

# FREUND'S FARM & LAURELBROOK FARM NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2017

**WE ARE FARMERS  
& WE OWN CABOT**   
#CabotFarmers

## Hi Neighbors!

First, we want to say thanks! Thanks for supporting our family businesses. Thanks for the positive feedback on our newsletters and reaching out to us when you have questions about dairy farming. Thanks for driving with caution when you are sharing the road with our farm equipment. Thanks for your shared commitment in making our community a beautiful place to live.

We have officially harvested the last of the field crops. Both of our farms have successfully filled our storage bunks with grass and corn to feed our cows through the winter and spring.

We are looking forward to a slight change of pace this winter. On both our farms we are committed to continuous improvement. At Freund's Farm we just made improvements to the waterbeds in our barn. Our cows lie in bed for 11.5 hours/day, it better be comfortable! At Laurelbrook Farm you may have noticed our new calf raising area. We have been asked why we use those white hutches and have decided to dedicate this newsletter to talking about our baby calves, see back for more details.

*Sincerely,*

*The farming families from Freund's Farm and Laurelbrook Farm*



Kara baking cookies in FFM bakery.

## *The goods at Freund's Farm Market*

It was a great growing season for us; we filled the market freezer with homegrown sweet corn to enjoy this winter and canned dozens of cases of bread n' butter pickles, jams, and jellies.

We are stocking up on Cabot butter for all of our holiday cookie recipes. Our market will continue to be filled with goodies this winter and plenty of cookie platters for the holidays.

[www.friendsfarmmarket.com](http://www.friendsfarmmarket.com)



## *Laurelbrook Natural Resources*

Diversification is important to the sustainability of our farm. In addition to delivering soil, sand, stone and gravel; Laurelbrook Natural Resources has expanded the distribution of the farm's compost.

Our long term plan is to reclaim the land for agricultural use when it is no longer productive for mining. We will maintain these 300 acres of open space to grow the crops for our cows.

[www.laurelbrook.weebly.com](http://www.laurelbrook.weebly.com)



1983. L to R: George Russell, Jacolyn Brown, Theresa, Matthew, Benjamin, Esther and Eugene Freund

## *54 years (and counting)!*

George Russell was 15 years old when he started a summer job at Freund's Farm. Upon finishing high school, George became full time and has been our herdsman for decades. He still comes to work each morning to assist with cow care and record keeping. But now he is taking more time to spend with his 3 new grandchildren! Thank you George for the half a century of hard work and being part of our extended family!

Questions or thoughts about our newsletter? Let us know.

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*Freund family:* [amanda@cowpots.com](mailto:amanda@cowpots.com)



## The Freund & Jacquier Families

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We are member owners of our cooperative; Cabot Creamery



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## Calf Care-Raising the next generation

The most important job on our farms is taking care of the baby calves. Calves are the future milk cows of our dairy farm (it takes 2 years before a cow gives birth and starts producing milk). Visiting the baby calves is always the favorite destination of every farm tour we host. We answer lots of questions about the well being of our baby calves, their life cycle and the white hutches where they live for the first 2 months.

We decided to answer the most common questions we get from farm visitors in this newsletter.



Calf hutches at Laurelbrook Farm



Rachel with 2 week old calf at Freund's Farm

### Why do you use white houses (hutches)?

During the first 60 days of a calf's life, she resides in a hutch. On both farms; hutches are used for heifer calves which will grow up to be milking cows.

Benefits of using hutches; calves stay warm in winter (with sawdust and straw for bedding as well as wearing a calf coat) and shaded in summer. Individual pens ensure a calf's safety while her immune system matures. We monitor each calf's health, behavior and feed intake daily. The hutch also provides room for play and exercise.

At 2 months old, calves transition to group pens. We make subtle changes during this transition so she stays happy, healthy and comfortable.

### What, when and how much do calves eat?

The first milk produced by the mother cow after she has her baby is called colostrum. It is dense in nutrients and antibodies and is critical to building a strong immune system. We test the colostrum to ensure it is high quality. Each newborn gets 1 gallon of colostrum for their first feeding.

Our calves are fed 2 times/day in summer and 3 times/day in winter with milk replacer, an infant formula for calves. They are fed grain for additional protein and energy to help stimulate their digestive system and support weight gain goals (just like a newborn baby). After 8 weeks, calves are weaned and begin to eat forages; hay and corn silage.