Industry Leadership - Telling Your Story

CHRISTINE BENDER
MCFARLANDALE DAIRY
WATERTOWN, WIS.
Dairy Strong Blog makes top 25 most read articles for Progressive Dairyman!

Dairy Strong Bloggers: I gave up a great job for more hours and no benefits
Christine Bender for Progressive Dairyman Published on 20 December 2016

Dairy Strong Bloggers: Why I left my job to come home to the farm – One year later
Christine Bender for Progressive Dairyman Published on 03 May 2018
HERd Management: Take care of mind, body and soul while being a full-time farmer

Christine Bender for Progressive Dairyman  Published on 11 September 2017

Dairy farmers usually don’t have trouble caring for their animals, but sometimes they have trouble taking care of themselves. From working in the industry, and now being a dairy farmer myself, I have seen and experienced this firsthand.

Farming can be the perfect recipe for complete exhaustion, requiring attention to detail, extreme physical activity, long hours day after day and limited time off. If you’re not careful, you can quickly become fatigued and unable to do what you love.
HERd Management: Five do’s and don’ts of employee management

Christine M. Bender for Progressive Dairyman
Published on 11 September 2018

When I returned to my family farm a couple years ago, my mother gladly gave up her role of managing employees. Since I had the opportunity to work off the farm for several years, I thought I knew what to do. I mean, I was a new hire myself in a new place with no previous experience.

I know what it's like and what to do, right? Well, little did I know that did not qualify me to manage a team of eight people comprised of mostly Hispanics (some non-English-speaking), ranging from less than three months' employment to 12 years.

Related

- Sharing my dairy 'why'
- Tough questions for tough times
- Be the change you want to see in the dairy industry
McFarlande Dairy
August 1

About a year ago we saw this piece of equipment demoed at manure expo and we are so excited to have it applying nutrients to our fields! This piece of equipment is called a Schuitemaker, designed and created in the Netherlands.

It is designed to inject liquid manure into an existing crop such as our growing hay fields just after harvest. It's injected 1.5 inches into the soil and will help increase yields. For us, it's advantageous for many reasons including efficiency (we're... See More

McFarlande Dairy
August 30

Let's talk food safety.

We are beyond lucky and often take for granted all the safe food available in the United States. As dairy producers we produce a perishable product which makes us subject to very high quality control.

Through these glass doors we harvest milk daily from our cows that is shipped to DFA, a very large cooperative. Our milk goes to different plants depending on who they sign contracts with, but the milk man, who picks up our milk daily says that most often... See More
McFarlandale Dairy
July 29

Enjoying the sunshine, perfect day for making hay! Praying the sun stays out and we can get everything chopped today! Hoerthland Custom Services LLC

McFarlandale Dairy
September 26

This afternoon we had an amazing crew help with our four-step covering process. It takes a lot of time and hard work.

We start with spraying an oxygen-scavenging inoculant on the surface that penetrates the surface layer of silage to improve the fermentation process and harmful pathogen growth on the surface. Next we put a layer of SiloStop, which is essentially ClingWrap that adheres tightly to the silage to further prevent oxygen from getting to the silage. Then we put a layer of black and white plastic on top, and cover the plastic with tires to keep the plastic down and prevent oxygen from getting underneath. Below is a picture of the finished product.
Technology, History

Christine Bender shared a post.

May 16

Just yesterday I had someone inquire about our cows on pasture and I had to inform them that our cows are not allowed to graze. But, before you start thinking how terrible of a person I am, let me explain.

Happy cows are comfortable cows! Cows begin feeling heat stress around 65-70 degrees Fahrenheit. We do everything we can to keep our cows comfortable year-round. Despite the weather outside, these cows always have a comfortable environment inside the barn. Check out the post below to learn more about how we beat the summer heat!

Christine Bender shared a post.

October 12 at 2:49 PM

Happy National Farmers Day! Every day on the farm there's a new challenge and although it may be stressful, it makes us better. I couldn't imagine doing anything else! I love our 🐄 🐄! ❤️

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Telephone: 317-333-7777
It’s going to be a HOT one today! Make sure to drink lots of water and take care of your loved ones like these little girls here! Christine is on calf duty today and making sure they all have plenty of water. They will get electrolytes with their lunch at 11 and again tonight. Be safe out there everyone!
And baby calves 😄
Facebook Live and Videos

Christine Bender was live.
August 4

Christine Bender shared a live video.
December 18, 2017
This is one of the main reasons I get out of bed every morning. I love my girls and the babies are just too cute!
TV/News Interviews

Farmers step up to help after dairy farm fire

Leah Linscheid
Today we were happy to host a bus full of people from Chr. Hansen’s Silage School. They were able to tour our farm and take an up-close look at our forages. Congratulations to everyone involved in our planting, harvesting and feeding program for a job well done! #dairy365👍
I had the opportunity to be the guest speaker at the Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmer this weekend hosted in my hometown. Definitely made me take a step out of my comfort zone, but I’m very grateful for the opportunity!

Also, there’s a nice throwback picture of my parents when they won state and National OYF in 1983. My grandparents, Donna McFarland and Ed also share in the history as they won Wisconsin OYF in 1959.
If you want to get paid to get a great workout and tan tomorrow, please let me know. Sorry for the annoying video, I'm a Snapchat addict 😪❤️ #letsdothis #cornsilageharvest2k17 #ilovesnapchat
Questions?