

President's Letter
Gary Bonestroo
August, 2007

Greetings to all! Thanks to Sharon and Kaye for giving me the summer off as far as writing letters. Hope you all had a great summer with your family and friends. I know I did. Now that the kids are back in school, we are having the hottest temperatures all summer. It has been a backwards summer with June being cool and wet, August being hot and dry. More enchanting New Mexico weather.

It sure is nice having a milk price that will allow us to pay down some of our debts and to breathe again. Don't get me wrong, I like what I see on the milk futures but what makes me crazy is the .30 to .50 ups and downs. What is happening in the market place to make it do that everyday? It's like they are trying to scare dairymen into buying futures at levels they end up with cheap milk.

Thank you DFA for the great job on the new milk statements. I like the way it is laid out explaining all the deductions and making it easier to see how we pay for our own bonus and what it is costing. It would have been better if it was done this way from the beginning instead of the mystery PPD. Hindsight is 20/20 I guess!

TB in New Mexico? Yes, it's definitely a bummer, but not the end of the world. Back in the mid 80's, we had a TB outbreak in the lower Rio Grande Valley, and we beat it then with testing. It was a pain in the you know what, but we got it done. In the past 25 years, it has shown its ugly face but more of those years it has not. New Mexico received the funding to terminate the cows of one dairy, with two locations, this will help us a lot to get back to TB-free status. We need to be sure to thank our U.S. delegation in working so hard to get this accomplished.

All right, all you terrorists out there! Homeland Security wants you! Construction industry, farmers, dairymen, hotel, health care etc...I guess business is slow for the Department of Homeland Security. Maybe they should start on the border with their manpower and money. What are these people thinking? They should be making their own beds at hotels, looking at empty shelves at the grocery stores, mowing their own yards, besides paying more for everything. Give me a break! One way or another they are coming. DPNM along with DFA are setting up meetings to better inform us on how to deal with the new laws. A meeting will be held in Clovis at 1 p.m. on September 12 at the Clovis Civic Center, and a meeting in Las Cruces at 1p.m. on September 13 at the NM Farm & Livestock Bureau. At the Clovis meeting, we will have one of our state vets to discuss TB in that region.

Until next time, have a good one...