

Life of a Dairy Farmer

- 4:30am alarm goes off
- 4:40 alarm goes off again (HA! HA!) but this time feet hit the floor and off we go to start the sanitizer.
- 4:50 out to the pasture to herd the 80-90 cattle up to the dairy barn
- 5:10 cows are getting a drink while farmer sets up the barn for milking
- 5:20 farmer unloads feed into feed bunk for cows to eat (feed was loaded night before)
- 5:30 milking begins
- 7:15 milking is done, barn needs cleaned
- 7:45 baby calves are feed milk and grain

If it's wet everything gets special attention because animals need a dry surface to lay on.

- 9:00 farmer eats breakfast
- 9:30 farmer sees to it that heifers are feed special diet
- 10:30 farmer sees to it that dry cows are feed special diet
- 11:30 farmer trucks in large quantities of food to save cost – different foods different days
- 1:00pm farmer measures each food and mixes food for dairy cows for evening and next morning – weights and measures of each food is critical for excellent production
- 2:00 farmer eats dinner
- 2:30 farmer has different things to do for different seasons
- A) Spring: lots of field work – work ground, plant corn, cut alfalfa hay
- B) Summer: harvest wheat, cut alfalfa hay every month until late fall, work ground, plant soy beans, plant milo

C) Fall: harvest milo, soybeans, work ground

D) Winter: prepare all farm equipment for next years work

Herd health is also maintained year round. During summer months cows are brought up at 2:00 for water. Other times of year cows are brought up at 2:30-3:30 pm. They eat up any leftovers from morning feeding.

3:45 sanitizer is started in dairy barn – barn towels are washed and dried
4:15 barn is set up
4:45 cows are feed their special diet again – they eat morning and late afternoon – tractor with feed wagon is driven along the feed bunks and feed is dumped out
5:00 milking is started
6:45 milking is finished and barn needs cleaned
7:15 calves are feed milk
8:15 time of year determines whether this ends the day.

Spring, Summer and Fall usually require the day to last until late, sometimes we do field work all night long taking turn with the hours because of weather threats the crops are what put food on our table, it must get done.

We do hire help at our busy times, but almost always there is one family member in the barn to assure everything gets done like it should.