

A P R I L / M A Y 2 0 1 4

the

CREAM Newsletter

The CREAM class visits the Stuart Farm!



What's Inside:

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Cow Facts!

-Cows have just one stomach with four chambers – rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum. This allows them to digest tough plant matter that would normally be indigestible.

-Holstein cows may not have hands, but they have their own unique “fingerprint.” No two cows have the same set of spots!

-There are more than 800 different breeds of cattle around the world.



Justin Lalumiere

*What is your major, and what do you intend to do with it when you graduate?

I am a dairy management major. After graduation I plan to return home and work on vegetable farm that I operate with my parents. I plan on expanding into new markets and overall expansion of the farm. I would also like to work in the dairy industry during the winters either for a dairy farm or at a feed mill.

*What interested you about CREAM when you applied?
I was interested to see more of the in depth management decisions that go into running a successful dairy operation.

*Do you have previous experience with dairy cattle?
I have had a lot of previous experience with dairy cattle prior to CREAM. I have worked on 5 different farms doing everything from field work and cropping, milking, feeding, calf raising, and sick cow management.

*What's your favorite part of CREAM so far?
My favorite part of CREAM is being in the barn with the cows milking.



Chelsea Augustinowicz

*What is your major, and what do you intend to do when you graduate?

I am a Biomedical Science: Medical and Veterinary Science Major. When I graduate with this degree I intend to work as a Veterinary technician for a few years. I will then return to my education and attend Veterinary school to pursue a DVM.

*What interested you about CREAM when you applied?

Being a Pre-vet major I was already interested in animals and their care. I did not have much experience with large animal before college so CREAM seemed to be the perfect opportunity. I was at the point in my college career where I was decided whether I want to be a large or small animal Veterinarian. CREAM has provided a perfect opportunity to explore my future career options.

*Do you have previous experience with dairy cattle?

I did not have previous experience with dairy cattle when I started the CREAM program. I had some experience with beef cattle and other large animal during my years at high school.

*What's your favorite part of CREAM so far?

My favorite part of CREAM has been working my barn shifts. I liked learning how to do the chores I am not familiar with like milking and feeding. It is always a fun way to spend your day working with the calves and maternity cows

*What do you hope to gain from the CREAM program?

I hope to gain the experience of working with my classmates to accomplish all of our goals.



Mark Trabold



*What is your major, and what do you intend to do with it when you graduate?

I am currently a Dairy Herd Management major and I plan on going to work on a decent sized dairy as a farm/herd manager somewhere in New England when I graduate.

*What interested you about CREAM when you applied?

I really liked the idea of having the hands on experience of managing a herd with others before I was off on my own working with a herd. I have taken a lot of classes talking about the science behind running a dairy farm and how the cows work, but it is an entire different thing to actually put the knowledge to use.

*Do you have any previous experience with dairy cattle? If so what?

I do. I spent ten years before coming to UNH in 3 local 4-H clubs showing beef cattle and sheep and llamas. A lot of my very good friends live and work on dairies and also showed their dairy cattle at the same fairs as I did.

*What's your favorite part of CREAM so far?

As much as I have enjoyed working with the animals, I have spent the majority of my life working with the big beasts. What I think I have enjoyed the most has been sitting in the seat at the head of the business meetings watching how everyone in the class went from complete strangers, many of whom having no prior experience with cattle at all, to a room full of peers who are great at communicating, working together and getting things done. Everyone has changed and learned so much and it is cool seeing it all come together as the year progresses.

*What do you hope to gain from the CREAM program?

As I said, I plan on working on a farm after I graduate where I will hopefully be managing a herd of cattle. I really have enjoyed my classes that teach me the science end of farming, but I have wanted the class that puts it all into action. I rally hope to gain the knowledge of how the nitty gritty day-to-day almost behind the scenes work is done on a larger scale farm than what I grew up on.

Emily Rice

*What is your major, and what do you intend to do with it when you graduate?

Prevet major, go on to vet school.

*What interested you about CREAM when you applied?

I was super excited to work with and learn more about cows cause they rock.

*Do you have any previous experience with dairy cattle? If so what?

No previous experience other than visiting farms.

*What's your favorite part of CREAM so far?

My favorite part is seeing all of the cows different personalities and being able to appreciate the hard work that dairy farmers have to put in everyday at the farm.

*What do you hope to gain from the CREAM program?

I hope to gain a better understanding of how the dairy industry is run and to be more knowledgeable about cattle and their lives and importance to not only the dairy industry but the world.



STUART FARM

The CREAM class took a field trip a short 15 minutes up the road to a local New Hampshire farm this past month. The Stuart farm is a family owned farm right on the edge of the Great Bay Estuary. The farm consisted of a large herd of mostly Holsteins and Brown Swiss, which were milked two times a day. The Stuart Farm now chooses to have a free-stall barn, and graze their heifers during the summer. However, they didn't always have a free-stall barn. Up until recently Stuart Farm had a tie-stall barn which they tore down and replaced with a free stall barn. When asked why, they explained that in terms of the space they had and how they wanted to expand the number of cows they have, it made more sense to go in the free-stall direction. They also said that they used to graze all of their milk producing cows but since numbers have grown over the years they have started just grazing their heifers. For the CREAM class, visiting Stuart Farm was the first time that many of us were able to see a free stall barn on such a large scale.

One unique aspect of the farm that CREAMer's really enjoyed were the names of the all the cows. The names ranged from kitty to mango to DQ. When asked how they think up all the different names they said with a chuckle "There's a protocol". Each of the cows are named to fit their category, for example if the mother's name is Toyota then her daughter will be named Volvo to follow the car theme. They have a large range of categories from beers to cars to types of fruit to names of different heritage.

Overall the Stuart Farm was a fabulous and welcoming farm to visit and offered a great learning experience everyone in CREAM.



FARMER'S PANEL

On Thursday April 10th, three farmers came to visit the CREAM class to participate in a Farmers Panel. Farmer's that were present were Trevor Beaudry (stepping in for his mom and dad), Mr. and Mrs. Harris (parent's of CREAMer Jake Harris) and Mr. Robertson from Contoocook Creamery. Each farmer was asked to answer a series of questions about their farm such as calf protocol, how milk prices affect them, how they came to be a farm, and how much of their diet is bought or grown themselves. The answers given ranged widely and gave CREAMer's and interesting view on how different farms work and that one way is not necessarily the only way. Out of the talk a few things stood out that were funny, interesting or different from what we do. Trevor's farm consisted of an accelerated growth program for their calves, where calves get a hand made hat for the hard winter times. Mr. and Mrs. Harris talked about the large diversity of activities on their farm from having beef cattle to growing crops. They also let their calves nurse. Mr. Roberston explained that they buy all of their feed and don't grow any of their own, and have been a family run farm for many generations.

The CREAM class thanks all of the farmers for coming and participating in our farmer's panel. Your farms sounded totally awesome!



Farm Olympics

It's getting warmer and that can only mean that the CREAM class is up to some mischief. This past Thursday CREAMer's and a few others from the barn were gathered around a random assortment of objects with an underlying purpose. Some were confused and scared while others were excited and ready. The first activity of the farm olympics was before us.

The first relay race consisted of 5 people committing acts in sequential order. The first person in the race had to make a PB&J while in oversized pants and suspenders (used to mimic overalls), place that PB&J in a plastic bag then hand it off to the next person. The next person then had to put on the pants and suspenders, eat the sandwich with no drink (so dry!) and run to the next person in the relay. This person then put on the pants, spun in a circle 10 times with their head to a bat and the bat to the ground, and moved 3 bales of hay across the field while running. Once the hay bales were past a certain distance the pants were passed onto the next person in line who then had to jump in a wheel barrow and direct their 5th teammate (who was blind folded) through at obstacle course. Once through the obstacle course the pants had to be removed and time was called.

The second race called for each team member to move their right or left foot at the corresponding time in order to move the planks under neat them. Finally, the third race was a race to see who could fill up the 20 gallon jug with water the fastest, by trying to carry a full bucket to the jug and not waste too much water.

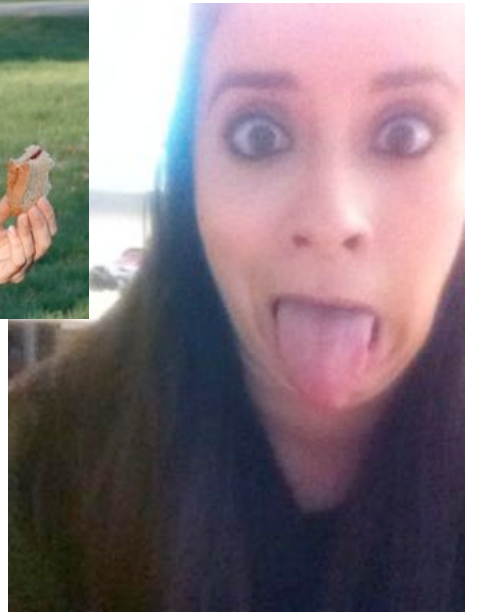
At the end CREAMer's were exhausted and wet and the winner won some awesome candy. The winners of the farm Olympics were Brittany Moon, Jake Harris, Jenna Brown, Bailey Finnegan and Caleb, who lives in the apartment above the barn.



*“I like nonsense, it wakes up the brain cells.
Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living.”*

-Dr. Seuss



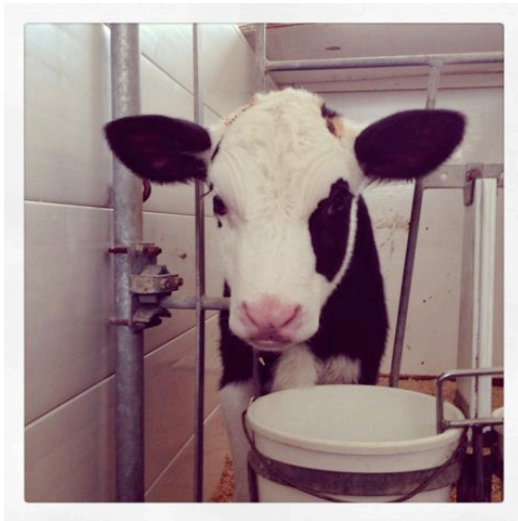


COWABUNGA BIRTHDAYS

Cows

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Thanks for reading!

Check out our website!

www.unh.edu/cream



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