



# The Dairy Business

By  
Newton Bair

## Water, Ice and Frozen Pipes

When the cows begin bawling at the frozen trough or stand licking a dry water bowl, winter hits us between the eyes. Winter always brings special problems, governed by the physical laws of solidity and liquidity.

Ice on the water trough was not hard to cope with in days of yore. Break it up and sling it aside to expose plenty of unfrozen drink for the cows. We even heated a boiler of hot water on the kitchen stove to warm it up. Cows showed their appreciation by slurping the trough dry and looking for more.

Whether they gave more milk because of it is open to question. At least our ego was satisfied by the extra exertion, knowing that hard work might produce a feeling of puritanical virtue if nothing else. Thawing out frozen pipes and cups came much, much later, and is a whole 'nother story' which is all too familiar to all dairy families.

'Twas a job for the kids, that one of going around after dark to empty all the water fountains, drain the radiators, and hook up the heat tapes. The only reminder

was a sharp "now don't forget . . .", and it was up to you to remember every last crock to be emptied, every tin water fountain to be inverted, which tractor didn't have antifreeze, and where to hook up a heat tape. The water trough had to be emptied, if the cattle hadn't already drunk it dry before the evening milking. Otherwise, they would be confronted with a solid cake of ice come morning.

The water line to the barn never froze, even though it was not buried below the frost line. The source was a spring located in the woods above the house. As long as no valve was turned off, water flowed freely, supplying both house and barn by the free energy of gravity. After reaching its terminus at the milk house, it simply flowed into the shallow pond below the wagon shed, and there it froze.

Even in those long ago days, we had a frost-proof hydrant in the hog pen. Activated by a long tap, the valve was well protected under the feed entry floor. There was a long wait after turning the handle,

while the water gurgled up through the hydrant, finally spurting out into the trough like a fountain.

It was always good for a quick shower, at a time when a bath was least appreciated.

The hydrant never froze, but the feeding entry floor was a study in icy abstract sculpture, pock-marked with grains of corn and oats, all winter.

I'll never forget the fall that cousin George brought his 1926 Overland out to the farm to fill the radiator with 'good spring water.' "You see, spring water doesn't freeze, does it?" (Not in the spring itself, anyway). So, it follows that spring water should be the stuff to use in the radiator come cold weather.

Well, no amount of argument or logic could change his mind on the subject, so the family went to supper while he blissfully filled up the old Overland's radiator with spring water.

Later, when Papa met George at the garage having the engine block replaced, he was advised to fill-up the next time with some of Uncle Jake's hard cider. That would have at least a little anti-freeze in it. Raspberry wine might have more anti-freeze, but was too good to waste on the Overland, so it wasn't offered.

Ethanol for the radiators, heat tapes for the exposed pipes, and frost-proof fountains, all help to keep the water liquid. Even a dripping tap on a zero night could save a heap of trouble.

A barn full of cattle can generate a lot of heat, but we haven't yet learned how to cash in on it. We blow it out the window trying to keep the cows cooled down. What a waste of heat! Let's work on that, while we try to get through the winter without frozen pipes.

## Williams Tabbed AJCC-NAJ Jersey Area Representative

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The hiring of two new staff members, and the reorganization of staff responsibilities have been announced by Maurice E. Core, executive secretary for The American Jersey Cattle Club and National All-Jersey, Inc.

J. Craig Williams, December graduate of Pennsylvania State University, will assume the duties of AJCC-NAJ Northeast Area Representative on Jan. 1.

Williams has an extensive background in registered Jerseys, having been raised on Bryncoed Farm, a 140-cow Jersey dairy. He is the son of Tom and Tiz Williams, Middletown, Pa.

Williams majored in dairy production at Penn State. While there he was active in the Dairy Science Club and president of Delta Theta Sigma, a professional/social agricultural fraternity. He has also been vice-president of the Pennsylvania Junior Jersey Cattle Club and chairman of the fun breakfast for juniors attending the 1985 AJCC-NAJ Annual Meetings in Lancaster, Pa.

As a 4-H member, Williams was president of the Dauphin County 4-H Dairy Club and participated in exchanges with 4-H members from three other states.

Williams has experience as a milk tester for Pennsylvania DHIA and a research assistant for a milkfat variation study conducted at Penn State. He has also developed a mastitis cost program that is currently under review by the Pennsylvania Computer Extension Network.

Larry L. Wolfe, Cary, N.C., will join the AJCC data processing department in Columbus, Ohio on Jan. 1. An August graduate of Wake Technical College, he has an associate degree in business computer programming. While a student, he was also a junior computer programmer at the Dairy Records Processing Center in Raleigh, N.C.

Wolfe was herdsman at Bush River Jerseys in Newberry, S.C., nor nearly five years before completing his degree at Wake



Craig Williams

Technical. He has also been herdsman at Tri-D Acres in Illinois, and Senn-Sational Jerseys and Headspring Farm in South Carolina. While a bull herdsman at Illini Sire Service, Wolfe conducted on-farm AI training schools.

Cari W. Wolfe, current AJCC-NAJ Southeast Area Representative, will become Coordinator of Domestic Sales with Jersey Marketing Service on Jan. 1. In this capacity, she will be responsible for coordinating JMS public and private treaty sales in the United States. She has also been named Genetic Improvement Coordinator to work closely with breeder cooperatives proving Jersey young sires.

Wolfe joined the AJCC staff in late 1981. She holds a B.S. degree from Virginia Tech and an M.S. in animal science from North Carolina State University. In addition to her duties as an AJCC-NAJ Area Representative, she has been involved in research summarizing data from the AJCC type appraisal program. She has been a leader in the formation of the Dixieland and Liberty Jersey sire proving cooperatives.

Brenda Spence, who joined the JMS staff in the fall of 1985, is promoted to Associate Coordinator of Domestic Sales. Larry R. Kempton assumes responsibility for JMS cattle sales to foreign countries as Coordinator of Export Sales and Market Development.

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