

The CREAM Bulletin



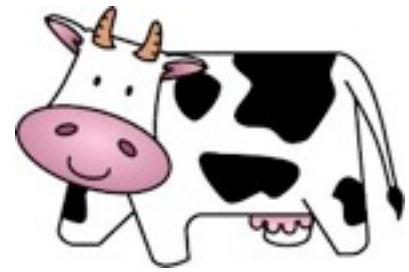
Cooperative Real Education in Agricultural Management

2012-2013

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Meet Our New TA!

Written by: Rebecca Standish



It has been my pleasure this semester to start helping out with CREAM. I am a first year graduate student working under Peter Erickson. I attended the University of Vermont, where I was a part of the UVM CREAM program. As a Vermont native, I have always had a lot of respect for the many dairy farmers in the state. I started learning about the dairy industry first hand when I started in the UVM CREAM program, and

since then have taken every opportunity to become more immersed in the dairy industry.



I've been having a lot of fun these first few weeks being in the barn and comparing the two programs first hand. I think that CREAM is a fantastic opportunity that is invaluable throughout life. For a student that has no dairy experience, like I was entering my CREAM class, CREAM is a great opportunity to get immersed in every aspect of the business. For others who have dairy experience, CREAM allows students to learn about areas that they maybe did not have a great understanding of before, and provides a great experience in working with others.

This year's CREAM class is about twice the size of my CREAM class at UVM. I'm so glad to see such a great interest in the program, and how a group of this size is succeeding in working together. I'm excited to spend the rest of the semester learning with this CREAM class!

The Veterinarian of CREAM!

Written By: Andre de Barros Duarte Pereira

My name is Andre de Barros Duarte Pereira. I was admitted into the School of Veterinary Medicine at Federal University of Minas Gerais in January of 2005. I received my bachelors in veterinary medicine in January 2010 and received my D.V.M. license in March 2010. I was then approved to the Louisiana State University School of Animal Sciences Master of Science program. I received my M.S. degree in January 2012. In February 2012 I received a job offer from Dr. Brito at UNH to work as a research assistant for 6 months. I fell in love with UNH because it has a research farm on campus, a well equipped dairy nutrition research center, and because of all the classes related to my area of interest (dairy cattle). I then applied for a PhD position and currently am a PhD student of Animal Sciences at UNH. When I heard about CREAM, I asked Dr. Conroy if I could sit as a guest in this years lectures so I could learn everything about it. I thought it was a very interesting class in which the students learn



how a farm works as a business. The relationships between classmates resemble relationships between workers in a company, and the 24/7 work and care of the cows makes CREAM a good start for whoever wants to work in the Ag industry after graduation.



Hi Guys! It's Amy Capraro and I am a junior Biomedical: Pre-Vet major. I grew up in Goffstown, New Hampshire. A town full of farmers and hicks. I worked at a local hardware store and knew quite a few of them personally. I never had hands on experience with animals besides my own cats and dog and saving a squirrel now and then. But when I was a little girl I dreamed about saving animals and becoming a veterinarian. I always thought I wanted to be a small animal vet and deal with families and open a clinic in a small town much like my own. But I was pushed into this CREAM class knowing nothing about anything to do with large animals let alone dairy cows. And I can honestly say from this experience that I can see myself dealing with them for the rest of my life. I hope to go to vet school after UNH and become a veterinarian like I have always dreamed of.

Hi my name is Patty Calvin, and I am currently a junior studying medical veterinary science (pre-vet). I joined CREAM because I love being around animals, no matter what kind and really wanted the hands on experience working with animals that CREAM provides. I am a very hands on person and when I learned that CREAM was all hands on learning I knew it was a class for me. I am not sure what I want to do in the future, I know I want to work with large exotics, focusing in large cats such as lions, tigers, cheetahs, etc. I am still deciding if I would rather be an animal handler/trainer or be a veterinarian, but I know I want to work with lions in the future.



My name's Danielle Arena and I'm a senior Biomedical Sciences/Pre-Vet major. I've been more enthralled with infant animals than infant children as far back as I can recall. Following this passion has brought me to discovering all things four-legged at UNH, so taking CREAM was an obvious path. It has been even more of a learning experience than I anticipated. I'm planning to take a year or two off and attend graduate school in the neuroscience field. Although I may not become a dairy farmer myself, I know that the lessons I have learned from CREAM will remain pertinent throughout my life and career.

My name is Sarah Walstad, and I am a junior Biomedical Science/ Pre-Vet major. I became involved with the dairy industry my freshman year volunteering at Fairchild Dairy, and have worked there for the past three years. I joined CREAM to get a more wide variety of the dairy farming business and see how a farm is run, and I have become extremely interested in the reproduction and nutrition fields since then. I am hoping to work in one of those fields when I graduate. I also would like to own a small hobby farm.



My name is Emily and I am a junior/senior pre-vet major with a minor in nutritional science. My cow's name is Pooh Bear (404) and she just had her third calf that I named Tigger! I am also CREAM's office manager. Being a member of CREAM has been a great opportunity for me to work with large animals which is something I have never done before. The thought of working with the cows definitely made me nervous at first but stepping outside my comfort zone has helped me to learn so much. I am always learning something new about dairy cows but it's even better that I can take that knowledge and apply it with them while at the barn. I am very glad to be a representative of such a unique program here at UNH and I LOVE telling people about it! It has opened me to exploring

future careers in agriculture not only with animals, but with food crops as well as outreach and promotion which was something I never considered before taking this course. In the future, I will be in Ireland for 10 days in May for the ANSC 510 course which I cannot wait for! I eventually want to apply to vet school or grad school to continue studying animals.



My name is Patricia Holly, I am a Junior Zoology major with a minor in Animal Behavior. In the fall of 2011 I took Intro to Dairy Herd Management to branch out in the animal field. I really enjoyed the course, so I decided that I wanted more large animal experience, and thought that CREAM would be a great way to gain it. The class has really helped me to get more involved with animals, and to try something I never would have pictured myself doing.



Farmer Panel: Gordon Jones

Written By: Amelia Aznive

Gordon Jones, owner and operator of Jones Dairy Farm in Chichester, NH was one of three farmers who participated in the 2013 C.R.E.A.M. Farmers Panel. There were many questions asked, each farmer had a different answer but they all were related to the common end product, milk.

At the Jones Farm the cows are milked twice a day in a traditional tie-stall pipeline barn. The maximum capacity for cows is 57 and he's currently milking 55. Rolling herd average is at approximately 25,300 with fat at 3.8% and protein at 3.1%. Besides milking cows in the barn he also raises his calves. "I know this isn't how they're suppose to be raised if you look at calf raising in a book, but this is what we've always done and we've never had a problem so I don't see the need to change anything if it's working". There are 4 individual calf pens in the barn and 4 spots along a wall to house calves on if there're more calves than anticipated at a given time. "I try to only have the older calves, usually about to be weaned, against the wall because the younger ones you have to watch closer and make sure they're healthy and not scouring really bad or getting a disease".

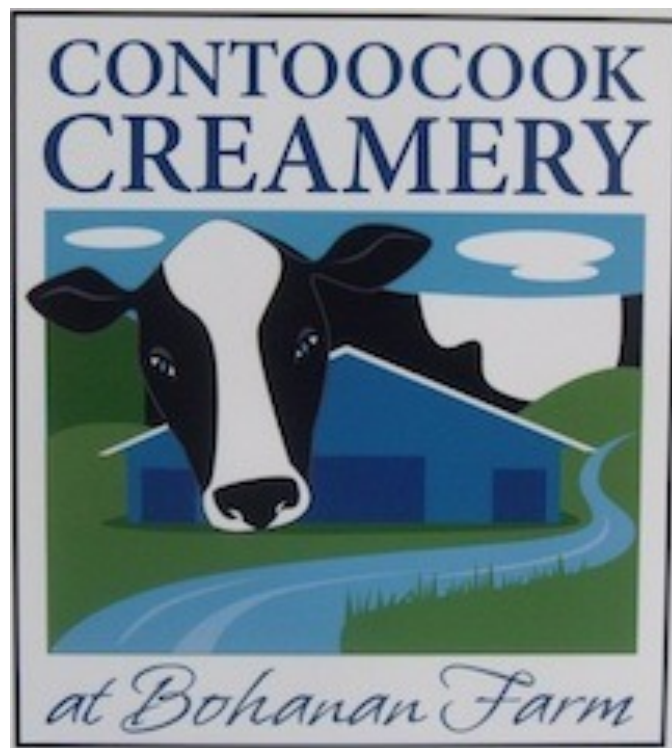
When asked about their feeding structure, Gordon highlighted the practice of rotational grazing on 300 acres. He's been using this on his farm since around 1994. During the grazing season, May-November, he will also feed 20-25 pounds of corn silage and 19 pounds of grain per cow per milking. He has found that as long as he keeps the corn silage in the diet his milk production won't change and neither will the components. Financially, rotational grazing has become an important asset to the farm and has cut grain cost to one-third (1/3) of the price fed in the winter. Due to the drought felt last year the savings for 2013 "won't be as big but will still be significant".

Gordon will use Young Sires on older cows in the herd, while only proven bulls are used on first calf heifers and for the first couple lactations. He also goes about crossbreeding for Red and White Holsteins in a non-traditional way. Approximately ten years ago he started crossing some of his cows to Normande Reds it "worked out alright" and made him think about what else he could crossbreed. Marion, Gordon's wife, "loves the look of Red and Whites out on pasture so naturally I had to find a way to get Red and Whites without bringing animals in, seeing as we are a closed herd". To get from a Black and White Holstein to his seven-eighths Red and White Holstein he first crosses to a Normande Red, that calf will either be bred back to a Normande Red or crossed with a Finnish Red. Now he has a Normande Red/Finnish Red/Holstein cross which is then bred to a Red and White Holstein. "I do this to decrease the inbreeding coefficient and I haven't had a problem with it."

Farmer Panel: Jamie Robertson

Written By: Alicia Walsh

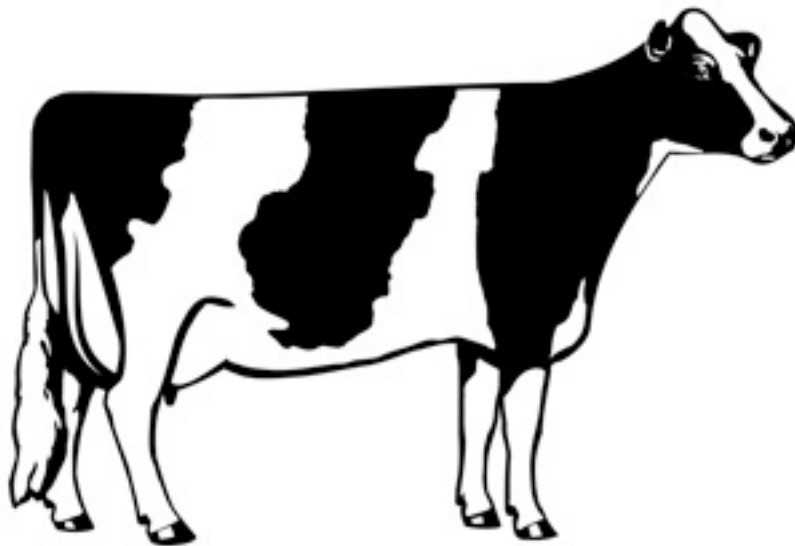
Jamie told us about his farm that has been in the family since 1907. They have 40 acres under conservation with 180 cows currently but the capacity is 220 cows. His cows get milked three times a day using the strip dip wipe method in a double 10 parlor. His herd is averaging 28,000 pounds now. As far as heifer management he lets the calves stay with the mother for a little while then they go to super hutches and eventually to a free stall. The calves get milk until they are 8 months old. His herd gets fed a TMR diet that is corn and hay silage that they raise themselves. They also feed grass canola and soy, they pulled straw out of the diet completely a few years ago. As far as picking bulls he mixes it up between choosing proven and genomic bulls. They are now especially focusing on breeding for type (likes to be over 3), in the past they only focused on milk production. Jamie told us that he feels the strengths of his barn would be the great land, employees and good genetic base to the herd. Some challenges they are facing now include downsizing the herd and pasteurizing their own milk. They are now gaining diversity in the farm by having chickens and planting fruit. Jamie left our CREAM class with the advice to always have an open mind and remember that all farms run differently. He told us the reason we are in school is to learn how to learn!



Farmer Panel: John Fernald

Written By: Danielle Arena

John Fernald's Nottingham, NH based family farm switched over to commercial dairy farming in 1975 after 150 years of establishment. The free-stall barn setup has reached near capacity with their current 175 cow herd. Their calves are sent to a heifer grower due to their lack of resources on the farm. The Fernalds works to produce as much of the feed for their cows on the farm as possible but they are restricted by the quality and quantity of their land. The closed herd helps to maintain a healthy farm and control biosecurity issues. The farm is mainly run by the immediate family, facilitating communication on the farm. As a former UNH CREAMer, John Fernald believes that the most important lesson from the CREAM program is to work with others towards a common goal. Collaborating is not always easy, but many New England dairy farms, like the Fernalds, depend on the ability of their workers to utilize the sum of their skills and run the best business possible.



Dairy Club Heifer Sale!

Written By: Drew Conroy



The UNH Dairy Club, has many members who are in CREAM, have been in CREAM or will be in CREAM. The club has been particularly active this year under the leadership of former CREAM'er Adam Crowther in the fall semester and current CREAM'er Amelia Aznive in the second semester.

In addition to attending the campus picnic with a dairy calf, they also worked at the Deerfield Fair in September to scoop ice cream for Granite State Dairy Promotion, later attended the Big E in Springfield, MA to serve pie in the New Hampshire Building. They went on a trip to visit New Hampshire dairy farms in November, then in February attended the NESA intercollegiate animal science competition at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Their largest and most impressive event of the year was the UNH Blue and White Classic, a completely student run heifer and calf sale. See: <https://www.facebook.com/UnhBlueWhiteClassicHeiferSale?ref=stream>
<http://wildcatlink.unh.edu/organization/unhdairyclub/calendar/details/225872>

A cattle auction has not been held at UNH by any group since 1991. Prior to that the N.H. Purebred Dairy Cattle Association had run an annual auction at UNH where 4-H'ers and others would come to UNH to purchase dairy heifers at the spring auction. The event took months to coordinate, with first trying to find farmers who would consign animals, then finding an auctioneer who would donate their time. The club then advertised the event, put together a sale catalog, and then coordinated a two day event with over 150 people in attendance, and dozens of club members working to pull the event off. Club members took care of heifers brought in by farmers, they washed them, clipped them, got feed donated and managed the sale from top to bottom. A highlight was watching the 4-H kids with big smiles lead their new calves to their trailers to take home.

