



**BIRD CITY DAIRY worker demonstrates to the tour group how a calf is fed.**

*Times staff photo by Casey McCormick*



**GOT MILK? Far right, Judy McCarty takes her group around to the different housing units for the dairy cows. The group also**

**learned what lays ahead for the Bird City Dairy.**

*Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

## Dairy opens doors to public

*By Linda Schneider  
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The Bird City Dairy held its open house on June 18. Visitors young and old lined up to take the tour.

The Bird City Dairy is a fourth generation of dairy farmers. Op-

erated and managed by Mike, Clay and Ken McCarty, the facility is an expansion of the McCarty Dairy in Rexford. They also employ 20 full-time employees.

The visitors were guided by the McCarty family through the various sections of the dairy, starting with the calves.

Judy McCarty, tour guide, spoke to her group about the process of raising a milk cow. Most of the cows on their dairy farms are Holsteins because their milk has the best drinking quality and lots of it. There is also a few Brown Swiss with their doe-like appearance, they do not produce the quantity of milk like the Holsteins, but they produce milk with more protein, butter fat, and have hardy calves.

The calves are separated immediately from their mother after birth and given a gallon of colostrum within eight hours. The males are sold to locals, but not before given the gallon of colostrum. By giving the calves colostrum, it increases their survival rate and reduces the incidents of diseases.

Mrs. McCarty told the visitors the Rexford facility is building a heifer yard and after 12 weeks, the female calves will be transported, raised, bred and then brought back to the

Bird City facility to begin their milking career.

When asked how long a cow can produce milk, Mrs. McCarty said, "On the average, five to seven years. However, we do have a cow at the Rexford dairy that is 10 years old and still producing."

Since its building completion in August 2007, the dairy has added several new features. One of the newest structures is the hay barn. Located just west of the calf lodging, it provides a well-covered area for keeping better hay.

To keep the dairy cow feed at its optimum for the different phases the cow goes through, and to keep it cost effective, a computer is used to measure out the grains and minerals. Each month a nutritionist from New Mexico arrives at the facility to check and take samples of the feed.

Mrs. McCarty explained to the tour group that there are different stages of dairy cows at the facility, the calf, the milking cow and the dry cow. At each stage, the cow is fed according to her need. Keeping a cow milking for 305 days is the goal of the facility and to do this she is "dry" for 60 days for breeding that is done artificially.

As the visitors moved to the different housing structures,

they were told about the use of sand as bedding for the milking being preferred by the cow and is cleaned and recycled back to their stalls. In the outside corrals, new protection structures have been built to cover the cattle against the elements. The facility has an area where cattle can be checked for illnesses and have their hoofs manicured. Mrs. McCarty said their next building project is to install misting throughout the facility to keep the cattle cool during the hot months.

At the milking station, the cows are prepped for milking by washing and disinfecting their udders. Mrs. McCarty explained that milking cows can be temperamental and are not forced to milk. She went on to say that being calm around the cows is important for good milk.

After the milk is taken from the cow, it is immediately cooled down and stored ready for transportation to the next step of getting the milk to the stores and once a month a state inspector takes samples of the month to insure it quality.

At the end of the tour, the group was invited to sample different cheeses and, of course, taste the finish product in their choice of chocolate, strawberry and whole milk.



**TRIMMING A COW'S HOOVES can be tricky, Strapping her in a restraining device enables the worker to do his job.**

*Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*



**THE CONVERSATION WAS LIVELY at the Heritage Corner Cafe. Stopping in Bird City to campaign, Kevin Berens, who is running for District Judge for the 15th District, talks with locals Demi Shahan and Ned Johnson.**

*Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

## Club celebrates 50 years

The McDonald Garden Club celebrated their 50 years of Federation in the Kansas Associated Garden Clubs on Sunday, June 22, at the McDonald Senior Center. A good crowd of well-wishers from the community came to help the members celebrate. Louise Greenberg, Rocky Mountain Regional Director and husband, Marvin, and Thelma Mahlman, Regional Membership Chairman, all of Smith Center, were also present.

Joan Tongish gave a warm welcome to everyone to the celebration. Pastor Greg Moyer gave an opening prayer, reminding all that the beautiful things of nature come from God.

Helen Frisbie gave the history of the club telling many inter-

esting facts of the last 50 years. Karen Bischooping presented 50-year certificates to Agnes Burk, Helen Frisbie, Joan Harper and Ratha Lea Loker, who were all charter members and still remain as members. She also presented 25-year certificates to Amelia Banister and LaVina Waters.

The sunflower was chosen for the District Flower and the unified project study for the year of 2008. Margie Hubbard read all about the sunflower...telling of the many varieties and the uses of the sunflower. The sunflower was used in all the decorations and even in the shape of the sandwiches served for the lunch.

A program of music was presented by students of Dawn

Petty. Keenan Reeh played his guitar and sang, and the Frisbie family played several numbers. The Frisbie family, Allie, Tommy, Josie and Jessie and mother, Sandy played several numbers on the violins, guitar and banjo, accompanied by Dawn Petty. It is great to know that there is such a talented family in the community.

At the conclusion of the program, a lunch of sandwiches, fruit and cookies was served to all. The entire day was a tribute to the members of the McDonald Garden Club, who for 50 years have been a big asset to the community.

They are to be recognized for the 50 years and the community is looking forward to their continuing efforts in the future.

## New construction coming this fall

Bird City will see construction this fall.

Two three-bedroom single-family homes and four duplex two-bedroom units will be built. The city of Bird City applied to the state of Kansas through Northwest Kansas Housing, Inc. for the project, injecting \$25,000 and utility hook-ups as matching for the project. The \$25,000 matching funds came from a grant from the Bird City Century II Development Foundation.

All units and homes come

with the following appliances: stove, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, garbage disposal, garage door opener, water softener, and a washer and dryer. The landlord will provide lawn care for the duplex units and with the help of the tenant, will provide lawn care for the homes.

The single-family homes will be approximately 1,500 square feet with an unfinished basement and two-car attached garage. The duplex units will be approximately 1,200 square feet

with attached single car garages in between the units.

All homes will be available to moderate income renters that meet the 50-60 percent of median income level, and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information on this project, contact Jana Diers at city hall, 785-734-2616 or Cathy Domsch at Bird City Century II Development Foundation, 785-734-2556.

