

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Hopkins Dairy Notes



Employees training– another way to cut cost

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Special points of interest:

- Opening notes
- Teat dip or spray?
- Andale!
- Coming UP!



As we see the development of our agricultural year, we are really looking forward into better milk prices. Meanwhile, we must fine-tune operations and revise expenses. One resource that you will always need and will depend on is your workforce. There are incentive methods that you can adopt that do not necessarily cost you money. The most important one is training. Trained workers not

only perform better, they also do it happier. With this principle in mind, I am developing a workforce training program directed to Hispanic workers in Hopkins and nearby counties. The first effort trying to cover the workforce training needs was conducted last month, during the 2010 Hoof Trimming Workshop. We not only had a well attended seminar, but I also feel that the workers were happy and educated at the same time. We are so very lucky having industry members that can

support our education efforts (thanks to ZINPRO and PFIZER for supporting the 2010 Hoof Trimming Workshop).

In this volume, I am also including my section Andale!, in this part, I will include information helpful in closing the bridge between you and your workers. After all, you probably spend more time at work that anywhere else, and getting to know each other better will not only be productive, could be also fun.

Teat dip or spray: evaluate the economics

Dr. Ellen Jordan, Dairy Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension Service

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To keep dairies profitable in good times and bad, it pays to re-evaluate many practices on the dairy. One is whether to dip or spray teats. Many employees say spraying is faster. When deciding what is best for your herd, evaluate the quality and cost of the application. Steve Spencer, professor emeritus at Penn State, evaluated dipping and

spraying. When teats were dipped, 96% of the teats received coverage over at least 95% of the surface compared to only 87% coverage in the sprayed group. Evaluate coverage in your own herd by looking at teats as cows exit the parlor. In most herds, better coverage is attained by dipping. Dipping not only provides better coverage, it's gener-

ally more cost-effective. In Spencer's trial, it took .75 ounces per cow per day for teat dip and 1.4 ounces per cow for spraying. An average Texas dairy herd has approximately 400 cows milking at any one time. If a good iodine teat dip costs \$5.00 per gallon, the savings amount to \$3700 in one year.

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Proper teat dipping will save you money

Andale!

Andale is an Spanish word that not only denotes a sense of hurry, but also encouragement. Andale implies also a sense of trust to the person you are talking to, that with a little bit of hurry, he can get it done. It

certainly has a more significant impact if you hurry someone when you are part of the effort. Try to be part of the workload when you are on the task, and show cooperation with your workers during task assignment. Let

them feel that you are part of the team, contributing both with instructions, ideas and effort. A small pad on the arm with a smile can also imply that they are doing a good job and that you believe they can get it done.

Fresh cow health: What your workers need to know

Dealing with timely detection of diseases requires knowing the cows you milk very well. A well-trained worker can detect when something goes wrong or when a cow is not feeling well. There is a time when the help of the veterinarian is needed, and you or your workers must require the services of health professionals that you trust, but, in the mean time, there are actions that need to be taken. To learn about what your workers can do to prevent

health problems in the fresh pen, the 2010 fresh pen health protocols for Hispanic workers training will be conducted May 14, 2010 starting at 10:00 AM at the Professional Ag Workers Building located at 957 Connally Street (next to the City Park) in Sulphur Springs. The training will be conducted by Dr. Juan Romano, large animal practitioner and Extension veterinarian with Texas A&M University. Dr. Romano was born and raised in South America, with extensive experience

in dairy health training during his work throughout northern states of the US before moving to Texas. Dr. Romano will not only describe medical procedures but also will indicate when the help of the veterinarian is needed. The training will be conducted in Spanish. The training will be free, with lunch provided by Andy Wright and sponsored by PFIZER.

Hispanic workers do not only care about salary, they also need to be appreciated

Coming UP!:

- Dairy Manure Technology Tour (5 hours of DOPA credits) in Stephenville, Texas. April 13th, 2010. Call Whit at 325-356-2539 for more details.
- Fresh pen health protocols for Hispanic Workers, Professional Ag Worker Building, 957 Connally Street, Sulphur Springs, May 14, 2010, 10:00 AM– 2:00 PM. Free. Sponsored meal will be provided. Call 903-885-3443 to reserve
- TAD Calendars are available at the County Extension Office (Limited amount) come and get one before they are gone!

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioner Courts of Texas Cooperating.