



THE RIGHT CHOICE



GEA GETS AWARD

GEA has regained leadership position in the dairy farming sector on the 2016 DLG (German Agricultural Society) Image Barometer which returns it once again to the status of best brand in dairy farming business. For this, a survey is filled out by 700 farmers that covers criteria such as brand knowledge, brand loyalty, brand performance and brand image. A “brand index” is then extrapolated from this data. GEA assesses image leadership as an important form of recognition for its dedication of consistent focus on current and future customer needs, and the result is “Smart Technologies for Future Farming”. On that same topic Euro Tier in Hanover showcased product innovations alongside automated, digital and networked offers, all of which were liked by trade visitors.

COWS TO PIGS

Why then do we drink cow’s milk instead of pig’s milk? The answer comes down to a physical limitation; sows are very difficult to milk. The female pigs have around 14 small teats, compared with the four large teats on a cow’s udder. Sows also eject milk to their suckling piglets in bursts that last only up to a minute, so you would have to wait a really long time to collect even half a liter of milk. By contrast, cows store their milk in udders and can eject milk continuously for up to 6 minutes at a time. However, recently a farm in the Netherlands produced cheese from Pig’s milk. The rare product tastes saltier and creamier than traditional cow’s milk cheese. Guess what? It sells for a whopping \$1200 per pound!

(from smithsonianmag.com)

RODGERS

Rodgers, a Canadian company which PDC does business with, is a Stainless Steel company which probably has components in every milking parlor in B.C. In 2011, it was their 75th anniversary year in business. Founded by Gordon J. Rodger, this industry is now in its third generation as a family run business. Their early roots supplied milking equipment to local dairies in south western Ontario. In 1962, they began their wholesale stainless division. In the 1970’s, they began their stainless steel fittings division. Today they still supply dairy, food and beverage industry infrastructure. The 75 years have given the company a lot of experience. Gordon’s son and grandson, Gary and Todd, along with a dedicated team of skilled employees look to keep a Canadian legacy going in Canada’s 150th year!

BRIGGS BOOM OR GUN

When comparing irrigation guns to irrigation booms, the differences can be quite large in efficiencies. A typical efficiency for a big gun irrigation system is about 60%. The water application method of a Briggs boom is essentially the same as a center pivot at about 80 - 85%. Therefore a boom system has 42% more usable irrigation water delivered to the soil compared to a big gun. A big gun is inherently less efficient because the water spends so much time travelling through the air before it reaches the soil. Water droplets from a big gun typically spend about 3 seconds travelling through the air. This gives more opportunity for water to evaporate on its way to the soil. It also gives the wind more opportunity to distort the application pattern. *(from Washington State Univ)*

5000 COW FRIDAY

Cook, the farmer, went on to milk more than 5000 cows on a Friday. His friends and family counted down, clapped and cheered for Cook as he pulled the last claw off the udder of cow number 5065. This Manawatu farmer in Wisconsin attempted the world record for the most cows milked by one person in one day. Cook’s challenge to set a world milking benchmark stemmed from a “Fit 4 Farming” program which encouraged the farmer to keep fit, train and eat nutritiously. In the end, they threw a bucket of milk on him and sprayed him with a bottle of bubbly in celebration of his accomplishment. Despite the big day, he was back at work the following morning. The milking challenge was to encourage farmers to get their heart rate up.

FARM SAFETY

Straight up; Agriculture is one of the top three most dangerous professions. This fact is quite often overlooked. In Canada FARSHA promotes safety on our farms. In the U.S. for example, they have things like the annual Midwest Rural Safety Agricultural Conference. Dordt College in Iowa is one of the few institutions that offers coursework in farm safety. The number one killer of farmers are grain bins, dust explosions, power take offs, manure gasses and tractor roll overs. In my family we have lost an uncle and cousin to manure gasses and a cousin to tractor roll over. We at Pacific Dairy have a once-a-month breakfast safety meeting for safety issues and company policies. We highly recommend all farms to do the same. It’s good to get the word out and talk about safety. By Law, Washington State Dairies are having to hold safety meetings once a month.



Congratulations to Jim and Karen Van-Garderen for the start of British Columbia's first GEA Monobox Robot. Certainly a beautiful, quiet, cow comfort barn will be nice to work in for the family!



Congratulations to Greg & Margaret Vanderhoek and Vince & Allison Vanderhoek for the start of their new barn with 6 GEA Monoboxes milking robots and a GEA-PDC sand process system for their beautiful new barn!

