

GILMAN CO-OP CREAMERY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2025

A NOTE FROM THE CORNER OFFICE,

Wow! What a spring! Mother Nature has cooperated really well! Just a reminder that all seed returns will need to be back by June 10th. Our vendors need them back the following week, and this gives us ample time to get it sorted out. Thank you in advance!

As the heat starts to ramp up coming into June, don't forget to keep an eye on your compressors and your bulk tanks. A fresh washing or blowing out will help alleviate some issues from showing themselves in the extreme heat to come.

June is Dairy Month! What a great month to thank all of the hardworking dairy farmers and their families for all the hard work that they so selflessly do day in and day out. From all of us here at the Gilman Co-op Creamery, we THANK YOU! You make a lot of wholesome dairy products for us all to consume. If you see a dairy farmer this month, please go out of your way to thank them! They are truly helping feed the world!

Along with June Dairy Month, we have lots going on in the store for you this month! Including FREE ice cream cones paid for by Compeer Financial, thank you a hundred times over for your generosity and for sponsoring our cones each year! FREE grilled cheese sandwiches on Wednesdays from 11 to 1, the Benton County Dairy Princesses will be helping us serve up some tasty sandwiches. Thank you to the Dairy Princesses for all your help during our June events! Our Family Day event on June 14 is going to be filled with all sorts of fun to be had, join us from 10 to 2!

Thank you all for your patronage and for making the Gilman Co-op Creamery what it is today!

Adam Bonovsky

Thank You!



June Dairy Month Sponsor

EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & DATES

FAMILY DAY

Saturday, June 14
10:00am-2:00pm

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 15

FREE GRILLED CHEESE

Wednesdays in June
11:00am-1:00pm

MORRISON COUNTY FAIR

Thursday, June 26 - Sunday, June 29

FSA DATES, DEADLINES, & MESSAGES

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[creamerygilman](https://www.instagram.com/creamerygilman)



The Gilman Coop Creamery



9920 115th St NE Gilman, MN

**Connect
With Us!**



"The customer always comes first and deserves
the utmost respect."

- Adam Bonovsky, Manager

A WORD WITH RYLEE,

Thank you to the dairy farmers this month and all year long! June is here, and that means lots of BUTTER sales! Don't forget to join us for FREE grilled cheese sandwiches each Wednesday from 11am-1pm! Also, soft-serve ice cream cones are free all month long thanks to Compeer Financial!

Family Day is June 14th, and we have all sorts of fun games and activities for the kiddos!

On the Accounts Receivable side of things, just keep in mind that we do ask you to stay current on your account! As we move through the summer and those seed and fertilizer accounts creep up, we are more than happy and willing to work with you on payments or a large payment once your crop is harvested! Communication is the biggest part of this, like I said, we know things can get tight. We are here to have your back and help you get through it! Thank you for understanding and working with us!

We hope to see you all real soon!
Thank you so much for your business!

FROM THE FINANCIAL TEAM,

Hello, Summer! It's here, June Dairy Month! Let's start by thanking all the dairy farmers out there. We need and appreciate each and every one of you. Make sure to stop in and enjoy all of the fun events happening all month long!

Let's talk about how easy it is to pay your bill online! Visit our website www.gilmancreamery.com and click the red 'Bill Pay' button in the top right corner, simply enter your information on our secure site, follow the prompts, and save yourself a stamp!

Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there! Stop in, and grab them something fun for their special day!

Judy + Joe

Thank You For Your Patronage!

-TEAM GILMAN

Bryant Johnson

ADM; Commercial Dairy Specialist

Not Your Grandfather's Forage Production

Forage production season is upon us, and a lot has changed in the way producers harvest, feed out, and store their forage. Another large change in the last 2 to 4 decades is the amount of forage fed to lactating dairy cattle. The dairy farms I grew up on fed primarily dry alfalfa, maybe a small amount of haylage, corn silage, dry or high moisture corn, and a few fed ear corn. The diets included a lot of dry forages, chopped or baled with a very long particle size. Everyone's heard the saying that "cows need that long hay to stay healthy", but this didn't take into account the forage quality that was often much lower than today's standards. Interestingly enough, in the late 80s, 90s, and early 2000s, most lactating cow diets included only 40-45% forage. Fast forward to today, most of my dairy diets range from 55-70% forage. Forage cut at the right maturity, harvested at the correct moisture, and stored correctly will greatly improve your herd's performance and/or reduce the feed bill, and more than likely already has. Higher forage diets mean forage production is critical.

Today, I am often asked when to cut and what the correct chop or cut length is for haylage or silage. Since it's June, I want to focus on haylage. Start by walking that alfalfa or call me to do some scissor cuts for extra accuracy, but the goal is to cut either pre-bud or at the bud stage for high quality feed. Typical recommendations are to target a theoretical length of cut (TLC) of 3/8-1/2 inches for haylage.

That particle size will improve packing, density, feed out, fermentation, and reduce sorting in the bunk. However, life happens, breakdowns happen, and the weather doesn't cooperate. If you get into a crop that gets away from you, it's flowered, etc. Don't be afraid to reduce the chop length. The reason this makes such a difference is because of the lignin and its impact on reducing digestibility. Everyone's heard of the rumen "bugs", but what many don't know is that those bugs cannot digest lignin very well. However, the rumen bugs are able to utilize NDF (cellulose and hemicellulose). Think of the difference between a grass stem and a tree. The tree is almost completely lignified and undigestible, whereas an immature grass stem has very little lignin and will be almost completely digestible. As a forage matures, the amount of lignin in the stem continues to increase. Shortening the chop length allows the rumen bugs better access to the good fiber (the NDF) to better digest and utilize it. Feeding those bugs increases efficiency & drives production.

The other major role that chop length plays is sorting in the bunk. Do some shaker boxes on the TMR. If there is more than 9% on the top screen, shorten the cut length. If the bottom pan is over 30-40% or the bottom two pans are over 50%, there are too many fines in your diet. Both of those factors increase the risk of acidosis. Reducing sorting increases profits by reducing waste and ensuring cows are consuming a better balanced diet.

Often, I hear the old adage "cows need that long hay for healthy stomachs". If the diet is balanced and managed properly, and the cows are being fed high forage diets with high quality forages, the old saying is not true. In summary, take this summer to focus on putting up great quality forage. When putting up prime quality feed, target a 3/8-1/2 inch TLC, and if you get into some mature forage, chop that forage more finely. Use a 1/4-3/8 inch TLC if haylage quality is around or below 120 RFQ. You might like the results!