

Every Dr D Counts

Belle and David Dallam with cows Luxery and Goddess

Broom's Bloom Dairy is a ninth-generation farm and a second-generation dairy farm in Bel Air, Maryland, just north of Baltimore.

Owners David and Kate Dallam have shipped milk through Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative since 1992. Through Kate's side, the family has been members for 84 years. The couple has three daughters – Josie, Emmy and Belle.

They are currently milking about 50 registered Holsteins in a tiestall barn, producing around 75 pounds per cow per day with a 150,000 SCC.



David is the primary milker on the farm. He milks in a tiestall barn with a pipeline setup.





The milk is picked up every other day, and then it travels to Maryland & Virginia's manufacturing plant located in Laurel, Maryland. Once it arrives at the plant, a sample is pulled and screened for antibiotics.



The plant utilizes a reverse osmosis system to remove water and produce skim condensed milk.



From there, the two products take different paths depending on customer orders and market needs. Raw skim milk is next pasteurized and processed into skim condensed milk or nonfat dry milk powder.



The first step in the manufacturing process is to channel the milk from the raw milk silo to the separator room, where the milk is divided into raw skim milk and raw cream.



When cleared by the lab, the milk is unloaded and stored in a raw milk silo.



To manufacture nonfat dry milk powder, the plant uses an evaporator and dryer.



Powder is packaged by an automatic bagger.

The plant sells skim condensed milk, nonfat dry milk powder, cream and butter as bulk ingredients to a number of food manufacturers in the U.S. and occasionally overseas. Some of the plant's notable customers include Yoplait, Dryers/Nestlé and Cumberland Farms Dairy.



Raw cream, like raw skim milk, is then pasteurized and either sold as bulk cream ...



... or it heads to the churn where it is manufactured into butter.

The Laurel plant runs 365 days a year, 24 hours a day and in a typical year will process upwards of a billion pounds of milk.

— Information and photos provided by Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association **PD**