

Submissions Sought For South Dakota Century Club

William Knuppe was born in Parker in December 1903. Later, moving to New Underwood and working as a farmer and rancher most of his life, William ("Bill") can now add another name to claim as "South Dakota's Century Club's Oldest Living Male." Bill is planning to celebrate his 108th birthday later this month at the Good Samaritan Society in New Underwood.

In an application submitted to the Century Club, Bill was asked what he thinks contributed to his longevity. He quickly replied, "I had a wife who was a good cook!" Knuppe married Mathe Kring on July 3, 1930, and enjoyed 79 years together.

The Century Club is a creation of the South Dakota Health Care Association and has recognized nearly 1,000 South Dakotans

since its beginning in 1997. Century Club sponsors created the Club to recognize both the contributions and the years of these special individuals.

The Century Club is open to residents of South Dakota upon the celebration of his or her 100th birthday. There are no dues and every inductee receives a specially designed certificate and membership card signed by sponsors. Once a year, the current oldest living Century Club Member is recognized as the "Centenarian of the Year."

You may submit names for the Century Club by visiting www.sdca.org and downloading a Century Club Application or call LuAnn Severson, Century Club Coordinator, at 1-800-952-3052.

Gliding On Ice In Neutral Is Never A Good Idea

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
www.cartalk.com

Dear Tom and Ray:
My husband is 68, I am 72, and the following has been a lifelong argument. We have a small, graveled hill leading to our driveway. When it is icy, my husband insists on driving (or sliding) down the hill in neutral. Our vehicles are four-wheel drive and have gears 1 and 2 below drive. I say coasting down in neutral is wrong. I explain why I think so. He grew up on a farm, so he knows how things work, but he will not discuss it at all, and will (or can?) give no reason to back up his theory (whatever that is). I would love to know if I should be "freewheeling" down this hill instead of driving slowly down in gear. Thank you!

—Carol, old gal in Iowa
TOM: Carol, the reason he can't explain why it's better to drive down an icy hill in neutral is because it isn't better.

RAY: Keeping the car in gear helps you maintain control of the vehicle. When your car is in gear, the engine is connected to the wheels, and the engine acts as a brake on those wheels (especially if you use the lower



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

gears, 2 or 1). That keeps the car's speed under control without you having to step on the brakes.

TOM: If you step on the brakes on an icy hill, you tend to skid. And once you start skidding, you're no longer in control of the vehicle.

RAY: I'm guessing that because your

husband grew up on a farm, it was all flat land, and he didn't get to do enough sledding as a kid, and he's making up for it now. Can you hear him, under his breath, saying, "Wheeeeeee!"?

TOM: Other than that, I can't imagine why he wants to go down an icy hill in neutral, Carol. I suppose if it's first thing in the morning and the car is warming up, it might be revving at 1,500 or 2,000 rpm, which might make him feel like the engine is pushing the car faster than he's comfortable going.

RAY: But in that case, he should simply wait 90 seconds until the car is warmed up and the revs return to normal idle speed, and then go down the hill in gear.

TOM: Right. Keeping it in gear helps you in maintaining a reasonable speed. If you never let the car get out of control, you'll never have to fight to get it back under control.

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Dairy Producers Need To Comply With New Milk Quality Standards

BROOKINGS — South Dakota's milk quality has room for improvement, says Alvaro Garcia, Professor and SDSU Extension Dairy Specialist.

"A quick look at milk quality changes between 2006 and 2010 comparing South Dakota with two of our neighboring states shows there's still room for improvement in the area," Garcia said.

Since 2006, somatic cell counts have been decreasing at a similar rate for Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota, from approximately 300,000 in 2006 to 250,000 in 2010. The national average, based on the Dairy Herd Improvement Association in herds is around 300,000 cells. In South Dakota the number of tests above 400,000 has dropped over the years. He adds that back in 2006, South Dakota had 77.9 percent of the Dairy Herd

Improvement Association test days above 400,000 somatic cell counts. By 2010, this figure had dropped to 54.1 percent.

"Although highly encouraging this still means that over half of the test days of dairies in the state do not comply with the maximum somatic cell count limit accepted by the European Union," he said.

The Agricultural Marketing Service of the USDA had a meeting earlier this month to discuss with industry stakeholders its proposed European Union certification program to meet the milk quality requirements imposed to shipments of dairy products imported by the 27-member countries of the EU. This program, which will officially begin on Jan. 1, 2012, is aimed at demonstrating the measures producers will have to

take to be within the somatic cell and standard plate counts limits for raw milk set up by the EU.

After this date, if a farm's rolling average exceeds 400,000, the milk processor must notify the Agricultural Marketing Service and make sure that the farm takes adequate provisions to reduce its somatic cell counts within the required limits.

Garcia explains that when a farm is above 400,000 for three consecutive months, after notification to the Agricultural Marketing Service of the USDA, the plant could suspend milk pick up, and segregate the milk from that farm, or take other actions destined to maintain their milk within the 400,000 limit.

Garcia says the farm's geometric mean for somatic cell counts — the figure which will be used to determine the

geometric somatic cell average — will be done as follows; take the current month and the two previous months somatic cell counts, multiply them times each other and perform the cubic root of the result rounding the final figure to the nearest thousand.

"For example if a farm tested 550,000, 290,000, and 410,000 multiplying 550 times 290 times 410 will equal 65,395,000," said Garcia, suggesting producers visit this online cube root calculator, www.csgnetwork.com/cuberootcube.html, to help them determine the final figure. "This geometric mean shows the dairy in question would exceed the Agricultural Marketing Service parameter of 400,000."

Before the ruling goes into effect, Garcia says dairies can estimate their

current geometric means, and if needed, take steps to improve somatic cell counts.

"This doesn't have to be an added chore to the dairy as SDSU's Dairy Extension can help," Garcia said. "Although the Dairy Science Department has had 100 percent success with these interventions, it sometimes takes a little time to set things in the right direction, so it is advisable to start as soon as possible."

To learn more on how SDSU Extension can help lower somatic cell counts on your dairy, contact the Dairy Science Department to schedule a milk quality training session tailored for each individual operation, 605-688-5488.

Toys

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bigger tractors."

The finished products are distributed to a variety of sources, Mudder said. Some of the toys go to inmates' families, while the rest goes to area fire departments and charitable organizations who distribute toys to the needy. Last year, about 150 toys went to the Yankton Sioux Tribe for its children, he said.

Not all of the toys are distributed at Christmas, Mudder said.

"When they had the bad fires in Yankton County, we gave six families some of the toys," he said. "In the last five years, we have had a dozen families where we have provided toys for their kids."

The inmates' efforts have brought joy to children who might otherwise not have enjoyable holidays, Kettering said.

"With the prisoners doing something like this for the kids, it's very gratifying," she said. "When it comes to toys for kids, many times it's something you don't think about."

However, the tough economy has created stress for families unable to afford toys this holiday season, Kettering said.

"The last two years, we have seen an increase in the need," she said. "We are also seeing more calls (for assistance). There is more of a need for covering everyday expenses like utilities and the rent. It's been pretty

much a crisis."

The stress, in turn, affects the children and the families' holidays, Kettering said.

"We have parents who come in and say they don't know what they're going to do for Christmas," she said. "They don't have any money for toys, and that impacts the kids and having a good Christmas."

Pat Robinson works with the "Toys for Kids" program and has developed a database of families in need of toys, Kettering said. Robinson sees that the toys are wrapped and distributed, she said.

Yankton-Vermillion radio station KVHT also works with the toy distribution, she added.

Each year, the MDSP inmates come up with a variety of toys of all shapes and sizes, Kettering said.

"Last year, we had airplanes and helicopters and trucks and a little bigger wooden toys," she said. "This year, they used small pieces of wood. It's so much fun to see (what they create)."

With their sanded, varnished look and feel, the prisoner-produced toys carry a mix of home-made and professional quality, Kettering said. When the shipment arrives from the prison, the toys are unloaded onto a table. The toys are then distributed to families who registered with the project to create a "wish list."

The prison toys form part of what has become an outstanding public response to the needy, Kettering added.

"The outpouring of the community has been absolutely awesome," she said. "We have had 35 families or companies who wanted to 'adopt' families. This can go beyond toys. They help with things for mom and dad. When (sponsors) adopt someone, it can be really heart warming."

The inmates also feel gratified to create the toys that produce so much joy, said MDSP Warden Bob Dooley.

"It's fun to go down and talk to the guys who produce this (toy collection). They have these projects all over the shop," he said. "They have free rein to use their imagination, but safety is Number One."

A similar toy-making program is conducted at the state penitentiary in Sioux Falls, Dooley said. At Springfield, the toy project operates as part of the prison's vocational training program, he said.

"This (toy making) started as kind of a side project for the last few years," he said. "The inmates in this program do precision work. This teaches them skills. The whole idea is to get them a job and keep them a job (after their release from prison)."

The variety of toys produced

by the inmates ranges from doll houses and cars to airplanes and military-type toys, Dooley said. The toy making has become a year-round effort, with the work kicking into high gear in October and November, he said.

In turn, the toy distribution has become a highly anticipated annual event, Dooley said.

"Once we got started doing this (toy production), we got the word out that it was available," the warden said. "People would tell their neighbors. Since then, it's become an annual thing. We have Yankton and other commu-

nities ask for (the toys)."

The toys are not the only inmate-produced gifts that bring smiles to children, Mudder said. The prisoners totally refurbish around 1,200 bikes annually.

Steve Reynolds, shop foreman for the automotive program, oversees the bike effort.

"The bike project is done throughout the year and has been huge for us," Mudder said. "(Outside parties) usually collect bikes throughout the year that are stolen or not claimed. They bring (the bikes) here, and we repair and refurbish them."

The inmates never get to meet the young recipients of the toys and bikes, but the prisoners know their work is appreciated, Mudder said.

"We get all sorts of 'thank-yous' that we put on the board," he explained.

The cards and letters of appreciation are gratifying, but the prisoners receive rewards that can't be measured, Dooley said.

"For the inmates, it gives them the real satisfaction of giving back to others," the warden said.

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