

Double J Jerseys / Jon Bansen Monmouth, OR Site Visit – Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Organic System Plan Questionnaire

Producer Goals:

What are the farmer's overall management goals for the operation?

Forage Management:

1. Describe the rotational grazing approach used on this farm. How often are animals moved to fresh grass? How often is a paddock rested before it is grazed again?

2. What infrastructure is in place on the farm to improve animals' access to pasture during the year?

3. What strategies does Jon use to maximize the length of the grazing season?



Forage Management (continued):

- 4. One farm goal is to reduce the need for off-farm forage and grain. Describe Jon's efforts to increase the production of homegrown forage. What is grown on the farm and stored during the year as forage? How has Jon reduced the amount of grain fed?
- 5. When purchasing seed for forage planting, what are the requirements under organic standards?
- 6. List applicable sections of the National Organic Program standards:

Manure Storage and Management:

1. What features of the storage lagoon and surrounding area enable the Bansens to efficiently **collect** manure and to effectively **remove** it from the lagoon?

- 2. Animals are restricted to barns for 4-5 months a year and are grazed on pasture for the remaining months of the year. How does this affect the size of the lagoon required for this herd?
- 3. What system is in place near the lagoon to reduce the quantity of solids entering the lagoon and to prevent clogging of the pump uptake?



Manure Storage and Management (continued):

- 4. What systems are in place to minimize rainfall runoff from entering the lagoon?
- 5. List applicable sections of the National Organic Program standards:

Water Quality and Riparian Protection:

- 1. Are adequate riparian buffers maintained throughout the farm? How large are they (approximate # feet) and what ecosystem services might they provide?
- 2. Describe the costs and benefits of installing the cattle bridge at the river crossing to the north pastures.
- 3. List applicable sections of the National Organic Program standards:

Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management:

1. How is stored liquid and solid manure applied to acreage on the farm? Consider frequency & time of year applied, application rate, and method of application.

2. How large of an area receives the nutrients stored in the lagoon?



Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management (continued):

- 3. What are the costs and benefits of this operation's approach to manure management?
- 4. How is the need for additional fertility amendments determined?
- 5. What off-farm fertility inputs are applied to the fields and how often?
- 6. On the recently acquired Pedee site, given the land history and nutrient deficiencies identified in soil tests, what did Jon do to improve fertility and productivity of the site?

7. List applicable sections of the National Organic Program standards:

Pest Management:

- 1. What are the primary pests on this dairy operation?
- 2. What are the major pest control strategies implemented?



Pest Management (continued):

3. Describe the bird habitat on farm?

- 4. What was Jon's assessment of the cost / benefit of the predatory insect biological control strategy?
- 5. What kind of topical inputs are used for fly control?
- 6. List applicable sections of the National Organic Program standards:

Animal Welfare:

1. Maximizing outdoor access and pasture-based feed is a core emphasis in Jon's livestock management. What are some of the health benefits?

- 2. When the dairy operation first started, what was the average pounds of grain per cow in daily feed ration?
- 3. What is the current daily grain feed ration in winter? In summer?



Animal Welfare (continued):

4. Providing clean and sanitary living conditions are key preventative health care strategies used by this dairy. Describe some features and practices that contribute to cleanliness on the farm and for the animals:

5. What is the average age / productive period for milking cows on this farm? How does this compare with the state average? How can this difference be explained?

6. List applicable sections of the National Organic Program standards: