

<1: morning prayer>

<sound of crickets, fading into Berman praying, turning pages>

Ok, that winds me up, ok.

<wrapping tefillin and putting it away; opens door to house and then starts his car; faint sound of truck driving underneath this next bit of narration>

South Florida is probably not the most ideal place for dairy cattle, but this is where the market for the milk is. There are 10 million people in South Florida, and they all want to have milk on their cereal.

I have a nature of wanting to go in a lot of directions at the same time, and the dairy allows me to do that because there's always a lot of things going on.

<2: maternity barn>

<cow mooing; water running>

You have to have a live, healthy, vigorous calf that can get a good start in life – and that's job one at the maternity barn.

This guy must've been born early this morning.

<water spraying>

Some days they'll have 20/25 calves to deliver. It is an absolute busy, stressful job.

Our main product is milk – the key to the whole thing is the cow has to start lactation and the only way to beginning lactation is to have a calf.

<cow mooing>

<3: calf-raising>

From there, the calf goes to the calf-raising unit.

<lots of cows mooing>

*B: Wanda, good morning! W: We still got a lot to feed but we're gonna get them watered and come this way. B: Thank you. W: Ok.*

<calf nuzzling a bucket>

I went to vet school, practiced as a veterinarian for several years. And I probably would never have imagined myself as a dairy farmer, but the family had a history of being in the cattle business. My father and grandfather and I don't know how many generations back were all cattle dealers in Germany. And my dad came to this country, and went into the dairy business and of course he taught me a lot when I was a little kid following him around.

<4: milking parlor>

After the cow has a calf, she goes to the milking unit.

*X: Vaya, todos!* <whistles>

*B: What group is this, Ronny? R: Uh, this is starting group 5.*

Look at that second cow. She's loaded – she'll give probably 4, 5 gallons right now.

<sound of suction on udders>

<6: livestock market>

The cattle that are not performing – they didn't get pregnant, they're at the end of their lactation – they have to be sold for meat.

<sounds of auction – bell ringing, auctioneer, doors opening and closing>

Biggest cattle market in Florida, and one of the bigger ones in the eastern US.

<7: crop collection; sound of machinery in the background; later you can hear cows walking>

You know, I don't do the heavy lifting everyday. And some things, I don't even know how to do. But at least I know what's happening out there, and if necessary, I get in there and help 'em get it done.

I'm the only Jewish person in South Florida in the dairy business. So how I behave in business, and how I treat my employees – I feel in a place like Okeechobee is gonna reflect not just on me and my behavior, but on the Jewish people – the whole group. So it's a motivation for me to do the right thing – hopefully I'm doing it.

<8: synagogue; laughter>

We're in the Palm Beach synagogue, and we're gonna be looking for a minyan here. Hopefully, we'll get one.

*B: But here is Roy. How you doin'?* *Are we #2?* *R: 2 and 3, that's right.*

It's a long drive to come from Okeechobee to Palm Beach, but I like to try to do it a couple times a week.

*A: Everyone's good, how 'bout you?*

It's kinda helped me so that I have my work, and then at a certain point, I know it's time to go do something else.

*S: Hello. B: Rabbi Sheiner. S: Hi. B: We're all set? S: We're all set. Thank you for coming in.*

I really love this synagogue, like today's minyan – I think I know almost all of them, and it's kind of a little – I don't know – it's a little brotherhood.

<praying>

<9: ending>

*B: We're gonna go to the maternity barn and meet you back at #2, ok? Y: Ok.*

I enjoy my work very much, and I think I'd miss it greatly if I didn't have it.

I'm afraid I probably am the last in the family. I'm pretty sure my children aren't interested in going into the dairy business. But I have a couple of grandchildren that are potentials if I can just wait long enough for 'em to come onboard, it'd be nice.