

# THE DPS MOOSLETTER

## Dairy Production Systems CARES

Carrie Pedreiro

No one quite knows how important the environment is like those involved in agriculture. For many years, farmers and ranchers have been doing their best to feed the world while maintaining a harmonious balance with the environment that affords them their livelihood. Dairy farms are not immune to environmental concerns. It is each dairy farmer's responsibility to make their living without jeopardizing the world around them for future generations.

Dairy Production Systems has always made a conscious effort to protect the land we use. Renovations at all locations have included upgrading our waste systems to better manage our herd's waste. More than that, DPS has set about on a deliberate course to not only be good stewards of the environment, but to change the way that what

its day-to-day operations. In Florida, DPS – Branford is situated within a short distance of the Santa Fe River. Being this close to a natural water source means an even closer eye should be placed on managing that nutrient stream.

In 2001, Florida Farm Bureau created the County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES). The program was designed to recognize farmers in Florida who voluntarily implement Best Management Practices that protect and care for the environment. CARES was introduced with the Suwannee River Partnership and now includes the Santa Fe Basin.

DPS works closely with the Suwannee River Water Management District to keep our farm environmentally friendly. Recently, Hugh Thomas, Environmental Specialist with the Department of Agriculture, and Holly Stalvey, Communication Coordinator, visited DPS to see the farm's nutrient system first-hand.

Their visit was preemptive to a prestigious honor. David Sumrall and DPS were recognized by CARES for voluntarily implementing environmentally sound stewardship practices that enhance Florida's environment. The award was presented at the CARES recognition dinner on October 30, and accepted by Michael Pedreiro and Jeff Reed. DPS was honored with a handful of other

North Central Florida farmers who are also committed to environmental stewardship. The awards were



Hugh Thomas, Michael Pedreiro, Holly Stalvey, Jeff Reed, and David Sumrall discuss DPS's nutrient stream system.

presented by Charles H. Bronson, Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture.

It is a fundamental belief of DPS that it is our responsibility to be good stewards to the environment we so desperately depend on, and it is demonstrated in a very real and tangible way on a day-to-day basis. We spend countless hours and dollars to keep our animals comfortable, knowing that as we provide supreme comfort for our cows, our cows will repay us in milk production. Likewise, if we take care of the environment around us by employing industry-leading approaches to nutrient management, the land we love will repay our efforts for generations to come.



CARES award presentation. Photo by Holly Stalvey.

has typically been called "waste" is looked at and to realize the value of the nutrient stream that is created by



# President's Ponderings

David P. Sumrall

As I write this, we are just six days away from Election Day. By the time that most of you read this, America will have cast its vote for the next President. I hope you voted. I hope you thought



carefully before doing so. For perhaps the first time in my life, I understand how critically important what we call politics is to the kind of life that we have the opportunity to lead in this country. If you have listened at all to the campaign process that has led up to these final days of the presidential race, you have to know that there are two very different futures waiting for this country depending on who takes the office in January. Again I say, I hope you voted, and I hope you thought carefully before doing so.

Fall is in the air, and the changing of the season is upon us. In a few weeks, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. As I think about what that season means to me, I can't help but think about that first Thanksgiving so many years ago and what it must have been like. History records the event as a joyous celebration wherein people of very diverse cultures and beliefs set aside everything simply to spend time together pondering on what they had been blessed with and giving thanks for the same. I wonder if our nation is capable of such a spirit yet today.

For many people, gratitude is a lost art. It seems to a large degree to have been replaced by an attitude of entitlement among more and more people. In general, many people seem to have forgotten how to simply be thankful, much less express it in the way that they live. To be honest, I have to admit that even with the strict upbringing I had (which I assure you included more than one "object lesson" from Mom and Dad with regard to being thankful for what I had at the time), I catch myself sometimes falling victim of a poor attitude and a lack of discipline in this area. And, when it happens, I am rightfully ashamed of myself.

Over the last few months, we have seen drastic changes in our economy and as a result our lifestyles. And, it would appear that it is not over yet. Our society today has been slumbering in the lap

of luxury to the degree that it would seem that some of us have forgotten what tough times are. Well just hold on. I think our nation is about to get a real lesson in what is really important, and how critical it is that we work hard to protect it. Perhaps as critical in the process is an attitude of thankfulness that comes only from knowing what it is like to have to do without something for the first time.

We live in a society of instant gratification. We want what we want, when we want it, and on the terms that suit us. Some even think that society somehow owes them what they want. In all of my reading, study, and experience, I have yet to come across any valid support for that sense of entitlement that prevails today at all. It has been conjured up by those that would rather be taken care of than to provide for themselves. It is dangerous ground in my opinion. It is a big part of what has put our nation in the crisis that we presently endure.

I am fortunate enough to have heard my grandparents talk about the Great Depression through which they lived. My parents were born during that same period and lived their childhoods through the difficult times that followed. As a result, both my grandparents and parents had a real appreciation for what it meant to really be without, and it changed the way they lived their lives during that time. Bigger than that, it changed the way they lived the rest of their lives as well. Without question, a spirit of gratitude became a way of life for them.

Perhaps it is not coincidence that our nation has come to this point just prior to Thanksgiving. Maybe it is a wake-up call. Maybe we as a nation should follow the example set by those pilgrims and Native Americans centuries ago and set aside all the clutter that preoccupies our lives long enough to count our blessings... To remember what is really important, and to renew a spirit of thanksgiving in our day-to-day lives.

On this Thanksgiving, I wish for each of you a spirit of calm within the storm that we all live right now. As a humble suggestion for getting there, take time to ponder what you have to be thankful for in a very honest way. Dwell on what you have, not what you think you should have. Give thanks. God bless America.

## Protocol POP Quiz

Michael Pedreiro

Calving season is upon us already! Let's go over the SOP's for calving assistance.

1. What are the first signs of the onset of calving?

- a. Cow is "nesting" and appears restless
- b. Cow is away from the rest of the herd
- c. Cow is pacing back and forth
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above

2. The 1st stage of labor is described by what events?

- a. Cervix dilated
- b. Position of calf into the birthing canal
- c. Water breaks
- d. Both A & C
- e. A, B, & C

3. Cow should be assisted if there is no progress for:

- a. 20 minutes
- b. 1 hour
- c. 2 hours
- d. 4 hours

4. When assisting a cow, what "tools" does the employee need?

- a. J-lube and Iodine
- b. Plastic sleeves and nitrile gloves
- c. 2 chrome chains and 2 handles
- d. Bucket of Novalsan & warm water
- e. All of the above

5. If two people can not pull the front legs one hand width beyond the fetlock, then:

- a. You should call your supervisor/veterinarian immediately
- b. You should try harder
- c. Just leave the cow alone
- d. Both B & C
- e. None of the above

Answers: 1.D, 2.E, 3.B, 4.E, 5.A

# Agpro Helps Make a Cool Herd

Carrie Pedreiro

Although the weather is cooling down, when dairying in the Southeast keeping cows cool is always an important issue. All DPS dairies make a concerted effort to keep cooling systems in excellent working conditions to provide ample comfort to our herds. But even with the best fans and misters, malfunctions or breakdowns can occur. Correcting these errors as



Fans must be in proper condition to cool cows.

quick as possible is crucial to the success of any cow comfort program.

When the renovations completed at DPS – Branford Farm, part of the plan was to install the “Complete Cow Cooling Solution” by Agpro, Inc. The

system promises to cool animals, conserve energy by using water and power sources wisely, and correct problems by monitoring the system’s performance.

The system works through a system of remote sensors and computers. It starts in the barns where fans and misters are linked to a remote sensing system that detects which is connected to a wireless module. The module communicates with another wireless receiver linked to a “FS Master”. This master remote is connected to an on-farm computer running Agpro’s FS Maestro Program. Through this program, the status of the farm’s cow cooling system can be monitored from any location that has a connection to the internet, and system performance reports can be reviewed instantaneously. Malfunctions or equipment failures are detected immediately and dairy personnel are quickly contacted to remedy the problem.

Keeping fans and misters in top working condition ensures a cool, comfortable herd all year round. For more information, log on to Agpro’s website at [www.agprousa.com](http://www.agprousa.com).



## Thanksgiving

Rick Hedrick

Get together and food seem to go hand-in-hand with Thanksgiving. Keep these tips in mind during this season:

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires
- Make sure smoke alarms are installed in your house and in working order
- Know what to do in case of fire
- Have an escape plan in place with at least two ways out
- Designate a place outside for everyone to meet in case of fire
- Never go back inside a burning building
- Be careful and have a Safe Thanksgiving!



## Quality CORNER

Rick Hedrick

Consistent cow prep when done correctly will maximize milk flow rate and minimize machine-on time resulting in improved teat end condition.

Teats must be clean and dry before milking. Any bacteria not removed will end up in the milk tank. Once the milk is in the tank it won’t get any better.

### August Bonus Awards

Bell

*Quality, Production*

Branford

*Quality, Production*

Mississippi

*Production, Herd Turnover*

New Frontier

*Production*

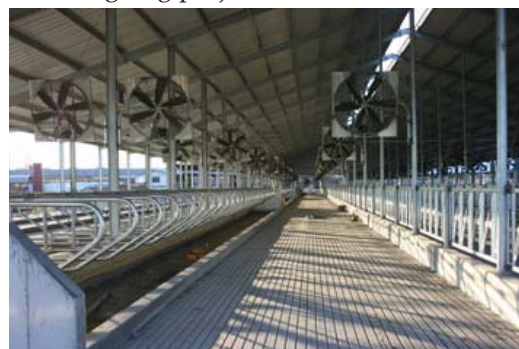
## Bell Renovations Update

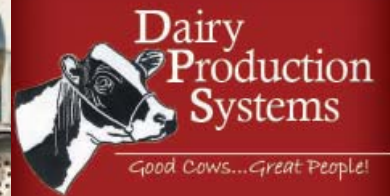
Carrie Pedreiro

The renovation project at DPS - Bell continues to make progress. The first barn is nearly complete!

The pictures below show the completed freestall barn, complete with all fans mounted and shiny new water troughs installed.

Stay tuned to *The Moosletter* for more updates on this ongoing project.





QUALITY MILK & MANAGEMENT SERVICES

## Anniversaries

### Bell

Hipolito Buenrostro, 1 year

### Branford

**Myrna Philman, 12 years**  
**Rony Zamora, 12 years**

### Georgia

Flavio Chavez, 2 years  
Jose J. Moreno, 1 year  
**Porfirio Sanchez, 7 years**

## Birthdays

### Corporate

14 Tom Pittman

### Georgia

1 Reynaldo Carrillo  
1 Socorro Carrillo  
2 Fidel-Ramirez Castro  
11 Martin Arellano  
27 Raul Guerrero

### Mississippi

9 Alejandro Carmona

### Bell

21 Cecilio Garcia

### New Frontier

4 Jose Davila  
17 Jesus Ramirez  
21 Victor Martiniez-Almaguer

### Branford

9 Victor Garcia

## New Hires

### Bell

Jose Constanza  
Randall Disch  
Pam Mercado  
Cody Rolling

### Mississippi

Alejandro Carmona

### New Frontier

Rogelio Campos  
Juan Candelario  
Armando Cantu  
Ramon Hernandez  
Francisco Lopez  
Juan Martinez  
Jose Morales  
Cirilo Muniz  
Margarito Rivas

## Happy Thanksgiving!

Don't forget to remember what you are thankful for this year! Here are some other dates to remember:

Nov. 4 - Election Day! VOTE  
Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day  
Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Day



## Gotcha!

Carrie Pedreiro

On a trip home to visit Mom and Dad, Sonny Lawrence got more than he bargained for. Sonny, son of Warren and Myra Lawrence, was giving this girl a good ear rub when she decided to show her appreciation of his affection.

Myra appropriately calls this shot "Showing Some Love at DPS Georgia!"



## Our Mission:

To provide an atmosphere and the resources to enable our people and our cows to be the leading, most efficient producer of milk in the nation.

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