

Progressive Dairy Operators
**Study Tour to
Alberta**



August 18 to 21, 2015



PROGRESSIVE DAIRY OPERATORS
www.pdo-ontario.ca

Compiled by: Harold House, DairyLogix

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Introduction

The Progressive Dairy Operators of Ontario organized a tour to Alberta to study the Alberta dairy industry from August 18th to 21st, 2015. The group consisted of 82 participants from across Canada.

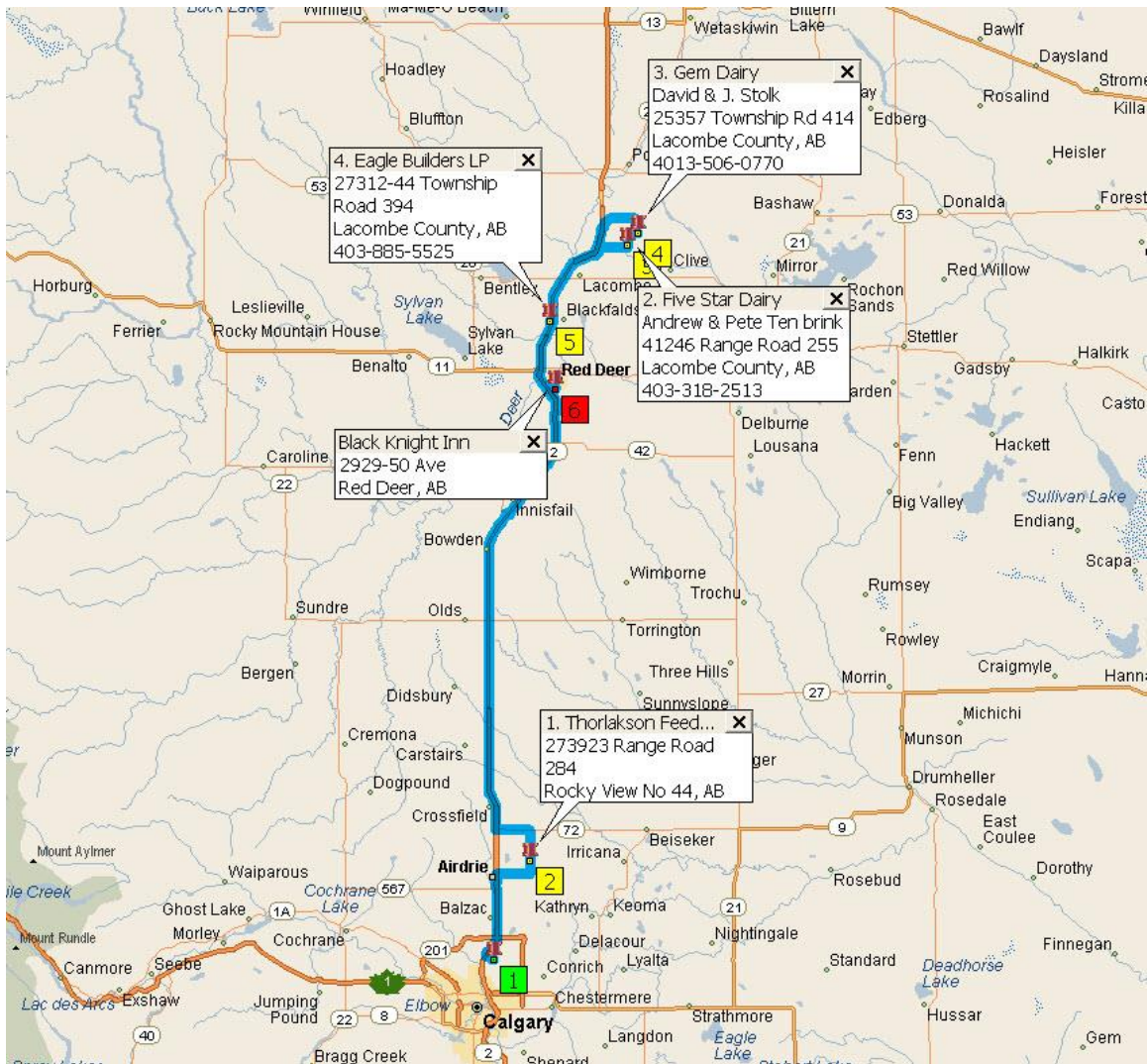


The group visited ten dairy farms, a beef feedlot, a Hutterite colony, a precast concrete plant, and an agricultural Museum. Following the agricultural tour, about one third of the group continued to Banff to spend a day in the mountains.

Some of the highlights we saw on the tour were:

- Precast construction
- Automated feeding
- Large scale rotary parlours
- Robotic milking
- High production
- Multiple room calf raising

Day 1 – Tuesday August 18th



Thorlakson Feedyards Inc.

Address: PO Box 3490 Stn Main, Range Rd 284, Airdrie, AB, T4B 2B7

4 ½ Mi East of Airdrie, Alberta

Phone 403-948-5434

Contact: Milt Scott – feedyard manager
403-888-0786
milt@tfyinc.com

- Feedyard started in 1970 by Ben Thorlakson with 1,000 head
- Have fed as many as 20,000
- Currently 17,000
- Bring in cattle from 200 mile radius weighing anywhere from 400 to 1,100 lbs.
- Many different breeds
- Some custom feeding
- Formulate own feed
- Crop 13,000 acres
 - Barley
 - Canola
 - Wheat
 - Peas



Ben Thorlakson, the owner is the only leader in Canada's beef industry who has chaired the Canada Beef Export Federation, Alberta Cattle Commission, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, and the Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association. He currently chairs the CBEF and owns Thorlakson Feedyards Ltd. at Airdrie, a 20,000 head feedlot east of Airdrie.

Nature's Call – a division of Thorlakson Feedyards Inc.

www.natures-call.com

- 3 million 50 litre bags per year of compost based products
- Blend Athabasca peat with feedyard manure and other compost products
- Produce products for Scotts as well as other brand names

In 1997, Thorlakson Feedyards Inc. created Nature's Call, a division dedicated to turning agricultural manure – a byproduct and an industry nuisance – into the products that make gardeners and landscapers happy – first-rate



plant food. Nature's Call soon expanded their line to include a wider range of home, gardening, and landscaping products. Nature's Call continues to provide and develop high-quality, ecologically friendly products with the aim of becoming the leading supplier of gardening and landscaping products for both domestic and commercial applications.

The Bullpen

www.bullpenarena.com



The Bullpen is an agricultural arena located within Thorlakson Feedyards Inc., near Airdrie, AB. The arena is approximately 200 ft long and 80 ft wide. Recently, they added an extra 30 feet to the south side, adding an extra 6,600 sq ft of standing area. They can accommodate various equestrian sports including; team penning, ranch sorting, cutting, working cow, reining, barrel racing and more.

There are indoor stalls, as well as they are capable of creating many indoor and outdoor temporary stalls for events.

Their lobby and kitchen creates a warm and welcoming environment between rides, and at your request they can provide a cook who makes home-made meals and snacks during your event.

The Thorlaksons within the past 5 to 6 years have become avid team penners competing regularly in team penning competitions of numerous associations.

Tom Thorlakson has attained various successes, most notably placing first and second in the 2009 AQHYA World Ranch Sorting Competition.

Lindsey Thorlakson is currently the manager of the Bullpen. In 2009 and 2010, Lindsey won 3 Calgary Stampede Team Penning buckles (7, 10 and 14).

Ben Thorlakson, the father of Lindsey and Tom, is the Owner and President of Thorlakson Feedyards Inc. where the Bullpen is located. He in 2009, won the 7 Class at the Calgary Stampede Team Penning Competition. It is Ben's love for Team Penning and Ranch Sorting that created the Bullpen.

Five Star Cattle Co.

Andrew Ten Brink and family

Phone: 403-318-2513

Address:

Email: fivestardairy@gmail.com

- Commercial herd
- Moved here in 1999
- Moved from BC
- More opportunity in Alberta
- Feeding program
- Own mill
- Grind all corn barley
- Corn silage – 3 years
- No dry corn
- 2200 heat units
- Land value - \$5000 to 6000 per acre
- Some tile drainage
- Still using compost bedding
- Screw press in heifer shed – not enough for milk cows
- Mix with sand in milking barn
- Sand one day, compost next
- 243,000 SCC happy through heat
- Found out shells, and liners were mismatched
- Showed up with Herd Navigator
- Tests cows progesterone



Farm History

- Commercial family farm

Employee Information

- 4+1 fulltime (2 herdsman/feeder, 1 milker, 1 mechanic)
- 2 (milkers)

Present Herd:

- Milk 415 cows 3x, late lactation cows milk 2x
- Milk 36.5, Fat 38, SCC 230,000

Milking Barn

- All of our milk cows and young stock are housed indoors.
- Recently installed the Herd Navigator system to the milking parlour.
- This system monitors progesterone (for preg checking and heat detection), LDH (for mast) and BHB (ketosis). We are currently running a side by side trial to

determine if there is a difference in ovulation cycles and progesterone levels during pregnancy in cows cycling naturally and cows on synchronization programs.

- Our family (and extended family) have not done any udder prep in the parlour for years. This started in BC with our dad and his brothers 30 years ago. An abnormally cold winter forced them to stop their prep protocol. Udder health improved and they never went back. Today we believe udder health can be improved with a properly managed prep protocol but we don't believe it is worth the labour costs.
- Our heifer facility is a modified potato shed. It was a large building with a flat floor so modifications were easy.

Manure Management

- The heifer shed has a screw press for the manure. We use this pressed manure (green bedding) to bed the heifers and the milk cows. The heifer facility can't quite produce enough for the farm so we add sand to it to get more volume for the milk cows.

Land Base and Feed Management

- 1200 acres

Crops grown

- Alfalfa, barley (silage and grain), canola, peas and corn. We have only been growing corn for three years. We with the newer varieties needing less heat units than past years we believe it is a good crop for our climate now. We really like the way it feeds with barley silage. As barley has less risk involved we plan on growing both crops for years to come.

Feed storage

- Our feed mill has been running for a year and a half now. This has a lot of cost savings involved. Some obvious like grinding and trucking costs and some realized like the ability to act on fluctuating markets and grow different crops like peas.



GEM Dairies Ltd.

David Stolk

Phone: 403-506-0770

Address: 25311 TWP RD 414, RR #3 Ponoka, AB T4J 1R3

Email: udderlydave@hotmail.com

- 3 milking per day
- 35 l average
- $\frac{3}{4}$ land
- 400 acres
- Second farm for heifers
- 400 acres there
- Decommissioned oil wells from 70's
- Eagle building all pre-cast
- 2011
- Two weeks in factory
- 24 working hours for all panels
- Panels 2 ft in ground
- 18" x 18" footing
- Welding spots – weld together then caulked
- 2" concrete 2" Styrofoam 2" concrete
- Durability and price competitive
- Interior walls have glazed finish – easy to clean
- 9 months for complete building project
- Very good experience with robot
- Called out once every 6 weeks at night
- "just milk cows"
- 6 to 7 % fetched
- Longest down 3 hours for both machines
- 160,000 to 200,000 SCC
- Rumination monitors
- Watch individual cows for first 3 weeks
- Limited ketosis
- Heatime heat detection
- Knock out panels for expansion
- Land \$2,700 per acre 4 years ago – now \$3,500 per acre
- Quota \$38,000



Business Arrangement

- Corporation owned by Matthew and Grace Stolk, in the process of succession planning with Dad, Darryl (brother) and myself (David).

Farm History

- Family dairy originally started in the Fraser Valley, and in 1979 moved here to Alberta.
- The original farm is still owned where Matthew, Grace, Darryl and heifers are.
- Matthew and his brother (Garry) farmed together from 1979 to 1989 when they split. In 1998 we bought a second 50 cow dairy and had a manger run that dairy until we sold it to him in 2009.



When we sold that farm we started looking into different options which led us to here. Our reasoning for buying a second farm again and building new allowed us to be ready for future expansion as well as being able to have 2 farms viable.

- We have also started custom square baling, silage bagging, swathing/mowing, and planting. We are very blessed to be in the agriculture industry here and are excited to keep on farming.

Employee Information

- 3 fulltime (the dairy and some fieldwork)
- 1 part-time

Present Herd:

- 230 cows, 110 milking with a robot
- 34L, 3.9%BF, 3.2% Protein, 200,000 SCC, 15,000 PLC

Milking Barn

- Milking barn built in 2012
- 126 stalls in robot barn with outside feed alleys and 3 rows of stalls head to head
- Stall mats are deBoer latex foam with Dunlop cover, bedded with shavings weekly
- A4 Lely robot, Lely HR Tag for ID, heat detection and rumination
- Twice a day we go through stalls, rinse robots, hand scrape crossovers, and fetch cows.
- Also any treatments or breedings are done twice a day.

Manure Management

- Rope alley scrapers to cross culvert to small collection pit, transfer via Jamesway pump

- Poly lined lagoon, no treatment, field application by custom top dressed Houle tankers

Reproduction Management

- Use the Lely heat time built into T4C and checked twice a day. Cows with no heat are started on ovsync at 70 DIM. Heifers are checked daily for heats and 7 day CIDR sync is used on heifers if not bred by 16 months
- On the Alta Driven program
- Genetic philosophy - 25% Production 35% Health 40% Conformation
- started registering and classifying animals 9 years ago. Goal was to get our whole herd more uniform. I'm now seeing this in our heifers coming in.



Health Management

- Basic vaccination protocol, at 2 and 14 months and 2 months before calving as well as at dry off we use Vision 8 and Triangle 10
- We are very focused on the transition period. We group 2 close up cows together a week prior to calving. Right after calving we bring 40L warm water for the cow, separate and milk within 2 hours if possible. Calf is fed 4L maternal colostrum if tested good with digital refractometer. Fresh cows are watched closely in fresh cow pen as well as we check rumination and milk temperature on T4C twice daily. We aim to catch milk fever early and prefer to use oral calcium or Theracal. We also will start oral glycol early dependent on how well a cow is ruminating.

Replacement Management

- Maternity area has 3 Straw bedded packs routinely cleaned
- Fresh cows are in a separate free stall group for 2 weeks fed the same as the lactating herd
- Dry cows are housed in the same barn in free stalls. A week prior to calving we move into a calving pen but still feed the same ration.
- All heifers after weaning go to the original dairy where we still use our heifer shed, as well as the old dairy barn. We try to keep group sizes small for management as well as to minimize competition.
- Calves are raised outside in hutches year round, fed Milk Replacer and calf starter.

Land Base and Feed Management

- Own 840 acres and rent 175 acres

Crops grown

- Grow 55 acres grass, 90 acres alfalfa, 185 acres canola, 285 acres oats and 400 acres barley

Feed storage

- Hay is 3X4 big square, all silage is bagged



Feed mixing and delivery

- Valmetal AutoRation with stationary vertical mixer and conveyors feed milking and dry cows
- Feeding system
- Load two hoppers outside once per day
- One for alfalfa silage, one for oat silage
- Conveyor up top for 3' x 4' hay bale
- Minerals, protein supplement
- Hammer mill barley grain
- Computer on wall controls all
- Enter ration on per head basis
- Two batches per day
- Eight feed outs per day – 4 per batch by belt feeder
- Push up 3 to 4 times per day
-



Rations

- Until a year of age heifers are kept on hay and grain. After which they start to get some oat silage with hay and grain. We are noticing heifers do much better when kept on non-fermented feed and will aiming this next year to keep heifers off silage longer.



MILK COW RATION

19-06-2015							
DMI Ration	As fed lb/cow	Lbs/DMI	Kg/DMI	As fed kg/cow	DM %	Cost/Ton	Cost/Cow
Vandenburg	4.89	4.35	1.97	2.22	89.00%	\$220.00	\$0.49
Haylage	42.97	13.75	6.24	19.50	32.00%	\$50.00	\$0.97
Young Oat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	32.00%	\$35.00	\$0.00
Oat Silage	34.00	13.60	6.17	15.43	40.00%	\$35.00	\$0.54
Barley Grain	8.89	8.00	3.63	4.03	90.00%	\$160.00	\$0.65
Robot Pellet	11.00	9.90	4.49	4.99	90.00%	\$412.10	\$2.06
Soya	1.50	1.35	0.61	0.68	90.00%	\$660.00	\$0.45
Energizer	0.50	0.50	0.23	0.23	100.00%	\$2,350.00	\$0.53
Wheat DDG	1.20	1.10	0.50	0.54	92.00%	\$310.00	\$0.17
Limestone	0.20	0.20	0.09	0.09	100.00%	\$300.00	\$0.03
Salt	0.17	0.17	0.08	0.08	100.00%	\$312.50	\$0.02
CC mineral	0.50	0.49	0.22	0.23	98.00%	\$2,166.24	\$0.49
	105.81	53.41	24.23	48.01			\$6.40

DRY COW RATION

19-06-2015							
DMI Ration	As fed lb/cow	Lbs/DMI	Kg/DMI	As fed kg/cow	DM %	Cost/Ton	Cost/Cow
Hay	7.00	6.30	2.86	3.18	90.00%	\$220.00	\$0.70
Straw	1.20	1.08	0.49	0.54	90.00%	\$40.00	\$0.02
Young Oat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.00%	\$35.00	\$0.00
Oat Silage	40.00	15.20	6.90	18.15	38.00%	\$35.00	\$0.64
Barley Grain	4.50	4.05	1.84	2.04	90.00%	\$160.00	\$0.33
Robot Pellet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00%	\$412.10	\$0.00
Soya	0.70	0.63	0.29	0.32	90.00%	\$660.00	\$0.21
JEFO BF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00%	\$2,350.00	\$0.00
Wheat DDG	0.60	0.55	0.25	0.27	92.00%	\$310.00	\$0.08
Canola oil	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			\$0.00
Salt	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00%	\$312.50	\$0.00
Dry cow Mine	0.19	0.19	0.08	0.09	98.00%	\$3,576.96	\$0.31
	54.19	28.00	12.70	24.59			\$2.28

Builders



Jesse Hawiuk | Marketing

C. 403.896.4647

P. 403.885.5525 ext 143

Mailing Address: Box 1690 Blackfalds, AB T0M 0J0

Head Office: 27312-44 Twp. Road 394 Aspelund Industrial Park, Blackfalds, AB



About us:

Operating out of our 101,000 sq. ft. shop in Blackfalds, AB, Eagle Builders is your market leader in Western Canada for precast concrete products. We specialize in insulated precast concrete panels and offer structural building shell packages which include all precast and steel components for your building.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to make Eagle Builders the preferred supplier in the precast concrete

market by continuous innovation, growth and exceptional atmosphere by fulfilling all of our customers and employee's needs.

Our Goal:

To create a sustainable, safe, quality product with great customer service that will last for generations.

Our Products are:

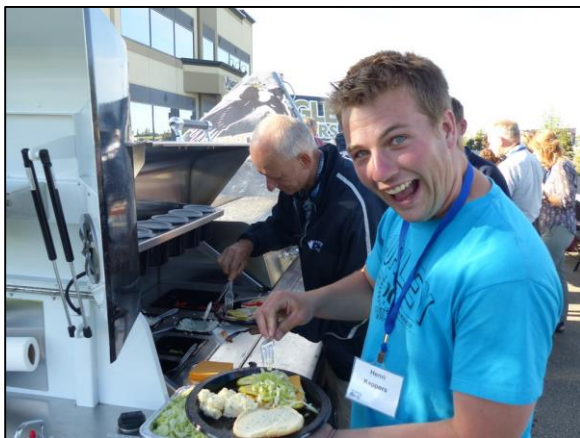
Quality Built:

As a CPCI Certified Manufacturing Plant we are held to the highest standards of production. We adhere to all guidelines and insure our products not only meet, but exceed industry standard. We believe that there is no substitute for quality and take all measures to ensure our customers receive the best product on the market.

Cost effective:

Sustainability is something we take very seriously, with our inconsistent Western





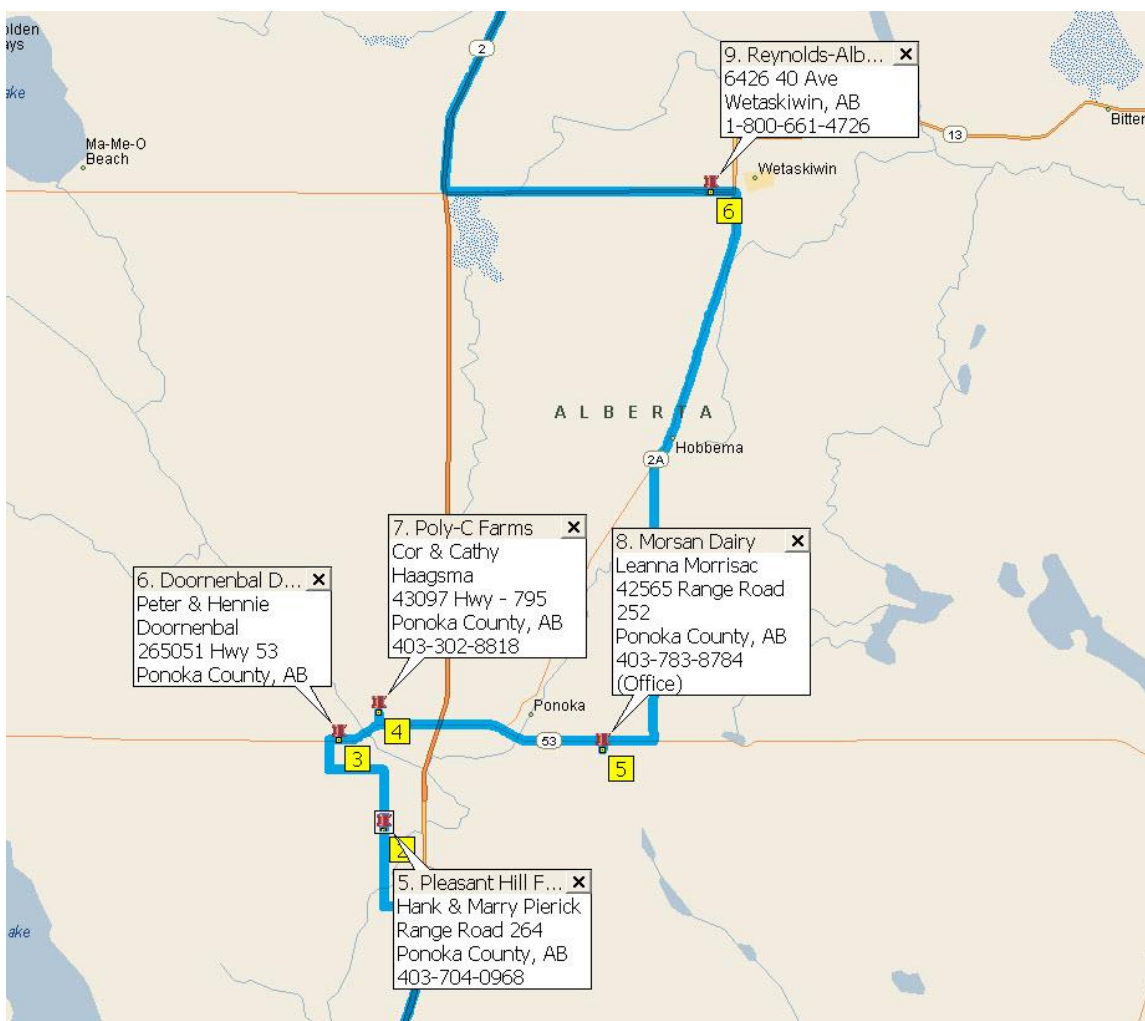
Canada climate, the battle for a thermally efficient building material with a high thermal mass and R-value is slim. Our precast wall panels are designed and manufactured with various thicknesses of insulation, steel and concrete so over the course of generations you save on long term heating and cooling costs.

Aesthetically pleasing:

Precast concrete comes in many shapes and sizes, if you imagine it; we will build

it on time and on budget. Our team has access to thousands of different formliners and custom components so no matter what you envision; we turn your dream into a reality.

Day 2 – Wednesday August 19th



Pleasant Hill Farms Ltd.

Marry and Hank Pierik

Phone: 403-783-0911

Address: 422063 RGRD 264, Ponoka, AB

Email: hemapierik@hotmail.com

Farm History

- Immigrated in Jan 1994 from the Netherlands. Started farming north of Ponoka on a farm with older buildings, 50 cows, and needing lots of repairs. Listed and sold it.
- Looked around Ponoka for a better place while living in a mobile home at a friend's yard. Found two bare quarters (current place) and started building house and 80 cow barn in September of 1996.
- Moved in December '96 and started milking in January '97. Had mostly heifers that were bought from the embryo carrying facility west of Calgary. (Made quite some trips down there as our trailer could hold only 6 at a time).
- As our budget wasn't big, we built without holding pen, without milk meters in the parlour, a used milk bulk tank, no concrete silage pits, a house without a garage, etc).
- Things went well and we added another barn (cold barn, straw pack) in 2000, added milk meters in the parlour, and bought some more cows.
- New bigger bulk tank needed to be bought. Bought more of our own field equipment as we thought custom guys were getting too expensive. Also bought a quarter of land that came up for sale, which was back then way too expensive. Good thing we did, as it is 5 times more now.
- As the boys grew older, they helped out with all the work. And we decided to add another barn behind the first one. This was built in 2009. Also built our own feed mill to keep feed costs down.
- I guess we are fools because now the complaints are coming in that milking takes too long. And with both boys "maybe" interested in dairy farming, took the plunge. Bought some more land, more equipment, and made the decision to invest even more. That's where we are today: new cow barn addition, new holding pen, new parlour, bigger lagoon etc. (started on the NRCB permits in March 2014, started to build the end of August, and started to milk in the new parlour in March of 2015).



Employee Information

- 1 fulltime, the rest is family

Present Herd:

- 300 milking cows and 40 dry cows
- Raise our own young stock (have automatic calf feeders)

Milking Barn

- Milked 3X in the old parlour and now have a new rotary DeLaval PR2100. (44 bails)
- Had issues getting milking IDs working in the transition so haven't had a DHI test in 6 months.
- 1 person can do the milking: retention bars come down when cows give too less, kick off, blood in milk etc., which makes the cows go around for second time.
- Feeding in parlour
- Spray box (iodine, foot spray, back spay)
- Able to milk 200 cows an hour, 1 person.
- Moss screen located by milker for info on each cow: alerts, milk flow, litres, etc.
- Sorting gate that works up to snitch.

Manure Management

- Boreco stall cleaner that they really enjoy having

Reproduction Management

- Breeding is custom done by Genetic Ventures

Land Base and Feed Management

- 6 quarters of land owned and 2.5 rented
- Do their own field work, except for corn silage

Crops grown

- Alfalfa, barley, corn and some canola for rotation



Doornenbal Dairy Ltd.

Peter & Hennie Doornenbal

Phone: 403-783-2947

Address: RR4, Site 3, Box 11, Ponoka, AB

Email: doorndairy@hotmail.com

Farm History

- Moved to current location in 1984.
- Farm burned down on June 2, 2014
- There was nothing left of the barn, but 12 cows and 20 young stock survived.
- We started rebuilding after the August long weekend.
- We bought a herd from a farmer who was quitting, and we were able to rent his facilities as of Nov.1/14
- In Dec. the south part of the barn was almost finished, and we moved the heifers home.
- In January we started feeding the heifers with the Vector.
- April 30th we moved the cows to the not fully completed barn. It was quite a challenge in the beginning as the cows came from a loose housing barn.



Employee Information

- 1 part-time for maintenance and relief

Present Herd:

- 200 cows, 110 milking

Milking Barn

- Built in 2015, 114 stalls and straw pack
- 2 feet alleys with 4 rows of stalls and a straw pack. Separate young stock area in the barn and separate calf barn.
- waterbeds + canola straw
- 3 Lely robots



Manure Management

- Pits, scrapers to slurry storage, no treatment
- Field application by tanks or drag-hose

Reproduction Management

- Heat Time

Health Management

- IBR and Eight-way vaccinations
- Herd health every 3 weeks

Land Base and Feed Management

- Own 500 acres and rent 50 acres



Crops grown

- Grow corn, oats & peas, alfalfa, grass and canola

Feed storage

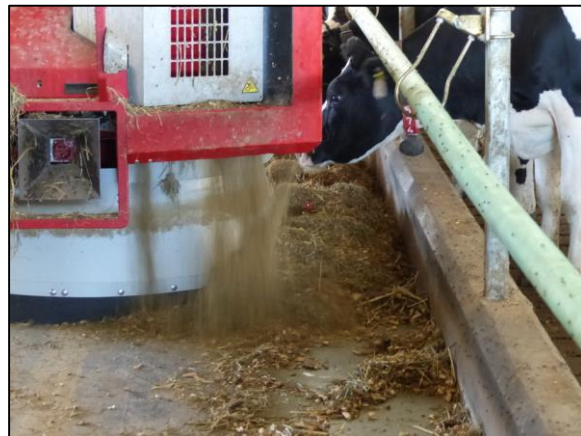
- Pits and bales

Feed mixing and delivery

- Vector

Rations

- Milking cow, dry cows and fresh cow ration: 12 kg corn; 12 kg oats and peas; 4 kg barley grain; 4 kg concentrates; 2 kg hay, and an average of 4 kg robot ration.



Poly-C Farms Ltd

Cor and Cathy Haagsma

Phone: (403) 302 8862

Address: 430081, Highway 795, Box1 Site3 RR4, Ponoka, Alberta, T4J 1R4

Email: poly-cfarmsltd@live.ca

Farm History

- Cathy's parents purchased the farm in February 1997 and since that time Cor and Cathy have managed the farm for them.
- At the time of purchase they were milking 60 cows. Cor and Cathy took over the farm in 2004 with about 125 milking. Currently milking 300.
- Cor manages the crops, feed, custom corn planting, maintenance and building project.
- Since 2010 he has been the contractor for all the buildings built.
- Cathy manages the dairy.



Employee Information

- 5 full-time and 5 part-time

Present Herd:

- 350 cows, and 280 young stock
- 300 milking 3x, 100,000 SCC

Milking Barn

- Milking barn built in: 1996 ¼, 2001 ¼, 2010 ½ of main barn, Heifer facility 2004, concrete silage pits started 2005, shop 2011, new parlor May 2015
- 300 stalls in milking barn plus loose housing for 70
- Loose housing: 30 close up and 40 milking
- Another loose housing area for older dry cows will be converted to add 20 stalls
- Barn layout is a T format
- Waterbeds with sawdust and loose housing is straw



- 2x20 Boumatic, Excalibur LX parallel parlour, 3-4 hrs for milking
- Heat seeker tags with built in ID tag and activity

Manure Management

- Solid floor with automated scrapers, manure gets pushed into manure pit
- Manure pit is opened once a day, gravity flow
- Lagoon storage and application by drag hose, they have our own drag hose system

Reproduction Management

- Visual heat detection and breeding program, started using activity June 2015, so have no accurate information on that yet.
- Breed cows in heat that are 60 DIM in milk or more, start program at about 50 DIM.
- Breed for feet and legs and udder, milk will follow

Health Management

- Scour bos 9, Endovac, Express 5 and Covexin plus are being used
- Use preventative management

Replacement Management

- Cows are moved from stalls to straw pack 3 weeks before calving and are given a close up ration
- Once fresh, 7 days daily temperature monitoring. Cows that recently calved stay in straw pack a minimum of 7 days
- Dry cows are in stalls but older dry cows are on loose pack
- Heifers spend 4-6 months on straw pack with small pasture, 6- 20 months on straw pack with concrete walk out. After that moved into barn with the dry cows
- In the process of finishing new calf barn, they will stop using hutches and keeps calves in the new calf barn till no more than 4 months. Currently there are calves in the main barn, these pens will be converted to maternity pens.



Land Base and Feed Management

- Own 510 acres and rent 390 acres, 900 in total

Crops grown

- 280 acres Corn, 120 acres barley, 190 acres fava beans, 120 acres new seeding with barley, 190 acres grass alfalfa mix and 50 acres of native pasture.
- All crops close to the farm were destroyed by hail on July 21, 2015. 250 acres further away did not get any hail.

Feed storage

- Concrete silage pits, grain bins, storage shed for hay

Feed mixing and delivery

- Storti self propelled, self loading feedwagon

**Rations**

- Milk cow supplement: mash 8.5 kg, wheat ddg .9 kg, barley mash 3.8 kg, fava bean mash 1kg, hay 1 kg, haylage 6 kg, corn silage 24.4 kg, water 5 kg. Total dm per cow 24 kg
- All fresh cows are fed a high density ration based on fresh cow requirements
- Dry cows get straw, wheat ddg, corn silage, minerals
- Heifers get straw, wheat ddg, corn silage, haylage



Westcoast Holsteins

Leanne Dillion

Phone: 403-588-1428

Address: Box 5 Site 15, RR#1, Ponoka, AB, T4J 1R1

Email: Leanne.westcoast@kooymangroup.ca

Farm History

- Recently purchased by the Kooymans from Thalon family to raise their replacements and to use as a calving facility

Employee Information

- 18 fulltime (calving, milking feeding and general farm staff)

Present Herd:

- 700-1000 cows
- 300-500 milking 3x



Milking Barn

- Milking barn built in 1996-2004
- 900 stalls in a 6 row barn
- Concrete base with mats and sawdust bedding
- 32 stall herringbone Boumatic parlour with cow ID and automation
- Milk 120 cows per hour



Manure Management

- Gravity flow pit storage for 9 months to a year and then tank spread

Reproduction Management

- NA for cows
- Heifers all receive 1 embryo transfer then go to clean-up bull

Health Management

- Heavily vaccinated as calves from 4-12 months
- Boosted every year

Replacement Management

- Cows to close up 4 weeks before calving, then moved to box stall once in labour
- Cows are kept separate until cow has cleaned or need the pen for another birth
- Fresh cows are monitored in hospital pen until deemed healthy by sick barn manager
- Dry cows are not over-crowded, foot-trimmed before close-up and footbath 2x per week
- Heifers are fed to be bred at 840lbs and 52", fed to grow but not over-conditioned
- Calves get milk for 8 weeks, weaned for 4 weeks then moved to feedlot



Land Base and Feed Management

- Own 1200 acres and rent 1400 acres

Crops grown

- Grow corn, oats and some grass

Feed storage

- Concrete pits

Feed mixing and delivery

- Supreme box mounted on truck

Rations

- Milking cow and fresh cow ration
 - Forage – corn, grass and hay
 - Grain – corn, barley, wheat, canola meal, soy meal, beet pulp
- Dry cows get corn and straw
- Heifers get oat, hay and straw





Reynold-Alberta Museum
and Home of
Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame

6426 40 Avenue
Wetaskiwin, AB
www.reynoldsalberta museum.com



The Reynolds-Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, interprets the impact of technological change in transportation, aviation, agriculture and industry from the 1890s to the present. Visitors will see a wide variety of vintage automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, trucks, stationary engines, tractors, agricultural implements, aircraft and industrial equipment.

The Reynolds-Alberta Museum opened in 1992 and is a project of Alberta Culture

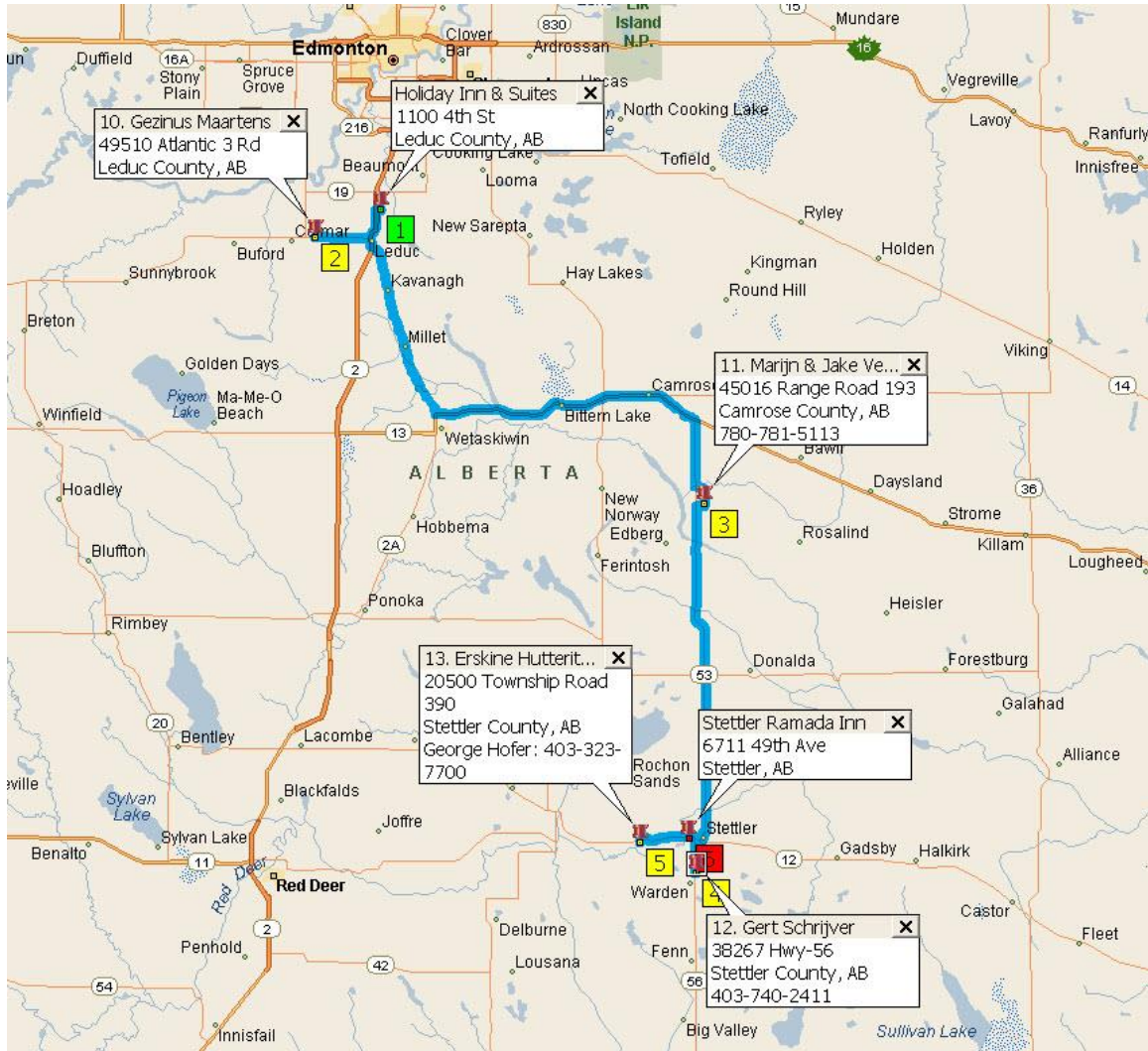
and Tourism and Alberta Infrastructure.

The museum is named after Mr. Stan Reynolds, a Wetaskiwin businessman and world-renowned collector who donated a core collection of 1500 artifacts to the Province of Alberta. Mr. Reynolds donated this core collection between 1982 and 1986, but also continued to donate artifacts regularly from his collections until his death in February of 2012.



The Reynolds-Alberta Museum is part of a network of provincially owned and operated historic sites, interpretive centres and museums and is supported by the Friends of the Reynolds-Alberta Museum Society.

Day 3 – Thursday August 20th



Triple M Dairies Inc.

Gezinus Martens

Phone: 780-985-2147

Address: RR4 Site 1 Box 2 Calmar, AB T0C 0V0

Email: gbmartensdairy@hotmail.com

Business Management

- Incorporate structure umbrella of 3 different divisions:
 - Dairy operation Calmar 2 Delaval robots milking 120 cows
 - Dairy operation Ponoka 3 Delaval robots milking 130 cows
 - Custom silage operation 8000 acres

Farm History

- Married 1982 start farming in Holland for 17 years
- Came to AB in 1998, built barn and started milking 80 cows, expanded over the years
- 2005 doubled the barn for 180 cows double 8 parlor
- Feb 2012 bought 2nd dairy in Ponoka with robots
- Oct 2014 installed 2 robots at Calmar farm
- Future split farms in 2 corporations with sons taking over each farm
- Farm goal is to create opportunity for all family members to farm
- Farming is a privilege not a must.



Employee Information

- 3 fulltime
 - Ronny – manages Ponoka farm
 - Johan – field work, custom work & manages Calmar dairy with Dad
 - Gezinus – overall management, responsible for repro, hoof health and quota management
- 2 Part-time during silage (3 months)

Present Herd:

- Calmar – 260 cows, 120 milking by robot with 150,000 SCC
- 11.349 kg 305 days

Milking Barn

- 160 stalls in 3 row freestall with pasture mats and sawdust
- 2 robots

Manure Management

- Alley scrapers with gravity flow to lagoon
- Own tankers, full field incorporated within 48hr



Reproduction Management

- Activity through DeLaval and visual inspection
- Calmar mating Westgen cows, if not bred by 60 days then ovsync 48
- Ponoka mating Alta cows, if not bred by 60 days then ovsync 48
- Breed for: teat placement is crucial for robot farms, too close rear teats have trouble milking, reversed or tilt have trouble milking. Cows should not get bigger but more efficient so they look at jersey's
- Locomotion is also important

Health Management

- Calves get Enforce 3 nasal at winter time weaning, Covecin 8 and Pyramid
- Every 3 weeks they have herd health,
- Both farms trim hooves every 8 months and in between they do their own dry cows
- Feed low potassium ration, no milk fevers, use dry off treatment, no group change for dry cows before calving, cleaning stalls 4 times a day, maintain a low SCC, DHI ketosis test on all fresh cows

Replacement Management

- Breeding heifers from both farms at Calmar for labor efficiency
- Weaned calves go to Ponoka farm because it is a good young stock facility and easy to manage

Land Base and Feed Management

- Calmar has 380 acres and Ponoka has 300 acres

Crops grown

- Corn for silage and wheat for cash crop and straw and canola for cash crop

Feed storage

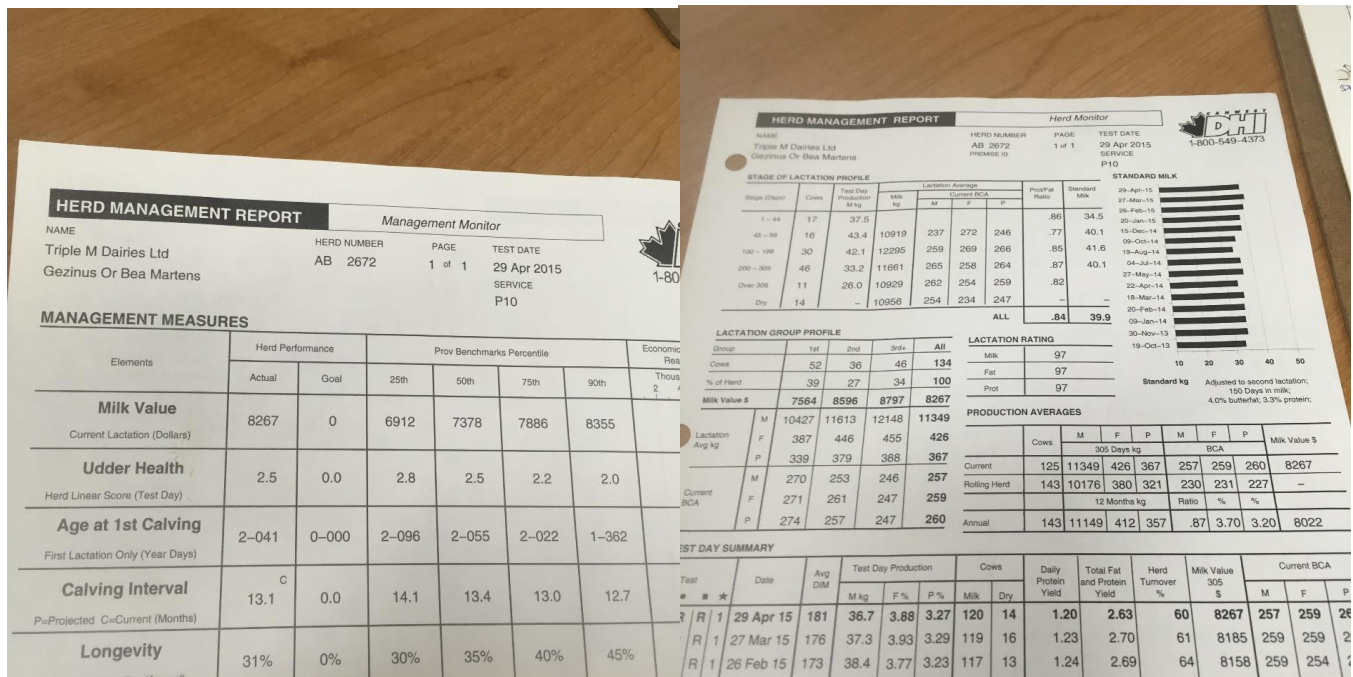
- Feed storage in bunkers

Feed mixing and delivery

- Supreme 900 on both farms, JCB telehandlers for loading
- Total pellet is in bins with augers

Rations

- Milking and Fresh cow: 3kg hay and corn silage 0.2 kg fat 5 kg complete pellet (48-50% DM add water) robot pellet according to production in robot
- Dry cows: Corn silage with straw (every 1000kg corn 100 kg straw) mineral protein blend
- Heifers: corn silage and straw



Vermeers Dairy

Jake or Maryn Vermeer

Phone: 780-781-5113, 780-717-0007

Address: RR1 Ohaton T0B 3P0

Email: Vermeer@syban.net

Farm History

- Immigrated in 1993 to Canada and bought a 50 cow dairy farm with 1 quarter near Redwater Alberta (North of Edmonton).
- That farm was expanded every single year and eventually came to be 220 cows and 4.5 quarters in 2007 and was then bought out by Canadian Pacific Railway. We bought 14 quarters in 2007 near Camrose Alberta and began the construction of the current dairy farm on the existing grain farm. Currently milking 420 Holsteins with 350 replacements and farming 3000 acres.



Employee Information

- 4+1 fulltime (2 herdsman/feeder, 1 milker, 1 mechanic)
- 2 (milkers)

Present Herd:

- 460 cows, 410 milking, 32 Kg, 2X, ~200,000 SCC

Milking Barn

- Milking barn built in 2009, 550 stalls in 4 row barn
- External 40 rotary (Westfalia) and single 6 herringbone, with cow ID
- Milking time is 3hrs.
- Sand bedding



Manure Management

- Alley scrapers to gutter scraper to lagoon
- Use sandlane to remove sand, and building longer sandlane and adding solid separator

Reproduction Management

- Use pedometers and ov sync program
- Have begun implanting embryos to take bigger steps in genetic advancement.
- Breed well balanced cows with the focus on udders and milk production with health and fertility components.



Replacement Management

- Cows enter the close up straw pack at 3 weeks and then calve there. They then move into the next straw pack where they remain for 4 days and are milked in the sick cow parlor.
- Move out of the sick cow parlor when milk is suitable for consumption. They then remain in the limping group until they are BHBA blood tested and then enter the main cow herd.
- Dry cows are currently in sand bedded stalls and fed a separate ration
- Have begun construction on a new 250 head heifer barn.
- Calves are held in separate calf rooms (18 calves) and are on calf feeders. We feed at the peak of diet plan 9 L of milk per day. The sick cow milk is pasteurized and used in the calf feeders.



Land Base and Feed Management

- Own 2200 acres and rent 1000 acres

Crops grown

- Alfalfa, barley, fall rye, canola and wheat

Feed storage

- Silage bunkers

Feed mixing and delivery

- TMR

Rations

- Milking cow ration: Alfalfa 2kg, brewers grain 9kg, rolled barley 4kg, rolled heated canola 0.25kg, dairy pellet 5kg, corn silage 13kg, barley silage 15kg



Mars Dairy

Gert Schrijver

Phone: 403-740-2411

Address: Box 1837, Hwy 56, Stettler, AB, T0C 2I0

Email: gert.schrijver@xplornet.ca

Farm History

- Started in 1996 with 50 cows

Employee Information

- 3 fulltime (herdsman, milking and feeding)
- 1 part-time (feeding)

Present Herd:

- 260 cows (370 kg of quota)
- Milking 230 3X
- Goal is to produce 60kg in 4 lactation with 3.8 fat with 14 month calving interval



Milking Barn

- 240 stalls in 3 row barn with feed alley on side
- 2x12 parallel parlour with AFI
- 3hrs. per milking
- Latex mats with shavings right now
- Switching over to sand for cow comfort



Manure Management

- Clay based lagoon
- Drag hose for field application

Reproduction Management

- Heat detection with AFI (90% activity and 10% PG)
- Start breeding around 80-100 days after calving
- Preg check with blood test

Health Management

- Vaccinate pregnant heifers before calving, cows at dry-off with cattlemaster

Replacement Management

- Cows to close up 3 weeks before calving
- Cows calve in maternity area
- Fresh cows move to bedding pack
- Built transition barn in 2009
- Sell the bottom 50% of fresh heifers for dairy
- Calves get milk for 2 months, 4 litres per day, fresh water daily and calf starter
- Calves/Heifers are raised on hay until 4 months before calving, then add barley silage



Land Base and Feed Management

- 850 acres and 150 pasture

Crops grown

- Barley and alfalfa

Feed storage

- Silage pits



Feed mixing and delivery

- Mixer wagon supreme once a day

Rations

- 1 ration for milking and fresh cows
- 1 ration for close up and far off dry cows (50 hay/50 barley silage and minerals)



Erskine Farming

Jake Hofer

Phone: 403-323-7707

Address: Erskine Colony Box 46, Erskine AB, T0C 1G0

Email: NA

Employee Information

- 2 fulltime (dairying)
- 1 part-time (milking,feeding)

Present Herd:

- 160 cows
- Milking 135 (36kg, 4.1 fat)
- 130,000 SCC

Milking Barn

- 160 stalls and bedding with cross over, built in 2009
- Parlour is double 16 parallel Boumatic
- Milk 2X in 1.5 hours and us Cow Trakker for ID
- Bedding is memory foam with rubber covering and saw dust on top
- Change saw dust once a week

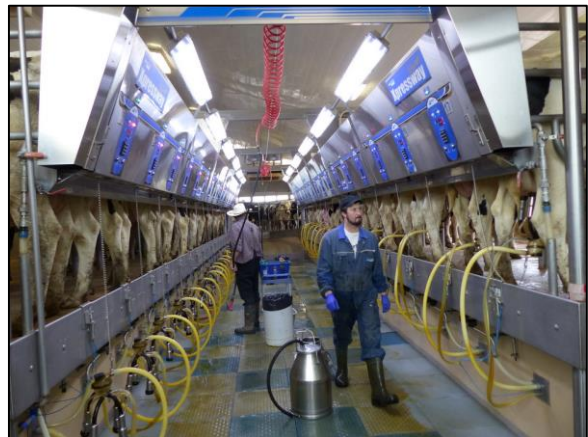


Manure Management

- Alley scrapers, pump to slurry tank
- only agitate tank and then field application by injection

Reproduction Management

- visual heat detection 3+ times per day, also use activity monitors
- natural breeding with bulls
- breed for feet, legs and sound udders



Health Management

- Vaccination program in consultation with Stettler vets
- Monthly herd health visits, health events on Dairy COMP

Replacement Management

- New calf barn built in 2011, calves in individual stalls with visual contact to other calves
- Good ventilation in new barn

Crops grown

- Grow canola, barley wheat, peas, febia beans

Feed storage

- Have silage pit and hay shed

Feed mixing and delivery

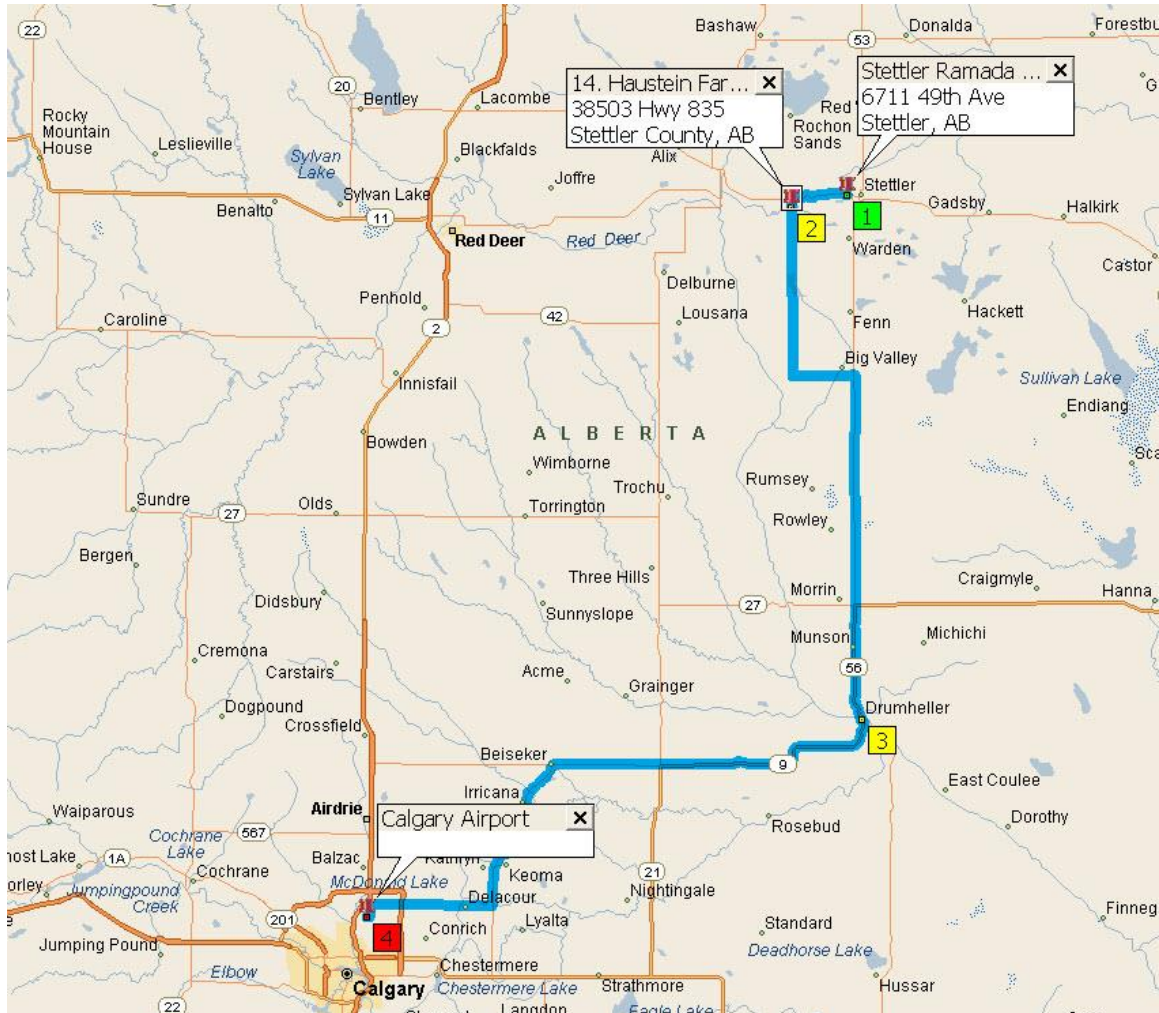
- Truck mounted Jaylor mixer

Rations

- Milking and fresh cows – TMR, silage, dry hay, barley and supplement



Day 4 - Friday August 21st



Haustein Farms	
Address 38503 Hwy 835 Stettler County PO Box 480 Erskine AB T0C 1G0	
Contact Conlee Haustein	Phone number
Cell number 403 741 6861	Fax number 403 742 1115
Email address conleehaustein@yahoo.ca	
Business arrangement The Farm is under a partnership between Doug Haustein (father) Calvert Haustein (Brother) and Conlee Haustein (brother)	
Farm History (Past, Present, Future) <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>The farm was established in 1905 by Paul Gabriel and has been in the family the entire time till now. Doug and Bernardette started farming here in 1971 and started milking cows in 1973 in a retrofitted box stall horse barn. A mixed farm with grain, beef cows and dairy the farm prospered and grew to the size it is today. For 42 years we milked cows in a 30 stall stanchion barn with 5 milking units. Cows needed to live outside as the dairy grew with the lack of space in the barn. The farm currently is operated under a partnership between Doug and two of his sons, Calvert and Conlee. With the help of their spouses the farm requires little outside help to complete the day to day chores. With addition of the new robotic flush barn the dairy is able to grow to a capacity of 120 milking cows with dry cows under the same roof. The barn was designed to make future expansion easier should there be a need or desire to add on to the building. Hopefully, the children of will choose to continue the success of the farm and follow their ancestors footsteps. The children of Calvert and Conlee would be 6th generation farmers here in our beautiful corner of the world.</p> </div> </div>	

Employee Information

# of Full time 0	Functions
# of Part time 1	Functions Seasonal combine driver

Cow Information

Total herd size 125	Number milking 95	Production 33kgs/cow/day @ 4.1% BF
2x or 3x or robot Robot	SCC 150 000	PLC 16 000



Milking Barn

Number of stalls 144	When was it built Started Aug 2013- Finished March 2015
Layout 4 row Tail to tail. Center drive through feed alley	
Stall Base and Bedding Gel Mats with chopped canola straw delivered to the stall twice daily.	
Other LED strip lighting. Maternity penning w/ kraiburg siesta mats and close up straw bed pack Numerous flush ports strategically placed to clean the barn floors. Vacuum line plumbed to maternity pens to be able to milk colostrum and heifers for the first time outside of the robot. Flush Alleys were finished with a light broom finish and are not slippery thanks to the aerobic bacteria eating the “slime” or “grease” that cause most floors to become slippery.	

Manure Management

Collection N/A	Transfer Gravity from the barn to the lagoon
Storage 2.73 million gallon synthetically lined earthen lagoon (Enviroliner 6040hd)	Treatment Aerobic agitation within the lagoon
Field application Irrigation via hose reel on to hay or cereal crops.	



Reproduction Management

Heat detection Visual and via Lely T4C program
Breeding program Natural ovulation. If on the rare occasion a cow does not cycle or will not conceive she is culled from the herd. Fleckvieh animals are have a very short negative energy balance window therefore they are able to ovulate and conceive sooner. First insemination no earlier than 40 to 45 DIMS Calving interval of 12.5 to 13 months.
Genetic philosophy We are cross immersing our herd over to the Bavarian Fleckvieh breed. A dual purpose animal with strong genetics and overall longevity. We run a closed herd and never purchased any animals to move into the new barn. Currently 40% of the herd is F1 (50/50), 40% F2 (75/25), 17% F3 (87.5/12.5) and 3% are F4 or higher. In general a Fleckvieh cow will produce 95% of a Holstein would per day. The difference is the Fleckvieh will have a shorter calving interval which means more calves and more milk in her lifetime. In addition a Fleckvieh will last longer than a Holstein in the herd with less feet and leg problems and better mastitis resistance.

Health Management

Vaccination program

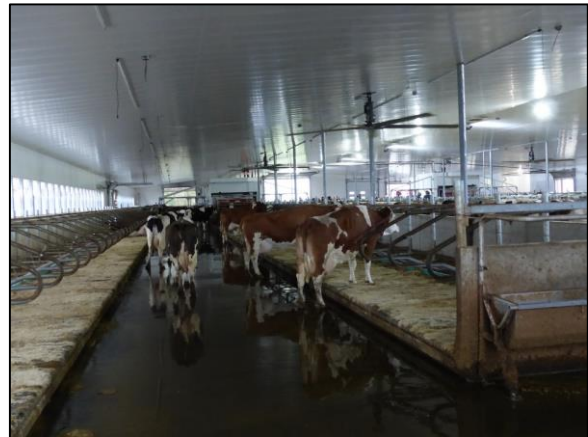
Bovashield Gold, 7 way, and presponse @4 months and again @ 14months of age.

Dystosel (Selenium) @ dry off

Scour guard @ 3 weeks prior to calving.

Health management

With the help of lely's T4C computer program identifying and diagnosing sick cows is very easy. It allows for a better use of medications and quicker recovery. For example, cows with mastitis are detected before visual symptoms are realized we can decide whether or not to treat and if we do recovery is shorter. No footbath is needed since the cows feet are washed by the flush water up to 24 times per day. Hoof trimming is done by us only to problem cows. Since the cow's feet are in the water so much the hoof become softer and wears more evenly. Effectively, the cows trim their own feet by walking around the barn.



Replacement Management

Maternity and treatment

All close up cows and heifers are housed in a group on a straw pack. (14 days before due date) Animals are preconditioned with a low potassium pellet fed daily on an individual basis. When signs of labor present themselves the animal is separated in a clean maternity pen. Calf is left with cow for a maximum 12 hours. Once cow is fit to be milked she is moved and the pen is cleaned again ready for another calving.

Fresh cows

Fresh cows are treated with Naquasone to help reduce any edema within their udder. They are kept in a separation pen for 2 or 3 days to monitor feed intakes and any health concerns before they are reintroduced with the milking herd.

<p>Dry cows Cows are given a dose of Selenium injectable at the time of dry off (50 days before calving) and housed in group with freestall beds.</p>
<p>Heifers Housed outside in open faced sheds with straw bed packs or on pasture. AI with unsexed Fleckvieh semen between 16 and 18 months of age. Sires are chosen according to bloodline and calving ease characteristics to further reduce the chances of inbreeding and calving problems.</p>
<p>Calves Fed milk replacer until 12 weeks of age. Housed inside in small group pens. Moved outside in large group pens at 4 months. Vaccinated and dehorned at 5 to 6 months of age.</p>

Land Base and Feed Management

Acres farmed 3000	Owned 2200	Rented 800
<p>Crops grown Hard red spring Wheat, Canola, Barley, Oats, and Alfalfa/grass hay</p>		
<p>Feed storage Concrete Bunker and tube line baled haylage</p>		
<p>Feed mixing and delivery Triolet Vertical feed mixer and tractor</p>		
<p>Milking cow ration Barley silage, Alfalfa haylage, Rolled barley, soya meal, and minerals</p>		
<p>Fresh cow ration Same as milk cow ration</p>		
<p>Dry cow ration Dry grass hay, barley silage, and minerals</p>		
<p>Heifer ration Dry hay, pail fed rolled barley/oat mix w/minerals</p>		

Drumheller



Banff



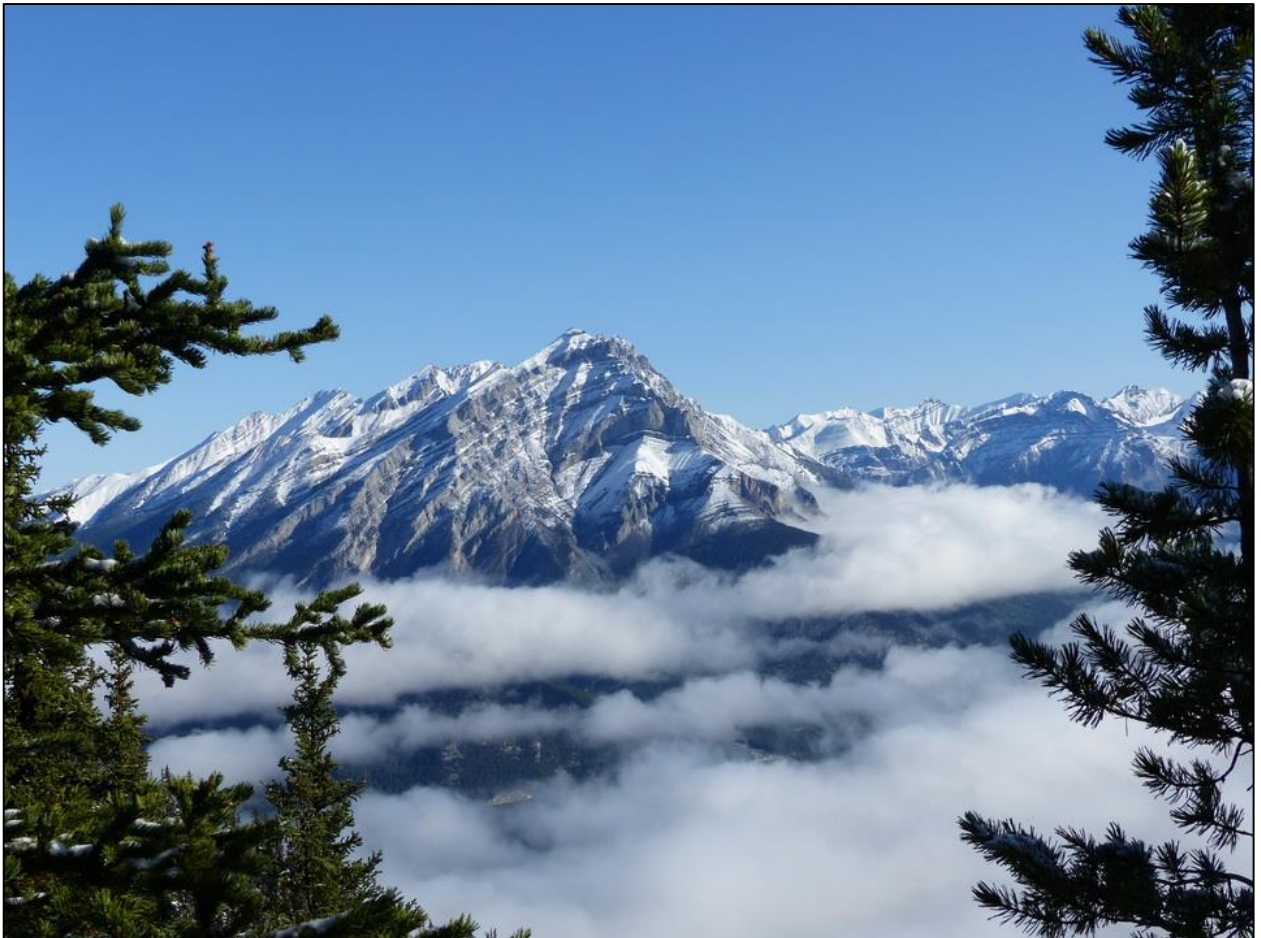
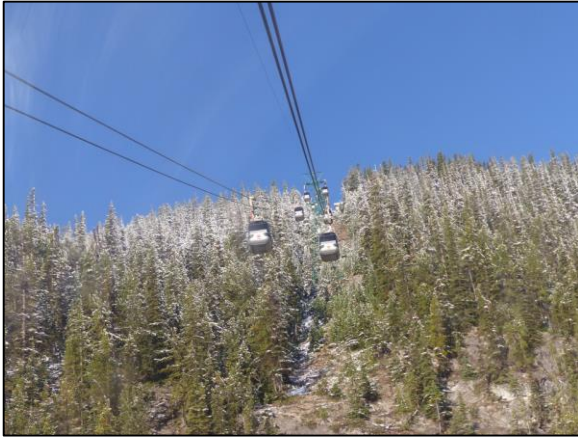
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