



# SHATTO MILK COMPANY

www.shattomilkcompany.com

March 2008

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, you and your family are invited to the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt. This free event is one you and your family will not want to miss. Last year we had more than 400 participants in this fun event, and hope to get an even bigger crowd this year. The Easter Egg Hunt starts promptly at 2:30 p.m. Kids of all ages are welcome. There will be three areas divided by age, one for children ages 4 and under, another for ages 5 to 7, and a third area for kids ages 8 and older. Prizes will be awarded to those children that find the "special eggs".

There is no charge for this fun event and we suggest participants arrive 20 minutes before the event, so everyone has time to sign in, find their line and get ready to go! Hot dogs and other lunch items will be available for purchase. The Easter Egg Hunt is held rain (or snow!) or shine. After all, what else can we do with thousands of eggs?

Peter, the Easter Rabbit, will be present, so bring your cameras and have your child's picture taken with him and a Shatto Milk Company Cow. Your family can cherish this for years to come.

If you have any questions or would like more information about this or any other event, please contact us via phone at (816) 930-3862.



## Information is a Precious Commodity

I know the title is a bit vague, but I thought I would share with you some activity that is taking place in both the Kansas (SB 595) and Missouri (HB 2283 & SB 1279) Legislature. Three bills have been introduced that would keep small farms like ours from labeling products as coming from animals that are not treated with artificial growth hormones. These bills would effectively keep us from stating on our bottles, "No Growth Hormones Used", which is a factually based statement. As the legislation is currently written it would also make us throw out our existing bottles, which would create a huge financial burden to us and could possibly put us out of business.

We are adamantly opposed to this legislation for a variety of reason, one of which is the fact that we believe each of you as consumers have a right to know the facts about where your food comes from and any other information that may be beneficial to you as a customer. Any legislation that would prohibit a customer from obtaining all available information about the product they are considering is in our opinion not good legislation.

Many of you have made it very clear that you want milk that comes from cows NOT treated with artificial growth hormones. I give you my word that you can always find such a product with Shatto Milk Company and that we will continue to work to ensure that we do not lose our ability to label our products as such.

We did submit testimony in opposition to the bill in Kansas when it was heard before the Senate Agriculture committee late last month.

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## Shatto Milk Packaging

It seems to be like clock work, each week someone contacts us seeking information about the design of our bottles, where we get them, how often they are returned, etc. Since so many seem to be interested in this topic, I thought I would quickly share a few facts about the package that we use to bottle our milk. As all of you know we use glass bottles to package our milk. We chose glass for a number of reasons, but first and foremost it was due to the fact that glass does not impart any foreign odor or taste into milk as well as the fact that our glass bottles can be recycled and reused.

There is only one place that we can get our famous glass bottles from and that place is located in Canada. The bottles are shipped to us almost every month since some are broken and others are kept by our wonderful customers. Customers have noted that they use our bottles for things ranging from flower vases to beta fish tanks and coin jars.

Our bottle designs have proven to create a lot of buzz as they tell our story. Each bottle design provides a word and a saying on the back that we believe embodies who we are and what we are about. We must give credit where it is due, our bottle designs were done by a local company known as Sullivan, Higdon and Sink. They are a great group that has been tremendous to our small family farm.

In an effort to be good stewards of resources, we encourage you to return your bottles whenever possible, as that will allow those bottles to be reused over and over. We estimate that an average Shatto Milk Company bottle is reused about 54 times before it is kept or broken.



## What's Happening on the Family Farm?

It is that time of year when folks from all over the world begin to arrive at the farm to take advantage of our fun and educational tours. Our schedule is already pretty full until June. With that said, if you or anyone you know would like to schedule a date to come visit, please consider contacting us soon so you are sure to get a spot.

With tours starting to pick up again, the country store is getting very busy. Not only do the country store clerks have to take daily orders from your local store, they are also responsible for helping the customers, scheduling tours and of course ensuring that those of you that come out for a visit are treated with the utmost care and respect.

At the dairy parlor, they cannot wait for spring time, yes both the humans as well as the cows. All of the snow has created a mess as everything is now melting and the ground is saturated.

We just changed out the sawdust bedding in our new barn. We do this every so often to ensure that the cows always have a clean, comfy and safe place to rest if they so choose. It is not a fun activity, but it is sure worth it for our happy cows.

Keep your eyes out for a new Shatto Milk Company delivery truck. We had to purchase a new truck this past month as our old one was getting a bit run down. If you see any of our trucks out on the roads, please give them a gentle honk and a thumbs up. They love to see those of you that are avid Moosletter readers.

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If you have specific thoughts about such legislation I would encourage you to contact members of the Kansas Senate related to SB 595, and specifically those on the Agriculture Committee. The Department of Agriculture may have the responsibility of researching this more and providing guidance, so contacting them may be a good idea as well. They need to hear from you and understand that you as consumers have thoughts on this proposed legislation. You can obtain information on committees, state senators as well as about bill information by visiting [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org)

The same is true related to SB 1279 & HB 2283 in Missouri. I would encourage you to contact Missouri Representatives on the Special Committee for Agribusiness to share your thoughts as well as State Senators. You can obtain information on committees, senators, representatives as well as about the bills by visiting [www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov) and [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov).

We encourage you to share your opinion about these bills with those that are representing you in either Topeka or Jefferson City. If you would like to obtain more information about this issue, please feel free to contact me or search online "Kansas Dairy Labeling Bill or Missouri Dairy Labeling Bill". A great deal of information can be found.

At the end of the day we believe this comes down to the fact that you, the customer, have the right to request specific information about the food you and your family consume, and we, the farmers, have the responsibility to provide you that information. We will keep you updated on the progress or hopefully lack thereof related to each of these bills.

## Seeing Double? Don't Worry Just Twins



These two lovable characters just arrived on our farm this past month. They are twin girls and they are the only set of twins that we have on the farm. They are full of life and love to jump around and play in front of visitors and those that take care of them on a daily basis.

The two were born on February 29<sup>th</sup>. They currently weigh about 100 lbs each and are growing very quickly as they have very healthy appetites. They are also an energetic pair as they love to play.

Not only does the fact that they are twins make them unique, but they are also red Holsteins. As you have likely noticed most of our cows are black and white, thus they are even more unique since they are red.

These two happy young bovines will be waiting to see those of you that come join us for the Easter Egg Hunt. So, when you and your family stop by the farm be sure to take a few minutes to go up to the dairy barn to visit with these new baby calves. They are just so cute.

## Savings Offer For Those Attending The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 23, 2008

**10% off Shatto Milk Company Apparel\***

(i.e. shirts, hats, visors, etc.)

\*Offer valid only for the 2008 Easter Egg Hunt being held on March 23, 2008. The coupon is only good at the Shatto Milk Company Country Store located at 9406 N. Hwy 33, Osborn MO 64474. Offer is not good on already reduced items.