June Dairy month kicked off at Ellington Ag Center with 4-H participants from across the state competing for awards in the Dairy Quiz Bowl. Several counties and businesses across the State held Dairy days and yours truly had the privilege of appearing live with Bill Cody on AM 650’s Coffee, Country, and Cody show at the annual Trash and Treasures weekend in Cross Plains, Robertson County, TN. Denise Jones, Steve Yates and I handed out over 300 pints of chocolate milk provided by Randy Groves, of Groves Family Dairy there in Robertson County. A special thanks to Randy and G and G Dairies. On Saturday of that same week Houston Dorris, and Dorris Milling of Springfield held its annual Dairy Day. Several dairy producers attended and enjoyed the homemade ice cream tasting contest and the milk mustache contest.

New Commissioner of Agriculture, Jai Templeton, took advantage of Dairy month beginning his tour of Dairy operations across the state accompanied by several of his staff in different locations, Assistant Commissioner Jimmy Hopper, new Deputy Commissioner Tom Womack, Assistant Commissioner Larry Maxwell and Assistant Commissioner Carol McDonald putting feet on the ground on over 15 Dairies in fertile Henry County, West Tennessee, scenic Middle Tennessee and the beautiful Sweetwater Valley of East Tennessee. It was indeed a privilege traveling with all of them as we visited each operation and we certainly didn’t miss any of the great eating places across the state, especially nostalgic Marcy Jo’s Meal House, housed in the old Pottsville General Store; what an experience! It was quite interesting as each producer asked questions and shared part of their life’s stories with the Commissioner and watching as he responded, sometimes emotionally to their concerns. TDPA extends a debt of gratitude to Commissioner Templeton and his staff for investing their time in learning more about the Tennessee Dairy Industry and the producers who contribute so much in time and money to the Tennessee Agriculture economy.

Congratulations to Joseph Johns on his Supreme and Grand Champion Steer at this year’s TN Jr Beef Expo in Murfreesboro. This is the first year that dairy steers have been included in the contest. Special thanks to Mark and Jennifer Houston for providing sponsorship money. Also, a special thanks to Tony Mays and Purity Dairy for providing chocolate milk at the Show. TDPA was happy to make the arrangements.

The TDPA Fall Board Meeting will be October 14th, 10:00 am CST, in Murfreesboro at Mimi’s Café on Medical Center Drive next to Jared’s. Skip French, Territory Manager for Van Beek, will be on the program. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the TN Jr Dairy Expo.

To date 2016 has been a very difficult year for dairy producers across the state. Hopefully, fall promises a little better outlook. Thanks for your continued support through these difficult times.

Make your plans now to attend our Annual meeting, Friday, January 13, 2017 in Murfreesboro. We will have another informative program with Dr. David Kohl as our featured speaker.
Message from your TDPA President - John Bayless

Bayless Farms

As usual, I’m writing this the night before the magazine deadline. I promised Stan I’d get it to him last week.... It’s been a long, hot summer in Ardmore.

My son’s school suggested the parents sign up for Twitter. How hard could that be? I created an account on my phone and searched for “dairy”. Stan’s account came up! I thought “if Stan’s got one it can’t be too difficult!” The next day I received Tweets by the dozen. My phone battery was dead by noon! But seriously there are numerous postings both pro and con on the Dairy Industry, dairy products, and many aspects of dairy farming. There’s even an Alabama dairyman that constantly posts what’s happening on his dairy. I guess what I came to realize is that people are constantly receiving information about our industry. We need to take every opportunity to tell our side of the story. Whether it’s taking a cow to a Farm City Day or talking to the person at the next table in a restaurant, take that opportunity to correct their misunderstanding about milk or your operation. We’ve got a great product and we should promote it whenever possible.

If there’s one take home message I’ve gotten from Stan it’s “Be Proactive” and I think it applies very well here. Please let us know of opportunities where TDPA can help. Thanks for your continued support.

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