

President's Letter
Gary Bonestroo
April, 2008

Greetings to all. I know we all have been enjoying these breezy spring days and not knowing if you need the heater or air conditioning on in your home. Cows love that kind of weather change too. At least we know that summer is coming and lake season is here!

Well, ethanol got another black eye from Time Magazine. Not only is it not financially feasible, but it's not all that good for the environment. Because, they are cutting down more of the rain forest to grow more crops and grass for grazing. I wonder how much longer before the ethanol industry falls on its face again like in the 80's? Not soon enough, but I believe it will.

With spring here, so is the spring flush. Plants are all at full capacity and we hardly have room for outside milk. I remember when we first moved to New Mexico to dairy in the lower Rio Grande in 1982, we just got our first new powder plant in El Paso, and there were only a few small bottling plants in the state and that was it. That one powder plant gave us a good \$9 to \$10 cwt and all the extra milk went somewhere – Arizona, North Dakota, the Midwest, etc. etc. for \$8 to \$9 cwt. I know we have a lot more cows in the state, but the manufacturing capacity is so much larger, that less milk is shipped out of state as distress price levels.

June is dairy month, and DPNM will be celebrating it with the annual convention, producer's meeting, and golf tournament. The golf tournament is going to be at The Links for the first time! It should be great fun for everyone! It's a great time to see old friends from all over the state. So mark your calendars for Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, for a good time.

Wendy and I are proud to announce that our oldest son Gage will be getting married at about the same time as the convention in June in Mission Bay, CA. He is marrying Tara, the daughter of Billy and Sherrie Rucker, farmer and dairymen north of Clovis. We all couldn't be happier for them, and so I'm sorry to say we won't be seeing you in Ruidoso for the convention.

Have a good one!