

Mutual Respect Helps Get The Work Done On Teabow Farms

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Lancaster Farming Staff

WALKERSVILLE, Md. — Milking 785 Holsteins three times a day is no small job.

The first challenge is to find good, reliable workers. Then you have to make sure they stay happy.

At Teabow, Inc. in Frederick County, the working crew is settling into a routine after a major expansion last year that included construction of a new-freestall barn and double-24 parallel parlor.

For owners Jim and Louise Stup and herd managers Larry and Melissa Jarvis, the three Mexican employees hired last fall play a big part in helping the operation run smoothly.

Jose Cerapio Santos, Alberto Rodriguez, and Pedro de la Cruz are on the milking crew for the night shift, from 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. They milk the entire herd once, then milk the first half of the herd again before their shift is over. Friday is their day off.



Pedro de la Cruz takes a break from cleaning out free-stalls. He said he hopes to have longtime employment on Teabow Farms.



Jim Stup, owner of Teabow, Inc., left, and herd manager Larry Jarvis are happy with the quality of the Mexican workers on the dairy.

Santos, Rodriguez, and de la Cruz all hail from the state of San Luis Potosi, about 200 miles north of Mexico City. They have had diverse agricultural experience in the U.S. prior to coming to Teabow Farms. Santos, the oldest of the three, said he worked more than 25 years on dairy farms in Texas and Mexico, but prefers his new job.

“The pay is better here,” he said.

The three applied in person for the job last fall when they heard from some fellow countrymen working on a neighboring dairy farm near Walkersville that Teabow was looking for milkers. They now live together with several other family members on a house near the farm.

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