

Rickreall Dairy earns 'sustainability' award

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

RICKREALL — Louie Kazemier's efforts to care for the environment weren't always so appreciated.

The owner of Rickreall Dairy, one of three recipients of the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's 2017 "Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability Award," had to learn a few lessons on the way.

One is not to mix drywall with manure.

In the early 1990s, when the dairy first moved to its highly visible spot off Highway 22 in Rickreall, Kazemier decided to help with drywall recycling, thinking the material would act as lime in the holding pond.

Well, it didn't. The component that reacted with the manure was gypsum.

"You mix gypsum with manure and you get sulfur. Within a month, oh it was horrible," Kazemier recalled. "I sent letters to the neighbors, saying 'I apologize, this is what we tried and it didn't work.' It took us about six months to get it out."

In the nearly three decades since, Kazemier has refined treatment of the inevitable waste a dairy farm produces — and found ways to help local producers recy-



Louie Kazemier's Rickreall Dairy is home to 3,600 cows.

cle their own wastewater and fertilize their crops.

"We bring in liquid from other facilities, like fruit juice and some stuff from Coca-Cola. It's got some sugar in it and some other odds and ends," Kazemier said. "We take that and dump it into our holding tank and mix it with our manure and it adds bacteria. It just changes the composition of the nutrients, and we then use that for irrigation and all the fertilizer is in it."

The partnership creates high-quality fertilizer for the crops the dairy grows to feed its cows and gives area producers a low-cost way to recycle water they used to have to pay to treat at municipal plants.

Through trade partnerships, local grass seed growers also discovered the fertilizing value of the dairy's by-product. Kazemier said those farmers bring him clover, and he fills their trucks with fertilizer in exchange.

JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Louie Kazemier, owner of Rickreall Dairy, received the Outstanding Dairy Farm Sustainability award.

"It's like giving it a shot of rain with a whole bunch of fertilizer at the same time," Kazemier said. "The fields green up."

The yields increase, too, he added.

It's that kind of thinking that earned the dairy the award, according to the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy.

The sustainability award recognizes dairy farms, businesses and partnerships nationwide "whose practices improve the well-

being of people, animals and the planet."

"We're proud of the high standards that Louie's family and employees maintain to produce quality milk and a commitment to sustainability," said Stan Ryan, the president and CEO of Darigold, the processing subsidiary of Northwest Dairy Association, which Rickreall Dairy is a member.

Kazemier said he's humbled by the recognition.

"It was a pleasant surprise because every dairy in Oregon is held to the same standard. We are not allowed to pollute," Kazemier said. "Everything that we are doing that's a little bit different is for us to save money. So, it's not only good for the environment, it's just plain good, smart business."



MAIN DISHES
Tender Smoked Brisket
Slow Smoked Turkey Breast
Juicy Pulled Pork
Fall-Apart Burnt Ends
Mouth-Watering Pork Ribs
Spicy & Mild Italian Sausage

"It's all in the Rub"

KILLER SIDES
Nana's Potato Salad
Crispy Cole Slaw
Bold BBQ Beans
Creamy Cheesy Taters
Crunchy French Fries
Garlic Cheddar Biscuit

189 Pacific Ave S Monmouth Oregon

503-420-4143

**Tues - Sat 11am - 2pm
and 4:30pm - 8pm**
Dine In or Carry Out

Biz registration is voluntary

Committee proposes new model for business program

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — A business registration is back on the agenda for the Dallas City Council, but this time participation is voluntary.

A previous attempt to make the registration mandatory, subject to an initial fee and annual renewal cost, and penalties for not participating, elicited a negative reaction from business owners. The owners who spoke said the cost wasn't

the problem.

After a contentious meeting, the council decided to send the registration back to committee for reconsideration.

City leaders said the registration wasn't about money, but information and communication with businesses. The registration would compile contact information for owners, a description of the business, and whether it stores hazardous chemicals that first responders should know about in case of emergency.

For that reason, Councilor Kelly Gabliks, the chairwoman of the administration committee, favored a mandatory registration.

"In my mind, the reason why I continue to say make it mandatory because I just don't know what good it would be if we make it discretionary," she said.

City Manager Ron Foggin the main objective was finding a way to better connect with businesses in town.

He used the upcoming Great American Eclipse events as an example. Instead of mailing, the city has had to resort to hand delivering information to shops that might be affected and hoping the owners have been paying attention.

"The benefit is better communication between the city and the businesses

themselves," he said. "Right now, there isn't."

He added that the city would need to purchase software compatible with the city's financial program keep a business database up-to-date and bill for renewals. Without a database and process of updating yearly, the information isn't worth keeping.

"The database is only as good as the information in there, which means you are going to have to contact all of those businesses every year," Foggin said.

Most of the councilors on the committee didn't want to make it mandatory.

Councilor Ken Woods Jr. said the city needed to offer a benefit to participation, such as inclusion in a list of businesses on the city's website, to encourage owners to participate rather than force them.


Councilor Jennie Rummell proposed charging a fee to be on the registry of \$25 to help pay for the software. Annual renewals were set at \$10.

"Some people would be absolutely willing to pay for that," Rummell said.

The committee unanimously recommended drafting a resolution authorizing Foggin to set up the program and establish the associated fees.

August Birthstone

Peridot



Symbolizing dignity, fame, and prosperity. Peridots have been used in jewelry through the ages to achieve peace and success, and to attract love and good fortune.

20% Off
this month

Brixius
JEWELERS

503-623-3117
837 Main St. • Dallas

Mon-Fri 9-5:30
Sat 9-1

OSU Extension Service Polk County and
Polk Soil and Water Conservation District present...

CULTIVATING POLK COUNTY

WORKSHOPS AT THE
POLK COUNTY FAIR

FREE WITH ADMISSION!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

10:30am – Pasture Management 101 – Karin Stutzman, District Manager Polk SWCD

11:30am – Organic Certification – Erica Chernoh, Organic Specialist OSU Small Farms

12:30pm – Tomato Canning Demo – OSU Master Food Preservers

1:30pm – Small Animal Care – Dr. Thomas Keck, Dallas Animal Clinic

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

10:30am – Pasture Management 101 – Karin Stutzman, District Manager Polk SWCD

11:30am – Intro to Beekeeping – George Woodward, Master Beekeeper

12:30pm – Intro to Beekeeping (continued)

1:30pm – Encouraging Pollinators – Heath Keirstad & Jerry Paul, Benton SWCD

3pm – 7pm – Groundwater Education and Anonymous Well Water Testing – Chrissy Lucas, OSU Well Water Program

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

10:30am – Composting and Vermicomposting – Linda Brewer, OSU Department of Horticulture

11:30am – Intro to Beekeeping – George Woodward, Master Beekeeper

12:30pm – Intro to Beekeeping (continued)

1:30pm – Encouraging Pollinators – Rich Little, Retired Entomologist and Author of "Bee Notes E-Newsletter"

3pm – 7pm – Groundwater Education and Anonymous Well Water Testing – Chrissy Lucas, OSU Well Water Program



Oregon State University Extension Service prohibits discrimination in all its programs, services, activities, and materials on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, genetic information, veteran's status, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Accommodation requests related to a disability should be made by July 31, 2017 to Aloha Aha at 503-623-8309 or aloha.aha@oregonstate.edu.



An OUT OF THIS WORLD
THANK YOU
TO OUR
2017 Sponsors!!



PREMIER SPONSORS:








MAJOR SPONSORS:







SUPPORTING SPONSORSHIPS:
Brixius Jewelers • Citirens Bank
Pacific Power • Squirrels Taxi Service • Wall Insurance

DALLAS VISITORS CENTER
(503) 623-2564
DAVC.BONNIE@GMAIL.COM
www.facebook.com/DallasSummerfest
www.exploredallasoregon.org