

THE DPS MOOSLETTER

Tropical Season Preparedness

Carrie Pedreiro

Having dairies in the Southeastern United States means hurricane season has the ability to affect each and every DPS location. The month of August brought a couple of tropical storms our way and it is predicted that September will be the busiest of the tropical storm months.

In August, Tropical Storm Fay dumped several inches of rain on both Florida locations as well as the Georgia location. At press time, Hurricane Gustav, while sparing a direct hit on any location, is threatening DPS – Mississippi with rain and the possibility of spin-off tornadoes. While we can't control where a storm will go, or the severity



of rain or wind damage, we can and should be prepared each tropical storm season to keep our facilities, employees, and cows as safe as possible.

Concerning storm preparedness, paying attention to the little things can prevent big things from happening! Each farm should pay attention to the cleanliness of the cow lots, freestall barns, and parlor areas. Keeping these areas free of unnecessary debris can eliminate ammunition for high winds. All working parts of the farm should be in top condition.

For example, broken gates, boards or structures should be repaired now.

Along with wind comes rain in these tropical storms and hurricanes. Drainage systems should be working properly to handle the possibility of large amounts of rain water. Lots

and roadways should be inspected for large holes where water could pool during a storm. Areas of concern should be addressed right away.

Even small storms can pose problems for a dairy. A loss of power would mean no cows are milked, among other issues. Generators should be tested and in good working condition at any time of the year, but it is especially crucial during the tropical storm months. Additionally, an adequate supply of diesel fuel should be on hand to power generators in the event of power loss.

If a storm is headed in your direction, prepare feed areas and board up any glass windows or doors. Always make sure you have an evacuation plan and a supply of canned food and water in your home.

Being prepared before a big storm is the key to ensure farm safety. Work together to keep our cows and our employees safe this hurricane season.

Make-over at DPS - Bell Underway

Carrie Pedreiro

DPS - Bell Farm is already looking strikingly different. The steel frame for the first freestall barn is already standing.

In an effort to keep our farms current, comfortable, and safe for the animals they house, the past few years have brought many updates to each location. Bell's update will include the construction of four new freestall barns in place of the open lots that existed before.

Keep your eye on *The Moosletter* in the coming months as progress continues.



Here is a look at the new structure at DPS - Bell Farm.



President's Ponderings

David P. Sumrall

Life's about changing, nothing ever stays the same. Those changes come in every imaginable facet of life, and affect different people in different ways. Interestingly, those changes rarely affect different people exactly the same way. As one who really likes working with facts, I have found this to be one of the most frustrating things in life to understand. How can the same thing evoke two completely different reactions in people, even people who might ordinarily agree on many levels? Aren't the facts enough to bring folks together? Won't the truth settle us all on the same side of the fence? Sure... If only we could get to the "truth". If only the "facts" were so simple.

In wrestling with my own frustrations in this arena, I have learned that there are multiple obstacles to "common ground" for people. In fact, there are so many things in the way that it is hard for me to see how any of us ever agree on anything. Some of them are real (true, factual), while others are not (imaginary, false). The problem is perception. The stunning thing I have come across is that for many people, it makes no difference. Perception is just as authentic as reality. But is it?

My dictionary defines the verb "perceive" as "to become aware of directly through any of the senses; especially, to see or hear". Well friends, therein lies the problem. It is our individual skill at seeing and/or listening that makes all the difference. It is because of the wide variability in those skills that our legal system exists today. If we only dealt in fact, there would be no decision to make. We'd all know the truth, all the time. (As a bonus, we'd have no lawyers!)

Our sight and hearing are not only impacted by physical impairment or limitations. On a deeper level and I think more importantly, what we see



and hear is highly impacted by what we believe. And the issue is that not everything we believe is true. We may believe it to be true, but the reality is that it can only be true if it is based in fact.

I was recently involved in a debate over an issue with someone wherein we strongly disagreed with each other. Upon voicing my differing opinion, they accused me of calling them a liar, to which I replied that I was not questioning their belief in what they were saying, but their understanding of the facts to begin with. Those are two very different things. The reality is that just because they believed something did not make it true. Again, it is only true if it is based in fact.

All of us tend to see things through the lens of our own experience and education. But if we really want to understand each other, we are required to get beyond our own perceptions. Otherwise, we severely limit our field of vision and impair our own ability to see things clearly. Likewise, we can become jaded in our thought processes and over time develop "selective hearing", meaning that we only hear what we want to hear rather than getting all the facts.

If we are not careful in the processes of observation and listening, we allow ourselves to get programmed with insufficient or inaccurate information. As a result, we are operating in the absence of fact, and every decision we make related to that particular issue will be impacted. This is true in our personal lives and certainly in the world of business. I fully realize that perception is critically important and that we must be cognizant of our own perceptions as well as the perceptions of others as we live our lives. But in both cases, the accuracy of those perceptions is directly proportional to the presence of fact.

As we live our lives and work our jobs, may we be ever-conscious of the importance of truth based in fact. If we can master that concept, most of the rest of it is easy.



by Michael Pedreiro

1. What is the recommended time to wait before processing incoming springers?
 - a. 1-3 hours
 - b. 1-3 days
 - c. 1-3 weeks
 - d. 1-3 months
 - e. Immediately process upon arrival
2. At 12 weeks of age, calves are branded with the DPS brand on the:
 - a. Left hip
 - b. Right hip
 - c. Both hips
 - d. Calves are not branded
 - e. Right or left hip...it doesn't matter
3. Metritis cases usually occur in cows around:
 - a. 1-3 days in milk
 - b. 1-3 days prior to calving
 - c. 3-10 days in milk
 - d. 12-24 days in milk
 - e. 100-200 days in milk
4. Fresh pens should never be populated at more than:
 - a. 100% of headlocks
 - b. 100% of freestalls
 - c. 90% of headlocks
 - d. 90% of freestalls
 - e. Pens can be populated to whatever is necessary to house cows
5. If a down cow has cold ears and appears to try to get up but doesn't seem to have the strength, she may have:
 - a. Foot rot
 - b. Milk fever
 - c. Metritis
 - d. Injury
 - e. Pneumonia

Bell/Branford Score Big

Carrie Pedreiro

Congratulations are in order for the employees of DPS – Branford and Bell Farms. Each location was the subject of a federal milk inspection recently, and both farms were rewarded with excellent scores: 96 for Branford and a perfect 100 for Bell.

The random and surprise federal milk inspection occurs once a year and evaluates each farm selected in several areas for cleanliness, organization, and most importantly, health and safety of the milk supply. The federal inspector scores the farm in several areas and comes up with an overall score for that particular dairy.

The milkroom is heavily inspected to make sure that concrete floors are in good shape, doors are sealed, windows and screens are free of cracks or holes, exhaust fans are working properly, and all milk parts are absent of milk residue. All milk parts are broken apart and inspected for cleanliness and soundness. The inspector also looks at

all connections and gaskets throughout the parlor.

Another area heavily scored is the parlor and parlor procedures. Inspectors look for a sanitary, proper milking routine where cows are being milked well. They also look at standing areas to insure there is no pooling of water. Milk machines are also given a thorough inspection for sanitation and soundness.

Pest control, labeling of veterinarian supplies, and the overall cleanliness and organization of the farm round out some the items on the inspector's checklist. Each dairy must be taking the necessary steps to keep the area free of pests such as mice, rats, and flies. Prescription drugs are to be properly labeled with the veterinarian and supplier's name on each item.

"They really break things down to make sure we are doing a good job," said Rick Hedrick. "It takes a lot of hard work to get such great scores."

Congratulations to the staff of both the Bell and Branford locations for the exemplary federal inspection scores. Keep up the great work!



Back to School

Rick Hedrick

By now, all schools are back in session. It is important to remember to be on the lookout for children going to and from school. Keep the following tips in mind when on the roads:

- Watch for school buses and obey it's lights and stop sign.
- Watch for children getting on and off buses.
- Watch for children waiting near roadways for buses.
- Obey all school zone traffic laws.
- Keep your eyes and ears open on the road!



Quality CORNER

Rick Hedrick

Proper training is key to achieving our goals. Make sure new employees know what to do, how to do it and why we do the full five step milking procedure. Each step is important.

July Bonus Awards

Bell

Quality, Production, Herd Turnover

Branford

Quality, Production, Herd Turnover

Mississippi

Production

New Frontier

Production, Herd Turnover

Skip Elliot Prognosis Good

Carrie Pedreiro

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" That popular saying rings especially loud in the life of Ralph "Skip" Elliot. Skip, who most know as the good-spirited herdsman at DPS – Bell, was diagnosed with colon and liver cancer in mid-August. Skip was not feeling like himself on the dairy one day, and quick thinking co-workers called an ambulance.



Once he was seen by a doctor, his diagnosis was made.

Since that day, Skip has been hospitalized at North Florida Regional Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida. He has had one operation to remove the cancer from his colon. His daughter Marnie, who thankfully happens to be a nurse on

his floor, was upbeat when sharing the good news about his prognosis.

Marnie shared that the cancer was isolated to his colon and liver and the surgery removed all the infection from his colon. What remains in his liver will be treated with chemotherapy and the doctors are confident Skip's body will respond well to the treatment. At press time, the doctors were unsure when Skip's chemotherapy sessions would begin.

In spite of it all, Skip remains upbeat as ever and is really looking forward to getting back outside and eating more. (Due to his surgery, Skip has been on a mostly liquid diet.) Surrounded by great family and friends, Skip will have all the help he needs in the months ahead.

We at DPS want to extend our wishes for Skip's speedy, successful treatment and recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



QUALITY MILK & MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Anniversaries

Corporate

Susan Blount, 5 years
Jamie Sumrall, 13 years

Georgia

Richard Morris, 4 years
Juan Soto, 8 years

Birthdays

Bell

23 Juan Guzman

Branford

3 Maria Salgado
6 James Ritchey
10 Ray Anthony
25 Roberto Silva

Georgia

3 Julian Gaise
4 Jairo Chavez
11 Raul Villalobos
12 Warren Lawrence
18 Antonio Garcia
19 Sylvestre Quintana
20 Fermin De La Rosa
27 Christopher Escamilla

Mississippi

18 Francine Villega
24 Mel Nicholson

New Frontier

15 Abel Rosdles
30 Eric Majalca

New Hires

Bell

Maria Jimenez

Georgia

Apolinario Martin
Jose Ramos

Mississippi

Eliazer De La Fuente

New Frontier

Angelica Hernandez
Enrique Ochoa
Severiano Puentes
Efrain Rodriguez
Jenny Telford
Armando Velasquez

DPS Moosletter Wants YOU!



The DPS Moosletter is an employee driven publication and it wants YOU! Please don't hesitate to send your special announcements to the editor for publication in the Moos! Whether it be an anniversary, new baby, or other special celebration, let us know so we can showcase you!

Additionally, if you have any suggestions for improvement to your newsletter, please send any and all comments to us. We hope that you enjoy the Moosletter and want you to continue to enjoy reading it each month.

Send comments, suggestions, or any news for inclusion in the Moosletter to Carrie Pedreiro at carrie.pedreiro@dpsdairy.com. Until then, happy reading!

Don't forget, September 7th is Grandparent's Day! Wish yours a happy one!

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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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