

# Dairyman

AUGUST 2009



***MENNE FARM MOVING AHEAD***



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## new ideas surface **PRICE STABILIZATION**

by Don Boelens



CEO Don Boelens

The recent and devastating milk price slump has motivated dairy groups to come up with ways to fix what is perceived to be a broken milk pricing system in America – or to at least find a way to supplement it. The Holstein Association USA has developed a milk pricing system that is gaining national attention and some serious consideration by dairy organizations.

Called the Dairy Price Stabilization Program, this proposed plan is a national, mandatory supply management program that would be administered through USDA-FSA offices. An industry panel would determine milk production needs for each quarter and establish “allowable milk marketings” for each producer. Those who expanded production above their “base” would pay a “market access fee,” perhaps \$2 to \$3 per hundredweight on all milk sold. These fees will be pooled and a value per hundredweight will be calculated for distribution to all dairy producers who had not exceeded the “allowable milk marketings”. The program was developed by Gordon Cook, a Massachusetts Holstein breeder and John Meyer, CEO of Holstein Association USA, with input from University of Wisconsin dairy economist Bob Cropp.

Holstein Association USA is seeking endorsements for this program from co-ops across the country. While Swiss Valley Farms and its Board are studying this program, they have not yet endorsed it. I thought I would outline its major points here and let you, our members, take a look at it. If you have any comments regarding this program, please e-mail them to me on our member hotline, [MemberQuestions@swissvalley.com](mailto:MemberQuestions@swissvalley.com). Or feel free to discuss it with your local Board member.

### The Dairy Price Stabilization Program objectives:

- To prevent severely depressed producer milk prices that result in low and negative returns over feed costs.
- To reduce the volatility of dairy product prices and producer milk prices.
- Provide flexibility in allowing dairy producers who wish to expand their dairy operations as well as providing for new producers who wish to enter dairying.
- To complement and not replace other existing dairy programs such as the federal dairy price support program and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program. This program would reduce the federal government cost of both of these two programs.

### Program provisions:

- The program is mandatory in that all states will be included. However, it is flexible in that individual producers may decide to expand their dairy operation and new producers are allowed to enter the dairy industry. States having programs to grow their dairy industry will still be able to implement such programs.
- Each dairy producer will be assigned an initial base of raw milk marketings from April 1, 2008 through March 30, 2009. For those producers with less than a 12-month history and for new produc-

ers entering after the implementation date, their base will begin with their first full month of milk marketings and for the next 11 months. Each producer's base will be divided into their quarterly historical milk marketings. Bases are a moving base whereby at the beginning of the next 12-month period, a producer's base will be the recent past 12 months.

-- The base is assigned to the producer owning the producer license for the dairy operation.

-- Bases cannot be sold but can be transferred to someone who takes over the dairy operation on the existing facility.

-- Producers can combine their bases from two or more facilities into one dairy facility provided each producer holding one of the bases to be combined remains engaged in milk production of the operation in the combined facility.

-- In all other instances a producer's base ceases once the owner of the producer license no longer is actively producing and marketing milk.

-- The program will be administered by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture with an Advisory Board. This Board will include two dairy producers from each of 6 regions—the West, South, Southeast, Central, Midwest and Northeast; one consumer representative, one representative of dairy product firms (cheese, butter, milk powder or other manufactured products), one representative of a fluid milk bottler, and a dairy economist advisor.

-- The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with the Board will forecast the market for fluid milk and manufactured dairy products (total commercial disappearance) that include both the domestic market and exports for each quarter of the next 12 months. Taking into consideration the current level of milk production, a determination will be made as to the needed change in U.S. milk production to fulfill the market needs for each quarter of the next 12

months allowing for a producer raw milk price that is positive over operating costs as determined by the Board. The Board will meet quarterly with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to revise forecasts and to forecast out by quarter for the next 12-month period. The market needs by quarter is referred to as “allowable milk marketings”.

-- Dairy producers who maintain their milk marketings by quarter within the “allowable milk marketings” are not directly impacted by the program. Recognizing that milk production is affected by weather, feed quality, herd health, etc., a producer who exceeds the “allowable milk marketings” for a given quarter by two percent or less will not be impacted provided that their milk marketings for the entire 12-month period are within the “allowable milk marketings” and if so, any “market access fees” collected will be refunded.

-- Dairy producers who produce at or below their “allowable milk marketings” will not be impacted with a reduction in base in the future marketing periods.

-- Dairy producers who wish to expand their dairy operation and exceed the “allowable milk marketings” will be assessed a “market access fee” per hundredweight on total milk marketings. This “market access fee” will initially be in the range of \$2.00 to \$3.00 per hundredweight on all milk marketed as determined by the U.S. Secretary and the Board. Based on historical performance of the program, this market access fee may be increased or decreased, but cannot be increased for dairy producers currently being assessed the “market access fee” for the current 12-month marketing period.

-- For dairy producers who expand marketings beyond the “allowable milk marketings” and pay a “market access fee”, their fees would be collected and redistributed back to the dairy producers who held their milk marketings within the “allowable milk marketings”. Redis-

tribution of “market access fees” will be done annually at the anniversary date of the inception of this program.

-- Once it is determined that a dairy producer has expanded milk marketings beyond the “allowable milk marketings” for a given quarter, the dairy producer will have the “market access fee” deducted from their milk check in the following quarter and for the next three quarters. The dairy producer's higher milk marketings during the first quarter and following three quarters having a “market access fee” becomes the new and higher historical base to which milk marketings for the quarters for the next 12 months will be compared to. New dairy producers will have the “market access fee” deducted for the first four quarters of their milk marketings. Thereafter, the milk marketings during these four quarters become the new dairy producer's base to compare the next 12 months' milk marketings to.

-- As with Milk Income Loss Contract payments, dairy producers will file with their area USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office their history of milk production and monthly milk marketings to establish a milk base. If a dairy producer's milk marketings exceed the “allowable milk marketings” for a given quarter, the FSA office will notify the dairy producer's milk plant or dairy cooperative to deduct the “market access fee” starting the following quarter and for the next three quarters and submit the fees to the FSA office. Area FSA offices will submit “market access fees” collected to the national FSA office where they will be pooled and a value per hundredweight will be calculated for distribution to all dairy producers who had not exceeded the “allowable milk marketings”.

-- Transfers of bases from one dairy producer to another or the combination of bases must be approved by the area FSA office.

# At the Menne Dairy KIDS & COWS FLOURISH TOGETHER

by Nancy Feeney

The 35 members on the Fayette County Dairy Promotion Committee selected one very busy young couple who farm right on the edge of West Union, Iowa as their 2009 Fayette County Outstanding Young Dairy Producers. Jason and Sara Menne have been extremely busy with their dairy as well as their family since the start of this millennium.

The Menne farm's history began in 1975 when Richard and Kathy Menne moved to this 344-acre site when their son Jason was 2 years old. Over the following years, the farm blossomed into a beautiful, almost idyllic looking Iowa dairy where Holsteins and Jerseys graze on the gently sloping landscape that

surrounds a handsome gray barn.

Jason loved dairying with his father and in 1996, he started to add registered Holsteins to the herd. The next year Jason flushed his favorite brood cow, a Holstein named Creek Durham Sandi. He is now milking the fourth generation from this cow and has sold bulls from her flushings to A.I.

In 2000, Jason married Sara, who was a college friend of his sister Stephanie. Sara loved dairying, too, and the next year, the newlyweds set up a partnership with Jason's parents. Both young people have found their college studies to be useful on their dairy. Sara has a degree in Wildlife Management from Upper Iowa

University. Jason has a degree in electrical and residential wiring from Calmar.

In 2002, the couple began purchasing registered Jerseys. Now half of the Menne herd of 85 cows is registered. Their rolling herd average is 21,800 pounds with 3.6 Butterfat and 3.1 Protein. They milk in a tie stall barn.

Jason says that it is not income beneficial to have a hired man, but he does have one part-time worker to help with t h e



crops. His father Richard helps with the field work and with the machinery. So far, they have raised most of their own feed – corn, corn silage and hay, and have only had to buy a little western hay. Next year, they plan on going to all corn silage and western hay. They hope to get more tonnage per acre that way.

Sara says their wish list includes improving and updating their cow comfort. “Our pasture mats were

installed in 1996,” she says. “But now we need new mats.”

Jason says his genetics’ goals are to improve the cow’s udder and legs and to promote longevity. He also hopes to send even more bulls to A.I. as well as send some heifers to consignment sales. He flushes embryos three or four times a year and has sold some frozen embryos to GenX.

“Selling genetics is a good source of revenue,” Sara says. “We would like to increase this revenue in the future.”

Jason is on the Fayette County DHIA Board and he has been the



Above: Ariana with her favorite cow. Richard & Jason Menne chat with their Swiss Valley Farms field rep Jim Murphy. At left: The Menne’s favorite Holstein, Creek Durham Sandi. Below, Sara & Jason gather the twins and their best cows for a family photo.



Sarah Menne loves to watch as her twins, Ariana and Calvin, interact with the cows.



president of the Fayette County Holstein Association Board for the past four years. He is also a Holstein District I Board member and attends their meetings three times a year.

In addition to Jason and Sara's busy dairy and farm schedule, two years ago they added another lively component to their operation -- their twins, Ariana and Kalvin. This pair keeps both parents and grandparents really busy with their chatter and antics. Everyone notices that this brother-sister combo seems to thrive on the farm life.

"Ariana adores the cows and shows no fear around them whatsoever," her mother proudly says. "Kalvin seems to have leanings towards being a mechanic," Grandpa Richard points out. "Machinery fascinates him and



At left, Richard Menne enjoys taking his young grandchildren exploring on the farm.

Below, Sara & Jason lead their cows back to the barn with the twins in tow.

he likes to get in there and see how it works."

and will no doubt carry it forward into the third generation.

This pair of fearless toddlers has staked their claim on the Menne farm



SWISS VALLEY GALS PRESENTS:

## “A FUNNY THING HAPPENED WHILE I WAS AT WORK”

The Swiss Valley Gals are in for a rare treat at their Fall meetings! Life is full of fun and quirky moments and your co-op's Member Relations Department has experienced plenty of them in the past 40 years.

Retired Member Relations Director Richard Walgrave will be teaming up with Nancy Feeney, the current Member Relations Manager, to resurrect some of the funnier and more unique moments that occurred while they were on the job for Swiss Valley Farms. A special crowd-interactive style will be used so you can help them bring these moments to life. So come on down to the meeting and join in the fun! If you know either Dick or Nancy, then you know they can get themselves into some interesting situations! You won't want

to miss this meeting!

Any woman who belongs to Swiss Valley Farms Cooperative or who works for a co-op member is eligible to attend this meeting. Be sure to talk to your other area co-op members to see if you can arrange to car pool to the meeting. You can save on gas and have even more fun visiting with other Swiss Valley Gals.

Pick out the date of your favorite meeting place, mark in on your calendar and make plans to attend one of these luncheon meetings. In your August milk check, you will be seeing your green Swiss Valley Gals return reservation post card. Fill it out and mail it back so you will have your place reserved for this round of meetings.

Hope to see you there!

### 2009 FALL SWISS VALLEY GAL MEETING SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 15 – BETTY'S BREAD BASKET --  
MANCHESTER, IOWA**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 16 – HUCKLEBERRY'S REST. --  
PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, WIS**

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 17 – PICKWICK MILL REST. --  
PICKWICK, MINN.**

**REGISTRATION: 11 AM LUNCH: 11:45 AM SPEAKER: 12:30 PM**

**ADJOURNMENT: 2 PM**

dairy journals

# BUSY WITH KIDS, WORK & FARM

by Jill Lamborn

**T**his month's Journal writer is Jill Lamborn of Luana, Iowa. Jill was raised on a farm near Allison, Iowa, where they had cattle, pigs, sheep, horses and dogs. Her father also crop farmed with his brother. "We grew up all helping out on the farm," Jill says. "I actually preferred going outside to help my dad and leaving the housework up to my older sister and mom!" Tragically, her father and younger brother died six years ago in a farm accident.

Jill now lives with her husband Mark and four children on a family

dairy farm. Their children are: Brock, 6; Blake, 4; Avery, 2½, and Jaxon, 6 months. Jill takes care of the home and children, but also works two days a week as a Radiologic Technologist/Mammographer at the Gundersen Lutheran clinic in Decorah.

Mark represents the sixth generation of dairy farming on Lamborn Farms LLC, where 170 Holsteins are milked twice a day. Their rolling herd average is 22,000 with a 3.7% butterfat and 2.9% protein. The farm is run by Mark and his parents, Larry and Jane, with Mark be-

ing the primary milker. Zach Burns, an NICC graduate, is their hired man.

Jill and Mark are very active in the Swiss Valley Farms Young Cooperator Program and were the 2007 Outstanding Young Cooperator Contest Winners. They have represented Swiss Valley Farms at two National Milk Producer Federation Dairy Summits, one in Orlando, FL and one in Nashville, Tenn.

Jill took the time to journal about her life on the farm during this past spring while in the midst of a big remodeling project in the basement of



At left: Jill Lamborn cradles her youngest children in her arms during a visit with Daddy and the cows. The spring and summer has been a bit more hectic than normal for the second-generation dairy family while they undergo a major home remodeling project to create some much needed space for their growing family.

their small home. “We will have three bedrooms, an office, bathroom and family room in the basement,” Jill says. “The three oldest kids will have their rooms there. We are basically doubling our living space, which is much needed.”

### ● WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

At 4 am, Mark is off to the farm. Around 5, 6-month-old Jaxon decides he has waited long enough, it's time to eat. At 6, Mark is back home to eat breakfast and get Brock up for school. Brock gets on the bus around 7:20 and then back up to the farm Mark goes. This afternoon, the neighbor girl, Kelsey, is coming over to watch the kids so I can paint in Blake's room. My mom came today to stay for a few days. The kids love it when she comes always asking what she brought for them. I was able to talk Mark into

finishing priming Blake's room after supper.

### ● FRIDAY, APRIL 3

It's Friday! Brock gets to go to his first birthday party at a friend's house after school today. He's excited! Mark has a busy morning at the farm. I think he told me he has 17 cows to breed. The guys are busy trying to haul manure before it gets warmer out. Daddy promised Blake that he could ride with him after milking was done. Blake thought for sure Daddy broke his promise! Around 7:30 pm, Daddy and the tractor showed up. Blake, Brock and Avery all loaded in the tractor to haul manure. Even though it was only one load, it made the kids' night.

### ● SATURDAY, APRIL 4

It's going to be a sunny morning! Too bad they tell us snow is on the way. The guys are still hauling manure. I'm attempting to get the house picked up today. Mark and I, along with Jaxon, are going to my co-worker's wedding this afternoon. The two neighbor girls are watching the kids. We got home around 9:30 pm and lights were still on at the farm. Mark checked in and they had two fresh ones, which took longer.

### ● SUNDAY, APRIL 5

The snow is starting to fall! Even the kids aren't excited this time. The roads were slippery taking Brock to Sunday school. Luckily Mark went back to pick him up. The kids and I always look forward to Sundays, the day Daddy is home, other than normal daily chores.

### ● MONDAY, APRIL 6

The snow is already gone. Thank goodness it doesn't stick around this time of year. Mark is trying to finish working on equipment. They need to seed the oats!

### ● TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Everyone is up and going this morning! Brock to school, Blake and Avery to Daycare, and then to the doctor Jaxon and I go. They have herd health at the farm today, which usually takes most of the morning.

### ● WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

There is someone from Pfizer coming today to look at the farm. The vet clinic set this up, hoping to get some suggestions with how to run the farm more efficiently. It's a free service so they figured it didn't hurt to have her come out. Mark and I started putting on the first coat of color in Blake's room. Now we know again why we don't do these things until the kids are in bed! Avery fell in the paint first and then after getting cleaned up, she touched the wet walls!

### ● THURSDAY, APRIL 9

This morning, I was able to put a second coat of color on Blake's room. I get to go to Brock's conference at school this afternoon. His teacher only had good things to say, which makes us very proud. Brock got to spend the afternoon with his Dad. The hoof trimmer was busy at the farm today. Blake and Avery were able to go to the farm, too, after Daycare. Some alone time for Jaxon and me! Daddy brought the kids home on the Kubota, which they love!

### ● FRIDAY, APRIL 10

No school for Brock today, Easter/spring break. Kelsey is coming over today to help me with the kids. I always have cleaning/laundry to do plus I wanted to

get more painting done in the basement. The kids were able to play outside!

### ● SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Beautiful day out today! We have Easter at Mark's parents' today at noon. The guys have been working at seeding oats. They will be taking a break for Easter dinner, and they will leave things to Zach, the hired man, for a few hours. We colored Easter eggs and had a little hunt at our house tonight. Even though Mark got home pretty late, the kids still made him help hide/hunt for the eggs. Needless to say the eggs were destroyed and crushed by the time night came. They still had fun, which is all that matters.

### ● SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Easter Sunday. Mark went with us to sunrise service. The Easter bunny found our house, which made the kids very

happy. After attempting pictures of the 4 kids, we were off to my mom's house for the day, about a 2-hour trip. Mark stayed home to hopefully get some much needed farm work done. After only making it a couple miles out of Postville, about 20 minutes from home, Daddy to the rescue! Avery tends to get car sick and guess what, she did! All over her pretty Easter dress, car seat, coat, everything! Mark met us halfway with new clothes and car seat. Well, back on the road. We made it to Grandma's in good time luckily. We got home around 8 and Mark was getting home about the same time.

### ● MONDAY, APRIL 13

My maternity leave is almost up. Twelve weeks has sure flown by.

### ● WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Bright and early Mark and Zach are headed to Cascade to finish tearing down some hoop buildings the farm had bought. My washing machine decided to leak this morning and Mark isn't around! Mark's dad came down to take a look but wasn't quite sure where it was leaking. So much for getting much needed laundry done, oh well. Mark and Zach made it back in decent time today and back to chores they go.

Supper time is family time as the Lamborns gather around the table to share pizza as well as the day's events.



● **THURSDAY, APRIL 16**

My first day back to work. I don't really think it's too exciting to go back though. Mark is ready for me to have my paycheck again. I definitely keep my job for the benefits. Being married to a self-employed farmer, the health insurance is a big plus.

● **FRIDAY, APRIL 17**

My second day at work. Blake told me that I would miss Jaxon today and I told him I would and I would miss him, too. Then he informed me that he wouldn't miss Jaxon because he would be with him! The things kids say! Well, Avery got carsick this morning again, yuck! I was able to get her cleaned up and into Sue's house only being 10 minutes late to work even after meeting Mark to switch car seats. I didn't want the yucky car seat to sit in my warm van all day.

● **SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

We made it to church this morning. The kids behaved pretty well. Now that they outnumber me even more, we don't get to church too often without Mark. It's going to be a much needed lazy day for us. Jaxon, Avery and I took a little rest while Brock and Blake talked Daddy into playing farm with all of Daddy's old toy tractors/equipment. Mark is still pretty attached to those things.

● **MONDAY, APRIL 20**

Jaxon has a doctor appointment this morning. Blake and Avery are going with us this time. After his appointment we

are headed to the meat locker to pick up our beef. Now our freezer is full again!

● **TUESDAY, APRIL 21**

Brock is off to school this morning knowing he gets to go to the farm when he gets off the bus. Avery, Jaxon and I are going to Waterloo to meet my mom. They are getting their picture taken after lunch. Then we went to Sam's Club, Wal-Mart, Target, etc. Mainly bought necessities other than a few spring clothes for the kids. They are all growing so much. Blake got to spend the day at the farm. They had the vet there in the morning for herd health plus the vet was back later for two DA surgeries.

● **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22**

I'm going to work today to fill in for my co-worker. The kids talked me into going to the park tonight, I just couldn't say no, plus it was beautiful out, around 60 degrees. We brought pizza home from town for supper. Mark ate and then went to the field to work up the ground to seed more oats tomorrow. The alfalfa just isn't coming up like they had hoped.

● **THURSDAY, APRIL 23**

We stay home today. Blake and Avery went outside to watch Daddy in the field, he is right next to our house today. My washer gave me trouble again today, more water on the floor. Mark fixed it yet again during noontime. Mark was busy working on equipment again after supper. I was busy trying to give baths. Where did Avery get into so much dirt?

Her scalp was just full of it. Now I know how much I appreciate the boys wearing hats at all times!

● **FRIDAY, APRIL 24**

Jaxon was up around 3 am wanting to eat. He hasn't done that for a while. He is a good sleeper for us so far.

● **SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

I'm off to work this morning. I rotate working every 3rd Saturday morning. Mark is taking the kids to his Mom's. Grandma watched the kids extra today for me so I could try to do some quick cleaning before the neighbor girls come to watch the kids tonight. Mark and I are going to card club. We go once a month. There are a total of eight couples.

● **MONDAY, APRIL 27**

Well, our carpenter was back today because of rain! I am praying for rain, wanting to get the basement remodeling done while Mark, along with all other farmers, want it to wait until the crops are in.

● **TUESDAY, APRIL 28**

I decided to start staining some of our woodwork. We have lots to do!

● **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29**

Did a little more staining but Jaxon decided I had done enough today. He wanted more attention.

● **THURSDAY, APRIL 30**

Back to work for me today. The guys have timed breeding shots tonight, which makes it an even later night. Mark

brought the kids home from his mom's house. I worked late and then picked up some groceries at Wal-Mart. Mark refuses to go to Wal-Mart with me if at all possible. It's easier going without the kids, too.

#### ● FRIDAY, MAY 1

The guys have 21 cows to breed this morning. That will definitely take up the entire morning! The van needs to get fixed today, so I am getting a ride to work with one of our neighbors. She works across the highway from me.

#### ● SATURDAY, MAY 2

Well, the kids and I are off to my mom's house today. We have a wedding to go to later in the day. Mark stayed home. They started planting corn today. It's always interesting taking kids to weddings. They did alright, just had too much silverware in front of them to play with!

#### ● MONDAY, MAY 4

Mark continues to plant corn and do the numerous daily chores everyday. Some

days I just don't understand how he functions with such little sleep.

#### ● TUESDAY, MAY 5

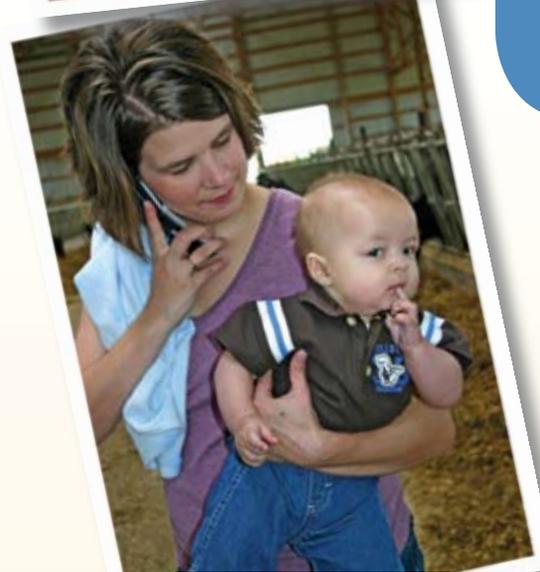
The kids played outside most of the day. Mark continues to plant putting in long hours. Herd health at the farm this morning along with the gal from Pfizer back today to go over her findings at the farm. She gave suggestions on cow health including treating mastitis and other tips on improving work flow and efficiency.

#### ● WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

I'm going to "try," yes, I said "try" to get some housework done today. My mom is coming later today. Sue, our daycare provider, took the week off. She has deserved a vacation for quite some time. It's Grandma Week! My mom is watching the kids Thursday while Mark's mom is doing Friday. We are very thankful they are able and willing to help us out.

#### ● THURSDAY, MAY 7

Mark is working on equipment today. Still too wet to get back into the field.



At left, three generations of Lamborns gather with their top herdsman Zach Burns, left, in front of the farm signs. Top: the Lamborn's basement remodel means Avery gets a pink bedroom with a pink bookcase. Middle: Jill checks in with her husband about supper plans while Jaxon hangs out. Above, Brock, left, and Blake help their dad by kicking feed up for the cows in the stanchion barn.



A ride in the Kubota with Dad is always a treat! At right, brother helps brother train a young calf to be lead in a show ring.

● SUNDAY, MAY 10

We are all going out for dinner at noon in Prairie du Chien and then to True Value to pick up a few more supplies needed for staining/varnishing. Mark got the lawn mower out and ready for me quick before going back to the farm to do evening chores. I got done what I could mowing before it got too late.

● MONDAY, MAY 11

Looking at all of our woodworking in the garage is very overwhelming, lots of work to be done. Mark is going to try to get back in the field today.

● TUESDAY, MAY 12

My grandparents are coming today to help me with staining/varnishing. Grandpa and I worked on the woodwork while Grandma took care of Jaxon. Grandma also kept my washer and dryer going at all times. I told Grandpa I wondered what our electric bill was going to be while Grandpa laughed saying he was wondering if she will wear out both machines!

● SATURDAY, MAY 16

The kids are going to “farm” Grandma’s house this morning. I am at work this morning. Mark and I are going on a “date” tonight. That sure doesn’t happen very often. Mark already lined up his mom for the kids. We went out to eat and then to a movie. It was good to get away, just the two of us. We ended the night going to Mark’s favorite place, Wal-Mart!

● SUNDAY, MAY 17

Mark decided to take the kids mushroom hunting this morning, along with our dog, Vernzy. I decided to mow lawn today.

● MONDAY, MAY 18

My mom came this afternoon bound and determined to help me “find” some of my house again. We went quickly to town to buy some totes to start packing things away. Thank goodness for take out pizza! Godfather’s for supper tonight.

● TUESDAY, MAY 19

Herd health at the farm this morning. Jane called, some heifers got out and no guys are around! Since my mom was here I was able to go help best I could. Brock has his spring concert at school this afternoon. He is excited. It is an “Old West” theme. We all went along with my mom and my grandparents. Mark’s mom and grandma were able to make it also. We all enjoyed the performance very much. Grandpa and Grandma are determined to help me stain/varnish again. We worked at it a while and were able to get quite a bit finished. I started priming Avery’s room, too.

● WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

Mark took more doors apart for us to do some more staining. Six-panel doors take extra time, but are beautiful and hopefully worth the work in the end. Blake and I are going to get him registered for pre-school tonight. He is excited.

● CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Life married to a dairy farmer and raising four kids definitely has its rollercoaster ups and downs. We are very blessed to have very active and healthy children. We are also glad to live so close to the farm yet fortunate to be a little distance away for the safety of our young family. It’s almost as if the kids can hear their Dad start up his truck to come home! They are usually waiting, not always patiently, for his arrival.

Mark gets numerous calls from the kids asking when he will be home. When they ask me, I always answer with “I don’t know” because it is the truth. Brock, Blake and Avery all love going to the farm and spending time with Daddy and the cows!

As for me, life is very hectic. I do my best to stop and look around and remember to appreciate every day, which some days is very hard. My grandparents tell me, “These are the best days of your lives!” I know I need to remember that daily and remind myself that these little ones are only little so long, you can never get those childhood days back. I want our kids to be able to remember “special” things they did when they were growing up, and being raised on a dairy farm will be a huge part of that.

As for this journal, it only puts into words part of what goes on in my life. If anything, it has helped me realize what really does happen on a day-to-day basis.

# Get Those Cameras Out! GET IN THE CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST



Have you taken a photo on your farm or at the fair that you think would look good on the 2010 Swiss Valley Farms calendar? If so, then you may want to enter it in the SVF Calendar Photo Contest. We are looking for pictures of people of all ages living and working on their dairy farms.

It is important to note that photo reproduction quality is an important consideration!

- Be sure your picture is sharply in focus.
- If you are using a film camera, make a good quality 8" by 10" or 5" by 7" print and mail that in. Please include a mailing label with your address on it so I can return this fine photo to you.
- If it is a digital photo, the higher the resolution, the better. Be sure your camera is on its highest pixel/quality setting.
- E-mail your digital photos to me at [nancy.feeney@swissvalley.com](mailto:nancy.feeney@swissvalley.com). Don't worry about them being too big to e-mail. Our system can handle big attachments.

- If your digital photos are too large for you to e-mail, burn them on a cd and mail it to me at:

**Swiss Valley Farms Cooperative  
Calendar Photo Contest  
P.O. Box 4493  
Davenport, Iowa 52808**

Cash prizes will be awarded for the top four photos. Any other photos we use on the calendar will receive an Honorable Mention prize.

It's never too early to start taking photos. We need them from all the seasons.

**Photo Contest Deadline is September 30, 2009.**

Enter as many photos as you like at any time before the deadline.

Good luck to everyone! Help me build a great 2010 Swiss Valley Farms Calendar.

## SWISS VALLEY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

**RON & MARY BAUS**  
*MOUNT CALVARY, WIS*

**JAMES DONLON**  
*MCGREGOR, IOWA*

**ALAN ELSBERND**  
*CALMAR, IOWA*

**BRUCE MEINDERS**  
*BUFFALO CENTER, IOWA*

**CARL SCHMITT**  
*FORT ATKINSON, IOWA*

**PETER SCHMITT**  
*FORT ATKINSON, IOWA*

**RICHARD & JOLENE  
SCHULZ**  
*NEOSHO, WIS*

**DONALD TOWNSEND JR.**  
*READSTOWN, WIS*

**NICHOLAS & JESSI  
WESTHOFF**  
*GUTTENBERG, IOWA*

**LEROY WIPPERFURTH**  
*LODI, WIS*

# FIELD PERSONNEL & STATS

## Field Department & Procurement Division Directory

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**Home** 608.744.3515

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**Bob Zielsdorf**  
309 North St. • Sparta, WI 54656

**Office** 608.366.1770  
**Home** 608.269.5452

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

BAUS, RON & MARY	52,000
BIERSCHENK, CARY & JENNIFER	53,000
BREUCKMAN, CHAD	88,000
CADDEN, GEORGE & JUDY L.	92,000
CAROLAN, KEVIN & DONNA	53,000
DAMROW, DON	69,000
DEAVER, MIKE	96,000
DREIER, RANDY D.	75,000
DUWE, LOREN	99,000
GAUL, MICHAEL G	89,000
GAUL, PETER E	89,000
GILBERTSON, LARRY	76,000
GINGERICH, SAMMIE E	73,000
GRAND CENTRAL JERSEYS LLC	94,000
HELLENBRAND, BRENT N.	91,000
HENDEL FARMS	62,000
HOFMEISTER, DALLAS & PAT	76,000
KABARA, JAMES	98,000
KETCHUM, ROBERT C & TERRI A	65,000
KLOSTERMAN, RICH & SANDY	90,000
LANDT, NEIL	98,000
LUCAS, LAVERNE	93,000
MEIER, BRIAN	70,000
MEIER, CHERYL	70,000
MEIER, MIKE	70,000
MILLER, MERLYN W	85,000
OAT HILL	89,000
PETERSON, PER K.	78,000
REGO, DAVID & LINDA	59,000
SCHAEFER, JEFFREY G	81,000
SCHAEFER, KURT	81,000
SCHAEFER, SUSAN	81,000
SCHMITZ, KENNETH & MARLUS	64,000
SCHNEIDER, SAM D	95,000
SELKE, WALTER	90,000
SELKE, WILLIAM	90,000
SEXTON FARMS	93,000
STANTON, GORDON	94,000
STATZ, KEVIN F	91,000
STAUFFER, TITUS	72,000
THOMPSON, LARRY & LIANE	64,000
VALLEY VIEW DAIRY INC	98,000
WALZ, JEFF & MELINDA	83,000
WEIER, HARRY A	43,000

Somatic Cell Range % of **A** Farms

0 - 100,000.....	5%
100,001 - 200,000.....	20%
200,001 - 300,000.....	28%
300,001 - 400,000.....	21%
400,001 - 500,000.....	13%
500,001 and above.....	13%

Somatic Cell Range % of **B** Farms

0 - 100,000.....	8%
100,001 - 200,000.....	13%
200,001 - 300,000.....	15%
300,001 - 400,000.....	15%
400,001 - 500,000.....	8%
500,001 and above.....	41%

# COUNTRY STORE



**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 ~~\$14~~ **NOW \$11**

**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 ~~\$14~~ **REDUCED! NOW \$9**

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

Pack of eight **\$5**

**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 ~~\$14~~ **NOW \$9 REDUCED!**

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

S - XL ~~\$9~~ **NOW \$5** 2XL ~~\$10~~ **NOW \$6**

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



Post Office Box 4493  
Davenport, IA 52808

*Address Service Requested*

swiss valley farms

## Outstanding YC Contest is Sept. 9

**C**alling all Swiss Valley Farms Young Co-operators! September 9th is the date of the Outstanding Young Cooperator Contest. It will be held in Prairie du Chien, Wis. at Huckleberry's Restaurant off of Hwy 35 on the south side of town.

The contest will begin at 11 a.m. with an informal "getting to know you" chat and luncheon with the co-op Board's Industry and Member Relations Committee. Individual interviews will be held after lunch.

The top two winners will be representing Swiss Valley Farms at the next National Milk Producers Federations annual Dairy Summit, which will be held in November in Dallas, Texas.

Contact Nancy Feeney at [nancy.feeney@swiss-valley.com](mailto:nancy.feeney@swiss-valley.com) to get a YC Contest application. Or call Nancy at 563-468-6600 to get an application mailed to you or to ask questions regarding the contest or the trip.