

Congratulations 2021 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the recipients of this year’s Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery Scholarships. The goal of this program is to provide scholarships to members of our cooperative’s families who wish to continue their post high school education in Agriculture at a two-year technical school or a four-year university.



Jalyssa Beaudry
Otsego, MN



Benjamin Neumann
New Richmond, WI



Clayton Van Dyk
New Richmond, WI

Congratulations!

We wish you all much success in your future careers!



Join us for deep fried cheese curds at these events!

Barron County - June 5

Hillsdale Dairy-Ben Kraft Farm
815 14 1/2 St, Barron, WI

Pepin County - June 12

Weiss Family Farms
W4230 CR-R, Durand, WI

Showdown in Curd Town - June 12

Pierce County Fairgrounds, Ellsworth, WI
Details: www.showdownincurdtown.com

Pierce County - June 19

Todd and Billy Jo Mark Farm, N4620 County Road CC, Elmwood, WI

Ellsworth Drive-thru Cheese Curd Festival - June 26

Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery (follow the signs)
Details: www.cheesecurdfestival.com

See you there!

Governor Evers Visits Ellsworth



Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and Senator Jeff Smith visited Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery’s Ellsworth production facility and retail store earlier this month.

Paul Bauer led the Governor and Senator Smith on a tour of the plant where they were particularly engaged in our manufacturing process and strategic value-added approach to our product-line.

They were very complimentary on our ability to remain profitable and add jobs during these uncertain times. Paul took the opportunity to emphasize the current challenges faced by our patron farmers and the importance of agriculture to our local and state economy.



May 2021

Menomonie Plant Progress Update

Our new Menomonie production facility is coming right along—on time and on budget, so far. We remain cautiously optimistic to also begin production on time—it was planned to have the facility operational by fall. We checked in with Paul Bauer, CEO/Manager, for an update on the project.

The project is moving along as anticipated. Although, we need to remember there are any number of situations that could change the timing. I’m reminded almost daily that supply-chain issues are very real.

We are starting to see some delivery dates for building materials and equipment getting pushed out into the future. The number and length of these delays could impact both cost and timing for a project of this size. I continued to push to keep deadlines and timelines tight.

As you can see from this recent photo, the project is still very much in the beginning stages. It’s difficult to

fully comprehend the size of the building—while it may not look like it in the picture, the building is very tall. You can’t fully appreciate the height until you’re physically there and standing onsite. The reason for the height is to allow for future expansion when needed.

Even more exciting is that our sales team is already taking orders for products that will be produced at this facility. We’ve been working with our key customers to communicate our new capabilities and evaluate their future product needs. Selling product that hasn’t even been made yet is another reason why it’s imperative that the project is completed and operating on schedule.

From sales and quality control to IT and finance, to maintenance, production and more, the project has been a true team effort. Once completed, this will be a success we can all be proud of.



New ECC Board Member

We wish to welcome our newest board member, Mike Carlsrud, who was elected to his post during March's Annual Meeting. He joins Angela Bocksell, Randall Demulling, Warren Johnson, Scot Meyer, Adam Place, Daniel Rosen, Alan Sigurdson and Terry Thompson.

Please join us in thanking our board members for their continued hard work.



Our newest Ellsworth Creamery Board Member, Mike Carlsrud.

Richard 'Milkman' Miller

We were saddened to hear the news of the passing of long-time milk hauler and friend, Rich Miller. Rich—and his sharp wit—will be missed.

When COVID hit the dairy industry Rich came to the rescue of the farming community with his idea for the Cheese Curd Donation Program. He kicked off the program with a personal donation of \$5,000. The effort went on to raise over \$83,000 in donations—which purchased over 29,000 pounds of cheese curds for food pantries, schools, and other non-profit organizations.

Are You Heading for Extinction?

By Paul Bauer, CEO, Manager
paulb@ellsworthcreamery.net

Are you a Farmasaurus? You know, that farmer headed for extinction? The world is changing. Green initiatives and sustainable agriculture are more than just buzz words; they are the future. And, the amount of dollars the federal government is going to throw at farming to assist in reducing ag's carbon footprint is going to be immense. As businesspeople, farmers will need to decide if they're in or they're out. If they're in, they will need to be ready.

For those ending their farming careers in the next few years, this message may not be for you. If your plan is to be in it for the long-haul, you need to start preparing for the future now.

This advice is no different than what any smart business consultant would give a client. Industry sectors are constantly changing and businesses are forced to reinvent themselves to survive. We see many small cooperatives go out of business because they aren't adapting to changing times and the current marketplace. Our cooperative and your farms are no different.

You've seen your share leave farming. Some didn't acknowledge it was their time and their exit was less than graceful. There were those who didn't want to replace their equipment or take steps to become more efficient. Some let quality slack or made other business decisions that harmed the farms who remained. Their negativity and bad attitudes put pressure on the rest as they refused to move into the future. It was clear they were headed for extinction.

The world needs food. The world needs farmers. And yes, farmers aren't

always treated fairly. However, there's an opportunity for us here.

Animal husbandry and farming sequester greenhouse gases, making us part of the carbon cycle. If we work together to own and control that message, we can survive for the eons. If we can't, we become a dinosaur on track for extinction.

And to be honest, many people would like to push us to that extinction, which is why we need to band together and be better actors in how we handle our waste management, how we consume products and how we perceive the environment. If we do, we can enjoy a long and successful future.

We're doing the same at ECC. For example, in Menomonie we deviated from our original plan and opted for an anaerobic digester, which is not the current standard. However, it captures greenhouse gas. That investment now will offer us options to save or earn dollars by generating our own electricity, selling green gas, or by taking advantage of other future benefits.

There are many similar examples in farming, such as farmers collaborating to solve environmental issues. This could include creative manure handling partnerships with neighboring farms, and more. In Europe, they have already adopted this collaborative model and we need to do the same.

We need to step up and be leaders. Now is the time for us to be proactive and innovative in how we approach farm practices in greener ways. We can then be ready to take advantage of opportunities and funding that will be coming our way.

Milk Quality Award Winners

At Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery, it all starts at the farm. We look to our producers and require they meet strict quality standards. We recognize and

reward their efforts by naming our top Milk Quality Award Winners. It's a tight race each year, and we're happy to announce our 2020 winners.



1st Place: Brad and Kristin Afdahl, Arkansaw, WI (31,000 SCC)



2nd Place: Tony and Matt Berkold, Lake City, MN (59,000 SCC)



3rd Place (tie): Brian Boese and Brent Prill (61,000 SCC)



3rd Place (tie): Huppert Bros. Inc. (pictured: Jason Kjos) (61,000 SCC)

Cheese Curd Wagons are Open!

Spring came early and so did the deep-fried cheese curds to our Ellsworth and Comstock locations. The curd wagons are becoming a destination of their own. In Comstock, curd wagon sales represent our third highest revenue generating product! The wagons are a great tool for highlighting cheese curds, and it's inevitable that once people stop and partake, they visit our retail stores to buy product which is why they are proving to be an important sales growth strategy!



Join us for the Cheese Curd unFestival

Saturday, June 26, 2021
10am-6pm
Ellsworth, WI

The Ellsworth Cheese Curd Festival is on, although it will look a little different again this year. As you may recall, last year's festival was canceled due to COVID-19. You could practically hear the hearts of festival fans breaking at the sad news. So instead we agreed to host the Cheese Curd unFestival—the event included a drive-thru for the festival's starring food! It filled a void for festival fans and the community.

Once again, we'll be holding the Drive-thru Cheese Curd Festival here at Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery on Saturday, June 26, from 10am - 6pm. We guarantee this will be the best time anyone has ever had waiting in line! While taking part from the comfort of your car, you'll find fun entertainment to keep you engaged along the route. Play Curd Cab, the festival's take of Cash Cab, to earn prizes, and get a photo taken at the mobile selfie-spot as a memento of the day!

The highlight of the event will be the cheese curds. This year's exclusive specialty flavor is deep-fried Dill Pickle Cheese Curds! We'll have natural and our exclusive Cinnamon Sugar curds, too. Full details can be found online at CheeseCurdFestival.com.