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Our 45<sup>th</sup> Year

# FARMSHINE

We rise every week to cover farmers and agribusinesses

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Cousins Steve and Matt Walton, along with Matt's son, Drew, run a very clean and highly efficient dairy operation that was started by Steve and Matt's grandfather in 1951 with

50 cows. Today, this 73-year old family farm is cutting-edge modern and home to 1400 cows averaging 90+ pounds of milk and 7 pounds of butterfat and protein combined per cow

per day. Self-sufficiency includes two milk trucks like the one pictured.

Photos by Dieter Krieg

## Attention to details brings steady growth and long-term success

*The Waltons don't miss a beat, building on a foundation of values laid by grandfather, father and uncle*

By DIETER KRIEG  
Farmshine Editor

COCHRANVILLE, Pa. — "It's in our blood" and "baby steps" are memorable words spoken by Matt Walton and his son, Drew, on Monday, June 23rd. The short phrases are strong hints of a forward-thinking, confident attitude, which becomes even more evident with a brief tour of the landscape.

Started by Matt's grandfather, Horace, in 1951 with around 50 cows, the farm grew in "baby steps" to where it is today: 1400 cows.

"In today's business model, if you're not growing in some shape or form, then you're likely going backwards," observed

Matt, who represents the third generation at Walton Farms, LLC, located amidst the picturesque, gently rolling hills of southern Chester County, Pa. Counting rented ground, they farm close to 1800 acres to feed their 1400 cows and 900 heifers.

Well known for their progressive management and outreach, the Waltons have had their success summarized by the Center for Dairy Excellence with these words:

*"Outstanding forages, comfortable and contented cows, premier genetics and great, dedicated employees are the keys to success at Walton Farms."*

"Doing a lot of little things right adds up to a lot," Matt affirmed with a modest smile during the recent interview. His statement reflects the values taught by his grandfather, father and uncle and again the proof is in what you see. The property is well kept and worthy of the Dairy of Distinction sign mounted on a wall of the farm's meeting room. Spacious and clean, it overlooks the 40-stall rotary milking parlor that's been in use since early 2016.

"Doing all the little things right keeps us busy," Matt admitted, adding that being busy is not a bad thing. Especially when you enjoy what you're doing. "It all comes down to efficiency," he reminded. Whether in the parlor, barn, field or

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### PERIODICAL • DO NOT DELAY

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## 97 MILK seeks volunteers to increase outreach

EPHRATA, Pa. — The grassroots non-profit 97 MILK has been in the Lancaster, Lebanon, and Berks community for over five years now with the mission of providing milk education to the community.

While the website, social media, painted bales and signs have spread to other states, it's the connection of dairy farmers to their local communities through events that needs boosting, which means more volunteers are needed.

Community events have started for the year over the past several weeks and 97 MILK has been visible at several of them. From these events, 97 MILK is able to track and see a big uptick in social media and website activity.

"We are seeing an increase of 75% on event dates," reports volunteer marketing manager Jackie Behr. "Our community is speaking, and they are using 97 MILK as an educational tool. These events are bringing 97 MILK a lot of new traffic."

The 97 MILK effort is run by volunteers. The more volunteers there are, the more events the organization can attend.

"We don't want to burn out the volunteers we have, and often it's the same volunteers showing up," Behr explains. "We need your help. We need more volunteers."

Specifically, 97 MILK is looking for volunteers to head up local fall fairs in their own communities.

Behr explains that this involves being the one to contact their local fair and request a space for 97 MILK to have a booth, as well as finding the volunteers to help man or set up that booth, while 97 MILK provides the booth elements, including the materials needed for each event.

The more volunteers who get involved, the more events 97 MILK can attend, and the more people will be reached with milk education.

Those who have volunteered say it is a rewarding experience, especially when the job is an easy one -- spreading the good news about whole milk and dairy, with all of the materials provided.

Help 97 MILK make those event connections and see the fruit of our labor multiply through the website and social media platforms as education tools.

Those interested in volunteering with 97 MILK for future events or if interested in being an organizer to bring 97 MILK to an upcoming fair or event, please call Mark Leid at 717-445-6548.

**"This is the one that works. We use the backpack every day to do the fresh cow group."**

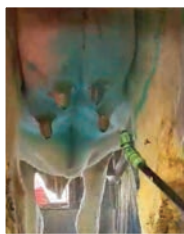
— Brad Palmer



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*Dr. Patricia Kitchen leads Pennsylvania Holstein Association*

# Shiny new pennies help keep Juniors on their toes

By **RENEE TROUTMAN**  
Special for Farmshine

MYERSTOWN, Pa. — Pennsylvania Holstein juniors competing in the prepared and extemporaneous speech contests at the National Holstein Convention probably don't have any tricks up their sleeve, but they likely have a penny in their shoe. That would be because of Dr. Patricia Kitchen of Danville, Pa. It's become her simple but thoughtful way to send well wishes to the juniors representing Pennsylvania on the national level.

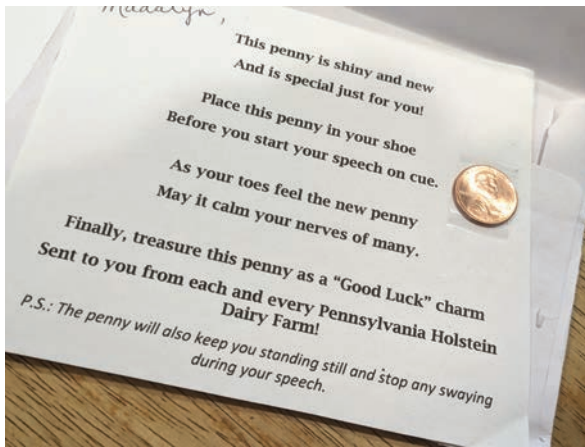
The penny isn't necessarily a good luck charm because there is a strategy to its placement. "I don't remember where I first heard about it, but I had learned that a penny in your shoe under your toes will prevent swaying," she explained. That swaying may subconsciously be a natural tendency when speaking before a group, but it's not ideal when competing against the best in the nation and every detail counts.

The penny placed in the shoe will gravitate towards the toes, giving the speaker a purposefulness in their posture and stance. It's just enough of an awkward feeling to serve as a reminder to plant your feet.

Patricia coached her local Dairy Bowl teams for over 25 years and she was known to encourage her juniors to extend themselves and try other contests available at the state convention. For those who chose to give a prepared speech, she would casually hand a penny to the juniors she coached to slip into their shoe before entering the speech room. "The kids would laugh and it would make the moment a little less tense," Patricia reflected.

The 2016 National Holstein Convention in Saratoga Springs, New York is where Patricia first handed pennies to all Pennsylvania juniors as they prepared for their turn in front of the speech judges. That year Patricia was at the national convention to watch her son, Daniel, compete in Dairy Jeopardy.

Patricia's gesture may be small, but it comes packed with thoughtfulness and assurances. Several years ago she took her penny idea to another level, creating a card with an original poem explaining her intent and mailing it a few weeks ahead of the contest, just when juniors are getting in gear for the task that lies ahead. And of course, affixed to the card



is a brand new shiny penny, minted in the year of the contest.

"That's really the hardest thing about this project; finding enough brand-new pennies," Patricia stated. Banks are not guaranteed to have new pennies in stock, nor do they care to take the time to find pennies with a specific year. Patricia has to be on the search to find enough of the pennies she needs through ordinary financial transactions. This year she was fortunate. While checking out at a sandwich shop extra shiny coins in the surplus penny box at the cash register caught her attention. Sure enough, those extra shiny pennies were the 2024 pennies she needed to send to juniors so she swapped those out for older models.

"I'm not doing it for accolades. I just see it as a nice way adults can interact with the juniors," Patricia said. "I want the juniors to know that we are watching and we're proud of what they're doing. It's a big deal just to participate on the national level."

Patricia was the 2010 PAL (Pennsylvania Adult Leader) award winner, a prestigious award that recognizes an adult leader, parent or friend who is always there for the junior Holstein program. The award thanks that individual for their

**Dr. Kitchen wants the juniors to know that we are watching and we're proud of what they're doing. A card that she sent to Madalyn Troutman shows her dedication to supporting youths.**



leadership and influence that drives the success of the junior program.

Not only has Patricia influenced countless Holstein juniors but her three children, Sara, Mark, and Daniel, all participated in numerous contests at Junior Holstein conventions over the years and rose as national qualifiers many times. Patricia credits their travel to national conventions for providing numerous benefits for her entire family.

Patricia is also in her first year serving as president of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, the first woman to ever hold the position.

The 2024 National Holstein Convention was held June 23-26 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Approximately 30 Pennsylvania juniors who competed and qualified at the state convention competed in various contests.



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# Farmshine Editorials

By Dieter Krieg  
*Farmshine Editor*



“The greatest tyrannies are always perpetuated in the name of the noblest of causes.”

— Thomas Paine

## U.S. Department of Agriculture is not your friend

**B**elieve it. Make no mistake. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is not your friend. They are whole milk’s executioner.

The proof has been out there for years, although it took some time to connect the dots and follow the trail. In hindsight, we see that the Dairy Promotion Act of 1983 — which sounded so good at the time — was designed to fund the demise of dairy farms. Undeniably, it has been extremely effective.

And, as with any large-scale, social transition, children are being used as “change agents”. That’s why banning whole milk in schools is a sure-fire way to achieve the ultimate goal: taking whole milk off of American tables. Children are the “change agents”. They won’t know any better; quite possibly not ever having had the chance to taste whole milk.

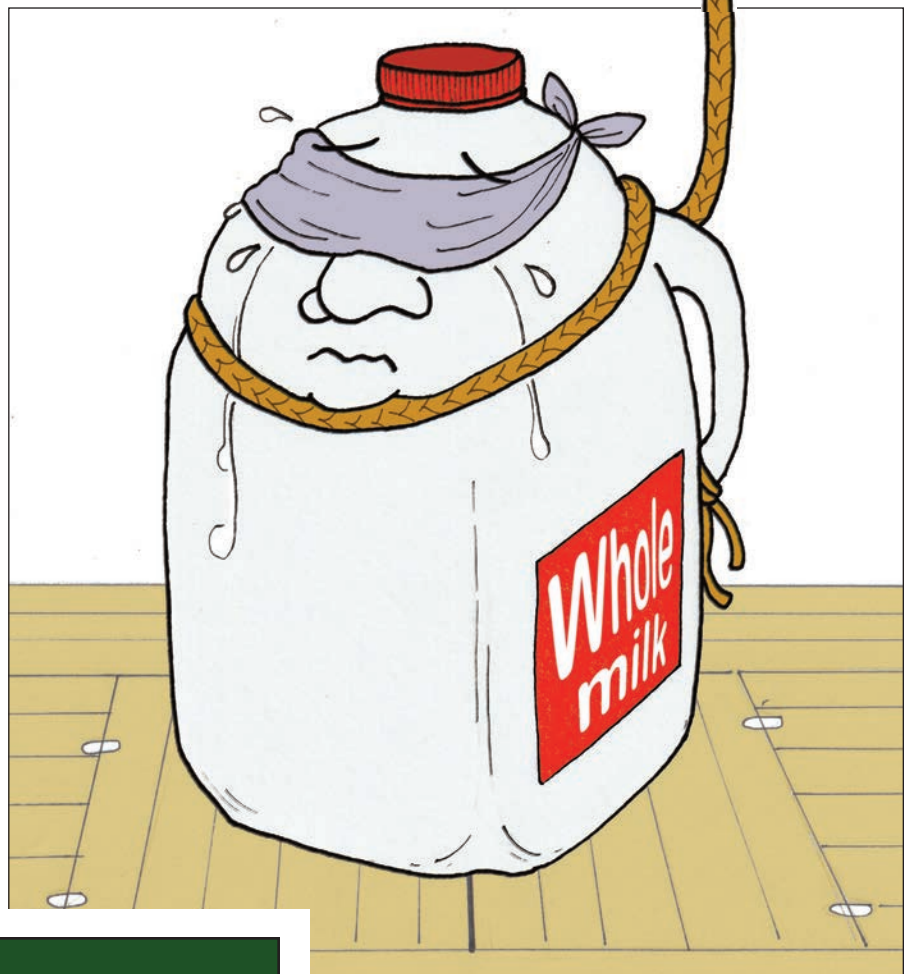
Coinciding with that strategy is the demonization of whole milk by way of phony research, totally misguided dietary guidelines and scare tactics like blaming cows for climate change. It’s all bogus. But neither USDA nor your treacherous “friends”

at USDA-created Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI) will ever tell you that. They believe in pushing fake dairy, as Pete Hardin documented in *The Milkweed* a few weeks ago. If you’d like to reference it, we reprinted the page in this week’s Farmshine, page 14.

Pete is no friend of either of the above-mentioned, capital-lettered bozo dens. Like yours truly, he isn’t afraid to tell it like it is. Both USDA and DMI have gone so far off of natural, God-based (not science-based) nutrition that it should be considered criminal. But money talks. In the words of another Wisconsin friend who sold his farm publication decades ago: “Sometimes money screams!”

And so it is, as greedy people with an overabundance of money — while sorely lacking in morals — relentlessly push their chemicals onto the shelves of supermarkets, food pantries and perhaps even your table.

At the same time, these same billionaires are also funding and pushing agendas and falsehoods such as blaming cows for global warming and whole milk for health problems. These outrageous lies profit the corrupt elites monetarily, while advancing



That gallon of whole milk is symbolic of where animal agriculture stands in the U.S. in the 21st Century. The condemnation began in 2010 when all but skim milk was banned in the nation’s public schools as well as government institutions and beyond. Thankfully, democracy prevailed last December when the U.S. House of Representatives voted 330 / 99 in favor of bringing whole and 2% milk back into school cafeterias. And then came the immediate and shocking block in the Senate with a stranglehold which revealed who is really in charge. Although not pictured in this editorial cartoon, it’s a safe bet that the hanging’s co-executioners are USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

*Drawing by Heidi Styer; text by Dieter Krieg*

their global visions and ambitions.

It all ties together to provide the “rope” with which to hang whole milk.

### URGENT!

We need Senators motivated to speak with Senate Ag Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), to ask her to please stop putting the ego and agenda of Washington bureaucrats above the health and welfare of America’s children and the economic stability of America’s dairy farmers. Please contact your Senator.

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Also call Senate Ag Chair Debbie Stabenow at 202-224-4822 and ask her to please co-sponsor & pass S1957 so children in public schools can again enjoy healthier whole milk. USA is watching you.



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# CEO John Meyer retiring Dec. 31; Lindsey Worden steps up

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — John M. Meyer, chief executive officer (CEO) of Holstein Association USA, has announced that he plans to retire on December 31 of this year. His successor as CEO will be Lindsey Worden, the current chief operating officer (COO) of the Association.

During a meeting with staff on June 20th, Meyer said he had informed Holstein Association USA President Jonathan Lamb and Vice President John Burket about his retirement plans quite some time ago.

After a comprehensive interview process, the HAUSA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Lindsey will assume CEO duties January 1, 2025. According to President Lamb, “I want to thank the entire Board of Directors for their dedication and thoughtfulness to which they approached working through our transition process. I also want to express appreciation to our Counsel Phil Maples for his leadership as our facilitator.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to CEO John Meyer not only for his 23 years of dedicated service, but allowing us 22 months of notice of his retirement to undergo a thorough process of naming his successor. We welcome COO Lindsey Worden as the 10th executive secretary of our Association since its inception in 1885!”



John Meyer, a long-time dairy industry leader, has led Holstein Association USA for 23 years.



Lindsey Worden is well prepared to become the 10th CEO of HAUSA on January 1, 2025.

Upon the announcement of her upcoming promotion, Lindsey Worden, a University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate, who also serves the dairy industry as Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding Board chair, National Pedigreed Livestock Council director, and councilor on the World Holstein-Friesian

Federation, commented: “I am humbled to follow in John’s footsteps and have been grateful to work alongside him and witness many of the significant achievements our organization has enjoyed under his leadership. I am honored to be named Holstein Association USA’s next CEO, and excited to navigate the opportunities and challenges that will propel us into the future, while respecting and honoring our organization’s rich history.”

Reflecting on Worden’s new role, Meyer, a longtime dairy industry leader, told coworkers, “I’m delighted about the transition. Lindsey and I have worked extremely well together as teammates for the last 17 years. It’s been enjoyable for me to see Lindsey’s tremendous growth at the Association from college intern to CEO.”

Meyer continued, “Furthermore, I’m also happy for the entire Holstein team including staff, the Board of Directors, Association members and the dairy industry at large.”

“Lindsey, along with HAUSA’s outstanding chief financial officer and treasurer Barbara Casna, of 21 years, and I will continue to work closely together, and with the HAUSA Board of Directors, to ensure the continuity of the transition along with the continued success of HAUSA, the world’s largest dairy breed organization,” Meyer stated.

# Pray for rain; pray it stops ... depending on where you are

By SHERRY BUNTING  
Special for Farmshine

EAST EARL, Pa. — Pray for rain. Pray it stops. The contrast could not be starker.

The Mid-Atlantic and Ohio Valley is in the throes of one of the driest growing seasons on record with dangerous heat levels throughout the country. Meanwhile, the season was already one of the wettest on record throughout the Upper Midwest and Northern Plains before 8 to 15 inches June 22-23, leading to historic catastrophic flooding in northwestern Iowa, southeastern South Dakota, and southern Minnesota.

The June 24th USDA Crop Progress Report

showed a 3 point decline in good-to-excellent corn condition, nationally, falling to 69%. But, sticking in the market’s crawl is the earlier-projected corn crop estimates and the mere 50% good-to-excellent corn crop condition reported for this same week a year ago.

Soybean condition fell 5 points to 67% this week. Again, this beats the 51% good-to-excellent condition reported this same week a year ago.

The impacts on damaged crops and potentially lower yields from floods have yet to be assessed in a region that had already delayed planting, drained and replanted.

Grain markets are shrugging off the weather woes, appearing to be focused pri-

marily on the demand side of the equation looking toward the upcoming end-of-month Grain Stocks report.

Some analysts are expecting an overall bearish mode to hold through at least month-end or longer, despite news emerging of untold acres of corn and soybeans under water along rivers and lakes in Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota.

Governors of the three states declared statewide emergencies and named scores of counties under disaster declarations. President Biden has announced a federal disaster declaration in Iowa, opening up federal funding there. Other areas may not be far behind.

Lakes and rivers in the region reached lev-

els reportedly higher than in 1993. Towns are under water, nobody in and nobody out, with boat rescues off rooftops and rescues via National Guard helicopters.

As the Big Sioux and Des Moines Rivers reached levels as much as 7 feet above previous records, a 100-year-old Minnesota dam failed, and two railway bridges collapsed that transported ag commodities.

Grain markets did not care. Early this week (June 24-25), “the markets tanked,” said Eric Relph with Commstock Investments in a Marin Bohling interview on the Commstock Channel Tuesday morning (June 25). No market strength emerged yet Wednesday morn-

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# Dairyman's Datebook

**JUNE 25-29**, National Milking Shorthorn Convention, Fireside Inn & Suites, 25 Airport Road, West Lebanon, N.H.

**JULY 3-6**, National Brown Swiss Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 333 Main Street, Green Bay, Wis.

**JULY 6**, Pennsylvania Holstein Picnic, McWilliams Farm, 288 Sechler Road, Somerset.

**JULY 12**, 10 a.m. Virginia Dairy Expo, Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction, 2839 Lumber Mill Road, Dayton.

**JULY 13**, noon, Hoof Trimmer Chicken BBQ, hosted by Paul Neer, 43 Starlight Lane, Belleville, Pa. RSVP by July 5th.

**JULY 14**, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. New York State Holstein Picnic, hosted by George Farm, 320 Genesee Road, Arcade.

**JULY 16**, 9 a.m. Lancaster County Holstein Show, Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, Pa. Deadline for entries is July 1. Call Bob Wenger, 717-471-3790 for additional information.

**JULY 16**, 6:30 p.m. Centre/Clin-ton County Holstein Association picnic at the farm of DJ and Thelma Glick, 200 Zeigler Road, Howard, Pa.

**JULY 20**, 10:45 a.m. New Jersey Holstein Picnic, Myerwood Farm LLC, 1415 Route 40, Pilesgrove. RSVP to Melanie (609-420-3491) by July 14.

**JULY 24-26**, Young Cooperator Summer Break, Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Harrisburg Northeast-Hershey, 8000 Jon-estown Road, Harrisburg, Pa.

**JULY 26**, 9 a.m. rain or shine, Dairy Industry Golf Outing, Hales Mills Country Club, 146 Steele Road, Johnstown, N.Y. Register by July 10 to N.Y. Holstein Associa-tion.

**AUGUST 8**, 6 p.m. Lancaster County Holstein Field Night, at Jonathan Glick's farm, 1148 East Oregon Road, Lititz, Pa.

**AUGUST 16 - 24**, The 150th Centre County Grange Fair, Cen-tre Hall, Pa.

**AUGUST 21**, 9:30 a.m. New Jer-sey State Holstein Show, Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta.

**OCTOBER 1-4**, World Dairy Ex-position, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, Wis.

**OCTOBER 17-20**, Pennsylvania State Grange Session, Pittsburgh Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Drive, Cranberry Township, Pa.

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# Auction Guide

**JULY 3**, 10:30 a.m. Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, New Holland Sales Sta-bles, New Holland, Pa. Sale man-aged by New Holland Sales Stables.

**JULY 5**, 8 a.m. Annual Ice Cream Horse Sale, New Holland Sales Sta-bles, New Holland, Pa. Sale man-aged by New Holland Sales Stables.

**JULY 6**, 11:30 a.m. PHA Summer Sensation Sale & Picnic, Som-erset, Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Hol-stein Association.

**JULY 8**, 6:30 p.m. Maryland Hol-stein Association Maryland State Sale, Union Bridge, Md. Sale managed by MD Hillbrook.

**JULY 11**, 6:30 p.m. Special 19th Anniversary Sale, Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales, Ronks, Pa. Sale man-aged by Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales.

**JULY 12**, 10 a.m. Know What You Buy Heifer Sale, Middletown,

Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Holstein Association.

**JULY 12**, 11:30 a.m. Summer Production All Breed Sale, Hosking Sales, New Berlin, N.Y. Sale managed by Hosking Sales.

**JULY 12**, 7 p.m. Willye Holsteins Complete Reg. Herd Dispersal, Fraley Complex, Muncy, Pa. Sale managed by Fraley Auction Com-pany.

**JULY 18**, 7:15 p.m. Special Mid-Summer Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, Brubaker's Quality Dairy Sales, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed by Brubaker's Quality Dairy Sales.

**AUG. 22**, 7:15 p.m. Special Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, Brubaker's Quality Dairy Sales, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed by Brubaker's Quality Dairy Sales.

## Safety reminders issued for filling silos and bunkers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The upright silos and bunkers that store the forage offer a set of safety challenges. The following protocols have been developed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

### For filling bunkers

- Before filling, inspect the concrete bunker. Repair cracked sidewalls to prevent structural damage and fix cracked concrete or pavement — or rutted approaches to the bunker — to ensure proper traction for packing tractors

### For packing tractors

- Only use tractors with roll-over protection (ROPS) and seat belts
- Use only low-clearance, wide front-end tractors
- Consider adding weight to tractor
- Front-wheel and front-wheel assist tractors can provide extra traction and stability when packing

### When packing:

- Use a “progressive wedge” during filling with a 3 to 1 slope to minimize roll-over. This is a rise of 1 foot for every 3 feet of horizontal run
- Try not to fill the bunker higher than the sides of the retaining wall
- Know where other workers are located. Keep unauthorized personnel away

### Using dump trucks:

- Have good seat and shoulder belts to protect the operator

- Do not back dump truck onto the pile
- As the bed is raised for unloading, keep the load center of gravity between the rails of the truck frame
- Beware of ruts, low tires, uneven loading or strong wind gusts that can cause instability during unloading

### Covering the forage:

- Use fall protection if employees are required to stand and/or work on a sidewall and if the sidewall is several feet above the ground
- Fall protection standards generally recommend that any-time a worker is on a working surface with an unprotected side or edge which is 4 feet or more above a lower level, they should be protected from falling by the use of guardrails or other fall protection systems


### For upright silos

- Inspect the silo to make sure it's ready for filling.
- Check the unloader for signs of wear and tear. Replace cables, check bearings, drives and other moving parts
- Check ladders and cages for proper attachment and condition
- Make sure doors seal and check concrete frames around doors
- If you must enter the silo to level it or lower the unloader, beware of silo gases. Run a blower for a minimum of 30 minutes before entering and continue to use it while working in the silo

While it's important to harvest forages in a timely manner to maintain quality and consistency, safety should be a primary focus. Take time to refresh the harvest team on safety protocols to ensure everyone knows the risks and how to avoid harmful situations.

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# Number of herds with confirmed H5N1 falls to 62 in 8 states

By SHERRY BUNTING  
Special for Farmshine

WASHINGTON — The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service changed its website format dedicated to avian influenza in dairy monitoring this week. Instead of the cumulative map used since the Bovine Influenza A H5N1 outbreak in lactating dairy cows was first identified in late March, APHIS is now using the map to portray the 30-day situation, noting only those states with detections in the past 30 days and shading them by the numbers of detections.

The good news as of June 26 is the number of herds with confirmed H5N1 detections fell to 62 in just eight states (down from 116 in 12 states cumulatively).

North Carolina, Ohio, Kansas, and New Mexico have been dropped from the 30-day status map as no detections have been confirmed in those states since early April.

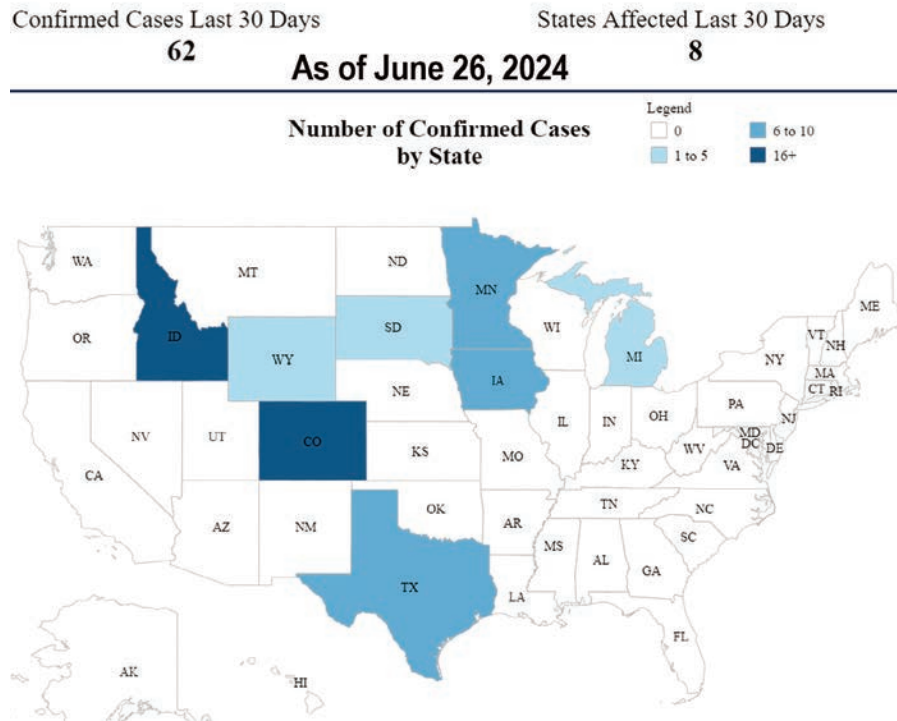
New detections are filtering in a few a day, mainly in Idaho and Colorado, but also Iowa to a degree. Iowa also has new HPAI detections in poultry flocks in the past 30 days.

States with detections in dairy herds during from May 24 through June 24, 2024 are: Idaho (17), Colorado (16), Iowa (10), Minnesota (6), Texas (6), Michigan (5), South Dakota (1), and Wyoming (1).

APHIS reports that four herds (one each from Kansas, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Texas) have enrolled in the new federal 'H5N1 Dairy Herd Status Program' as of June 24. The program was announced by USDA on May 31 as a voluntary pilot.

Pennsylvania is among the states that have begun rolling out voluntary bulk tank monitoring, at no cost to producers through federal funding.

The name of the program in Pennsylvania is "The Lactating Dairy Cow Health Monitoring Program," but it is part of the same federal



deal, which is described by APHIS as "a national strategy to provide support for ongoing testing."

Enrolled producers agree to weekly bulk tank sample testing. After three consecutive weeks of negative test results for H5N1 at an NAHLN laboratory, the herd receives a "monitored unaffected herd status."

Continued weekly bulk tank sample testing with negative results and continued participation in the program are required for herds to maintain this status. Authorities say herds with this status can move lactating dairy cows without additional pre-movement testing of individual animals, which is

currently required for interstate shipment by Federal Order.

Epidemiologic data was also released in a National Brief and a Michigan study. The National Brief reported "no genomic or epidemiologic evidence that wild birds are spreading H5N1 to cattle, but it cannot be ruled out." The reports link the spread of H5N1 in dairy cows between states to cattle movements, not to independent wild bird introductions, with further local spread in some states due to "direct and indirect" transmission.

**Key identified biosecurity risks to mitigate at this time include cattle movement, shared equipment between farms; shared employees and employees from both dairy and poultry farms sharing housing as well as biosecure practices for other visitors between farms.**

The next monthly Center for Dairy Excellence industry call on HPAI in dairy is July 10 at 1:00 p.m. Visit <https://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/about-the-center/upcoming-events/event/weekly-hpai-calls/> for details and other resources.

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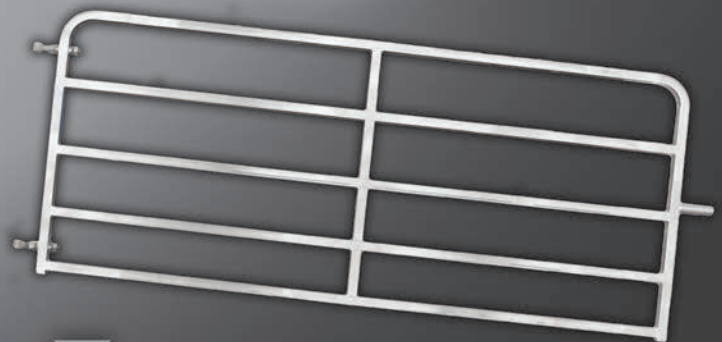
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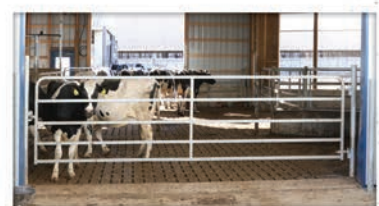
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Designed by Jeff Ainslie and built by White Horse Construction, the most recently built barn has been in use since Feb. 29 of this year. Features include sand-bedded stalls, a flush system and extraordinary ventilation, necessary considering the barn's dimensions.  
Photos by Dieter Krieg

## Attention

from page 1

office, the same rules apply. Pay attention to the details. Do it right.

With a total of 1400 cows to feed, manage and milk and 900 heifers to take care of, it takes a team.

"It's not possible to achieve our efficiencies without people who care," noted Drew, who earned a degree in animal science from Penn State and followed it up with a 10-month internship at Lamb Farms (Oakfield Corners Dairy) in western New York State.

"We have a dedicated and ambitious workforce," Drew af-

firmed. "We explain the 'whys' and 'hows' to all of our employees. We have clear communication and the more our employees understand why and how we do the things we do, the more willing they are to do things right. We're a team here, ultimately," Drew concluded. The farm employs 20 people.

"We still consider ourselves a family farm," Matt stated. He is thankful to have been given the opportunity to continue what his grandfather started 73 years ago.

"My grandfather had two sons, Les and Bill, who both worked for him and later formed a partnership in the early 1970s" Matt recalled. After Les and Bill retired, respectively in 2010 and 2013, the third generation took over. Matt is the

son of Bill, while Steve is Les' son. Cousins and partners they are, with Matt being more interested in the cow side and Steve preferring field work.

"Steve and I both decided to milk more cows," Matt recalled, although the herd and facilities had been growing steadily anyway. For example, long before Matt and Steve's time at the helm — in 1974 — their fathers built a double-8 herringbone parlor, which saw 42 years of continuous use.

Steve, being the older cousin, took over from his father in 1997 after having worked for him for a number of years. Matt followed suit three years later. Things continued to grow and advance, which has always been their goal.

"In 2015 we knew we had to do something to improve milking efficiency and the 40-cow rotary parlor was therefore completed in 2016. New barns have also been added, with the most recent one being ready for use this past winter. It features nine rows, as compared to the more common six rows, and is state-of-the-art. It's exterior is visually impressive at first sight, measuring 272' long by 190' wide, 16' high at the sides and 36.5' at the peak. Inside, good impressions continue through remarkable cleanliness and cow comfort.

"I'm a strong believer in sand bedding, Matt pointed out during a stroll through the barn. The beds are generously loaded with sand, which is routinely reclaimed. Manure alleys are flushed twice during each milking with recycled water sourced from the last in a series of three lagoons or ponds.

**"The key to making milk is quality forages. It leads to healthy cows, good components and the ability to pay your bills."**

So how are the cows actually doing? "We go by what's in the tank; what we're actually shipping," said Matt. "Our pounds of milk per cow per day is in the low to mid 90s," answered Drew, who keeps a close eye on a long list of parlor-generated information. Both men point out, however, that pounds of milk is not what they focus on. Instead, it's pounds of butterfat and protein. With high tests for both butterfat and protein, they realistically aim at over 7% for combined solids. "It's a good year-round average," Drew nodded.

"We've always tried to continually improve ... doing the basics right," Matt affirmed. "Our cull rate used to be in the low 30's prior to Drew becoming herdsman. Now it's 23%.

"Getting more people involved has also helped," Matt added, noting that they hired a young woman whose time and efforts are dedicated to caring for the roughly 100 calves. The family raises virtually all of its own replacements, the exception being a few that go to professional calf raisers. "But they all get their start here," noted Matt. Good quality colostrum going into the calves ASAP is paramount to raising healthy individuals that will be ready to milk when their time comes. "We ensure all colostrum equipment is sterile and that the colostrum is cooled rapidly to minimize bacterial presence," Matt added.

Drew finds his responsibilities as herdsman interesting and satisfying. "I enjoy the challenges and the fact that the bar is constantly being raised," he says. Asked what's the most challenging, he says simply: "The unexpected."

Indeed, surprises can and do happen. Arguably, they can be kept at bay when paying attention to details and doing things right.

Also closely involved in management decisions is an all-in-one nutritionist, veterinarian and consultant, namely Dr. Bill Braungard with 4-Ward Ag and one of the professionals at Quarryville Herd Health.

As Matt reflects on the history and paths chosen to keep the farm profitable, he is most appreciative of the opportunity he was given. He gratefully acknowledges the influence of his grandfather, father and uncle for teaching him about hard work and farm values. "We value hard work, keeping things neat and clean and doing things well," he concluded.

The proof is in what you see.



Unlike many free-stall barns, the new main barn at Walton Farms features nine rows. Despite its immense size, the 36.5-foot high peak of the paneled ceiling creates a natural draft while fans also help to exhaust stale air. Note the slope of the

ceiling, it changes and air is drawn high into the opening that runs the length of the barn. There is no foul smell anywhere and the cows — all of them home-bred — would impress any commercial dairyman, as well as quite a few classifiers and judges.



With the conservation of their resources very much in mind, the Waltons routinely recycle sand and water. The sand sep-

aration system is pictured in the foreground while the three-stage water reclamation system is in the background.

# Siemers family of Wisconsin honored with Elite Breeder Award

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Holstein Association USA has recognized the Siemers family of Newton, Wisconsin with the 2024 Elite Breeder Award. The coveted recognition is bestowed annually upon a living Holstein Association USA member, family, partnership or corporation who has bred outstanding animals and made a notable contribution to the advancement of U.S. Registered Holsteins. The Siemers family was recognized during the National Holstein Convention on June 26th in Salt Lake City, Utah.

On their century farm near Newton, members of the fifth and sixth generation continue to push boundaries and set new standards for their elite herd. Their passion for stewarding cattle and the land, coupled with astute business savvy, has contributed to their longstanding success story.

Today, the core team at Siemers Holsteins includes Dan and Janina Siemers and their son Jordan; Paul Siemers and his sons, Jake and Josh; and Tyler Schafer.

“Our team is very honored to be receiving Holstein USA’s top award! Certainly, when we were growing up, this was a dream, but one that seemed almost impossible. We had a nice herd and dairy farm, and through a ton of hard work and dedication by so many, we have been able to obtain some nice results,” Dan Siemers says. “We want to thank everyone



Pictured are (back row, left to right) Dan, Janina, Jordan and Connor Siemers and (front row, left to right) Josh, Lauren, Jake, Jenny and Paul Siemers.

that has played a part in our success, and we look forward to everything the future has in store.”

The herd achieves a Rolling Herd Average of nearly 34,000 pounds of milk; with 4.39% butterfat; and 3.13% protein. The herd recently transitioned into new, modern facilities, in-

cluding a 110-cow rotary milking parlor.

The Siemers family has used the tools and technologies available to them to advance the herd, including being early adopters of genomic testing, embryo transfer and in-vitro fertilization. Industry-leading dairy genetics and innovation chart back generations

for this year’s Elite Breeder award recipient.

Through the years, the family has bred or developed more than 1400 Excellent cows, including 75 head achieving EX-94 points or higher. That also includes four homebred EX-95 point cows.

They have also raised 460 Gold Medal Dams and numerous more Dams of Merit. Siemers Holsteins has been recognized as a Holstein Association USA Herd of Excellence for the past eight years.

More than 300 Siemers-bred sires have entered A.I., expanding the reach and influence of the family’s leading Registered Holstein genetics.

The Siemers family has achieved success in the showing, too. They have bred or developed hundreds of black-and-white and red-and-white All-American nominations.

True to their tagline, “Genetics for Cow People,” the team at Siemers Holsteins keeps a market-driven mindset while using their years of experience, and immaculate record keeping, to develop Registered Holstein cows of

the next generation — cows that benefit the entire dairy industry.

Incredible milk production. Outstanding fertility. Forward-leaning genomics. The team at Siemers Holsteins lives out how all three can work in unison — and build a brighter future for Registered Holsteins.

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# Belonging fosters bright future and priceless friendships

**Editor's Note:** Holstein USA CEO John M. Meyer presented the following speech at the 138th annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 26th.

It's my pleasure to welcome all of you to beautiful Salt Lake City! Thank you so much for attending. We are glad you're here!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my Holstein Association USA colleagues who have worked, and continue to work, diligently to put on this convention. As you know, it is our first endeavor hosting a national convention. Please join me with your show of appreciation.

Mr. President, delegates, members, and guests, today is a special day for many reasons. One of the biggest reasons is the presence of so many old and new friends who have come from every part of the country to be with us to celebrate the Holstein cow and you, the great folks who own her. While the Holstein Association USA was formed 139 years ago, "for the purpose of improving the breed of Holstein cattle", it is the combination of the world's greatest cow, and the world's greatest people who make the Holstein Association USA exceptional.

Every time I take part in a national Holstein Association convention, state meeting, or other Holstein activity, I think about the wonderful people I have been fortunate to get to know and call friends, who so generously give of themselves.

While it is the Registered Holstein cow that brings us to an event, when we are together, we talk cows and the dairy



**"The majority of you have not only gained that which is recorded on the dollar side of your own dairy's ledger as a result of using Holstein Association programs, products and services, you've likely secured much more than that. Through the Holstein Association, you have met friends you may never have met, without your common interest in Registered Holstein cattle. Many of these special friendships will last a lifetime,"** CEO John Meyer reminded the audience.

industry, but often much of the conversation is about family, friends, and our passion for the activities we are involved in. Let me take this opportunity to thank you, the Holstein family, for all you do for the betterment of the Holstein cow, her Association, and the activities that are centered around her.

While detailed information on 2023 program activity and financials can be found throughout your Annual Report, I'll highlight a few items now.

One of the best barometers for measuring the future success of a pedigreed livestock organization is to look at new

junior membership growth. In 2023, new junior memberships rose from 684 in 2022 to 747 — a healthy increase of 9%! We haven't had more new junior members join the Association in one year since 2015. These numbers bode well for the future of this great Association!

When you see the bright eyed, talented young people taking part in this year's convention, you have to be excited about our future. Take some time to visit with, and get to know, some of our junior members while you are here in Salt Lake City. Our youth, and young adult, programs are the envy of the national pedigreed livestock industry.

Interest in Registered Holsteins is evidenced by the number of Registered Holsteins transferred domestically and internationally in 2023. Registered Holsteins transferred within the United States jumped 11%, while those transferred to foreign countries had an impressive increase of 7%.

It's great to see the continued growth of our regular classification program. The number of animals our classification team scored increased by 1% which marks the fifth year in a row we've achieved an increase in this category, and we worked in 4% more herds in 2023 than we did the previous year.

We saw increases in TriStar<sup>SM</sup> Lactation Averages for milk, fat and protein again in 2023. As you can see in your Annual Report, all of you Registered Holstein breeders should take pride in your accomplishment of increasing Holstein milk, fat and protein production by 12%, 25% and 19% respectively over the last 20 years!

As you know, no other breed or combination of breeds can produce the large volumes of high-quality milk, fat and protein like Holsteins do. What you have accomplished with your herds is phenomenal!

Speaking of the last 20 years, I hope you've enjoyed our look down memory lane in the 2023 Annual Report.

Even though space in our Annual Report did not permit a full listing of all of the important changes that have transpired in the last 20 years, I do want to mention a couple of items that weren't included in the Annual Report and highlight a few that are.

Twenty years ago we were not working cooperatively with other dairy breed organizations by providing services to them. Currently, we work with the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders' Association, the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders' Association, the American Guernsey Association, the American Milking Shorthorn Society and the Red & White Dairy Cattle Association in providing classification and/or registration services. I'm also pleased to be able to announce that soon we will be working with the Ayrshire Breeders Association with a new program offering comprehensive managed services for them.

Another important change in the last two decades is that the Holstein Association USA has expanded our presence throughout the United States by adding offices in Visalia, California through the purchase of AgriTech Analytics (ATA) in 2004, as well as opening an office in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin in 2022. Having three offices from coast to coast bolsters our recruiting efforts and brings us closer to members and key service areas.

Three of the most far-reaching changes the dairy industry has seen in the last 20 years have been the implementation of sexed semen, genomic testing and the common practice of breeding beef on dairy cattle.

We've also seen a significant contraction in the number of dairy farms over the last 20 years. There were 62% fewer dairy farms in the country in 2023 than 2003.

Even so, the number of new programs, products and services we've developed and offered over the last 20 years has bolstered the financial success of your Association.

As you can see, the Holstein Association's revenues have increased 17%, net assets have increased 95% and the Reserve Fund has had a 39% gain.

It speaks well of you and your Association that we have been able to attain this kind of growth.

At this point, I'll offer a few comments about the future of the dairy business as I see it. As we heard during Holstein Horizons, dairy farms of all sizes have opportunities to in-

turn to page 13



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# All-American Dairy Show names nine judges

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The nine individuals who will be placing the classes at the All-American Dairy Show and Premier National Junior Shows in September have been officially selected.

**Mike Creek** of Hagerstown, Md., will sort the Premier National Junior Brown Swiss Show. Along with his mother, Mary Creek, he is co-owner of Palmyra Farm Cheese, located in Hagerstown, and is a member of Palmyra Farm Ayrshires and Holsteins. Mike is the Senior Director of Operations, U.S., for Trans Ova Genetics. He has judged cattle shows in four different countries and judged the 2021 World Dairy Expo Ayrshire Show. He previously judged the All-American Dairy Show as official for the open Milking Shorthorn and Guernsey shows, as well as the Premier National Junior Ayrshire Show. He is a board member of the Maryland State Dairy Shrine, Washington County, Md., Chamber of Commerce, and the Washington County Ag Marketing Advisory Committee.

Mike is a South Hagerstown High School graduate, class of 2000, and of Cornell University, class of 2005.

**Jake Hushon** of Wrightsville, Pa., is set to judge the All-American Brown Swiss Show and the Premier National Junior Milking Shorthorn Show. Alongside his wife, Wendy, and two sons, Toby and Trace, he is a co-owner of Brothers Three Brown Swiss with brothers Josh and Joseph and their wives, which was started in 1991 with their parents. Together, they have bred, owned, and developed 10 All-Americans, seven Reserve, five Honorable Mention, and 36 All-American nominations, one of whom was Topp-B3 Woodford - Intermediate Champion World Dairy Expo 2023 and Unanimous All-American. Another notable cow was Brothers Three Wisper OCS - All-American in 2001 and 2002 and 2001 Jr. Champion of the World Dairy Expo in the Junior and open show. She was also the first-ever Supreme Champion of the Youth Show in 2002. Jake was the recipi-

ent of the Young Brown Swiss Breeder Award in 2009. He has judged the Southwest and Northeast National Brown Swiss Shows, four different breeds at the Premier National Junior Show, Brown Swiss Junior Show at NAILE, state shows in 11 states, was the 2014 Brown Swiss official for the Hoard's Dairyman judging contest. He's also judged Internationally in Colombia and Honduras. Jake is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and currently is the USA Sales Manager for New Generation Genetics.

**Sean Johnson** of Rohrerstown, Md., will analyze the All-American Ayrshire Show. He and his wife, Heather, along with their two children, Liam and Paige, reside in Maryland. Sean's 30-year dairy career started at Maple Dell Farm in Woodbine, Maryland, a 200-registered Holstein and Ayrshire herd. He continued his career at Garstlyn Farms, caring for elite show and genetic cattle from across the country. Before operating his own hoof-trimming business for 13 years, Sean

was a full-time fitter working with many All-Americans and nominations for all breeds. Currently, Sean is a Regional Marketing Manager for Premier Select Sires in its Central Region. Sean has judged many state, regional, and national shows including nine times at the All-American Dairy Show, once at NAILE in Louisville, and twice as an associate at World Dairy Expo. He has also judged internationally in Ecuador. His top five most significant judging experiences were at the All-American, judging the Eastern National Holstein Show, Jersey show, Red and White Show, Premier National Junior Show, and Macaji Show Ecuador. In addition to judging conformation classes, he also enjoys placing youth shows.

**Ryan Krohlow** of Poynette, Wis., returns to Harrisburg to place the Eastern National Fall Holstein Show and the Premier National Junior Guernsey Show. Ryan alongside his wife, Haley, and four children, Callie, **turn to page 25**

## Holstein USA \_\_\_\_\_ from page 12

crease profits through on farm crafting and manufacturing of dairy products. Today's choosy consumers want to know exactly where their food comes from. Your cows, the milk they produce, along with the products that come from them, and you make a wonderful story each of you can tell. So take advantage of it.

We also learned how beef on some of your Holsteins offer good opportunities to bring one or more family members back to the farm and create a new profit center on your operation.

Given the demand for beef today that will likely continue to increase into the future, as well as the high value placed on Registered Holstein heifers, this could be an opportune time for you to increase your use of conventional semen so you can take advantage of the opportunities afforded by both markets. There will be market options for straight Holsteins steers going forward that we're not seeing today if you're willing to get engaged in boutique or niche marketing of beef.

While the importance of dairy product exports can't be ignored, we can't expect the export market to be the remedy for low milk prices and the saving grace for the sale of milk or other dairy product commodities. If your milk is going to the fluid market, and isn't being labeled or marketed as a high protein drink, I suggest you talk to the leaders of the organizations who buy your milk and encourage them to start doing so.

*The words, "high protein drink", or something similar deserves a place on fluid milk containers.*

As time goes on, both the number of potential buyers for your milk will decrease and it is likely that the choices for your dairy suppliers will as well.

The genetic progress of the U.S. dairy herd will continue to improve and the U.S. Registered Holstein cow will become increasingly more efficient. Today, U.S. dairy farmers produce more milk than they did in 1944, with 16 million fewer cows.

Dairy products will continue to be the best, easiest and tastiest way for people to get the calcium, Vitamin D and protein to keep their heart, muscles and bones healthy and functioning properly. The Registered Holstein cow is the most efficient producer of milk, and as the world's demand for protein continues to grow, the future shines bright for you!

The Holstein Association Board of Directors I've had the honor of working for are to be commended for the vision and wisdom they have imparted to ensure a strong future for the organization and its members. President Lamb and Vice President Burket and all former Presidents and Vice Presidents need to be recognized for the countless hours, and tireless work they have given to the Association.

We are also fortunate to have such an outstanding team of employees working on behalf of the Association. You'll have a good chance to visit with some of them here at the convention this week.

Additionally, I want to salute the unsung heroes who are in Brattleboro, Fort Atkinson, and Visalia carrying out the important work that needs to be done. Rarely, if ever, do you have the opportunity to see them personally, but I am proud of each of them.

The group you see most often is our classifiers and regional sales representatives. Here too, the outstanding work they do is sincerely appreciated. The steady leadership Steve Peterson has provided to our sales team over the years is significant.

Many thanks too, for Karen Albrecht, executive assistant;

Barbara Casna, chief financial officer and treasurer and Lindsey Worden, chief operating officer and future chief executive officer and executive secretary, all of whom I work extremely closely with. Each of them are experts in their professions who have and do, not only bring tremendous value to me but the fruits of their labor can be found throughout the Holstein Association USA. I know Lindsey will be a great CEO.

Special thanks go to my wife, Vicki, who has and continues to be so supportive of my career while relinquishing some of her own opportunities. I could not do what I do, for as long as I have, without Vicki's great support.

In closing, while change is running rampant in the dairy industry, there's an ideology that won't change at the Holstein Association. That is, the needs of our members will always be at the core of the decision-making process.

**When you get right down to it, the Holstein Association is not just a cow and dairy business; it is a people business.**

The majority of you have not only gained that which is recorded on the dollar side of your own dairy's ledger as a result of using Holstein Association programs, products and services, you've likely secured much more than that. Through the Holstein Association, you have met friends you may never have met, without your common interest in Registered Holstein cattle. Many of these special friendships will last a lifetime.

You also benefit from fond memories of cattle, people, places, special events, national conventions, and experiences that are not available to the uninformed. The greatest gain, however, might be in the personal satisfaction each and every one of you has from the knowledge that you have contributed to the wellbeing and improvement of the United States Registered Holstein herd, which is the most coveted in the world!

I'm confident that with your continued enthusiasm and support of the programs, products and services your Association offers, we all look forward to a bright future!

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# New WIC Guidelines De-Emphasize Dairy, Boost Plant-based Beverages

by Pete Hardin

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) boosts the health of at-risk fetuses, infants and children, pregnant and nursing women by providing supplemental nutrition. The WIC program has a history of more than 50 years.

Logic is that WIC's helping provide adequate nutrition in the early stages of life is a societal investment for improving recipients' life-long health.

In early April, the USDA — which oversees WIC — announced revisions for its WIC food package rules. Those changes are supposedly designed to provide a variety of foods that align with recent advances in nutrition science, as well as expanding the variety of supplemental foods that line up with recipients' dietary preferences.

For dairy, the WIC food package revisions reduce fluid milk allocations and eliminate cheese as a stand-alone food item. (Cheese may be substituted for the beverage milk portion.) The new WIC policies allow an apparent wide range of plant-based beverages and food options. Previously, only soy products (including soy beverages), were allowable purchases by WIC recipients.

A goal of these changes — for better or worse — is to better align foods approved for WIC recipients with the Dietary Guidelines set by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA). States will have two years to integrate the recently detailed changes.

Among the few perceived benefits for dairy in these recent WIC program changes are including lactose-free dairy milk and a wider array of container sizes.

### Fluid milk reductions

WIC offers a variety of “packages” deemed appropriate for the various recipients' ages and stages. As the program's title details, the recipients are at-risk infants and children, as well as pregnant women and mothers who are breast-feeding.

Here are the fluid milk reductions for various “packages” in WIC:

**Children 12 to 24 months:** 16 quarts to 12 quarts per month (-25.0%).

**Children, 24-48 months:** From 16 to 14 quarts per month (-12.5%).

**Pregnant and partially breast-feeding women:** From 22 quarts to 16 quarts per month (-27.3%).

**Fully breast-feeding women:** From 24 quarts to 16 quarts per month (-33.3%).

Some critics, during an earlier comment period, had noted that the prior allowed amounts of beverage milk were excessive.

### Plant-based items will be allowed

The new WIC food basket now widely accepts a wide array of plant-derived beverages and foods. That policy expands prior acceptance of soy-based beverages and foods in lieu of dairy.

Here's the problem: Many plant-derived beverages and foods are not nutritionally equivalent to dairy products. Protein and calcium are two important nutrients for all infants and children, whether youngsters are deemed “at-risk” and qualify for WIC supplemental food aid ... or not.

Many plant-based beverages — allowable substitutes do not contain 8 ounces of protein, as does dairy. — i.e., from cows — contains a complete amino acid complex (See accompanying article, listed below).

Calcium is another matter. To boost plant-based beverages' calcium content, virtually all marketers of plant-based beverages simply add finely-ground limestone (calcium carbonate), and other forms of calcium, (may be Calcium Diphosphate or Calcium Triphosphate.)

In its infinite wisdom, the federal Food and Drug Administration has declared that it has no research demonstrating that supplemental calcium is biologically available for persons consuming plant-based beverages.

The ultimate goal of the WIC program is to boost the nutrition of at-risk infants and children, as well as for pregnant and nursing women. Including virtually all plant-based beverages as allowable WIC purchases — despite many such products having significantly lower protein content — seems contrary to the goals of the WIC program.

# Survey of Plant-based “Milk” Products’ Protein Content

by Pete Hardin

On a recent morning, *The Milkweed* studied the array of plant-based beverages at the Woodman's Supermarket on the west side of Madison, WI.

There are many such products. Most of them use the word “milk” in one way or another on their consumer packages.

Virtually ZERO of the plant-based beverages surveyed contain 8 grams of protein per 8-ounce serving. (Cow's milk does.)

The calcium content varied dramatically. In most instances, the calcium source in the plant-based beverages was Calcium Carbonate (finely ground limestone).

In a few products, other calcium compounds were the apparent calcium source, either Calcium Diphosphate or Calcium Triphosphate.

The table listed to the right, is a summary of the plant-based beverages reviewed.

One of the table cited plant beverages contains the 8 grams of protein per 8-ounce serving of cow's milk. Yet the WIC program will now allow virtually all plant-based beverages to be substituted for dairy products.

Two of the above listed products contain bogus claims about their lack of dairy content. Califia Farms' Oat Milk claims to be “Dairy Free.” And the Chobani Oatmilk claims to be “Vegan Friendly.”

However, both those lovely products list calcium caseinate as an ingredient. Calcium caseinate is derived from milk.

Here's a breakdown of the protein content of 13 samples of plant-based beverages per 8-oz. serving:

- 8 grams protein ..... 1
- 7 grams protein ..... 1
- 6 grams protein ..... 1
- 3 grams protein ..... 1
- 2 grams protein ..... 2
- 1 gram protein ..... 3
- 0 grams protein ..... 4

Pity the infants and children whose families unwittingly feed them the low-protein, plant-based beverages, while falsely imagining that these beverages are the nutritional equivalent of gold, old-fashioned cow's milk.

**Question:** The FDA regulates products fed to food-producing animals. Would the FDA permit a calf milk replacer that contained ZERO protein? Likely not. But USDA's WIC program changes now would seem to allow plant-based beverages that have ZERO protein as purchases.

Name	Protein per 8-oz.
Good Karma Flax Milk	ZERO
Rice Dream	ZERO
Oatley Oat Milk	3 grams
Califia Coconut Milk	ZERO
Califia Oat Milk	2 grams
Planet Oat	1 gram
Chobani Oatmilk	2 grams
Almond Breeze	1 gram
Silk Cashew	1 gram
Full Circle Almonds	6 grams
Silk Soy	7 grams
8th Continent Soy	8 grams
SO Organic Coconut	ZERO
<b>COW'S MILK</b>	<b>8 GRAMS</b>



Planet Oat is just one plant-based beverage competing on supermarket shelves with good, old-fashioned cow's milk. New WIC program guidelines will allow participants to substitute plant-based beverages and cheese for dairy-derived products. Like most plant-based beverages, Planet Oat is deficient in protein. Planet Oat contains only one gram of protein per 8-oz. serving. Good, old-fashioned cow's milk has 8 grams of complete protein per 8-oz. serving.

## Nutrition Profile — Cow's Milk vs Planet Oat

**COW'S MILK = 8g Protein**

**PLANET OAT = 1g Protein**

Trans Fat	0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b>	10mg	<b>3%</b>
<b>Sodium</b>	110mg	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total Carb.</b>	12g	<b>4%</b>
Dietary Fiber	0g	0%
Total Sugars	12g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars		0%
<b>Protein</b>	<b>8g</b>	
Vit. D 2mcg 15% • Calcium 208mg 25%		

Cholesterol	0mg	0%
Sodium	100mg	4%
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b>	8g	<b>3%</b>
Dietary Fiber	1g	4%
Soluble Fiber	less than 1g	
Total Sugars	0g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars		0%
<b>Protein</b>	<b>1g</b>	

## July Class I mover gains \$1 at \$21.11

The July advance Class I base price mover was announced at \$21.11 for a gain of \$1.03 over June's, according to USDA's June 21 announcement. This is \$3.79 higher than a year ago, and the first time the Class I mover has topped \$21 since January of 2023. It is also the first month since October of 2023 that the 'average plus 74 cents' method was beneficial to farmers, by just 14 cents, as the 'higher of' would have produced a July Class I mover of \$20.97. The Class IV advance skim pricing factor remains above the Class III skim pricing factor, but the gap has narrowed because Class III markets (cheese and whey) rallied higher during the first two weeks of June, while Class IV (butter and nonfat dry milk) were stable to firm. The cheese market has since eased back from earlier highs, but whey prices remain firm.

The chart (at right) shows how poorly the 'average of' method has performed compared with the previous 'higher of' method over the past five years since the change was implemented in May 2019, after Congress made the change in the 2018 farm bill.

Only 25 of the 64 months had equal or better results while 39 months had negative results. What's worse is the positive results are capped at 74 cents per hundredweight, whereas the negative results are limitless, charting losses as much as \$5.00 per cwt

The 24 months of gains from the new formula ranged from 2 to 70 cents, whereas the 39 months of losses ranged from 18 cents to 5 dollars per cwt. In fact, 18 (half) of the 39 negative months registered losses of more than \$1.00 per cwt.!

The July Class I mover will likely be high enough to keep manufacturing milk pooled on Federal Orders to yield a better benchmark blend price that more accurately reflects the market after nine months of seeing processors of Class II and IV products remove that milk from FO pools to avoid paying in, thereby lowering uniform price benchmarks.

**Price alignment matters.** When Class I is the highest or near-highest price, milk is attracted to FO pools, and blend prices are more representative of actual market factors. Remember, there is no 'market test' for fluid milk like there is for other dairy commodities. That's because supermarkets loss-lead fluid milk down to levels well below cost in order to attract shoppers. They know the retail scanner data show 95% of consumers put milk in their shopping baskets. Among the few states that prohibit loss-leading, some (like Pennsylvania) set a minimum or floor price. In either scenario -- loss-leading or regulated minimums -- there is never a test of the market value of fluid milk.

In fact, to the contrary, decades of supermarket loss-leading has taught consumers to devalue milk. Then, when they are asked to pay what it's worth, they balk.

Consumers highly value protein in their food and beverage choices, but most do not think of milk as a protein food. They also don't know all the vitamins and minerals and heart-protective long chain fatty acids they get from whole milk. They think of milk mainly as a source of calcium.

## Cl. III milk futures up, Cl. IV mostly down

Class III milk futures mostly recovered this week, especially on August 2024 through May 2025 contract months. Class IV milk futures were mixed and mostly a bit lower this week with far-off 2025 contracts firm. On Wed., June 26, Class III milk futures for the next 12 months (Jun24-May25) averaged \$19.52, up 18 cents from the previous week, taking back about half of last week's losses. The 12-month (Jun24-May25) Class IV milk futures average was at \$21.05 down 13 cents.

## Block cheese, whey higher

On the CME daily spot market was weaker this week, except on block cheese and dry whey, which were firm to higher in a lighter volume of trade.

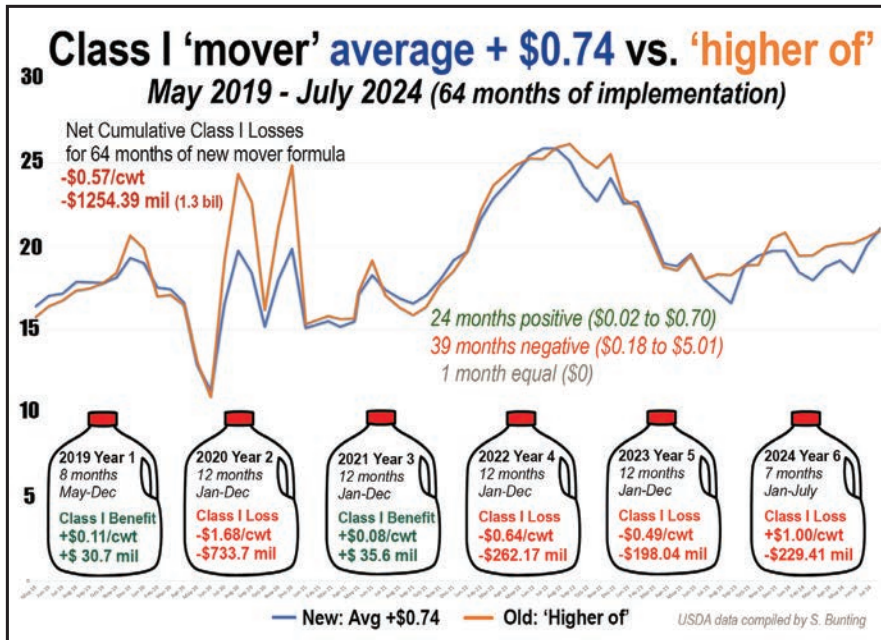
The 40-lb block Cheddar price was pegged at \$1.88/lb on Wed., June 26, up 2 cents from the previous Tuesday. With just 5 loads trading the first three days this week, the weekly average stood at \$1.8808/lb, down a fraction of a penny from last week's weighted average. The 500-lb barrel cheese market plunged 6 cents lower, pegged at \$1.90 Wednesday with 4 loads trading the first three days this week.

Dry whey fluctuated through the week, but ended up a half-cent higher at 48 1/2 cents/lb with a single load changing hands.

## Butter, powder slip lower

The butter market melted off several pennies before firming up at midweek, pegged at \$3.09/lb Wednesday, nearly 2 cents lower than the previous week. With 9 loads trading the first three days, the weighted average was \$3.0625/lb, also lower for the week.

Grade A nonfat dry milk (NFD) came into the week firm to a bit higher before losing a half-cent in active high volume trade Tuesday, pegged at \$1.1850/lb Wednesday with 15 loads trading the first three days this week. The weighted average for the week was also a tad lower than a week ago at \$1.883/lb.



## Despite weather woes, grain market slips

The Dec. 2024 corn futures ended Tuesday, June 25 at a new low for the year of 4.430/bu. The next day despite news spreading of the flooding in the Midwest and near record dry conditions in the Ohio Valley and Mid-Atlantic, beat that lower yet at \$4.35/bu, with heavy volume trading.

Compared to the previous Wednesday, corn futures closed 10 to 20 cents/bu. lower for July 2024 through July 2025 contracts, 30 to 40 cents lower for Sept. and Dec. 2025 contracts, while far off 2026 months were off 2 to 8 pennies.

Not to be outdone, soybean meal futures were also lower on the week Wed., June 26 -- down \$3 per ton for closeup Aug. through Oct. 2024 months and \$5 to \$7 per ton lower across the rest of the board through 2025.

## Cheese stocks revised down for April, May inventory lowest since 2019 too

Instead of cheese inventory growth, like is normally seen in the spring, inventories shrank March through May, according to the USDA Cold Storage Report June 25th.

In fact, USDA went back and revised lower its previous April inventory total for cheese. Instead of being up 5.6 million pounds from March 30 to April 30, cheese stocks dropped by 10.7 billion pounds that month, and went on to drop again from April 30 to May 31 to just under 1.443 billion pounds at the end of last month.

That's the smallest cheese inventory for the month of May since 2019.

Within the USDA revisions, April stocks of American-style cheeses were reduced, and in May these stocks shrank further to levels 4.2% below year ago while other types of cheeses in inventory were up slightly vs. year ago at the end of May. American style Cheddar is what Federal Milk Marketing Order pricing formulas are based on.

Butter stocks showed typical seasonal growth in May, up 3.4% from a year ago.

## May milk output down 0.9%

Total U.S. milk production slipped further in May, according to the monthly USDA report last Friday, June 21. Milk cow numbers were up 5000 head from April's report, but down 68,000 head vs. year ago. Output per cow slipped by 3 pounds. Dairy cow slaughter rates have been smaller, indicating farmers are holding on to cows because replacement heifers are in short supply and prices to buy them are increasing. Milk production in Pennsylvania was off by 0.9% as well with 1000 fewer cows than a year ago. New York maintained steady cow numbers with a 0.2% loss in total milk production, but Vermont's production fell by 3.6% with 3000 fewer cows than a year ago. In the Southeast, Florida's production grew 10.5% over year ago with 8000 more cows while Georgia's output fell 8.3% with 8,000 fewer cows. Virginia held steady cow numbers with production off by 0.8%.

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### Emily Wright - Pa. Alternate Dairy Princess

Emily Wright is the 21-year-old daughter of Kevin and Kim Wright of Cochranon. She resides on her family's once was dairy farm Wright Way Farm, where they now raise a small beef herd. She also grew up showing dairy cattle in 4-H along with her sisters. Emily is a senior at Pennwest Edinboro majoring in Secondary Education in English.

Through her education studies, she has continued her love for educating and promoting through the Dairy Princess Program. When Emily is not passionately promoting the dairy industry through her involvement in the Dairy Princess Program, she finds joy in reading, swimming, and camping. Her deep-rooted love for dairy cattle remains strong, and she continues to indulge in the exhilarating experience of showcasing these remarkable animals in the show ring. Emily's enthusiasm knows no bounds as she eagerly anticipates the opportunity to continue promoting the dairy industry, utilizing her education studies and passion to make a positive impact.

### Alexis Butler - PA State Princess

My name is Alexis Butler, and I am the 17-year-old daughter of Ted and Tonya Butler of Pine County. I reside on my family's crop production farm, with my sister Allison, where I am currently FFA project animals. I just completed my junior year at Pine Grove Area High School, where I was Chapter President and also as Junior Class President. Outside of school I work part time at a dairy farm, where I feed calves and milk cows. I am an active member of the Pine Grove Chapter. I thoroughly enjoy my youth group as well. I enjoy showing Brown Swiss dairy cattle, and I am currently showing a pair of Brown Swiss. During my free time I enjoy sewing, singing, making jewelry, and spending time with my family. I am excited about continuing my work with Emily and Mackenzie along with the many wonderful dairy princesses throughout the state. It takes a village to raise a dairy industry and I just want

**Congratulations to Alexis, Emily and Mackenzie on a job well done!**

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### Mackenzie Thomas - Pa. Alternate Dairy Princess

Mackenzie Thomas is the 19-year-old daughter of Mark and Christine Thomas of Lebanon. She is currently attending Penn State Harrisburg where she is pursuing a degree in business. Mackenzie works at Furnace Hill Holsteins for Joel and Christine Krall where she milks, feeds calves, and occasionally helps with herd care. In her spare time, she enjoys riding dirt bike, truck pulling, showing cows and spending time with her favorite Red and White Holstein Sensation. Mackenzie jumped at the opportunity to be a dairy princess this year because she has an undying and undeniable passion for dairy, and she loves sharing it with everyone she meets.

### Congratulations

Alexis, Emily & Mackenzie!

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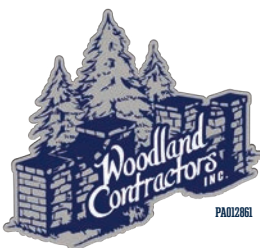
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Congratulations to Alexis, Emily & Mackenzie.

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While the eastern quarter of Pennsylvania is not as dry as elsewhere in the state, the Mid-Atlantic and the Ohio Valley, farmers in much of the Keystone state are praying for rain. This photo was posted to social media by a Lebanon County, Pennsylvania dairy farmer June 26. Facebook photo



Aerial photos show flooding in northwest Iowa as an already wetter than normal year was inundated by more rain and storms producing historic flooding. Iowa Department of Agriculture photo

## Pray for rain from page 5

ing, in fact, some more red.

“We are still fighting the mentality that rain makes grain,” said Relph. “But the concern grows when we have other big chunks of other major growing regions very dry in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, having had no rain in three weeks, with cracks in the ground, and plants curling and temperatures up at 75 overnight.”

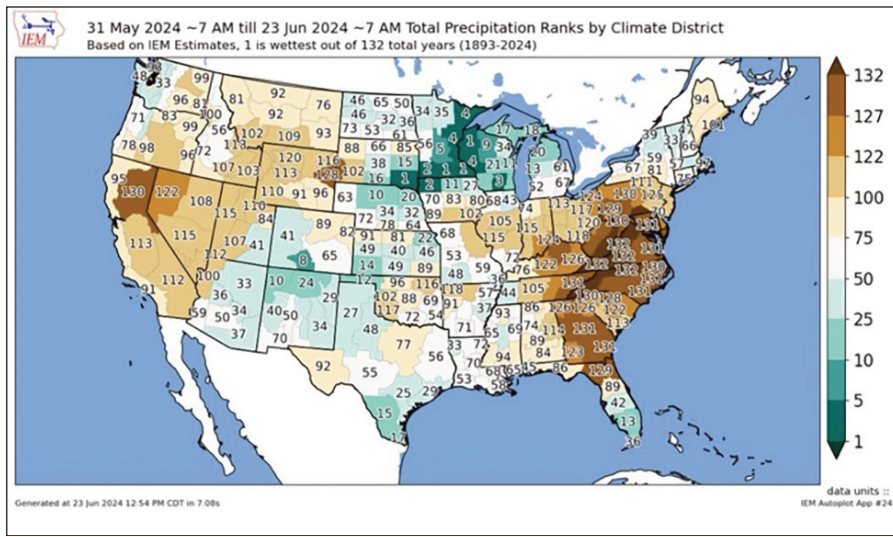
Analysts are looking back at reactions to the summer flooding of 1993. But as farm broadcaster Max Armstrong observed in a tweet on X (formerly Twitter) Wednesday morning (June 26): “The South America behemoth makes tragic, sickening U.S. flooding far less consequential to the world than it did three decades ago.”

Farmers have taken to social media showing aerial footage of flooded fields, updating ever-increasing rainfall totals while walking the sprayer tracks that have become rivers in a swamp, along with images of busted corn bins and piles of flood-soaked corn in rural towns of northwest Iowa, like Spencer and Rock Valley, all within the targeted dairy growth area of the I-29 Corridor.

The problem, according to Relph, is the region had full moisture profiles coming into the Spring, then more rain constantly through April and May. This was before this 8 to 15 inches of rain that inundated the region.

Relph lives and works there. He described the geographic impact as substantial:

“At the western front of this area that is receiving this kind



This Iowa State University data map shows total precipitation ranks vs. the past 132 years by climate district. An April May data capture showed the excess moisture in the Upper Midwest and Northern Plains, with the near record drought just emerging in Virginia and North Carolina, not yet hitting Pennsylvania and into the Appalachian and Ohio Valley.

of rain, we move straight east through Iowa, with as much as 40% of Iowa affected, and it's up into South Dakota and even North Dakota to a degree, and into central, the southern quarter of Minnesota, over into central Wisconsin and down along the Mississippi, missing Illinois, but including eastern Iowa,” he reported.

Iowa Ag Secretary Mike Naig said state officials won't have a full sense of the crop damage or number of livestock lost in the region until the flood waters recede.

“This was already a wet part of the state, where there were some challenges around planting and replanting. They've just

been inundated with rain throughout the spring. We're hearing about damaged and destroyed equipment. There are livestock facilities that folks are having trouble getting feed to because of washed-out roads, and there are power outages and water outages. These are just some of the things that are really challenging,” Sec. Naig reported.

Farmers are resilient, and they are helping each other get through the most damaging elements and waiting to see how many fields will bounce back, if not under water more than two or three days. Some analysts say growers are not likely to pour management dollars into fields, depending on what the yield losses are predicted to be. It's virtually too late to replant, even if conditions allow.

As one set of problems affects one region and another set of problems confronts another, Relph said: “It's a tale of two halves. Without a shift in the weather pattern, it will be detrimental.”

Other analysts interviewed on Rural Radio Wednesday morning point to U.S. and European weather models that show more rain to come in the flooded region, but also going all the way East, keeping the bears in charge of the grain markets, with corn June 25 trading under February lows.

Meanwhile, the concerns now shift as the already flooding rivers flow into the Missouri and Mississippi.

In addition, sources indicate transportation has been affected by I-29 closures in spots from Sioux City, Iowa to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, affecting movement of supplies in and milk out. Trips take four times longer via back roads, and even there, washed out roads are encountered leaving some farms in a tough spot, while suppliers in affected nearby towns face difficulty getting out.

Some roads and portions of I-29 were reopening or partially reopening June 26, but new areas are bracing for the Missouri and Mississippi that are forecast to crest at major levels June 26 into the first week of July.

Meanwhile, the NOAA Weather Prediction Center map shows rain and strong storms continuing in the Upper Midwest while overspreading the Ohio Valley and into the Mid-Atlantic by June 28.

As for the Midwest, The Weather Channel warns of severe flood risk returns as meteorologists are watching a new system ejecting from the Rockies with the potential to bring a continued risk of flooding and severe weather in already impacted areas into July.



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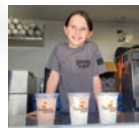
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From construction workers driving through for a milkshake break, to families walking up, and teens riding in on bicycles -- a steady stream was served 1728 milkshakes and 900 pints

of whole milk with a side of education, courtesy of Sensenig's Feed Mill and their partners at the 4th annual June Dairy Month celebration in New Holland. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu



What is a dairy event without a cow? Greg Forestater works at the feed mill and volunteers with CrossNet next door. Teens coming in for milkshakes got a kick out of seeing him in a 'moooo' way. Here, he's helping Casi Long and her young son get the milk pints ready to give out. Photo by Ashley Gesswein

## Sensenig's Feed Mill celebrated bigger-than-ever June Dairy Month

*The event keeps growing: More milk, more milkshakes, more milk education*

By SHERRY BUNTING  
Special for Farmshine

NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — It gets bigger every year! The 4th annual June Dairy Month celebration in the parking lot off Railroad Avenue and Main Street in New Holland on June 12 was sponsored by Sensenig's Feed Mill with partners Hostetter Realty and Little Stream Auto Rentals.

"It was an amazing day," Mike Sensenig reports. At the end of five hours, the team of 20 volunteers had given out 1728 milkshakes and 900 pints of whole milk (up from 1212 shakes and 850 pints last year).

They brought in two machines this year to more quickly serve the Dairymen's Milkshakes, a Pennsylvania Farm Show original. Kolb's Farm Store of Spring City brought the pints of whole unflavored and chocolate milk.

The terrific response shows how much the community loves dairy with keen interest in learning about farming, says Mike, noting a record 200-plus people toured the feed mill, led by nutritionists Kyle Sensenig, Steve Morris, and Dale Clymer.

"One woman said she's lived here all her life, passing by all the time. She took the tour because she had no idea what we do here," Mike shared.

"On the tour, Kyle, Steve, and Dale talk about how dairy cows are fed, and the byproducts that are used instead of going to a landfill. It always amazes people," adds Kurt Sensenig.

"Some drove in, seeming puzzled, asking: 'Who's doing this, and why?'" Mike relates. To Kurt, the 'why' is simple:

"This is about community engagement. We're part of this industry and this community. We're just really grateful for their interest. In one way, it's about giving back, but we also want to help people understand dairy and agriculture -- that we need our farm families. They provide our sustenance."

Kurt sees the big picture changing, even in rural communities. "Even those of us working in agriculture, who understand it more than most, are also more removed from farming than past generations.



With everything set up just as the first cars and walkups were arriving, Mike (right) and Kyle Sensenig, celebrate with their own event cow (played by feed mill employee Greg Forestater). Photo by Ashley Gesswein



More than 200 people took dairy education tours of the feed mill. One tour-goer said she lived in New Holland all her life and had no idea what they do there. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

"To see people enjoying their milkshakes is rewarding, but they may have no idea of the work involved in getting to that product, so we're providing milk education to the community -- that's the other reason we do this," he explained.

A wealth of information was found at this unifying event. The Dairymen's Milkshakes' truck and tent were emblazoned with hashtags Choose PA Dairy and Milkshake Smiles.

Allied Milk Producers provided funds to help with the cost of the dairy products given out. Their signs and materials were available with catch phrases Powered by Milk and Whole Milk. Whole Nutrition. Naturally. These messages are also on billboards and buses and heard in radio and television spots.

Chester County Dairy Princess Lily-Anne Bramm and Dairy Maids Bella and Makayla Smith brought their dairy promotion display, including coloring books for kids. They helped serve while handing out materials, including From Cow to You, part of ADA Northeast's theme Your Milk Comes from a Good Place.

A 97 Milk banner adorned the big tent, and volunteers handed out the popular 97 Milk 6x6 information cards. Mike's wife Nancy heard a few say they read the card they got last year and switched to whole milk.

This expanding event really got its start in April 2020 during the Covid pandemic. Local farms were having to dump milk, while stores limited purchases to two gallons per customer, and whole milk was hard to find.

The Sensenigs and their employees did a drive-through Whole Milk Gallon Giveaway. They worked with Clover Farms to purchase 7400 gallons of whole milk bottled from area farms and handed out a 97 Milk 6x6 card with every gallon. They also loaded vans for local church groups as well as Blessings of Hope, Water Street Rescue Mission, and CrossNet ministries.

Everyone involved that day was overwhelmed by the community response. People came from all over, and the idea was born to partner with other local businesses and organizations for an annual June event to continue giving, engaging, and educating.

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Enthusiastic supporters of Whole Milk for Healthy Kids, these folks are all champions in my book: (l-r) Retired internal medicine physician affiliated with Reading Hospital and the newest member of the Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Committee Dr. Ed Silverman; Gene Wenger, Wenger's of Myerstown; U.S. Representative and House Ag Chairman GT Thompson (R-15th); Chairman of the Grassroots PA Dairy Advisory Committee Bernie Morrissey; State Rep. John Lawrence (R-13th), author of the Whole Milk in Pennsylvania Schools Act; and two more members of the Grassroots Committee Bonnie Wenger, Wencrest Farms, Lebanon and Nelson Troutman, a Berks County dairy farmer and 97 Milk baleboard originator. Not pictured are additional Grassroots Committee members Mike Sensenig, Sensenig's Feeds, New Holland; Krista Byler, Union City School District foodservice director; Christine Ebersole, Williamsburg Area school nurse; Dale Hoffman and Tricia Adams, Hoffman Farms, Shinglehouse.

Photos by Sherry Bunting

**MY THOUGHTS**

# Champion for farmers and kids: GT Thompson honored

## Event raised funds to help elect more champions

BY SHERRY BUNTING  
Special for Farmshine

NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — Glenn 'GT' Thompson has many titles from Representative, Congressman, and Dean of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to Chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee. The 50 people who came out to Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland on the evening of June 19, know him also as a Champion — The Champion of Whole Milk for Healthy Kids, Champion for schoolchildren, for agriculture, for Pennsylvania, and importantly for America's farmers and ranchers.

I have seen GT in action over the years since he first came to Washington in 2008, representing Pennsylvania's 15th District, the largest in square miles, home to many farms, including dairy farms, and the rural communities that rely on them for a healthy, vibrant future. His grandparents on both sides were dairy farmers, and although he made his career working in healthcare with people confronting long-term and life-changing illness as well as serving as a volunteer firefighter — dairy is part of GT's DNA, for keeps.

GT is a listener, and he gets it. He was there when the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act was pushed through Congress at the bidding of then Secretary (and current Secretary) Tom Vilsack. GT didn't vote for the bill. By 2014, it was clear what was happening, the Dietary Guidelines had been christened to put the lowfat stranglehold on government feeding programs, including school lunches and breakfasts, removing whole milk, and 2% reduced fat milk also.

The rest, as they say, is history. We've been over this ground dozens of times in *Farmshine*. You know the score. The bill has been introduced by GT four times. This time



The Whole Milk bill is part of the House farm bill now, and GT is optimistic. "I love proving the naysayers wrong," he said. "The House will do this. The Senate needs to do this. I am confident we will find a path to the House floor for this farm bill. Our farmers and ranchers are doing their jobs to feed, clothe, and fuel our nation. they deserve for us to do our jobs in Washington, and get this done."

it has gone further than ever, and GT credits the 97 Milk educational effort and Grassroots Committee baleboard campaign with raising awareness in the public. With 147 cosponsors, bipartisan passage by the House Education Committee, an overwhelming and unprecedented bipartisan full House passage 330 to 99 last December, the bill is now part of the House Agriculture Committee-passed 2024 Farm, Food and National Security Act (aka farm bill).

Families and farmers across the country owe the progress of this bill to the grit, grace, and determination of GT Thompson.

Not only has he continued to introduce

the bill since 2017, he made it even better by hearing what school foodservice personnel shared to make it workable for them.

GT is a thoughtful listener and a dedicated doer, a man of integrity, with patience and determination. Even while going through cancer treatments that ended recently with a "clean bill of health," GT maintained his rigorous schedule with the best Congressional attendance among Committee Chairs. He didn't miss a vote on the House floor, didn't miss a single one of the 85 bipartisan farm

bill listening sessions in 40 states that were key to fulfilling his goal of drafting a bipartisan package that puts the farm back in the farm bill and confronts the critical issues. It doesn't shy away from the hot topics.

"There's a lot going on in this bill, and I'm optimistic about the future," said GT as he talked about the Farm Food and National Security Act that passed his committee after a 13-hour marathon markup session a few weeks ago, including four Democratic votes.

"I love proving the naysayers wrong," he added. "They said we wouldn't write it. We did. They said we wouldn't get it through committee. We did. They said we wouldn't get any bipartisan votes. We did."

"The House will do this," he said. "The Senate needs to do this. I am confident we will find a path to the House floor for this farm bill, and then it goes to conference. We cannot keep kicking the can down the road. Our farmers and ranchers are doing their jobs every day to feed, clothe, and fuel our nation. They deserve for us to do our jobs in Washington, and get this done."

Event co-chair Bernie Morrissey blessed attendees with faith-filled music and acknowledged others in the room running for office. About GT, he said: "We are fortunate to have this man here fighting for agriculture."

Representatives of the following companies are among those who contributed to this event, paid for by Friends of Glenn Thompson: Ewell Trucking, Farmer Boy Ag, Keystone Crop Insurance Services, Morrissey Insurance, Oregon Ag, Sensenig Feeds, Star Rock Farms, United Egg Association, Wencrest Farms, Wenger Group, Wenger Equipment, Yoder's Restaurant and Smorgasbord, and Zook Molasses.

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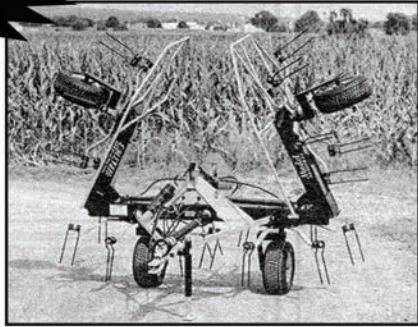
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# Department of Animal Science



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Some of Chelsea Hill's dairy does enjoying fall pastures in northeast PA.

## June Dairy Month spotlight on dairy goat production

Interest in dairy goat milk production has been increasing in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States, and can be especially well-suited for small-scale or part-time livestock operations. Goat milk offers an important opportunity as a value-added enterprise.

A survey conducted by Ginger Fenton, Ph.D., dairy Extension educator, and Kerry Kaylegian, Ph.D., Associate Research Professor in Penn State's Department of Food Science, showed that dairy and sheep goat milk both contribute to Pennsylvania's dairy industry. The 70 survey respondents represented several types of businesses, including Grade A, Non-grade A, raw milk, artisan and farmstead processors. Goat milk was used by 17 percent of the processors, sheep milk by 10 percent and mixed milk by 3 percent. At the time of the survey, in 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's list of permitted dairies reflected that 10% processed goat milk while 2% processed sheep milk.

In Pennsylvania, the number of dairy goats has consistently remained between 13,500 and 15,000 in the past ten years, and the Commonwealth now ranks fifth in the total number of dairy goats behind Wisconsin, California, Texas and Iowa. It is sixth in the sales of dairy goats, totaling \$1,714,000 in 2022.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture (USDA NASS) shows that 1,057 farms reported having milking goats, a decrease from the 1,250 reporting milking goats in the 2017 census. Overall, the number of animals in the state has increased by 5 percent from 15,416 to 16,180. Counties having the highest number of dairy goats include Somerset, Berks, Lancaster, Adams and York.

### Successful Value-Added

The key to being successful with value-added goat milk products is to begin with high quality goat milk. Keep in mind that the quality parameters for goat milk are not the same as for cow's milk. The standard for somatic cell count (SCC) for cow's milk and goat milk differs per the 2019 Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) with cow milk and sheep milk at 750,000 cells/mL and goat milk at 1,500,000 cells/mL. And to produce consistently high-quality milk, it is important to pay attention to details, following proven milking procedures.

Fenton explains that important milking



procedures include starting with a clean environment in the milking parlor or milking area and where the goats are housed. Per milking procedure recommendations from the National Mastitis Council, use a pre-dip to reduce the presence of bacteria from the environment on the udder. Thorough coverage of the teat along with adequate contact time are critical (usually 20-30 seconds or per label instructions). Pre-strip a few streams of milk and observe the milk for flakes, clots, or discoloration. Do not strip into your hand or bedding where pathogens could be spread. Dry the teats with a paper towel or clean, single-use cloths. Apply the unit within 90 seconds to ensure time for milk letdown but before re-contamination of the teat occurs. Once milking is completed, apply a post-dip to protect against new mammary infections.

### Survey Results

A survey of goat producers was conducted in 2019 (APHIS, 2022). Most producers or 75.2% milked their goats twice a day (APHIS, 2022). No particular order for milking was reported by a majority of 72.8%. Washing teats prior to milking, forestripping, and post-dipping after milking were steps taken by most survey respondents. Routine SCC testing was more prevalent in larger herds (66.5%) than medium herds (39.7%) which were more likely to test than small herds (12.4%). Larger operations also were more likely to report any does with clinical mastitis in the past 12 months when compared to small operations.

The three most important management recommendations to ensure efficiency and productivity of a dairy goat enterprise are as follows:

1. Manage young does to have them ready for breeding when they weigh 75% of their adult average weight. Typically, this ranges from seven to nine months old for most dairy goat breeds. This increases the total lifetime herd production of milk and meat and reduces the number of nonproducing animals in the herd at any one time.

2. Encourage freshening of the does over as wide a time span as possible. Most dairy goats are seasonal breeders and will start to cycle during fall to early winter, when the natural amount of light starts to decrease. Selecting does that can breed out-of-season or having a strong breeding management strategy will provide your customers with a year-round source of milk.

3. Cull animals to eliminate low producers or those that don't fit the goals of your operation. This can increase the herd productivity if animals are culled for lack of performance and genetic reasons.

History shows a long account of goats in the United States, with the first milking goats being brought to the colonies by settlers both at Jamestown, VA and at Plymouth Rock, MA. In the southwest, it was even earlier, with the Spanish mission settlements distributing dairy goats throughout the Southwest and California during the 16th century. Although of no distinct breed type, descendants became known as common American milking goats.

Today, due to the composition of dairy goat milk, goat milk and value-added products are highly sought after by consumers who may struggle with digesting cow milk. In addition to having a lower amount of lactose, goat milk also has smaller fat globules making it easier to absorb in the body. Goat's milk generally has a small "cream line" because of this and is often referred to as being "naturally" homogenized. Those who struggle with cow milk products should be encouraged to try dairy goat products from a quality local source to enjoy the many benefits that dairy products provide.

### Additional Links

- American Dairy Goat Association - <https://adga.org/>
- Dairy Goat Production - <https://extension.psu.edu/dairy-goat-production>
- Goat Milk Products - Quality, Composition, Processing, and Marketing - <https://goats.extension.org/goat-milk-products-quality-composition-processing-marketing/>

[extension.org/goat-milk-products-quality-composition-processing-marketing/](https://goats.extension.org/goat-milk-products-quality-composition-processing-marketing/)

### Reference:

United State Department of Agriculture. 2022. Milking procedures and milk quality on U.S. dairy goat operations NAHMS goat 2019 study. Available at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/goat2019-milking-procedures-milk-quality.pdf>.

United States Food and Drug Administration. 2019. Grade "A" pasteurized milk ordinance. Available at: <https://ncims.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2019-PMO.pdf>.

Recognizing the increased significance of the dairy goat industry, Penn State's Extension Dairy Team is offering a live webinar on Monday, June 17, from noon to 1:00 p.m. Designed for dairy goat producers, the webinar will focus on dairy goat milk's value for producers, entrepreneurs and processors.

Fenton, Ph.D., and Chelsea Hill, livestock educator will help attendees learn about milk quality, production, best practices and tools for producing high quality milk.

The program is free, but pre-registration is required.

For more information and to register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/milk-quality-and-more-for-dairy-goats-and-sheep>.

## Contributors to Text

Contributions to this text were made were made by:

• Ginger D. Fenton, Ph.D., dairy extension educator, whose focus is on milk quality and food safety from the farm to the processor. She also works extensively with women in agriculture farm safely, and value-added dairy. She received her B.S. in environmental science/biology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, her M.S. in food science from Penn State and her Ph.D. in pathobiology from Penn State.

• Kerry E. Kaylegian is a dairy foods research and extension association in Penn State's Department of Food Science. She received her B.S. and her M.S. in food science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and her Ph.D. in food science from Cornell University.

• Chelsea Hill, Livestock Educator, with a focus on dairy goats, meat goats, sheep, ag business planning and livestock processing. She received her B.S. in Agribusiness Management from Penn State University.

### Online resources

Department of Animal Science: [animalscience.psu.edu](https://animalscience.psu.edu)  
College of Agricultural Sciences: [agsci.psu.edu](https://agsci.psu.edu)  
Cooperative Extension: [extension.psu.edu](https://extension.psu.edu)

### Contact information

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109 AVBS, University Park, Pa. 16802  
814-863-3665

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## Interns welcomed at Select Sires

PLAIN CITY, Ohio – Select Sires Inc. welcomed six interns in June who are eager to learn more about the A.I. industry.

Veterinary interns Claire Lutz and Matthew Holton will learn from staff veterinarians and livestock teams to perform routine herd health checks. Originally from Hugo, Minnesota, Claire is a third-year veterinary student at the University of Minnesota. Matthew is a Dawsonville, Georgia native who will enter his third year as a veterinary student at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine this fall.

Mackenzie Corbin, from Greenfield, Ohio, will be joining Select Sires as a livestock technician intern at the Darby Creek facility. She attends Wilmington College where she will be a sophomore in the fall. She will assist with day-to-day care and collection of sires.

Abigail Foster, from Wakefield, Rhode Island, will be the semen processing and research laboratory technician intern. She is a 2024 graduate of Oklahoma State University

with a major in animal science and a minor in agribusiness and economics.

Ansley Kozarec, from Farmersville, Ohio, joins the communications department as the corporate communications intern. She is entering her senior year at Ohio State, majoring in animal science with a minor in agricultural communications.

Eleanor Enright, from Yardley, Pennsylvania, will serve as this year's talent development intern. She will be a junior at Colorado State University this fall, studying animal science.

"We offer internships in all divisions of Select Sires," said David Thorbahn, president and CEO of Select Sires, Inc. "It is this breadth and depth of our internship experience that allows students to focus on their specific interests and passions. We try to tailor internship experiences to the interest of each student, often creating individual experiences to fit the needs of the student and company."

## Promotion team, 11 strong, bring Fayette Countians dairy good news

Fayette County in southwestern Pennsylvania has 11 young dairy promoters spreading the word about milk's goodness. Everyone should have three servings of dairy every day! Together, milk, cheese and yogurt provide 13 essential nutrients for our bodies. In fact, dairy foods provide calcium, protein, vitamin A and D, potassium, and other nutrients needed for good health throughout life. Pictured in the top row, left to right are Breann Poole, Zoey Murphy, Clara Baker, Audrey Poole. Bottom row, same order: Emma Sproul, Julie Sproul, Grace Ansell, Magnolia Holchin, Rozlynn Orr. In the smaller picture are Kitlyn and Bryton Rhodes, making a total of 11.



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# Got your T-shirts yet?

Two styles of Farmshine T-shirts are available in various colors and sizes.

**Dairy Farmers Squeeze to Please** -- a Farmshine original since 1981, has been a big seller for well over 30 years. It is available in either golden yellow or medium gray.

**Cows Got Milk ... Providing Goodness Worldwide** is a Farmshine original, introduced in 2013. It is available in lime green, medium gray, light yellow and pink. The shirt's message is meant to help convey a positive message about milk to the public.

**Both T-shirt designs have the familiar Farmshine logo on the back.**

We invite you to wear any of these T-shirts. Mix or match in any quantity. Postage is included in the price and discounts are available for orders of 10 or more to the same address.



Modeling the T-shirt is 20-month old Emily Krieg.



Modeling the T-shirt is 4-year old Geneva Styer, daughter of Heidi and Andy Styer and granddaughter of Farmshine Editor, Dieter Krieg.

**DAIRY FARMERS  
SQUEEZE to PLEASE**

**cows got milk**  
*providing goodness worldwide*

### T-SHIRT ORDER FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Sizes available (Please circle):

Child: S M  
Grey or Yellow

Adult: S M L XL XXL  
Yellow or Grey

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

All orders MUST be pre-paid. Please be certain to enclose \$12.50 for each adult shirt and \$10 for each child shirt. (Which includes postage and handling).

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Sizes available: Please circle

Child: S M Adult: S M L XL XXL

Colors available (Please circle):

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Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Penn State students placed well at contest

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — The Penn State Dairy Products Evaluation Team competed in the Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest held in Milwaukee on April 17th, placing high in several categories.

The team earned the following awards:

- First place butter,
- Third place Cheddar cheese and
- Third place cottage cheese.

Team members included undergraduate students Grace Hwang, Ryland Curran and Fletcher Kanas and graduate students Ashley Ohstrom, Andy Paff, Auja Bywater (alternate) and Paige Sullivan (alternate). All are food science majors.

Individual awards won by team members included: Grace Hwang, second place, cottage cheese and third place, butter; Rylan Curran, fifth place, butter; Fletcher Curran, fifth place, butter; Ashley Ohstrom, third place, butter, and fourth place, cottage cheese; and Andy Paff, first place in cheddar, third place in milk, third place in yogurt, fifth place in ice cream and third place in all products.

Kerry Kaylegian, associate research professor in the College of Agricultural Sciences, is coach of the Penn State Dairy Products Evaluation Team. She pointed out that there is a certain symmetry to Penn State's triumph.

"The first contest in 1916 was butter only, and Penn State won that contest," she said. "This means that Penn State won butter at the first contest and the 100th contest — how special to be able to bookend this contest with butter wins. By the way, in case anyone is trying to reconcile the math, there were a few years off for World War I, World War II and COVID-19."

The National Collegiate Contest was held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Cheese Maker's Association International Cheese Expo.

## Michigan State receives \$\$\$ for research projects

EAST LANSING, Mich. — With more than \$2.5 million, the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture (M-AAA) will invest in 23 new research and outreach projects led by Michigan State University researchers and MSU Extension educators.

The funding is available through the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development budget.

"Animal agriculture faces many short- and long-term challenges, including managing infectious diseases, improving animal welfare and bolstering environmental sustainability," said James Averill, associate director of MSU AgBioResearch and one of the leaders of M-AAA. "We appreciate the continued support from the Michigan Legislature and our M-AAA partners as we work to help Michigan producers."

This year, research and outreach covers a wide range of topics, including management of dairy cattle diseases, improving dairy cattle fertility, controlling tar spot and vomitoxin in silage corn, and developing honey bee health protection tools.

M-AAA projects are either one or two years in duration and are submitted in one of three categories: applied research, extension or seed funding. Project leads are required to submit annual progress reports and final summaries to M-AAA leaders.

Examples of 2024 projects:

- Adam Lock, a professor in the Department of Animal Science, will work to improve the utilization of high oleic acid soybeans in dairy cattle diets. Previous M-AAA research from Lock showed that a diet with high oleic acid soybeans increases milk fat and protein yields in milk without altering body weight.

- Richard Pursley, a professor in the Department of Animal Science, seeks to boost dairy herd longevity by improving fertility of multiparous cows — those on their second or more lactation.

For a complete list of 2024 funded projects, visit [canr.msu.edu/maaa/projects](http://canr.msu.edu/maaa/projects).

### HOOF-TRIMMER CHICKEN BBQ

(Everything provided)

**July 13th, 12:00 p.m.**

Address: Paul Neer Farm

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## All-American Dairy Show from page 13

way, Cooper, and Case, have a 40-acre farmette where they manage 8-10 show heifers each year, under the HammerTime prefix, which has yielded numerous All-American nominations over the past 12 years. Ryan has recently launched HammerTime Auctions, a registered dairy cattle auction service that has sold numerous All-Americans over the past two years. Ryan has also been a professional hoof trimmer for the past five years, as well as a dairy cattle fitter for the past 20 years. During his years as a professional fitter, Ryan has had the privilege to prepare 17 Grand Champions at World Dairy Expo, as well as 10 Grand Champions at The Royal Winter Fair. Ryan has also prepared cattle in numerous countries including Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and Mexico. Some of Ryan's judging accolades include serving as the Associate Judge for the 2022 International Jersey Show and the 2017 International Junior Holstein Show at World Dairy Expo. Ryan has also served as official for the Jersey and Red and White shows at All-American Dairy Show, Midwest National Spring Holstein Show, Southern National Holstein and Jersey Spring shows, California, Iowa, and Illinois State Holstein shows, Wisconsin State Red and White Holstein Show, Maryland State Fair Holstein Show, Midwest Fall National Red and White Holstein Show, Minnesota State Red and White Holstein Show, along with numerous district and county shows throughout the entire Midwest.

**Alan Kruse** of Dyersville, Iowa, will serve as the associate judge for the Eastern National Fall Holstein show. He and his wife, Emma own and operate Generation Next Boarding and currently care for 10-12 elite show heifers that originate from various U.S. states and Canadian provinces on

their 12-acre farmette. Since opening their doors in 2019, Generation Next Boarding has owned and/or boarded numerous Jersey, Holstein, and Red and White All-Americans. Alan works for ST Genetics as a Dairy Account Manager assisting in the young female program and marketing embryos internationally and domestically for ST Genetics. Alan grew up showing Brown Swiss and Holsteins at local, state, and national shows. After attending Farm and Industry Short Course at University of Wisconsin-Madison, he worked and fitted for numerous elite show farms, including Milksource Genetics.

**Terri Packard** of Boonsboro, Md., will judge the All-American Jersey Show and the Premier National Red and White Show. Terri operates South Mountain Jerseys and Kueffner Holsteins with her husband, Ernest Kueffner, in Boonsboro, Md. Together they breed, develop, and market a select group of deep pedigreed Holsteins and Jerseys that compete in show rings and highlight sale arenas across North America. Over the past 27 years, they have owned or managed over 200 All-American and All-Canadian nominations and exhibited numerous Supreme Champions at World Dairy Expo, the Royal Winter Fair, All-American Dairy Show, and Maryland State Fair. The couple also spent 10 years managing Arethusa Farm, building the herd from a small hobby farm to national prominence in both the Holstein and Jersey breeds. Packard has placed state shows and state fairs in 15 U.S. states, including officiating twice at Eastern States Exposition, and as official judge for the 2020 National Jersey Jug Futurity. Her international experience includes the 2023 Ontario Spring Discovery Jersey Show and the Jersey and Red and White Shows at the 2022 Borderway U.K. Dairy Expo. Aside from her

involvement with the farm, Terri serves her local community as Chairman of the Economic Development Commission in Boonsboro. She is a Director for the Maryland Jersey Cattle Club and also represents the Eastern U.S. dairy exhibitors on the World Dairy Expo Dairy Cattle Exhibitors Committee.

**Brian Schnebley** of Hagerstown, Md., will place the All-American National Guernsey Show and Premier National Junior Ayrshire Show. Brian is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, with a degree in Animal Science and grew up on Crown Stone Farm in Clear Spring, Md., where his family milks all breeds and he remains active with his wife, Heidi, and their daughters, Grace and Claire. His judging experiences include the International Guernsey Show at World Dairy Expo, Eastern States Guernsey Show, All-American Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorn Shows, Premier National Junior Guernsey Show, National Junior Guernsey Show in Louisville and International Brown Swiss Show as the associate judge. He has judged all breeds at state and local shows in nine states and has even judged Guernseys in Canada and Australia. Brian Schnebley currently is the Dairy Operations Manager at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center in Clarksville, Maryland. He manages the 75-head registered Holstein herd for the University of Maryland. He is a former programs manager, breed classifier, and Executive Secretary for the American Guernsey Association.

**Phillip Topp** of Botkins, Ohio, will sort the All-American Milking Shorthorn Show and the Premier National Junior Holstein Show. Phillip along with his wife, Carrie, and their three children, Aubree, Aiden, and Alaina, have a small herd of 40 registered dairy cows consisting of all breeds. Phillip has been very active in showing and has exhibited many champions at the Ohio

State Fair, World Dairy Expo, and North American International Livestock Expo. He is also a co-owner of a fabricating maintenance business, specializing in stainless steel tig welding. Phillip has judged at several county fairs, district shows, and numerous different state fairs. He has also judged international Brown Swiss Shows in Peru and Mexico. In 2019, he judged the Jersey Jug at NAILE, as well as the Guernsey Show in 2021. He was the associate judge at the World Dairy Expo in 2016 for the Jersey International Show and in 2021 for the Brown Swiss Show. He was the official judge in 2019 for the International Ayrshire Show, in 2022 for the Guernsey Show, and in 2023 for the International Red and White Show in 2023. Phillip will be judging the 2024 International Brown Swiss Show at World Dairy Expo.

**Steve Wagner** of Gray, Maine, will place the All-American Red and White Show and the Premier National Jersey Show. Steve, originally of Quarryville, Pa., and a former partner of Bo-Joy/Graystone Farm, now resides in Maine where he manages the herd of elite Holsteins at Juniper Farms. Previously, Steve and his parents farmed under the prefixes of Bo-Joy and

Graystone where they bred more than 97 Excellent cows and received 49 All-American nominations in the Brown Swiss and Red and White contests. Steve moved to Vermont in April of 2017 to manage Tim and Sharyn Abbott's Borderview Genetics before joining the Liberty family at Juniper in 2019. Steve has previously judged more than 150 shows of all breeds throughout the East Coast, highlighted as the official judge of the International Brown Swiss Show in 2018 at World Dairy Expo. He served as the 2018 judge for the Jersey Show at the All-American Dairy Show, as well as the 2010 All-American Brown Swiss Show. He has also placed cattle at the Maryland, New York, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Vermont state fairs.

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SALE HELD AT FISHER'S QUALITY DAIRY SALES  
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**THURSDAY, JULY 11 • 6:30 P.M.**

**Including two herd dispersals**

Free ice cream for all dairy farmers

**Herd #1** - Lancaster County tie stall herd consists of 32 milking age and 2 bred heifers. Herd currently averaging

Heifers sell at 6:30. Cows approx. 7:15

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Also selling a group of good, young, fresh cows and heifers.  
Watch for more details next week.

Free chocolate milk • Not responsible for accidents

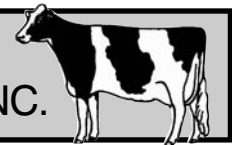
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**WEDNESDAY, JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> • 10:30 A.M.**

All quality cows and heifers are welcome!

**Mature cows milking 100+ lbs. are in demand.**  
All sizes of open & bred Holstein heifers are selling at historical highs!

Consignors: Please send all info with truckers for the catalog.

For more information, contact dairy reps:

Aaron Martin, 717-445-4825 (home); Bill Hough, 973-224-0204 (cell).

REMINDER:

Thank you - N.H.S.S.

Friday, July 5th, starting 8 a.m. Annual "Ice Cream" Horse Sale.

Sale Managed By

**New Holland Sales Stables, Inc.**

Barn 717-354-4341 Fax 717-355-0706 • David Kolb, Mgr. 61L

## BRUBACKER'S QUALITY DAIRY SALES

10 BROWN ROAD, SHIPPENSBURG, PA

Thursday, July 18 @ 7:15 P.M.

### Special Mid-Summer Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale

- ★ We are expecting a great selection of good, young, fresh, dairy cows with top udders! Many on DHIA test, A.I. sired and several Registered cows. Out of local, overstocked, freestall and tiestall set ups.
- ★ Brandt-View sends 10 fresh and fancy cows w/ deep pedigrees & genomics, and milking well!!
- ★ We are hoping for a nice selection of heifers, ranging from milk calves to close springers!
- ★ 6-10 bulls sell with EX pedigrees and tons of milk in the family!!
- ★ 16 mon. Reg. Brown Swiss bull sired by Tornado! Dam milking 90 lbs. 5.0F 3.3P!
- ★ Good semen tank sells.
- ★ Is your barn overstocked? Fresh, and fancy dairy cows and heifers are in demand!!

Can't make the sale? Buy online at Cowbuyer.com.  
For on-line questions, call Katie Shultz 717-543-7883.



Manager/Auctioneers  
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**Top Quality Consignments Welcome! Call To Consign!**

Sale Barn  
Ivan Brubacker  
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Pedigrees  
Art Kling

Next sale: Special Dairy Cow and Heifer Sale, August 22nd @ 7:15 p.m.

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Friday Evening, **JULY 12, 2024**  
**7:00 P.M.**

At the Fraley Complex,  
1515 Kepner Hill Rd., Muncy, PA

### WILLYE HOLSTEINS COMPLETE REGISTERED HERD DISPERSAL

~ 80 HEAD ~

55 MILKING, 10 DRY, 15 SPRINGING HEIFERS

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**Bernie**  
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**Craig**  
"Whole milk, yogurt, cheese"



**Tim**  
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**Jason**  
"Sour cream, cream cheese, jalapeño cheddar cheese"



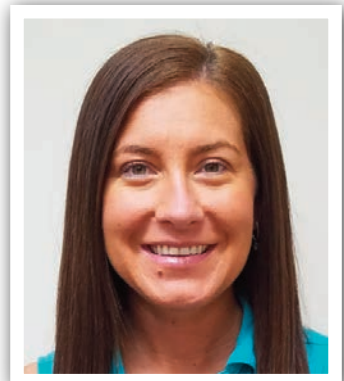
**Barb**  
"Milk, cheese, ice cream"



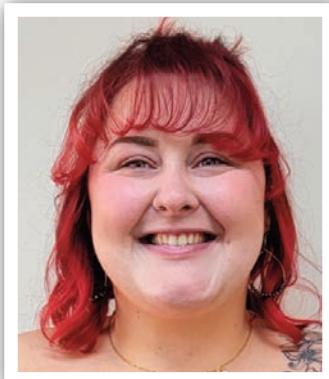
**Suzette**  
"Ice cream, flavored cream cheese, cheeses"



**Katie**  
"Whole milk, cheese, ice cream"



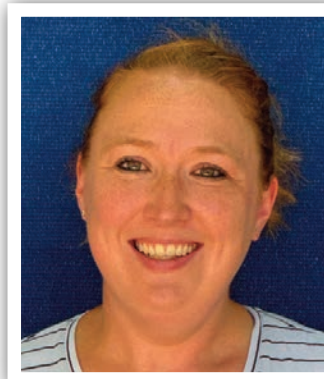
**Nicole**  
"Ice cream, whole milk, yogurt"



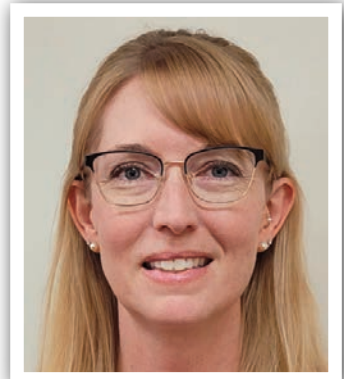
**Heather**  
"Milk, cheese, ice cream"



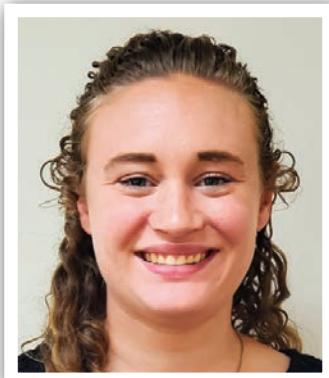
**Jeremy**  
"Babybel cheese, hard cheddar, cream cheese"



**Kayla**  
"Chocolate milk, ice cream, tomato basil cheese curds"



**Beth**  
"Yogurt, cheese, ice cream"



**Madison**  
"Cheese, ice cream, chocolate milk"



**Becky**  
"Ice cream, cheese, yogurt"



**LeAnne**  
"Cheese, ice cream, yogurt"



**Michele**  
"Yogurt, ice cream, whole milk"



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