

THE DPS MOOSLETTER

DPS Breeding Program Takes New Step

Carrie Pedreiro

Some time ago, Heifer Haven was unveiled. Heifer Haven is an LLC formed in conjunction with DPS to raise our own replacement heifers. Heifer Haven has enlisted three operations to raise DPS heifers. These operations include: Greene Farms, owned and operated by Heath Greene, Shamrock Farms, owned and operated by Dr. Bob Patrick, and Ideal Farms, owned and operated by Andrew Albertson.

Currently, there are over 3,000 head of heifers between the three growers of Heifer Haven. The animals range from 6 month old heifers to 22 months old springing heifers. Heifer calves belonging to DPS Bell, Branford, and Georgia Farms are all raised from birth to 300 pounds in the calyard located at DPS – Bell Farm. At around 300 pounds, heifers are shipped to one of Heifer Haven’s three growers.

Upon arrival at the grower’s site, heifers are put out to pasture with supplemental feed. At 12 months of age, heifers are checked to ensure adequate height and frame and are then enrolled into the DPS breeding program.

DPS has partnered with Alta Genetics to offer the tools, supplies, and customer service necessary to have a successful breeding program. As part of the agreement, Alta provides tanks, nitrogen, regular visits, and training opportunities for our custom heifer growers. In addition, and most importantly, they supply the semen.

DPS decided the most important requirement for our semen criteria

would be to ensure an easy transition for the dam at time of calving. Because heifers were bred at an earlier age than the industry average, DPS was keenly aware that calving ease had to be of top concern when establishing a breeding program. This realization led to a decision to breed all Holstein heifers to Jersey semen the first year of the program. As the program evolved, DPS’s interest began to grow in the possibility of gender-biased semen also known as “sexed semen”. This does a few things: 1) Continuation of Holstein genetics, 2) Increase likelihood of a female offspring to 90% 3) Lower the incidence of difficult calvings versus using conventional Holstein semen.

Due to the process of sexing semen, the composition of sperm cells is lower in each straw of semen, resulting in lower conception rates.

Knowing this, and in combination with the heat of the summer, DPS decided to use sexed semen in the cooler months of the year. From the first of November until the 31st of May, all heifers will be bred to Holstein sexed semen up to the first two breedings. From June 1st to the end of October all heifers are bred to

conventional Jersey semen for the first two breedings. All heifers throughout the year found open after their first two breedings will then be introduced to a Jersey clean-up bull.

“This is a major step for DPS,” said Michael Pedreiro. “We have never in our history (outside of controlled trials) ventured outside of exclusive bull breeding.”

“We are hoping to increase the ratio of females to males in our offspring, and I believe this breeding program will help us meet that goal,” Michael said.



Pictured here are a group of heifers shipped from Heifer Haven back to DPS - Bell Farm.

President's Ponderings

David P. Sumrall



Very quickly and without any deep thought, take out a pencil and jot down three good things that happened to you yesterday. Now, quickly numerically rank them from first to third based on which was most important to you to which was least. Set that aside for a minute. We will come back to it later.

March is truly roaring in like a lion. As I write this, every state in which we operate has issues with weather. Here it is March 1st, and there are parts of Mississippi blanketed in as much as 5 inches of snow. Georgia and Florida are under severe weather alerts including tornado warnings. And parts of Texas are on fire due to fires being fanned by high winds. I got that in about three minutes of the Weather Channel at 6:00 a.m. I hadn't even had a cup of coffee yet.

I got that cup of coffee and stumbled into the study and woke up the computer. Checked e-mail to find an inbox full of business reports lamenting the state of the economy, the crashing stock market, the so-called bailout that doesn't appear to be working, and predictions of how 2009 will be the worst economic period experienced since the Great Depression. It is now 7:00 a.m.

I look out the window to see that while it is daylight, it is not as bright as it should be for this time of the morning. I stick my head out on the patio to find out that the Weather Channel had it right. We were having some really severe weather. My wife and I live in the woods. Really. And when the wind blows really hard like it was at that moment, it adds a whole new dimension to how we look at the huge and beautiful trees that surround us. And then there was the rain. A torrential downpour like I had not seen in I could not remember

when. Finding nothing uplifting or redeeming about the day in the back yard, I retreated once again to the study. It's 7:30 a.m. now and it is darker than it was thirty minutes earlier as the winds howl and whistle, bending trees sharply toward the ground.

As I pondered everything that the morning had brought so far, it hit me like a ton of bricks. I had been awake the sum total of 90 minutes, had processed nothing but bad news, and had yet to have one good thought run through my head. I scolded myself for the realization of my own selfish and narrow view of the day thus far. As punishment, I instructed myself to redirect my focus, ignore all the bad news, and make a list of the good things that were going on with me.

As it turns out, the exercise was not as easy at first as it sounded. I have decided since that the difficulty was directly proportional to how negatively focused I had allowed myself to apparently yet unknowingly become due to all the negative inputs around me. However, I also remember

the actual moment when my focus shifted from negative to positive simply by taking charge of my thoughts and resultantly, my attitude.

I started with the obvious. I was alive. That's a big one. And the fact that I awoke to a new day means that no matter what the day may bring, I have the opportunity to use whatever may be at my disposal to impact the outcome of this day and those to follow. And, the reality is that I am only limited by the degree of effort and ingenuity that I am willing to give to the day and its issues whatever they may be. A fundamental part of staying rightly focused with regard to day-to-day activity is to remember that we can only live one day at a time, and therefore should only concern ourselves with exactly that. I was recently and vividly reminded of just that.

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Protocol POP Quiz

By Michael Pedreiro

Everyone now has the new protocol books and are putting our new treatment and vaccine SOP's in place. Here is our first Protocol Quiz with the new revised protocol book.

1. What vaccines are given to cows at the time of dry-off?
 - a. Ultrabac 8, ScourGuard 4KC, J-5
 - b. ScourGuard 4KC, Bovishield Gold FP 5L5, J-5
 - c. TSV-2, Cattlemaster Gold, J-5
 - d. Bo-Se, Mu-Se, Vitamin B Complex
 - e. None of the above
2. What other items should a cow receive at dry-off?
 - a. Quartermaster & Orbeseal
 - b. Cylence
 - c. 2 red leg bands
 - d. Corrective trimming of hooves
 - e. All of the above
3. After palpating cows to ensure pregnancy then with colored chalk these two letters should be written on the cow's hips:
 - a. M (green chalk) & O (orange chalk)
 - b. D, P & S (maroon chalk)
 - c. P (green chalk) & D (orange chalk)
 - d. A (blue chalk) & T (red chalk)
 - e. None of the above
4. At movement from drys-to-springers cattle are given what vaccines?
 - a. Bovishield Gold FP 5L5, Cattlemaster Gold, J-5
 - b. TrichGuard, Spirovac L5, J-5
 - c. Bo-Se, Mu-Se, Vitamin B Complex
 - d. ScourGuard 4KC, Ultrabac 8, J-5
 - e. Leptoferm 5, Piliguard Tri-View, J-5
5. What other tasks need to be completed on cows moved to springers?
 - a. Deworm with Cydectin
 - b. Write the date of movement on both hips of the cow
 - c. Administer LA-200
 - d. Both A & B
 - e. Both B & C

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

A fundamental part of staying rightly focused...is to remember that we can only live one day at a time...

Revised Protocols Distributed

Carrie Pedreiro

The new DPS Herd Health Protocol has been distributed! Staying in line with our pledge to provide optimal cow care, a revision to the protocol took place in January. Since the completion of the changes, Michael Pedreiro has made the rounds to each location to distribute the new books.



COMPREHENSIVE HERD HEALTH PROTOCOL
REVISED 1-1-09



DPS Herd Health Protocol has been created in conjunction with and for the use of DPS - Florida Division, DPS - Mississippi Division, DPS - Georgia Division, New Frontier Dairy, and other herds to which DPS renders management consulting services.



This is the cover of the revised Herd Health Protocol book.

All old protocols should now be turned in and you should be working from the new version. The picture on the left shows the cover of the revised protocol. If you are still in possession of an old protocol book, or see an older version around the farm, please turn it in to your manager immediately to avoid any confusion.

As explained in protocol meetings, please review all pages of the protocol and familiarize yourself with all herd health procedures. Big changes were brought to your attention at the meeting, but it is a great idea to review all our procedures as a refresher.

Any and all treatments moving forward should follow the new protocol book. If you have any questions regarding the changes, see your manager for clarification.

The protocol is revised periodically to ensure we are providing our animals with the best care possible. If you have any suggestions regarding the format or content of the protocol, please feel free to offer those suggestions to Michael Pedreiro.



Equipment Safety

Rick Hedrick

Be careful getting on or off a piece of equipment.

- Always face equipment when getting on or off.
- Always have three points of contact. One hand and two feet or two hands and one foot must be in contact with the equipment when climbing up or down.
- Make sure steps and grab handles are clean and secure and have a slip proof surface.
- Make sure you park on a clean non slippery surface so you don't slip when climbing down.
- Never jump on or off a piece of equipment. Take your time.
- Report unsafe equipment to your supervisor.



Rick Hedrick

Stripping is the second step in the milking procedure. It is a requirement of DPS employees to strip each quarter three times. Stripping is the only way to find clinical mastitis and also helps stimulate the cow to let her milk down quicker speeding up the overall milking process.

January Bonus Awards

Bell

Quality, Production

Branford

Quality, Production

New Frontier

Quality

Ponderings (continued)

Next on my list was the fact that I am loved. You may consider this obvious as well, but not so fast. I mean, in my case, it is obvious everywhere I look. But then, I know that I am extremely fortunate to be so loved. I know others that are not so fortunate. Have you crossed paths with someone who was truly alone? There are people like that out there. I have known a few. And then, you have to remember the fact that no one knows us as well as we know ourselves. I know myself well enough to know that there are things about me that make me less "lovable" than I should be from time to time. Yet, those who really love me don't seem to notice. That's a significant observation and a constant source of positive influence in my life.

At some point, I looked up from my scribbled list to see that the dark skies had begun to lighten

up. The heavy rain had become a light mist. The wind continued to blow but I quickly realized that it was the wind that was responsible for moving the storm through our area and in fact responsible breaking up the dark skies. In a matter of minutes, the clouds were completely gone and blue skies prevailed. What a difference a couple of hours make. Ugly storms came and passed, and interestingly enough the storm itself yielded some good things. The rain left a fresh fragrance in the air that was almost palpable. In summary, the day turned out to be completely different than I was convinced it would be at 6:00 a.m.

As I thought about how the day had changed, it struck me that life is not so different. That is, not if we first recognize the good things in life and secondly, have those things in the right order.

Now, let's take a look at that list you made earlier.



QUALITY MILK & MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Anniversaries

Corporate

Kimberly Potts, 11 years

Bell

Ramon Dias, 2 years
AJ Pedreiro, 1 year

Branford

Jose Romero Martinez, 6 years
Rigoberto Portillo, 13 years
Jesse Smith, 12 years

Birthdays

Bell

7 C.J. Middleton
23 Roy Crews
23 Mario Garcia
29 Ronaldo Granados
31 Balvino Martinez

Georgia

2 Santiago Moreno
9 Juan Carrillo
15 George Glass
18 Myra Lawrence

New Frontier

8 Efrain Rodriguez
14 Matilde Gonzalez
16 Antonio Flores
18 Pedro Muro
27 Alane Timmens
31 Tony Perez
31 Silvestre Velasquez

Branford

9 Rony Betancourth
21 Simon Perez
31 Santos Alvarez

Mississippi

13 George Craft

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The DPS Moosletter
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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.

New Hires

New Frontier

Jose Pantoja
Claudio Vasquez

St. Patty's Day

St. Patrick's Day is Tuesday, March 17. On this day, Irish and Irish Americans commemorate the death, as legend has it, of Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, who died on March 17, around 492

It is a tradition to wear green on St. Patrick's Day. However, did you know in Ireland, only Catholics wear green and Protestants wear orange!



Daylight Savings Begin

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 am. Set your clocks ahead before you go to sleep on Saturday and you won't be late the next day!

Daylight Savings means more sunshine! The first day of Spring is also in March! March 20 is the official first day of the Spring season! Happy Spring!

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