

# The CREAM Bulletin

December 2011



## Fun Cow Facts!

- A cow chews her cud for up to 8 hours each day
- A cow produces around 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime
- The oldest cow till date was Big Bertha, a Dremon, who died just 3 months short of her 49<sup>th</sup> birthday
- It takes 21.2 pounds of whole milk to make one pound of butter



## CREAM and Dairy Club visit Pineland Farm in New Gloucester, Maine.

CREAM and Dairy Club visited Pineland Farm, a 5,000-acre farm that is situated in four towns: New Gloucester, Gray, Pownal, and North Yarmouth. Pineland was originally established as a mentally handicapped home in 1908, with the farmland sustaining the residents and staff. Pineland was purchased in 2000 by the Libra Foundation, and since has undergone renovations and additional land purchases. We were taken on a guided trolley tour around the campus, visiting the equestrian center, creamery, dairy and poultry barns, and ending our tour at the Pineland Market.



# CREAM Activities



## Hoof Trimming!

CREAM experienced hoof trimming hands-on thanks to our Professor, Drew Conroy. Not only did we learn how to trim hooves, but clean an abscess and attach a hoof block.



## Calf Births!

- 710- "Lilo" dam: 596 (Keilana)
- 711- "Apple" dam: 531 (Eden)
- 712- "Waffle" dam: 594 (Wafer)
- 713- "Infinity" dam: 294 (Ingrid)
- 714- "Puff" dam: 517 (Coco)
- 715- "Osiris" dam: 532 (Pharaoh)





## CREAMer Bio's

**Annie Fuller-** Hi, I'm Annie and I'm a junior wildlife ecology major! My cows are #457 and #577. It seems strange to people that I'm in CREAM because I'm neither pre-vet nor dairy management. My love for agriculture began when I enrolled at an agricultural high school. I plan on traveling the world, especially to New Zealand and hopefully networking my way into graduate school there. God only knows what career I'll end up with by I'm just going with the flow.



**Gina Soule-** Currently a junior pre-vet major with a Dairy Science minor at UNH. She is currently participating in the C.R.E.A.M program here at UNH and is ecstatic about it! Her CREAM cow is Heinz, who is regularly spoiled with lots grooming sessions and attention. All the extra attention is warranted though as Heinz is the CREAM herd's highest producer and she certainly deserves all the extra TLC! Gina's hopes after CREAM and after graduating from UNH are to continue on to vet school in Wisconsin, Colorado, or another vet school that specializes in cattle and large animals. Her dream is to work with dairy cattle and horses as a vet to improve the livelihood and overall well-being of the animals. Gina also hopes to have a small farm of her own with a few dairy cattle, on which her experiences from CREAM will no doubt prove to be one of her most invaluable tools, as the experiences the CREAM class provides are nothing short of priceless.

**Jennifer Fallon-** I'm currently a junior pre-vet major, with no prior experience with cows before CREAM! My cows are Bird (#275) and Pippa (#587). They especially love having their ears scratched and the occasional chocolate frosted donut. My experience has been mainly with small animals, so working with cows has been a challenge but I'm enjoying it very much. I hope to attend vet school after graduation and specialize in small animals.



## Milk Letdown- by Sam Rzasa

Milk is produced in the secretory cells of the alveoli, which store milk until the animal is stimulated to release milk. Sometimes milk letdown can occur without physical stimulation, such as when cows start leaking milk before entering the parlor just from the sound of the milking machines.



Physical stimulation of the mammary gland sends signals to the hypothalamus to start the milk ejection reflex for milk letdown. These signals cause the release of oxytocin, which reaches its maximum levels shortly after stimulation and then drops off dramatically, causing a reduction in milk letdown. This is why it is important to attach the milking machine 60-90seconds after the first touch. Failure to do so can result in longer stimulation of the mammary gland and slower milking time. This can lead to other problems such as increased somatic cell count, reduced fat tests, and mastitis.

## Mastitis- by Lindsey Plourde



Mastitis is the inflammation of the mammary gland, and is the most common and costly disease in dairy cows in the U.S. It is estimated that 40% of cows are affected in at least two quarters. It is calculated to cost about \$200 per cow to year to treat. The two types of mastitis are contagious and environmental. Contagious mastitis can be transmitted from cow to cow, whereas environmental mastitis is

caused from the cow's surroundings, such as bedding. Some signs of mastitis are: red swollen udders, reduction in milk production, and udder tenderness. The most susceptible cows are those in large herds, older cows with larger bags, and cows with longer teats. Mastitis can be prevented by cleaning the teat before milking, and drying the teat off completely after spraying. Post dip is also beneficial because the teat is open for 30minutes after milking and the dip helps to prevent bacteria entering the teat.



## Contact Us!

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