



# MINER MATTERS

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Research Roundup

Around the Institute

NCCS Careers Program

Equine Update

Dairy Update

Remembering Rod Lundy

Maintenance Update

## MINER REALLY MATTERS

In recent months, we have asked our *Farm Report* readers to help us build our Strategic Plan by filling out a brief survey online. The responses we received will be considered as we focus our programs for the next several years

We asked readers to rank topics from 1 to 5 with 1 being of little interest and 5 being very important for the future. Nutrition and forages ranked highest on this 5-point scale (4.1) which confirms our long-standing research and education focus on the crop-animal interface. The next priority topic was cattle welfare (3.7), followed by nutrient management (3.4) and reproduction (3.2). Overall, the priority topics of our readership going forward match our focus areas pretty well. Although we are not equipped to conduct much reproductive research, we may need to encourage Katie Ballard, our research director and resident reproductive physiologist, to write more articles for the *Farm Report*.

We also asked about preferred delivery methods for educational programs at Miner Institute. Interestingly, 71% preferred webinars that allow participants to listen and view slides in real time from a computer. Two or three years ago, most of us had not

even heard of them! Here the number of agribusiness respondents may have had an impact, although the remarkable preference for webinars did cut across all segments of our readership. About 17% preferred live in-person conferences and 12% preferred video conferences that could be viewed from home or office. Information on preference for how educational programs are delivered in the future is critical for us as we invest in new technology to upgrade our class and conference rooms.

Finally, we asked readers what they feel is the most valuable role that we can play to positively impact farms or businesses in the next 5 years. Here is my synopsis of the input: 1) Continue work that links crops, cows, and nutrition, 2) Focus on higher forage feeding programs in a new era of expensive grains, 3) Continue applied management research and demonstration with your dairy herd and cropping program, 4) Be a leader in use of new technologies for dairy production and educational programming, 5) Continue your focus on welfare and environmental issues, and 6) Continue the *Farm Report*.

\* *Editor's note:* Rick has promised to write something from his heart for the next issue of *Miner Matters*.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

On Monday, Nov. 22, we will host a pumpkin bake-off at 11 a.m. in the dairy barn classroom.



Look out for an information flyer to be posted soon or contact Rachel at ext. 115 for more information.

# MINER INSTITUTE RECEIVES FUNDING TO DIGITIZE MAP COLLECTION

The Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) has awarded Miner Institute a technology grant to digitize Heart's Delight Farm maps and blueprints in the archives. The project, Charting Our Past: Preserving the Maps and Blueprints of Chazy and the Champlain Valley entails scanning approximately 400 maps and blueprints for inclusion on the North Country Digital History website <http://history.nnyln.net/>.

North Country Digital History is an open access (without fee) website. Scanning will be completed at the NNYLN offices in Potsdam and metadata — the keywords used to describe an item and make it possible to search for an item in a database— will be contracted out. The physical collection will also be organized and stored in archival folders according to standard archival practices.

Miner Institute has a remarkable collection of historical artifacts, but the balance between accessibility and preservation is difficult to manage. Hence, this project continues toward the Institute's objective in making the archives more accessible without having to worry about potential damage to the materials.

— Amy Bedard

## HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST 2010

Your participation is requested in the 2010 Halloween Costume Contest Friday, Oct. 29 at Miner Center during lunch.

Last year's unofficial winner was the portrait of Rick Grant, right,



and the official winner was Lindsay the leprechaun.

Please dress up and come vote!

## ARCHIVES VOLUNTEER

Several of you may remember Simon George from his time working with Steve Kramer in the labs at Miner Center. Simon is now volunteering in the library. His first task is to catalog the Heart's Delight Farm glass plate negatives digitized for the agri-tourism grant Miner Institute received in 2008. Records are created in the PastPerfect Museum software and will make it easier for staff to locate photos for future historical projects.

## APPLE BAKE OFF — AND THE WINNER IS...



Katie Ballard's Apple Cheese Torte  
(Recipe is included in insert)



Katie Ballard proudly shows off the new Miner Institute apron, which will cycle to each new bake-off winner.

# REMEMBERING ROD LUNDY

On October 8, a dedication ceremony was held to name the Director's Residence the Rodney B. Lundy Guest House. Rod Lundy's tenure as Executive Vice President at the Institute ended over 20 years ago, so a lot of you probably don't know who he was. Rod had a lot to do with what Miner Institute has become, as well as significantly increasing Cornell University's impact in Northern N.Y.



Joseph Burke, far left, Rick Grant, Jim Lundy, and Nicole Lundy stand next to the newly-installed sign at the Rodney B. Lundy Guest House.

Rod arrived at Miner Institute over 40 years ago, at about the same time that Cornell University's Dr. Robert Lucey was starting a field crop research program in Northern NY. Bob began using a small plot of land next to the Director's Residence, which was Rod's home. That small plot of land soon became the 40 acres of research plots that Cornell operates to this day, with continuing financial support from Miner Institute.

In the late 1960s Cooperative Extension proposed a regional Dairy and Field Crops Team for Northeastern NY. Hearing of this, Rod Lundy offered the use of the Institute facilities to house the three-man team. This involved completely renovating the ground floor of the Farm Office building and providing a full-time secretary. Consisting of specialists in farm

management, dairy, and field crops, the "Dairy Team" moved into its offices in 1969. (I first came to Miner Institute as the Field Crop Specialist.)

At the same time, in great measure due to the mutual trust that had been formed between Rod and Bob Lucey, Cornell University and Miner Institute were beginning a much more ambitious venture: A state-of-the-art dairy research facility, funded by the Institute but operated by Cornell — obviously, with the full support of the Institute Board of Directors. The new dairy facility cost \$663,000, and that was in 1970. During the 10-year agreement, many useful research projects were conducted by Cornell's dairy science faculty. In 1979 it was mutually decided not to continue

this arrangement, and at that time Rod was instrumental in negotiating a settlement that protected Miner Institute's interests.

The result of this settlement was that in July 1979 Miner Institute found itself with a 160-cow dairy barn housing 80 cows (the other 80 cows were Cornell's), but nobody to manage the dairy and field crop operation — nobody, that is, other than the Dairy and Field Crops Team. Somehow Rod was able to work out a deal with Cornell where the dairy specialist (Harry Randy) and I managed the farm operation on a day-to-day basis while still working full-time for Cornell Cooperative Extension. It was a great opportunity for Harry and me to put into practice on the Institute farm what we'd been advising farmers to do all along — sometimes with unexpected and comical results!

In 1981, with Rod Lundy still at the helm, Miner Institute hired Harry Randy as Director of Research and me as Agronomist. Harry was soon named President of the Institute, and Rod retired to enjoy a long and happy retirement in Florida with his wife Dorothy. What Miner Institute has become is in great measure due to Rod Lundy's foresight.

— *Ev Thomas*



## Ag-Environmental Scholarship

Matthew Monahan was awarded the first ag-environmental scholarship. To be eligible, students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5, be enrolled in the Ag and the Environment class, and reside at Miner Institute. Matthew says that Ag and the Environment is one of his favorite classes, and he really likes living at Miner.

Matthew was awarded \$250.  
Congratulations, Matthew!

# THE MINER INSTITUTE– ZEN-NOH CONNECTION

The collaboration between Miner Institute and Zen-Noh National Federation of Agricultural Co-operative Associations (now you know why we just call them Zen-Noh) began in the 1990s during Charlie Sniffen’s tenure as president. Zen-Noh is a federation of nearly 1,000 agricultural cooperatives in Japan; it was established in 1972. It employs more than 9,000.

Zen-Noh’s research focus is primarily on feed, and in an attempt to introduce new products from the United States to their market in Japan, they became interested in Miner Institute and the research done here. Chazy is located at a similar latitude as the Japanese island of Hokkaido, the second largest in Japan. Therefore, both agricultural areas have similar growing conditions. The focus at first, was dairy nutrition and agronomy-based projects, Katie Ballard recalled. Since most of the research conducted, she said, was valuable to both the U.S. and the Japanese dairy industries, it was a welcomed collaboration.

Since the relationship began, Zen-Noh delegates ~\$15 million yen, or about \$150,000 US dollars each year to research conducted at Miner Institute. At an annual meeting between Zen-Noh and Miner Institute, the research is formally

presented and new projects are discussed and approved.

Katie says that it really helps to have a Zen-Noh representative here at Miner. Currently, Kazumasa Fujita from Zen-Noh is working here at Miner. (See accompanying story, page 5). Koichiro Uchida, better known to us as KC, was the first Zen-Noh company representative to live and work at Miner Institute. He stayed here for three years, Katie said, adding that he continues to play a big role in keeping the relationship between the two organizations alive.

The majority of the research currently funded by Zen-Noh is nutrition trials, Katie said. Miner has also put together numerous educational manuals for Zen-Noh on topics such as heifer management, manure management, transition cow management, and reproduction. This year, Kurt Cotanch, Jeff Darrah and Robert Feivisohn are revising a manual of methods used for analyzing feedstuffs. Zen-Noh has moved toward adopting a service-oriented business model, similar to that used by the feed industry in the United States; the manuals are used as training tools to help Zen-Noh staff provide technical support in addition to selling feed to their customers. The manuals have also been very useful here

at Miner, Katie points out, noting that some are used as part of the Advanced Dairy Management course as well as for employee training.

The relationship with Zen-Noh has provided a funding source for forage quality research that most feed companies or governmental agencies would not support. In Japan, a large amount of forages are imported and are a valuable commodity. Through Zen-Noh’s interest and support, the Z-Box was developed. The Z-Box is a particle separation device used to determine the physical effectiveness factor (pef) of a forage or TMR using an “as fed” sample on the farm. Dairy nutritionists and feed company representatives use the Z-Box to make ration-balancing decisions on the farm and it has been utilized not only in Japan and the U.S. but has become a dairy nutrition tool worldwide.

Although, there are no guarantees that Zen-Noh’s research dollars will continue to play such a prominent role within our program here at Miner, Katie says that the relationship has been “beneficial” for both organizations and she is hopeful that the collaboration will continue into the future.

— Rachel Dutil  
and Katie Ballard



# NCCS CAREERS PROGRAM

Many of you may have noticed a “new guy” around the Institute over the past weeks. He isn’t a new employee; he’s actually a junior at Northeastern Clinton Central School. Lance Ero, 16, participates in a careers program at the school. His teacher, Sonya Oliver, explains that the program was “developed to give a variety of work experiences in the community to aide in future employment upon high school graduation. It is a program that focuses on teaching life skills and the tools needed to become a productive member of the community.”

Lance has worked with the dairy staff, the maintenance staff, as well as in the horse barn. Lance comes for three hours each school day. We are participating in the program on a trial basis until Thanksgiving.

Bron Nelson has supervised Lance on several occasions. “I think it’s a great



**TOP:** Lance Ero, is dropped off at Miner Insitute.

**ABOVE:** Lance forks rotten feed from the face of the bunker.

thing to be doing,” Bron said. “It will give him a taste and an understanding of whether he’ll like working on a farm.” Bron said that on all the occasions he’s worked with Lance, he has done everything asked of him without complaint. He added that he’d “like to see this program explored a little bit more . . . ironed out so that it can become a good stepping block for youth in the area.”

Sonya Oliver said that other organizations involved in the program – which is only in its second year at the school—include Stewart’s, McDonald’s, NAPA Auto Parts, Adirondack Stables, IFC, Maplefields, The Learning Center, and The Dodge Memorial Library. “The program benefits students by giving them opportunities to get out into the community and gain knowledge and work skills through experience,” Oliver said.

— Rachel Dutil

## KATIE BALLARD’S APPLE CHEESE TORTE

<p><b>Crust:</b>  <i>1 cup butter</i>  <i>2/3 cup sugar</i>  <i>1/2 tsp. vanilla</i>  <i>2 cups flour</i></p>	<p>Beat butter and sugar until fluffy          Mix in vanilla          Add flour until it is a manageable consistency (not going to stick to your fingers...too badly)          Press into bottom and sides of a spring-form pan.          For this contest, I used a 9 x 13 pan but had to increase the crust recipe to make it fit well.</p>
<p><b>Filling:</b>  <i>1 package of cream cheese (8 oz)</i>  <i>1 egg</i>  <i>1/2 cup sugar</i>  <i>1 tsp. vanilla</i>  <i>5-6 apples (peeled and cored)</i>  <i>Sprinkle lemon juice</i>  <i>1 tsp. cinnamon</i>  <i>1/4 sugar</i></p>	<p>Beat together cream cheese, egg, sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy. Pour into crust.          Thinly slice apples... (for this recipe I diced the apples so everyone could get apple when it was cut up to be served. It seemed to work well.)          Sprinkle lemon juice over the apples.          Stir together cinnamon and sugar and mix together with apples.          Dump apples onto cream cheese filling. Push down sides of crust to meet the apples.</p>
	<p>Bake at 450 for 10 minutes then bake at 400 for 25 minutes</p>

\* *Editor’s note:* Katie had to call home to her husband, Kris, to read her the exact amounts for each ingredient from the cook book. Unfortunately, Kris turned 50 this year and has been inflicted with serious far-sightedness (i.e. can’t read up close) and has a typical male vanity issue about wearing reading glasses. Therefore, it is recommended that when making this recipe, please do a lot of tasting along the way and adjust the recipe accordingly.



# RESEARCH PROGRAM CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Hopefully the sight of a research technician shoveling forage from the back of a pickup is a thing of the past. The completion of the feed area expansion will eliminate the need for such measures. In addition to saving the backs of research techs, Katie Ballard says that it will increase the efficiency with which we are able to feed the cows. With the finished installation of chimneys, this year's project will be complete. In the future, the west side of the expansion will be developed into 16 additional tie stalls.

While the number of research projects in the dairy has increased this past year, the research Miner Institute is involved in from the agronomic and environmental impact side has also increased. To carry out this additional workload, two new positions were created in the research department – a feed technician and a research intern. Cory Nolette, an employee at Miner Institute since January of 2007, transitioned from the dairy team to join research as the new feed technician. Jordi Bakovic, a summer intern in agricultural research in 2009, returned to Miner Institute to fill the research intern position.

A team consisting of Katie Ballard, Maggie Carter, Heather Dann, and Ralph LaBombard conducted several interviews for the feed technician position. "Cory was the best guy for the job," Katie said, adding that the decision was unanimous. Cory says that he really likes the set schedule that he has in his new position. He works 10 days on, followed by four days off. Cory says that he really likes it here at Miner Institute and is happy in his new position. "I don't regret the move," he said.

The new position, Katie says, frees up the rest of the research technicians to get work done in the lab or on other projects. Laura

and Lisa Klaiber now have more time to devote to environmental and agronomic research, areas they focused their studies as undergraduates, Katie explained. She added that we now have to rely less on our graduate students to feed research animals. Although by no means does this indicate they are going to be allowed to "slack off"....right Bron?

As the research intern, Jordi will expand on the work he did here as a summer intern, Katie said. Having worked with him before, the research team is well aware of his work ethic and diligence, she said. The research staff all agreed that

Jordi would be a good fit for the position.

Many of you may have noticed that Katie is cruising around Miner Institute on some hot new wheels. She had to bid farewell to the old Volvo – the hour-long commute may have been a bit much for it, but she says, it still runs. The Volvo – with more than 400,000 miles is for sale for \$1 – but the buyer must be a responsible teen who can otherwise not afford a car, she said. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this sweet deal, contact Katie.

— Rachel Dutil

Jordi Bakovic admits that he is somewhat intimidated by the approaching North Country winter. He is from an area in Bolivia that is dry, with a climate similar to California, he says. Jordi has just returned to Miner Institute to work as the agricultural research intern – a newly created year-long post.

Jordi was a summer intern in 2009. He will obtain his degree in animal science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in December; he is currently finishing up a few last classes online. Katie Ballard contacted him about the position, he says. "I knew I wanted to come as soon as I heard about it."

Jordi's mother is from Massachusetts and his father is from Bolivia. He grew up in Bolivia on his parent's dairy farm until he was 8 years old, when he moved to the city of Cochabamba, but he remained connected to the family farm and visited when he could. "It was like my playground," he says of the farm.

He wanted to pursue a course of study that had something to do with domestic animals, specifically cows. His aunt had graduated from UMASS Amherst. He thought it would be a great opportunity and decided to go there as well. "I thought I would test it out and see how it works, and so far so good," he said.

Jordi is specifically interested in dairy cattle.

As an intern here at Miner, he was involved in a lot of nutrition-based research and is considering dairy nutrition as the focus for a master's degree.



He isn't entirely sure what he wants to do. He says that at times he has interest in producing cheese – his family farm in Bolivia had a milk processing plant, Bakita, where milk was pasteurized, and cheese and chocolate milk were produced. It was closed because it did not process enough to be profitable. At other times, he feels like he might be interested in getting involved in politics. "There's a real ability to make a

difference in Bolivia, and it's my country so I feel that I owe it something," he said.

Jordi says that when he first moved to the United States, in addition to the language, the lifestyle was the biggest challenge. He moved to Boston, which like the majority of the East Coast, operates at a fast pace, which is much different than in his culture, where people are more laid back and relaxed, he said. Jordi says that studying and working in the United States provides him with an opportunity to learn and bring home to Bolivia that knowledge and innovate for the future of agriculture there. He says that he appreciates "the opportunity to be here and learn another culture ... I'm happy to be here."

— Rachel Dutil

# THE FUJITAS ADAPT TO A NEW LIFE IN CHAZY

Hisae Fujita says she thinks her husband proposed to her because he didn't want to move to the United States alone. But, she said yes anyway. They were married in November, 2009.

Kazumasa Fujita (Kazu) moved to Miner Institute in January. His wife, Hisae, moved here in April. Their apartment at Miner Institute is their first place together. They had never lived together before moving to Chazy, where their son, Kohei William Fujita was born in August. Kazu works for Zen-Noh in Tokyo, Japan. Zen-Noh, Kazu explained, sells feed compounds for content ratios. They conduct about 10 research studies per year, but focus only on feed, he said. They are interested in Miner Institute's research because of its focus on behavior, forage quality, and environmental impact.

Kazu will work here at Miner Institute for two years. His job, while he is here, is mainly to send research results and information back to Japan. He also attends training seminars and industry conferences and gets updates about new technology, ideas, equipment, facilities, etc. He is tasked with writing a report called "Dairy Information" twice a month to send back to Zen-Noh in Japan. He must translate things he learns here into Japanese. "It's very hard," he says.

In Tokyo, Kazu worked at the company headquarters. There they work with Japanese beef cattle. Kazu has worked for Zen-Noh for 10 years. Before moving to Chazy, Kazu lived near Tokyo – a city of more than 13 million. He went to work everyday by train, he said. The train was very crowded, with people pushing to get a spot. He grew up in the countryside of Japan, in a town somewhat larger than Chazy, with a population of about 10,000. His family



*Please see insert for an article detailing the relationship between Miner Institute and Zen-Noh.*

grew rice and vegetables to sustain themselves. He recalls always being interested in agriculture as a child.

In Chazy, Kazu has a short walk from his apartment to his office. When he first arrived, he remembers his first impression being that it was "very cold." He doesn't have snow in the area of Japan where he grew up, he says. It was also lonely at first. Hisae was still back in Japan; he didn't speak English very well; and he missed Japan. One of the biggest adaptations, he said, was the food. His favorite foods are white rice and fish – a staple of the Japanese diet, but not very prominent in the American diet. He said he gained about 10 pounds in his first months here, as he wasn't accustomed to the large quantities of fatty food that we eat here. He admits, though that "hamburger is good."

Hisae agrees with Kazu that their lives in Chazy are "very comfortable." Like Kazu, Hisae grew up in Japan's countryside. The two met through Kazu's older brother's wife, who is a friend of Hisae.

Hisae said that she really isn't too lonely here. She and Kazu have

some Japanese friends who live nearby, and she talks regularly to her family online. She admits that sometimes she wishes that her mother were here to help her with the baby. Hisae says that she was "very excited" to move to the U.S. She said that it is interesting to have a baby away from home. "A lot of people don't get this kind of chance to grow a baby in a foreign country." She explains that Americans and Japanese have very different personalities. She thinks that in Japan, her family and friends would be bombarding her with information and ideas of how

she should care for her son. Here, people are very thoughtful and kind, she said.

She adds that the doctors here are great – better than in Japan. "They speak to me a lot and listen to us," she said. Doctors in Japan are always really busy and don't spend a lot of time with their patients, she said.

Kazu said that he enjoys watching baseball, but he is a bit overwhelmed by all the sports channels; he doesn't have so many in Japan. Kazu and Hisae also enjoy watching the show, *Glee*. Hisae says it's really easy for them to understand because there isn't a lot of dialogue, mostly singing. They have also both read the first book in the popular *Twilight* series.

"We are just so happy to be here," Hisae says.

— Rachel Dutil

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Miner Institute Christmas Party**  
**Friday, Dec. 17, 2010**  
**Elks Lodge in Plattsburgh, NY**

# MINER REPRESENTS WELL AT 50TH NY MORGAN HORSE SHOW

The horse barn has some new faces – Natasha Repard has joined the staff as the new equine intern and Jacqueline Flanagan is a new part-time employee. Natasha, a 2009 summer intern, returned to the Institute to start her year-long post in late August. She “stepped right back into it,” Karen Lassell said. Jacquie is a student at Clinton Community College seeking a degree in communications. She has a real passion for horses. She works Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and occasionally on weekends.

Three Miner Morgans recently competed in the 50th anniversary NY Morgan Horse Show at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse. Sara, Pixie, and Ducky were transported to Syracuse by Karen Lassell, who picked up Carrie Ostrowski at the airport on the way. Karen reports that Carrie is doing well at her new job in Kentucky.

At the NY Morgan Horse Show, Sara (HD Saranac) competed in

carriage driving and won two futurity alumnae awards in driving and hunter pleasure. Pixie (HD Philadelphia) took part in her first real outing, and got a high score as an introductory dressage horse. Ducky (HD Brookdale) had a fantastic show. Ducky was Carrie’s project horse during her summer and year-long internships. Carrie drove Ducky to a win in the carriage driving reinsmanship class, beating several accomplished horses and drivers. “Carrie was an excellent driver, really nailing the pattern portion of the class,” Karen said.

Carrie and Ducky earned their big win driving a cart that Dan Belrose refinished. Karen says that Dan “did a beautiful job. It looks better than brand new.”

Recently, two previous equine interns returned to Miner Institute for a visit. Lisa Imperato, an intern in 2002, now works for a tack company; and Claire Gebben from 2009 works for an equine supplement and supply company in Massachusetts. Karen believes that it’s a true testament to the program that so many former students keep in touch and come back to visit.

On Saturday, November 6, Karen and Natasha will host Youth EquiDay at the horse barn. It is a free event where kids can come and learn about horses. They participate in activities like stall evaluations and horse anatomy that give them a hands on learning experience, but keeps them safe.

— Rachel Dutil

Natasha Repard says that it didn’t take long to get back into the swing of things at Miner Institute. Natasha is the new equine intern. She arrived in late August, just as Carrie Ostrowski was finishing up her tenure and preparing for a new job at a horse facility in Kentucky.

Natasha is from Hughesville, Pa. It is in north-central Pennsylvania, near Williamsport – the home of the Little League World Series. She graduated from Penn State in May, with a degree in animal science, and a minor in equine studies. She was a 2009 summer intern at Miner Institute.

Growing up on a small farm, Natasha says that she always had horses around, though she

never got involved with showing horses. Their horses were used primarily for family trail rides, she said. The farm also has beef cows and pigs, to provide meat for the family. She has three siblings – two older brothers and one older sister, as well as two half siblings – a younger brother and a younger sister, and two step-siblings, both older brothers.

She says that it’s nice to be back at Miner. Once she got back into a routine, she felt like she had never left. “Everyone’s really friendly,” she says of the employees at Miner, adding that it’s a good work environment.

Natasha says that she’s considering graduate school after her internship, but she is unsure of what to study. She is most familiar with and knowledgeable about horses, but doesn’t have her heart set on working only with horses. “I like horses because I like horses,” she said, adding that she wants to keep her options open.

“I’m learning more and more about how to take care of and train horses everyday. I’m learning

things that will be very valuable to me if I do continue a career path with horses,” Natasha said. She is also interested in learning more about the dairy and research aspects of the Institute while she is here.

Although not a big professional sports enthusiast, Natasha is a Penn State football fan. She’d like to attempt downhill skiing and may purchase some skates to join the unofficial Sunday River Hockey club in Mooers. She also enjoys playing volleyball and playing football with her brothers. She hopes to someday run a marathon and was running 11 miles during this past summer.

Natasha says that her favorite Miner Morgan is “definitely Viking.” Though he is 33, he still has a lot of spunk, she says. “He seems to exude a sort of pride in his old age. I love it when I turn him out in the morning and he goes down to the end of the fence and rears up; it’s just so cool for such an old horse to still have such spark left in him.”

— Rachel Dutil



# DAIRY STAFF GOES THE EXTRA MILE TO GIT 'ER DONE

Things have been a bit hectic of late in the dairy barn. Neil LaCount was injured and has been out of work; Cory Nolette transitioned from the dairy team to research; Jenna McNeil got married; and several part-time employees have moved on from their positions here at Miner Institute.

Several new employees have been hired to help fill open spots, and the dairy staff have been working long shifts with very few if any days off to ensure that everything is getting done. Charles LaValley started work as a night milker in mid-September. Charles, or Chuck, has a friendly personality and a good sense of humor. Travis Perrault started Oct. 13. Steve says he will probably do several jobs around the dairy, and be on the schedule for wherever he is needed most. Jessie Nelson will also be added to the part-time staff. She will be feeding calves in the evening. BethAnn Caston

thinks she'll work well in that position.

The cows continue to milk well and with great weather all summer, it turned out to be a good crop year – we harvested good yields in corn and haylage, Steve Couture reports. The crops crew has been working at emptying the manure lagoon. They've been hauling manure and compost to fertilize fields around the Institute.

Also, Heart's Delight 1137 has recently been recognized by the Holstein Association USA as the New York State third place cow for milk production as a Junior 4-year-old. At four years and three months of age in 305 days, 1137 produced 45,000 pounds of milk, 1630 pounds of fat, and 1293 pounds of protein. She was fresh on September 25 with a bull calf sired by Shottle and he is currently available for sale to an interested breeder.

— Rachel Dutil



Charles LaValley



Adam LaCount, right, trains Travis Perrault in the milking parlor.



Jessie Nelson at the recent apple bake off. Jessie's caramel apple pudding cake took second place.

## BRAWN & BRAINS PREVALENT IN MAINTENANCE

The maintenance crew has been keeping very busy through the summer and fall with numerous projects around the Institute, in addition to keeping up the grounds. Bruce Pellerin completed his work on the construction of the research expansion off the tie stall area of the dairy barn. The maintenance crew finished the roads to and around the back of the building that lead to the new expansion. They have also installed the appropriate utilities to that area, specifically a 200-amp electrical service.

One of the most mind-blowing (at least to me, who was fortunate enough to witness it) tasks that the maintenance staff completed as part of the project was moving the large red and yellow feed boxes. The boxes had been stored for the winter in the back end of the dry cow barn in the alley between the pens and the east

wall of the barn. Steve Fessette estimates that the boxes weigh in at a couple thousand pounds each.

As I arrived on the scene, the guys were just getting started and formulating a plan of how to move the large, heavy boxes with very little room to maneuver. After carefully assessing the situation, the guys used the forklift, skillfully driven by Mark Gonyo, to hoist up the feed box enough to slip three piano dollies under one end of the box. Mark then cruised down the center aisle of the barn and came down the alley from the other side. He now sat on the opposite end of the box as the dollies. Mark lifted his end of the forage box, just enough to put pressure on the dolly end. Mark then slowly drove the forklift and box backward as Danny Belrose, Kelly Snide, and Jared Ashline walked behind the dolly end, holding the feed bin so that

it wouldn't slip off the dollies and guiding Mark. Once they had the feed bin out in front of the barn, they removed the dollies, and set the bin down. They then attached a stack of two-by-fours to one of the forklift teeth to help stabilize the box on the forklift. Mark then grabbed the box from the middle and slowly drove it to its final resting place in the new research area. (See insert for photos of this operation.)

In addition, the maintenance staff has removed all of the planters from in front of the student housing building; they have installed a new sidewalk at the library; a new light will soon be installed at Miner Center to illuminate the sidewalk between the library and Miner Center; and they have been working to grade and level the soil in front of the research barn.

— Rachel Dutil

# EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

## OCTOBER

Kristup Kalvaitis — Oct. 1  
Steve Couture — Oct. 3  
Peter Krawczel — Oct. 11  
Jacqueline Flanagan — Oct. 19  
Heather Dann — Oct. 27  
Henry Meseck — Oct. 27

## NOVEMBER

Wanda Emerich — Nov. 8  
Mark Gonyo — Nov. 15  
Hope LaForest — Nov. 15  
Rachel Dutil — Nov. 18

## DECEMBER

Shawn Bechard — Dec. 5  
Adam LaCount — Dec. 5  
Bron Nelson — Dec. 20  
Kirk Beattie — Dec. 31



## HEATHER DANN WELCOMES BABY NO. 2



A diaper party was held in September for Heather Dann. Roxanne Clark, with assistance in diaper rolling from Amy Bedard and Jessie Nelson, put together the diaper cake, right, and Kurt Cotanch put together the delicious carrot cake, above. Baby Lincoln, 8 pounds, 8 ounces, was born Oct. 4, 2010.

*We would like to offer sincere condolences to Ralph LaBombard, who recently lost his brother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*