



FARM WELL NEWSLETTER

THE BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF FARM WELL WI

SUBSCRIBE

Click Icon to
visit website

JUNE 2022, ISSUE 13



ZANDAIRY - FEATURE FARM QUESTIONNAIRE

BY BRAD ZANDER (3RD GENERATION DAIRY FARMER - IOWA COUNTY)

1. What is the name of your farm and how long has your family been operating it?

Zandairy Partnership, est. 1968

2. What type of operation is it? Has it always been that type of operation?

We have been an operating dairy farm since 1968.

3. When did you and/or your spouse start farming?

I grew up on this farm. I studied Dairy Science at Iowa State University and returned to the family farm immediately after graduating in 2014. My wife Sidney and I have been married since 2016.

4. What makes your farm special? What is your favorite thing about your farm?

Our farm is special because of our stubborn attitude. We insist on doing everything our own way (sometimes to a fault), and we try to hire out as little work as possible (also sometimes to a fault). I am proud of the amount of productivity we manage to sustain year in and year out. With the help of our robotic milking system, we get a lot of things done per hour of labor.

5. What's the toughest farm challenge you've had to overcome? Are there specific experience or times in farming that have been challenging?

The greatest variable in our industry is weather. All other variables can be hedged to some extent, but weather is the one thing you have absolutely no control over. Faith in God is our only hedge in that department. **[Continues on page 2]**



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Water We Swim In

- Virtual - Fri, 7/1
- 11:30PM-1:00PM CT
- [Zoom Link](#) to join

Iowa County Farmers Appreciation Day(s)

- In-Person - 7/9 & 7/10
- [Link](#) to more information

Farm Tech Days

- In-Person - 7/12-7/14
- [Link](#) to more information

COMET Catch-Up & Connect- Adding Microskills to Your Tool Bag

- Virtual - Tue, 7/26
- 6:30PM-7:30PM CT
- [Zoom Link](#) to join

Contact s.monson@swcap.org if you have any questions about Farm Well or Upcoming Events

**Original NESTLÉ®
TOLL HOUSE®
Chocolate Chip
Cookies**

- **2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**
- **1 teaspoon baking soda**
- **1 teaspoon salt**
- **1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened**
- **3/4 cup granulated sugar**
- **3/4 cup packed brown sugar**
- **1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
- **2 large eggs**
- **2 cups (12-ounce package) NESTLÉ® TOLL HOUSE® Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels**
- **1 cup chopped nuts (Optional. If omitting, add 1 to 2 Tbsp. of all-purpose flour.)**



6. What advice would you offer a young aspiring farmer?

I would tell young farmers to relax, but not in a “feet up on the couch” way. Difficult days are inevitable, break-downs will always happen. Keeping a cool head when facing adversities such as these is the first step toward getting back on track. As my 3-year-old son has taught me, a few deep breaths can go a long way.

7. Most farmers have moments that bring them great satisfaction for example unloading the last load of small squares for the season or letting the cows onto a fresh pasture for the first time in the spring, seeing kids and grandkids on the farm. What gives you a great deal of satisfaction?

I take satisfaction in the daily grind. I am truly blessed to be able to do what I love each and every day, and I try not to take that for granted. I regularly remind myself just how many people out there would give anything to trade places with me. It is this reminder that keeps my spirits high and my attitude positive.

8. Most farms have a long history of recipes being passed down from generation to generation. Do you have a favorite recipe that features products from your farm? We’re looking for appetizers, main dishes, and desserts. Feel free to share more than one!

We have too many to list. The family favorite is simply the Nestle chocolate chip cookie recipe on the back of the chocolate chip bag, but baked in a cake pan for delicious “cookie bars.”



Photo from [Zandairy Facebook page](#) - A beautiful sunset at Zandairy. 2017.