

# Dairyman

JULY 2012



**DON & MERRI BERLAGE KNOW  
THE VALUE OF GOOD NEIGHBORS**



Still an Uphill Battle

# Farm Bill Passes Senate

by Don Boelens

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**Swiss Valley Farms  
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The past months have produced an intense flurry of activity on Capitol Hill as the Senate hashed over its version of the 2012 Farm Bill. The NMPF-backed Dairy Security Act ultimately emerged intact in the current bill despite dozens of proposed amendments designed to modify or derail it.

Since the Farm Bill only comes up for renewal every four or five years, it is always a major endeavor to get a new one passed. This particular Farm Bill, which passed in late June by a 64-35 vote, will cost \$969 billion over the next decade even with its cost cutting measures in place.

Why will it cost so much money? Mainly because the Farm Bill doesn't seem to deal only with what directly affects America's farmers and their many operations. More and more, the U.S. Farm Bill is evolving into more of a U.S. Food Bill, since food stamp eligibility and dispersal comprise a major dollar amount of the total bill. Food stamps are a sacred cow in this country and any alterations or modifications always create a political fire storm. In fact, food stamps make up 80% of the Farm Bill budget, but some could argue that their usage helps keep demand steady for agriculture products.

Also this year, there has been major lobbying on behalf of urban legislators to get dollars in the Farm Bill to promote locally grown produce and farmers' markets in the cities. In fact, there was a new battle on the Senate floor in June, pushing a series of amendments that would scale back commodity subsidies and use the savings to boost fresh fruit and vegetable consumption, increase conservation, and aid organic and local farming.

Another threat to the U.S. Dairy



**CEO Don Boelens**

Industry surfaced when Sen. Olympia Snowe from Maine proposed an amendment to allow federal market order changes with the approval of 50.1% of dairy producers in the country. The current policy, which has worked effectively for decades, uses a super majority, 2/3rds to 3/5ths of the vote of U.S. dairy farmers. This vote follows a thorough round of USDA hearings across the country where co-op's, processors and dairy producers have the opportunity to voice their opinion before changes are drafted and put to a vote. The proposed amendment was changed to leave the super majority vote in place but requires the USDA to review the federal market orders through its across-the-country hearing process.

Thanks to all of you who called your Congress people to express opinions about the current proposed Farm Bill. Great job! Your legislators want to hear from you, the actual U.S. dairy producers. Your opinions

(STORY CONTINUES ON PG. 15)

## Two meetings, two different months

# SVGALS TAKE A PEAK AT AGRI-BUSINESS

**T**his fall, the Swiss Valley Gals will be doing some different things! First off, the two fall meetings will be in two different months. Secondly, the Gals are invited to attend both meetings, if they choose. Both meetings will offer totally different experiences, but both experiences are related in some way to agri-tourism.

The Sept. 13 meeting will be held at the Potosi Brewery in Potosi, Wis. Founded in 1852, the Potosi Brewery started small but eventually evolved over the years into the fifth largest brewery in Wisconsin before it closed its doors in 1972. The restoration of the nearly one square block of buildings that constitute the Potosi Brewery began in 1995. In 2004, with restoration well underway, the site was selected by the American Breweriana Association to be the home to its National Brewery Museum. Swiss Valley Gals will be touring this world-class museum following their luncheon meeting at the Brewery. Swiss Valley Farms member Jay Stauffacher from Darlington, Wis. will be joining this meeting. Jay is the Chair for the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and he will be there to discuss the partnership that the Potosi Brewery has formed with the WMMB to promote Wisconsin cheese and Potosi Beer pairings. Swiss Valley Farms cheeses will be paired with several of these locally made beers and the Gals may sample these.

The Oct. 11 meeting will be held at The Farm House B & B in Fredericksburg, Iowa, which is owned and operated by Loren and Dianna Engelbrecht, who are former Swiss Valley Farms members as well as past Young Cooperator Contest winners. In 1993, the couple bought this turn of the century Victorian style farmhouse in Fredericksburg, Iowa, and spent the next five years restoring the home and turning it into a bed and breakfast. Advertised as a real working farm with goats, chickens, peacocks, llamas and Jacob sheep, guests are encouraged to feed the baby animals, gather eggs or fish in the farm pond. In 2004, the Engelbrechts started a vineyard along the Plum Creek Bike and Nature Trail that runs through their farm. They now make several wines under the Farm House Wines label. The Gals will

be able to sample Swiss Valley cheese and wine pairings and enjoy a lovely meal in the reception area before touring the farm.

The Engelbrechts will speak about the challenges and rewards of undertaking an agri-business venture.

Be sure to put these two dates on your calendar. In your August milk checks, you will receive your reservation post cards for these meetings. Be sure to fill them out and get your reservations in. There is a limit of 40 for the Potosi meeting, so it will be first come, first served. Don't miss out!

Any woman who is a Swiss Valley Farms member or who is involved with a Swiss Valley Farms dairy operation is a Swiss Valley Gal. As always, check with your fellow co-op neighbors about carpooling to these meetings. Share the ride and share the fun! If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Feeney at [nancy.feeney@swissvalley.com](mailto:nancy.feeney@swissvalley.com) or by phone at 563-468-6640.



Loren & Dianna Engelbrecht are former co-op members who have turned their farm into a bed and breakfast and winery in Fredericksburg, Iowa.



The Potosi Brewery and National Brewery Museum in Potosi, Wis.

## 2012 Swiss Valley Gals Calendar

**Sept. 13, 2012 Potosi Brewery, Potosi, Wis.**

**Oct. 11, 2012 Farm House B & B, Fredericksburg, Iowa**

REGISTRATION: 11 A.M.

LUNCH: 11:45 A.M.

SPEAKER: 12:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: 2 P.M.

Back on the Co-op Board

## GOOD FAMILY & NEIGHBORS ARE KEY

by Nancy Feeney

**W**hen Don and Merri Berlage of Elizabeth, Ill. were married 27 years ago, they received a Brown Swiss calf as a wedding present from a neighbor. Last fall, when their son Greg said “I do” to his bride Erica, he gave her a Brown Swiss calf and she loved it.

Of course, not everyone shares this same enthusiasm. “I told a co-worker that my husband loves me a lot because he bought me a Brown Swiss calf,” Erica said. “My friend came back with, ‘Well, he should have loved you more and gotten you a Holstein!’”

While the beauty of this gift may be lost on some people, this Illinois dairy family continues to build on its strong dairy background and strong relationship with family and neighbors. Dairying is certainly the life they love. As further proof of his dedication to dairying, Don represented his Swiss Valley district as a director from 2002 until 2008 when

Board downsizing resulted in his district being merged with another. Last winter, Don ran for election as director from his new District 2. He carried the votes and returned to the Swiss Valley Board to once again represent his area.

Don says he has been milking cows for 41 years, starting when he was 10 years old. He was milking with his parents, Ken and Marilyn Berlage in 1981, right after he graduated from the University of Madison Dairy Short Course. He went into partnership with his parents in 1990 and he and Merri bought the farm from his parents in 1998.

Now, he is working with his son, Greg, who came back to the farm in March of 2011. Greg, 26, has a B.S. in Kinesiology from Western Illinois University in Macomb. After an internship at a local hospital his senior year, Greg decided at this point in his life he still wanted to farm. He married Erica last October and she

works full-time at Mercy Hospital in Dubuque as an RN.

The family milks 100 cows, 90% of which are registered Holsteins. The rest are registered Brown Swiss, and a few crossbreds. They milk in a double-4 Surge side-opened parlor. They own 235 acres and rent another 280 acres of crop ground in addition to 100 acres of pasture. They raise all their feed, which consists of corn, oats and alfalfa.

In addition to his son’s return to the dairy, Don is also happy to have his wife back in the barn with him. Merri worked at a local assisted-living center for several years, but six months ago she decided to return to the dairy and work with her family. She grew up on a small dairy farm in Woodbine, Ill. In their younger days, Merri and Don worked on the farm together, raised a family and were active in the Swiss Valley Farms Young Cooperator program. As the 1994 Outstanding YC Contest



winners, they traveled to Washington D.C. to represent Swiss Valley on the National YC Advisory Board in 1995.

Merri is delighted to be back in the barn. “Nothing is better than working on the farm with your own family.”

The Berlages have two other children. Youngest son Jared attends Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He still has some cows in the herd and comes home in the summer to help out when he is not working at a local landscaping firm. Daughter Danielle works for Prudential Insurance in Dubuque and visits the farm often.

All of their children grew up doing chores in the dairy with their parents and grandparents. They all showed cows at the fairs, getting their first 4-H calves when they were eight years old. Don says that all three of

his children’s 4-H calves originated from their grandfather’s own 4-H cow.

“We were fortunate that our children were involved with their grandparents on the farm. I am looking forward to that myself someday,” Don says.

Don and Merri learned early in their farming career about the importance of neighbors and family helping each other. “In 1989 when I was pregnant with Jared, Don broke his leg,” Merri says. “He spent five days in the hospital and I did chores with my brother-in-law John. Don was home for two days when he developed a pulmonary embolism that went through his heart and landed in his lung.” This resulted in another 17 days in the hospital. “Our neighbors were wonderful,” Merri

says. “They baled our hay using four rakes and four balers. Tons of people came to unload. We couldn’t have done it without their help.”

After all this, Merri went into early labor and was hospitalized for four days and then had to take it easy until Jared was born in September. “A week after Jared was born, my father-in-law had a farm accident,” Merri says. “Don, wearing a walking cast, milked cows in his dad’s parlor while John and I milked our cows.”

After that awful summer, Don and Merri felt they could never do enough to repay their family and neighbors for all the help they gave them.



### ON THE COVER:

Don and Merri Berlage stand in their front yard overlooking their Elizabeth, Ill. dairy.

At left, family members Greg, Erica, Merri and Don show off their favorite calves.

On the opposite page, cows lounge on a sunny afternoon in the field beside the Berlage home.

*Matt and Kristi Strief*

## YC'ERS VISIT D.C. DURING FARM BILL DEBATE

It was hailed as an historic time to be in Washington D.C. for anyone involved in agriculture. Swiss Valley Young Cooperators Matt and Kristi Strief from Farley, Iowa were there on Capitol Hill in early June during the Senate debate of the 2012 Farm Bill. As the 2011 Outstanding YC Contest Winners, the Striefs were in D.C. to sit on the National YC Advisory Board and help plan the YC program for the upcoming national Dairy Summit. While in D.C., all attending YC'ers spend one day on the Hill lobbying their Congressional legislators on key agriculture issues.

The huge issue this year was the Farm Bill, which was undergoing hot and heavy debate in the Senate. The Striefs met with Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley and his agriculture and trade counsel Jared Hill and Sen. Tom Harkin's senior counsel Mark Halverson. Since the House was not in session at this time, the Strief's met with Congressman Bruce Braley's senior legislative assistant Todd Wolf, who hails from Dubuque. Much of the conversation at these meetings centered on the Farm Bill and whatever new amendment that was currently being debated on the Senate floor. Matt would open the

conversation by talking about his family farm and specifics about his 230-cow dairy. Kristi brought up specific Farm Bill issues that would affect them and left behind NMPF-prepared talking points. The couple always ended the meeting by inviting the Congressman and the staffer to stop by and visit their Farley dairy

whenever they are back in their home districts.

Following the day of Capitol Hill visits, NMPF sponsored a Dairy Day reception for legislators and their aides, as well as the YC'ers. Here, the YC'ers could sample cheeses and mingle with the staffers in the hopes of getting to know them better.



Matt and Kristi Strief spent one day walking from one side of Capitol Hill to the other to keep appointments with their Congressional legislators.

Another day of the Strief's D.C. visit was set aside to plan the speakers and activities that would make up the national Young Cooperator program at the Dairy Summit, which would be held in Orlando, Florida this fall. Also while in D.C., the Strief's sat in on the NMPF summer Board meeting, which was also attended by Swiss Valley Farms NMPF Board representative Patrick Schroeder from Lancaster, Wis.

NMPF staffers presented a recap of the organization's activities for the past year, as well as discussed how much effort was going into keeping up with the Senate's progress on the Farm Bill.

Kristi says the trip to D.C. was a learning experience for the both of them. "We aren't really that active in politics, but found ourselves in the center of legislative policy that will have drastic impact on our dairy operation," she says. "Witnessing this in action was impressive and gave us a new appreciation for politics." Kristi and Matt said they got a great feeling from sharing their dairy story with their Congressmen. "We let them know where we stand on legislative reform for the dairy industry."



While in D.C., Matt and Kristi Strief met with their legislators or their aides. From top to bottom, the Strief's visited with Mark Halverson, Sen. Tom Harkin's senior counsel; Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, and Todd Wolf, Rep. Bruce Braley's senior legislative assistant.

## Celebrating June Dairy Month

# Kuhl's Host Radio Broadcast

Mae Kuhl thought it sounded like a good idea. Happily, after the three and a half-hour remote broadcast from her dairy parlor was over, she still felt that way.

The "Mike and Lisa Show" on KAT-FM out of Dubuque wanted to celebrate June Dairy Month by broadcasting their 5:30 to 9 a.m. morning show on a local dairy farm. Since Lisa's teenage son Pyzer works on the Kuhl's farm, she knew which dairy to select.

J&M Farm in Hazel Green, Wis., is a multi-generation family dairy with deep ties within their community. Jerry and Mae Kuhl farm with sons Dan and Tom, and several grandsons. Tom's sons Ryan, Evan and Jason work on the

farm as well as grandson Jacob Pollock, who is their daughter Cheryl's son. The family currently milks 175 Holsteins and has 40 dry cows. Jerry and Mae bought the farm from Jerry's parents Clarence and Dorothy Kuhl, who had bought it from Clarence's parents 1936, which makes this a five-generation farm. Mae proudly points to a red barn up by their home that was built in 1884 and is still well maintained and very much in use today.

When the June 22nd date was set

for the broadcast, Mae excitedly began inviting all the nearby relatives and business associates. Jerry seemed to take it more in stride. "It didn't really make me any difference. Just another day at the dairy, I guess."

But it certainly wasn't just another day at the dairy for all the visitors who arrived to watch and perhaps be interviewed on the air. Swiss Valley Farms field rep Jim Schmitz brought cheese and milk while family members dropped off egg and sausage casseroles, donuts and homemade caramel rolls. A party atmosphere prevailed as people popped in and out of the milk house office, where DJs Lisa Pearce and Mike Callaghan had



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CONTINUES  
ON PG. 15)

At right, the Kuhl Family poses with the KAT-FM DJs who came to their farm. Front row left to right: Jacob Pollock, Evan Kuhl & Jason Kuhl. Back row left to right: Ryan Kuhl, Dan Kuhl, Lisa Pearce, Mike Callaghan, Mae Kuhl, Jerry Kuhl & Tom Kuhl.

Above, right, there were quite a few interested onlookers in the parlor as Dan Kuhl prepares to teach DJ Mike Callahan how to put inflations on a cow. Above, Evan Kuhl answers questions during a milking.





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Top -- A boy pitches a perfect shot that will send Luana Plant Manager Colin Rowe into the water at the dunk tank.

Middle -- Employees and family members enjoy a picnic-style lunch on the grounds of the Luana plant.

At left -- Utoni Ruff, Supervisor of the Clayton County Food Shelf, accepts a \$120 donation check from Mike Bee, Luana production supervisor.

Luana, St. Olaf and Shullsburg employees gathered to celebrate Employee Appreciation Day on June 10th. The event, themed “A Picnic in the Park,” was held on the grounds of the Luana plant and included a picnic-style lunch, family-friendly games and a plant tour for spouses and children over 12. “It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the employees who make our workplace great,” said Plant Manager Colin Rowe, noting the event signage included a poster featuring the name and years of service of each and every employee. As part of the celebration, a fundraiser was held where employees had the opportunity to try to drop a management team member into a dunk tank. Each successful dunk raised a dollar for the Clayton County Food Shelf.

At Annual Spring Banquets

## DAIRY HONORS FOR CO-OP MEMBERS

### Delaware County



**Nicole Engelken**

Nicole Engelken of Earlville, Iowa was crowned the 2012 Delaware County Dairy Princess. The daughter of Tom and Cherrie Engelken, Nicole will be a senior at Maquoketa Valley High School this fall. She is involved in the National Honor Society, and is president of the FFA. Outside of school, she is involved in 4-H and Dairy Quiz Bowl, dairy judging, and Youth in Action. She plans to go to Iowa State University to major in Dairy Science and Pre-Vet.



### Winneshiek County

Swiss Valley Farms field rep Jim Murphy congratulates **Mariah Schmitt** after her coronation as the 2012 Winneshiek County Dairy Princess.

Mariah Schmitt, 16, was crowned the 2012 Winneshiek County Dairy Princess. She is the daughter of Carl and Terry Schmitt of Fort Atkinson and a junior at Turkey Valley High School. Mariah is a six-year member and president of the Turkey Valley Clovers 4-H Club. She is also a member of the South Winn FFA and Winneshiek County Dairy Club, where she shows and judges dairy cattle.



**Ashley Kriener**

Also at the Winneshiek County Dairy Banquet, Ashley Kriener was crowned The Little Miss Squirt.

Ashley is the 9-year-old daughter of Tom and Laurie Kriener of Fort Atkinson, Iowa. She is a fourth grader and a member of the Prairie Shooting Stars 4-H Club. Ashley enjoys math, cooking and photography. She helps feed calves during the summer and picks rock. Her hobbies include riding her bike, 4-H, softball, drawing and playing with kittens.



Bremer County Little Miss Squirt **Miranda Wehling** stands with her parents, Larry and Rhonda, and their Swiss Valley field rep Roger Lenuis, right.

## Bremer County

Miranda Wehling was named the Bremer County Little Miss Squirt at her dairy banquet. She is the daughter of Larry and Rhonda Wehling of Sumner, Iowa. Miranda is active in the Sumner-Fredericksburg Lucky Clovers 4-H Clubs.

Also at this banquet, long-time Swiss Valley Farms milk hauler Bob Lovell was given the Distinguished Service Award. Bob has been hauling milk for Swiss Valley since the co-op merged with Hudson Co-op Dairy Association in 1969. He retired in 2008 after 50 years of milk hauling. He still hauls milk part-time for Forry Trucking out of Plainfield.



**Bob Lovell**

## Fayette County

The Fayette County Dairy Promotion Board selected two Swiss Valley members for its 2012 Fayette County Dairy Princess and Alternate at its annual dairy banquet. Brianna Lee, daughter of Darrell and Rhonda Lee of rural West Union, is a North Fayette High senior active in FFA, German Club, band and girls' track as well as State 4-H Council and Fayette County 4-H Council. Brianna works on the dairy of Swiss Valley Farms members Jeff and Malinda Walz of West Union.

Molly Schmitt, daughter of Steven and Connie Schmitt of rural Hawkeye, is a North Fayette High junior. In school she participates in Danceline, football and basketball cheerleading, Student Council, band, Spanish Club, and FFA. She is also active in Windsor Sparkplugs 4-H Club, Fayette County 4-H Council, State Dairy Quiz Bowl, State 4-H Council and Fayette County Fair.

### Nathan Adams

Also at the Fayette County Dairy Banquet, Nathan Adams was selected as the Outstanding Young Dairy Producer. Nathan and his wife Annie dairy with his parents, Scott and Jeanie Adams, and siblings Joe and Katie on Adaway Dairy in Waucoma, Iowa. Adaway has a herd of 250 Holsteins, half of which are milked by robotic milkers. He is a recent graduate of the Calmar, Iowa Dairy program.



**Brianna Lee, left & Molly Schmitt**

## Clayton County

Catheryn Lang, 16, daughter of James and Theresa Lang of McGregor, was crowned the new Clayton County Dairy Princess at the spring dairy banquet. The new princess works for Swiss Valley Farms member Phil Specht of Pearlmaker Holsteins Inc. of McGregor.

Also at the 2012 Clayton County Banquet, Marge Walter of Luana received the Senior Dairy Producer Award. Marge, along with her late husband Gene Walter, had a long and distinguished dairy career in Clayton County.

The Outstanding Young Dairy Producer Award went to Nick and Jessie Westhoff of Westhoff Dairy in Guttenberg, Iowa. The Westhoffs left their off-farm jobs to dedicate their lives to dairying. They milk 68 Holsteins and have won awards for milk quality.

The Distinguished Dairy Producer Award went to Dan and Nancy Moon of Monona. The Moons are well known registered Holstein breeders who own and operate Moondale Farm, along with Dan's parents Vernice and Bev. Dan and Nancy milk a herd of 50 registered Holstein cows and get help from their three children, Kyle, Emily and Ryan. Vernice, though semi-retired, comes to the farm most days to help out. The Moon family was the recipient of the McKown Master Breeder Award at the 2011 World Dairy Expo.



**Dan & Nancy Moon**



**Marge Walter**



**Catheryn Lang**

## Delaware County

At the recent Delaware County Dairy Banquet, the Young Dairy Farmer Award was presented to Gerald and Lisa Weber, Delhi, Iowa. The Webers have been dairying since 1992. He and Lisa milk 90 Holsteins. They get help from their children, Justin, Nathan and McKayla.



**Gerald & Lisa Weber**



**Nick & Jessie Westhoff**

# Get Those Cameras Out! **GET IN THE CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST**



Have you taken any photos yet for the 2013 Swiss Valley Farms Member Calendar? There is still time to capture that perfect moment before the Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Photo quality and sharp focus are major considerations. A picture may need to be enlarged to 11" by 9" in order to fit on a calendar page. Large file digital photos are the best. If you don't have a digital camera, make an 8" by 10" print of your photo and submit that. Only submit photos that you personally have taken. Photos taken by non-member, professional photographers cannot be used.

Fill out the form below and include it with your submission. If you are e-mailing the photo, include all of this information in your e-mail at the time of submitting the photo. Then please mail a signed copy of this form to Nancy Feeney at the address in the righthand column.

**Name of person who took the Photo:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Farm Name or Producer #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of people in the photo:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where was the photo taken:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who is your Swiss Valley Field Rep?** \_\_\_\_\_

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### Important Information:

- All submitted photos become the property of Swiss Valley Farms Cooperative.
- The entry form on this page will serve as a permission slip to use the photo in printed materials and/or for advertising purposes. All entries must provide all of the requested information in order to qualify.
- No images will be returned.
- By signing the official entry form, you understand that the images will not be returned and each photo submitted comes with full and exclusive rights for Swiss Valley Farms Cooperative to print the photo, without credit, in Swiss Valley Farms literature, without further obligation to the photographer or those people who have their person or items in the photo.
- Please submit Landscape/Horizontal photos only, so they will fit on a horizontal calendar page.
- Submit your entries by Sept. 30, 2011 to:

**Swiss Valley Farms Cooperative  
Calendar Photo Contest  
P.O. Box 4493  
Davenport, Iowa 52808**

OR

E-mail photos to:  
nancy.feeney@  
swissvalley.com

Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three photos.



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During the Month of May,  
these Swiss Valley Farms  
Members averaged below 100,000 for  
their Somatic Cell count.

ALDINGER, ROGER	87,000
BARTH, DEANNA	99,000
BAUS, RON & MARY	70,000
BEACHY, NORMAN	64,000
BENNETT, JOHN & CHARLENE	44,000
BIERSCHENK, CARY & JENNIFER	60,000
BILL & LYNN VANDERHAM DAIRY	69,000
BREUCKMAN, CHAD	91,000
BRIMEYER, DANIEL & DEB	74,000
BRIMEYER, DEREK	74,000
BROCKMEYER, PAUL	75,000
BRUNKEN, BENJAMIN E.	96,000
BUSY BEE ACRES, LLC	75,000
CAROLAN, KEVIN & DONNA	88,000
CHAPMAN, STEVEN & CHERYL	91,000
DREIER, RANDY D.	96,000
FASSBENDER, PAUL G.	66,000
FRICKSON, ANDREW M.	76,000
GERLACH, THOMAS P.	94,000
HELLENBRAND, BRENT N.	75,000
HENDEL FARMS	62,000
HESSENIUS, CRAIG	83,000
HOFA PARK DAIRY FARM LLC	74,000
JOHNSON, DUANE & ROY	99,000
KEEHNER, DARRYL & TERESA	71,000
KETCHUM, ROBERT C & TERRI A	52,000
LAZY M FARM LLC	95,000
LEARY, STEPHEN E.	97,000
MACHIN, LLOYD	91,000
MAIER, EUGENE & JULIE	64,000
MARTIN, CHERYL & SCHMIDT GLEN	86,000
MEIER, BRIAN	83,000
MEIER, MIKE & CHERYL	83,000
MOHLMANN, LOUIS R.	82,000
NOLT, WESLEY	84,000
NUNES, DARYL & PAM	84,000
OPPRIECHT, RILLA F.	80,000
PATTISON, LEE & SARA	91,000
PETERSON, PER K.	52,000
PFISTER, P. SHELDON	91,000
ROSDALE GENETICS LTD	60,000
SCHAEFER, JEFFREY, SUE & KURT	46,000

Somatic Cell Range -- Percentage  
listed is based on number of **A**

Farms	
0 - 100,000.....	8 %
100,001 - 200,000.....	37%
200,001 - 300,000.....	32%
300,001 - 400,000.....	14%
400,001 - 500,000.....	6%
500,001 and above.....	3%



**FOR SALE:**

**Wanted:** 3 inches of rain over 5 days in southern Wisconsin.

Also:

**For Sale:** Used Big Jim silo unloader for 24-foot silo. Phone: 608-553-2634.

**Kuhl Broadcast**

\_\_\_\_\_ Cont. from Pg. 8

set up their remote broadcast equipment on Mae's old kitchen table.

About every 20 minutes, Lisa and Mike would chat on air with members of the Kuhl family, as well as other representatives from businesses who have a connection to this dairy. June Dairy Month was a hot topic as well as how hard dairy producers work to put quality milk on the consumers' tables. Dan Kuhl taught Mike how to attach inflations to a cow. Evan helped Lisa to do the same. Cow comfort and care was discussed as well as how much feed the herd consumes and the costs associated with all of this.

As the broadcast wrapped up, Lisa was ready to come back again next June and do it all over again.

That was fine with the Kuhl Family, who had a great time and a never-to-be-forgotten experience for them all.

SELKE, WALTER & WILLIAM	75,000
SIEGLE, SANDRA SCHREMPF	93,000
SIEGLE, STEVEN D.	93,000
SPERFSLAGE, IRVIN	85,000
STATZ, KEVIN F.	75,000
STAUFFER, TITUS	85,000
THOMPSON, LARRY & LIANE	91,000
VALLEY VIEW DAIRY INC.	85,000
WARD, BRECK N.	92,000
WIKMAN, JOHN & JUDY	88,000

*swiss valley farms*

**ANTIBIOTIC POLICY**

**Antibiotic Policy**

If a member suspects antibiotics in his or her bulk tank & calls a SWISS VALLEY FARMS field representative to report this before dumping the milk:

- **1st time** in a calendar year, the coop will pay 80% of the milk.
- **2nd & 3rd times** in a calendar year, the coop will pay 50% of the milk.
- **Over 3 times** in a calendar year, the coop will pay **zero**.

On the 1st offense, if a member has purchased a test kit and detects the positive antibiotic milk, SWISS VALLEY FARMS, CO. will reimburse that member \$75.00 toward the cost of the test kit.

All claims must be received by the corporate office for payment no later than 60 days after the milk was dumped.

The earliest dated claim turned in will be paid at 80% payment.

If antibiotics are found to be present in a farm truckload as a result of a screening test, the member will NOT be paid for that shipment of milk, and will be assessed as follows:

**Full cost of net load plus the cost of disposal.**

Net load = total pounds on the load minus the member's pounds.

**Farm Bill**

\_\_\_\_\_ Cont. from Pg. 2

matter to them.

This 2012 Farm Bill battle is far from over. Passing the Senate's version through the House will be another major challenge and the House Agriculture Committee is expected to begin marking up its own version in mid- July.

Just as in the Senate, a couple hundred new amendments will be proposed and some of these will be attached, debated and voted on. As in all past Farm Bills, most farmers are not happy with everything they see in it. There is something in it for everyone to hate. That is the nature of compromise. So it is very important

for you to keep talking to your Congressional representatives about what you specifically do or do not like in it. Let your voice be heard!

This link, [www.congressmerge.com/onlinedb/communicating.htm](http://www.congressmerge.com/onlinedb/communicating.htm), will give you some tips on how to effectively communicate with your Congress people. There also are some great tips to be found by going to [www.nmpf.org](http://www.nmpf.org) and clicking on the Dairy Great logo.

The end result will hopefully be a Farm Bill that will provide valuable safety nets for America's farmers as well as a sound U.S. food policy.

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# Dairyman



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## Continuing the Dairy Conversation

**J**une Dairy Month may be officially over, but that doesn't mean the messages about the nutritious, economic and environmental benefits of dairy come to a stop. There are many ways to continue the conversation. For instance, [dairygood.org](http://dairygood.org), The Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's newly launched website, is dedicated to spreading the good news about dairy. It will be updated throughout the year with blog posts, insightful

resources and event information, such as the upcoming "Feeding the Region, Feeding the Nation, Feeding the World" summit to be held in Chicago, IL this October. The event, held in partnership with the Midwest Dairy Association, will mirror the industry's June kick-off event in Washington D.C. and will explore food security in the 21st Century.

Head on over to [dairygood.org](http://dairygood.org) today, and check out great posts, such as these:

<http://dairygood.org/connectingpeoplewithfarmers/> "Connecting People with Farmers" explores the importance of informing people where their food really comes from and the commitment made by farmers in providing it. It also links to a virtual farm tour.

<http://dairygood.org/jasonclayonfeedingtheworld/> "Feeding the World Sustainably" features Dr. Jason Clay, Senior Vice President at World Wildlife Fund, explaining how every farm and farmer has a role to play in feeding the world's growing population.

Thanks to all who did their part to help promote dairy during June and continue to do so throughout the year! If you have any examples of your efforts, we'd love to see them and share them with other members in an upcoming issue of the **Dairyman**. You can send your examples to Member Relations Manager Nancy Feeney by email at [nancy.feeney@swissvalley.com](mailto:nancy.feeney@swissvalley.com) or by mail to 247 Research Parkway, PO Box 4493, Davenport, IA 52808.