

CREAM 2021-2022

CREAM Newsletter

Spring Edition



By: CREAM Outreach

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Meet Some of the CREAMers



Maria DiDomenica is an ex-desert rat/dirtbag turned post-bacc student after a stint at a farm where she fell in love with livestock. She is now working her way through prerequisites for vet school so that one day she can buy snap-on tools without having to sell her first-born child.



Sarah Fudger is a senior Biomedical Science: Pre-Veterinary Major. She is from South Hadley MA. Sarah has always loved animals and being around them even catching a bunch in her yard growing up. Outside of CREAM Sarah enjoys running in circles on the track team and drinking lots of coffee! At home she works in a small animal/exotics vet hospital. Sarah enjoys being in CREAM and especially loves her cow Heffalump.



Shae Granese is a junior animal science major on the pre-vet track from Wenham, MA. She is currently working for an equine vet and helping with research on campus. Although she has lots of experience working with large animals, she wants to pursue her career in small animals. She hopes to attend veterinary school in the near future.



Emma Jette is a senior animal science pre-vet major from Auburn, MA. She has always had a strong passion for all animals! She works as a veterinary assistant at a small animal veterinary hospital. She has mainly worked with exotics and small animals but never with cows, so this class has been a new and exciting change for her. Her plan is to attend veterinary school in the future after traveling!



Sarah Lombardi is a senior Animal Science major with minors in Equine Studies and Business Administration from Cheshire, CT. She is a member of the dressage equestrian team at UNH. She has been enjoying expanding her large animal experience to include cows



Nicole Milos is a senior Animal Science major on the pre-veterinary track from Boston, MA. She has experience working as a zookeeper, a veterinary attendant at MSPCA Angell Animal Medical Center, and as a farm worker at UNH's horse barn! Nicole's limited time at UNH is cherished every second, since she transferred last fall, primarily for hands-on opportunities like CREAM! So far, CREAM has been the most rewarding experience in her college career, and she appreciates how well this year's CREAM class works together. After graduation, Nicole hopes to become a successful large animal veterinarian in either wildlife, zoological, or cattle medicine.



Marissa Puglia is a Junior in Animal Science major with a Pre-Vet track from Danbury, CT. While in New Hampshire she works on a sheep farm but in Connecticut, she works at a dog groomer! Marissa is a part dairy club and of the professional agricultural sorority, Sigma Alpha where she has made many close friends. Ever since touring UNH in high school where she first learned about CREAM, she has known she wanted to be a part of this amazing program!



Brooke Woodbury is a junior Biomedical Science/ Pre-vet major from Gorham, Maine. She works at a small animal kennel at home and is thinking of becoming a small animal or exotic veterinarian after graduating from UNH. This is Brooke's first experience with large animals and she loves working with the cows!



Rebecca Soderburg is a senior Animal Science major, minoring in Animal Behavior. She is from Berlin, CT. Prior to joining CREAM, she has participated in research and dairy classes. In CREAM she enjoys harassing her cow, trouble, and brushing the cows during shift. She is unsure as to what she would like to do post grad, but is keeping her options flexible and might end up working with cows for a living in the future.



Erica Oliver is a senior Biomedical Science/Pre-Vet major from Mansfield, Connecticut. After graduating this spring, Erica is attending Veterinary school at the Royal Veterinary College in London, England! Prior to CREAM, Erica had some large animal experience through working as a farm hand at Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center as well as working as a research assistant for Dr. Nancy Whitehouse, which she has done since September 2020. At home Erica works as a Veterinary Assistant and hopes to become a veterinary oncologist! She loves working with cows and will be very sad when her time at Fairchild is over.

Hoof Trimming: The Cow's Pedicure

The overall health of the cows at the Fairchild Dairy is important to the staff and CREAM students. There are many aspects of their health and wellbeing that are monitored, one of which is maintaining healthy legs and feet. This is an important part of their body for barn staff and us as students to monitor. When a cow stands all of her weight (including a full udder -at times before milking) is applied on her feet and legs, therefore she must have good support. Aside from the weight she carries around, the amount of energy she loses during a milking is extremely high, so it is important to have a good foundation to hold her up and help her walk back to a place of rest after milking. Considering all these factors that depend upon healthy feet and legs there are many ways to help our cows have the best foundation possible to help keep them up and healthy. One of the best ways to ensure that our cows feet and legs stay healthy is to perform hoof trims. These hoof trims are important to help locate any lesions, cracks, rot, sores, abscesses, warts, or any other damage on the cows hooves and allow for any of these issues to be rectified through trimming or treating. This service is done every six months at minimum but some farms also perform it every 3 or 4 months to really ensure all cows' hooves are healthy and any problems are managed or treated.

The way a hoof trim typically works is a hoof trimmer would come in for the day (or days depending on how many cows are on your farm) and trim the hooves of each cow, filing them down from growth and/or dirt or maure build up and treating any wounds that have developed . Hoof trimmers typically travel from farm to farm and can be composed of multiple team members or just one team member. Some hoof trimmers file each hoof by hand after restraining each

cow, but most trimmers have automated hoof trimming chutes that raise the cow off the ground and hold each leg up in place to allow the trimmer to safely and comfortably file down and/or treat the hooves, while keeping the cow comfortable. This automated process is easier on the trimmer and the cow-limiting physical stress on each.

At the Fairchild Dairy our hoof trimmer comes in 3-4 times a year, it is typically a 1-2 man team that comes in for the day to trim the hooves of our cows. And on Thursday December 16, 2021 a hoof trimmer came to take a look at 85 of our cows. It was an all day affair (lasting from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM) and some cows in our heifer barn, and all of the cows in our lactating barn, were brought one by one through the gating system and into the hydraulic hoof trimming chute (2 Photos Below).



Photos: Hoof Trimmer Chute Setup

The process to trim down each cow's hooves took on average about 2-3 minutes- if trimming was relatively easy or there weren't any major problems to treat (lesions, cracks, rot, sores, etc). In that 2-3 minute window the trimmer would load the cow into the chute, close the back door, to raise the floor of the hydraulic chute off the ground (by about two feet) and also use the chute's hydraulic arm

to lift each of the cow's legs one at a time in order for him to take his trimming knife and grinder to clean up and trim each of the hooves down. Once he completed all four hooves, the floor of the chute would be lowered back down to the ground and the front door would open allowing the cow to return back to their area of the barn. Cows that needed special treatment for any of the aforementioned problems would generally take longer than this average 2-3 minute window because the problem area needed to be thoroughly cleaned out and treated, then wrapped. The cows with some of the listed problems would typically have to have blocks placed on the unaffected side of hoof- to keep weight off of the affected side while it would heal (Photo to the right).

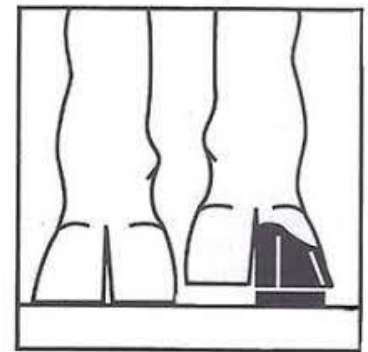


Photo: Example Hoof Block
<https://diamondhoofcare.com/hoof-blocking/>

That day of the 85 cows done the trimmer placed only four blocks and one wrap- used to protect the hoof after applying treatment. After working for about 5-6 hours the hoof trimmer had finished all of the cows in our herd, packed up his rig and headed home, leaving our cows feeling cleaner and healthier. After leaving our farm our trimmer provides access to an online data page of all the detailed work done on our cows, tracked through the machine that records this data located on his hydraulic chute. Below are some photos of some of our CREAM cows after receiving their hoof trims.

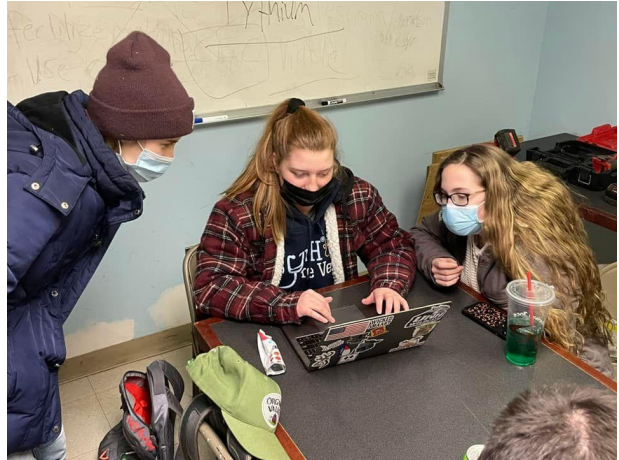
Article Written By: Hannah Piedmonte

Photos Contributed By: Ava Andreozzi



The Importance of Subcommittees

Subcommittees are one of the many ways that CREAMers can be creative and hold a leadership position. A subcommittee is created, run, and managed by a CREAMer, allowing fellow classmates to join under their leadership. Some examples of subcommittees CREAM 2021-2022 has include Recruitment, Banquet, Self Care, Apparel, Outreach, Herd Health and Disease Management, Herd Enrichment and Welfare, Udderly Clean, Dry Matters and Particle Separation, and Website Management.



The leaders of each subcommittee report back to the rest of the class during weekly meetings, and involve the entire class in their decision making. For the Apparel subcommittee for example, the small group discusses potential apparel ideas, whether jackets, stickers, beanies, or many others, and share their ideas with the class. The class must approve and vote on the design and idea before it is planned and officially moved forward. So although only a group of CREAMers are involved in the Apparel Committee, all CREAMers are involved in the decision making.

Each subcommittee is unique, but all are created to better the CREAM class as a whole. Subcommittees such as Herd Health and Disease Management, Herd Enrichment and Welfare, and Dry Matters and Particle Separation focus their efforts in learning information regarding the CREAM herd and sharing it to the rest of the class. Udderly Clean focuses on ensuring the

cleanliness and welfare of the herd. Recruitment, Outreach, and Website Management are essential for spreading the word about CREAM to those on and off the UNH campus, allowing the program to continue on for years to come.

The Banquet Committee plans the celebratory end-of-the-year event to display all of the hard work the CREAMers put in throughout the school year. The Self Care and Apparel committees are important in raising the morale of the CREAMers as they work through the hard work in the barn. Self Care plans team-bonding and getting-to-know-you activities to make everyone more comfortable with each other. Apparel gives the CREAMers the ability to proudly represent the class wearing the UNH Cream logo throughout the campus.

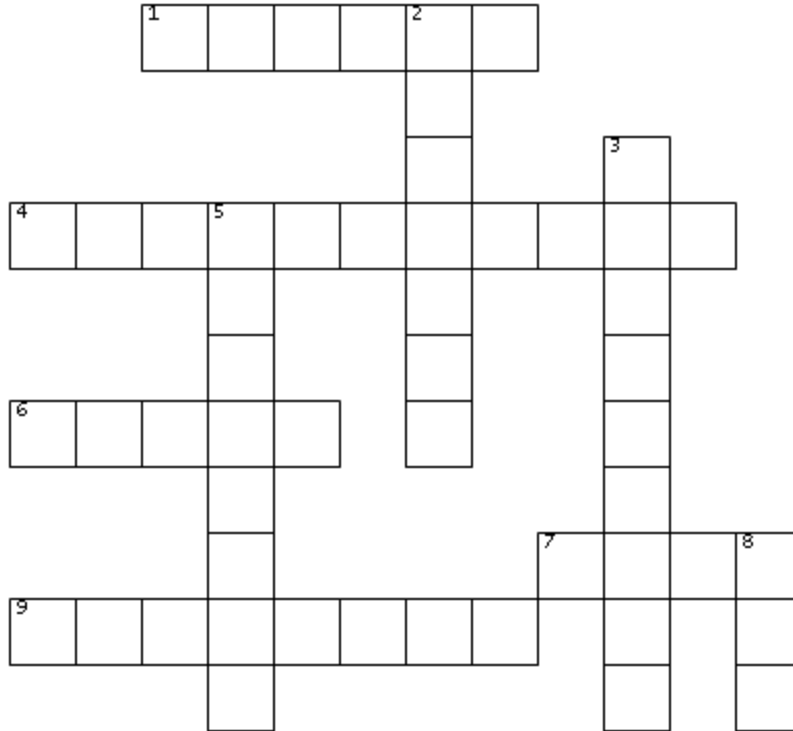


Not only are subcommittees a great way to be creative in the classroom, but they are a perfect way to show initiation as a CREAMer. Considering this class is peer-graded, being involved and active in subcommittees is a great way to show your fellow classmates that you are committed to bettering the class as a whole, and doing work outside of the 4 hours a week class time.

Article Written By: Kelsi Devolve

CREAM Crossword Puzzle

Important Concepts Around Our Barn



ACROSS

1. The supplement added to calves milk to help gut health
4. The most important factor in protecting the calves from respiratory disease
6. The title for cows that have just given birth
7. What we spread on the ground to prevent the cows from slipping
9. Which cow is the oldest in our string (as of the end of second semester)

DOWN

2. What other type of dairy farm does UNH have in addition to the conventional dairy?
3. The first milk given to a calf that includes important immunoglobulins
5. What type of housing do the cows in our barn live in?
8. The acronym describing the feed mix given to our cows

By: Sarah Lombardi

Matching Game - Cows to their Lineage Theme

Draw a line to connect the correct pairs!

Melody +
Symphony

Silhouette

Tortilla

Groot

Trouble

Squirtle

Tallulah +
Brayleigh

Pinto

Thumper

Beans

Guardians of
the Galaxy

Board
Games

Bambi

Music

Pokemon

No theme but
still cute

Light and
Dark

Food

CREAM Crossword Puzzle + Matching - Answers

Crossword Puzzle Answers

1. Biomos
2. Organic
3. Colostrum
4. Ventilation
5. Tiestall
6. Fresh
7. Grit
8. TMR
9. Killians

Crossword Matching Answers

Melody and Symphony -> Music

Silhouette -> Light and Dark

Tortilla -> Food

Groot -> Guardians of the Galaxy

Trouble -> Board Games

Squirtle -> Pokemon

Tallulah and Brayleigh -> No theme but still cute

Pinto -> Beans

Thumper -> Bambi

Udderly Clean Blurb

Udderly Clean is a subcommittee of CREAM where students gather outside of class to clean the cows. It is a great time to get to know classmates, talk about the herd, and keep the CREAM string up to par in case there are any spontaneous photos taken! On a real note, cleaning the cows is to maintain the hygiene of their udders. Why would we want to do that? Well during and after the milking process the teat ends are open and are susceptible to the entrance of bacteria. We don't want the entrance of bacteria as this can cause mastitis, which is "the inflammation of the mammary gland caused by trauma or infection" (Cornell University, 2022). Dirty udders can also increase the somatic cell count (SCC) of the herd, which is a good indication of the health of the herd. So the more we clean the cows, the lower the somatic cell count will be and the healthier our cows are!

Little Royal

On April 9th, a few of us CREAM students took part in the 2022 Little Royal. We all worked extra days and spent time with all our heifers in order to prepare and train them for the show. Some of our heifers were more spunky than others, and required more time as a result. We all would go on to show our heifers that day and compete against our classmates for placings. I think we all did an amazing job, as a lot of us who participated in the Little Royal had never taken Dairy Selection or even shown a heifer due to Covid. Due to this, most worked from the very beginning and had to learn how to show a heifer properly. All of us focused on walking our heifers, placing them for show, learning their birthdays and dam names, properly clipping and washing them, and finally making them presentable. We spent meetings practicing together, and time by ourselves as well. We turned stubborn, young heifers into beautifully trained ones. I am proud that we had this opportunity to do the Little Royal and learn something entirely new.

