

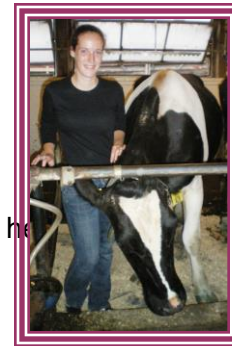
Brought to you by Amy Tsoukalas, Nicole Antaya, and Kiah Wiggin

COW OF THE MONTH



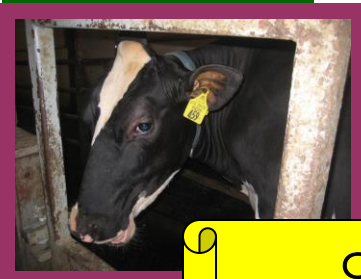
Crème, 428

Crème is easily recognizable by her oreo cookie-like white stripe that runs across her withers, sandwiched between her black head and back. Crème is a second lactation cow who belongs to CREAMer Izzie Fletcher. Izzie had the following to say about Crème's personality, and her new daughter. "Crème is very sweet but can be stubborn at times. She loves having her neck rubbed and has fun licking your boots while you pat her. On 2-8-10 she had a heifer, who is named Sugar. Sugar is just as sweet as her mom and hopefully will become a high producer like her mom." Currently Crème is producing 94 lbs of milk per day and rising, as she just calved back into the CREAM herd. Her butter fat is 3.6



Her Stats

Sire: Applouis Jet Stream
Dam: UNH-II Morty Peaches
Lactation #: 2
DOB: 2/1/2007
Age: 3 years
Fresh: 2/8/2010
Status: Fresh
Avg. Milk Fat: 3.8
Avg. Milk Protein: 3.1
SCC: 200,000



CONGRATULATIONS TO RAISON AND TREVOR FOR
WINNING OUR FEBRUARY "CLEAN COW" CONTEST!

HERD UPDATE

Births

Fantasia (298) - Twin Heifers, 1/26/10, "Perdita" and "Pongo"

Grace (425) - Bull

Crème (428) - Heifer, 2/8/10, "Sugar"

Jessamee (496)

Nutter (329) - Heifer

Molokai (252) - Twin Bulls

Illnesses

Ringworm and Hairy Heel Warts throughout string

Humility (323) - Hoof Abscess

Razcal (194) - Mastitis

Marley (411) - Udder Rot

Victory (335) - Ovary removed for research

Culled

Floozy (375)

DHIA QUICK FACTS

December

Avg. Daily Production: 2325.29 lbs

Milk Fat: 3.8

Milk Protein: 3.1

SCC: 54,000

January

Avg. Daily Production: 2400.19 lbs

Milk Fat: 3.5

Milk Protein: 2.9

SCC: 71,000



AMY IS HARD AT WORK LOADING
THE DATA RANGER WITH FEED
FOR THE CREAM STRING'S
TMR



GENEX AI CLASS

On January 19th and 20th, Genex Cooperative Inc. offered a clinic for Artificial Insemination. Taught by Bill Rauf, students from CREAM and workers from the Organic Dairy farm learned for the first time or refreshed their memory on the techniques for artificially inseminating dairy cows.

The first day of the clinic covered basic reproductive anatomy, semen handling, sanitary technique, and the physiology of the estrous cycle. Students practiced using an insemination gun on a few different excised reproductive organs lying on a table, feeling for the cervix and learning how far in the gun should be placed without injuring the cow.

After becoming familiar with the cervix, uterus, and ovaries the next step was performing insemination without being able to physically see what you are doing. A wooden box

with holes for the rectum and vagina were used to act as a cow's behind. A nylon stocking was attached to the rectum hole to simulate a cow rectum. Here students practiced going inside the rectum, feeling for the cervix below and inserting the insemination gun into the vagina and cervix. At the end of the day students had a chance to try out their skills on a real cow

The second day of the clinic consisted of review of material learned the previous day along with many attempts at inseminating real cows. At the end of the day every student had successfully completed the clinic by "inseminating" a cow. Students went home with a feeling of accomplishment after a challenging task completed, and looked forward to receiving their artificial insemination course completion



*AN EXAMPLE OF
ARTIFICIAL
INSEMINATION OF A
DAIRY COW.*

UPCOMING DATES OF INTEREST

Thursday March 4th: Cream Alumni/Movie Night in Cole 219

Saturday March 6th: Cream Ski Trip to Gunstock

Thursday March 11th: Cow Judging by Drew

Saturday March 27th: Little Royal Showing

Tuesday April 6th: Presidents Luncheon Huddleson Hall 11am

April 10th-11th: Cream Educational Trip



ALUMNI UPDATES

- 1. What do you remember most about CREAM?** When I look back at my time with CREAM, there are few memories that stick out very prominently (like the mother daughter pair that dropped their car keys into the manure pit!! during an open house), but those are isolated events. On a broader scale, mostly I remember the teamwork. Whether it was planning our trip to UVM and several other notable dairy farms along the way, a holiday party at Tom's house, or who to cull, who to keep and who to breed, it was a group decision. We didn't always see eye to eye, but we always worked together and got our tasks accomplished.
- 2. What are you doing now and how did you get there?** Currently I am working at both a small animal hospital and an equine referral hospital. After UNH I went to Ross University and graduated with my DVM in January of 2008. I then split my time doing research on equine herpes virus and teaching large animal clinical skills to 2nd year students at Cornell University for 6 months, followed by an internship at the same equine referral hospital I am now employed.
- 3. Did CREAM influence your career choice at all? How?** I always knew I wanted to be an equine veterinarian, however I also knew that in vet school I was going to be required to learn about all common domestic animals. CREAM helped me learn to work with cattle in a quiet and safe environment, so that when the time came to learn and work with them in a clinical setting I was able to focus on the information and clinical skills I was trying to obtain versus worrying about being around such large creatures. CREAM also gave me a great deal of respect and appreciation for today's dairy farmer.
- 4. Do you have any advice for college juniors and seniors looking to go into the animal industry?** The doors you want to open for you in your field don't always give way with just a little twist of the handle, sometimes you have to kick them open, and when all else fails....there is usually a window near by! Even when things aren't going exactly as you planned, if you are getting even a little bit closer to your dream than go with it, and with some hard work you will get there!

FUNDRAISING SUB-COMMITTEE

The fundraising committee is working hard on raising money for the C.R.E.A.M class. Recently, a parent of one of the students donated a ski and stay package to be raffled off. All the proceeds will be applied towards the C.R.E.A.M account. The raffle will start Friday February 19th and last for a week with the drawing being held on the following Friday the 26th. Each raffle ticket will cost \$2.00 and the money raised during this fundraiser will be able to be used for a variety of different expenses. Educational trips, cow cleaning supplies, and other various barn supplies are just a few of areas where the money would be put to good use. The committee is also working on raising money for genetic improvements and creating networks with the outside community to continue to generate resources for the 2009-2010 C.R.E.A.M class and for future classes. The goal of our committee is to focus on raising money to better our farm and continue to



CLEAN COW SUB-COMMITTEE

The Clean Cow Sub-committee has been hard at work trimming udders, in the hopes of making it easier to keep them clean. In addition, they have been keeping a close eye on Grace (425)'s potential udder rot issue, and both Jessamee (496) and Fantasy have been completely clipped. Rachel, Em, and Kristen have been coming to the barn weekly to clip and spot-clean, and they have gotten Udderly Smooth udder cream for use on our cows. Feel free to apply some to your cows' teats if they are chapped, but preferably not right before milking time.



COW COMFORT BEHAVIORS

A cow's behavior, health, longevity, and production can all be affected by her stabling and management. Fear or frustration with the environment can predispose a cow to disease, and can be noticed in abnormal or unwanted behaviors. Diseases related to comfort can include lameness, hock or neck injury, mastitis, milk fever, ketosis and displaced abomasum.

In comfortable stalls, a cow will lie for around 60% of the day, and will not often be seen standing idly. There are four normal resting positions for a cow - long, short, narrow, and wide. In the long resting position, cows rest with their heads extended forward. In the short position, they rest their heads along their side and go into active sleep. In the narrow resting position a cow rests more on her sternum with the neck in a slight crook and the rear legs close to the body. Her front legs may or may not be extended. In the wide resting position, a cow rests more on her side with the rear legs extended. Another position is lateral recumbency where a cow lies totally on her side with legs and head extended. Most stalls don't accommodate this last position, however.

Cows should not spend an excessive amount of their day idly standing. Idle standing can sometimes indicate failed attempts at lying down. In addition, cows should not be seen "perching" - that is, standing or lying with only their front feet in the stall. This behavior can indicate a stall that is too small, or lack of headspace, and can contribute to mastitis and claw horn diseases of the rear feet. In one study, perching behaviors decreased as the width of stalls increased from 44 to 52 inches.

Diagonal standing or lying refers to the corner-to-corner use of a stall, which often occurs as a way for the cow to fit all four feet in a too-short stall, and is often a way for the animal to give herself enough room to lunge when standing up. Sometimes, cows will stand or lie diagonally due to a high feed bunk curb. A comfortable cow will tend to stand parallel to the divider bars of a tie stall. This is because she will have plenty of room to stand, lie down, and rise straight.

Restlessness or fidgeting refers to a cow's frequent shifting from a wide to a narrow resting position. Restlessness can be caused by high manger curbs obstructing forward extension of the legs, and can lead to bedding being kicked into the gutter, and injury to legs due to repetitive



This cow is demonstrating caudal licking, a sign that the floor has plenty of traction for the cow to feel safe.

Another thing to pay attention to is the motion with which the cow rises and lies. Rising and lying are normally continuous and smooth motions. They include a forward lunge and retraction and a bobbing down and up of the head. The head bobs downward until the chin touches ground level, acting as a counterbalance for the hindquarters. Rising begins with the front quarters raising slightly and then the hindquarters follow, propelled by the rear legs. Obstructions in the cow's space can cause alterations to the normal rising motion. Cows often cope with obstructions in their space by altering the normal bob, lunge and pendulum motions of the head. Smooth motions become shuffles of the front and hindquarters. When coping with obstructions, the cow's head moves in an upward ski-jump type arc rather than a normal bob. Changes in rising and lying motions can also be caused by lameness and pain.

One behavior that may not be seen as frequently in tie-stall barns is caudal licking. This is because most tether systems prevent the cow from turning her head far enough. Caudal licking is the raising of a hind leg, and the licking of the skin between the udder and inner leg. It is surmised that this behavior may help to prevent scalding of the skin between the udder and the leg. Caudal licking is an indicator of the slipperiness of the floor - a cow will not perform this motion if she cannot maintain traction on the floor.

Kneeling Cow Syndrome (KCS) is the behavior seen where a cow will kneel on her front legs, while standing with her hind. In many cases, cows kneel to avoid malpositioned electric trainers or in an attempt to get to feed beyond their reach. Cows with laminitis, or cows in a barn with a neck-rail that is too low may also kneel while eating.

Dog-sitting behavior can be observed when a cow sits on her hind end, propped up on her front legs. This can happen when a cow has an injury to a front leg, as swelling limits the bending of the leg. Also, some cows will choose to adopt this position if there is inadequate room for lunging in the process of rising, sometimes due to a chain that is too short, or a stall that is too short. In this case, it is easier for the cow to rise like a horse, front end first.

Obstructions that restrict normal rising and lying, or stall features that cause pain, fear or frustration, can result in unwanted or abnormal behavior. By monitoring the behavior of the animals in our herd as we move through the barn, we can do a better job of keeping tabs on how happy our animals are in their stalls, and in their environment in general.

Reference:

We're on the Web!

See us at:

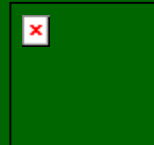
<http://www.unh.edu/cream/>



This cow is demonstrating dog-sitting behavior, rising with her front-end first.



*CAPTION DESCRIBING
PICTURE OR GRAPHIC.*



*"TO CATCH THE READER'S
ATTENTION, PLACE AN
INTERESTING SENTENCE OR
QUOTE FROM THE STORY HERE."*

