to buy Swiss Valley Farms milk and save the milk caps. For every milk cap collected with the special “Cash for Caps” seal, the school would receive 5¢ back from Swiss Valley Farms. This was money the school could use for anything it wanted . . . things like playground equipment, computers, av equipment, cafeteria furniture. Literally anything!

The first year’s payout to schools was humble, only \$1,500. But every year, this amount increased as the popularity of the program caught on and more schools signed up.

Over the years, “Cash for Caps” has flourished and expanded, doubling and tripling in size. As more schools signed on to the program, sacks and boxes of Swiss Valley milk caps were collected and turned into cash by the schools. Like

wise, Swiss Valley Farms’ donations also increased with every passing year. This past fiscal year, a record amount of over \$85,000 was donated to the participating schools. That is 56 times that first year’s donation!

I am happy to report that during the “Cash for Caps” lifetime with this cooperative, nearly \$400,000 has been donated to schools based on the amount of milk caps they collected. That is what I call a successful program!

It is also great news that since the sale



CEO Don Boelens

of our Dubuque bottling plant to Prairie Farms, that cooperative has assumed responsibility for “Cash for Caps” and is happy to make the program their own.

If you go to www.swissvalley.com and click on “Cash for Caps”, you will notice

that the contact information now reflects this change over to Prairie Farms. Schools will still be enrolling in the program and students will still be collecting Swiss Valley milk caps and receiving 5¢ for every cap. Prairie Farms will follow

in our footsteps and keep the donations going back to these local schools that support the Swiss Valley Farms brand.

If your school does not yet participate in “Cash for Caps”, there is still plenty of time to sign up for this school year. Just contact Prairie Farms -- Swiss Valley Fluid Division’s Sales Department at 1-563-582-7206 to get all the information. Or log onto the Swiss Valley web site and follow the instructions you will find there.



winners chosen for 2009 OUTSTANDING YC CONTEST

The 2009 Outstanding Young Cooperator Winners were selected in September by the Industry and Member Relations Committee of the Board of Directors.

Marty & Lisa Burken from Clinton, Iowa and Doug & Corinne Ihm from Cassville, Wis. will be representing Swiss Valley Farms at the 2009 National Milk Producers Federation Annual Dairy Summit in Dallas, Texas this November.

Marty Burken was born and raised on the dairy farm. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business. Along with his father Loren and brother Mike, he is now the owner and operator of Blue Hyll Dairy LLC where 750 Holsteins are milked three times a day in a double-12 milking parlor. The conventional free stall facility is situated on the farm's 3,500 acres. Lisa is an R.N. and a case manager at Mercy Medical Center in Clinton. They have three daughters: Hannah, 11; Haley, 9, and Hillary, 5.

Marty has served as President and Vice President of the Clinton/Jackson DHIA and is currently a member of the Clinton/Jackson Dairy Promotion Board and the Clinton County Cattlemen Association. Blue Hyll hosts field trips to their dairy for local elementary schools and other interested organizations. Marty also offers outreach opportunities for the mentally challenged at Blue Hyll. He is a founding member of American Farmers

for the Advancement and Conservation of Technology.

Working with his father Francis, Doug Ihm milks 85 cows on a 210-acre farm in Cassville. The Ihm's rolling herd average is 21,700 lbs. and with 3.4 butterfat. Doug graduated from UW-River Falls in May of 1993 with a degree in Broad Area Agriculture. Corinne works off the farm as a Commercial Account Executive for an insurance agency in Lancaster, WI. Doug is involved with the Farm Business and Production Management Program at Southwest Technical College in Fennimore. Doug and Corinne have three children: Andrew, 12; Samuel, 7, and Allison, 5.

In Doug's essay for the contest, he cited the Swiss Valley Farms member login web site as one of the most important services offered by the cooperative. "I can have milk picked up from the farm today, and sometimes by lunch time tomorrow have my quality and components in hand off the website," Doug said.



Marty Burken



Doug Ihm

YC'ERS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

THE 2010 YOUNG COOPERATOR CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD FEB. 26 & 27 IN PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WIS. IF YOU ARE 18 TO 45 YEARS OLD, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND. MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION MATERIALS WILL APPEAR IN FUTURE DAIRYMAN ISSUES. MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND!

ON THE FRONT COVER:

THIS LITTLE GIRL GOT "UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL" WITH THE GREAT PUMPKIN! JOSIE BAILEY, THE DAUGHTER OF SWISS VALLEY FARMS MEMBERS BROCK AND NELDA BAILEY OF TOMAH, WIS. SHOWED OFF HER HOLSTEIN-INSPIRED HALLOWEEN COSTUME IN AN AWESOME PUMPKIN DISPLAY SET UP ON THE BAILEY FARM LAST YEAR. JOSIE'S PARENTS MILK 120 COWS (HOLSTEINS, OF COURSE!) WITH BROCK'S PARENTS, MIKE AND JEAN BAILEY. HAPPY TRICKS OR TREATS, JOSIE!

ON THE BACK COVER:

JOE AND VICKI QUINCY'S DAIRY CAUGHT THE MOOD OF A PERFECT SUMMER DAY IN LATE AUGUST. THESE CO-OP MEMBERS' LOVELY DAIRY IS SOUTH OF FENNIMORE, WIS. OFF HWY 61.

In Minnesota

MEMBERS IN PRINCESS KAY FINALS

In May, judges interviewed 66 Minnesota county dairy princesses to decide the final 12 who would vie for the title of Princess Kay of the Milk Way at the State Fair in late August. When the personal interviews, mock radio interviews and speeches were all done, two Swiss Valley Farms members were among the 12 county dairy princesses selected to vie for the title. They were: Maria Siegle, 22, the daughter of Steve and Sandy Siegle, Cologne, representing Carver County; and Jessica Oelfke, 19, Hamburg, daughter of Jim and Jody Oelfke, representing Sibley County.

While neither young lady won the coveted state title, just

participating in the final round of candidates was a rewarding experience for Maria and Jessica, one they will cherish forever, and Swiss Valley Farms is proud of their accomplishment. Jessica Oelfke had the extra excitement of being voted Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants.

Each of the 12 finalists also had the extra bonus of having their likeness sculpted in butter during the Minnesota State Fair. The Princess Kay of the Milky Way dairy princess program is over 50 years old and is sponsored by Midwest Dairy Association's Minnesota Division through check-off funds provided by dairy farmers to help increase sales and demand for dairy products.

Getting to Know Jessica Oelfke . . .

□ Jessica is a sophomore at St. Cloud State University and is studying elementary education with a mathematics concentration and a mass communications minor. While she is in school, Jessica hopes to keep helping her parents milk their 190 Jerseys on the Oelfke's Century Farm, called Highview Acres. Her hobbies include showing 4-H dairy cattle, participating in FFA, grilling, baking and rollerblading, and also making maple syrup at her grandparents' farm.

□ "I ran for the Princess Kay of the Milky Way title because I really wanted to show people how proud I am to be a dairy farmer's daughter! It is so incredible to be able to relay a message to consumers that is so true! We do provide care for our beautiful cows and in return they produce wholesome, high quality dairy products!"

□ "This summer has been very busy for me with many appearances and presentations at local businesses, schools, libraries, parades and banks. It is wonderful so see so many children excited about something so wholesome, nutritious and great tasting – Dairy Products!"

□ "There were some events planned only for Princess Kay finalists. At the beginning of August, The Minnesota Zoo welcomed us all to teach parents and children a little more about dairy cows in general. There were many exciting and entertaining stations that kids could really get involved in! The favorite may have been learning how to milk a cow from a Princess Kay finalist."

□ "Competing in this contest has been a truly rewarding experience! I have had the opportunity to meet so many remarkable people throughout the course of this competition. To be among people who share the same passion for the dairy industry as I do is extraordinary."



Above, Jessica Oelfke is interviewed during the Princess Kay pageant. Using a glass-sided cooler for her studio, Linda Christensen sculpted all the candidates in butter at the fair.

In Wisconsin

“ALICE IN DAIRYLAND” FINALIST



Getting to Know Maria Siegle . . .

❑ Maria recently graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education, with concentrations in literature and communications. She is teaching first grade this fall in LeSueur, Minn.

❑ The Siegles milk 50 Holsteins on their Cologne farm. “Growing up on a dairy farm has taught me the value of working hard and appreciating all I have been given.”

❑ “The current Princess Kay invites the new 12 finalists to her hometown to do promotions at local grocery stores and meet the dairy farmers in that area. We visited Kristy Mussman, the 2008 PK, in her hometown of Claremont, MN. We did promotions at Owatonna grocery stores as well as appeared in the Blooming Prairie 4th of July parade. It was a fun time, as the finalists all got to interact and get to know each other better.”

❑ “Throughout my numerous promotional events, I have realized the varying perspectives and knowledge people have about the dairy industry. I have had opportunities to talk to people ranging from passionate farmers to small children who have never been on a farm or seen a cow before. Through all of these interactions, I have gotten to share my message about dairy and find out what people are thinking, too.”

❑ “Being a top 12 finalist is certainly an honor. So many people that I was able to talk to at my county fair were so excited for me and had such warm wishes for me. They assured me that whether or not I was crowned the next Princess Kay, they were proud of the work I was doing representing Carver County in the competition.”

Peggy Dierickx of De Pere, Wis, had the thrill of competing with the final six candidates vying for the title of “Alice in Dairyland” in Wisconsin. The daughter of Swiss Valley Farms members Craig and Alice Dierickx of Monticello, Peggy grew up loving dairying in Wisconsin. While living on the farm, Peggy helped with all the farm chores and showed her cows at the local fairs. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, graduating in 2006 with a degree in agriculture journalism.

During college, Peggy held leadership roles in the Sigma Alpha Sorority, Agriculture Future of America, Badger Dairy Club, National Agri-Marketing Association and Collegiate FFA. After graduation, she became the executive director of the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation in Calmar, Iowa. She currently is a free lance writer and designer working out of her home in De Pere. She continues to promote agriculture by volunteering with Madison’s “Cows on the Concourse” planning committee, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA Alumni.

“Alice in Dairyland” is Wisconsin’s agricultural ambassador. Peggy says the process of getting to the final six in the Alice in Dairyland contest took about five months. She applied in January and began to work her way through the layers of qualifying rounds along with the other 25 candidates. All Alice contestants must have a bachelor’s degree and have ag and dairy experience and display good public speaking skills. By mid-May, Peggy was standing with the final six at the last contest.

The list of Alice job requirements includes knowledge about Wisconsin’s diverse agriculture and products, history, resources and rural-urban issues. In the first round of the selection process, applications are evaluated on resumes, personal interviews, and communications ability. If she meets these criteria, she still has to impress a selection panel during the three-day finals where she is evaluated on public speaking, personal interviews, tv and radio interviews, and agribusiness tours. Once hired, Alice garners over a million dollars worth of free airtime and print space for Wisconsin’s food, fiber and natural resources industry.



Peggy Dierickx

dairy journals

SUMMER ROLLS BY TOO FAST!

by Linda Hodorff



This month's journal author Linda Hodorff works with other family members on a century old dairy in Eden, Wisconsin, called Second Look Holsteins.

● WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009

I'm Linda Hodorff of Second Look Holsteins LLC in Eden, Wis. We milk 950 registered Holsteins in a double-16 parallel parlor on a farm that has been in the family for over 100 years. This month, we are shipping 73,000 pounds of milk a day. The labor and management team includes the farm partners – my husband Doug and myself, our son Corey and his wife Tammy and 13 employees.

Our baby calves are housed in hutches and a greenhouse and fed pasteurized milk. At 60 days, they move to small group pens until they reach five months of age. At that time they are trucked to our Nebraska farm, called Broken Bow Dairy LLC, where they are raised and

bred A.I. and returned to WI shortly before calving. This allows our heifers to remain off concrete for much of their teenage period, get more exercise to remain physically fit, and eat a diet higher in dry hay than if they stayed in Wisconsin.

In 2005, we established a milking herd at Broken Bow Dairy, where we now milk an additional 500 cows. Doug is overall manager (CEO) of Hodorff Enterprises plus manages the NE dairy. I am the CFO/COO and split my time between WI and NE. Corey manages the WI dairy. Tammy is Secretary for Hodorff Enterprises advisory board plus designs a monthly farm newsletter for the WI dairy. Corey and Tammy have four

daughters, Kayli, Kalista, Kaianne and Kaydence.

This summer, Second Look is under construction, building a 5-million gallon lagoon and an additional freestall barn. The lagoon supplements our original 2-million gravity lagoon and keeps us in compliance with new regulations imposed by the State of Wisconsin effective January 2010. The new freestall barn replaces our original 100-year old barn, which the state DNR recommended we abandon. The "old barn" currently houses dry cows. The DNR also advised us to abandon our current feed storage area and bunker silos. The following is a journal I kept this summer.

● WEDNESDAY,
JULY 15

A.M. Sprinkled last night. We need every drop of rain right now. Spent the morning in the office reviewing and finalizing balance sheets for the first six months of the year. We have our farm operations separated into three different businesses (WI dairy, WI crops, NE dairy). Good news is this helps us track profitability of each business segment. Bad news is keeping and reconciling three sets of books takes more time. This is the first day of the Fond du Lac County Fair so 4-H animals need to be in place by noon. Three of our granddaughters are showing five calves this year. P.M. Prepared info for German visitors to look at cattle tomorrow.

● THURSDAY, JULY 16

Granddaughters Kayli and Kalista showed their heifers today. They both did exceptionally well and Kayli had Junior Champion with "Fancy." Our farm sponsored an award for 1st Place Grade Spring Calf. The award included a Holstein USA Jr membership and the cost of identifying the calf with Holstein USA. Holstein youth programs like Dairy Quiz Bowl are good for any youth. Beyond breed activities, animal ID is a super important insurance policy.

I found out today that my sister Janice had to be hospitalized following surgery for a tethered spinal cord. Her doctor recommends she goes to a rehab facility



before coming home, but the insurance company says it's not necessary. I sure hope we don't have government health care – these matters could get even worse.

● FRIDAY, JULY 17

Brenda Cook in our office finalized payroll, so I transferred checks and made internet payroll deposits for 7/20 payroll deductions for NE and WI dairies.

County fair Showmanship – Kalista, 10, won her class, Kayli, 13, was 3rd. After morning showmanship, I went home to meet with German visitors. They may be interested in some embryos. Hurried back to the fair to see granddaughter Kaianne, 7, show in "little britches" class – 17 kids in the class! In the County Holstein Futurity, we showed three animals in 2-year-old class, 5-year-old took 4th place and won production award. Our best two-year-old didn't bag up well, so disappointed in her placing, but she



Linda Hodorff and her husband Doug took a family photo last year in the calf barn with their son Corey and his family. Above, Brenda Cook keeps the numbers straight and gets the payroll out on time at Second Look Holsteins.

stood where she belonged that day.

● SATURDAY, JULY 18

A.M. worked at home, P.M. helped in county fair food stand. Granddaughters Karina and Kylee came for supper and stayed overnight. The girls played lots of songs on the player piano.

● SUNDAY, JULY 19

After church, Karina and Kylee met up with mom and dad and went home. Met our new pastor, he's in his 30's. First time in many years we've had a "young" pastor. After church, Doug and I went to look at pick-up trucks in West Bend. Not a good year to spend money on a vehicle, but his truck needs to be replaced. Then stopped to visit dairy family friends before heading home. We're trying to keep in touch with our neighbors during these tough times. It helps all of us to vent.

● MONDAY, JULY 20

Good to be back in office after a week at the fair. A.M. - working on health

Linda discusses the progress on the new free stall barn with Bill Lenz, a friend who has been involved with all of Second Look's building projects since the '80's.



insurance. Our farm group is being cancelled because of low participation. I need to get participating employees set up with individual coverage. Farm partners are exploring which plan to switch to for their individual family needs.

● TUESDAY, JULY 21

Met with Al Bennett, Lookout Ridge Consulting. He met with each partner individually to get acquainted. In September he will facilitate a session with us to develop a farm vision and update our farm mission.

● WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

Quarterly meeting with Rod Wautlet, Agri Business Consultants We meet with Rod quarterly to review our farm financials and benchmark where we need to go in the future. Finished in office, then home to pick up stuff and drove to

Des Moines to my sister's house. Arrived in Des Moines around midnight.

● THURSDAY, JULY 23

A.M. in Des Moines with Janice and Mom. Janice is in rehab (insurance company came through after extra work by Janice's office and her surgeon.) Rearranged some furniture for when Janice comes home from the hospital, and helped mom shop for a new shower head for Janice. Left Des Moines after lunch to head for the dairy in NE, stopped in Broken Bow for groceries, then arrived at NE home about 9 P.M. While on the road, transferred money at the bank (amazing what we can do by phone and internet these days!) and called a producer who makes his own cheese to discuss the dairy economy.

● FRIDAY, JULY 24

Youngest son Clint and his wife Erin here in NE for a first time visit. A fun day! Showed them the dairy and introduced them to the neighbor who feeds our WI and NE heifers. Treated them to supper at the Sandstone Grill and then attended Nebraska's Big Rodeo at Burwell on Friday night. Got stopped for speeding driving home – fortunately only a warning!

● SATURDAY, JULY 25

Went to Broken Bow for breakfast with Clint and Erin before they headed for Denver for their vacation. Best Denver omelet in the area at City Café in Broken Bow! Deposited beef cow check at the bank before leaving town. I snapped green beans, cooked some, froze a few. Doug



entered heifer info into barn computer (Dairy Comp 305) this afternoon. Heifers from both dairies are raised in NE. The NE dairy is responsible for the AI breeding for the heifers, so Doug does the initial data entry, then transmits the WI data to Corey for record keeping in WI.

● **SUNDAY, JULY 26**

After church, a welcome mid-day rest. In evening, drove to Sargent to see the final game of the area Legion softball tournament. Some of our neighbors were on the runner-up team. A good game 22-21! Call from distant cousin Lloyd Dennert from SD. They'll park their camper at our WI house this week while they're visiting friends and family in WI. Hope I get back to WI before they leave!

● **MONDAY, JULY 27**

Monday morning meeting. 6:30 A.M. If we can't meet face to face, we call in. More health insurance follow up, and setting up lunch meeting with area farmers in NE on Wednesday. P.M. Filed DHI sheets for the past month and reviewed a couple ID corrections. Milk tester's here tonight. He travels about 2 hours to get to us. Ordered extra young sire semen for the following month. We use more y.s. semen in the summer due to the heat.

● **TUESDAY, JULY 28**

Worked at the barn in A.M. At the office in the NE house in P.M. 45/100 inch of rain – nice and gentle all morning. Its interesting that rain is measured in NE by hundredths rather than tenths. Heard ag communicator Trent Loos on the radio broadcasting from the local fair the next county over. He's a NE "neighbor" being only 65 miles away.

● **WEDNESDAY, JULY 29**

After morning chores, drove to Kearney

for lunch with about 10 dairy farmers to discuss current ag issues. We'll meet again in the winter. Picked up some good sweet corn on the way back to the dairy to share with farm employees.

● **FRIDAY, JULY 31**

Left NE midday to return to WI. Stopped at sister Janice's in Des Moines – she's now in rehab! Making progress. I got home around 2:00 A.M.

● **SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**

SD Cousins the Dennerts are still here with their camper, so we had breakfast together. Made a Coca-Cola Cake for my niece Alyssa's son's baptism. They are having a Mexican-style baptism celebration later today. After the church service, there is a buffet meal. Relatives have been asked to make cakes ... 27 in all! She has assigned all of us a different kind of cake. I picked up father-in-law Harold and mother-in-law Arlene to ride to the baptism. I'm fortunate to have such awesome in-laws. Boy, am I tired tonight!

● **SUNDAY, AUGUST 2**

This weekend is the annual Eden Fireman's picnic and parade. After Church, we went to the parade. I'm partial, but it's an awesome parade – lasted 1-1/2 hours. Granddaughters were able to attend as well. That makes the day extra special.

● **MONDAY, AUGUST 3**

Back in the WI farm office today. Doug remained in NE as two of our NE employees are on vacation this week. Received our herd classification date – Sept 8-9. We classify all of our cows each September. (Classification went well – looked at all the milking cows,



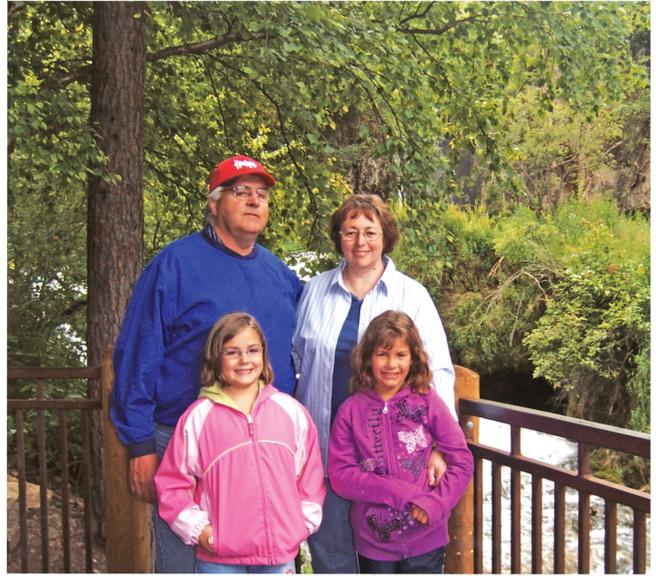
Swiss Valley Field Rep Cheryl Zabolcki-Wagner helps herdsman Rupert Martinez check for possible milkstone build up.

the classifier broke down 417 of them. We had a 3E – 92 Winchester, 5 Ex's, and Boliver and Buckeye daughters were consistently nice young cows.)

● **TUESDAY, AUGUST 4**

Appointment day: A.M. Health insurance agent, afternoon NRCS rep to review our eligibility for the EQIP program. The Wisconsin DNR has instructed us to abandon our existing bunker silos and build a new feed area. EQIP does provide funding for feed pads, but the NRCS rep isn't sure if we'll qualify. I'll need to do additional follow up, because this is a huge investment. Tomorrow is payday, so Brenda completed the pay check data while I completed checking and internet transfers for those employees with direct

While vacationing this summer in Custer Park in North Dakota, the Hodorff's posed for a photo with their granddaughters Karina Guelig and Kaianne Hodorff.



deposit.

● **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5**

Working on computer data back up. We're interested in daily backups on the internet, but so far our satellite internet speed isn't fast enough in this area to get it done.

● **FRIDAY, AUGUST 7**

One of the employees cut his leg on the facer and needs to see a doctor because it is not healing. Our farm carries workers' comp, so time to start filling out the paperwork!

A load of small heifers leaving for NE (90 to a100) and the semi will bring back a load of 36 to 37 springers. Now TB tests are required for the interstate transport.

● **MONDAY, AUGUST 10**

Corey and Tammy are taking a family

vacation this week. I called our banker to begin plans for loan renewals in October. With the building projects this year and low prices, it's more complicated than

usual. Banker requested additional documentation to give him the latest updates. We'll talk Friday to review his questions, then set up a partner meeting with him in September.

● **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12**

Granddaughter Karina helped at the office today while her Mom was at work. She's entering 2nd grade this year. As a first step to help us with filing, we gave her an accordion file and she put the bills in the pouch according to the first letter. That made things much easier for Brenda to file, and keeps Karina thinking about the alphabet during the summer.

● **THURSDAY, AUGUST 13**

We don't breed heifers to calve Dec-Feb so that gives more calves in the other 3 seasons. We have good success with pasteurized milk, start calves on grain right away, and introduce hay at six weeks. For grain feeding, the baby calves start with a shallow dog dish the first couple of weeks. That saves grain and isn't as intimidating to them. After they get used to eating more grain, we switch to a traditional deeper pail. Goal is to eat six pounds per day by the time they move to group housing at eight weeks.

P.M. I picked up my mother-in-law Arlene to attend the annual United

Methodist Women picnic this evening. She is in assisted living this summer, but hopes to progress to come home by fall.

● **SATURDAY, AUGUST 15**

We're taking a vacation next week, so lots to do to prepare for being gone.

● **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16**

Early start to pick up granddaughters Kaianne and Karina for our vacation. We hope to do a special vacation with each of our grandchildren. Taking two girls at a time seems to work well for us. We are driving to the farm in NE today. We stopped in Des Moines to see my sister Janice. My sister Barb is with Janice at home for a couple of weeks. We got caught up in a traffic jam on I-80 and lost about an hour, so it was dark by the time we met up with Doug (Grandpa) at the NE house. The girls were awesome on such a long trip. Read books, played the license plate game, played car games and talked.

● **MONDAY, AUGUST 17**

Doug's sister Jan, husband Bill and two of their nieces about the same age as our granddaughters will be vacationing with us. While Doug wrapped up duties around the farm in NE, I showed our visitors around the farm and the neighborhood. In the afternoon I worked on payroll for the 20th, then we drove



Second Look calves are fed with shallow dog dishes in place of buckets for the first couple of weeks. It is easier for them to eat and saves grain.

past Adams Feedlot: 80,000 head of beef at one location. Late in the day, we went swimming in the river near our NE home. It's a wide, sandy bottomed river. Fun! We're tired tonight!

● TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

After morning chores, we all headed west for the Black Hills. We traveled on Hwy 2 – the NE Sandhills Scenic Byway, through Custer Park in SD, and arrived at Spearfish Canyon SD by nightfall.

● WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

Raining today, so we visited a mining museum where the girls panned for gold and we checked out a kangaroo farm! With my laptop I can do internet banking, so I transferred direct deposit payroll data while sitting in a parking lot!

● THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Walked the trails to the waterfalls before we left Spearfish Canyon. Today is Mt Rushmore day. We drove through Bear Country, then checked in at a motel near Mt Rushmore and saw the evening program. My brother-in-law Bill is a Vietnam vet, so he joined other vets

who were called to the stage for the flag ceremony. Very moving.

● FRIDAY, AUGUST 21

Today we part company, Doug and I, Kaienne and Karina head back to the dairy in NE. Jan and Bill's car heads back to WI. We drove through the Badlands on the way. The girls had fun climbing the little hills as we stopped. Wheat harvest is going on in Western SD – later than usual, but we've all had a cooler than normal summer. The girls slept much of the afternoon on our drive to NE home.

● SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Our daughter Kristel and her husband Tim Guelig met us in NE with their daughters Karina and Kylee. We celebrated Kaienne's birthday and Tim's birthday. This afternoon Kaienne and I leave to head east. The rest of the family is staying in NE for a few days. Drove to Des Moines where we stayed at my sister's. She's making progress with her walking. She now has leg braces.

● SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

Kaienne and I left bright and early

because she needed to be back in WI by noon. Her birthday is tomorrow and her family wants her home to celebrate! 3,000 miles in a week is too much driving, but an awesome time together with family.

● MONDAY, AUGUST 24

A crazy week of meetings coming up, so I need to get lots done today! Our DNR permit renewal application is due Friday. Corey and our engineering firm have been working it up; now it's time to review their progress.

● TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

Morning at the office. Afternoon met with Texas A&M Ag Policy Advisory Group. Our farm has been part of this focus group for about 15 years. Texas A&M has focus groups for dairy and other ag commodities in different states around the country. They compile real data from multiple farms, both large and small. We meet every couple of years. Lots of red ink discussed today.

● WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26

Left at 6:00 A.M. for the quarterly



To meet new state regulations, Second Look is in the process of building a 5-million gallon lagoon to supplement their original 2-million gallon gravity lagoon.



WVDL Board meeting (Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory). I am a citizen rep on the board appointed by the governor. We meet quarterly. I'm proud of the progress WVDL has made over the past decade. A new lab has been built, and the lab just passed its recent certification with flying colors. This lab is a great resource for the WI livestock industry.

● THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

A.M. in the office, P.M. traveled to a milk marketing meeting. Met Doug there! A business meeting and a family reunion!

● FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

Milk marketing updates all morning, traveled back to WI in the P.M. and Doug back to NE. He'll be home before Labor Day weekend. For the past three years, we've had a cookout on Labor Day and all of our kids and grandkids have been able to attend. Looking forward to seeing everyone all at the same place again this year.

● SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Cold and damp today. Our local Threshere had a great turnout despite the weather. I helped in the food stand over the lunch hour. I dropped off more information at our tax accountants. With our multiple businesses, we now have an outside person prepare our income tax returns. We stagger the due dates throughout the year. It spreads the workload, but means there's something happening with taxes much of the year.

● SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Went to church, took my sister-in-law to the airport (she was visiting from Atlanta), and drove back to Des Moines for three days at my sister's. My youngest sister Barb has been helping Janice during her August vacation. Now I'll

stay for a few days until my Mom comes back to stay. Janice isn't cleared to drive yet, and has physical therapy three times a week. She has braces on her legs for a few months yet. Got to Des Moines around 10:00 P.M. Went a different route, through northern Illinois. Corn looks great this year in NE, IA, Northern Ill and southern WI. Hope it stays warm enough to mature.

● MONDAY, AUGUST 31

Called in for the farm Monday morning meeting at 6:30. Wherever we are, technology let's us touch base so everyone can report in. Janice had therapy at 10:00.

In the afternoon, I had some time to do farm tasks on the computer. With farms in two places, the laptop with the wireless internet card lets me connect wherever I am. This allows e-mailing to and from Brenda at the farm office, farm

partners Corey, Tammy and Doug, and other business communications. Truly a virtual office!

Tomorrow is the first day of school in Wisconsin. Granddaughter Kayli will start junior high. We're excited for her as she starts at a new school. She has an eye disability and has started using a cane. Kalista will be in 5th grade, Kaianne in 3rd, Karina Guelig in 2nd, Kaydence and Kylee Guelig are in preschool.

We expect to cut 4th crop hay over Labor Day weekend. We're dry, so the corn is starting to dry down, but don't expect it to mature fully until late September.

Well, there you have it . . . a slice of my summer. Every year brings new surprises and even more opportunities! The Hodorff Family will continue to work hard to stay on top of everything throughout the coming year.



Linda stands with her son Corey and his wife Tammy and their youngest daughter Kaydence.

plan now to attend your '09 DISTRICT MEETINGS

TUES december 1	Noon District 6 – G. Joe Lyon Reinig Center <i>Toledo, IA</i>	DECEMBER IS NOT THAT FAR AWAY! MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW WITH YOUR DISTRICT MEETING DATE!
WED december 2	Noon District 4 – Jim Schmitt New Vienna Community Hall <i>New Vienna, IA</i>	7:30 p.m. District 5 – Bill Strief KC Hall <i>Cascade, IA</i>
THUR december 3	Noon District 23 – Jeff Nimt Cardinal Country Inn <i>Brodhead, WI</i>	7:30 p.m. District 1 – Pat Schroeder Happy Joe's <i>Lancaster, WI</i>
FRI december 4	Noon District 13 – Randy Schaefer Fairview Mennonite Church <i>Kalona, IA</i>	
MON december 7		7:30 p.m. District 17 – Dale Humpal Community Presbyterian Church <i>Postville, IA</i>
TUES december 8	Noon District 15 – Loyde Beers Father Baer Hall <i>Eastman, WI</i>	8:00 p.m. District 20 – Steve Klug St. Mary's Catholic Church <i>Caledonia, MN</i>
WED december 9	Noon District 21 – Pam Bolin Doc's <i>Clarksville, IA</i>	7:30 p.m. District 16 – Ken Schmitz Club 16 <i>Sparta, WI</i>
THUR december 10	Noon District 19 – Eugene Smith Ponderosa Restaurant <i>Beaver Dam, WI</i>	7:30 p.m. District 2 – Francis Leibfried Banfield's Swiss Haus <i>Cuba City, WI</i>

swiss valley farms

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Somatic Cell Range % of **A** Farms

0 - 100,000.....	3%
100,001 - 200,000.....	19%
200,001 - 300,000.....	28%
300,001 - 400,000.....	23%
400,001 - 500,000.....	12%
500,001 and above.....	15%

Somatic Cell Range % of **B** Farms

0 - 100,000.....	3%
100,001 - 200,000.....	8%
200,001 - 300,000.....	18%
300,001 - 400,000.....	13%
400,001 - 500,000.....	11%
500,001 and above.....	47%

During the Month of August these Swiss Valley Farms Members averaged below 100,000 for their Somatic Cell count.

BAUS, RON & MARY	91,000
BIERSCHENK, CARY & JENNIFER	58,000
BREUCKMAN, CHAD	95,000
CAROLAN, KEVIN & DONNA	59,000
DEAVER, MIKE	94,000
DUWE, LOREN	70,000
GILBERTSON, LARRY	86,000
GRAND CENTRAL JERSEYS LLC	88,000
HELLENBRAND, BRENT N.	84,000
HENDEL FARMS	75,000
HODSON-DIRKSEN FARMS LLC	90,000
KETCHUM, ROBERT C & TERRI A	95,000
MEIER, BRIAN	80,000
MEIER, CHERYL	80,000
MEIER, MIKE	80,000
MILLER, MERLYN W	76,000
PETERSON, PER K.	50,000
SCHMITZ, KENNETH & MARLUS	84,000
SIEGLE, SANDRA SCHREMPF	86,000
SIEGLE, STEVEN D.	86,000
STATZ, KEVIN F	84,000
THOMPSON, LARRY & LIANE	99,000
WALZ, JEFF & MELINDA	96,000
WEIER, HARRY A	89,000

SWISS VALLEY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

DEBRA GIROT
ELIZABETH, IL

KELLY F. BREUNIG
MAZOMANIE, WI

SAM SWARTZENTRUBER
KALONA, IA

COUNTRY STORE

REFERENCE



50th Logo Swiss Valley T-shirt These t-shirts available in most sizes in navy and light blue in both long and short sleeves.

S – 3XL **REDUCED! PRICE NOW \$4**

Brown Hooded Sweatshirt with SVF name across front L **\$22** XL **\$23**

Junior T-Shirt in Two-Tone Brown and Teal with 3/4 sleeves. Great for the young ladies. These ladies' sizes run small.

M – XL **REDUCED! PRICE NOW \$4**

Bonnie Mohr Note cards a package of 8 note cards, that feature the Swiss Valley sunset.

Pack of eight -- **REDUCED! NOW \$2**

White Plastic Cheese Wire with two cutting sizes. SVF logo on the handle. **Price: \$2**

White Plastic Cutting Boards 9 by 7 inches plus 5-inch handle. **Price: \$5**

SVF Stocking Cap warm, knit stocking caps, navy blue with red stripes & SVF name woven into cuff.

Price: \$5

T-Shirt in Two-Tone Brown.

M – XL & 2XL **REDUCED! NOW \$4**

Junior T-Shirts in Two-Tone Blue with capped sleeves. Great for the young ladies. These sizes run VERY small.

S - XL **NOW \$5** 2XL **NOW \$4**

ITEM	QTY	SIZE	PRICE	TOTAL
Two-Tone Brown				
50th Logo T-shirt				
Navy Short				
Light Blue Short				
Navy Long				
Light Blue Long				
Hooded Sweatshirt				
Round Cheese Bd				
Wire cheese cutters				
Stocking Hat				
Bonnie Mohr				
Notecards				
Swiss Valley Farms				
Cutting Board				
TOTAL AMOUNT ORDERED				
ADD SHIPPING CHARGES				
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE				

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

Swiss Valley Farms, Sales Items
 P.O. Box 4493, Davenport, IA 52808
 All prices include tax. Allow 3 weeks for delivery.

Shipping Charges

Purchase Amount	Add
Up to \$20	\$5
\$20.01 to \$40	\$7
\$40.01 to \$60	\$8
\$60.01 to \$80	\$9
Over \$80	\$10

Your copy of
Dairyman SWISS VALLEY FARMS COOPERATIVE



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U.S. POSTAGE

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Permit No. 141
Davenport, IA

Post Office Box 4493
Davenport, IA 52808

Address Service Requested

Check Out Your District Meeting Schedule on Pg 13



**SAY "GOOD BYE"
TO LAZY SUMMER DAYS!**