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MILK FROM GRASS TO THE GLASS

JANUARY 2010 · NEWSLETTER

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ON THE FARM...WINTER CHORES

One of the advantages to our occupation is the opportunity to work in close proximity to nature. Experiencing the change of seasons is an integral component. Each season of the year has its own set of advantages and challenges. Stepping out of a warm house on a sub zero morning before there is any hint of light in the eastern sky provides an invigorating jolt to a sleepy body. The first deep breath results in a stinging sensation in one's nostrils. I open the door to the barn and it creaks and groans like it hasn't been opened in years. Once inside the milkroom, I start the water running to sanitize the milking system and it's always a sigh of relief to find the pipes are not frozen. Stepping into the stall barn brings a sense of warm (40°) humid air. The scent of sweet hay, pungent silage and cattle

greet me. I turn on the lights and realize that I can't see from one end of the barn to the other, due to the vapor from the cows exhaling. The sole source of heat is from the cows body temperature, so the colder outside, the more vapor and cold inside.

Our Border Collie, Toby, is happy to see me and nuzzles his moist nose into my gloved hand, before wrapping his front legs around my waist for a good morning hug. That being done, I start the morning routine as Toby begins his task of getting the cows up to eat and to be milked. Sharlene feeds the baby calves, which takes extra effort in cold weather. It's a challenge to keep her hands warm while feeding milk and water to hungry, aggressive calves.

The heifers (all teenage) stay outdoors. We try to feed them out of the wind as much as possible. Many

mornings they can be found contentedly chewing their cud, with frost on the whiskers around their muzzle and frost on the ends of their body hair, which is thicker during the winter months.

After daylight breaks and morning chores are finished, I look across our eastern pasture and watch as Northwest winds blow sheets of snow across the frozen windswept landscape, much like desert sands across barren hills. It all looks so sterile and hostile, one wonders how it will ever become green again. Inevitably, green up returns, week by week, season after season, year after year, one generation follows another....so it has been and so it shall ever be.

Pat Daninger

Zoe is our January Cow of the Month



COW OF THE MONTH

Cows do have personalities of their own and Zoe is my personal favorite. She is 6 years old and has been a 4H show cow for our son Nathan. Zoe has a grown daughter Zenith (also now milking in the barn) and teens Zoom & Zorro (part of our herd). Zoe is quite gentle and loves being petted and scratched under her neck each day.

Sharlene Daninger

Autumnwood Dairy Store Hours

Monday- Friday • Noon-6pm

Saturday, 10am-4pm



WHAT'S NEW?

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing you a prosperous 2010, from all of us at Autumnwood Farms

UNSALTED BUTTER!

Is now available in the Dairy Store!

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

for the Autumnwood Farm and Creamery OPEN HOUSE
June 6th, 2010

THANK YOU!

For your loyalty and support of family farms like ours!

WHERE TO PURCHASE OUR PRODUCTS

Autumnwood Dairy Store

Forest Lake • M-F Noon - 6pm, Sat 10-4

Bock Creamery - Bock

County Market - North Branch

Cub Foods - Forest Lake, Stillwater

Festival Foods - Andover, Bloomington,

Brooklyn Park, Hugo, Lexington,

Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake

Grundhofer's Old Fashion Meats - Hugo

Hagberg's County Market - Lake Elmo

Kowalski's - Eden Prairie,

Oak Park Hgts,

White Bear Lake, Woodbury

Mississippi Market

- St Paul at Selby & Dale

The Marketplace - St. Michael

