

MMPA Ovid – One Year of Safety

The MMPA Ovid plant employees recently achieved a safety milestone by reaching 365 days without a “Lost Time Accident.”

A “Lost Time Accident” is the result of an employee injury where the employee is unable to report for work. A “Recordable Accident” is an injury that doesn’t necessarily lead to time off work, but the employee receives medical treatment.

“MMPA is committed to employee safety and has implemented effective safety programs at every location,” says MMPA Director of Credit & Risk Management, Cheryl Schmandt. “Ovid has all the elements for a successful safety program. Plant Manager David Wittkop and the entire management staff provide the necessary leadership and training; every Ovid employee has shown an individual commitment to safety; and the most important element for success comes from the active involvement of the Safety Committee. Every Ovid employee should be proud of their achievement and commended for their efforts.”

The main focus of Ovid’s safety program is to assure the safety of MMPA employees. That success

gives MMPA a secondary benefit in reduced insurance costs. Workers’ compensation insurance premiums are based on actual loss experience. Eliminating lost time accidents and reducing recordable accidents directly impacts our insurance costs.

MMPA hosted a luncheon in recognition of the plant’s achievement, and Plant Manager, David Wittkop, commended the 80 regular full-time employees at the Ovid plant for their safe work record.

“Safety is a daily goal at the plant,” Dave says. “Safety is not about records, numbers, insurance rates or luncheons. Safety is about our employees being able to return home to their families each workday healthy and able to live life the way they wish to.”

The Ovid plant’s 12-member Safety Committee consists of six hourly and six management employees representing various plant disciplines. The Safety Committee meets monthly to review employee suggestions, any accidents or near misses that may have occurred and



MMPA Ovid employees were treated to a luncheon for reaching 365 days without a “Lost Time Accident.”

conducts quarterly safety inspections of the facility. The success of the Safety Program comes from everyone working together to avoid workplace injuries.

“Commitment, teamwork and dedication are required to realize a safety goal of 365 days without a lost time accident while processing record plant volumes,” Dave says. “The fact that we accomplished this new plant safety record in a very demanding and dynamic work environment demonstrates the commitment and dedication that the Ovid employees have to working safely and watching out for each other.”

Student Receives DMI Scholarship

Abigail Nelkie, daughter of MMPA members Charles and Julie Nelkie received one of 19 scholarships offered nationally through Dairy Management Inc. to students enrolled in college programs that emphasize dairy.

Abigail is a senior at North Carolina State University majoring in Animal Science and Biological Science-Nutrition with a minor in Agri-business. She received the \$1,500 scholarship for the 2005-06 school year based on academic achievement, commitment to a career in a dairy-related discipline, leadership, initiative and integrity.

To apply for the scholarship, contact Marykate Ginter at (847) 627-3252, or marykateg@rosedmi.com. Applications are due May 31, 2006.

BSE Case Confirmed in Alabama Cow

The USDA is tracing the history of an older beef cow in Alabama that has been confirmed as the United State’s third case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) disease. The USDA announced their findings during a news conference on March 13.

The suspect animal was found when a brain sample yielded an “inconclusive” result during a rapid screening test. Follow-up western blot tests on the animal’s tissue samples confirmed that it had BSE.

According to the USDA, the animal was approximately 10 years old, meaning that it was born prior to implementation of the 1997 U.S. ban on feeding mammalian tissues to ruminant animals.

The beef animal apparently had only been on-site at the Alabama farm for less than a year, where it was euthanized and buried when it became non-ambulatory. The USDA is still attempting to determine the place of origin of the cow, track any remaining animals from its birth cohort, and track its offspring.

John Clifford, the USDA’s chief veterinarian, said there was no risk to public health as the carcass did not enter the food chain.