

# Agri-Mark News



## MEMBER FARM SPOTLIGHT Jim Davenport & Family Ancramdale, N.Y.



This member farm has won the Top Quality  
Producer Award for 2008 - the third time!

Producing top quality milk is not easy, but member Jim Davenport of Ancramdale, N.Y., has it down to a science on 140 acres of tillable land where he milks 60 registered Holsteins and Ayrshires.

Jim is Agri-Mark's Top Quality Producer for 2008, having maintained the best milk quality record among all 1,300 cooperative members. Jim won the award in 2002 and again in 2004. What is the secret to his success? Mostly the same old routine he claims, but he is also working to improve each year.

"One difference this past year is that we had an extremely low somatic cell count during the summer for three or four months. That really helped us produce quality milk," he notes.

Jim has always said that clean teats, clean stalls and clean cows make good clean milk.

"We've been doing the same thing forever," Jim says, but adds that he also recently started using plastic gloves while milking. Perhaps it is this willingness to try new ideas that recently won the Davenports a trip to Charlotte, N.C. to be recognized by the NMC (formerly the National Mastitis Council) as one of eight platinum winners of the National Dairy Quality Awards for 2008. They also received the award (one of six platinum winners) for both 2005 and 2007.

Jim was nominated by Dave Patteson, Manager of Agri-Mark's Central Testing Laboratory.

"Jim does much better than most dairy farmers in the country when it comes to somatic cell counts," Patteson says. "His consistency in producing superior quality milk is remarkable."

Jim says that when any one of the farm's nine

milkers during the year preps cows, they use a single service towel to dry udders if teats are wet or soiled.

"Then we forestrip each quarter and predip with a chorhexidine acetate dip. We then wait a minute and wipe off the excess dip with a single serve paper towel. Then we make sure the machine is attached properly and properly positioned. When milking is done, we take off the claw and post dip in same solution. That's all we do," says Jim.

Despite Jim's matter-of-fact manner, the dairy is constantly improving as well. Jim resurfaced the gravel portion of the exercise yard for the milking

cows in the spring of 2007. He also recently installed new filter fabric covered with clean gravel and removed a pool of Klebsiella bacteria from their environment.

"We had a 41,000 somatic cell count in July and August. In my mind there is no doubt that the clean exercise yard helped to lower counts," he says.

Jim still using DHIA testing and looks at SCCs on all his cows. If he finds one with sub-clinical mastitis, he uses a California Mastitis Test to identify the bad quarter and then uses a quarter milker to discard that milk until an identifying culture comes back. Depending on the culture, he may continue to quarter milk the cow if it is a minor infection the cow can resolve herself or treats her and dumps all the milk until she is cleared to return to the tank.

There is no doubt that this New York member is committed to producing the best milk possible. Congratulations and "thank you" to Jim Davenport and family for producing such superior quality milk for their cooperative! □



*Jim Davenport insists that all milkers, including himself, use the same procedures when milking.*

### Agri-Mark

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