

THE CREAM CHRONICLES

THANK YOU TO THE CREAM CLASS OF 2019-2020 FOR AN INCREDIBLE YEAR



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No cows, No Campus, No CREAM....?

No Way, this was how CREAM adapted to a tough situation!

By Dr. Drew Conroy, CREAM Faculty Adviser.

Students have always written the articles for this newsletter. However, given the crazy time we are all living through, in dealing with COVID-19, I wanted to offer a few words. If not for any other reason document this most peculiar and worrisome semester in my 33 years of teaching. But to also praise this class to stepping up and showing leadership and initiative!

On Tuesday March 10th, Dr. Dean Elder sent out a message that all the farms at UNH had to make contingency plans to deal for the possibility of students not coming back after spring break. That for me was a wake-up call. Things were going to change. The 2020 CREAM class discussed this at our Tuesday Business Meeting. The discussion was a serious one, with many thoughtful questions and ideas.

The next day, Wednesday, March 11, President James Dean at UNH sent out a message for students to prepare for Spring Break and beyond. The expectation was that students would be learning on-line for an additional two weeks, after Spring Break. I knew this would be a bit of a letdown. Yet I knew CREAM could adapt for a few weeks. At our meeting Thursday night, CREAM students seriously discussed, “what if” we do not come back after Spring Break?

Similar to many in society we prepared in a short meeting how the rest of the semester might play out. We discussed how we could continue to conduct Committee Meetings, hold Business Meetings, follow our agenda and discuss the things we had to shut down before we left. Again, I was impressed with how CREAM’ers in this “Flipped” class took this opportunity to find solutions. I left that meeting happy with all of you, but like you expected the rest of the semester was going to be unlike any other spring semester we had ever experienced.

Fast Forward to April 6th. Every CREAM’er had their peer evaluation meeting with me via Zoom, (a communication and education platform). I must admit we all may become tired of this way of communicating. yet, everyone “showed up”, we had typical discussions about the evaluations, but I was glad this going on-line did not happen in October.

In the last two weeks CREAM held two serious business meetings. Love it or Hate it, Zoom worked. We could see each other, have discussions, and get those great reports all the committees now put on Google Drive. We even managed to hear from the CREAM classmates “locked down” at the farm. Beyond this we had two really great Thursday night education sessions. One was the Assistant State Veterinarian who spoke to us about common ambulatory diseases, the other was a series of student mini lectures and a discussion about recruitment that took the meeting until just past 8 pm.

While I miss all of you. I miss my office and the socialization and normalcy of “going to work”, I am proud of all of you for being part of helping this year continue to be a memorable one. Hopefully CREAM will also be something you remember for its normalcy. CREAM is certainly about cows, but please remember I have always said it is more about working together, leadership, communicating, showing initiative, and doing things. We still have a lot to do before the end of the school year. But I know this group will step up to the task and finish this course as a team.

With All the CREAMer's Gone, What Will Happen to the Cows?

By the Alexia Gianoulis, Rachel Luddy, Hannah Majewski, & Courtney Rambush

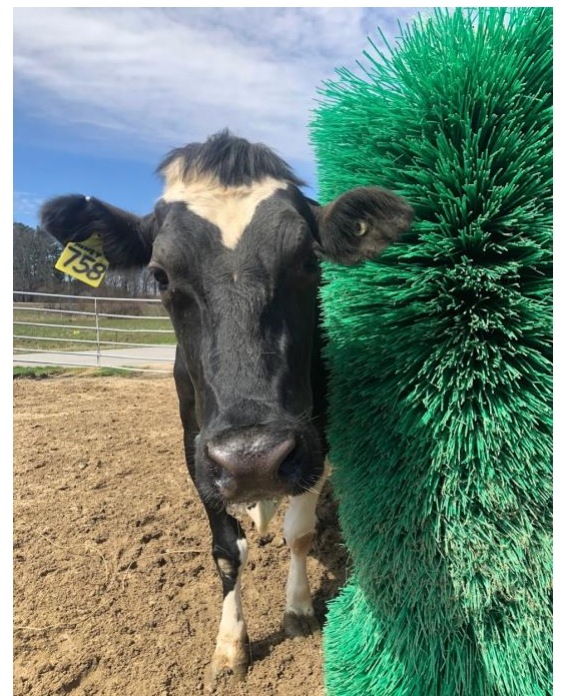
Life at the barn is never dull. Students that live in the Fairchild apartments are some of the most hardworking students as they work part time jobs while being a full-time student. When UNH announced that classes would continue remotely, most students were looking forward to a more relaxed life at home, but students at the barn knew this wasn't the case. Cows always need to be milked, and it's times like this, farmers come together to help other farmers. The barn staff was fortunate that a few CREAM students volunteered to move in and help out, as much of the student staff was forced to go home. Alexia Gianoulis, a CREAMer who volunteered to stay and help work says "The label of us being essential is nice to hear. I like being able to do my part and help out during difficult times".

In total, the barn apartment has six students living in the rooms. Jake Fisher and Dave Belanger are students who volunteered to stay. CREAMers who stayed include Hannah Majewski, Courtney Rambush, Rachel Luddy, and Alexia Gianoulis. "I'm so appreciative of my classmates who volunteered to stay" said Hannah, "with everyone helping out, it makes it easier to focus on schoolwork, which ultimately has to be our first priority". While Hannah is used to barn life, the other CREAMers are getting use to waking up to the sound of the Jaylor and hungry heifers but enjoying the extra sleep in the mornings as they now just have to walk downstairs to start their shifts. Courtney notes "it's nice to live so close to where I work. I've been able to use this extra time to help out extra around the barn like with the hoof trimmer and power-washing the walls". The new roommates are all enjoying the new dynamics with things like "Pancake Wednesdays" and baking excessive amounts of baked goods. During a time like this, it's nice to have a group of people who can come together, as it's been suggested that the workers avoid traveling out of state, which includes going home and seeing family for Easter.

Because the farm is part of UNH, it of course has to follow all guidelines that the university has put in place to ensure safe and healthy work environments for their employees. Jon Whitehouse, the manager at Fairchild has taken some extra precautions during this time. Everyone should avoid working in close contact (like working in the calf prep room together) and avoid sharing equipment (like syringes when taking blood samples). The farm has also closed its doors to the public, something that has never happened since its start. Full time staff has also been told to reduce their hours to avoid unnecessary contact. With that being said, the cows still have consistency as they are still being milked, fed, and cleaned out twice a day. Rachel has really stepped up to ensure the cows have the best possible care: "now that I live upstairs, I've learned how to milk the whole herd, so now I can do all the chores and maximize my usefulness to the farm staff". Among the chaos outside of the barn, farm life continues to remain consistently labor intensive but equally rewarding.



From Right to Left: Rachel, Courtney, Hannah, and Alexia



Dr. Nate Harvey

By Amanda Patev

On Thursday, March 26, the CREAM class had Dr. Nate Harvey, the Assistant State Veterinarian for the state of New Hampshire speak with us over Zoom. Dr. Harvey is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and was a full-time practicing large animal vet until taking his job with the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture. His talk focused on the four most common emergencies that he has seen as a dairy practitioner – dystocia, milk fever, uterine prolapse, and displaced abomasum.

Dystocia is the medical term for a difficult birth. When a dystocia is observed, it requires human intervention. Dr. Harvey's guideline for when to intervene is about an hour after the cow's water breaks if it seems like no progress is being made. There are many different reasons for a dystocia but Dr. Harvey shared a less common cause of dystocia with us – uterine torsion. There are a few ways to try and fix uterine torsion including trying to grab the uterus and use its own weight to swing it over on itself; or rolling the cow so that her body "catches up" to her twisted uterus. Another tip Dr. Harvey shared with us for pulling calves is when using dystocia/calf chains to wrap them around the calf's legs twice – once above the ankle and once below the ankle. This helps to distribute the force of the pulling more evenly and reduced the chances that the calf's legs will be broken during the process.



Milk fever is the result of low blood calcium at parturition. In order for the cow to produce as much milk as possible, she will pull calcium from the stores in her body. It is usually seen within 24-hours after calving and signs can be as mild as being slightly unsteady on the feet and not eating or as severe as a down cow with cold extremities. In the latter situation, Dr. Harvey recommended giving calcium (calcium gluconate) intravenously. One thing to remember when giving calcium IV is to not give it too fast, holding it just above the head to regulate the rate of flow. If given too fast, it can be fatal. Up to two bottles of calcium can be given to larger cows. If a cow seems like she needs more calcium or is only displaying mild signs of milk fever, oral calcium can be used.

Uterine prolapse is commonly seen after dystocia, milk fever, or both. This needs a veterinarian's attention to replace the uterus and suture it in. Uterine prolapse occurs after birth and can be differentiated from vaginal prolapse by the presence of caruncles (where the cotyledons of the placenta attach). Replacing the uterus is not easy, and some veterinarians will use sugar to help reduce swelling to make it easier to replace. Antibiotics are necessary after since the uterus will more than likely be covered in dirt, shavings, feces, hair, and sometimes sugar.

A displaced abomasum is often seen after parturition and can be critical or non-critical depending on which side the abomasum displaces to. A left displaced abomasum (LDA) is urgent, but not critical, meaning it can wait a few days to be fixed if the veterinarian is on other emergency calls. In an LDA, the stomach has floated out of its normal place to the top of the abdominal cavity. This is recognized easily by bloating seen only on the left side of the cow. Correction can be surgical, where the abomasum is relieved of the gas buildup then stitched back into place, or non-surgical, where the cow is usually rolled (similar to fixing uterine torsion) and the abomasum "floats" back into place. Toggling is a procedure that some vets do when rolling the cow – they place a suture in the abomasum through the outer stomach wall to hold the abomasum in place. A right displaced abomasum (RDA) is a true emergency as the abomasum twisted (abomasal volvulus), cutting off blood flow to the abomasum. This is characterized by bloat on the right side of the cow only. In both cases, suspected displaced abomasum can be confirmed by listening to gut sounds and by tapping or flicking the cow's flank. If a DA is present, then a characteristic "pinging" sound can be heard. RDA can only be fixed surgically.

We want to thank Dr. Harvey for taking the time to speak with us. We all learned things that will be useful in our futures whether we want to be veterinarians or dairy farmers!

The Clever Cow

P J L V I R N R E L X O O G Q
 D A Z S M E D M I L K I T D B
 E T R C R V H X G M B C Q A X
 N U G T B E F L K M T Y B B M
 A H O I U F O V S B C G T O F
 G J Z E T R U R P J F Y L M Q
 S U C A I I I R M J L G U A N
 T C O I I P O T K U Y Q D S N
 O L A Z R L K W I P I J Z U E
 B R J L A P W C V O C C W M D
 U D G P F Q P D E F N C L D Y
 Z X S A I C O T S Y D W N A F
 V E L Y P T W O K M B V G G C
 C X S B P G O J L L Y K U K G
 D E V N X B R X H L D V Y X W

Word Bank:

Milk

Abomasum

Parturition

Bloat

Prolapse

Fever

Dystocia

Calf

Calcium

NESA Comes to UNH

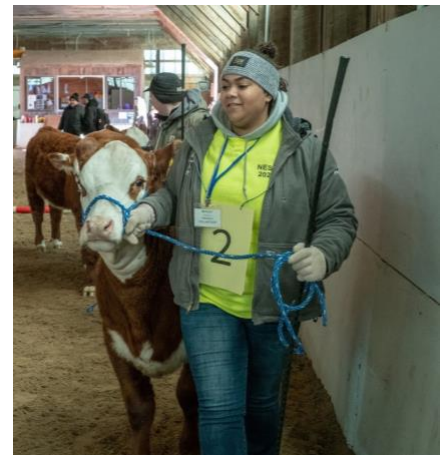
Written by Jeanne Marie Cassidy

NESA, or the Northeast Student Affiliate, had its annual competition for dairy and block and bridle clubs, on a windy cold day this February. The regional event for the American Dairy Science Association Student Affiliate Division (ADSA-SAD), this event is a chance for agricultural students to compete in the three areas of livestock judging, Quizbowl, and paper presentations. The honor of hosting is rotated among the schools that participate, and this year the torch was passed onto the wildcats. So, after months of planning, thirty-four teams representing eight different northeastern schools from Delaware to Maine descended upon Durham where they were greeted by the XL neon yellow t-shirt clad UNH Dairy Club and other volunteers, many of whom were current CREAMers or former CREAMers.

Livestock judging began in the morning, with some of the CREAMer's skills being put to the test handling animals such as beef or wrangling sheep. Others showcased their talents showing equine, or just commanding the crowds of students that were packed into the livestock arena. The highlight of the morning, however, was the 'surprise class', a NESA tradition where the hosting school picks an obscure animal (think lobster, honey, fertilized cow eggs) for the competitors to judge. For UNH the animal was striped bass, an easy choice since UNH raises these fish just a short walk from the livestock arena.

The afternoon was spent working through the quiz bowl bracket and the poster presentation from each team. With the afternoon ending with a final Quizbowl round between Penn State Team F and Penn State Team G moderated by NH Commissioner of Ag. Shawn Jasper and UNH graduate student Tess Stahl. Top 8 presenters shared their presentations in front of all the competitors.

The day wrapped up with awards at the Sheraton Hotel and after months of hard work, UNH's NESA ended. It would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the UNH Dairy Club and those volunteers who showed up dressed in the yellow t-shirts. But more importantly the event would not have been possible without the dedication and the work of UNH advisors Dr. Pete Erickson, Dr. Drew Conroy, and Dr. Vanessa Grunkemeyer.



CREAM and COVID-19

Written by Jillian Broadhurst

With the world turning upside-down in the wake of the emergence of an invisible adversary, we are living in what will become an event of historical remembrance. “Social distancing,” a term many had never even heard before, became one of everyday use as public spaces, workplaces, schools and more closed their doors to abide by its specifications. Among these schools, UNH is no different---in late March, the impossible happened: the campus bid goodbye to its inhabitants for the remainder of the year. Inevitably, this news was a crushing blow to students and faculty alike, leaving most of the community heartbroken, frustrated and confused. How will students manage coursework from home? How will professors alter the structure of their entire class to serve online learning?

And the question of the century, what does this mean for CREAM? It is safe to say that students and professors across the board are navigating challenging uncharted territory in terms of continuing their educational journeys, but the CREAM course is arguably facing one of the hardest transitions of all to online learning. In such a hands-on, discussion-based environment, our class was left wondering how we could go on. How can we evaluate our peers without even seeing them? Complete committee work without being able to meet at the barn? And worst of all, how can we do chores and continue caring for the herd?



“Innovative thinking and adaptability was the answer...”

Innovative thinking and adaptability was the answer (along with Zoom of course). Chores for the class were a lost cause, but fear not for the Fairchild girls—an excellent barn staff, including a small handful of CREAMers who remained at the barn, have remained on campus to take great care of the cows. Though the rest of the CREAMers were out of luck in getting to be at the barn, we took back aspects of the course we could control and are currently teasing through the restructuring of our class procedures to make CREAM work to the best of its ability.

Lucky for us, a mass pandemic decided to rear its ugly head in an age where interconnecting has become easier than ever. As for Tuesday and Thursday night meetings, Zoom has become CREAM's primary form of communication. For those who may not know, Zoom is an online platform similar to Skype that allows you to video chat with multiple people for collaboration purposes. Features including screen-sharing and a hand-raising button have made the application especially useful for professors trying to teach class online. While it is certainly not the same as seeing everyone in person, the class has been able to see and catch up with each other in this way. Thanks to great guests like assistant state veterinarian Dr. Nate Harvey, the class is still able to hear from and interact with guest speakers virtually through Zoom on Thursday educational nights. Class mini-lectures have gone off without a hitch as well, with students live-sharing their presentations on the online platform. During Tuesday business meetings, our President shares her screen to project our usual slideshow on everyone else's screens, and each committee presents their work for the week as we have always done.

As you can imagine, it has been very difficult for some of our committees to conduct business as usual on the web. Facilities, for example, has essentially been rendered useless without a barn to keep in order. The committee had to get creative, and decided upon creating a “how-to” of sorts for working in each of our five committees to give as a guide for the upcoming CREAM class.

When it came to peer evaluations, it took some serious thought to decide how we could best judge our classmates from a social distance. One of our CREAMers, Tara Henshaw, devised a solution by creating a new peer evaluation rubric that guides students in evaluating their classmates based on prior work in the barn and how they are responding to online transitions. While our old evaluation format was not conducive to our current situation, Tara’s work will allow CREAMers to accurately grade their peers based on our new class operations and submit these grades through an online system.

Subcommittees are doing an excellent job keeping up their work as well. The Sunshine Committee continues to spread smiles by sharing class baby pictures or pet photos during meetings. Outreach has used this time where everyone is stuck at home on their phones to keep up a strong online presence. From Herd Health to Recruitment and everything in between, subcommittees have demonstrated a strong work ethic even from home.

CREAM on the web is certainly a work in progress, but our class has done an excellent job acclimating to the changes COVID-19 has brought upon us. For what should have been an extremely difficult course to transfer online, our class has taken the situation for what it is and made quite a seamless transition to CREAM online. While it is difficult and not how we all sought to end our year together, this crisis is serving as an excellent opportunity to showcase how well we can respond to adversity, adapt to changes, and use positivity to finish our year in the best way we can.



Milk Market Madness

Written by Hannah Majewski

During this chaotic time, it’s nice to know that some things will always stay the same. Cows will always need to be milked, fed and cared for as usual. Farmers are fortunate that their businesses are considered essential, while they provide food to everyone. They haven’t had to close their doors, offer pick up or delivery, and things are business as usual. Farms have become the farmers oasis away from crowded grocery stores and chaotic media.

One thing that is unusual is that the milk price is down. Everyone thought that as the demand for milk increased, as worried shoppers stock up, that the price would go up in return. Unfortunately, the exact opposite has happened. Because states and countries now have limits on where products can be shipped, the price of class 4 milk (powered milk and butter) dropped dramatically, affecting the overall milk price. Speculators suspect that the milk price will bounce back for May, but until then farmers are going to have to hold on. The other worries that farmers have is the possibility of their workers getting sick. If one worker were to become infected with COVID-19, they would be out of work for a while, but also likely infect all the other workers. Like all the other essential jobs, good hygiene is key to a healthy work environment.

Although the rest of the world is feeling the pains of COVID-19, dairy farmers are in the lucky position of their schedules not changing. Besides dairy farmers, all people who work in agriculture are working their hardest to continue to provide food and keep grocery stores well stocked. Their daily routines are uninterrupted, and they even have the cows and other animals for company while everyone else is practicing social distancing.

The Jack and Diane of Calves

Written by Kate Blood

On Monday, February 24, 2020, my CREAM cow, Callie Mae (#857), gave birth to not just one baby, but two. Of the twin calves, one was a bull (male), while the other was a heifer (female). When this occurs in cattle, the heifer born is called a “freemartin” and in almost every case, will be infertile, unfortunately serving no use to a dairy farm. When sharing a womb, the heifer and the bull share the same blood supply and when the bull produces its male hormones, they can cross over to the heifer. This cross over of the male hormones to the female calf results in XY chromosomes like males have, rather than the typical female XX chromosomes which leads to abnormalities in the heifer’s reproductive tract. Due to the abnormalities that are caused in the freemartin calves, they cannot reproduce, which means they will not produce milk needed to be a dairy cow. Callie Mae gave birth to her twins, Jack and Diane, pictured below, on 2/24, only a couple of weeks before her due date. Cows that have twins have increased chances of having twins again so it will be interesting to see if Callie Mae becomes pregnant again soon and has another set of twins.



Inbreeding

By Joseph Marcoux

It is common to see CREAMers in the Breeding Committee struggling to find a bull with all the characteristics that we want to boost our cows’ health. This is true for all CREAMers who have done this, but it is necessary since we have seen a rise of inbreeding percentages throughout the younger population of our herd. One major problem that we have encountered is our bull pen. Most of these bulls have been selected for higher production and better conformation, so these are always the bulls that we tend to gravitate toward.

Recently, on October 17, 2019, NPR released a journalism piece that referenced inbreeding in the United States as becoming more of a problem. In their research, they found that over the years, the majority of cows had been bred to two sires dated back to the 50’s and 60’s (Charles, 2019). Inbreeding can become apparent in just a couple of years, but over the past 60 years almost all the Holstein cows in United States have been bred from these same lines of bulls.

To bring it back to UNH, our farm for years has been breeding for the same reasons: more milk and better conformation. With the entire system reaching problems like lower pregnancy rates, lower milk yields, and higher rates of deformities, it is not out of place to see these problems with our own herds.

Due to the bulls that have been selected, our inbreeding percentages have been at an average of 5.5% to 6.0%. With this said though, our heifers have skyrocketed from the average of 5.5% to some at a whopping 10%. We are still trying to figure out how to maintain lower inbreeding rates without cross breeding. The farm should keep up their search for bulls with characteristics that can help lower inbreeding and the herd’s health as a whole.

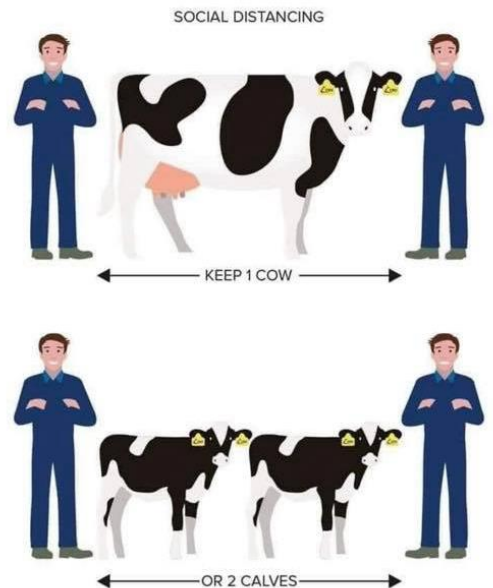
Works Cited: Charles, D. (2019, October 17). Most U.S. Dairy Cows Are Descended From Just 2 Bulls. That’s Not Good. Retrieved from npr.org: <https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2019/10/17/770696476/most-u-s-dairy-cows-are-descended-from-just-2-bulls-thats-not-good>

Vet Panel

By Kate Blood

On Thursday, February 13, the CREAM class was visited by a vet panel of four women who are all taking different veterinary paths in life. This panel was made up of three UNH alumni, and one current UNH senior attending vet school in the fall. Dr. Carey is a small animal veterinarian located in Epping, NH who has been practicing for many years after graduating veterinary school at Ohio State University. Dr. Robertson, an Iowa State Veterinary University graduate, is a mixed animal veterinarian at Candray Pet Care Center in Candia, NH, and a veterinarian for her husband's farm, Bohanan Farm. Jessica Childs is a current third year veterinary student at the Atlantic Veterinary College on Prince Edward Island (PEI), and is studying all animals. Lastly, Kaylah Caires is a current senior at UNH and will be attending vet school at NC State starting in the fall. Dr. Robertson, Jessica Childs, and Kaylah Caires are all previous CREAM students who talked about how CREAM helped them get to where they are in life currently.

In addition to talking about CREAM, these women talked about their lives as veterinarians and aspiring veterinarians, being completely honest with us about the difficulties and struggles of the veterinary world. The two current veterinarians spoke about their long hours of unexpected work every week and how every day is completely different, meaning a veterinarian can never have expectations for what they will see and work with. Dr. Carey and Dr. Robertson work with different animals so they were able to provide different perspectives and insightful information for all of us. These vets talked about the extraordinary amount of debt that vet school has put them in, and how they are paying that money back now as veterinarians. Dr. Carey talked about how she "could not even help [her] son pay for college" because of the debt she was in, and Dr. Robertson talked about how she had to work multiple jobs while being a full-time veterinary student to pay for school. Jessica Childs spoke about her time at PEI and how intense but exciting her schoolwork is. Kaylah Caires talked about all of the hard work she has done at UNH leading up to this, and how much she is looking forward to her time at NC state.



This vet panel was extremely beneficial for the students in our CREAM class, as most of us were thinking about becoming veterinarians at one point or another. For some of us, we were thinking of becoming vets right until this panel. I have always said I wanted to become a veterinarian and although that still sounds absolutely amazing, I am slightly less positive about that decision. This talk was not meant in any way to scare students away from the idea of becoming a veterinarian, and it did not, however, it was a very "real" talk and made me have so much more respect for all veterinarians. I believe that veterinarians do not get as much recognition as they deserve and after hearing from these incredibly hard-working women, I feel even more strongly about that statement. Dr. Carey, Dr. Robertson, Jessica Childs, and Kaylah Caires were a pleasure to have in our class, as they taught all of us more than we could imagine and having a vet panel was a fantastic idea that I believe all future CREAM classes should do as well.

Thank you Dr. Carey, Dr. Robertson, (and almost doctors) Jess Childs, and Kaylah Caires!!!

KEEPING UP WITH THE CREAMERS



Name: Rachel Luddy

Year: Junior

Major: Biomedical Science (Pre-Veterinary Track)

Cow: Heffalump #938

Hometown: Salem, Massachusetts

Fun Fact: Rachel plays on an intramural volleyball team in the fall and an intramural basketball team in the winter! She was going to join an intramural soccer team for the spring, but the quarantine cut their season short.



Name: Olivia Rose

Year: Junior

Major: Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary Track)

Cow: Relish #904 †

Hometown: Auburn, New Hampshire

Fun Fact: Oliva has a Friesian horse named Feike who has a fancy mustache.



Name: Jess Casey

Year: Senior

Major: Biomedical Science (Pre-Veterinary Track)

Cow: Skunk #973

Hometown: Manchester Center, Vermont

Fun Fact: Jess is an avid horse rider! She has grown up with pet horses, dogs, and guinea pigs.



Name: Brianda Mendez

Year: Senior

Major: Animal Science (Pre-Veterinary Track)

Cow: Rabbit #965

Hometown: Boston, Massachusetts

Fun Fact: Brianda favorite food is chipotle or chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream with rainbow sprinkles!



Name: Alexis Perfetto

Year: Senior

Major: Biomedical Science (Pre-Veterinary Track)

Cow: Sapling #908

Hometown: Derry, New Hampshire

Fun Fact: Alexis has been surrounded by animals her whole life, and one day she hopes to own a little farm of her own.



Name: Tara Henshaw

Year: Junior

Major: Dual degree in Biomedical Sciences: MVS and Neuroscience & Behavior

Cow: Guac #920

Hometown: Raynham, Massachusetts

Fun Fact: Along with her dual majors, Tara is also double minoring in dairy management and business. After she graduates, Tara wants to own her own business!



Name: Alyssa Boyd

Year: Junior

Major: Dual Major in Biomedical Science: Medical and Veterinary Sciences and Spanish

Cow: Trouble #987

Hometown: Manchester, New Hampshire

Fun Fact: Alyssa speaks two languages, and is using her free time during quarantine to learn a third!



Name: Nate Adams

Year: Sophomore

Major: Applied Animal Sciences

Cow: Turtle #854

Hometown: Westmoreland, New Hampshire

Fun Fact: Nate is in his second year of the two year animal science program at UNH. His family owns and operates Windyhurst Dairy farm where they currently milk 250 cows and have over 540 head of Holsteins.



Name: Corinna Coulton

Year: Junior

Major: Biomedical Science (Pre-Veterinary)

Cow: Siracha

Hometown: Winthrop, Maine

Fun Fact: Corinna has been a type 1 diabetic since she was eight years old! Also before she was interested in veterinary medicine, she wanted to go to school for theater.

Subcommittee Spotlight

Recruitment Subcommittee

Written by Paige Barnes

Members: Paige Barnes, Alyssa Boyd, Jillian Broadhurst, Alexia Gianoulis, Rachel Luddy, Brianda Mendez, Hannah Weber

As a member of the recruitment committee, our group had a blast scouting next year's CREAM class! Several of us were tasked with going to various animal science or dairy related classes to relay information about CREAM and urge those interested to apply. This was a fun time to really nudge those who were teetering on thinking about applying because we were able to answer questions on the spot from a firsthand perspective. It was important to us that we altered the application to make it more relevant to the questions we would have liked to see applicants answer. It was a long process of getting everything all together, but it really did pay off. We were successful in our duties, seeing that we had about 35 people apply for the 2020-2021 Cream class! I am so excited to see how well next year's class will do in CREAM. From the strive and determination we saw in the application process, I know our CREAM cows will be in good hands!

Fundraising Subcommittee

Written by Jeanne Marie Cassidy

Members: Jeanne Marie Cassidy, Corinna Coulton, Natalie Roth

Running a dairy farm is expensive. That's a lesson that we have all learned through our time on finance committee. But also running a class like CREAM is also expensive and for that reason we have the fundraising subcommittee which was comprised of a group of students who spent the year working to raise funds so that CREAM as a class could operate in the black, and have money for things such as; gifts for speakers, brushes and clippers, money for the end of the year banquet, and other small costs that the class passes as a good use of the money. Our biggest fundraiser this year: the Yankee Candle Sale, setting CREAM records with the most money raised in a single fundraiser, the fundraising committee was so impressed with how involved and excited everyone got to sell. Each week the 3 top sellers, nicknamed "top producers" were announced and at the end of the sale, Natalie Roth was announced as the overall "top producer". Total funds raised for this sale came to \$1163.70 Our second fundraiser was a bake sale. Numerous CREAMers donated baked goods with highlights being Abby Brisard's XL fortune cookies from her family bakery and Natalie Roth's cake pops. The initial sale occurred at Union Court and remaining products were sold that weekend at the NESAs competition where hungry competitors cleaned out the remaining product. Once again, a successful event this fundraiser resulted in close to \$200 dollars being raised. Plans were just starting for a sticker fundraiser when the pandemic sent CREAM into social distancing mode, but overall this year remains a success in terms of class finances and this committee is proud of the work that was done by everyone and their involvement in making these events so successful!



COVID-19 Report, NY Edition

Written by Hannah A. Weber

As a serious journalist and self-proclaimed reporter, I knew when Drew approached me about writing an article detailing how COVID-19 has affected the New York area, I needed an outsider's perspective. A great reporter always knows how to adapt to their ever-changing environment, so I decided to hit the metaphorical streets and interview the public social distancing style. In a true reporter style, I risked my life for this information and here is what I got:

"Ma'am? Ma'am?! Have you even stopped to think about how this dangerous virus could be affecting the dairy industry?"

Megan Weber, my mom, angrily trying to dodge my questions: "I know we are under mandatory quarantine, but please go outside or something. Take a walk or something."

"What about you sir? What are your thoughts on all of the milked being dumped?"

Bryan Weber, my dad, staring out the window into the distance: "When this whole ordeal is over, I am leaving this house and never returning."

"Young boy! Have you heard the news that farms throughout the country have to cull their cows or dry them off in order to decrease milk production?"

Troy Weber, my brother, visibly agitated: "It is the middle of the night, get out of my room!"

"And you random civilian, how has this mandatory lockdown affected your wellbeing?"

My dogs, cute as ever: "Bark Bark!" (Translation – "It is so cool; the humans never leave the house ever!")

"Hello stranger! What is your take on this whole coronavirus situation?"

Karen, my nosy neighbor: "Please take off the hazmat suit, you are scaring my children."

Editor's Note: I did not take it off. Nice try Karen, but safety is my priority.

Another day of hard work paid off. While my interviewing pool may have been limited due to the mandatory quarantine and obeying social distancing rules, I think we got some good content today.

So what can you do to stay safe during this time? Practice good hygiene habits like washing your hands, wear a mask if you leave your house (to protect yourself and others), and stay inside your domicile. Read a book, exercise, learn a new language, or build a New York City replica out of Legos. This social distancing is more accurately called physical distancing, because now is not the time to be cut yourself off socially from your friends and family. We are innately social creatures, so you should still be calling them or Zooming just to catch up. Everyone handles crisis differently, I obviously rely on humor, but together we will get through this pandemic.

Calf Corner



Name: Corona #1083

Birthday: 03/28/20

Zodiac Sign: Aries

Dam: Captain Crunch #946

Likes: Milk, Pats on the head,
Sticking her tongue out

Dislikes: Getting sick with
bovine coronavirus, Being
quarantined from her friends,
Tiger King

Happy Spring/
Summer
Birthdays to:

#854 Turtle:
04/15/15

#856 Killians
05/07/15

#942 Bluepoint:
05/10/17

#943

Genevieve:
05/25/17

#857

Calliema:
05/21/15

CREAMeme



Jon anytime someone mentions
the bull Bourbon



Where are they now ...

By Emily Gerraughty

CREAM is a unique course that has been around since 1997, providing inspiration to students for nearly 22 years now. It draws students of all sorts, not only to the program, but also to the school here at UNH. CREAM can be a challenging course, pushing students in new ways as they learn and grow to find out what they want to do for the rest of their lives. This course has put students on endless diverging paths over the years, leading them in directions they never thought would be possible. And while some take their place on the family farm upon graduation, other head off the veterinary school and graduate school. In Blair Downey's experience, CREAM was her ticket.

1. How do you think CREAM influenced your time after graduation?

Without CREAM, I never would have worked with dairy cattle, which is the entire focus of my PhD and career goal. I've always known I wanted to study animal behavior and make a difference in the world; and after falling in love with cows during CREAM, a PhD focused on cattle behavior and welfare was the obvious career choice. I get to do research and applied work that actively helps improve the lives of cattle and public perception of the dairy industry. Meanwhile, I can still explore totally novel and unknown questions about why animals act the way they do. My experience with CREAM and living/working at the barn afterwards helped me gain the cattle experience and background necessary for my research as well as help to be a more competitive applicant when applying to PhD programs.

2. What were some of your favorite parts of CREAM?

I loved how much I learned; that might seem like a cop out answer, but every day was different and unpredictable, and I always learned something new about the dairy industry and cattle in general. I loved hanging out with the cows—I work pretty exclusively with calves now, and miss scratching those big cow heads and milking them at 4am.

I also got my cat Jasmine, who was the best thing that ever happened to me, thanks to CREAM. For anyone that's been around long enough to remember, Jasmine used to be the "greeter cat" in the barn that would sit on your lap while you waited for a 4am shift to start. After falling in love with cows during CREAM, I ended up living in the barn and forcing my love on Jasmine so much so that Jon said I should take her with me when I left (he totally had to twist my arm for me to take her...). She lived her happiest (and fattest) life out here in the California sun, glued to my side, and I'll be forever grateful to CREAM for bringing her into my life.



3. Where are you today and what steps have you taken to get there?

I am currently a 4th year PhD Candidate in the Animal Behavior Graduate Group at UC Davis in the Tucker Lab. In my time here, I've helped develop training materials used nationwide for dairy welfare auditors, created/maintain 3 websites (the two aforementioned programs/organizations and one on poultry welfare assessments), taught 6 courses, presented research abroad, designed dairy calf enrichment devices to be implemented on-farm, and completed 2 experiments on dairy calf feeding behavior. My research focuses extensively on the welfare effects of early access to hay on dairy calves. Calves typically will consume grass and ruminate at a very young age in natural settings, but many farms don't provide forage until weaning. I investigate how this discrepancy may lead to abnormal behaviors like tongue rolling, sucking on bars, or cross-sucking in calves, and how we can modify early calf diets to promote more normal behaviors and development, and improve welfare.

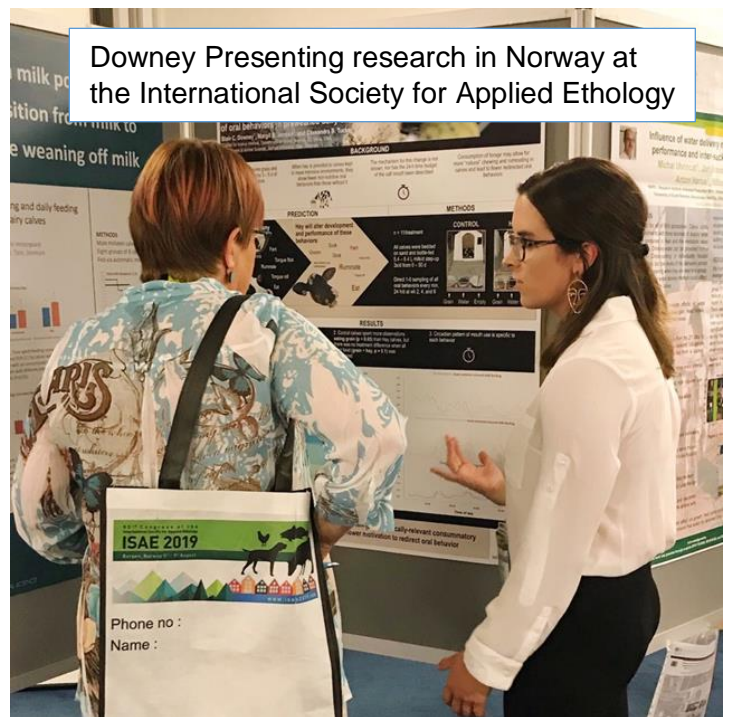
As an undergrad, I spent a lot of time gaining research experience with a variety of animals. I knew I wanted to pursue my PhD in Animal Behavior, so a strong and diverse research background was crucial. In addition to CREAM and subsequently living/working at the barn, I worked in a lab studying brain physiology of rats, received a SURF to study the role of the prefrontal cortex in learning and memory tasks, studied mediation of relapse alcohol drinking in mice in Denmark, worked on a few of Dr. Brito's experiments, wrote a thesis on visual change detection in pigeons, and worked as a carnivore keeper at a zoological conservation center. I'm grateful for the diverse experiences that I was able to have as an undergrad and can attribute many of those opportunities to the skills and relationships I developed in CREAM.

4. What plans do you have for the future?

My most immediate goal is to finish the last experiment of my PhD, which involves testing dairy calf cognition, with minimal sleep deprivation. Beyond that, I'd like to work in industry to continue researching and implementing animal welfare standards and audits to help make sure our "Happy California Cows" (and cattle around the world) stay happy.

5. What advice would you give to current or future CREAMers?

Remember that every action you take, big or small, has a real and significant effect on the cattle. Be thoughtful, inquisitive, gentle, and take your time. Overall, my life would be wildly different without CREAM—there's no way to overstate how much this program and all the people involved changed my life.



MEET YOUR EDITORS



Name: Hannah Weber

Year: Junior

Major: Biomedical Science (Pre-Veterinary)

Fun Fact: Hannah loves to read and write; she is even minoring in writing in addition to her major. Her favorite character to use in Super Smash is Kirby.



Name: Jillian Broadhurst

Year: Junior

Major: Biomedical Science (Pre-Veterinary)

Fun Fact: Jill loves to write in her free time, and has worked as a veterinary assistant at an animal shelter for almost two years. She also has her boating license but has never owned a boat.



When will this quarantine end?

Acknowledgments

The 2019-2020 CREAM Year would not seem complete without giving the people who made this class possible their proper recognition. While our semester might have been cut short, the appreciation for these people withstands the test of time. Please hold your applause until the end.

To Dr. Drew Conroy, Dr. Pete Erikson, and **Dr. Eric Hatungimana**: Thank you for sharing your passions of the dairy industry with us and being able to find a teaching moment every opportunity you get. Each of you have gone above and beyond to help their students and have tried to instill in us a strong work ethic mimicking your own. I know next year's CREAM class will be left in good hands. Dr. Conroy, thank you for avidly talking about Africa and always openly communicating with your students. Dr. Erikson, thank you for taking the time to explain dairy nutrition and help us in bettering our cows' diets. Special shout out to Dr. Hatungimana for recently earning his PhD. We are so proud of you and will miss you immensely next year. I hope you like the cold!

To Jon Whitehouse, Mark Trabold, and Leah Caverly: Thank you for being patient with us as we learned how to work in a dairy barn. Obviously some of us learned faster than others. You are all very determined and work harder than most. Despite that, each of you have unique personalities and are always a welcome presence to have in our business meetings or to be around during chores. I hope you find that bull Bourbon.

To The CREAM Class: Nate Adams, Paige Barnes, Kate Blood, Alyssa Boyd, Abby Brisard, Jill Broadhurst, Jess Casey, Jeanne Marie Cassidy, Corinna Coulton, Devyn Enwright, Emily Gerraughty, Alexia Gianoulis, Tara Henshaw, Ben Kunkemueller, Rachel Luddy, Hannah Majewski, Joe Marcoux, Christian McKinnon, Brianda Mendez, Lily Mitchell, Amanda Patev, Alexis Perfetto, Courtney Rambush, Olivia Rose, Natalie Roth, and Hannah Weber Thank you for making the year so memorable. If this year has solidified anything, it is that each of us are going on to do amazing things in our future. I would not have chosen to be around any other people at four in the morning.

Last, but certainly not least, thank you cows. Without you this class would not even be possible. You are the most enthusiastic, adorable, goofy species and without you there would be no dairy industry. Thanks for letting us work with you.

