



# WESTERN CANADIAN DAIRY NEWS

Connecting Generations of Dairy Farming  
Families Across Western Canada  
[www.wcdairynews.com](http://www.wcdairynews.com)

## Christmas 2025 Special Features

BC Dairy  
Conference  
Page 6

Scotiabank's  
Women in  
Dairy  
Pages 8-9

Serene Lea  
Farm  
Pages 24-25



Vol. 47,  
No. 4  
72 pages

Publications  
Mail  
AGREEMENT  
NO. 43558520

RETURN UNDELIVERABLES TO:  
31439 Townshipline Road, Abbotsford, BC V4X 1W4

PLACE MAILING LABEL HERE.  
Contact [chris@holsteinnews.com](mailto:chris@holsteinnews.com)  
if you would like to be added  
to our mailing list.

## COMING UP

Proudly Sponsored by



BC DAIRY

### DECEMBER

**9** MYMP Winter Gala Tuesday, Clarion Hotel, Abbotsford, BC.  
Doors open at 6pm, dinner 7:30. Purchase tickets from any board member.  
Contact Amy Balaban at [mainlandmilk@gmail.com](mailto:mainlandmilk@gmail.com) for more info.

**22** 2025 All-Canadian Contest Nominations announced on Holstein Canada's social media.

### JANUARY

**9** Mainland Milk Producers' AGM Friday 9:30am, Clarion Hotel, Abbotsford, BC.  
Contact Amy at [mainlandmilk@gmail.com](mailto:mainlandmilk@gmail.com) for more info.

**17** Master Breeder Reveal by Holstein Canada on their social media.

**22-24** Pacific Ag Show Thursday-Saturday, Tradex, Abbotsford, BC.  
See ad on page 35 for more details.

**\*22** BC Dairy Lunch & Learn Thursday, Tradex, Abbotsford, BC.

**30-31** Islands Ag Show Friday-Saturday, Cowichan Exhibition Park, Duncan, BC.

**31** Holstein Canada All-Canadian Live Reveal Saturday.

### FEBRUARY

**6** Alberta Holstein Branch AGM Friday. See more info on page 30.

### MARCH

**10-13** Western Canadian Dairy Seminar Tuesday-Friday, Red Deer Resort & Casino, AB. For more info, see <https://wcds.ualberta.ca/>

**17** WestGen Antares Alliance AGM Tuesday, WestGen, Abbotsford, BC.

**TBA** Make a Difference Sale Stay tuned for more details.

### Coming Up ONLINE – [www.wcdairynews.com](http://www.wcdairynews.com)

While the event dates were confirmed and current as of date printed, changes do happen!  
Please confirm event listings on the website and check for changes or updates.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

*May this Christmas  
fill your Hearts and Homes with  
Faith, Joy and Hope*

### MORE INSIDE:

- ✿ The Royal
- ✿ WDE Show
- ✿ Branch Reports
- ✿ Milk Quality Winners
- ✿ Breeders Cup Results
- ✿ Celebrating Longevity
- ✿ Westerner Dairy Showcase
- ✿ Appreciating our Holstein Past



Rosalie Brandsma photo - Brantanna Dairy  
Hudson Bay Mountain, Smithers, BC



Be sure to  
check out our  
Facebook page  
Western Canadian  
Dairy News.  
[wcdairynews.com](http://wcdairynews.com)



*May the Peace and Joy of Christmas  
Be with you today and throughout the New Year.*

We look forward to working with you in the new year.



WWW.STARGRO.CA 1.800.798.9204 | INFO@STARGRO.CA



- Dairy herd production medicine
- Leadership in animal health and welfare
- Embryo collection, freezing and sexing technologies
- IVF - advanced reproductive technologies
- Milking parlour performance consultation
- Poultry health and performance medicine
- Quality service teamed with technical excellence



**TOGETHER WE ARE ANIMAL CARE**

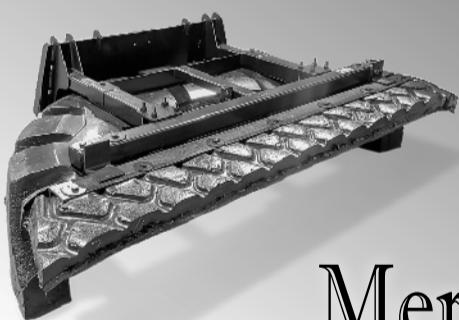
t: 604-850-7577

e: general@abbvet.ca

w: www.abbvet.ca

## MENSCH MANUFACTURING

QUALITY EQUIPMENT FOR THE DAIRY FARMER



Merry  
Christmas!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW OUR  
FULL LINE OF PRODUCTS ONLINE



Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden →, ↓, and ↘.

BARN  
BEDDING  
CHEESE  
CHRISTMAS  
DAIRY  
MANURE

MENSCH  
MILK  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER  
SCRAPER  
SIDE SHOOTER

SNOWMAN  
STALLS  
TIRE  
TRAILER  
VACUUM  
WREATH

### FACTORY

Mensch Manufacturing, LLC  
800.945.6678 Tel  
Info@MenschMFG.com  
www.MenschMFG.com



Hornby Equipment  
hornbynewholland.com



Pacific Dairy Centre  
pacificdairycentre.com



# Thank You!

to the businesses listed below whose support makes this publication possible for our dairy community.

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 22 Mile Cattle Co.            | 39             |
| 4 C Financial Inc.            | 33             |
| 4-H BC                        | 68             |
| A&T Minerals                  | 4              |
| Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic  | 2              |
| ABS Global                    | 39             |
| Ag Solutions                  | 68             |
| AgSafe                        | 44             |
| Agwest Veterinary Group       | 21             |
| Alray Shavings                | 49             |
| BC Dairy Industry Conference  | 7              |
| BC Dairy                      | 15, 36, 37     |
| BC Holstein Branch            | 14             |
| BC Milk Marketing Board       | 48             |
| Beekman Auctions              | 39             |
| Billboard Ads                 | 66, 67         |
| Blackstock Hay                | 52             |
| Britespan Building Systems    | 64             |
| Canadian Dairy Xpo            | 29             |
| Chinook Farm Innovations      | 49             |
| Chris Kloot PREC              | 5              |
| CowManager                    | 31             |
| DariTech                      | 59             |
| Delta Water Products          | 52             |
| Diamond City Farm Supply      | 50             |
| DLE/Avenue Machinery          | 5              |
| Farmstead Travel              | 59             |
| Fooks Pumping                 | 33             |
| Funks Construction            | 44             |
| Grand Valley Fortifiers       | 48             |
| Greenbelt Veterinary Services | 32             |
| Grober Nutrition              | 53             |
| Groothof Custom               | 65             |
| Groovin' Gord                 | 71             |
| Hank's Welding & Repairs      | 59             |
| HigherBridge IT Services      | 66             |
| HLA/Horst Welding             | 55             |
| Holstein Canada               | 13             |
| Island Dairy Services         | 55             |
| Islands Ag Show               | 47             |
| J&D Farmers Dairy Service     | 28             |
| J. Wolzen Trucking            | 58             |
| Jefo Nutrition                | 23             |
| Kubota                        | 25             |
| Lactanet Canada               | 27             |
| Little Qualicum Cheeseworks   | 18             |
| Matsqui Ag Repair             | 57             |
| Mensch Manufacturing          | 2              |
| Mid Valley Manufacturing      | 47             |
| Mainland Milk Producers AGM   | 5              |
| Mountain View Electric        | 69             |
| National Bank                 | 41             |
| National Holstein Convention  | 12             |
| Otter Co-op                   | 19             |
| Pacific Ag Show               | 35             |
| Pacific Dairy Centre          | 3, 17          |
| RBC Royal Bank                | 51, 60, 61, 62 |
| Ritchie-Smith Feeds           | 56             |
| Royal LePage Farm Division    | 43             |
| Saanichton Farm Haylage       | 38             |
| Scotiabank                    | 9              |
| Select Sires Canada           | 45             |
| Sila Grow                     | 51             |
| Southern Irrigation           | 40             |
| Stanton Genetics              | 65             |
| StarGro Products              | 2              |
| Terralink Horticulture        | 30             |
| The Admin Barn                | 18             |
| Top Shelf Feeds               | 39             |
| Trioliet Feeding Technology   | 63             |
| Trouw Nutrition               | 34             |
| Tsolum Veterinary             | 47             |
| Tubeline Mfg.                 | 38             |
| Validity Genetic Testing      | 33             |
| Vanderveen Hay Sales          | 55             |
| VanDerWal Equipment           | 51             |
| WeCover Structures            | 57             |
| West Coast Robotics           | 45             |
| Westerner Dairy Showcase      | 11             |
| WestGen                       | 72             |
| Westwold View Custom Feeding  | 49             |

Follow us on Facebook to stay in touch with the latest events!

## Western Canadian Dairy News

Published bi-monthly by  
Tars Cheema  
31439 Townshipline Road,  
Abbotsford, BC V4X 1W4  
Phone: 604-855-1240  
E-mail: [tars@holsteinnews.com](mailto:tars@holsteinnews.com)  
[www.wcdairynews.com](http://www.wcdairynews.com)

**EDITOR** – Tars Cheema  
**ADVERTISING SALES** – Tars Cheema  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** – Amanda Poelman  
[amanda@holsteinnews.com](mailto:amanda@holsteinnews.com)  
**EDITORIAL ASSOCIATE** – Chris Maarhuis  
[chris@holsteinnews.com](mailto:chris@holsteinnews.com)  
**GRAPHIC DESIGN/LAYOUT/PHOTOGRAPHY** – Kevin Plastow

We take accuracy in publication seriously. In the unlikely case of error or omission, our liability will not exceed the cost of the ad.  
Advertisers are responsible for accuracy of submitted materials.

## COMING UP

Proudly Sponsored by



# BC DAIRY

### APRIL

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 1-2   | Canadian Dairy Xpo Wednesday-Thursday, Stratford Rotary Complex, ON.  |
| 7     | Lactanet Canada Official Genetic Evaluation Release for all dairy breeds in Canada.   |
| 12-15 | Pre-Holstein Canada National Convention Tour Journey to the Pacific – Calgary to the Coast (through the Rockies).   |
| 14-18 | Best of the West Dairy Showcase Tuesday-Saturday, WestGen, Abbotsford, BC.  |
| 15-19 | National Holstein Convention "Spirit of the West" Wednesday-Sunday, Marriott Burnaby Conference Centre, Burnaby, BC.<br>Welcome Reception Wednesday.<br>Spirit of the West National Holstein Convention Sale Wednesday 12:30pm, Chilliwack Heritage Park. |
| *15   | Youth Showmanship Show Thursday 9am, Chilliwack Heritage Park.  |
| *16   | National Jersey Show Thursday 11am, Chilliwack Heritage Park.   |
| *16   | Farm and Fraser Valley tours Thursday.  |
| *17   | National Holstein Show Friday, Chilliwack Heritage Park.  |
| *18   | Holstein Canada AGM (day) and Master Breeder Gala (evening), Saturday.  |
| 19-21 | Post-Holstein Canada National Convention Tour Paradise on the Pacific – Vancouver Island.   |
| 23-24 | Western Dairy Expo Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK.   |

### AUGUST

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 11    | Lactanet Canada Official Genetic Evaluation                        |
| 18-22 | 40th WestGen Canadian Classic (WCC) Tuesday-Saturday, Brandon, MB. |

*Merry Christmas*  
from all of us at  
**Pacific Dairy Centre!**



604.852.9020

**PACIFIC DAIRY CENTRE**  
[www.pacificdairycentre.com](http://www.pacificdairycentre.com)

# Merry Christmas

We wish everyone this Christmas, time to rest in the wonder and love of your families.

While the work must be done, the choice to do it with joy is ours.

Thank you for encouraging us through the year in all the work we do.

We love this dairy industry and the people we are blessed to interact with.

For those who are missing a loved one or struggling with health or other difficulties, we offer our prayers for comfort, healing and peace in your hearts.

Whatever 2026 brings, we know we are not alone... be of good cheer.

Tars, Chris, Amanda and Kevin - Team Western Canadian Dairy News

## Creekside Cheese Brings Home Grand Champion Title from the Royal!

We are thrilled to share the news of our friends Johannes and Julaine Treur's Grand Champion win at Toronto's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November! Creekside Cheese & Creamery of Agassiz, BC, was awarded Grand Champion Cheddar at the 2025 Royal, for their Reserve Cheddar.

The Grand Champion title is presented to the highest-scoring cheddar across all cheddar classes, making it one of the most significant national distinctions available to Canadian cheesemakers. The Royal's cheese competition is only open to producers using 100% Canadian milk, with judging based on flavour, texture, body, aroma, and overall technical quality. Creekside's winning cheddar is a traditionally made, naturally rinded cheese aged 16 months in the creamery's on-farm aging cave, Julaine explains.

This young family farm takes great care in producing quality milk from their certified organic herd and have a dedicated following of customers for their artisanal cheeses, cream-top milk, yogurt, and pasture-raised meats, which are available through their on-farm store, local farmers markets, and select retailers and restaurants across BC.



They also earned national recognition with 1st place Mild Cheddar and 3rd place La Belle Vallée (alpine-style).

"We were absolutely 100% shocked!! First in its class is one thing, but Grand Champion? That cheese started out as an experiment in natural rinds, and we've been so pleased with its flavour development," Julaine shared.

After this success on a prestigious national stage, we suspect they will need to ramp up production!

## 2025 BC Dairy Industry Achievement Award

### WALTER GOERZEN

Mike Yusko, BC Dairy Historical Society  
dihscurator@gmail.com  
[www.bcdairyhistory.ca](http://www.bcdairyhistory.ca)

During the Gala Dinner at the 2025 BC Dairy Conference on November 27th, a brief video was shown that highlighted the many contributions made by Walter Goerzen to the BC Dairy Industry over the past 60 plus years. Russell Rietsema, member of the BC Dairy Historical Society, made the award presentation.

Russell stated that the accomplishments of the BC Dairy Industry can be attributed to the collaborative efforts of committed leaders such as Walter. This award is intended to recognize individuals like Walter who exemplify this life-long dedication.

Walt had a role in numerous sectors of the industry, including serving as District Agriculturist in both Creston and the Fraser Valley. In 1975, Walt commenced a distinguished 25-year tenure as Dairy Manager at East Chilliwack Cooperative. He also wrote and published the Dairy Leader and Crop Leader magazines. Walter initiated many farm field days, providing education and introducing innovative ideas to the farms. Throughout his career, he spearheaded various initiatives and coordinated industry innovations that enhanced farm efficiency. He was a member of the Feed Manufacturers Council.

Walt spent six years on the BC Milk Marketing Board and chaired both the Milk Industry Advisory Committee and Special Production Advisory Committee, bringing together producers and processors to address industry needs and challenges.



Walt volunteered in several community groups, including the Chilliwack Ag Advisory Committee, Chilliwack Foundation and the YMCA.

Walt was among the first directors of the BC Dairy Historical Society in 1999 and served as president for eight years. During his tenure, the society achieved several significant milestones, including the publication of the Milk Stories and High-Water books, acquisition of the John Clymer paintings, establishment of an extensive archive, and the digitization of a large volume of historical dairy information on the Dairy Historical website.

Humbly, Walt concluded, "I've had a wonderfully varied career, but none of it would have been possible without Elsie's unwavering support."

Nominations for the 2026 BC Dairy Industry Achievement Award can be emailed to dihscurator@gmail.com.

(An extensive article on Walt's long ag career roles can be found in the Summer 2021 issue of BC Holstein News on [wcdairynews.com/past issues](http://wcdairynews.com/past issues))

## Generosity from Humble Hearts

BC's Delta South MLA and Ag Critic, Ian Paton is equally appreciated for his past dairy farmer life and auctioneering talents. After a speech to the BC Dairy Conference in Vancouver, Ian's auctioneering prowess was brought into the spotlight, soliciting a donation

to BC Dairy's 'Match Campaign' benefiting BC Children's Hospital. Ian briskly roused the crowd into spirited bidding, ending with a \$350 final bid from Joe and Trudy Wikkerink of Riverwater Farm on Vancouver Island. Riverwater was last year's BC Top Milk Quality award winner and was a Top 3 finalist again this year. Together with sons Albert and Dan, they have been among BC's top milk quality finalists numerous times. BC Dairy matched donations to BC Children's Hospital up to \$120,000, on behalf of BC's dairy producers for a one week campaign that ended Dec. 02.



Joe

Trudy

Ian

## Dietrich New Holstein Canada CEO

After a long and careful search, Holstein Canada announced the hiring of Greg Dietrich as the new Chief Executive Officer, effective December 9, 2025. Excerpts of Holstein Canada's November 26 press release are shared below.

"With a lifetime of involvement in the dairy genetics and agricultural sector, Greg brings a deep and authentic understanding of producers and industry partners, strengthened by significant operational expertise and entrepreneurial leadership.



After obtaining his Agricultural degree, Greg began his career with Holstein Canada in business development, before moving to Semex where he held progressive roles in international sales and as Director, Internal Product Development. Beyond his corporate experience, Greg has built and operated innovative agricultural businesses, including Progenesis, a genetic nucleus company, and his family's dairy and custom calf-raising operation, Character Dairy Genetics, located in Mildmay, Ontario.

Greg will provide crucial leadership in implementing the new strategic plan and supporting the overall health and performance of the organization. His focus on open communication and strong relationship building with employees, members, producers and industry partners will be key to his leadership approach."



For all your  
bunker silo  
coverage needs

• Delivery Available •

Contact Ron Tuin • 604-302-2905

## EXCELLENT NORTH OKANAGAN DAIRY OPPORTUNITY

- 28.4 acres of fertile, irrigated land w/ 2 road frontages
  - 50 freestall barn 110' x 124'; w/ automated fans
  - Double 5 parlour w/ Boumatic take-offs
- Maternity, youngstock facilities, spacious manure pit
  - Double bunkers 124' x 53'; large commodity shed
- Excellent 4 bedroom home w/ country kitchen, gas FP
  - Woodstove, massive primary bdrm, 3-pce ensuite
  - So many more features to appreciate!
- Easy 20 min drive to Salmon Arm, 1 hr to Kelowna airport

128 Grindrod Westside Road  
\$2,599,000



8 - 8337 Young Road, Chilliwack, BC V2P 4N8 • 604-703-4335  
"Serving the Fraser Valley & beyond since 2004"

## Pickmick Receives Bronze Repro Award



L-R: Pete, Mickie, Krista & Harold.  
(Missing: Melissa & Ryan).

Congratulations to the Thibaudier family of Pickmick Farms Ltd. (Delta, BC), on receiving Bronze recognition from the Dairy Cattle Reproduction Council (DCRC) in the USA for their excellence in **'reproductive efficiency, fertility and well-implemented management procedures.'** Two other Canadian dairies were also awarded (both in Ontario).

The council recognized 24 dairies this year, receiving 134 nominations from four countries including 18 US states and three Canadian provinces. Farms are nominated by dairy professionals including veterinarians, AI companies, pharmaceutical companies and extension specialists.

A panel of judges make their selections based on the following criteria: pregnancy rate, voluntary waiting period, interbreeding intervals, heat detection, conception rate, value of reproduction and culling rate.

Six recipients were selected in each of the platinum, gold, silver and bronze levels, to receive the awards which are sponsored by Hoard's Dairyman magazine and the DCRC.

Melissa Thibaudier remarked it was truly an honour to be recognized, and gave credit to the family and staff who work so hard, from the fields to the barns, to ensure excellent animal care and top quality feed is a continuous priority. They are also grateful for the support of their professional farm service providers.

## Mainland Milk Producers Association NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Friday, January 9, 2026

9:30AM - 12:30PM (LUNCH PROVIDED)

Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre  
36035 NORTH PARALLEL RD, ABBOTSFORD, BC

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Trevor Throness - a veteran coach, speaker and consultant who helps businesses fix people problems, enhance communication, attract top talent, and build exceptional cultures.

For more information, contact Amy Balaban - [mainlandmilk@gmail.com](mailto:mainlandmilk@gmail.com)

**FENDT**

# HAVE A DAIRY MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH FENDT

DLE Avenue is BC's Fendt Dealer with Four Locations to Serve You

**NEW**

**Kamloops**  
250-851-2044

**NEW**

**Williams Lake**  
250-991-0406  
Service & Parts Only

**Abbotsford**  
604-864-2665

**Vernon**  
250-545-3355



[dleamc.com](http://dleamc.com)

# BC Dairy Industry Conference Marks 15th Year

## Amanda Poelman

The 15th BC Dairy Industry Conference kicked off Wednesday, November 26th, at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Board Chair, Casey Pruim, welcomed everyone to the event, promising two full days of networking, learning, and collaboration.

Pruim gave a progress update on the Regional Collaborations Agreements, which formalize a written agreement between BC Dairy and regional dairy associations. "The purpose is to communicate, cooperate, and coordinate on issues affecting producers, particularly when we are taking those to government and industry partners," stated Pruim, noting that while BC Dairy has always had good relationships with the regional associations, a formal agreement has never been put in place. "The agreement establishes an intentional structured relationship to preserve the regional voice and ensure producers feel connected to provincial level decision making."

Sarah Sache, BC's representative on the DFC Board, shared DFC's dedicated vision of purposeful unity. "We are committed to pulling together, even when facing different realities. It's a powerful reminder

of what purposeful unity can look like in action - it's not easy, and it's not always fun, but the benefits are worth it." Stating that unity is what keeps our systems going and what keeps DFC profoundly farmer led, Sache concluded, "when we align our goals and support one another, we create something far bigger than what one of us can build alone."

Lucie Bérubé, DFC's Interim CEO since earlier this year said, "Advocacy must be dynamic to meet evolving challenges. Facing new consumer demands, environmental considerations, and trade negotiations requires an external strategy built on a strong internal alliance." With that in mind, the DFC board started revamping its Mission, Vision and Value statements in 2024, a process which is now complete. "Our mission is to support the growth of the Canadian Dairy farming industry, through the coordination of innovative and sustainable production, and advocate for the benefits of Canadian dairy and supply management," Bérubé stated, proud of the work that DFC continues to do as it fulfills its vision of facilitating and being the unified voice of

Canadian dairy farmers.

Annie AcMoody, DFC's Chief Policy and Economic Officer, acknowledged that the current trade situation continues to keep everyone up at night. Likening the Trump Administration to a "drunk elephant in a china shop", AcMoody noted that it has been challenging to keep track of the ups and downs in mood south of the border. "DFC has been working really hard to build our narratives so that we can respond to the threats from down south," she said. The Trump Administration has had a "strange obsession" with Canadian dairy, which AcMoody believes is unfounded since, "the numbers are really not in their favour to justify that level of focus." The US exports 2.5 times more dairy to Canada than they import, and Canada is the top global consumer per capita of US dairy products. With the CUSMA deal up for review in 2026, AcMoody says, "DFC is focused on working with all provinces to support supply management and ensure that there are no further concessions that could hurt our system."

AGM's were held for BC Dairy, the Dairy Industry Development Council (DIDC), and

the BC Milk Marketing Board (BCMMB), with recognition of retiring members and presentations of the current financial picture. Rob Delage, General Manager of the BCMMB, chaired the Industry Meeting of the milk board, giving an in-depth look at "pooling" and the benefits of being in the Western Milk Pool. As promised in the Fall Producer Meetings, a deep dive into 'Improving Transportation Excellence and Efficiencies' was delivered, highlighting the work of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and their mission to "leave no stone unturned" while seeking to reduce transportation costs for BC producers.

Thursday's presentations were both thought-provoking and informative, given by Dan Wong (Western Dairy Council), Gilles Froment (International Dairy Federation and Lactalis), Dr. Joe Schwarcz (McGill University) - who spoke about the 'Age of Misinformation', and others.

We will be presenting more in-depth coverage of BC's Dairy Conference in our Winter Issue!



# Dairy Champions Change at the BCDIC

## Recognizing Dave Taylor

BC Dairy board chair, Casey Pruim, paid tribute to Dave Taylor for his more than 10 years of "leadership, service and contributions," to the BC Dairy board and particularly as the DFC rep from BC, as he completed his service at last year's AGM.

"Dave is a remarkable leader who has invested significant time and energy advancing BC's dairy sector at the provincial and national levels." Dave is known through the industry for "calm diplomacy, collaboration and tireless service," Casey added.

One of five producers selected to help guide the revision of the National Code of Practice (Dairy), Dave leads by example as shown by their Vancouver Island farm's regular standing in BC's Top 5 milk quality list.

Dave's dairy board service began initially in 2000 at the local level, before stepping into the provincial/national roles from 2007-2024.

Dave credited his parents for both their example of and encouragement to "step into leadership." He further recognized the deeply formative experiences gained from engaging in all aspects of 4-H to gain grounding in "animal care, governance and finance, though we did not use those words."

With perspective and gratitude, Dave thanked "those who went before us, shaping our industry in your time," then extended thanks to those who continue to serve, often at the expense of their home farms.

He implored the younger generation to prepare themselves to say 'yes' when asked to step up. His final appreciation went to his wife Lisa and children who not only showed love and support, they knew the work he was doing mattered.

*Thank you Dave for being an exemplary leader who always put the industry and animal needs at the fore.*



**Dave Taylor receives thanks from BC Dairy Chair, Casey Pruim.**

## Holtmann Completes 10 Years with WMP

It was announced earlier in the Conference that Manitoba dairyman, Henry Holtmann had stepped down as Chair of the Western Milk Pool - a position he held since its inception. Chair of the BC Milk Marketing Board, Janice Comeau, gave fitting tribute to Henry at the gala dinner for his leadership and service.

She started with describing Henry's leadership - using 'vision, integrity and courage', saying "Henry has embodied these principles with a quiet mastery, revealed through behaviour, especially under pressure. Exceptional leadership begins with relationships - connections built through trust and genuine regard for others."

Janice highlighted Henry's collaborative approach, "Rather than imposing direction, he brings the right people together, draws out diverse viewpoints, and shapes integrated solutions that are stronger than any single perspective. Approaching work with a shared purpose, we can solve complex challenges with greater clarity and resilience."

Being calm through difficult times was another much appreciated characteristic. "In moments when perspectives differed or emotions ran high, Henry brought clarity instead of confusion, and perspective instead of panic. His calm was a deliberate choice."

Janice went on to describe Henry as a big thinker, "...widening the lens - looking across systems, regions, and timelines...having a national perspective to extend strategic reach."

Henry's ability to think 'win-win' while building trust "generated alignment for collective advancement."

"Henry, thank you for being you. Your leadership has left an indelible mark," Janice concluded.

*The world would benefit from more 'Henry'.*

## Janssens Completes Term at BCMMB

After six years on the BC Milk Marketing Board, David Janssens of Nicomekl Farm, Surrey, completed his term at the 2024 AGM.

Recognized by his stature, appreciated for his good nature and valued for his strategic, analytical thinking, David has been contributing to industry organizations provincially and nationally for most of his dairy life. Early on, he engaged with dairy research and extension activities through BC Dairy's DIREC committee and the South Coastal Dairy Education Assoc. (SCDEA) over 20 years from 1990-2010!

President of BC Holstein Branch from 1994-1996, he oversaw the 'Come Alive in 95' National Convention. He sat on the WestGen board for many years, serving as President from 2008 to 2013. Moving to producer advocacy, David was elected to the BC Dairy board from 2013 to 2019, serving as BC's DFC rep from 2014-2018.

"First elected to the BCMMB board in 2019, David's deep knowledge based on the success of his own organic farm, his critical thinking, and his willingness to ask difficult questions, greatly strengthened our board deliberations and consistently improved the quality of our decisions," shared Chair Janice Comeau.

"David was a formidable presence in the board room, but over the years I served with him, what I really remember is the close personal friendships he created with the people he worked with," shared Jeremy Wiebe, fellow BCMMB board member.

While respected for his intellectual capacity, he will be missed for the gracious way he treated everyone, including producers, staff and other stakeholders.

*Thank you David, for the many years you have benefitted our industry across multiple facets.*



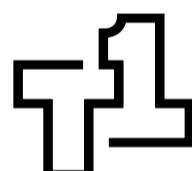
**David on his solo 'Tour de Brazil' in March 2025. He loves biking, local culture and especially agri-culture!**

# Thank you to our valued sponsors.

For their commitment and support of this year's annual BC Dairy Industry Conference.



WESTERN DAIRY COUNCIL



BC Dairy Industry Conference

presented by



# Women in Dairy

Proudly sponsored by  
**Scotiabank**

*"Encourager, motivated, independent, giver - these are all things I think of when I think of Carol. She is an exceptional life partner and the intellectual force behind our operation. From the early years of skillfully managing farming responsibilities alongside a full-time professional career, while also shouldering the primary role in raising five children - to farming for 19 years in New Brunswick, selling everything, packing up, and moving to Manitoba 10 years ago to start all over again - she has taken every challenge head on. She's my inspiration, and who I want to be when I grow up."*

Richard

**Scotiabank®**

**When it comes to Agriculture, we get it.**

For information on our complete suite of services, visit: [scotiabank.com/agriculturalservices](http://scotiabank.com/agriculturalservices)

# Expecting the Unexpected

## Carol Boonstoppel



**Carol's favourite cows are the ones "paying the bills!"**

### Amanda Poelman

Reality TV show host Julie Chen often uses the phrase 'Expect the Unexpected' as the host of hit series *Big Brother* to highlight frequent twists and turns that surprise houseguests and keep viewers on the edge of their seats. Anyone in the agriculture sector knows that the "unexpected" is pretty much a given - from weather changes to price changes and beyond. For Carol Boonstoppel, the unexpected challenges and changes in direction have been met with a positive attitude, the ability to pivot quickly, and viewing the word "no" as an opportunity to learn and grow.

### East Coast Roots

Carol was born and raised in Long Creek, on the south shore of Prince Edward Island, just 20 minutes outside of Charlottetown. Her parents, Bill and Tena De Haan, emigrated to Canada from the Netherlands, originally landing in Ontario, but quickly moving to PEI for the opportunity to farm. Initially moving with their milking herd, Bill and Tena switched to hogs and cash crops after three years. In 1980, when her oldest brother was able, the farm transitioned back into dairy farming.

Carol was raised a "typical Dutch girl," working in the house and making meals for the family. "My mom would milk, but it was expected that my sister and I would take care of the house chores, rather than being in the barn," says Carol, who is the youngest of five children. At that time, as with many Dutch immigrant families, it was widely accepted that the farm would be passed on to the oldest sibling. With that in mind, Carol says, "My parents really valued education; they were adamant that we attend university and get a good career."



Tri Lea Farm, Grunthal, MB.

*"Mom has always been our biggest supporter. She made time for whatever we were passionate about - whether it was sports, 4-H, or community activities. She's always encouraged us to explore our interests and follow our own paths, reminding us that life doesn't have to revolve around the farm to still be part of agriculture. Her encouragement to get out there and do something you love has been a big part of why we've each found our own place in agriculture."*

Rachel, Christina, Natalie

Following high school, Carol attended the University of PEI for three years to study Biology, before transferring to McGill University in Montreal to enroll in the Physical Therapy program, where she graduated in 1996.

### Love Changes Everything

Despite vowing that she was "never going to marry a farmer," Carol met Richard Boonstoppel, a dairy farmer from New Brunswick, through mutual friends and church youth groups. In 1994, after a ski trip in Mont Tremblant, Richard and Carol made things official and embarked on a two-year long-distance relationship while Carol finished her studies. "There were weekly phone calls and good old-fashioned love letters via Canada Post," laughs Carol. "When there were disagreements, we had to call because it's hard to have an argument over snail mail!"

Richard and Carol were married in 1996, and they purchased a farm in Mactaquac, NB, later that year. Carol took an active role on the farm, taking care of all the bookkeeping and helping on the weekends, while maintaining a full-time job at a private physical therapy clinic during the week. "Someone had to support the farming habit," she says with a chuckle. This rhythm continued over the next several years, with Carol switching to a part-time role at the clinic when she and Richard started expanding their family.

By 2005, with five children under the age of six underfoot, Carol says, "I was working mostly evenings which no longer suited our family, so when the clinic changed hands it made sense to put my physical therapy career on hold. Five kids are not conducive to working off-farm when you're running a home business!" Those five children include Rachel(27), Christina(25), Isaac(23), David(21), and Natalie(21).

### A Leap of Faith

In 2015, after already doubling their herd and quota holdings in New Brunswick, and with the kids already showing an early interest in dairy farming, the Boonstoppels

**(L-R) Dylan, Christina, Natalie, Carol, Richard, Rachel, Darren. Front (L-R) Isaac and David, along with Tempo, Willow and Ruger.**



packed up, sold everything, and headed west. "We couldn't get quota in the P5, there was no land available for expansion and since we weren't in a dairy area in New Brunswick, parts for equipment and connection to other dairies were too far away," says Carol.

"Manitoba was the first province we came to," she says, "although sometimes I still wonder why we chose it!" Nonetheless, Grunthal, Manitoba, checked all the boxes for the young family - it was close to a city (Winnipeg is an hour north), it was close to a school, it was in a dairy pocket of other farms, and there was room to expand. "Agriculture still meant something in Manitoba," Carol notes. "That was important to us and there was a great atmosphere of fellow producers."

Tri Lea Farm currently consists of 94 cows and 155kgs of quota. The herd is mainly Holstein; however, the kids' interest has also added 25 Jerseys to the mix. Coming from a robotic milking facility in New Brunswick, the Boonstoppels immediately converted the parlour to two Lely A4 robots in Grunthal. They also crop 400 acres seeded in alfalfa, hay, silage corn, rye grass and oat silage.

Earlier this spring, the family broke ground on a new barn, which they hope to be in by Christmas. Equipped with two robots, the plan is to split the herd and have Holsteins on one side and Jerseys on the other. "We want to be able to feed and milk the Jerseys as Jerseys and not as a mixed herd," says Carol. The current barn will then be retrofitted for dry cows and heifers, while also expanding the calf barn area.

### Elusive Work/Life Balance

According to Carol, work/life balance is a figment of someone's imagination. "You make your life as busy as you want to be," she says. The early years of juggling her off-farm job with helping on the farm and then having kids certainly had its challenges. "You just learn to adapt," says Carol, who came home full-time in 2005, after the twins were born. "I was raising



Chasing a work/life balance, Carol milking with Rachel on her back (1998).



Carol takes care of all the accounting and proAction paperwork at Tri Lea, stressing the importance of "knowing your financials" to be profitable.



Carol (front, right) served as a coach for Team Manitoba for eight years.

the kids and Richard was raising the cows most of the time!" The Boonstoppels had very little help in the barn, mainly handling all of the work themselves, aside from a casual employee to help when Richard was away for various industry meetings. "It was easier to hire someone to watch the kids in the house so that I could be in the barn," says Carol.

As the kids grew, they took on their own responsibilities in and out of the barn, making it easier to share the workload. "David was always the equipment guy, even as a toddler," says Carol. "I'd often send him back to Richard in the barn because he kept telling me what to do in the field!" There was no shortage of female power in the summers as Rachel would do the mowing, Christina handled the tending and raking, and Carol was baling. As the kids grew and became more involved in extracurricular activities, Carol says, "Putting in robots helped divide and conquer with the kids as they were involved in 4-H, sports, and youth group."



An 'Island Girl' – many trips have been taken to PEI to visit Carol's family through the years. Cavendish Beach (2010).

### Mentor and Be Mentored

Carol notes her mom and mother-in-law as being her biggest role models early on. "My mom was a very strong person on the farm, but she never wanted that life for her daughters," says Carol. "She believed that farming kept you tied down with no free time." While her parents never encouraged her to pursue agriculture, Carol learned quickly when to speak up and when not to as she was growing up. "Mom taught me that females have a voice – not just at the dinner table." Carol is also quick to credit her good friend, Karen Versloot, "We have a really good bond," she says. "We had kids at the same time, went to church together and were in the same stage of life – juggling family and farming." Karen, who is currently serving on the Board of Directors at Holstein Canada, "showed me that women have a strong voice and can be involved in the industry beyond working on the farm itself," says Carol.

Carol has done her best to pass on what she's learned to her daughters. "I've always encouraged the girls to do whatever they want, but that it's okay to ask for help," she says, believing that gender is not a defining factor when it comes to farm labour, but that it's important to know your physical



Richard and Carol enjoyed WestGen's trip to South Africa in 2024. Carol also attended WestGen's trip to Brazil in 2016 with daughter Rachel.

limitations. Like her parents, Carol is a firm believer in education and was always very strict on the importance of doing your best. "If I'm not challenged, I'm not happy," she says, "I want people to be challenged too, but also work within their limits to achieve their full potential. That can be detrimental at times!"

While still in New Brunswick, Carol took the 'Atlantic Ag Leadership in Governance' program, an 18-month college-style course that propelled her involvement in the industry side of the dairy business. As the kids got involved with 4-H, she stepped into a role as leader and mentor, which led to her serving on Manitoba's WCC committee for eight years, as well as on the Manitoba Holstein Branch. Most recently, Carol completed a two-year term on the board of the Gay-Lea Cooperative as a Manitoba delegate.

A lifelong student, Carol took the Financial Management program online through Olds College in Alberta. "I finally learned all the terms I should have known all along," she laughs, "and my kids got a taste of how anal I really am about education!"

### Spreading Their Wings in Agriculture

Both Carol and Richard are very proud that their children have stayed in the agriculture industry in some capacity. Rachel, who is married to Darren Bueckert, knew from age 16 that she wanted to be dairying, and is currently working as the herd and calf barn manager at Skyline Dairy in Grunthal. She and her husband also crop at his family farm. Christina works at Patterson Grain as an Agrologist in the area of Crop Protection. Isaac returned home to the farm full time in 2024, after studying agriculture at Lakeland College. He is in charge of reproduction, including picking sires and making mating decisions, as well as all the feeding. David is finishing his second year at Olds College this winter and works at Reutter Dairy, and Natalie is in her fourth year of Agriculture Business at the University of Saskatchewan.

As the kids got older and more interested in the genetics side of the business, Richard and Carol began registering, milk testing, and classifying at the farm. "If that's what it takes to keep them interested, then that's what we'll do," she says, noting that her favourite cows are the ones that pay the bills! "Richard and I are more about putting milk in the tank and the kids like

the show heifers," she adds, "but we always encourage them when they see an animal they'd like to buy." In the same vein, Carol has instilled in the kids the value of knowing the financials, saying, "I've always stressed the importance of knowing the numbers inside and out – I find the guys sometimes buy without thinking! You can't do that if you want to stay profitable."

### Looking Ahead

Carol is still very involved in the day-to-day management of the dairy. She is in charge of the calf barn and is responsible for all the animals from birth to six months of age. She also maintains the proAction paperwork, handles the accounting, and picks up the slack when Richard, who is the current President of WestGen, is away from the farm.

"I enjoy tagging along with Richard to WestGen meetings," says Carol, who is happy they've been able to cross off some bucket list trips together as well, including WestGen's trips to Brazil and South Africa, a trip to Chile (through the Atlantic Leadership Program), and a trip to Sweden and Denmark (with Nutrisource). The Boonstoppels have also enjoyed ski trips and other outings as a family, and Carol heads back to PEI yearly to visit her dad.

Carol has come a long way since the days of vowing not to marry a farmer, to juggling a busy schedule of kids, cows, and off-farm work. Through it all, she has faced the unexpected challenges with a positive attitude, the ability to work hard, and by using adversity as an opportunity to learn and grow. "If I'm not challenged, I'm not happy" is the philosophy that has earmarked many chapters in her dairy story, as she's pushed herself out of her comfort zone at times, while encouraging her family and those around her to do the same. 



## When it comes to agriculture, we get it.

We are committed to supporting our people, our communities and our businesses. Our Agricultural Specialists can help coordinate practical strategies and flexible products and solutions that work for your unique needs.

**Jill Tataryn**  
Director, National Accounts  
236.622.1261  
jill.tataryn@scotiabank.com

**Nathan Tiefisher**  
Senior Client Relationship Manager  
236.887.3420  
nathan.tiefisher@scotiabank.com

**Raj Grewal**  
Client Relationship Manager  
236.622.1896  
rajdeep.grewal@scotiabank.com

**Henri Peeters**  
Director and Head National Accounts  
604.798.7396  
henri.peeters@scotiabank.com

**Jason Warmerdam, BBA**  
Associate Director, Team Lead  
604.845.4760  
jason.warmerdam@scotiabank.com

**Michelle Forrest, BBA**  
Client Relationship Manager  
778.548.7844  
michelle.forrest@scotiabank.com

**Amanda McCardell**  
Client Relationship Manager  
250.808.5647  
amanda.mccardell@scotiabank.com

For more information on our complete suite of services, contact one of our specialists or visit [www.scotiabank.com/agriculturalservices](http://www.scotiabank.com/agriculturalservices).

\* Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia.

**Scotiabank.**



# 71<sup>st</sup> Westerner Dairy Showcase

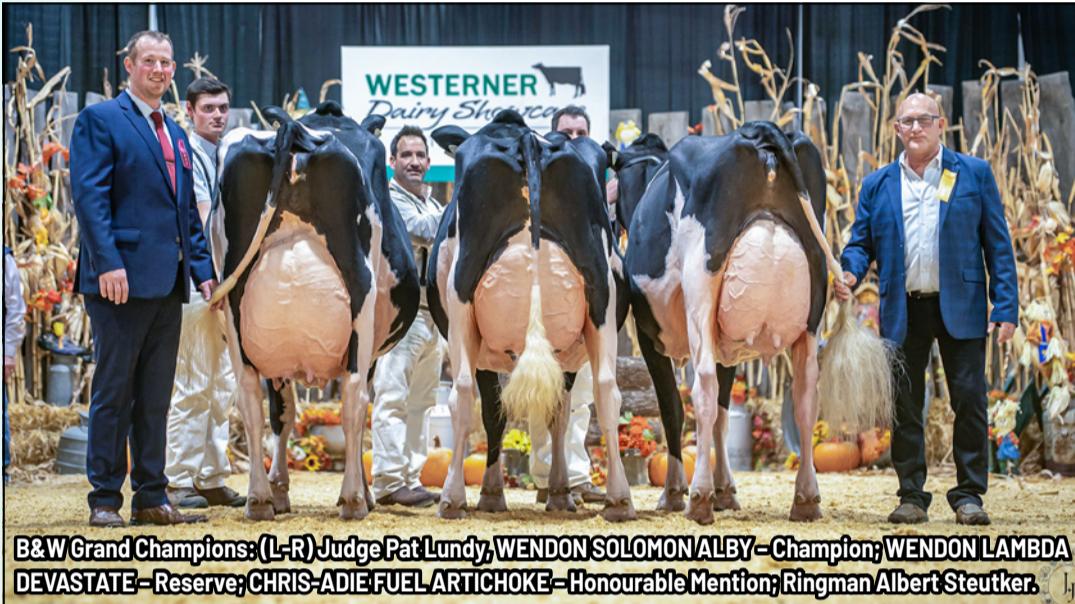
## Long-time Contender "Alby" Captures the Crown



Winning Senior Breeders Herd – WENDON HOLSTEINS, Red Deer County, AB. (L-R) Don Chalack, Joel Phoenix, Egbert Korenberg, Brent Sayles, Linsey Chalack & Maddyn Hastie.



R&W Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge Pat Lundy, INTENSE DEVOUR GINGER – Champion; KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED – Reserve; KOZAK AUSSIE RED RIBBON P – Honourable Mention; Ringman Albert Streutker.



B&W Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge Pat Lundy, WENDON SOLOMON ALBY – Champion; WENDON LAMBDA DEVASTATE – Reserve; CHRIS-ADIE FUEL ARTICHOKE – Honourable Mention; Ringman Albert Streutker.



Junior Champion, ROBELLA MASTER ELLIS, led by Carson Phoenix.



R&W Intermediate Champions: (L-R) Judge Pat Lundy, INTENSE DEVOUR GINGER – Champion; MYOWMING NADIE KAMARA – Reserve; KOZAK MISS RODEO RED – Honourable Mention; Ringman Albert Streutker.



B&W Intermediate Champions: (L-R) Judge Pat Lundy, CHRIS-ADIE FUEL ARTICHOKE – Champion; SUNSPARK CRUSHABULL SNOWAPPLE – Reserve; EARINCLIFFE UNIX DESTINY – Honourable Mention; Ringman Albert Streutker.

### Amanda Poelman

The 71<sup>st</sup> edition of the Westerner Dairy Showcase was held October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in Red Deer, AB, and in its second year as a National Show, the quality did not disappoint. On hand to judge this year's event was Pat Lundy of Granville, New York, who is no stranger to the big stage, having served as the Associate Judge of the International Holstein Show at World Dairy Expo this year. Once again, the Holstein show (194 head) and the Jersey show (66 head), alternated classes over the two-day event.

"What an awesome show it has been," said Judge Lundy. "There has been tremendous quality in every class, and it's been a pleasure for me to judge here; a true honour." With that, Lundy selected his Grand Champion from the Mature Cow class, WENDON SOLOMON ALBY, exhibited by Wendon Holsteins (AB). "This aged cow has had five calves and is so impressive in her frame, showing so much openness and drape to her mid-section, you can't help but admire her." She used her maturity and length of fore udder to go over the winning 4 Year Old, WENDON LAMBDA DEVASTATE, exhibited by Wendon Holsteins, T&L Cattle and Joel Phoenix (AB). "The 4 Year Old shows me a little more balance and drop to her rib, than the beautiful Junior 3 Year Old," said Lundy, selecting CHRIS-ADIE FUEL ARTICHOKE, exhibited by Benbie Holsteins (SK), as Honourable Mention, having claimed Intermediate Champion honours earlier in the day.

Reserve Intermediate accolades were given to SUNSPARK CRUSHABULL SNOWAPPLE, the first place Fall 2 Year Old, who was acquired by Skycrest Holsteins

(AB) earlier in the week. She used her squareness of rump to go over the very impressive Milking Fall Yearling, EARINCLIFFE UNIX DESTINY, exhibited by Westcoast Holsteins (BC).

For Junior Champion, Judge Lundy selected a speckled Fall Heifer, ROBELLA MASTER ELLIS, exhibited by Robella Holsteins (SK). "This fall heifer has so much style and balance and she never gives you a bad look," said Lundy, choosing the first place Summer Yearling, MS MILKSOURCE JUMANJI, exhibited by Westcoast Holsteins (BC) as Reserve. Jumanji was tapped ahead of the winning Spring Yearling, ROBELLA MAJOR SABRINA, exhibited by Robella, Wendon and Pat Conroy (SK).

In the R&W division, Judge Lundy selected INTENSE DEVOUR GINGER, exhibited by Westcoast Holsteins (BC), first as his Intermediate Champion and then as Grand Champion. "This Junior 3 Year Old has a tremendous mammary system and is so level on the floor of her udder," said Lundy, giving her the advantage in "the overall balance in her frame" over perennial show ring favourite, KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED, exhibited by R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy (SK). Bombshell used her overall capacity, height, width and volume of her rear udder to go over KOZAK AUSSIE RED RIBBON P, exhibited by Kozak Holsteins (AB).

The Milking Fall Yearling, MYOWMING NADIE KAMARA, who had finished fourth in a tough class, earned Reserve Intermediate Champion honours for T&L Cattle (BC), followed by KOZAK MISS RODEO RED, who came from the Spring 2 Year Old class, exhibited by Kozak Holsteins

(AB).

Judge Lundy tapped winning Summer Yearling, MOSNANG HAVE TO GO SHOW, exhibited by Mosnang Holsteins and Lin-Den Holsteins (SK), as his Junior Champion. She showed "a little more neatness up through the shoulder and more width of chest," than LUCKY CHUBANNA SPARKLE, exhibited by Lucky Hill and Chubanna (AB), who has been no stranger to the winner circle in 2025. Honourable Mention went to CHUBANNA LITE IT UP CRIMSON, also exhibited by Lucky Hill and Chubanna, who finished second in the Spring Heifer class.

The well-attended Youth Show was held Thursday evening, with Casey Morey (AB) officiating. Adding to her showmanship hardware, having also won at this year's WestGen Canadian Classic, Grand Champion honours went to Natalie Boonstoppel (MB). Judge Morey selected WHEATHEART MASTER 441, exhibited by Jens Verkuijen (SK), as Junior Champion after winning the Winter Yearling class.

Following Saturday's show, breeders, exhibitors, sponsors, and enthusiasts alike enjoyed a wonderful meal to celebrate another successful year. Dairy show committee member, Brent Leyenhorst served as the MC for the evening and announced the winners of the coveted Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners. For the second year in a row, Crestomere Holsteins was awarded Premier Breeder, while Premier Exhibitor was earned by the R&F Livestock and Walker Dairy partnership. The Hehli family of Mosnang Holsteins captured both Junior Premier Breeder and Exhibitor honours.

Photos courtesy of Jenna Jongenotter

# WESTERNER

## Dairy Showcase

### NATIONAL SHOW

October 24 & 25, 2025, Red Deer, AB



#### Junior Champion

ROBELLA MASTER ELLIS  
Robella Holsteins, Balgonie, SK

#### Reserve Junior Champion

MS MILKSOURCE JUMANJI  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

#### HM Junior Champion

ROBELLA MAJOR SABRINA  
Robella, Wendon & Pat Conroy, Balgonie, SK

#### Junior Breeders Herd (6)

1. Robella Holsteins, Balgonie, SK  
2. Mosnang Holsteins, Rimbey, AB  
3. Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### Junior Premier Breeder & Exhibitor

Mosnang Holsteins, Rimbey, AB

#### Intermediate Champion

CHRIS-ADIE FUEL ARTICHOKE  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### Reserve Intermediate Champion

SUNSPARK CRUSHABULL SNOWAPPLE  
Skycrest Holsteins, Athabasca, AB

#### HM Intermediate Champion

EARINCLIFFE UNIX DESTINY  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

#### Grand Champion

WENDON SOLOMON ALBY  
Wendon Holsteins, Red Deer County, AB

#### Reserve Grand Champion

WENDON LAMBDA DEVASTATE  
Wendon, T&L Cattle & Joel Phoenix, Red Deer County, AB

#### HM Grand Champion

CHRIS-ADIE FUEL ARTICHOKE  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### Senior Breeders Herd

1. Wendon Holsteins, Red Deer County, AB  
2. Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK  
3. Crestomere Holsteins, Ponoka, AB

#### Premier Breeder

Crestomere Holsteins, Ponoka, AB

#### Premier Exhibitor

R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

#### Summer Calf (3)

1. BENBIE RIGHT STUFF PALMA-P  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK  
2. BENBIE ATTRACT RIRI  
Benbie Holsteins & Donfield Farms, Caron, SK

#### Spring Heifer (11)

1. HADDINGTON ILLUSTRATOR BAMBI  
Robella Holsteins & T&L Cattle, Balgonie, SK  
2. CHUBANNA LITE IT UP CRIMSON  
Chubanna Holsteins & Lucky Hill Dairy, Lacombe, AB

#### Winter Heifer (32)

1. MOSNANG HAVE TOO MUCH VINO  
Mosnang Holsteins, Rimbey, AB  
2. SUNTASIA REFUEL SAPPHIRE  
John Sunder & Lucky Hill Dairy, Deroche, BC

#### Fall Heifer (18)

1. ROBELLA MASTER ELLIS  
Robella Holsteins, Balgonie, SK  
2. MOSNANG CRAVE WHITE CHOCOLATE  
Mosnang Holsteins, Rimbey, AB

#### Summer Yearling (14)

1. MS MILKSOURCE JUMANJI  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC  
2. CRALIA LIZZO CROUTON  
Benbie Holsteins & Duane Zimmer, Caron, SK

#### Spring Yearling (11)

1. ROBELLA MAJOR SABRINA  
Robella, Wendon & Pat Conroy, Balgonie, SK  
2. GROSSVILLE HANIKO MISS CORRY  
Kozak Holsteins & Brian Gross, New Sarepta, AB

#### Winter Yearling (7)

1. WHEATHEART MASTER 441  
R&F Livestock Inc., Cudworth, SK  
2. ROBELLA MAJOR ESME  
Robella Holsteins, Balgonie, SK

#### Winter Yearling in Milk (3)

1. WEDGWOOD BLAKELY REBEL  
Wedgwood Holsteins, Cobble Hill, BC  
2. RF ILLUSTRATOR MIRIANA  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

#### Fall Yearling in Milk (14)

1. EARINCLIFFE UNIX DESTINY  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC  
2. MOSNANG GRINCH U R A MEAN ONE  
Bill Lund, Jay Ackley & Jim & Valerie Spreng, OH

#### Summer 2 Year Old (10)

1. MOSNANG DRIVEN TO SUCCEED  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK  
2. WESTCOAST HASITALL ARRO 15582  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

#### Spring 2 Year Old (11)

1. CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK  
2. CRESTOMERE BREAKSHOT LINC  
Lucky Hill Dairy, Lacombe, AB

#### Winter 2 Year Old (7)

1. CRESTOMERE PERENNIAL DAPHNE  
Crestomere Holsteins, Ponoka, AB  
2. SKYCREST ALTITUDE SPROUT  
Skycrest Holsteins, Athabasca, AB

#### Fall 2 Year Old (4)

1. SUNSPARK CRUSHABULL SNOWAPPLE  
Skycrest Holsteins, Athabasca, AB  
2. WEDGWOOD SIDEKICK ATHINA  
Wedgwood Holsteins, Cobble Hill, BC

#### Junior 3 Year Old (14)

1. CHRIS-ADIE FUEL ARTICHOKE  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK  
2. WENDON MASTER DEVICE  
Wendon Holsteins, Red Deer County, AB

#### Senior 3 Year Old (6)

1. DAPPLEVIEW LEGEND LIMITLESS  
Wendon Holsteins & T&L Cattle, Red Deer County, AB  
2. BENBIE LEGEND PARADISE  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### 4 Year Old (12)

1. WENDON LAMBDA DEVASTATE  
Wendon, Joel Phoenix & T&L Cattle, Red Deer County, AB  
2. MAIFIELD LAMBDA MAINA  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

#### 5 Year Old (3)

1. CRESTOMERE TATOO VEZ  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK  
2. TAG UNIX WOUNDUP  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

#### Mature Cow (9)

1. WENDON SOLOMON ALBY  
Wendon Holsteins, Red Deer County, AB  
2. EMBRDALE JILLIAN UNIX  
Wendon, Trent Valley & Joel Phoenix, Red Deer County, AB

#### Production Cow (5)

1. WEDGWOOD DEMPSEY CELLIA  
Stanhope-Wedgwood & Crestomere, Cobble Hill, BC  
2. SERLI SAMMY BELINDA  
Laurie D. & Donna Harp, Brandon, MB

#### R&W Junior Champion

MOSNANG HAVE TO GO SHOW  
Mosnang Holsteins & Lin-Den Holsteins, Cudworth, SK

#### Reserve R&W Junior Champion

LUCKY CHUBANNA SPARKLE  
Chubanna Holsteins & Lucky Hill Dairy, Lacombe, AB

#### HM R&W Junior Champion

CHUBANNA LITE IT UP CRIMSON  
Chubanna Holsteins & Lucky Hill Dairy, Lacombe, AB

#### R&W Intermediate Champion

INTENSE DEVOUR GINGER  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

#### Reserve R&W Intermediate Champion

MYOWMING NADIE KAMARA  
T&L Cattle, Cultus Lake, BC

#### HM R&W Intermediate Champion

KOZAK MISS RODEO RED  
Kozak Holsteins, New Sarepta, AB

#### R&W Grand Champion

INTENSE DEVOUR GINGER  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

#### Reserve R&W Grand Champion

KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

#### HM R&W Grand Champion

KOZAK AUSSIE RED RIBBON P  
Kozak Holsteins, New Sarepta, AB

# WESTERNER

## Dairy Showcase

### NATIONAL SHOW

Thank you to all of our 2025 Show Sponsors for your generosity and support.

#### PLATINUM

Alberta Holstein Association

BoviGen Genetic Services

DMG Ag Innovations Ltd.

Hitch N' Stitch Design

Holstein Canada

Li'l Shavers (2015) Ltd.

Select Sires Canada

Trouw Nutrition Canada

WestGen

Validity Genetic Testing

#### DIAMOND

Udder Comfort

Unique Valleystream Genetics

#### GOLD

Brandt

Bova-Tech Ltd.

Cargill Animal Nutrition

KeyAg Kubota

Lethbridge Dairy Mart Ltd.

Matlan Ventures

Nutrisource

Perfection Pumping

Servus Credit Union Ltd.

Summit Nutrition

Trakcrete Canada Inc.

ViiSona

Zoetis Canada

#### SILVER

Canadian Hay & Silage

Dairy Lane Systems

Groovin' Gord/NextGen Grooving

Heartland Feeds

Jefo Nutrition Inc.

Manitoba Holsteins

Noble Equipment

Vetoquinol

Vandenberg Hay Farms Ltd.

West Country Dairy Supply Inc.

#### BRONZE

Agrai-Dairy Mart Ltd.

Alberta Dairy Congress

Agrifoods

Blondin Sires

Chinook Farm Innovations Inc.

Cowsmopolitan Country

Dolman Construction Ltd.

Eagle Builders LP

GEM Silage

Farmers Depot

Grand Valley Fortifiers

Green Acres Holstein Club

Gull Lake Veterinary Services

H.S. Knill Transport

Innisfail Veterinary Services

Jersey Canada & Jersey West

Kemin Animal Nutrition & Health

Kickstart Nutrition

L.H.S. Knill Transport

Lallemand Animal Nutrition

Lactanet

Livestock Veterinary Services

Masterfeeds

MAXactive

Quality Seeds



**APRIL 15** - Welcome Reception/National Convention Sale

**APRIL 16** - Farm Tours/Grouse Mountain Past President Reception

**APRIL 17** - National Show/Alternate Tour/Pacific Celebration Dinner

**APRIL 18** - Holstein Canada AGM/Master Breeder Gala



DIAMOND SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



INDUSTRY SPONSORS



PATRON SPONSORS

Avenue Machinery • Blondin Sires • Dairy Crop • Grand Valley Fortifiers • Greenbelt Veterinary Services  
Hatton Insurance Agency • Loewen Welding/Manufacturing • Mid Valley Manufacturing Ltd.  
Pacific Dairy Centre • Ridgecrest Dairy Ltd. • T & L Cattle • Vedder Transport

**Visit us on Facebook for up-to-date convention information.**

**For sponsorship packages and other inquiries - [bcholsteinconvention@gmail.com](mailto:bcholsteinconvention@gmail.com)**

# celebrating Longevity



Holstein Canada - promoting Longevity, Profitability & Efficiency!



## Happy Ever After in a Tie-Stall Place VANDEL SAMUELO OB LA DA

### Tars Cheema

It may have been a hard day's night for VANDEL SAMUELO OB LA DA EX-90-6E, fresh since October 19 with her 11th calf! But this tough Samuelo daughter has produced 126,995kg of rich milk - 4.7%F and 3.8%P in 10 lactations, earning one Super 5 and five Superior Lactation awards along the way, with a little help from her friends at Vandel Holsteins.

### Here Come the Sons

Lawrence and Bonnie Van Den Bossche married in 1985 and began their dairy life with 13 cows in Bruxelles, Manitoba. They moved into a new 32 tie-stall facility a year later, but as they gradually added four boys to the family, they couldn't let it be.

Oldest son David works in Winnipeg, but Mike, James and Brad came back home following ag studies at U. of Manitoba, necessitating a new modern facility for their 85 cows. That was yesterday, when they built a 45000 sq ft bedding pack barn in 2013 - resulting in 11 years fighting tingle voltage and high SCC. Frustrating enough to make you twist and shout, they added a Lely A4 in 2017 but sold it when their new 120 tie-stall facility (within the current barn) was ready in the winter of 2024/2025. A 60/40 split of stalls and strawpack, the new barn has provided a 30% production increase in the first six months of 2025! "We always had excellent survival and comfort in our old tie-stall barn," James explains.

While they all share the 2x milking schedule, Mike is the herdsman, James looks after machinery/feeding and Brad does bedding and milking systems upkeep.

The herd is fully registered and milk recorded, averaging 40kg daily with 4.24%F (BCAs 250-280-250) and it's still increasing.

Although they have done genomic testing previously, it is not on their management radar currently. The heifers are bred with sexed semen, but mostly they use proven conventional and some beef. "We want enough heifers for replacements and some extra for sales," explains Mike. "We have been a closed herd for over 30 years," adds Lawrence.

### Act Naturally

Longevity didn't come together for

Ob La Da's twin sister, **OB LA DI**, though full sibs should share 50% of the same genes on average. Sadly, all Ob La Di got was a ticket to ride when she didn't get in calf as a heifer.

There's no mistaking Ob La Da's personality, "She's calm to pet and milk, but she has a stubborn old cow mentality," Mike emphasizes. She lost her dry cow pasture privileges after she refused to respect the fences. Maybe her determined wandering tendencies resulted from excellent foot health and mobility? "She's never had hairy wart - our whole herd is free - her hoof health is really good - she's really mobile," affirms James.

### Will you still Breed Me?

Ob La Da's early fertility and calving intervals are remarkable, taking only seven breedings for her first six calvings, from 1-10 to 6-10! In total, she has produced 11 calves from 21 breedings, averaging a calving interval of 13 months!

Her trouble-free calvings included four bulls, but no twins - despite being a family trait.

Ob La Da has no health issues on her chart including the risky fresh cow illnesses like RP, milk fever and ketosis. "She's super tough," James offers an explanation.

The many years of SCC troubles make Ob La Da's survival even more impressive. Though her SCC history is erratic, she is well under 200,000 now and better than herd average.

The exact reasons are not clear, but her last three lactations were her lowest, coinciding with the robotic VMS milking time at Vandel. Loving the new comfortable tie-stall facility, she is off to a strong start in her 11th lactation, showing no signs of needing help!

### All You need is Love

Outstanding longevity cows don't always come from longevity dams - but in Ob La Da's case, she writes a better pedigree than most, with a four lactation EX-90 3\* Goldwyn dam. The next four dams have four, five, seven and five lactation totals, all tending to make herd average with good solids. After the Goldwyn, we have Allen, Juror, and Leadmaster, all with longevity strengths.

Ob La Da's sire, Samuelo, immediately

provides hints of stubbornness and survival through his sire Durham and the dam side with Emory and Prelude. Goldwyn brought in some fertility, udder health and calving traits to help. Many believe Goldwyn on Allen was a 'magic cross' with Allen having the overall strength to compliment Goldwyn's extreme dairyness. There's Emory again behind Allen. Juror is next in line, another magic cross of Blackstar and Chief Mark, proving that dairyness on toughness makes an excellent

outcome. The next dam by Leadmaster connects us to the longevity rockstar, Rudolph - Leadmaster's maternal brother.

Many of these sires have frequently populated the pedigrees of other featured Longevity cows.

Love is good, but a will to live and super-tough genes are keeping Ob La Da on the long and winding road.



# Happy Holidays

Looking for a unique gift?

Gift the magic of the **Spirit of the West** with tickets to the 2026 National Holstein Convention in Burnaby, BC!

For complete details and bookings, please visit [BCHolstein.ca](http://BCHolstein.ca) or email [BCHolsteinConvention@gmail.com](mailto:BCHolsteinConvention@gmail.com)



Holstein  
CANADA



[events.holstein.ca](http://events.holstein.ca)

## BC Branch Holstein Association of Canada Directors

### PRESIDENT

Thomas Cuthbert  
250-618-5551 • Fax: 250-245-3299  
Email: southcoastagro@outlook.com

### VICE PRESIDENT

Morgan Sangster  
306-290-5695  
Email: msangster@bcdairy.ca

### BC BRANCH SECRETARY/TREASURER

Joan Wikkerink  
Email: bcbranch@telus.net

### NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Brian Hamming  
250-545-0865 • Fax: 250-545-7565  
Email: bandjhamming@gmail.com

### VANCOUVER ISLAND

Ridley Wikkerink  
250-920-9347 • Fax: 250-743-9700  
Email: rwikkerink@shaw.ca

### Thomas Cuthbert

250-618-5551 • Fax: 250-245-3299  
Email: southcoastagro@outlook.com

### Luke Van Huizen

Email: luke\_rockycrestholsteins@hotmail.com  
Morgan Sangster  
306-290-5695  
Email: msangster@bcdairy.ca

### NORTH OKANAGAN

Clayton Hamming  
250-306-5231  
Email: clayton0317@hotmail.com

### FRASER VALLEY

Angela Hamming (R/D)  
604-818-7113  
Email: pahamming@dccnet.com

### Megan Baars (LFV)

604-217-6402  
Email: meganbaars40@gmail.com

### Heidi Schurmann (CFV)

604-864-8627  
Email: locarnofarms@gmail.com

### Greg Hessels (R/D)

778-991-0840  
Email: hesgenholsteins@gmail.com

## HOLSTEIN ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

519-756-8300  
Western Field Rep - Toby Kleinsasser  
519-865-4367

## HOLSTEIN CLUB OFFICERS

### VANCOUVER ISLAND

PRESIDENT  
Jordan Taylor, Courtenay  
250-650-6420

SECRETARY  
Cindy Wikkerink, Cobble Hill  
250-743-2430

RICHMOND-DELTA  
PRESIDENT  
Peter Hill Davie, Delta  
778-834-6431

SECRETARY  
Stephanie Hill Davie, Delta  
778-788-3224

### LOWER FRASER VALLEY

PRESIDENT  
Kevin Antonsen, Aldergrove  
Ph/Fax: 604-856-6650

SECRETARY  
Carl Barclay, Maple Ridge  
778-875-3709

### CENTRAL FRASER VALLEY

PRESIDENT:  
Kelwyn Hoeppner, Abbotsford  
604-217-5996

SECRETARY  
Amanda Luymes, Abbotsford  
778-549-0563

### UPPER FRASER VALLEY

PRESIDENT TBA  
SECRETARY  
Ashley Vander Kooi, Chilliwack  
604-819-8733

### NORTH OKANAGAN

PRESIDENT  
Sydney Fox, Westwold  
778-220-2518  
SECRETARY  
Corissa Haambuckers, Enderby  
250-540-2962

# BC Branch News



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With the end of 2025 only a month away, it's a good opportunity to reflect on another successful year for the BC Branch and look ahead with excitement for 2026. The Branch was very involved in many activities this past year, from hosting a successful Herd Management Seminar in February, the picnic in June, and highlighting three competitive Breeders Cups around the province. We also actively supported shows in the Okanagan and on Vancouver Island, in lieu of our own Spring Show in March.

Thank you to everyone who attended the BC Branch AGM in November. Congratulations to Annabelle Faustino on winning the Branch Scholarship, and to the Keis family of Kenmarank Farms on winning BC's 'Cow of the Year', with KENMARANK BLITZ ATTACK. Also, congratulations to Benco Holsteins, one of two of farms to have reached 200 homebred excellent cows in Canada this year!

Holstein Canada is currently offering a promo on registration and genomic testing. If you need to catch up your registrations and you've never genomic tested before, this is an excellent

opportunity to take advantage of savings being offered for both. Please reach out to Toby Kleinsasser, Western Field Rep, with any questions or to get started.

2026 will be a big year for the Branch as we host the National Holstein Convention in April. Thank you to our co-chairs: Joan, Morgan, and Suzanne, for all the work they've done so far, and to everyone who has stepped up to participate on the various committees. Judging by all the planned activities and tours, this is sure to be a first-class event. If you would like to be involved, there is still time!

Finally, thank you to the Board of Directors who work so hard to connect our members. I would like to personally thank past-president, Carl Barclay, who is retiring from the Branch after 10 years of dedicated service - you will be missed. With big shoes to fill, the Branch would like to welcome Megan Baars as its newest director.

*Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, and we'll see you in 2026 at Convention.*



**Thomas Cuthbert**  
President



## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2025! Looking back, it has been a successful year for many, both in the barn and in the field.

The Board of Directors gathered at Holstein Canada for meetings in October. After a long and diligent process, the Association is excited to welcome Greg Dietrich as the new CEO. Greg has been involved in the dairy industry his whole life in various capacities, including time at Holstein Canada, Semex, and on the GEB Board at Lactanet. The Board is confident in Greg's ability to provide strategic leadership to the membership going forward.

Holstein Canada promoted the 100th Anniversary of our Classification system by recognizing herds across the country who have achieved 100+

Excellent cows. Since this was so well received, the association will continue to celebrate this milestone, as well as in increments of 100 afterwards. Congratulations to the Westenenk family at Benco Holsteins in Chilliwack on receiving their '200 Excellent Cows' certificate!

2026 will be an exciting year in BC as we host the National Convention in April. I look forward to welcoming everyone to our beautiful province, and to all the activities that are slated to take place.

*Wishing all of our dairy families a peaceful Christmas Season. Plan to join Holstein Canada on January 17th for the live Master Breeder reveal, as well as the reveal of the All-Canadian winners on January 31st!*



**Brian Hamming**  
National Director

## BC's Cow of the Year!

Together these cows have produced 526,981kgs of Milk  
(over 1.1 million lbs!), 21,855kgs of Fat, and 16,818kgs of Protein!

*Congratulations*



### KENMARANK BLITZ ATTACK EX-90-4E

Owned by Kenmarank Farms Ltd.,  
Abbotsford

*"Attack is the type of cow we strive to breed and wish we could have a barn full of! Her conformation was correct; she milked a lot and milked out clean. Attack was healthy, fertile and trouble-free." - Gary Keis*



### HAMMING GOLDWYN BELLA 949 EX-95-4E 3\*

Owned by Hamming Holsteins Ltd., Vernon



### WEST ICHABOD 740 EX-93-4E

Owned by West River Farm,  
Rosedale



### WILLSWIKK DEFIANT DYNAMITE EX-93-6E

Owned by J. William Wikkerink  
Farms Ltd., Cobble Hill



# BC Dairy Association Bulletin Board

## From Teat to Table – Milk Quality Matters: Workshops Empower Dairy Producers Across BC

Morgan Sangster,  
BC Dairy Producer Support Manager

BC Dairy recently partnered with Lactanet to host a successful three-part workshop series, **From Teat to Table – Milk Quality Matters**. These meetings were held from October 28-30 in Salmon Arm, Chilliwack and Delta. The events brought together over 80 producers and industry members from across the province to explore the latest insights, tools, and management strategies for improving milk quality on-farm.

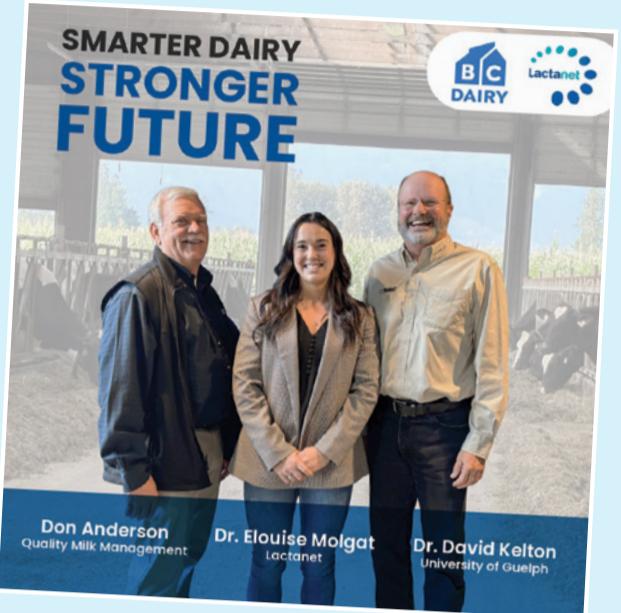
The workshops featured three well-known and respected industry experts. They each shared practical, research-based approaches to support producers in maintaining herd health and producing high-quality milk. BC's milk quality data was used in examples which helped to drive discussion around possible trends or seasonal shifts. This was a great feature to highlight the great work BC dairy farmers have done with respect to milk quality, but show there is always room for improvement.

**Dr. David Kelton, DVM, PhD, FCAHS**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph and former Dairy Farmers of Ontario Dairy Cattle Health Research Chair, provided valuable insight into the latest research on **mastitis control, selective dry cow therapy,**

**and milk quality improvement.** As a founding member of the Canadian Mastitis Network and Chair of the International Dairy Federation's Animal Health and Welfare Committee, Dr. Kelton shared practical applications of decades of dairy health research, emphasizing how prevention and data-driven decision-making can improve herd performance.

**Dr. Elouise Molgat, DVM**, Veterinary Advisor with Lactanet and Master's student specializing in epidemiology, discussed her ongoing work in **udder health and subclinical mastitis**. Her analysis of 16 years of national milk data is helping establish new benchmarks for mastitis monitoring and herd health improvement across Canadian dairy farms. Producers appreciated her ability to translate complex data into actionable strategies for managing somatic cell counts and maintaining consistent milk quality.

**Don Anderson, B.Sc. (Agricultural Engineering)**, founder of Quality Milk Management Ltd., brought decades of hands-on expertise in **milk quality, barn design, cow comfort, and milking systems**. Drawing on his background as the former Udder Health Specialist for the New Brunswick Milk Marketing Board, Don offered producers practical steps to improve equipment



performance and overall milking efficiency, ensuring optimal cow health and productivity.

Overall, **From Teat to Table – Milk Quality Matters** provided producers with the opportunity to learn, share experiences, and strengthen their commitment to quality milk production. BC Dairy extends its thanks to all speakers, organizers, and attendees for making the events such a success and looks forward to building on this momentum in future producer workshops.

## Rooted in Community: How Dairy Farmers Give Back



### Community Partnerships - BC Dairy

The holidays are a time to come together and reflect on what matters most. For BC Dairy and Alberta Milk, that means giving back to the people and communities they're proud to be part of all year long. Dairy farmers across BC and Alberta are committed to making a difference close to home.

#### A Season of Giving Back

From November 25 to December 2, 2025, BC's dairy farmers matched all donations to the BC Children's Hospital Foundation, up to \$120,000. These contributions will support vital healthcare programs, research, and equipment to ensure kids across BC receive the best possible care.

At the same time, Alberta's dairy farmers will match donations to the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation from November 27 to December 31, 2025, up to \$100,000, helping fund life-changing healthcare programs, specialized equipment, and critical supports for children and families across Alberta.

Together, BC and Alberta's dairy farmers are helping communities across both provinces come together in the spirit of giving – ensuring more kids can get back to being kids.

### Nourishing Futures: Tackling Food Insecurity

While the holidays highlight giving, supporting communities is something dairy farmers do all year long.

In BC, dairy farmers continued their partnership with Backpack Buddies as the Match Sponsor of the organization's annual Back-to-School Milk Money Campaign. As BC kids returned to class, Backpack Buddies delivered an incredible 156,000 bottles of milk this school year. Thanks to the support of BC's dairy farmers, the campaign reached its milk goal, helping ensure that children facing food insecurity receive the nourishment they need to learn and thrive.

In Alberta, Alberta Milk remains a dedicated supporter of Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids, helping provide healthy school lunches that include dairy products. This year, Alberta Milk partnered as the Charity Match Sponsor for the Servus Calgary Marathon Charity Challenge, helping to provide more than 16,000 nutritious lunches for Calgary's kids.

Across both provinces, these partnerships share one goal – helping kids access the nutritious food they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

#### Fueling School Spirit

Beyond healthcare and food security, dairy farmers are passionate about supporting youth athletics, helping

young people build healthy habits, teamwork, and confidence that lasts a lifetime.

BC Dairy and Alberta Milk are proud partners of BC School Sports and School Sport Alberta, ensuring students across both provinces have opportunities to participate in school athletics. This year, both organizations joined student athletes in person at the provincial Track and Field Championships, handing out milk and cheering on competitors as they celebrated hard work, dedication, and achievement.

Through these partnerships, BC Dairy and Alberta Milk also support the Athlete of the Month program, recognizing two standout student athletes each month, along with two annual scholarships in each province for graduating students pursuing post-secondary education. By fueling students' bodies and their goals, dairy farmers are helping build stronger kids and stronger communities.

#### Supporting the Places We Call Home

Farmers are deeply connected to the people around them. From supporting children's health to tackling hunger and celebrating young athletes, every initiative reflects a shared purpose – to nurture strong, healthy, and connected places to live.

Together, BC Dairy and Alberta Milk are proud to continue supporting the communities they call home.

# BC Holstein Branch AGM

## Busy in 2025, Busier in 2026!



### Amanda Poelman

The BC Branch held this year's AGM on November 18th at WestGen in Abbotsford and welcomed a "full house" of members. President Thomas Cuthbert welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented his report, highlighting a busy schedule of 2025 events.

The Herd Management seminar was held in February and featured three capable speakers with valuable information to share, Dr. Kee Jim ("The Business of Beef on Dairy"), Dr. Lisa McCrea ("Building Your Herd from Within"), and Matt Creechan ("Benchmarks in the BC Dairy Industry").



**Thomas Cuthbert presents Aretha Westenenk a certificate honouring Benco Holstein's 200th homebred excellent cow achievement.**

In lieu of hosting the BC Spring Show, the Branch supported the North Okanagan Holstein Show in April and the Vancouver Island Holstein Show in July, with extra funding. Both events featured a social evening as well as Tier 1 Judging opportunities for those interested.

"2026 will be a busy and exciting year for the Branch as we host the National Holstein Convention in April," said Thomas, who thanked Convention Co-Chairs, Joan Wikkerink, Suzanne Cuthbert, and Morgan Sangster, for the countless hours they have already poured into planning the event. "We are excited to showcase our province and BC Holsteins to the rest of Canada."

While thanking the directors for all the hard work they put in to planning Branch events, Thomas made special mention of a director who is completing his term after 10 years – Carl Barclay. "We are losing a great director. Carl is a past president and has been involved in many committees, including a long stretch as show committee chair. He will be missed at the board table!" Despite completing his tenure, Carl has agreed to stay on as the chairman of the show committee for the National Convention.

Megan Baars was welcomed as a new director on the Branch, filling Carl's seat. A past 4-H dairy club member and WCC participant, Megan has stayed active on her family's farm in Deroche.

Carl Barclay delivered reports for the Show and Events committees. While there was no spring show, the Branch did host an Open Heifer Show at this year's Abbotsford Agrifair. Although there were some growing pains, especially when it came to the entry process, it was a great opportunity for breeders to bring out their animals. The show committee is well on its way in planning the National Convention Show in April, with a dedicated group of volunteers seeing to its success.

Carl recognized this year's winners at the Maple Ridge Fair, who received belt buckles this year. Grand Champion calf was MEADOW GREEN AIRCRAFT FLYER, exhibited by Julia Vedo of the Cowichan Holstein club, and Reserve Champion went to DRESLER MIKASA MAJOR, exhibited by Dominic Hill of the Sumas Holstein club.

In one of his favourite jobs as committee chair, Carl highlighted this year's nominees for BC's Cow of the Year contest. The four nominees were HAMMING GOLDWYN BELLA EX-95 4E 3\*, KENMARANK BLITZ ATTACK EX-90 4E, WEST ICHABOD 740 EX-93 4E, and WILLSWIKK DEFIANT DYNAMITE EX-93 6E 1\*. Combined these nominees produced 526,981kgs of Milk, 21,855 kgs of Fat, and 16,818kgs of Protein. A video was prepared to

announce this year's winner and can be viewed on the BC Branch Facebook page.

Angela Hamming reported on the three successful Breeders Cups held around the province. Nearly 200 cows were entered between the Okanagan, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island, showcasing some great quality animals. Special thanks to William Wikkerink, Kenny McRae, and Carl Barclay for judging this year's competitions. With the Fraser Valley contest wrapping up on November 6th, Angela prepared a slide presentation to announce the winners at the meeting. She also showed the presentations from the Okanagan and Island clubs.

Before delivering the Finance Report, Ridley Wikkerink announced Annabelle Faustino as the winner of \$1000 BC Holstein Branch Bursary. Although she didn't grow up on a farm, Annabelle has been an active member of the Cowichan 4-H Holstein club and participated in WCC for several years. She is currently in her second year of post-secondary, with aspirations of attending vet school in the future.

### WestGen Update

WestGen CEO, Chris Parry, was on hand to present the performance update for the company. The significant change in semen demand that we saw in 2024 continues, with beef and sexed semen securing greater sales than conventional doses. Use of Elevate, WestGen's genomic testing program, has increased 20% over 2024, while sales of new technology SenseHub, have increased 127%.

Returning profits back into the industry via the WestGen Endowment Fund has continued, with \$2.8 million invested in a wide variety of programs and research since 2004. Most notably, WestGen announced its commitment to support the newly minted WestGen Canadian Classic, with \$45,000 annually over the next 10 years.

In conjunction with the Convention, WestGen will host the "Best in the West" from April 14-18, at The Advanced Reproduction Centre (The Arc), next to the office. The aim is to connect the clients who are currently utilizing The Arc's services, with breeders from around the world. "We want to help you market your genetics globally," says Chris, noting all transactions of embryos will be between the owners of the donor animals and the international buyers. The "Best of the West" will seek to attract buyers from Europe and the UK first, and hopefully other countries and markets will follow.

### Holstein Canada Update

Vice President Harold Sweetnam brought greetings from the Holstein Canada Board of Directors and updated everyone on the progress of finding a new CEO for the Association. He also highlighted Holstein Canada's new strategic plan for 2026-2028, which will operate under four main areas of focus: Member & Producer Engagement, Leadership & Governance, Industry Partnerships, and Research & Innovation.

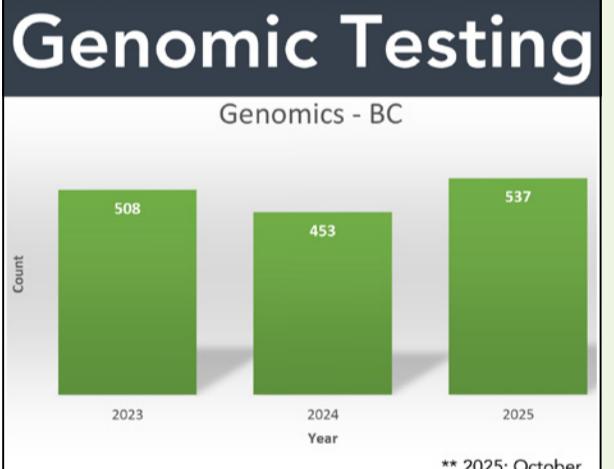
Toby Kleinsasser (Field Services) gave an overview on Registration, Classification, and Genomic Testing numbers across the country this year. While classification appears to be slightly down, Toby noted that there is still a regular classification round scheduled before Christmas, which will boost this figure. Genomic testing has increased across the country, with BC seeing



**Gary Keis receives the BC Cow of the Year Award from Carl Barclay.**

a significant jump in numbers over 2024. Toby also highlighted a "catchup" savings program that Holstein Canada will run for one month, allowing members to catch up their registrations and genomic tests.

Chris Bartels (Interim Co-Chief Operating Officer) brought updates about the regionalization of the classification program. Bernie McMorrow (SK) has been hired as a classifier in Western Canada to alleviate the travel required of classifiers from Ontario and Quebec. Now that the two-month scoring pilot project has been completed, qualifying herds who score an average of 20 animals per visit, have been invited to continue. There have been 150 herds sign up for this service across the country.



In 2025, Holstein Canada celebrated 100 years of the Classification program and will continue to recognize the milestone of herds achieving 100 homebred excellent cows and increments of 100 afterwards. Congratulations to the Westenenk family at Benco Holsteins (Chilliwack), who bred their 200th Excellent cow a couple months ago. Benco is one of two herds in Canada to tally 200 this year. Updates were also given about changes to various awards given by the Association and the Phenomics project in partnership with the Canadian Angus Association.



**BC Branch Board of Directors: Standing (L-R) Ridley Wikkerink, Brian Hamming (National Director), Heidi Schurmann, Megan Baars, Clayton Hamming, Greg Hessels. Seated (L-R) - Joan Wikkerink (Secretary), Thomas Cuthbert (President), Morgan Sangster (Vice-President), Angela Hamming. Missing - Luke Van Huizen.**

# Celebrating

# Milk Quality in the West!

Congratulations to the winners of the Milk Quality awards in each province and their farm teams who ensure top quality milk is a priority!



BC's Milk Quality Winner - Lac Roix Ranch, owned by Kelsey and Adrian Oosterhoff, New Entrant producers in 2023.



Alberta Milk Quality Winner - Buffalorock Farm Ltd. The Ridder family (L-R): Ella, Mike, Barend, Sem, Jace and Karin Ridder.



Manitoba's winner is Skyline Dairy, owned by David & Charles Wiens. Pictured is their dedicated staff (L-R): Antonia Driedger, Johann Priebe, Werner Priebe, Doug Priest and Rachel Bueckert.



(L-R) Tina Leverton (Manager, Field Services), presents the Award for 5th Place to Joanne Edwards of Bramville Jerseys.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. Lac Roix Ranch, Telkwa
2. Trinity Holsteins Ltd., Mission
3. Riverwater Farm Ltd., Duncan
4. Viewfield Farms Ltd., Courtenay
5. Vandenberg Dairy Ltd., Smithers

## ALBERTA

1. Buffalorock Farm Ltd., Mountain View County
2. Neudorf Hutterian Brethren, Crossfield
3. H & J Leusink Dairy Ltd., Picture Butte
4. P & C Dairy Ltd., Picture Butte
5. Beyer Dairy Ltd., Picture Butte

## SASKATCHEWAN

1. Knittig Farms Ltd., Annaheim
2. Daum Dairies, Dalmeny
3. Artland Dairies Inc., Marsden
4. Eatonia Hutterian Brethren Inc., Eatonia
5. Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis

## MANITOBA

1. Skyline Dairy Ltd. - David & Charles Wiens, Grunthal
2. Jan-Maarten & Hennie Kassies, Sarto
3. AH Dairy Farms Ltd., Randolph
4. Hanau Farm Partnership, Grunthal
5. Airport Colony, Portage la Prairie

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*

The Pacific  
Dairy Family  
wishes you all a  
joyous Christmas  
season and all  
the best in the  
New Year.



Front left to right: Todd M, Tony VB, Tracy B, Sue I, Richard W, Brad M, Jason B, Aron B, Jason R, Rebecca D, Neil D, and Gerald F.  
Back left to right: Gerrit B, John P, Matt P, Chris D, Jonathan V, John B, Jack N, Conner P, Tim P, Dain C, Chris S, Henry VDT, Jonathan D, Ben T, Jim P and Richard S. Missing: Martin D, Mike M, Karen N and Nigel L.

# Changes Ahead for TFW Program

Joel Slomp, Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant,  
The Admin Barn Immigration Consulting Ltd.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government swung from welcoming record numbers of newcomers to sharply reducing entries of Temporary Residents into Canada. Now, a year into this reversal, the effects are becoming clear. Government data shows that in the first eight months of 2025, more than 146,000 fewer new workers arrived compared to the same period in 2024. In agriculture specifically, the number of Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) has not declined but growth has slowed completely. According to Statistics Canada, there were just over 78,000 TFWs employed in the agriculture and agri-food sectors in 2024 – a slight decrease from the previous year.

The recent federal budget included a new immigration levels plan that continues the trend of reducing the number of temporary residents in Canada. Study permits, non-ag work permits, and Permanent Residence will continue to be difficult to achieve for most applicants. Thankfully, within the agriculture industry it appears the government recognizes that Foreign Workers are essential in providing labour security, and help keep the cost of groceries down, so employers should expect continued access to foreign labour. That said, there will likely be changes to the program most farms use.

According to news reports, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) is considering a couple significant changes to the agriculture stream of the TFW

Program. If implemented, the aim is that the changes will address significant and understandable criticisms of the program, while making it more efficient for both workers and employers.

The most significant change would be to grant more flexibility to workers wanting to change employers, by granting workers stream specific work permits. This type of permit would allow approved Foreign Workers to work for any approved employer in the Agriculture and Fish Processing sector, without needing to apply for a new work permit each time. Currently, most TFWs in the agriculture stream are on employer-specific work permits, restricting them to just the employer named on their work permit. Changing employers can be time-consuming and confusing, and in the worst cases, leave workers vulnerable to abuse from employers. Employer Specific Work Permits are a major point of contention from Migrant Workers rights groups and other critics of the TFW Program. Stream specific work permits would be a significant step to addressing these concerns.

ESDC is also looking to streamline the LMIA program for Ag Employers. Currently, employers must apply for a new LMIA each time they wish to fill a vacant position. A proposed change would allow Employers to instead apply for a *Temporary Foreign Worker Employer Authorization* which would allot them a set number of positions over a two-year period. This would allow



employers to replace a position if a TFW leaves, without the need to apply for a new LMIA, saving considerable time and paperwork.

From our perspective, these changes would be a major win for Employers and Foreign Workers as it would reduce gaps in employment and job vacancies by reducing the time lost waiting on government approvals. If and when ESDC actually implements these changes remains to be seen, but it's reasonable to expect the TFWP to look significantly different in the near future, hopefully in a way that continues to reflect needs of Canada's agricultural employers. 

## Has Canada Post changed your mailing address? Have you moved recently?

Please check the mailing label on this copy of the WCDN,  
and let us know if we need to make any changes! [chris@holsteinnews.com](mailto:chris@holsteinnews.com)



**The Admin Barn  
Immigration Consulting**

Good help is hard to find but we know the way.

**The Admin Barn** was founded to meet the growing need of Canadian farms for quality labour through Immigration and Recruitment Services.

Contact Us for support with LMIA's, Foreign Labour Recruitment, Work Permits and more.

We pride ourselves on connecting farms with the right workers to create long-lasting employment solutions.



Serving Western Canada since 2020

**THE  
ADMIN  
BARN**  
Immigration Consulting

Contact Us

604-302-9428

[www.theadminbarn.ca](http://www.theadminbarn.ca)

[office@theadminbarn.ca](mailto:office@theadminbarn.ca)



[CHEESEWORKS.CA](http://CHEESEWORKS.CA)



Otter  
Feed



Otter  
Petroleum

*merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year*

Wishing you a Happy Holiday from  
the Otter Co-op Feed & Fuel team.

We look forward to serving your  
farm in the New Year.



### Otter Co-op Feed

Bulk Feed & Retail Store  
3548 248<sup>th</sup> Street, Langley BC

**Order Desk**  
604.607.6900

**Toll Free**  
1.800.663.6038 – Ext 6900

### Otter Co-op Bulk Petroleum

Bulk Petroleum, Cardlock & Gas Bar  
44046 Progress Way, Chilliwack BC

**Order Desk** 604.793.8400    **Toll Free** 1.855.668.2667

Order fuel online at  
[bit.ly/OtterBulkPetro](http://bit.ly/OtterBulkPetro)

# The Road to Madison

# WORLD DAIRY EXPO

Madison, Wisconsin, USA



Bonnie Cooper, [becooper2010@gmail.com](mailto:becooper2010@gmail.com)

A Saskatchewan bred cow captured Grand Champion honours in the 468-head International Holstein Show at World Dairy Expo (WDE) when it was held from September 30 to October 3 in Madison, WI. LOVHILL SIDEKICK KANDY CANE EX-96-USA, bred by the Lovich family of Lovholm Holsteins, Balgonie, SK, and purchased in May 2024 by current owners Alicia and Jonathan Lamb of Oakfield Corners Dairy, Oakfield, NY, headed the exciting 5-Year-Old class and then went on to be Senior, Grand Champion and later Reserve Supreme Champion at Expo. The Lovichs are the only breeders in the 56-year history of WDE to have bred two different Holstein Grand Champions with LOVHILL GOLDWYN KATRYSHA EX-96-USA-3\* previously winning Grand and Supreme Champion at Expo ten years earlier in 2015 for MilkSource Genetics (WI). Michael Lovich, who made the breeding decisions that produced both cows, was at ringside and couldn't have been happier to have had two cows that descend from BIENERT ENCOUNTER KIM EX-90-4E-9\* stand in the limelight.

All roads definitely led to Madison this year as cattle from across the United States and Canada made the journey to compete on the asphalt grey coloured shavings in the eight different breed shows here. Sunshine and hot summer temperatures greeted spectators from around the world as they came to see the cattle shows and sales, take in the commercial exhibits and educational sessions, and renew and make new friendships. For those watching the Holstein Show via ExpoTV, a new feature this year was live commentary from a group of Holstein enthusiasts which included such Canadians as Russell Gammon, Jamie Howard and David Dymant, among others.

Owners from six Canadian provinces were represented in the **International Holstein Show**, which featured a 61-head Winter Calf class, perhaps the largest class ever held here. While no Western Canada showstrings made the trip this year, Westcoast Holsteins (BC), T&L Cattle (BC), R&F Livestock (SK) and Garry Vanderpost (SK) owned, solely or in partnership, animals that did well at the show and were stabled with other exhibitors. Canadians had much to be proud of as they bred and/or owned 14 of the 18 individual class winners, and 12 second place animals, in the Holstein Show! Ferme Jacobs (QC), while not bringing a showstring this year, won the Overall Premier Breeder banner for the 12th time on the basis of points gained from animals they have merchandised. The Overall Premier Exhibitor banner went for the fourth straight time to Butlerview Farm (IL) whose three class wins included a 1-2-3 finish in the Winter 2-Year-Olds. FARNEAR ALTITUDE-RED-ET was Overall Premier Sire and GOLDEN-OAKS MASTER-ET was Premier Sire of the heifer show.

The most highly anticipated class in the Holstein Show judged by Aaron Eaton of New York was the 5-Year-Olds. In the end, LOVHILL SIDEKICK KANDY CANE ran away with the class with her balance, dairyness, higher and wider udder, and the way she strode on her feet and legs over the well-known JEFFREY-WAY HARD ROCK TWIGS from Doeberiener & Bowen (OH), Conroy (IN), Walker Dairy (ON) and R&F Livestock, and GLENIRVINE UNIX SALLY from MilkSource and partners, who followed in second and third, respectively. In the Grand Champion contest, Kandy Cane used her maturity, added width and style to go ahead of WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE, the first Junior 3-Year-Old from Butlerview who was Intermediate Champion and Reserve Grand Champion. Sadie was leveler on the floor of her udder and had a crisper frame up front than the Canadian bred first 4-Year-Old, Reserve Senior Champion and Honourable Mention Grand Champion, EIXDALE

PWRUP ALONGSIDE, from MilkSource. Tagged as Honourable Mention Senior Champion was ALTONA LEA UNIX HERMINIE, the balanced and capacious black cow from Dalton Faris (ON) in the Aged Cows.

Ronald Grandy (ON) owned three class winners in the Holstein Show. Among them was ECHO GLEN MASTER IVY, a silky Winter Yearling who was Junior Champion and Expo's Supreme Champion Heifer, and FAMIPAGE LEGEND BARABAS, an extremely wide and dairy Senior 3-Year-Old who was tabbed as Reserve Intermediate Champion. Reserve Junior Champion was JOLIPRE MASTER ANGEL, a well balanced Summer Yearling with dairy strength who headed the Summer Yearlings for Joël Lepage (QC).

There were 320 head in the **International Red & White Show**, judged by Adam Hodgins of Ontario. GOLDEN-OAKS TEMPTRES-RED-ET, with her quality, width throughout and beautiful mammary system, got the nod for first 5-Year-Old, Senior and Grand Champion for MilkSource, Fischer, Steincrest & Crescentmead (WI). This Riverdown Unstopabull-Red daughter was later declared Supreme Champion cow of Expo, the first Red & White in 20 years to capture that award. Taking Reserve Senior and Reserve Grand Champion laurels was the dairy and recently fresh PREMIUM APPLE CRISP LILLY-RED, the Canadian bred cow who had won the Aged Cow class for Butlerview and had been Grand Champion here in 2023 and 2024. T&L Cattle, Garry Vanderpost, Weeksdale Holsteins (PEI) and Tyler Carter (IL) purchased at show time the first Fall Calf, MS BELIEVE IN FAITH-RED-ET, who went on to be Reserve Junior Champion. Elmvue Farm (NY) was the Red & White Show's Overall Premier Exhibitor, while Luck-E Holsteins (IL) was Overall Premier Breeder. FARNEAR ALTITUDE-RED-ET was Premier Sire and MR BLONDIN WARRIOR-RED-ET was Premier Sire of the heifer show for the fourth consecutive year.

New England Holstein breeder Clark Woodmansee III of Woodmansee Farm (CT) won the Klussendorf Award and Matt Sloan (WI) was presented with the Klussendorf-MacKenzie Award.

With the exception of two breeds, all of the Expo shows saw an increase in numbers with there being 384 Brown Swiss, 371 Jerseys, 361 Ayrshires, 253 Milking Shorthorns, 247 Guernseys, and 302 head in the Junior Holstein Show. During the past year, refinements and updates to WDE's Code of Ethics and Showring Policy were made emphasizing clearer rule definitions and penalties. These new rules were in place at the 2025 show to ensure Expo's high ethical standards remain.

Canadian exhibitors, like in 2024, again had to test and follow health protocols related to the Avian Influenza virus in order to show at WDE and return to Canada with their animals. The U.S. federal government's shutdown of government activities and services on October 1st, which occurred when funding legislation was not enacted by Congress, however, proved to be an even bigger obstacle for exhibitors this year when they could not readily get the necessary signatures and health papers from USDA veterinarians needed to return into Canada. Some Canadians were delayed another full week after WDE closed before they could cross the border and finally get home. These exhibitors, who had to house their animals at sites off the Madison fairgrounds during this process, are grateful to the many Americans who helped them with calls, feed, lodging and advice as they worked to get the proper health papers.

Next year's World Dairy Expo will take place from September 29 to October 2, 2026, in Madison. For complete show placings at WDE go to [www.worlddairyexpo.com](http://www.worlddairyexpo.com).



**Holstein Grand Champions:** (L-R) Grand Champion LOVHILL SIDEKICK KANDY CANE, Reserve Grand Champion WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE (Intermediate Champion), and Honourable Mention EIXDALE PWRUP ALONGSIDE.



**Holstein Junior Champions:** (L-R) Junior Champion ECHO GLEN MASTER IVY, Reserve Junior Champion JOLIPRE MASTER ANGEL, and Honourable Mention PETITCLERC JERRY ADINE.



**Grand Champion Red & Whites:** (L-R) Grand Champion and WDE Supreme Champion Cow GOLDEN-OAKS TEMPTRES-RED-ET, Reserve Grand Champion PREMIUM APPLE CRISP LILLY-RED, and Honourable Mention GLAUSTAR CALIF ALL OUT RED-ET.



From left: WDE Supreme Champion Cow and Grand Champion Red & White GOLDEN-OAKS TEMPTRES-RED-ET and Reserve Supreme Champion Cow and Grand Champion Holstein LOVHILL SIDEKICK KANDY CANE.

# Kandy Cane Makes History at Expo

## Lovich Motto: "Do your best, God will do the rest!"

**Amanda Poelman**

On October 4, 2025, Lovholm Holsteins (Balgonie, SK) made history as the first prefix to have produced not one, but two Grand Champions at World Dairy Expo. While this feat is impressive, the fact that LOVHILL SIDEKICK KANDY CANE (2025) and LOVHILL GOLDWYN KATRYSHA (2015) come from the same family makes the story even more unique. But while the honour certainly makes the Lovich family proud, what continually propels them forward is rooted in where they come from and the people who push and inspire them.



**LOVHILL SIDEKICK KANDY CANE EX-96 2E, Grand & Reserve Supreme Champion, World Dairy Expo 2025.**

### An Average Beginning

To follow the path of Kandy Cane and Katrysha, one must look back to the matriarch: BIENERT ENCOUNTER KIM EX-90 4E 9\*. When Dale Bienert dispersed his herd, there were a handful of animals that couldn't go through the sale for a variety of reasons. One of them was Encounter Kim, who had calved a month early in her first lactation, and while she had made a record, Dale wanted to be sure Kim would carry her second pregnancy full term before he sold her.

When Tom Hofstra, who was housing Kim at the time, passed up on the opportunity to buy her, Dale phoned Michael Lovich to see if he was interested. "He said, 'I have a cow for you, send your parents with your cheque book,'" recalls Michael of the exchange, "and he added, 'Don't worry about the price, I'll make it good.'" Michael's parents, Garry and Dianne Lovich, headed to Hofstras to pick up Kim, and \$1800 later, Kim settled in at Lovhill, calving 10 days later with a Blitz bull calf.

### LOVHILL GOLDWYN KATRYSHA EX-96

Born in 2009, Katrysha was consigned to the 2012 National Holstein Convention Sale in Manitoba, where she sold as a fresh 2 Year Old. Originally purchased by Tom DeGroot, Katrysha was sold to Entourage, Hank Van Exel and Triple-T Holsteins, eventually landing at MilkSource. Her daughter, LOVHILL WINDBROOK KITKAT EX-93 3E 4\*, stayed behind at Lovholm and quickly became a favourite as she produced two EX and two VG daughters in her own right, while producing over 75,000kgs of milk.

Successful at several shows, Katrysha started gaining in popularity, eventually hitting the coloured shavings in 2014, where she was named Reserve Grand Champion. "We didn't flush Kim until Katrysha started doing well," says Jessica, resulting in two EX and five VG ET daughters. Jessica notes

that she and Michael weren't particularly focused on the "K" family as far as breeding show cows was concerned, but "it became apparent that this family really transmits!"

A flush to Gold Chip proved to be particularly fruitful, producing LOVHILL GOLD KARAT EX-93 3E 2\*, a family favourite and the anchor of the Lovholm show string for many years. Karat finished 2nd in the Longtime Production class at the Western Dairy Expo in 2024, before passing away last fall, having produced over 100,000kgs and earning Superior Lactation awards four consecutive times. All of Karat's daughters scored VG or EX, except one – LOVHILL DIAMONDBACK KRUNCH GP-83, the dam of a cow that now only goes by one name: Kandy Cane.



**LOVHILL GOLDWYN KATRYSHA EX-96, Grand & Supreme Champion, World Dairy Expo 2015.**

### LOVHILL SIDEKICK KANDY CANE EX-96 2E

Kandy Cane was born in October 2019 and was used as a 4-H heifer the following year. "Our girls didn't even take her," laughs Jessica, "We lent her to a girl from town who had no experience!" In 2021, as a bred heifer, Kandy Cane headed to Ponoka to live at Crestomere where they had pasture to spare. "My dad grazed her all summer and kept asking for a price," says Jessica, "but Michael was pretty hopeful she'd calve in decent, so he kept saying no." Kandy Cane's November calving was uneventful, and while she looked "okay," she was very immature.

In 2022, Saskatchewan hosted the National Holstein Convention, and Holstein USA President Jonathan Lamb, along with wife Alicia, were on the tour bus that went to Lovholm. "I learned later that Alicia can basically pinpoint where she first saw Kandy Cane in our barn," says Jessica, noting that "all the good ones" were in Saskatoon already. In December, Kandy Cane calved again – this time with twin heifers by Avenger. While her development was evident, the twins had "really kicked the crap out of her."

Kandy Cane looked promising after her third calf in December 2023. She won her class in the provincial Breeders Cup contest, followed by winning the 4 Year Old class at the Western Dairy Expo a month later. By now everyone knows the rest of the story: Oakfield herdsman, Jamie Black was watching the live feed of the show, and a couple weeks later, on a convention tour bus in Montreal, Jonathan and Alicia Lamb made a deal with Michael that saw Kandy Cane bound for New York.

As they always do, Michael and Jessica connected with the Lambs many times after her arrival at Oakfield. "We like to follow up with our cows when we sell them, no matter where

they go," says Jessica, "Our goal is to breed functional cows that can be successful in anyone's barn." They both agree that sending Kandy Cane to the Oakfield barn was an opportunity they couldn't pass up because they knew the calibre of care she would receive. Aware of their busy schedules and lack of capacity for special show cow programs, Jessica says, "We would love to develop our own Madison Grand, but we can't even grow grass hay!"

### The Golden Moment

The Lambs reached out to Michael and Jessica in September, suggesting they come to Madison because "the cow looked pretty good." Michael decided to go at the last minute, while Jessica stayed home to do the chores. "I'm 100% fine with staying home," she says, "Michael works hard and lets his girls do a lot, so I really wanted him to be there." The 5 Year Old class was the most highly anticipated class of the show, with names like JEFFREY-WAY HARD ROCK TWIGS and GLENIRVINE UNIX SALLY also entering the ring. Michael was in the stands, too nervous to take pictures. Jessica went to the house to "have lunch," although she never got around to eating. "The best moment for me was when the judged pointed at Kandy Cane for the first pull," says Jessica, "To hear the crowd's reaction made me so proud. Then you know everyone really likes her!"

### The Aftermath

Jessica admits that Kandy Cane's win at Expo feels quite different from when Katrysha won a decade ago. "Katrysha's win was awesome and unexpected, but we didn't have as much invested in her development, whereas Kandy Cane calved here three times before she went to Oakfield." The family is also mindful that a decade ago they had just moved from Alberta to Saskatchewan and were less focused on show cows as they were on finding out what the future would be for their family in the dairy industry.

Michael and Jessica are both quick to credit the Lambs for bringing them along for the ride. "We've developed a good friendship with them, and they included Michael in every picture, toast, and interview, which was very special," says Jessica. For herself, she and the girls headed out to the barn to do chores as if it was any other day. "My phone was blowing up with congratulatory texts and calls," she says, "but arriving at the Westerner and feeling the support from all our friends is what means the most."

Acknowledging that she grew up showing in the highly competitive western arena of notable breeders, the emotion flows freely as Jessica says, "Many of our peers have been direct mentors or family farms that we aspire to be like. We strongly feel that the Kim line was a blessing, but the ability to develop cows and be successful dairy farmers has come from not only a competitive environment but a supportive one that continues to push us."

Does the "K" family have another champion in it? Michael says, "It's always good to have goals!" Jessica adds, "Remember that all the accolades can be taken away in an instant. Give God the glory first and live your life with integrity and faith. If you do this while working hard, you won't be able to fathom the blessings God will give you along the way!"



**Ian Hodges (left) and Kevin Naughton (right) of WestGen recognize Michael and Jessica for their historic achievement.**



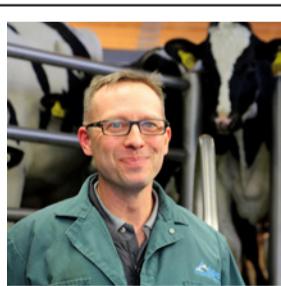
#### FRASER VALLEY

604.229.7231  
1625 Angus Campbell Rd,  
Abbotsford

#### VANCOUVER ISLAND

236.800.3089  
2668 Courtney Way,  
Shawnigan Lake

office@agwestvet.com  
www.agwestvet.com



Brent Fawcett, DVM



Lisa McCrea, DVM



Jackie Wrigglesworth, DVM



Mélodie Arès-Monast, DVM



Blossom de Bruin, DVM



Tara Sweetnam, DVM



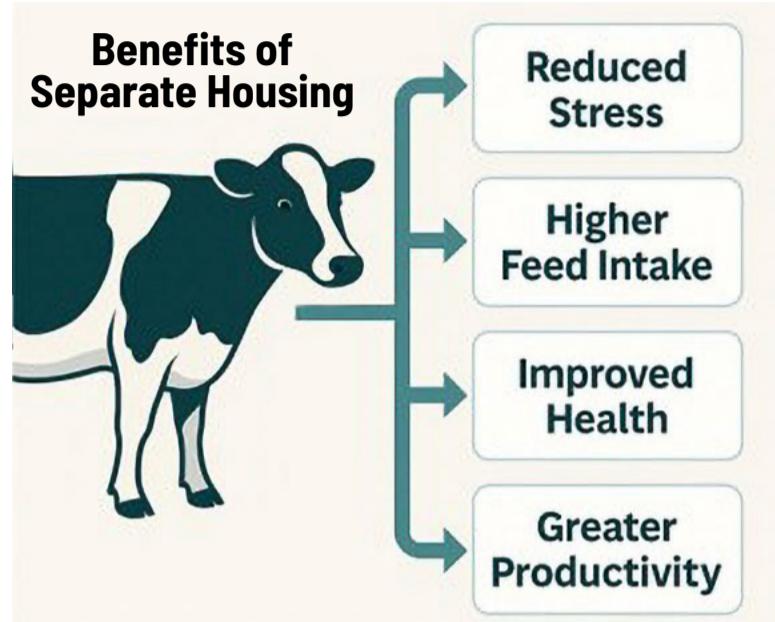
**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

# Reducing Stress and Boosting Performance:

## The Case for Separate Grouping

Sarah Dean, M.Sc., Ruminant Technical Specialist,  
Jefo Nutrition Inc. | [sdean@jefo.ca](mailto:sdean@jefo.ca)

Victoria Asselstine, Ph.D., Ruminant Technical Service Manager,  
Jefo Nutrition Inc. | [vasselstine@jefo.ca](mailto:vasselstine@jefo.ca)



**“**Research has shown that stress reduces dry matter intake (DMI), leading to greater drops in feed consumption before calving and higher risks of metabolic disorders afterward. **”**

demonstrated to reduce their feeding rate by 10% and decrease rumination by about 9%. Similarly, regrouping during lactation has demonstrated clear behavioral and production effects. After being mixed into new groups, cows spent 15 minutes less time eating during the first hour, and the number of times they were pushed away from the

feed bunk more than doubled – rising from 10 to over 25 times per day – before gradually returning to normal over the next few days. Cows also had fewer lying bouts (dropping from 12 to 10.5 per day), spent slightly less total time lying down, and showed a sharp decline in positive social behaviors such as allogrooming, which fell from 7.5 to just 1.3

events per day. Milk yield decreased from 43.4 to 39.7 kg/day on the day of regrouping but recovered within a few days once cows had re-established social stability. These findings highlight that regrouping can disrupt cow behavior and productivity; therefore, managing cows by separating first-lactation animals from mature cows from the start of lactation minimizes social stress, and reduces regrouping events.

Beyond reducing social stress, separating first-lactation heifers from mature cows also opens the door to precision nutrition. Each group can receive a ration tailored to their unique nutrient needs. This targeted feeding approach not only improves health and productivity but also enhances feed efficiency and reduces waste, helping producers get more out of every kilogram of feed.

If modifying facilities or grouping strategies isn't an option, preparation and nutritional management around the transition period can still make a meaningful impact. Ensuring that first-lactation heifers are well-supported before and after calving helps them cope with the stress of entering the milking herd and mixing with mature cows. Nutritional supplementation – including B vitamins – can enhance energy metabolism and metabolic efficiency, helping to minimize the effects of stress during this critical stage.

When nutritional supplementation is combined with consistent feeding, comfortable housing, and calm handling, these management practices help maintain feed intake, minimize post-calving setbacks, and support steady, healthy milk production even without major facility changes.

References available upon request.

## A Trip to Remember! European Young Breeders School 2025



**Nicole Verhoef, Happy Cow Dairy, AB**

A busy summer ended with an extraordinary opportunity – Young Breeders School in Belgium! I'm excited to reflect and share my experience with all of you. Insights into the program were shared in the last issue, along with the accomplishments of my amazing teammates; Audrey Labb  , Ariane Lebel, Nadia Uhr, Sarah Versteeg, and Robert Goodwill. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without each other. Another person who completed our team was Nicole Scott. An employee of Semex, Nicole was challenged with the job of being our chaperone, but she tackled it wonderfully, encouraging team spirit, hard work, and enjoyment. We also had the opportunity to seek advice from a group of eight knowledgeable coaches: Erica Rijneveld (Dutch), Michael Halliwell (English), Vki Singh (English), Jonathan Lehoux (French), Melissa Marcoux (French), Jonas Melbaum (German), Devon Lohmoller (German), and Quim Vila (Spanish). Thank you to all the coaches for your kindness and

guidance throughout the week!

Although I am no stranger to Europe, being the daughter of Dutch immigrants, Belgium was completely new territory for me and all of my teammates. We were fortunate to spend our first day exploring Brussels and visited The Grand Place, Manneken Pis, did a chocolate tour and had a team dinner. Early the next morning we took off for Battice.

After a brief introduction and explanation, we were thrown into the deep end and sent off to find our stall, collect straw, hay, water, and other supplies we needed for the week. Our calves were waiting for us at our stall. Each participant in the school was assigned a calf provided by Belgian dairy farmers based on our height. I was paired with a large calf. Then we started with a pattern of workshops and time to put that information into practice. These workshops proceeded over three days and included things like bed pack, feeding, washing, clipping, showmanship, judging and more. One aspect that I appreciated about the format was that the coaches came

around while we were practising to answer questions one-on-one and give helpful tips. I was also amazed that they knew each of our names. With over 160 competitors, this effort really stood out!

One night I think was a highlight for everyone was the World Gastronomical Tour. Every team was asked to bring a beverage and a snack that was 'known' to be tied to that country. There were some very interesting appetizers and drinks served and a lot of socializing between teams. Our team brought an assortment of maple and butterscotch liqueurs and served sausages wrapped in bacon with maple syrup. Our host families, who kindly opened their homes to us for a place to sleep, were also invited to this evening.

The last two days of the trip were show days. This was what all our work had led up to. Our placing by the official judge, Shayne Brus, in showmanship was weighted the highest. We were also judged by the coaches on

our clipping and showmanship. Our scores from the judging competition, marketing workshop, clipping, showmanship, and participation score, yielded our ultimate score for individual ranking, where three of my teammates excelled in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> place.

I was truly honoured to have received the Leaders Award. Although showing posed a true challenge for me and my strong-willed heifer, I am grateful that the coaches recognized my efforts.

I would like to share my appreciation to everyone who cheered me on during and after YBS. Your kind words, excitement, and support did not go unnoticed. I would also like to thank Holstein Canada and Semex for making this trip possible. And once again to my teammates, Nicole Scott, and all of the coaches; thank you for such a memorable and educational experience.

*I wish next year's Western Canadian representative, Ashlee McAvoy, the best of luck!*



**Showing my 'strong-willed' heifer.**



**Proud of Team Canada.**

# ***Life, made easier* gives you time to enjoy a creamy cup of hot chocolate.**

Cut, colour, and share  
a festive moment with family and friends!



AD\_WCDairy\_Dec 2025



**Jefo**  
Life, made easier.®

From all of us at Jefo,  
we wish you a joyful holiday season  
and a successful new year.  
Together, let's promote a healthier circle  
of life on a more sustainable planet with  
high-quality dairy products.

Discover how easy  
cow nutrition can be



[www.jefo.ca](http://www.jefo.ca)

# The Stobbe Family – Driven to Diversify

## Tars Cheema

Third generation farmer AJ Stobbe can hardly believe **all this** began with his grandparents' two wedding cows in 1953. **'This'** refers to a 220-cow dairy, 60-acre blueberry operation with state-of-the-art sorting/processing facility, and cheese making plant in Armstrong with a retail cafe and distribution business.

AJ's grandparents, Abe and Mary, met at the hopyards in the Fraser Valley and got married. By the late 1990s, under the direction of second generation Stobbes, Abe and Darlene, Serene Lea Dairy was stretched, milking 120 cows between two Abbotsford farms and youngstock stationed at two others. With AJ and possibly younger siblings, Diana and Marc, looking to join the farm, a new plan was needed.

Groundbreaking for the new dairy in Mara (North Okanagan) began in 2002, becoming fully operational in November 2003.

## Serene Lea Farms

In Mara, the dairy has steadily grown to 220 milking head averaging over 41kg with 4.2%BF and 3.35%P with no palm fat. "We are comfortably full," smiles AJ. 'More cows' is not the plan – consistent, high quality milk is their entire focus – because this is the foundation of **high quality cheese** – a big part of their diversified future!

The herd is registered, but not milk recorded or classified. Years ago, they began genomic testing all heifers – initially using sexed on the top, then conventional and beef lower down. "We need 10-11 heifer calves per month, so for the last year, with all animals having a genomic test, we use only sexed Holstein and beef semen on the entire herd to accomplish that," explains AJ. They average 1.4 breedings per pregnancy.

An excellent cowman, Kurtis Severinski has been herdsman since early 2024 – he takes responsibility for and pride in managing the herd for top comfort and top quality milk. "We want health traits, smaller (more efficient) cows with fat and milk yield," says AJ. This is crucial to high quality cheese – and the herd maintains SCC very near 60,000 at all times.

"Our barn team consists of people who work with the cows in a quiet, slow and gentle manner," insists AJ, realizing peace in the barn plays a big part in quality milk.

The herd is split into three groups – transition/fresh/TLC, first lactations and older cows. They milk in a double-16 Germania rapid-exit parlour with an AFI computer and pedometers.

Cow comfort is another prime focus, supported with cow brushes, curtain side walls, large variable-speed fans and dry, well-bedded waterbed stalls that are limed 3x/week.

## Feeding

Phil Lee has had a pivotal influence on changing from 'laptop first' ration balancing to 'cow first' diet management since 2009. Things like high fibre, including dry timothy hay and beet pulp are crucial to keeping a stable, healthy rumen environment.

"Phil showed me how nutrition **with** management will improve results. As I saw our many changes improve results, I got really excited about applying this to everything."

Added to the mix are whole canola, canola meal, flax and peas – all heat-treated to improve rumen bypass value. They truck all the commodities themselves and mill the grains on-farm as well. Keeping the cogs turning smoothly is as important as maintaining a stable rumen environment – AJ is thankful for his maintenance team of Abe, Kenton and Joe.

## Madalea Growers

Longtime BMO clients, the Stobbes were visited by Doug Bonsteel in 2014. With the dairy supporting three families, Doug suggested they buy the adjacent acreage and grow blueberries on the peat ground.

The blueberry operation has proven to be fascinatingly different from the 365 day-a-year dairy business. Summer heat is the enemy of fresh blueberries, so minimizing time from picking to warehouse chilling is imperative. The 30-pound 'lugs' of fresh, mechanically picked berries are immediately loaded into reefer trucks and transported to the packing house where they are **rapidly** cooled to 36F; 30,000 pounds are chilled every 12 hours.

"Our blueberry business is **intense** for two and half months every summer. It's a constant demand to keep up with distributing fresh, chilled berries to retailers – **daily – all summer!**" Like milk, fresh berries represent the highest price/margin product. Madalea supplies fresh and frozen berries to 150 retailers (and growing). About half of the berry harvest is frozen for later processing.

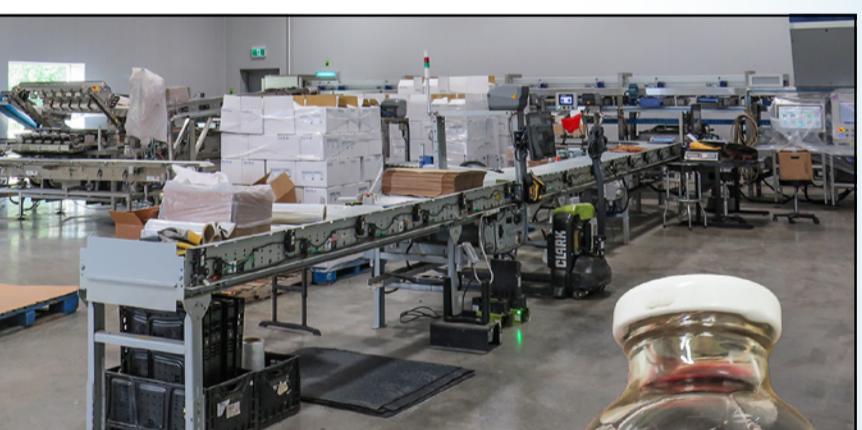
The Italian built Unitec 'world class' sorting system is massive, impressive and deceptively sophisticated with twenty-four high-speed cameras capturing 36 optical images of every berry. Four lines of chilled or frozen berries proceed single file at 42 berries per second through the camera phase. Precise blasts of air kick out leaves, stems and sticks. Using the pictures, the intelligent software identifies and sorts berries into eight different grades, based on firmness, colour, size, skin defects and more. Criteria can be further refined and the



**Three generations of Stobbes – dedicated to faith, family and farming. (L-R) Jadyn, Darlene, Abe, Elijah, AJ, Ava, Breanne.**



**AJ (left) and Kurtis are dedicated to consistent, top quality milk from 'happy cows,' which is a must for quality cheese production.**



**The pristine and refrigerated Madalea Growers processing plant is quiet ahead of the intense July-September harvest period.**

software can be taught new tricks, as with grading/sorting frozen berries. Joe is pivotal in his role operating the blueberry operation. The system integrates exceptional traceability – by row, basket, date and retailer.

Only 5-10% of fresh berries are perfect enough to make the top grade for export to China, Korea, Thailand and Dubai. At the other end of the scale, low-grade berries make high-value jams and juices! "You have to be creative and find ways to keep your investment working in the off-season, so we process frozen berries through the winter."

Madalea Growers is very much still in an upswing cycle with new product and distribution opportunities keeping the Stobbe family hopping.





**Village Dairy's artisanal cheese-making is visible from viewing windows in the welcoming café/cheese shop.**

### Village Dairy – the Cheesemaking Café

AJ's learning curve has been both steep and fun in the world of making and marketing artisanal cheeses! They bought Village Cheese in Armstrong in 2023, rebranding it as Village Dairy. The operation includes a café and retail shop for cheese (with a vast range of related products) in addition to direct marketing to other retailers and through wholesaler, GFS.

"Village Dairy is a standalone processing facility for cheese in the town of Armstrong – but we buy our own milk back from the BC Milk Marketing Board. It is important because we absolutely must have high quality and consistent milk," explains AJ. Their long-time cheesemaker, Jose, insists on consistency and high quality milk, calling it **happy milk**.

Today, about 40% of Serene Lea's milk goes into cheese, though the plant could handle all of it. One of the challenges is finding shelf space in the big retailers – big suppliers often have already paid for and locked-up the shelf space.

AJ is far from defeated – always open to marketing/branding and new ideas to move Village Dairy products in new ways. Aligning with Canadian Cheese Ambassador, David Beaudoin, has invigorated AJ to continuously scan for new possibilities. Squeaky Cheese is one such fun product with less mainstream competition.

### Leaving a Bad Taste

About four years ago, the Stobbes were enticed away from BMO with a delicious offer from another lender. But it all soured terribly early in 2025 when they were told there was no more appetite for their business. Admittedly, the Stobbes had experienced numerous upsets which showed up in the balance sheet – though all explainable and temporary.

In 2021, their much-valued herdsman, Colin Trueman, suffered a fatal heart attack at 49. Colin's shocking loss was both an emotional and operational setback. A blueberry packing facility continued to be built over the next seven months. Village Cheese was bought in 2023, the same year a fire at the farm in August took out five bays of silage, equipment and a full hay storage barn. Insurance was insufficient to cover current replacement values (the rebuilding continues slowly today as cash

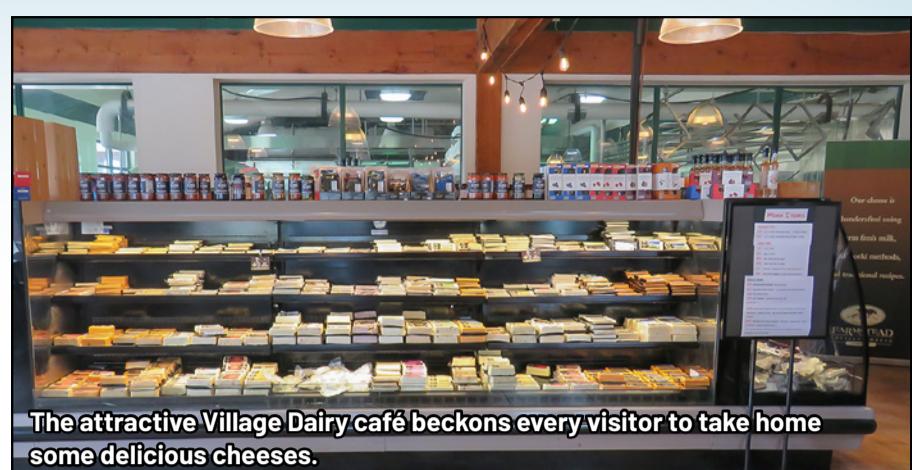
flow permits). A final kicker that summer was the dreadfully disappointing blueberry crop that had baked under long, searing summer heat. These situations collectively put understandable strain on the books.

2025 has been a hard year, but with a patient new lending partner, the Stobbe Foods team are proving their robust financial flavour.

### It Takes a Village

One of the secrets to the successful enterprise growth has come from partnering with excellent people – starting with his wife Breanne. Originally a city girl from Cochrane, Alberta, Breanne and AJ met at bible school in Austria in 2003. She handles family responsibilities, the myriad paperwork (financial, HR, payroll, Foodsafe) while also maintaining the best AI conception rate in the barn! "We're the perfect pair," smirks AJ, "I'm the gas, and she's the brakes."

Nutritionist Phil became a 'life coach' for AJ, sharing trips to Tulare and innumerable dinners together. It was while touring large Fresno dairies that AJ learned the lesson of crucial secondary income (hazelnuts)



**The attractive Village Dairy café beckons every visitor to take home some delicious cheeses.**

during weak dairy price years.

Canadian Cheese Ambassador David Beaudoin is another mentor/friend, inspiring and encouraging AJ to explore related products and marketing angles. Village Dairy's GM, Kelly, prefers to keep everything humming smoothly without being in the spotlight.

Sales manager of both Madalea and Village, Jae makes sure their 'farm to face' products land on the *right* shelves to reach the *right* faces. Café customers benefit from Director

of Food and Events, Lindsey's, talents ensuring a hometown hyper-local meal and a welcoming café environment that beckons people to take home some irresistible fresh farm products.

AJ is honoured to work with the 40 excellent team members that are employed between Serene Lea Farms, Madalea Growers and Village Dairy. "Without this team of professionals nurturing creation every day we would not be providing outstanding food products for all to experience the fullness of life."

# HARD WORK MADE EASY





For you, the work never stops. From growing crops to daily farm chores, the M7-4 tractor was built to help farmers get it all done. Designed for comfort and reliability, these tractors can handle your big and small jobs all year round. Plus, with excellent dealership support, you can trust we work as hard as our equipment. Make your hard work easier with a Kubota M7-4 tractor.

 **VISIT YOUR LOCAL BRITISH COLUMBIA KUBOTA DEALER TODAY.**

#### AVENUE MACHINERY

Abbotsford 604-864-2665  
Kelowna 250-769-8700  
Vernon 250-545-3355

#### DOUGLAS LAKE EQUIPMENT

Dawson Creek 250-782-5281  
Kamloops 250-851-2044  
Surrey 604-576-7506

#### GERARD'S EQUIPMENT LTD.

Oliver 250-498-2524  
HUBER FARM EQUIPMENT

Prince George 250-560-5431  
Smithers 250-847-3610

#### ISLAND TRACTOR & SUPPLY

Courtenay 250-334-0801  
Duncan 250-746-1755

#### KEMLEE EQUIP LTD

Cranbrook 250-489-5337  
Creston 250-428-2254



# The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

## New Record Set in Royal Holstein Show

Intermediate Champion  
WEST-ADUB  
LAMBDA SADIE,  
Westcoast  
Holsteins,  
Chilliwack, BC.



**B&W Grand Champions:** (L-R) Curtis McNeil (Vice-President, Semex), Pascal Martin (President, Holstein Québec), Gilles Côté (President, Holstein Canada), Judge Joël Lepage, ALTONA LEA UNIX HERMINIE - Champion; EIXDALE PWRUP ALONGSIDE - Reserve; WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE - Honourable Mention; Associate Judge JP Proulx.



**R&W Intermediate Champions:** (L-R) Judge Steve Fraser, INTENSE DEVOUR GINGER - Champion; MS DANIELLES DAYANNA-RED - Reserve; STOLHAVEN JRD ALAINA-RED - Honourable Mention; Murray Reissner (Ringman).



**R&W Grand Champions:** (L-R) Josée Charron (Director, Semex), Pascal Martin (President, Holstein Québec), Judge Steve Fraser, GOLDEN-OAKS TEMPTRES-RED - Champion; KAMPS-RX APLB ARCHER-RED - Reserve; HURCROFT AWE LILLYANN-RED - Honourable Mention.

Ella Wright photos

**Bonnie Cooper,**  
becooper2010@gmail.com

The barn was full, the competition exciting, and the shows amazing at Canada's National Holstein and Red & White Shows on November 13 & 14 at the 103rd Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, ON. A huge crowd of Canadian and foreign spectators filled the stands to watch the fabulous shows, bolstered by even more online viewers taking in the livestream. This year's shows were again a display of the very best in North America, with cattle from the west to the east in Canada being joined in the ring by even more American owned animals than in recent times.

The Royal's 2025 **National Holstein Show** was the largest in history with 464 outstanding animals (227 cows and 237 heifers) crossing the tanbark before Judge Joël Lepage of JM Valley Holstein, Amqui, QC, and Associate Judge Jean-Philippe Proulx, herdsman at Ferme Blondin, Saint-Placide, QC. In the end, Judge Lepage said it was an "easy choice" as he declared ALTONA LEA UNIX HERMINIE as the show's Grand Champion to huge applause. Owned by Dalton Faris (ON), this beautiful Mature Cow used her advantage in having had five calves, along with her length and extension of fore udder and stronger fore udder attachments, in placing ahead of EIXDALE PWRUP ALONGSIDE, the first 4-Year-Old and Reserve Grand Champion from MilkSource Genetics (WI), who was praised for her dairy strength.

Tagged as Intermediate Champion and Honourable Mention Grand Champion was WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE, the Westcoast Holsteins' (BC) entry admired for her combination of dairy strength, open rib and wonderful mammary system. This Junior 3-Year-Old's width and height of rear udder and better mobility put her ahead of the first Winter 2-Year-Old and Reserve Intermediate Champion, MICHERET SOUTH BELIEVE, from Butlerview Farm (IL).

Claiming the Junior Champion rosette was ECHO GLEN MASTER IVY, the Winter Yearling from Ronald Grandy (ON) whose dairy strength, style and angularity also led her to become the Royal's Supreme Dairy Heifer the next day. Ivy's femininity and cleaner hocks put her over FRICOSONS DENVER AVALANCHE, the open, deep ribbed first Summer Yearling and Reserve Junior Champion who was acquired just prior to the championship class by Westcoast Holsteins

from Fricosons Holsteins & Keaton Phoenix (ON).

Securing the Overall Premier Exhibitor banner in the Holstein Show by a wide margin was Butlerview who had three firsts and four seconds in the milking classes. Runner-up for Overall Exhibitor was Westcoast Holsteins. Ferme Jacobs (QC) headed the Senior Breeder's Herd class and was Overall Premier Breeder. This is the 13th time that Jacobs has won the Breeder's Herd class and 10th Breeder banner since 2008. Karnview Farms (ON) claimed both the Junior Premier Breeder and Exhibitor awards. FARNEAR DELTA-LAMBDA-ET was Overall Premier Sire for the third straight year, and GOLDEN-OAKS MASTER-ET was Junior Premier Sire for the second time.

Several special awards were given during the Holstein Show. Herb Henderson of Hendercroft Holsteins (ON) was presented with the Curtis Clark Achievement Award, while Adam Hodgins of Hodglynn Holsteins (ON) won the Andrea Crowe Memorial Award, and Joel Phoenix of Dappleview Holsteins (ON) earned the Donald Dubois Showmanship Award.

The **National Red & White Holstein Show** attracted 129 head for the appraisal of Judge Steve Fraser of Fraeland Holsteins, Fergus, ON. Fraser is the third generation of his family to judge at the Royal following in the footsteps of his grandfather J.M. (Holstein Judge 1959, 1969) and father Jack (Holstein Judge 1996).

Rising to the top in the Reds were a pair of cows that Judge Fraser said, "just hit me when they came into the ring." Seizing the Grand Championship was GOLDEN-OAKS TEMPTRES-RED-ET from MilkSource, Fischer, Steinhagen & Crescentmead (WI) who had been Supreme Champion at World Dairy Expo the month before. The dairyness, bone quality and silky hide on this 5-Year-Old by RIVERDOWN UNSTOPABULL-RED, along with her body length and definition of udder crease, put her ahead of the first 4-Year-Old and Reserve Grand Champion, KAMPS-RX APLB ARCHER-RED-ET, from Hodglynn Holsteins (ON). This LOH DICE-RED-ET daughter used her superior mobility to beat the first Longtime Production Cow and Honourable Mention Grand Champion, HURCROFT AWE LILLYANN-RED, from Oakfield Corners Dairy (NY) who was also a class winner in the Holstein Show and won the production award in both.

Butlerview claimed Intermediate Champion with their dairy and feminine first Junior 3-Year-Old, INTENSE DEVOUR GINGER, who they recently acquired from Westcoast. This lady's length of fore udder and better pasterns put her over the wide, powerful second Junior 3-Year-Old and Reserve Intermediate Champion, MS DANIELLES DAYANNA-RED-ET, an Unstopabull from Jason Martin, North Polled Genetics & Plum Valley Holsteins (ON). A pair of Fall Heifer Calves came to the forefront in the heifer show with the Junior Championship going to MAPLE-AIN BLONDES HAVE MOREFUN from Maple-Ain Holsteins, AJ Genetics, Mary Inn Holstein & Mitchell Anderson (ON) and sired by the Overall Premier Sire, MR BLONDIN WARRIOR-RED-ET. The length, openness and depth of rib on this calf put her ahead of the well-made MS BELIEVE IN FAITH-RED-ET, the Reserve Junior Champion owned by T&L Cattle (BC), Vanhaven Holsteins (SK), Weeksdale Holsteins (PE) and Tyler Carter (IL).

Ferme Rolandale (QC - prefix Jolibois) was the show's Overall Premier Breeder for the ninth straight year and Overall Premier Exhibitor for the fourth consecutive time. Ferme Malic (QC) was Junior Premier Breeder, and the partnership of Malic & Ponderosa Holsteins (QC) was Junior Premier Exhibitor. FARNEAR ALTITUDE-RED-ET was Junior Premier Sire.

Western Canada was well represented in both National Shows. In addition to Westcoast, T&L Cattle and Vanhaven, other breeders exhibiting entries here included R&F Livestock (SK), Benbie (SK), Wendon (AB), Roswitha (MB), and Robella (SK), who showed their first ever Junior Breeder's Herd here, while many more Western prefixes could be spotted on animals owned by other exhibitors.

Eight young people from Western Canada had the opportunity to be involved in the show as well, with Raelyn and Renelle Lovich (SK) and Hannah Baas (AB) serving as the shows' ribbon presenters, and Edwin Slingerland (AB), Graison and Keaton Wildeboer (AB), Wyatt Baas (AB) and Reata Lovich (SK), along with Brock and Madison Bartlett (ON), working as the ring custodians.

Earlier in the week, Markus Hehli of Mosnang Holsteins & Jerseys (AB) and Lee Morey of Unique Valleystream Genetics (AB) served as the Official and Associate Judges, respectively, of the conformation classes at the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic at the Royal where they assessed 321 4-H heifers.

### Grand Champion

ALTONA LEA UNIX HERMINIE  
Dalton J. Faris, East Gwillimbury, ON

### Reserve Grand Champion

EIXDALE PWRUP ALONGSIDE  
MilkSource Genetics, Kaukauna, WI

### Intermediate & HM Grand Champion

WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

### Reserve Intermediate Champion

MICHERET SOUTH BELIEVE  
Butlerview Farm, Chebanse, IL

### HM Intermediate Champion

BLONDIN DET BACARDI  
Butlerview Farm, Chebanse, IL

### Junior Champion

ECHO GLEN MASTER IVY  
Ronald Grandy, Oshawa, ON

### Reserve Junior Champion

FRICOSONS DENVER AVALANCHE  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

### HM Junior Champion

SMYGWATYS UNIX BAILEY  
Raymond J. & Terry Smygwatys, Russell, ON

### R&W Grand Champion

GOLDEN-OAKS TEMPTRES-RED  
MilkSource, Fischer, Steinhagen & Crescentmead, Kaukauna, WI

### R&W Reserve Grand Champion

KAMPS-RX APLB ARCHER-RED  
Hodglynn Holsteins, Kincardine, ON

### R&W HM Grand Champion

HURCROFT AWE LILLYANN-RED  
Oakfield Corners Dairy, Oakfield, NY

### R&W Intermediate Champion

INTENSE DEVOUR GINGER  
Butlerview Farm, Chebanse, IL

### R&W Reserve Intermediate Champion

MS DANIELLES DAYANNA-RED  
J. Martin, North Polled Genetics & Plum Valley, Elmira, ON

### R&W HM Intermediate Champion

STOLHAVEN JRD ALAINA-RED  
Markhill Holsteins, Ingersoll, ON

### R&W Junior Champion

MAPLE-AIN BLONDES HAVE MOREFUN  
AJ Genetics, Maple-Ain, Mary Inn & M. Anderson, Embrun, ON

### R&W Reserve Junior Champion

MS BELIEVE IN FAITH-RED  
Weeksdale, T&L Cattle, T. Carter & Vanhaven, Breadalbane, PE

### R&W HM Junior Champion

MALIC ALTITUDE ANNE-SOFIE  
Ferme Malic & Ponderosa Holsteins, Lévis, QC

# MASTERING TRANSITION

## MAXIMIZING DAIRY HERD POTENTIAL THROUGH THE TRANSITION MANAGEMENT INDEX (TMI)



Bruna Mion, PhD, Dairy Production Expert - Nutrition and Herd Management, Lactanet Canada

What are your metrics to assess the performance of your herd? We often think of milk yield or butterfat production, but the real question is whether your cows are producing to their full potential. How can you be sure the results you see are the best your herd can achieve?

In 2024, the average peak milk for herds in Western Canada was 43 kg ([2024 Production Benchmarks\\*](#)), surpassing the averages in Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada. Could this number be higher? Are there factors before calving or in the first weeks after calving affecting peak milk and the overall performance?

### The crucial first few weeks that affect the whole lactation

Dairy cows face many challenges, and one of the most critical periods is the transition period. During this transition from being pregnant and dry to starting milk production, cows undergo major changes in their metabolism, physiology, and hormonal balance to successfully start their lactation.

The transition period is marked by several stressors: pen moves, dietary changes, low intake, calving itself, inflammation, and high risk of diseases. Most cows adapt well, but some don't, and that difference can have lasting effects on milk production, fertility, and longevity.

| Common Transition Challenges and Consequences        |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Challenge  | Consequence  | Reference                                       |
| Low intake during the transition period              | Higher risk of developing ketosis, metritis, and mastitis  | Perez-Baez et al. (2019 a and b)                |
| Losses in body condition score (more than 0.5 units) | 1.61 times more risk of having subclinical ketosis; lower milk yield; lower probability of becoming pregnant   | Carvalho et al. (2014), Rodriguez et al. (2021) |
| Subclinical hypocalcemia                             | 4.1 times more changes to have a disease in the first 60 DIM; lower milk production; higher changes to leave the herd  | McArt and Neves (2020)                          |
| Exacerbated inflammatory response                    | Reduction in milk production during whole lactation; higher odds of developing diseases; reduced pregnancy at the first service  | Kerwin et al. (2022)                            |
| Diseases in the first 3 weeks after calving          | 410 kg less milk and 17 kg less fat in that lactation; 19% less likely to become pregnant; 31% less likely to calve again; 58% more likely to lose pregnancy; about two times more likely to be culled before the end of lactation | Carvalho et al. (2019)                          |

Recognizing and measuring the impact of these challenges helps producers and advisors (vets, nutritionists, consultants) to fine-tune management to boost herd production and profitability.

### A tool to help you evaluate the challenge

In October 2025, Lactanet launched the **Transition Management Index (TMI)**, which is a tool to objectively assess the quality of the transition period management of your herd.

Developed using data from over 1.6 million cow records from herds across Canada, the **TMI** is calculated at the first milk test of the lactation (5 to 45 DIM). It compares what the cow is *actually* expected to produce in 305 days, and what she should produce based on the information from her previous lactation and genetics.

The first milk test tells us a lot. Milk yield early in lactation reflects how well cows pass the critical period around calving. Cows that lose excessive body condition score or experience hypocalcemia, inflammation, or any clinical



The transition period is the more challenging part of a cow's entire lactation. It sets the pace for success or failure, and therefore it should be managed closely.

Lactanet developed the **Transition Management Index (TMI)** to objectively evaluate the transition period on farm to:

- Help dairy farms better manage the transition period of their herd.
- And offer insights into udder health, energy status, dry period length, and culling to maximize the herds long-term productivity and profitability.



disease produce less milk than expected. Because the TMI is calculated early in lactation, it could signal if transition challenges are affecting cow's performance.

**TMI** is a herd management tool to help you evaluate transition management. Too many cows with **low or negative TMI** means cows struggled during the transition period and are producing below expectations. Therefore, the management of dry and fresh cows should be reviewed. On the other hand, many cows with a **high or positive TMI** show that cows came through the transition smoothly and are reaching their potential for milk production.

### What TMI numbers mean?

The **TMI** is more than just a number; it's a direct reflection of herd performance. Every increase of 100 points in the **TMI** is equal to an increase of 100 kg of milk production for that lactation.



A positive **TMI** also translates to increased butterfat production, with a 3.5 kg/lactation rise for every 100-point increase in **TMI**.

### Why improving your herd's TMI makes sense

Herds with higher **TMI** also have better health indicators, such as lower Somatic Cell Count (SCC), a low proportion of cows with a linear score above 4, and fewer cows with elevated BHB in milk. Furthermore, herds with higher **TMI** also have a better economic performance, presenting \$1,307 greater milk revenue/cow/year.

### Take a look at your TMI results

Every herd on milk recording with Lactanet has FREE access to both the **TMI** report and an online dashboard until March 2026 - which brings all your transition data together in one place. If you haven't checked your **TMI** results yet, now is a great time to do it.

Use these tools to find opportunities for improvement and optimize dry and fresh cow management.



The Transition Management Index received the Farmer's Choice and Innovation in Agriculture awards at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in 2025



The **TMI** is now available on Lactanet Mobile



\*<https://lactanet.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-Management-Benchmarks-for-Canada-ENG.pdf>





Ria Vanzessen,  
SK Branch Secretary

The Saskatchewan Holstein Branch AGM was held in conjunction with the Sask Milk Dairy Conference, on November 18th & 19th in Saskatoon, SK. A large crowd attended the event, and we had a wonderful time celebrating a great year for Saskatchewan Holsteins. We hosted a record high live auction this year, raising over \$19,000 for future Branch activities. The auction included the chance to buy embryos from the Lovhill "K" family, and Michael and Jessica Lovich were on hand to receive a special award from the Branch after breeding the winner at this year's World Dairy Expo.

There were 286 cows that scored Excellent in the province this year, owned by nearly 50 different farms. Leading the way with the most Excellent cows was Hylion Farms (Hague, SK) with 52, followed by Mil-En-Roy Farms (White City, SK) with 24, and Alley Holsteins (Dalmeny, SK) with 19.

For the second year in a row, Benbie Holsteins (Caron, SK) took home the 'Cow of the Year' award, this time with BENBIE ATWOOD MATILDA EX-94 6E. Matilda produced 125,838kgs in eight lactations, earning two Superior Lactation awards. She has also been a perennial favourite in the show ring, finishing first in the Longtime Production class at the Westerner Dairy Showcase in 2020, and second and third in the next consecutive years respectively.

Congratulations to Mike and Judy Stiefel of Balgonie Holsteins (Balgonie, SK) for winning the highly coveted 'Breeder of the Year' award! In 2025, Mike and Judy bred 11 VG Two Year Olds and nine Excellent Cows, earned 12 Brood stars, six Superior Lactation certificates, as well as 14 Longtime Production awards (9 - 60,000kg, 3 - 80,000kg, 2 - 100,000kg).

*Thank you to our sponsors for all their support of our events this year. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2026!*

## Saskatchewan Holstein Branch News



**BENBIE ATWOOD MATILDA EX-94 6E**  
wins Saskatchewan's 'Cow of the Year.'  
Neil Crosbie (Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK), accepts the award from Amanda Kessel (Vice-President, SK Branch).



Branch President Logan Leyenhorst presents this year's \$1000 Scholarship to Kiersten Nienhuis.

Congratulations to the breeders of Saskatchewan's 286 Excellent Cows!

**The Best View of Every Class While Providing a Valuable Public Service!**



These regal young ladies from the west enthusiastically presented the ribbons at The Royal!  
(L-R): Raelyn Lovich (SK), Hannah Baas (AB), Renelle Lovich (SK).



Maybe not glamourous work, but keeping the ring clean at the Royal requires diligence, focus and stealth! Respect to these young role models!  
(L-R) Edwin Slingerland (AB), Keaton Wildeboer (AB), Madison Bartlett (ON), Reata Lovich (SK), Graison Wildeboer (AB), Wyatt Baas (AB).



## Finding Cows in a Flash!

This is the coolest innovation we have seen in a while. As herds get larger, locating a specific cow, heifer or calf can be costly in labour and time lost dealing with the issue.

CowManager's new 'Find My Cow Flash' ear tag has a built-in flashing LED on the ear sensor, activated remotely by smartphone app or desktop. Whether trying to find an animal in a large freestall group, a crowded sort pen or in dim light, a flashing light is

an obvious advantage! Cow people can imagine the many ways this would help - looking for a cow in heat, a sick animal or one that is in the wrong group to name a few.

When we make a task easier, it reduces frustration and procrastination for better outcomes all around.

So smart and simple, it makes me wonder why we didn't think of this before!



# Observations From the Field

## The Case For “Volume”



**Paul Meyer,**  
WestGen Genetic  
Solutions Manager

At its root this is a great news story. Over my life, I have witnessed the continual decline in the percentage of dairy product we produce in Canada being used for fluid purposes. I can vividly recall in my teens getting milk checks in the days when producers in Ontario had a fluid quota. With “only” 67-70% of the milk being used for fluid purposes, producers also needed to have industrial quota for the remaining percentage that didn’t get used for fluid. That milk generated a significantly lower payment rate as it was used for butter, cheese etc. A lot has changed with quotas since those days, with the only constant being a steady decline in fluid milk sales – but no more. We are seeing expansion in the market being driven by fluid milk, which is the great news story underlying this submission.

I will give a shout-out here to a very busy Mark Van Klei who graciously took time to educate me a bit on the shift needed in production perspective. After all, Mark knows well from several genetic planning exercises with WestGen that not only do you get what you select for, it takes at least three years to change course. The pregnancies we will make this year won’t join the milking string until 2028! He learned that lesson well and now is returning the favour by explaining what the market will be needing in the coming years.

### So, what will the market need from you in 2028?

While we may feel ‘teased’ by the messages about additional production allocations coming, by 2028 we have under pretty good authority that each of you will be able to ship more milk – significantly more milk. And while everyone has been diligently making milk more concentrated (higher fat content), imagine that you might be asked to focus a little less on fat and a little more on protein. What would that mean for your herd?

### Protein You Say?

We know that we can modify fat content in the milk through feed but changing protein content is not that easy. From an efficiency standpoint, the best way to increase protein content relative to fat is to select for it. And when you begin to focus on a combined fat and protein yield selection approach, it will inevitably lead to choosing sires that are higher for Milk yield as well. I will admit that this is an adjustment for me too. I have been quite comfortable in promoting bulls with outlandishly high fat percent, that achieve extreme fat yields without being much above breed average for milk yield. Less carrier (water), lower transport costs – seems like a good thing, right? But finding the breed leaders for Protein yield (kgs)

generally is accompanied by higher Milk yield too.

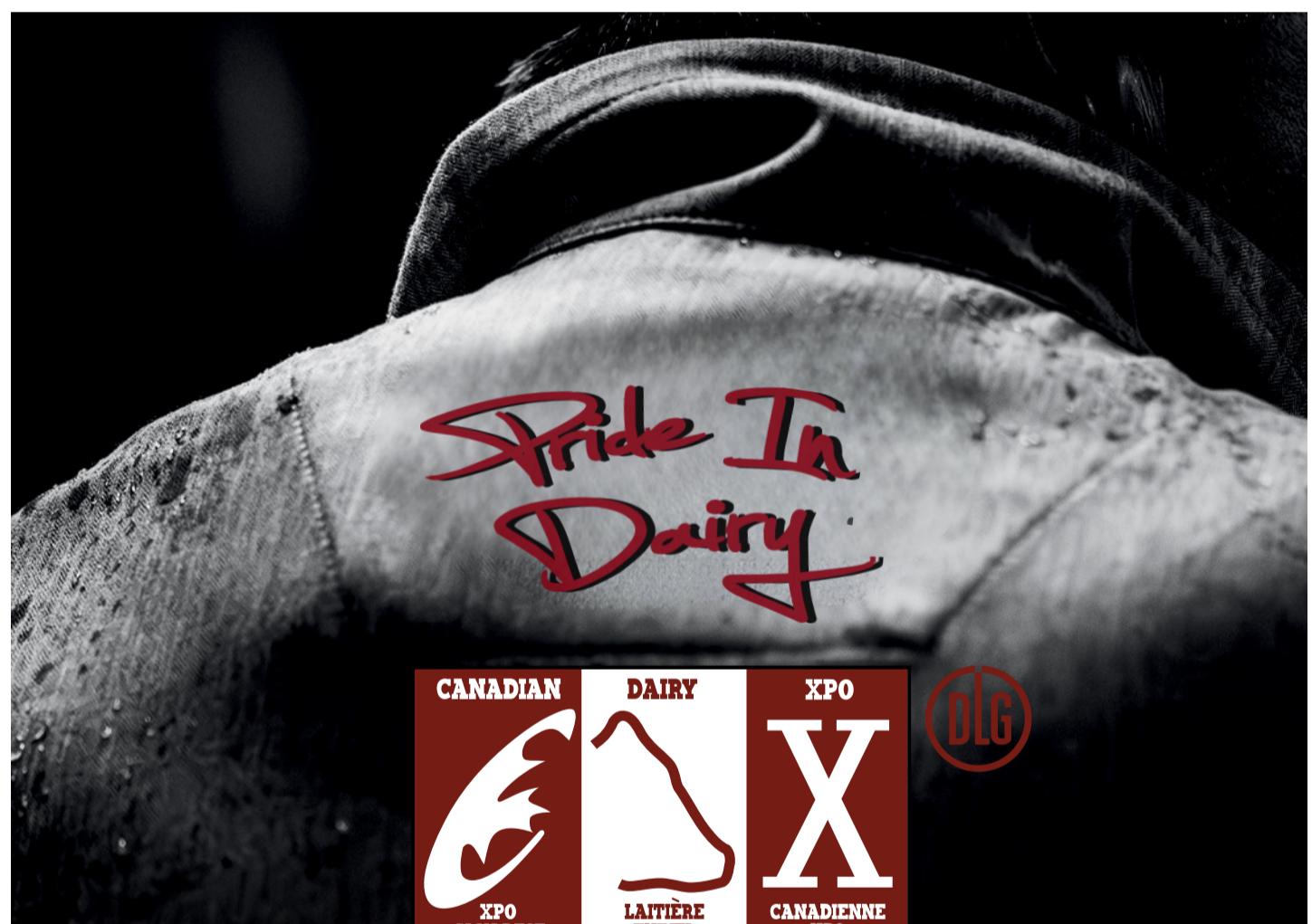
There are, of course, moderate milk yield bulls with extreme protein percent too, but there’s another reason for choosing the higher Milk yield bull to deliver protein yield. For the last several years in western Canada, through the summer months we were not able to deliver to processors all the milk they desired. No doubt this was milk that was intended in part for increasing fluid needs spurred on by new products and by new and younger milk consumers. I’m sure all of you want to encourage processors to capture any and all fluid opportunities as it boosts overall blend price too.

It is an exciting time to be a dairy producer,



especially for those having capacity to expand with the anticipated market growth. Now is the time to prepare for what will be needed in the coming years. Your genetic plan is a part of that preparation.

More animals in the heifer pens and equipped with a focus on delivering more volume will be the best way to ensure you are well positioned to capitalize. Let’s all raise a glass (of milk) to that!



**Pride In Dairy**



CANADIAN  
XPO  
CANADESE



DAIRY  
LAITIÈRE  
ZUIVEL



XPO  
CANADIENNE  
XPO



**APRIL 1 & 2, 2026**  
STRATFORD, ON



4-H Ontario



A person petting a cow in a barn setting.

**FULL DETAILS & TICKETS ONLINE DAIRYXPO.CA**



bakertilly

PROGRESSIVE  
**DAIRY**

Grand Valley  
**FORTIFIERS**  
FOR SOUND NUTRITION

**BVL**  
VAN Lengerich

**Diamond V**

WEST-UN CANADIAN  
**DAIRY NEWS**

# Alberta Holstein Branch News

Submitted by Alberta Holsteins

ALBERTA  
HOLSTEIN  
ASSOCIATION



## President's Report:

The spring crops have all been harvested and it has given way to getting prepared for the winter ahead for many of us. Here at Alberta Holstein, we are preparing for the busy time in our calendar year.



We recently completed the Westerner Dairy Showcase National Show of which Alberta Holstein is a long-time significant sponsor with the Best Bred and Owned sponsorship. We also hosted another successful judging school on October 23, welcoming Claire Swale as our official judge. The clinic was very well attended with many of our young up-and-coming judges taking part. This of course was assisted by the teachers strike, but we were very glad to have all participants!

The 2026 Alberta Holstein calendar was available at the Westerner, but if you didn't grab one there, they will be sent out to all members via our ever-reliable Canada Post. Check out the breeder pages and the highlights of each farm. Thank you to the many businesses that help make this calendar a success.



Vice President Randy Slomp and I took part in the annual Holstein Canada Branch Relations meeting, October 8 and 9, in Brantford, ON. The continuing growth of Holstein Canada was one of the main topics discussed, along with the guarantee that all Holstein Canada members would continue to receive the exemplary service that is expected when it comes to classification and other services. On the whole, Holstein Canada is trending in the right direction.

With December clearly in our sights, our eyes turn to club Christmas parties, Barn Cow Competitions, and 'Breeder of the Year' nominations. I hope to join you at your club Christmas celebrations in the month ahead. Please know that I am always available to answer any questions that you may have regarding Holstein Canada and Alberta Holstein respectively.

Club AGMs are also on the horizon, and I will be travelling to all the clubs alongside your Holstein Canada Director, Willem Vanderlinde. Mark your calendars for the Alberta Holstein Annual General Meeting to be hosted by Northern Alberta Holstein Club on February 5-6, 2026. The planning committee has been hard at work organizing tours and the banquet, which will be highlighted this year by the first ever 'Alberta Elite' sale of top Alberta genetics, viewing by video.

See you all soon!

Fred Hofstra, Alberta Holstein President

## Alberta Elite

FEBRUARY 6, 2026

The North Alberta Holstein Club (NAHC) is pleased to announce that it will be hosting a special video sale featuring Elite Holsteins bred right here in Alberta by esteemed Alberta breeders. This exciting event will take place immediately following the Award Presentation at the Alberta Holstein Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Take the opportunity to enter one of your elite Holsteins for the sale.



## Notice of the AGM Alberta Holstein Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY 6, 2026

Holiday Inn & Suites, Edmonton International Airport, Nisku Alberta  
Host: Northern Alberta Holstein Club

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- Noble Cup Hockey Game, Silent Ice Arena, Nisku
- Annual General Meeting (10 AM start)
- Tours: Option #1 – Breevliet Holsteins
- Option #2 – Little Potato Company & 20/20 Seed Labs
- Banquet & Awards Evening, followed by the inaugural 'Alberta Elite' Sale.

(Sale Registration begins early January 2026. For consignment criteria, please contact [info@albertaholstein.ca](mailto:info@albertaholstein.ca) or [dairy@live.ca](mailto:dairy@live.ca))

## Green Acres 4-H Club Report

Submitted by Kaylum Vanden Dool



Green Acres 4-H Club – Alberta 4-H Provincials 2025

The Green Acres Dairy 4-H Club had its first meeting on October 9th, 2025. The Club welcomed 12 members and 3 cleavers. This year we will be doing a winter and spring fundraiser. Our President for this year is Chloe, and our leaders are Bart, Coranda, and Simone.

In a world that keeps changing, Christmas remains a timeless reminder of faith, gratitude, and the simple joys that never fade.

We at TerraLink are deeply thankful for the trust you have placed in us this past year, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the year ahead.

**Merry Christmas**  
and a happy New Year.



Rooted in your community® since 1973

**TerraLink®**

**NEW!**

# FIND MY COW FLASH

**OPTIMIZE  
WORKFLOW.  
ENHANCE  
PRODUCTIVITY.**

Whether she's in heat, sick or in the wrong pen, Find my Cow Flash helps you locate the right animal fast—cutting down on labor and boosting daily efficiency.

A flashing light on the ear sensor makes identification quick and easy. Simply activate it from your CowManager app or desktop, and then locate the cow, heifer or calf soon after.

Efficient, accurate and designed for herds of all sizes, Find my Cow Flash helps keep your operation running smoothly.



**SCAN NOW**



[www.cowmanager.com](http://www.cowmanager.com)

AHEAD OF THE HERD TOGETHER



Distributed by:  
Select Sires Canada Inc.  
(613) 258-3800  
[info@selectsires.ca](mailto:info@selectsires.ca)  
[www.selectsirescanada.com](http://www.selectsirescanada.com)

# Island Club Celebrates Successful Year

## Production Awards 2025

These awards are sponsored by VI Holstein Club and **Lactanet** CANADIAN NETWORK FOR DAIRY EXCELLENCE

### YEARLINGS

**1. SILVERMAPLE ALCOVE CAITLYN**  
12,893kg M 520kg F 428kg P - BCA: 329-359-345  
Silvermaple Holsteins

**2. LLOYDSHAVEN ALONGSIDE LENORA**  
11,888kg M 500kg F 397kg P - BCA: 316-355-328  
Lloydshaven Holsteins

### 2 YEAR OLD

**1. DAVISON WHISTLER SCARLET (2ND OVERALL PROD.)**  
11,726kg M 545kg F 454kg P - BCA: 414-359-423  
Sunny Vale Farm Ltd.

**2. MOSNANG BOMBA JELLO SHOT**  
14,269kg M 641kg F 487kg P - BCA: 348-430-372  
Willswikk Holsteins

### 3 YEAR OLD

**1. SILVERMAPLE CROWN ROYAL EM**  
16,858kg M 657kg F 555kg P - BCA: 352-371-363  
Silvermaple Holsteins

**2. SILVERMAPLE NIXIE COCO**  
13,984kg M 760kg F 533kg P - BCA: 294-434-353  
Silvermaple Holsteins

### 4 YEAR OLD

**1. WIKKSHAVEN SILVIO DAWN (OVERALL PROD. WINNER)**  
16,513kg M 1016kg F 547kg P - BCA: 336-561-353  
J. William Wikkerink Farms

**2. SUMMERSHADE ELLIE MONEY**  
19,792kg M 801kg F 623kg P - BCA: 382-413-380  
Willswikk Holsteins

### 5 YEAR OLD

**1. WILLSWIKK UNIX JOLIE**  
15,459kg M 842kg F 474kg P - BCA: 310-455-300  
J. William Wikkerink Farms

**2. WILLSWIKK EXPANDER BUBBLES**  
16,435kg M 672kg F 527kg P - BCA: 328-363-334  
Willswikk Holsteins

### MATURE COW

**1. BALME AYR NORMANDIN CEECEE-V**  
12,886kg M 538kg F 414kg P - BCA: 326-345-318  
Balme Ayr Farms

### 2. WIKKSHAVEN ATWOOD DELORA

13,172kg M 746kg F 471kg P - BCA: 262-401-296  
J. William Wikkerink Farms

### 10 YEAR OLD +

#### 1. BALME AYR NORMANDIN CEECEE-V

12,886kg M 538kg F 414kg P - BCA: 326-345-318  
Balme Ayr Farms

#### 2. BALME GARRETT INCOME

13,890kg M 535kg F 423kg P - BCA: 284-304-276  
Balme Ayr Farms

### LIFETIME MILK

#### 1. SAANWOOD LAUTH COUNTESS

10 records - 123,016kg M  
Viewfield Farms

#### 2. FRUEH SKYCHIEF IRENE

9 records - 120,822kg M

### LIFETIME FAT

#### 1. WILLSWIKK DEFIANT DYNAMITE

6 records - 5,209kg F  
J. William Wikkerink Farms

#### 2. SAANWOOD LAUTH COUNTESS

10 records - 5,150kg F  
Viewfield Farms

### LIFETIME PROTEIN

#### 1. SAANWOOD LAUTH COUNTESS

10 records - 3,999kg P  
Viewfield Farms

#### 2. MOUNTAIN SHOTTEL MYLAH

8 records - 3,884kg P  
Glenview Farm

### TOP HERDS BY MANAGEMENT SCORE

#### 1. Willswikk Holsteins - William Wikkerink

872pts (61 records)

#### 2. Blue Diamond Farm - Harvey Wikkerink

793pts (92 records)

### TOP JUDGE

Luke Van Huizen



### Amanda Poelman

The Vancouver Island Holstein Club held its annual dinner and awards banquet on October 17th, following another successful year. Completing his first year as President, Jordan Taylor expertly guided the evenings festivities, welcoming everyone to the event and thanking the many generous club sponsors.

Jordan highlighted several milestone celebrations for club members including anniversaries, birthdays, and new babies, followed by a moment of silence for island producers and friends that passed away this past year - Jake Bosgra, Marjan Wikkerink, Auke Elzinga, Bill Thomson, and Bernadette Cassanave.

Following dinner, Jordan recapped the busy activity highlights the club had in 2025: a bowling night in March, judging day in April, the 50th Anniversary Show and social evening in July, the fourth annual Breeders Cup in August, and the very successful club sale - also in August. It was a year bustling with events that brought breeders and Holstein enthusiasts together.

Ben and Suzanne Cuthbert (SILVERMAPLE) were recognized, despite not being in attendance, as they received their 40 Year Veteran Breeder pins from Holstein Canada.

Yvonne Roemer, Chair of the Awards Committee, announced this year's Lactanet Production Awards winners, as well as the Top Judge award - presented to Luke Van Huizen. Amanda Poelman revealed the winners of the Breeder's Cup, which grew to 68 entries this year, in a fantastic presentation video which showcased the winners. Full results from the contest can be found on page 50, and the video can be viewed on the club's Facebook page.

President Jordan closed out the evening by thanking the board of directors for their dedication to the dairy community on Vancouver Island, and all the work that goes into putting on top-quality events for everyone to enjoy.



## Greenbelt

### VETERINARY SERVICES

### Complete Dairy Herd Veterinary Services

### Consulting Services

- Herd Performance Benchmarking
- Barn Design and Troubleshooting

**DairySMART Education & Training Courses**  
**Embryo Transfer & Genomic Services**

*Wishing you a  
Very Merry Christmas*

*...and a Happy  
New Year in 2026!*

John Dick DVM | Jason Ricka DVM | Phil Chris DVM

Beverly Chard DVM | Christina Lyn DVM | Anne Dick DVM | Kiri Stephenson DVM

8451 Harvard Place, Chilliwack, BC V2P 7Z5 • Phone: 604-792-1501 • office@greenbeltvet.com • www.greenbeltvet.com

Follow us on social media: instagram @greenbeltveterinary • facebook @Greenbelt Veterinary Services

**FOOKS  
PUMPING LTD**  
Serving the Fraser Valley

Wishing you and your family a blessed  
**CHRISTMAS**

Thank you to all our customers for a great year  
and we look forward to serving you in 2026

•Dry Manure Spreading •Draglining •Agitation •Silage Pushing

CALL FRED FOOKS: 604-302-9577

*Reliable Service and Competitive Rates!*  
FOOKSPUMPING@GMAIL.COM

**4C FINANCIAL INC**



**KIMBERLY ROSS**

- Credit •Character
- Collateral •Capacity

**Trust the one  
you know**

*Let's make a plan that  
keeps you in control  
of your assets.*

**Do you  
need a  
knowledgeable  
and confident  
ADVOCATE to  
look out for  
your interests?**

**4C**  
FINANCIAL INC

604-854-9713

Kimberly@4CFinancial.ca

4CFinancial.ca

**Exciting New  
Polled & A2A2  
Breed Leaders**



Photos by Patty Jones

**BLACKAVON VEC MAGIC-P**  
724HO02056 A2A2 / BB  
**#1 Active GPA-LPI Bull > 15 Conformation and "A2A2"**

**H-BRIDGE VEC STELLAR-PP\*RC**  
724HO02053 A2A2 / BB  
**#1 GPA-LPI "PP" Right Stuff Son & Outcross Red Carrier**

**BLACKAVON VEC MATRIX-P**  
724HO02044 A2A2 / AB  
**#2 GPA-LPI A2A2 Bull > 100 kg Fat +10 Conf & Mammary**

**CASHCOW BITCOIN-PP**  
724HO02057 A2A2 / AB  
**#2 GPA-LPI "PP" Right Stuff Son & Ideal for Robots**

**H-BRIDGE VEC PAPRIKA-PP RED**  
724HO02051 A2A2 / BB  
**#1 GPA-LPI RED-PP-A2A2 Bull & Exciting Outcross**

Available in  
Canada from



**Validity**  
GENETIC TESTING  
Home of Vector Genetics

Contact for International  
Semen Marketing  
dave@validitytesting.com  
905-866-7800



## Manitoba Holstein Branch News

### Central Manitoba Holstein Club: Bus Tour and Annual Meeting 2025



Great turnout for the Fall Bus Tour!

This year we held our bus tour and annual meeting on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern Manitoba Holstein Club joined us this year, and we had a group of 80 attend. We toured Southview Dairy (Hoeppners) near Winkler, Blumstein Brewing (also near Winkler) where we had a hot lunch catered by George K Catering brought in, and then after lunch we toured Pembina Dairy (Klessens) near Altona. Our hosts were great; we saw some new barns, met some new farmers, and toured a former dairy that was recently converted into a brewery. We had the chance to sample some craft beers over lunch and also purchase some to take home.

*Congratulations*

to the  
four Manitoba participants at the  
Alberta Holstein Judging School  
in Red Deer. The average score on  
47 total participants was 141 (out  
of 180 total).

Sean Smith - 152

Everleigh Boerchers - 150

Deanna Kampman - 148

Jazmyne Barkman - 144

Skeet Shooting night – always  
a good time!



### Eastern Manitoba Holstein Club Fall Highlights

In September, we hosted our annual Skeet Shooting and Bonfire Night – always one of the highlights of the year. It was a great evening with plenty of fun, laughter, and an excellent turnout.

In November, we joined the Central Manitoba Holstein Club for their fall bus tour, visiting Southview Dairy and their new two-robot barn, Blumstein Brewery (former dairy farmer's craft brewery), and Pembina Dairy, where attendees were intrigued by his new sand separator.

A big thank-you to our sponsors for making these events possible – your support keeps our club active and connected!

### SAVE THE DATE Club Dairy Seminars

Central - January 28

Interlake - January 29

Eastern - February 11



Wishing you and your family a  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Manitoba Holstein  
Association

## PRECISION NUTRITION

Optimizing nutrition, improving profitability

Where the science of nutrition  
meets accurate feeding  
for a sustainable future



Optimized  
Rations



Targeted  
Approach



Sustainability  
Driven

[trouwnutrition.ca](http://trouwnutrition.ca)

Lindsay Bridge

Dairy Business Manager -  
Manitoba & Saskatchewan

204-771-4055

Karl Sikora

Dairy Business Manager –  
Alberta

780-446-5691

**trouw nutrition**  
a Nutreco company

# PACIFIC AGRICULTURE SHOW



January 22-24  
Abbotsford Tradex



- Presenting Sponsor -

- Platinum Sponsors -



- Gold Sponsors -



## JOIN US

**Talk with** over 300 Exhibitors showcasing the newest tractors, equipment and technology for the agriculture industry.

Discover the latest trends in agriculture with innovative producers, ranchers and farmers from BC, Alberta and the Pacific Northwest.

BC Dairy Lunch & Learn

Lower Mainland Horticulture Conference



[www.agricultureshow.net](http://www.agricultureshow.net)





## Giving Cows the Time and Space They Need

Trevor DeVries, Professor,  
University of Guelph

Stocking density is an important topic for dairy farms, and recent revisions to Canada's *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle* have brought even more attention to it. These changes reflect scientific evidence showing that how we manage space in barns directly affects cow comfort, health, and productivity. Stocking density is not just about the number of cows per stall or per unit of floor space – it's about giving cows the opportunity to perform the behaviors essential to keeping them healthy and productive.

To understand why stocking density matters, we need to think about what cows do with their time. Dairy cows divide their day between lying down, eating, ruminating, drinking, milking and socializing. These activities make up their "time budget." When cows have adequate space and unrestricted access to resources, they can meet these behavioral needs naturally. But when space becomes limited – when too many cows must share too few stalls, feed spaces, or water troughs – something has to give. The cow's ability to follow her natural time budget is compromised, and that disruption comes at a cost.

One of the first things to be affected by overcrowding is lying, or resting, time. Cows that spend less time lying down stand for longer periods, increasing the risk of hoof problems and lameness. Researchers have consistently demonstrated that as freestall stocking density increases above 100% (i.e. 1 cow per stall), average resting time decreases. At the same time, in association with that, we also see concurrent rises in the amount of lameness. Lameness is not only a welfare concern; it directly reduces milk yield, reproductive performance, and longevity.

Reduced lying time also means reduced rumination. Rumination plays a vital role in digestion – chewing breaks down feed into smaller particles, promoting faster, more efficient digestion and greater dry matter intake (DMI). During cud chewing, cows also produce large amounts of saliva containing bicarbonate, which buffers rumen acidity. This process maintains a healthy rumen environment, supporting good fiber digestibility, greater DMI, and stronger milk fat production.

Cows should perform most rumination while lying down. We have demonstrated that cows with the highest DMI and better milk components spend a greater proportion of their rumination time lying rather than standing. Thus, overcrowding negatively affects resting and rumination, which in turn compromises DMI, rumen health, and overall production.

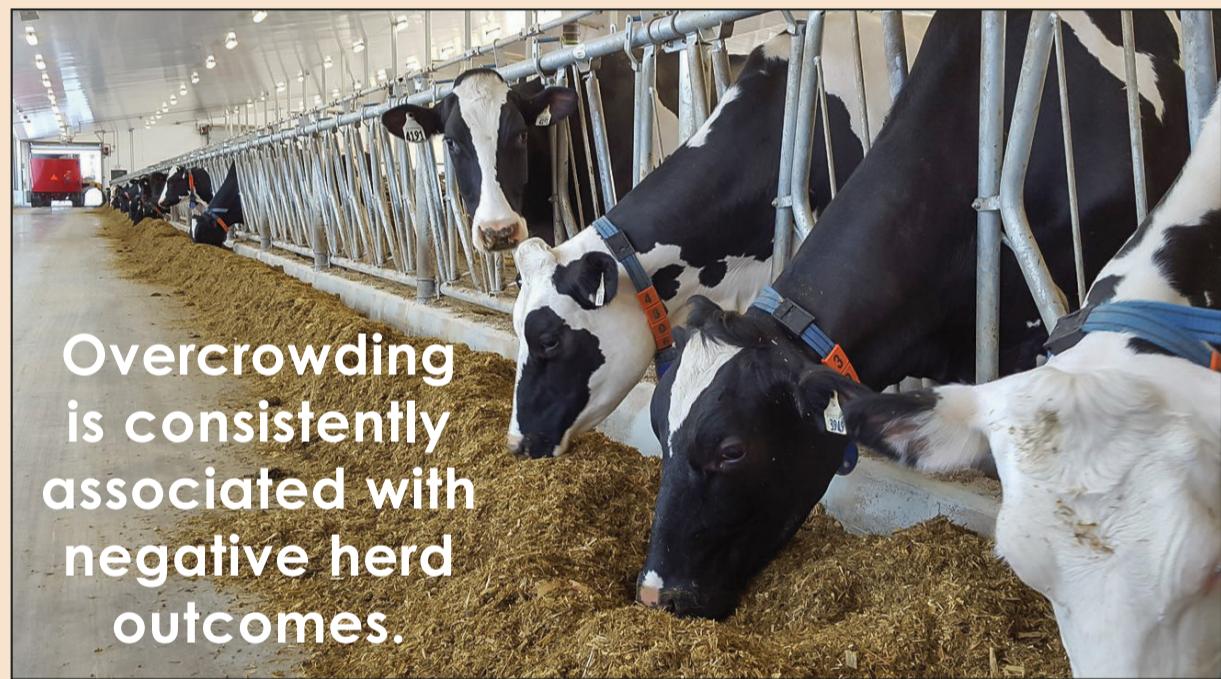
Crowding at the feed bunk also impacts DMI and milk production by altering eating behavior. We have demonstrated that DMI decreases when cows cannot optimize the time spent at the feed bunk or the number of meals they eat each day. When bunk space is limited, dominant cows eat first and often

displace others, forcing subordinate cows to eat fewer, larger meals or to eat at off-peak times. The result is uneven feed access, more variable DMI, poorer rumen health, and ultimately reduced milk yield and components, particularly milk fat. For transition cows, both pre- and post-fresh, insufficient feed space is associated with lesser DMI and more post-partum health disorders.

Some producers have wondered whether these same principles apply in robotic milking barns, where cows are not limited to specific milking times and, thus, potentially have more flexibility in their time budget. Unfortunately, our research in this area would indicate that, for the average robot farm, overcrowding carries the same risks as in conventional barns. We have demonstrated in field studies of Canadian robot farms that greater freestall stocking density is associated with reduced lying time. Overcrowding was also linked to more frequent fetching to the milking robots and a higher lameness prevalence.

Adequate space remains essential for robot-milked cows to optimize their time budgets, health, and productivity.

Water availability is another critical piece of the stocking density puzzle. Water is the most important nutrient for cow health and production, yet adequate water trough space is sometimes overlooked. Although cows spend little total time drinking, they often do so during busy periods – while eating or after milking – when competition can be high. If space is limited or dominant cows block access, others may skip drinking opportunities, leading to reduced DMI and lower production. Evidence from a study we did of Ontario free-stall herds showed a positive association between linear water space and milk yield: Differences in water space availability were linked to as much as a 3 kg/cow/day difference in milk production between herds. This demonstrates how even small limitations in water access can have a measurable impact on performance.



Studies on the amount of feeding space in robotic barns show similar patterns. In a study nearly 15 years ago of Ontario robot farms, we demonstrated that those herds with more feed bunk space per cow had greater average resting time and higher milk yield per cow. In a more recent national study of a large sample of robot farms, we demonstrated similar results, with more bunk space on those farms being associated with greater milk production. In a subset of Ontario farms, lesser feed bunk space was also associated with higher lameness prevalence. From these studies, we can conclude that despite greater behavioral freedom in robot barns – and the potential for less synchronized activity – producers cannot "get away" with overcrowding.

Overall, cows need both time and space to perform their natural behaviors – lying, eating, ruminating, and drinking. When those needs are restricted by overcrowding, the result is behavioral change, higher lameness risk, reduced feed intake, and lower milk yield and components. In transition cows, both pre- and post-fresh, these negative effects are even more pronounced. Further, these patterns hold true across both conventional and robotic farms. Maintaining adequate resting space and ensuring sufficient access to feed and water remain among the most effective and economical ways for producers to support cow behavior, health, performance, and longevity.



Happy Holidays! Here's to a joyful season and an

# Robotics, Water, and the Western Canadian Dairy

Mitch McCormick, Capital Sales Manager



British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba host a diversity of dairy farms. Dairy operations rely heavily on forage crops, which in turn depend on reliable water supply. Climatic variability like drought, erratic rainfall, and heat stress, combined with rising expectations around nutrient management, environmental stewardship, labor shortages, and energy costs, all put pressure on dairy farms to adopt smarter, more efficient, and adaptable systems.

Water and affluent infrastructure on dairy farms include wells, reservoirs, lagoons, pipelines, pumps, screens, separators, wash down systems, drinking troughs, milking equipment, and leachate collection. Each piece must integrate with crop production, manure management, and environmental regulations (especially for nutrient runoff or leachate).

In that setting, smart robotic irrigation and nutrient delivery systems like 360 RAIN represent an opportunity to overcome water and nutrient management challenges, in a way that could deliver environmental and economic benefits for dairy farms across Western Canada.

## What is 360 RAIN & How It Works

360 RAIN (West Coast Robotics) is an autonomous, adaptive irrigation machine that delivers water, nutrients, liquid manure, and leachate, or any combinations thereof, to crops. The system is designed to handle irregular fields, corners, obstacles and places where traditional center pivots or fixed irrigation systems struggle to perform.

Some of its key technical features:

- The machine runs along path layouts recorded from a planter pass (so the irrigation path matches crop rows), using GPS/RTK and cellular communication.
- It uses a large reel of hose (3,000 feet of 3-inch hose) that is dispensed and retracted as it moves, so water is delivered through a boom with Y-drop or flat fan style drops to band water or nutrients directly over the root zone. This reduces evaporation, drift and increases water efficiency by putting it where the plant needs.
- The system can work off wells, reservoirs, and surface water sources. It can also pull separated manure from manure lagoons or digestate ponds. Water, with both fertilizer and manure, can be delivered in desired concentrations using a pump skid.
- Water flow rates required are substantially lower than many conventional pivot systems, at 220 gallons per minute.

## Opportunities for Dairy Farms in Western Canada

Here's how dairy farms can benefit, and some ways the technology meshes with regional realities.

### 1. Manure/Leachate Utilization

One of the perennial challenges for dairy operations is manure/leachate storage, timing of spreading, and regulatory/environmental risk (nutrient load, odor, and runoff). Traditional spreading is often done in the spring and fall in limited windows, which may not align with crop uptake or weather. 360 RAIN allows spreading of manure and nutrients in-season, directly to growing crops, in narrow bands over root zones. This "spoon-feeding" of nutrients can improve nutrient uptake, reduce losses, and reduce labor requirements.

For farms with lagoons or leachate pits, this could mean less pressure on storage capacity and more flexibility when to apply nutrients. In areas with environmental restrictions such as buffer zones, and timing windows, that flexibility has major value.

### 2. Improved Water Efficiency and Reduced Waste

Since a lot of water is "wasted" in conventional irrigation systems through drift, evaporation, and overwatering, the ability to deliver water precisely banded in the root zone improves water use efficiency. For Western Canadian dairies, "timely rain" can translate into higher silage yields, better crop quality, more consistent yields, and lower risk of water stress.

Given climate trends like lower snowpacks in some regions, more variable precipitation, dairies with access to reliable but moderate water sources could use 360 RAIN to stretch those resources more productively.

### 3. Flexibility for Field Layouts & Crop Rotation

Many farms in Western Canada have irregular fields, land features, and obstacles such as buildings or wetlands that make fixed pivot systems difficult, inefficient and even impossible. 360 RAIN's ability to follow planter paths allows the system to handle any shape of field or any obstacle that would cause issues for traditional irrigation equipment. The ability to move the units between fields allows you to maximize your investment if fields are broken up or mosaic. Also, because the system is autonomous and has remote monitoring via app/RTK, it reduces labor demands, which is a growing challenge in all markets.



### 4. Environmental & Regulatory Benefits

Banding water and nutrients reduces risk of nutrient runoffs, especially during heavy rainfall or melting periods. Delivering manure or leachate in-season reduces buildup in storage or risk of overflow. In regions with tight environmental regulations, the ability to document when, how much, and where nutrients and water were applied is a benefit. Also, remote monitoring adds traceability.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions or other emissions via fewer truck trips for manure spreading, fewer evaporation losses, and better fertilizer efficiency are all advantages, especially as carbon accounting becomes more relevant.

### Challenges & Constraints in Western Canada

Not everything is a slam dunk; there are real obstacles to adoption.

### 1. Water Access & Infrastructure Limitations

While 360 RAIN reduces required flow rates compared to large pivots, it still demands a well or water source capable of 220GPM. Not all farms have wells with that capacity or have access to reservoirs or reliable surface water. Drilling new wells, building reservoirs or pipelines can be expensive, and in some regions water rights are tightly controlled.

Regulatory/permit issues related to manure handling, and applying nutrients may complicate adoption.

Also, energy for pumps, power for base stations, etc., must be available. Remote fields may require significant investment in electrical infrastructure.

### 2. Cost & Return on Investment

The upfront cost of purchasing or leasing a 360 RAIN system and its required infrastructure including wells, pumps, unground pipes and mixing skids, can be large. Farms will see clear financial returns via improved yields, labor savings, lower chemical nutrient needs, and reduced manure hauling costs. In Western Canada, where commodity prices can be volatile, and weather unpredictable, these things need to be strategically considered.

Securing financing, accessing grants, or spreading costs over time help, but adoption tends to lag until enough peer examples exist locally to give confidence. In BC the adoption rates increased by over 200% from year one to year two.

### 3. Climate & Seasonality

Shorter growing seasons in many parts of Western Canada mean there's less time for in-season manure application or multiple passes of irrigation. Frost, snow, and cold soil



temperatures delay planting or limit how early you can effectively apply nutrients or water. Winterization and storage of equipment is also often required.

### 4. Maintenance, Technical Knowledge & Support

Robotic systems require skilled maintenance technicians and proper parts support. For many farms, access to local service, spare parts, and technical support is critical. This can be expensive or delayed in remote areas.

Regulatory/permit issues related to manure handling, water withdrawal, applying nutrients during sensitive periods may complicate adoption.

### What Would It Take for Wider Adoption?

To realize the potential of robotics-assisted irrigation systems in the Western Canadian dairy industry, several enabling factors need to align:

1. Water source development and permitting: Farms will need reliable water supply wells, reservoirs, or access to irrigation districts. Also, regulatory permit frameworks need to accommodate flexible in-season manure application and water withdrawal.
2. Infrastructure investment and cost-sharing: Grants or cost-share programs can help offset the capital costs.
3. Technical support and training: Local dealers and service providers must be able to install, maintain, and troubleshoot systems. Farmers need to learn to work with the scheduling, sensor data, variable rate applications, etc.
4. Weather and climate risk mitigation: Understanding frost risk, efficient winterization, protection of equipment, and planning for variation in precipitation. Also, integrating weather prediction or soil moisture sensors can help optimize usage.
5. Economic analysis and risk modelling: Establishing farm-level case studies in Western Canadian settings to show return on investment, sensitivity to milk/feed/nutrient prices, water costs, etc. Peer farm examples are powerful.
6. Regulatory alignment: Nutrient management plans, water use regulations, environmental safety (runoff, odor, pathogens) must allow for the in-season application of manure, with documentation and adequate safeguards.

### Conclusion & Outlook

Smart Robotic irrigation systems like 360 RAIN are not just about watering crops, they are about integrating water, nutrients, labor, technology, and environmental stewardship. For Western Canadian dairy farms where feed production, manure handling, water use, climate variability, and regulatory pressures intersect, they offer a promising pathway.

While the challenges of capital cost, water access, infrastructure, and climate are real, early adopters show that in favorable settings there are tangible benefits: increased yield, improved feed self-sufficiency, lower environmental risk, more efficient use of nutrients.

As climate variability increases in rainfall, droughts, and heat stress, and as regulatory/environmental expectations tighten, systems that offer fine control over when, where, and how much water and nutrients are applied will likely become more important. Robotics and automation in irrigation are the future of that evolution.

For Western Canadian dairy producers, thoughtful investment coupled with supportive policy and technical support could help unlock a more sustainable, resilient future, where robotic water infrastructure becomes a standard tool in the farm toolbox. The future is now.

amazing New Year from all of us at BC Dairy!

# THANK you

to the generous supporters of TEAM BC



## sponsors

WestGen - BC Holstein Branch - North Okanagan Holstein Club  
 Ritchie-Smith Feeds - Sure Crop Feeds - Mountainview Robotics  
 Kenmarank Farms - RBC - Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic - Dairy Crop Solutions  
 J&D Farmers Dairy Services - Vancouver Island Holstein Club  
 Vedder Transport - Hornby Equipment - Gary Baars Farm & Family Real Estate  
 Heritage Hoof Trimming - Triple B Farms - Shepherd's Home Hardware  
 TD Bank - T&L Cattle - Scotiabank - Loewen Welding - Pacific Dairy  
 Devannah Hoof Trimming - North Valley Equipment - Bank of Montreal

## breeders

Suntasia Farms - Locarno Farms Ltd - Kenmarank Farms Ltd  
 Nicola Dairy - Hamming Holsteins - Wedgewood Holsteins - Chilliwack Cattle  
 Meadowbrink Farms - J William Wikkerink Farm Ltd - Luttmerring Farms Ltd  
 Driessen Dairy - Lavender Farms

Our heartfelt thanks  
for making this week happen!



# Readers in the News



Martin Hamming of Delta, BC, enjoys true quality time over the Western Canadian Dairy News with his great grandsons!



The Taylor family of Viewfield Farms, Vancouver Island, came together to celebrate Joe and Jeanette's 61st wedding anniversary. Congratulations to you both!



## GOOD QUALITY ROUND BALES!

### DELIVERY AVAILABLE

Very reasonably priced and  
Volume Discounts

250-727-1966

Bryce Rashleigh

bryce@rashleigh.ca

# FIND YOUR PROCESSOR



## BALE GATOR

Square bales 72"x48"x36"  
300° Rotating chute  
Compact 5' width



## BALE BOSS

Round bales up to 6'  
Self loading



Square bales up to 48"x48"x108"  
Self loading



## BF8000

Self loading bale feeder  
Round bales up to 4-5' wide and 6' diameter  
Shown with optional square extension bale kit

[www.tubeline.ca](http://www.tubeline.ca)  
Find us on @TubelineMFG

**TUBE•LINE** 1.888.856.6613

**Wishing all of our customers the Best of the Season!**

**100% QUALITY FEED**  
**100% QUALITY SERVICE**  
"Manufactured on the Island... For the Island"

**Vancouver Island's Only Feed Manufacturing Company!**

Supporting the Agricultural Community on Vancouver Island since 1976.

**Top Shelf Feeds**

2800 ROBERTS ROAD, DUNCAN  
PHONE 250-746-5101  
admin@tsfeeds.ca  
[topshelffeeds.ca](http://topshelffeeds.ca)

**Merry Christmas!**

**BEEKMAN AUCTIONS**

**Wishing all Our Customers and Friends Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**



**22 Mile Cattle Co.**  
Merritt, BC

**CUSTOM HEIFER RAISING**

**Now Accepting Breeding Age and Pregnant Heifers**

**\* AI BREEDING AND CLEAN-UP BULL AVAILABLE**

**CONTACT:**  
**Matt Vanderveen**  
**604.302.3559**



**ABS**

**ELON-MUSK**  
94H022210 | VALIANT CALMAC ELON-MUSK-ET

**A DEEP PEDIGREE OF HIGH-SCORING AND PRODUCTIVE COWS**

ELON-MUSK is a top-ranking Blakely son from an exciting young Parfect daughter that already scored VG. He is backed by a deep pedigree of high-scoring and productive cows! ELON-MUSK combines strong health traits, fertility, and high Fat and Protein percentages with a very strong linear and great Type scores! On top of that, he is also A2A2!

**PEDIGREE INFO:**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Sire Name: | Westcoast GD Blakely-ET  |
| Dam Name:  | Valiant Calmac Parfect Emblem<br>2-04 2X 365d 26,630M 5.2% 1398 Fat 3.7% 983 Prot      |
| 2nd Dam:   | Progenesis Challen Embrace VG-87<br>3-07 RX 365d 40,435M 4.5% 1823 Fat 3.8% 1526 Prot  |
| 3rd Dam:   | Main-Drag Helix Emmit-ET VG-87<br>2-06 RX 365d 25,785M 5.2% 1343 Fat 3.6% 939 Prot     |
| 4th Dam:   | Main-Drag Rubicon Email EX-91<br>3-09 3X 365d 44,440M 4.0% 1822 Fat 3.0% 1378 Pro      |
| 5th Dam:   | Winterhlm-WG Emotional VG-88<br>1-10 3X 305d 26,180M 3.2% 846 Fat 2.9% 759 Prot        |
| 6th Dam:   | Winterhlm-WG Bax Elated-ET EX-92<br>5-03 3X 365d 49,360M 3.4% 1723 Fat 2.9% 1435 Prot  |
| 7th Dam:   | Winterhlm-WG B G Elation-ET EX-93<br>5-01 3X 365d 41,730M 3.2% 1348 Fat 3.2% 1339 Prot |
| 8th Dam:   | Ridgegate Emotion-ET EX-90   |
| 9th Dam:   | Ridgegate Emera EX-95  |
| 10th Dam:  | Ridgegate Emma-ET VG-88  |
| 11th Dam:  | Ridgegate Fond Example EX-95 GMD   |

**KAPPA CASEIN:** AB  
**BETA CASEIN:** A2/A2  
**SIRE STACK:** Blakely x Parfect x Challenger x Helix  
**REG NUM:** HO CAN 000014793160  
**DOB:** 10/8/2023  
**aAa:** 4236  
**BRED BY:** Valiant Dairy Genetics & Calmac Holsteins, Woodstock, ON, CAN  
**ACQUIRED FROM:** Valiant Dairy Genetics & Calmac Holsteins, Woodstock, ON, CAN

**CONFORMATION:** Dtrs: 0 Herds: 0 PTAT Rel: 78%

|      | -2 | -1    | 0       | 1        | 2 |  |
|------|----|-------|---------|----------|---|--|
| PTAT |    |       | 1.33    |          |   |  |
| UDC  |    |       | 1.53    |          |   |  |
| FLC  |    | 0.70  |         |          |   |  |
| BWC  |    |       | 0.03    |          |   |  |
| ST   |    | 0.70  | Tall    |          |   |  |
| SG   |    |       | 0.12    | Strong   |   |  |
| BD   |    |       | 0.28    | Deep     |   |  |
| DF   |    | 1.23  | Open    |          |   |  |
| RA   |    |       | 0.69    | Sloped   |   |  |
| TW   |    | 1.99  | Wide    |          |   |  |
| RLSV |    |       | 0.70    | Curved   |   |  |
| RLRV |    |       | 0.81    | Straight |   |  |
| FA   |    | 0.38  | Steep   |          |   |  |
| FLS  |    | 0.84  | High    |          |   |  |
| FUA  |    | 1.24  | Strong  |          |   |  |
| UH   |    | 2.31  | High    |          |   |  |
| UW   |    | 2.29  | Wide    |          |   |  |
| UC   |    | 1.35  | Strong  |          |   |  |
| UD   |    | 0.62  | Shallow |          |   |  |
| FTP  |    | 1.21  | Close   |          |   |  |
| RTP  |    | 1.77  | Close   |          |   |  |
| TL   |    | -0.54 | Short   |          |   |  |

Find complete data set, purchase options, and more on Bull Search at [ABSbullsearch.ABSglobal.com](http://ABSbullsearch.ABSglobal.com) or contact your local ABS Representative.

**LINEAR Choice™**



Profit from Genetic Progress | 888.785.7883 | [ABSglobal.com/ca](http://ABSglobal.com/ca)

©2025 ABS Global®. All Rights Reserved.



# FRASER VALLEY Breeders Cup

NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 2025



**PRINCAR RANGERRED SPICE 686**

1ST LACTATION (21 ENTRIES)

1. PRINCAR RANGERRED SPICE 686

Carey Prinse, Sardis

2. HAMMINGVIEW RANGER CREAM

Hammingview Farms Ltd., Pitt Meadows

3. ROSEVIEW WINNIE AVENGER 839

Richlaan Holsteins & Kylie Langelaan, Delta



**BENCO MAGNOLIA STARS 1001**

2ND LACTATION (19 ENTRIES)

1. BENCO MAGNOLIA STARS 1001

Benco Holsteins, Chilliwack

2. TWOMEIER HANLEY SANDY 1896

U & D Meier Dairy #2, Abbotsford

3. BENCO HERIET AVENGER 1051

Benco Holsteins, Chilliwack



**WISSELVIEW MIDNIGHT ROXIE 988**

3+ LACTATIONS (18 ENTRIES)

1. WISSELVIEW MIDNIGHT ROXIE 988

Wisselview Farms, Pitt Meadows

2. BENCO POUT SIDEKICK 943

Benco Holsteins, Chilliwack

3. ARENDSDALE KANSASCITY 4819

Arendsdale Dairy, Abbotsford

Judge: Carl Barclay, BC

58 Entries, 15 farms

*Thank You  
to the Sponsors:*

★ WestGen ★ STgenetics  
★ United Sires ★ Blondin Sires



Retired Holstein  
Journal Editor

Contact Bonnie to sign up for  
her full monthly news email  
and Coming Events listing at:  
[becooper2010@gmail.com](mailto:becooper2010@gmail.com)

\* Brian O'Connor, General Manager of EastGen, the Guelph, ON-based A.I. company, has announced that after 41 years of dedicated service to the A.I. industry, he will be **retiring** from EastGen, **effective April 15, 2026**. O'Connor began his A.I. career in 1984 as a Dairy Sire Analyst with Eastern Breeders Inc. (EBI), buying such noted bulls as *Skychief*, *Lincoln* and *Prelude*. In 1988, he was appointed EBI Director of Marketing. In 1995, he became Manager of the Marketing Division of the newly formed company Gencor. In 1999, he became General Manager for Gencor, and then EastGen in 2011 following the merger of EBI and Gencor.

\* The late Dr. Gerrit Kistemaker was recognized posthumously with the **Dairy Cattle Improvement Industry Distinction Award** from Lactanet Canada during the 2025 Dairy Cattle Industry

Forum in Montreal in mid-September. Kistemaker joined Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) in 1998 and a year later was promoted to Chief Geneticist, a role he proudly served for 25 years for CDN/Lactanet until his death in February 2024. During his career, Kistemaker contributed significantly to Canada's genetic evaluation services including the introduction of genomic evaluations in 2009.

\* Semex announced in September that their global superstar, **Croteau Lesperron Unix (EX-96-ST)**, has achieved his 1000th Excellent daughter in Canada. Having the honour of being his 1000th Excellent was *ROCKYRAPIDS OPRAH UNIX (EX-90)*, bred and owned by Rockyrapids Holsteins, Almonte, ON.

\* **Trans Ova Genetics** (TOG), the livestock reproduction technology company, announced in October a new international partnership with

Evolgen, a division of Clinique Vétérinaire Centre du Québec, to establish and operate a state-of-the-art in vitro fertilization (IVF) laboratory in Quebec. This marks TOG's official entry into the Canadian IVF market.

\* **Gordon Patriquin** of Raydon Holsteins, New Sarepta, AB celebrated his 91st birthday on October 7th. Gordon was president of the Alberta Holstein Branch in 1983-84.

\* Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC), Lactanet and partners from across the dairy industry have come together to unveil the newly developed **Canadian Dairy Hub website**, [www.dairyhub.ca](http://www.dairyhub.ca). The new website is a one-stop hub for tools, videos, fact sheets and other resources, all backed by the latest in science-based information in an easy-to-navigate space for farmers and their advisors.



SOUTHERN  
IRRIGATION

WISHING YOU A

*Merry Christmas*

Thank you for your continued support and best wishes for 2026!



NATIONAL BANK  
OF CANADA



# A field full of possibilities

Our agribusiness experts will work with you to come up with tailored solutions to help meet your needs, including challenges related to rates, increasing feeding costs and labour.



**Stéphane Danré**  
Account Manager, Agriculture  
and Agribusiness Group  
Lower Mainland  
778-952-5931  
stephane.danre@bnc.ca

[nbc.ca/agribusiness](http://nbc.ca/agribusiness)

**Come visit us!**  
at booth #148  
at the Pacific Agriculture Show  
January 22–24 in Abbotsford

## Flevo Genetics Snowman:

# With Very Few Doses, He Achieved the Same Influence as Powerful Millionaires

Article published by:

**Holstein International**

[www.holsteininternational.com](http://www.holsteininternational.com)

A snow-white son of millionaire O-Man out of an exclusive Dutch BW Marshall daughter (Broeks MBM Elsa EX-90, Global Cow 2010) from a proven family of production champions – that is Flevo Genetics Snowman. Interest in him was immediately tremendous – and even more so once he was successfully progeny proven. However, Snowman died much too young, and very little semen remained. The influence that Snowman and his limited doses would subsequently have on the breed can only be described as truly phenomenal.

✉ JAN BIERMA

This phenomenon is seldom seen: In the summer of 2010, one and the same bull appeared in the top-5 of three different countries. His name was Flevo Genetics Snowman, and he was the leader in both Germany and the Czech Republic, while in the Netherlands he was in fifth place. This snow-white O-Man son (hence the name "Snowman") was sampled separately in all three countries, and thus proved that his daughters could perform well everywhere. Also notable was his high conformation, especially for an O-Man son. In all three countries, Snowman turned out to be the highest type bull in the top-10. No wonder there was an explosion of interest from all over the world, but... now came the disappointment. Snowman was no longer alive: As the result of hardware in his stomach, he had died at a young age, and there was little semen left.

Why was Snowman sampled in three countries? Hermann Niermann, at the time working for Snowman's owner WWS Germany, told HI: 'We purchased Snowman from Harry Broekhuis in the Netherlands, and it was agreed that Broekhuis would receive some semen. In addition, WWS Germany was a co-owner in the German AI company Göpel Genetik, who also had an agreement to sample bulls in the

As a young sire, Flevo Genetics Snowman (O-Man x BW Marshall) was photographed together with his breeder Jacob Beard.



the competition on that front is very stiff. To mention just one example: Seagull-Bay Snow Darling VG-88 is the dam of the appreciated bull Seagull-Bay Silver.

### DOUBLE SNOWMAN

Snowman's impact is clearly global (even if it were only for his role as the maternal grandsire of the mentioned ABS bull Silver) but in Germany, already since his youth Snowman has played a leading role. To that end, we need only consider the Nr.1 DNA bull from the German 04/2025 release, Pennywise. There we see that via his sire Picard, he traces back to Snowman twice: via the mentioned Casino and also via the Snowman son Seagull-Bay Platinum. At the same time, via his dam he also traces back to Snowman twice: via Scandinavia's Hall of Fame sire Crown (Charley-Silver) and the Danish brood cow Anderstrup Snow Heaven VG-87-2yr (dam of the sires Cinema and Chevalier). In the pedigree of Germany's most used sire of sons right now (Pirelli), we find Snowman five times. Including via the very popular bull Solitair-P-Red, whose equally popular sire Mr Salvatore-RC is a son of the well-known cow Snowbiz Sympatico Sofia VG-85-2yr, who is a double-bred Snowman granddaughter: Her sire is Snowman son Dymentholt Sympatico-RC, while her dam is Snowman daughter Gen-I-Beq Summer VG-85-2yr.

### RED HOLSTEIN IMPACT

With the mentioned Snowman son Sympatico, we arrive at Snowman's highest TPI sons; a list that is led by S-S-I Snowman Mayflower (2508 TPI), the elite production bull from Select Sires out of the Mirror/Mirage family, who received nearly 40,000 daughters in production and still scores a very high +1442 lb for milk. Also popular was the Snowman son Gen-I-Beq Aikman-RC (5,975 daughters, 2367 TPI; Altitude family), who thanks to being a red carrier, had a nice impact on Red Holstein breeding. For example, he became the sire of the bestselling bulls Delta-Fun-P-RC, DG Checkmate-RC, and Schreur Apoll-P-Red. But: still (much) more Red Holstein influence was generated by the mentioned Snowman son and Semex graduate Sympatico-RC (2346 TPI)! He received 16,077 daughters, became the sire of popular bulls like Coyne-Farms Pat-Red (2602 TPI) and Step-Red, and especially because of the highly appreciated brood cow Snowbiz Sofia. She is not only the dam of the mentioned Mr Salvatore-RC (among others, the sire of Solitair-P-Red, Shimmer-RC,

S-S-I Montross Duke (photo), together with Seagull-Bay Silver, accounts for Snowman's tremendous influence among black & whites.

© HAN HOPMAN



of his strong indexes in three different countries. Secondly, he was a son of one of the world's most successful sires of sons: O-Man. Thirdly, he descended from a cow family that spoke to the imagination everywhere: earlier in 2010, his family member Ever-Green-View My-1326 was celebrated in the US as America's brand new champion for milk production, with her magnificent lactation of 4.5 365d 3x 32,804 kg/72,170 lb 3.86% 3.12%. Nearly 90 kg/198 lb milk/day! This My-1326 (a daughter of Stouder Morty out of a Lantz dam) was a granddaughter of Ever-Green-View Elsie EX-92 (<Bell Elton), who was also the great-grandam of Snowman. The interest in My-1326's world record was enormous: 'I have never experienced anything like this before. Radio and TV stations from all over the world, even from far away New Zealand, have called us to report about My-1326,' breeder and owner Tom Kestell told HI in 2010.

The abundant confidence in Snowman, along with the fierce demand for his scarce semen, of course also led to notably high prices for Snowman descendants. At the Rocky Mountain High sale, a 1st choice Snowman out of Smithden Bolton Alexandria sold for C\$70,000 (which also led to an EX-90 daughter), and a Canadian-American syndicate paid €200,000 for one of Snowman's best daughters from his sampling period: the German cow Broeks Betty VG-88-2yr (mgs. Shottle). It was a great move, as we know today, because Broeks Betty is none other than the great-grandam of the German Charley son Casino: one of Germany's most used bulls in recent years and also a successful sire of sons. In addition, Betty received a Nr.1 DNA son in Japan as well as EX daughters in Canada and Australia. Insiders call Betty "a true breeding giant" and one of Snowman's most famous daughters – but it must be said that

## From Local Passion to Global Performance

Just like Snowman, great breeding ideas don't stop at borders.  
Inspired by the Snowman story?

Discover more inspiring global success stories and independent breeding insights every month with Holstein International.

Subscribe easily using the reply card enclosed in this edition, or scan the QR code to subscribe online!



Coupon code:  
**WCDN326**

Offer valid until March 14th, 2026

**Holstein International**  
Get 15% off your first 12-month subscription!

The German transmitter Solitair-P-Red (photo), together with his sire Mr Salvatore-RC, ensured the broad impact of Snowman on Red Holstein, as he appears twice in their pedigree.



Doble-RC, Altuve-RC, Reeve-Red, Salvo-RC), but also of the powerful brood cow Ms Sofia Delta Sky-RC VG-85: the dam of Westcoast Soundcloud and Swingman-Red, and the grandam of Westcoast Stamkos-RC.

Now back to the Snowman sons, where the TPI top-3 of Mayflower, Aikman, and Sympatico is followed by Seagull-Bay Diamond (5,030 daughters), Velthuis Let It Snow (9,605), Butz-Butler Shotglass (5,303), De-Su AltaJackman (10,878), Bouw Snowfever (23,101), JK Eder Control (24,448), Seagull-Bay Platinum (5,030), Go-Boy Cap (4,069), and Snowmaster (3,606).

#### DUKE

Snowman's highest TPI daughter is Oconnors

Bermuda, and it would also be fitting to mention his highest LPI daughter. That is S-S-I Snowman Malena GP-80 and she is the dam of S-S-I Supersire Mabel VG-85... the dam of the absolute elite bull S-S-I Montross Duke, who is good for 28,098 daughters and is the sire of bulls such as Westcoast Alcove and Progenesis Positive. (In addition, it also must be mentioned that Duke was missed as a sire of sons, since his initial DNA indexes were not quite as high.) Today, Duke (born in 2014) still

scores an impressive +1736 lb for milk – the trademark par excellence of Snowman, who himself still scores a nice +792 lb milk, even though he was born twenty years ago.

**Table** – The number of Snowman daughters in various countries. Snowman died early and for that reason had very limited availability.

| COUNTRY        | DAUGHTERS |
|----------------|-----------|
| Germany        | 959       |
| Canada         | 521       |
| Netherlands    | 469       |
| US             | 307       |
| Czech Republic | 82        |
| Italy          | 74        |
| France         | 53        |
| Australia      | 51        |
| Scandinavia    | 30        |

In the preceding paragraphs, you have read about Snowman's tremendous influence, both among black and red & whites – even though he did not even arrive at 16,000 doses of semen in his very short life. Just imagine then the phenomenal influence Snowman would have had if he had produced like a regular bull! ●

Unfortunately Snowman had only a few daughters, but from the limited number, the lion's share were outstanding: They include Buiteneind Femmy from Buiteneind Dairy (NL).



## Dr. David Kelton wins prestigious International Dairy Federation (IDF) award

Hannah Woodhouse, PhD

Congratulations to Dr. David Kelton (Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph) for being awarded the International Dairy Federation (IDF) Leader Recognition Award at the 2025 IDF World Dairy Summit held in Santiago, Chile from October 20-23.

This prestigious award recognizes exceptional leadership within IDF, strong collaborative team skills, and the ability to deliver results for the global dairy sector. Dr. Kelton was awarded this for his outstanding contributions as Chair of the IDF Standing Committee on Animal Health and Welfare. Dr. Kelton has also contributed to the Canadian dairy industry in numerous ways. He held the Dairy Farmers of Ontario Dairy Cattle Health Research Chair position for 10 years, was a founding member of the Canadian Mastitis Network and Dairy at Guelph, in addition to coauthoring over 330 manuscripts focused on dairy cattle health and welfare.

The 2025 IDF World Dairy Summit had very strong Canadian dairy representation! The President of IDF

is Canada's own Gilles Froment from Lactalis, who played a key role in the organization of this event. The winner of the IDF Professor Pavel Jelen Award for Early Career Scientists went to Alberta's Zheng Zhao, who was granted a trip to attend the Summit and present her PhD research.

Hundreds of dairy representatives around the world gathered at this annual event to share insights and experiences to help shape the future of the dairy sector, as well as celebrate the dairy industry's dedication and resiliency. This year's theme was "Nourishing a Sustainable World" and featured key discussions on innovations in the dairy industry. Topics included sustainable practices, technological advancements, artificial intelligence, market trends, and nutritional sciences.

It was announced that IDF's 2028 meeting will be held in Quebec City. 2026 will be held in New Zealand, and 2027 will be held in India.



University of Guelph's Dr. David Kelton receives the Leader Recognition Award at the IDF World Dairy Summit held in Chile in October.

MANITOBA

# Farms For Sale

To view more farms, visit: [www.farmdivision.ca](http://www.farmdivision.ca)

**Dairy Farm** | **D 18537**

- 1100 acres of prime farm land
- 252 kgs dairy quota
- Stunning 5 bedroom home
- Located in SE Manitoba, near the dairy centre of Steinbach
- 5 Lely A5 robots

**Sheldon Froese**  
**204.371.5131**  
[sheldonfroese@royallepage.ca](mailto:sheldonfroese@royallepage.ca)

**ROYAL LEPAGE**

Riverbend Realty

**FARM DIVISION**

# Understanding WorkSafeBC's Authority on Your Farm

Chad Stewart, AgSafe chad@agsafebc.ca

I can't make it more than a few weeks without being asked or told some variation of the questions or statements below:

- **"Is WorkSafeBC really allowed to come on my farm whenever they want?"**
- **"I have biosecurity, so that means they aren't allowed to come on my farm!"**
- **"This is private property, so I'm going to kick them off..."**
- **"I talked to my lawyer, and they said I'm allowed to deny them entry to my farm."**

I can tell you from experience that any of these approaches rarely end with the expected or hoped-for outcome. First, what does health and safety legislation say? Briefly, from the *Workers' Compensation Act*, which provides the legal authority and framework for all of WorkSafeBC's activities (Part 2, Division 11, Section 75): **WorkSafeBC officers have the legal authority to enter any workplace to conduct an inspection, and they may do so at any reasonable time, or at any time they believe workers might be exposed to a hazard. Full stop.**

There is no way around this one, and I strongly discourage the notion of "having it out" with the officer to test their resolve. As I was told early in my health and safety career, **"Officers do not write the mail; they only deliver it."** If you want to see change, pursue it through your industry association during WorkSafeBC's proposed regulatory change feedback periods. If you are unfamiliar with this process, reach out to your local AgSafe representative to learn more.

Now that we know they are allowed on site, what can they do during an inspection? A WorkSafeBC officer has the authority to:

- Bring required equipment and specialists to assist with the inspection.
- Examine work areas, tools, equipment, machines, materials, and products.
- Take samples and conduct tests, even if doing so damages or destroys the sample.
- Restrict access to part of the workplace for a reasonable time if needed.
- Require equipment, machinery, or processes to be operated for inspection purposes.
- Review relevant records and temporarily remove them to copy or examine.
- Require individuals to provide relevant records within a reasonable timeframe.
- Question workers, require them to attend interviews, and require answers under oath if necessary.
- Take photos or video recordings of the workplace and activities occurring there.
- Attend employer training sessions related to workplace health and safety.
- Use any additional powers necessary to properly perform their duties under OHS laws.

But what about that secret weapon — the biosecurity sign diligently placed at every farm entrance? Will that keep them out? Again, no. WorkSafeBC is acutely aware of your proAction biosecurity requirements and is diligent in ensuring they do not become a contributing factor in a biosecurity breach. To set your mind at ease, have the biosecurity conversation with the officer during their next visit to learn what measures they take to ensure your farm remains safe.



So, what's the best approach the next time an officer comes on site? Resignation, aggression, milk and cookies? Try viewing these inspections as a normal part of doing business rather than "one more thing" that needs to be dealt with. Just as the machinery and equipment used in farming today no longer resembles what your father or grandfather used, neither does your safety program.

If we continue to view health and safety with disdain, we miss out on the opportunity to use it as a valuable business tool. Injured workers, increasing WorkSafeBC premiums, and access to top-notch health care can all be managed through elements of a strong health and safety program.

Chad Stewart is AgSafe's **Superintendent of Field Operations**. The role of AgSafe field representatives is to provide workplace safety consultation, education and advice that will help producers achieve long-term safety goals.

**Merry Christmas & Seasons Greetings** from AgSafe.

AgSafe Safety Representatives are available throughout British Columbia to help your business when and where you need them.

**AgSafe** COR SAFETY CERTIFIED

**Merry Christmas**

**FUNKS** CONSTRUCTION  
Serving the Fraser Valley and Beyond - talk to us  
**Call Tim 604-302-2112**

• Agricultural  
• Residential  
• General Contracting

**Building Your Future** funksconstruction.com

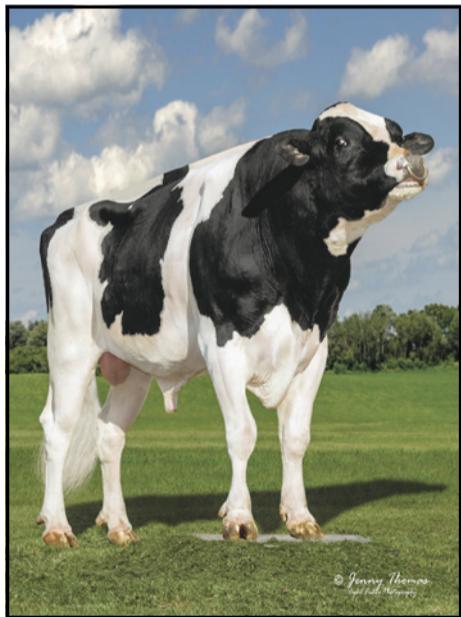
**WCR**  
WEST COAST  
ROBOTICS

From all of us at West Coast Robotics, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Here's to continued innovation and success in the years ahead!

**f** **g** **o** **604-796-5532**  
westcoastrobotics.ca

# King Doc Genomic Era Millionaire



Select Sires announced in September that WOODCREST KING DOC (EX-90) became their newest Millionaire sire. The first Showcase™ sire to sell over a million doses, DOC died in June 2025, just a few months short of his tenth birthday. DOC was a KINGBOY son from WCD-ZBW MACK DADDY (VG-88-VG-MS), respected for his ability to sire "crossover cows - cows that thrive in progressive dairies while also performing well in the show ring," the press release stated.

In the genomic era of rapid genetic turnover, DOC's achievement is all the more impressive, requiring continued popularity as a daughter-proven sire - driven by both his daughters' show ring prominence and ability to sire typey, productive cows in large herds.

His August 2025 GE summary shows nearly 7500 classified daughters in Canada, with 240 EX daughters and 85% GP and better.

## WE KNOW

*Real*

## BULL MOTHERS MATTER TO YOU!

### AOT DELUXE HI-LIGHTED-ET EX-91 EX-94-MS DOM



**TYPE** CLASSIFIED EX-91 (EX-94-MS)

**PEDIGREE**  
12 GENERATIONS EX OR VG DAMS,  
AVERAGING OVER 89 POINTS

**PERFORMANCE**  
GETS IN CALF 1ST SERVICE /  
SEXED SEMEN EVERY TIME

**PRODUCTION**  
3-01 305D 34,984 LBS  
5.4%F 1894 F 3.2%P 1123 P

Merry Christmas  
from all of us at  
Select Sires Canada

Wishing you and your family  
a joyful holiday season  
and a bright and healthy  
prosperous year ahead!



### THAT'S WHY THIS MATTERS TO US!

HI-LIGHTED has a number of sons marketed through Select Sires Canada, with more coming soon!

250H017022

**KNACK** FIGARO x Deluxe

7H017200

**GOLLEY\*** SHEEPSTER x Deluxe

250H017347

**CABARE\*** SHEEPSTER x Deluxe



**YOUR SUCCESS Our Passion.**

1-800-265-0043 • [www.selectsirescanada.com](http://www.selectsirescanada.com)

\* denotes N-GEN  
sire. \*\*N-GEN  
and Your Success  
Our Passion.  
are registered  
trademarks of  
Select Sires Inc.

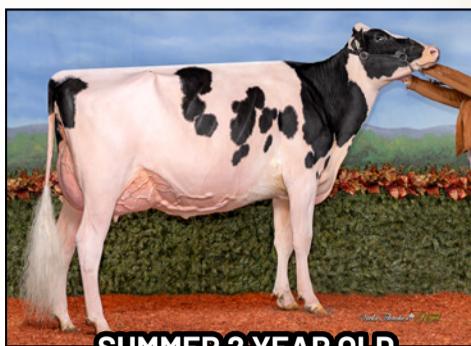
# WESTERN WRAP-UP Celebrating the Best in the West



**WINTER YEARLING IN MILK**  
**WINNER: WEDGWOOD BLAKELY REBEL**  
 Bred & Owned by: Stanhope-Wedgewood, BC  
**RESERVE: HAMMING DESTINATION BETHRAVE**  
 Bred & Owned by: Hamming Holsteins Ltd., BC



**FALL YEARLING IN MILK**  
**WINNER: MOSNANG GRINCH U R A MEAN ONE**  
 Bred by: Mosnang Holsteins Ltd., AB  
 Owned by: Ackley, Spreng & Lund, OH



**SUMMER 2 YEAR OLD**  
**WINNER: MOSNANG DRIVEN TO SUCCEED**  
 Bred by: Mosnang Holsteins Ltd., AB  
 Owned by: Benbie Holsteins Ltd., SK  
**RESERVE: LOVHILL DESTINATION KARNIVAL**  
 Bred & Owned by: Lovholm Holsteins, SK



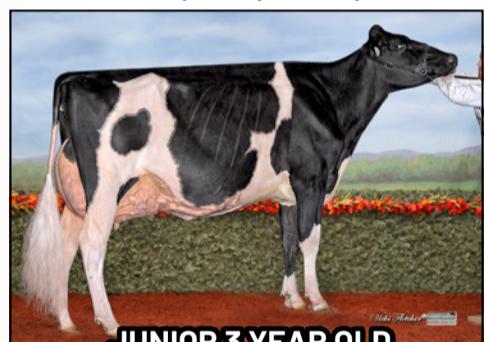
**SPRING 2 YEAR OLD**  
**WINNER: CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX**  
 Bred by: Crestomere Holsteins, AB  
 Owned by: R&F Livestock Inc., SK & Walker Dairy Inc., ON  
**RESERVE: CRESTOMERE BREAKSHOT LINC**  
 Bred by: Crestomere Holsteins, AB  
 Owned by: Lucky Hill Dairy, AB



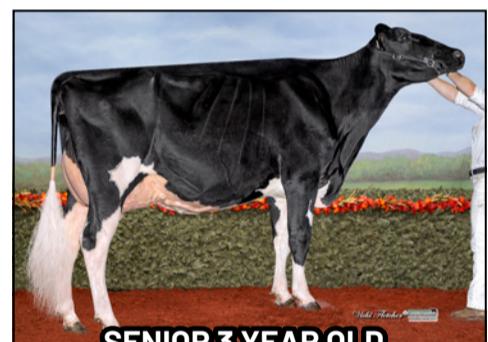
**WINTER 2 YEAR OLD**  
**WINNER: CRESTOMERE PERENNIAL DAPHNE**  
 Bred & Owned by: Crestomere Holsteins, AB  
**RESERVE: SKYCREST ALTITUDE SPROUT**  
 Bred & Owned by: Skycrest Holsteins Ltd., AB



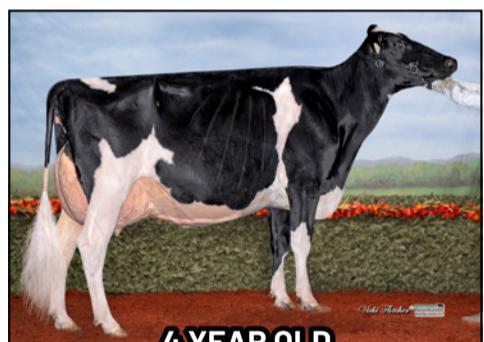
**FALL 2 YEAR OLD**  
**WINNER: SUNSPARK CRUSHABULL SNOWAPPLE**  
 Bred by: Sunspark Farms, ON  
 Owned by: Skycrest Holsteins Ltd., AB  
**RESERVE: HAMMING MASTER BOSS BABY**  
 Bred & Owned by: Hamming Holsteins Ltd., BC



**JUNIOR 3 YEAR OLD**  
**WINNER: CHRIS-ADIE FUEL ARTICHOKE**  
 Bred by: Chris-Adie Holsteins Ltd., SK  
 Owned by: Ronald Grandy, ON  
**RESERVE: WENDON MASTER DEVICE**  
 Bred & Owned by: Wendon Holsteins, AB



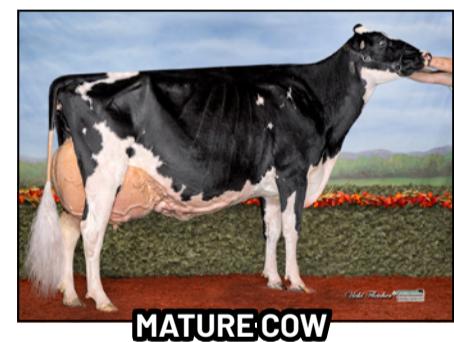
**SENIOR 3 YEAR OLD**  
**WINNER: DAPPLEVIEW LEGEND LIMITLESS**  
 Bred by: Joel Phoenix, ON  
 Owned by: T&L Cattle Ltd., BC & Wendon Holsteins, AB  
**RESERVE: LUCKY ASHBY DRAMA QUEEN**  
 Bred & Owned by: Lucky Hill Dairy, AB



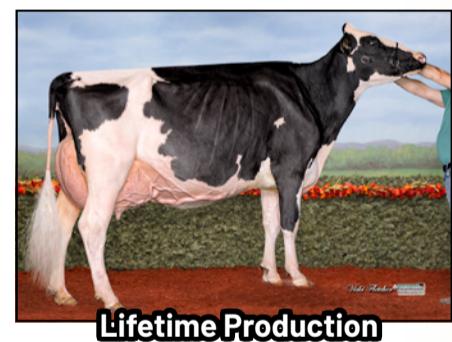
**4 YEAR OLD**  
**WINNER: WENDON LAMBDA DEVASTATE**  
 Bred by: Wendon Holsteins, AB  
 Owned by: Ackley, Spreng & Lund, OH  
**RESERVE: SILVERMAPLE LIMITED CERSEE**  
 Bred by: Silvermaple Holsteins, BC  
 Owned by: Robella Holsteins, SK, T&L Cattle, BC,  
 & Ty-D Holsteins, QC



**5 YEAR OLD**  
**WINNER: CRESTOMERE TATTOO VEZ**  
 Bred by: Crestomere Holsteins, AB  
 Owned by: Benbie Holsteins Ltd., SK  
**RESERVE: LOVHILL FUSION STRAWBERRY RIPPLE**  
 Bred & Owned by: Lovholm Holsteins, SK



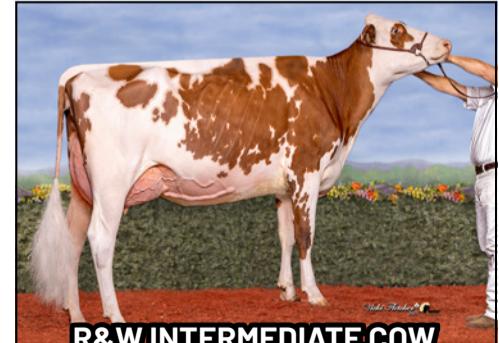
**MATURE COW**  
**WINNER: WENDON SOLOMON ALBY**  
 Bred & Owned by: Wendon Holsteins, AB  
**RESERVE: EMBRDALE JILLIAN UNIX**  
 Bred by: Embrdale Farm, ON  
 Owned by: Wendon Holsteins, AB, Trent Valley  
 Holsteins, ON & Joel Phoenix, ON



**Lifetime Production**  
**WINNER: WEDGWOOD DEMPSEY CELIA**  
 Bred by: Wedgewood Holsteins, BC, Stanhope Dairy  
 Farm Ltd, BC, & Morsan Farms Ltd., AB  
 Owned by: Crestomere Holsteins, AB,  
 & Stanhope-Wedgewood, BC  
**RESERVE: HAMMING 1ST GRADE SMARTY PANTS**  
 Bred & Owned by: Hamming Holsteins Ltd., BC



**SENIOR BREEDERS HERD**  
**WINNER: WENDON HOLSTEINS, AB**  
**RESERVE: CRESTOMERE HOLSTEINS, AB**



**R&W INTERMEDIATE COW**  
**KOZAK WILLOWS RED DESIRE**  
 Bred & Owned by: Kozak Holsteins, AB



**R&W SENIOR COW**  
**KOZAK AUSSIE RED RIBBON P**  
 Bred & Owned by: Kozak Holsteins, AB

*Thank You*

... to everyone who entered this year's contest! Your support is appreciated. Due to space constraints, only the cow classes are listed here, but go to the Western Canadian Dairy News website to view the FULL LIST of all the winners and nominees!

[www.wcdairynews.com](http://www.wcdairynews.com)



# ISLANDS AGRICULTURE SHOW

Vancouver Island, BC



Vancouver Island's Largest Agriculture Event of the Year!

**CONFERENCE SESSIONS**  
Featuring educational workshops all relating to current events in the agriculture industry.

**TRADE SHOW**  
Exhibitors with the latest in farm equipment, professional services and programs for farmers of every size and sector.

**JANUARY 30TH & 31ST, 2026**  
Cowichan Exhibition Grounds - North Cowichan, BC  
[www.iashow.ca](http://www.iashow.ca) • 250-748-0822 • [cowex@shaw.ca](mailto:cowex@shaw.ca)

 Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

 BRITISH COLUMBIA

 Canada

 MNP LTD

 O HUB

 BMO

 ISLAND TRACTOR  
NORTH ISLAND TRACTOR

 Nutrien Solutions

 Evergro

 fcc Farm Credit Canada



Register today at [www.iashow.ca](http://www.iashow.ca)



Wishing all our friends a  
Merry  
Christmas!

Thank you  
to all our  
clients for your  
continued support.

**“Caring for Dairy Herds  
& their Owners  
is a Personal Commitment”**

- Mobile Vets serving the dairy herds of Vancouver Island
- Equine Dentistry plus Farm Animal Pet Supplies

 TSOLUM  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

6635B Island Highway North  
Merville, BC V0R 2M0  
**778-428-2540**  
Email: [tsolummobilevet@shaw.ca](mailto:tsolummobilevet@shaw.ca)

[www.farmvet.ca](http://www.farmvet.ca)

**Come see us  
at *TRADEX* and  
bring your ideas...**

**VALMETAL**



**Better Manure Handling**

**35% DM  
or drier.**

**Design and Build**



**Fabricate - Supply - Install**



**We Provide a  
Wide Range of  
Quality Products**

- Cow Stalls
- Gates and Panels
- Chain Scrapers
- Hydraulic Scrapers
- Cattle Feeders
- Stanchions
- Calf Pens
- Water Troughs
- Crowd Gates
- Mineral Boxes
- Sawdust Blowers
- Hoof Trim Chutes
- Arctic Blast Cooling Fans
- RotoKing® Compost Turner
- Manure Pumps
- Manure Separators

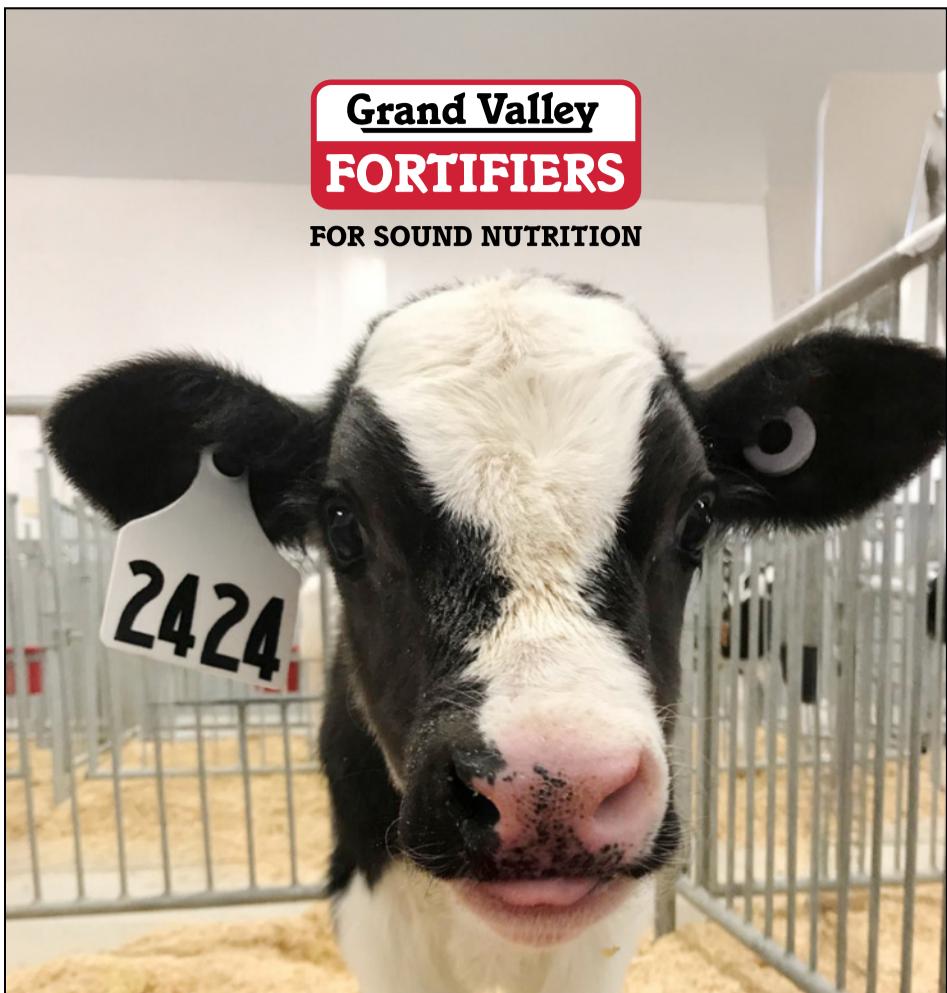
**MID VALLEY MANUFACTURING**

[midvalleymfg.com](http://midvalleymfg.com)

**Sam: 604-864-7978 Steve: 604-217-1504**

34289 4th Avenue, Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 8B6 | 2 Minutes from the Sumas Border  
Ph: 604-854-3821 Toll free: 1-888-854-4568 | Fax: 604-854-3959

**MID VALLEY -  
Your Source  
for ValMetal  
Technologies**



## From Calf to Cow — fueling success at every stage

**Ciaran Murphy**  
604-721-1456  
ciaranmurphy@grandvalley.com

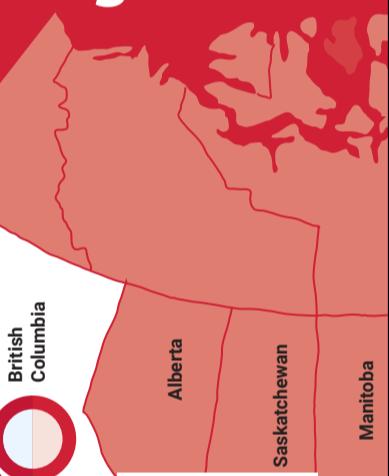
**Isaiah Bondt**  
250-558-8570  
isaiahbondt@grandvalley.com

**Jayden MacPherson**  
780-920-3133  
jaydenmacpherson@grandvalley.com

**Jer Plesman**  
604-845-5599  
jeremyplesman@grandvalley.com

Visit to learn more!  
**grandvalley.com**

Advanced Animal Nutrition for Improved Human Health  
Canadian Family Owned



**'I've never wanted to do anything else!'**

## Five New Producers Given the Green Light – Part 2

### Amanda Poelman

The BC Milk Marketing Board (BCMMB) selected five finalists in this year's New Entrant Program, including one new organic producer. We profiled Fred Fooks, Amy Gibbs, and Josh Telford in our Fall issue (Fall 2025, page 42). Now we'd like to introduce you to Ian Lennox from Glen Valley.

The BCMMB received seven New Entrant Program Organic (NEPO) applications this spring, conducting interviews over two days after the lottery process. NEPO offers an initial 19.5 kg Specialty Continuous Daily Quota (SCDQ) as a starting incentive for milk production, complemented by up to 8 kg of matching SCDQ on a 1:1 ratio over the 10-year program. Additionally, candidates receive a 30% organic bonus on first-year matching quota purchases, bringing the total potential quota to 40.3 kg.

Ian had already caught the dairy bug and knew there was nothing else that he'd rather do. At age 16, Ian moved to Delta to work for Ian Paton, before landing at Gene Wautier's Perrilea Holsteins herd in Aldergrove. "I learned a lot about genetics, production and high-end cows from Gene," says Ian. "He was a really good role model for me." The pair built a great relationship over 13 years, as Ian served as herdsman for the 60-cow herd, and also helped with cropping.

In August 2001, Ian was hired by Ben Brandsma to manage one of his organic dairy operations in Glen Valley. Ian has been there ever since, slowly amassing his own herd of cattle under the DIVINE prefix, which includes Holstein, Jersey and Brown Swiss animals. "I've been in the industry a long time," shares Ian, who exhibited his own animals at local shows and was actively involved as a 4-H Leader in the Glen Valley 4-H Club. "Pretty much the only thing I haven't done is own quota!"

Ian applied to the NEPO program around five times before having his name drawn this year. "It can get a bit disheartening," he says, "but Ben encouraged me to keep trying." Setting his sights on organic quota was a natural fit for Ian, having worked in organics for the past 24 years. Since Ian owns approximately 70 of his own animals already, he expects the transition will go smoothly. "The plan is for me to milk at one of Ben's farms," he says. Quick to credit and thank Ben for his mentorship through the years, Ian will continue to work for Ben once he starts milking his own quota.

"I was trying not to think about it when the call came," says Ian, who admits he teared up when the phone rang. "It's been 39 years of hard work in this industry, but I love it," he adds, hopeful that between his six kids and 12 grandchildren, he'll be able to pass on his passion for cattle, and the farm will continue.



**Ian Lennox**

Ian was born and raised on his father's dairy farm in Chilliwack. Despite the farm being sold when he was nine years old,

## NOTICE TO INDUSTRY Application Process for 2026 New Entrant Program & New Entrant Program Organic NOW OPEN

The objective of the New Entrant Program (NEP) and New Entrant Program Organic (NEPO) is to encourage and facilitate a new producer's entry into the dairy industry.

The BC Milk Marketing Board's NEP and NEPO programs provide successful applicants with incentive quota, matching quota, and priority on the quota exchange.

**Applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee of \$250.00 and meet the following requirements:**

- Have a genuine intention to be actively engaged in milk production
- Be at least 19 years of age and a permanent resident of Canada and British Columbia
- Have a minimum of 3 years recent on-farm dairy experience or equivalent education
- Have no financial interest in any quota issued, allotted or granted by any supply management commodity board or commission in Canada, directly or indirectly

FOR FULL DETAILS, AND TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION, VISIT [HTTPS://BCMILK.COM/NEW-ENTRANT-PROGRAM/](https://bcmilk.com/new-entrant-program/)



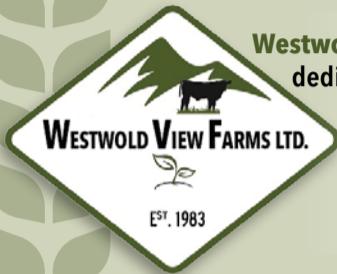
Please contact [lbater@bcmilk.com](mailto:lbater@bcmilk.com) for any questions regarding this notice.



# CUSTOM FEEDING DAIRY HEIFERS & COWS

Westwold View Farms Ltd. has custom feeding availability for the 2025-2026 period.

- Varied pen sizes or pen-sharing available
  - Healthy southern BC interior climate
  - Transportation and Breeding available
- Supported by dairy nutritionists/veterinarians
  - Large scale, competitive rates
  - Software tech monitors health-nutrition
  - Customized feeding programs for...-heifers, bred heifers, cows/springers



Westwold View Farms Ltd. is family operated, dedicated to animal health and welfare and excited to work with dairy producers in the 2025-2026 season

EMAIL: [office@wvfarms.ca](mailto:office@wvfarms.ca)  
PHONE: 250-371-7756

From Our Family  
To Yours...  
Wishing you a  
Blessed Christmas  
and a Happy  
New Year!



**ALRAY**  
SHAVINGS LTD.

604-302-2948

40975 No 2 Road Abbotsford, BC V3G 2R4

Looking forward to  
serving you in 2026

- SAWDUST
- SHAVINGS
- BARK MULCH
- COMPOST
- PUSHOUT OR BLOWER
- CUSTOM HAULING

## Select's LUSTER-P Passes



Select Sires announced the passing of CHERRY-LILY ZIP LUSTER-P-ET in October, just weeks shy of his ninth birthday. Producing nearly one million units of semen, Select says Lustre-P is the highest selling polled sire in the history of the Holstein breed.

"The original intent with the mating behind LUSTER-P was to try to create a breed-leading homozygous polled sire," said Rick VerBeek, senior Holstein sire analyst. "While we were not lucky enough to get a homozygous polled bull, we succeeded in creating one of the breed's most influential, all-around sires of recent times."

2024 Global Cow of the Year, SIEMERS LSTR HANAN 33317-ET (EX-91-EX-MS) is arguably his most prolific daughter.

The August 2025 GE summary shows 4500 classified daughters in Canada at 80% GP and better.

## Write On Kate!

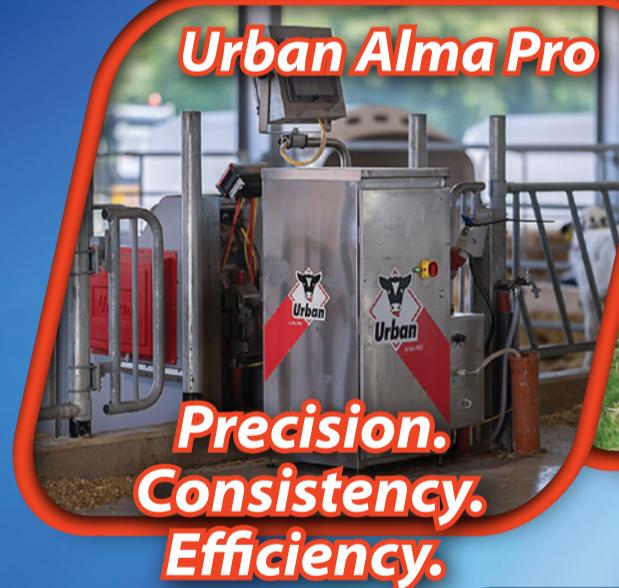
We congratulate ag journalist Kate Ayers (B. Sc. Agr.) for another writing accolade at the Canadian Farm Writers Federation 'Excellence in Agriculture Communications' awards in September. Kate won 3rd place in the Communications Short category for her article "Keeping Your Cool in the Summer Heat - Managing Heat and Sun Exposure on Farms", published in our Spring 2024 issue of *Western Canadian Dairy News*.

Kate continues to write while also exploring farming in addition to being a competitive national runner! Well done Kate!

# CHINOOK FARM INNOVATIONS

*Innovating your Calf Performance*

**with  Technology**



**Urban Alma Pro**

**Precision.  
Consistency.  
Efficiency.**

**Milk Shuttle**



**Smart.  
Rugged.  
Practical.**

**CALF COMFORT  
MATTERS  
FOR FUTURE  
PERFORMANCE**



**PRECISION  
AUTOMATED  
CLIMATE  
CONTROL**

### OUR LOCATIONS

Blackfalds, Alberta  
#48, 27323 Twp Rd 394  
Lacombe County, AB T4M 0S1  
Phone: 403-885-2527  
Service: 403-885-4422

Lethbridge, Alberta  
3206 6 Ave N  
Lethbridge, AB T1H 5C3  
Phone: 403-328-2569

**BouMatic**  
For the life of your dairy™

Chilliwack, British Columbia  
110-43995 Progress Way  
Chilliwack, BC V2R 0E6  
Phone: 604-824-4343

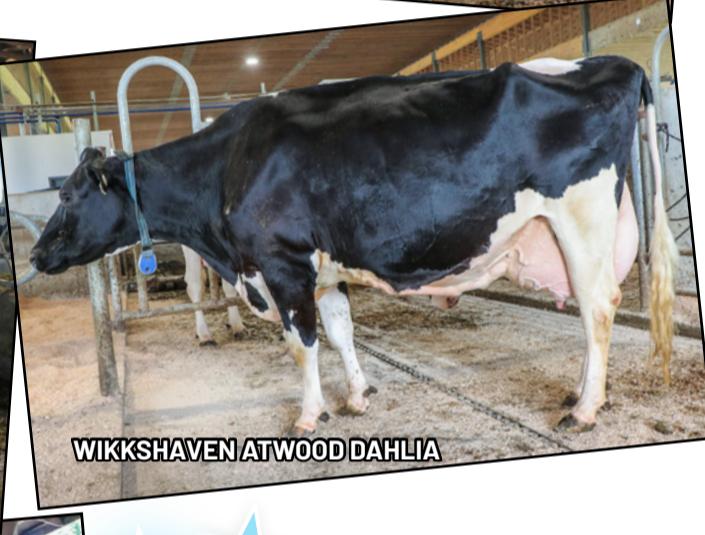
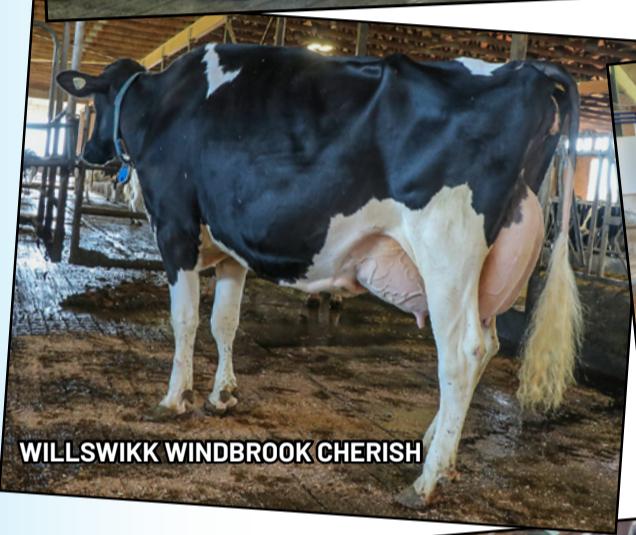
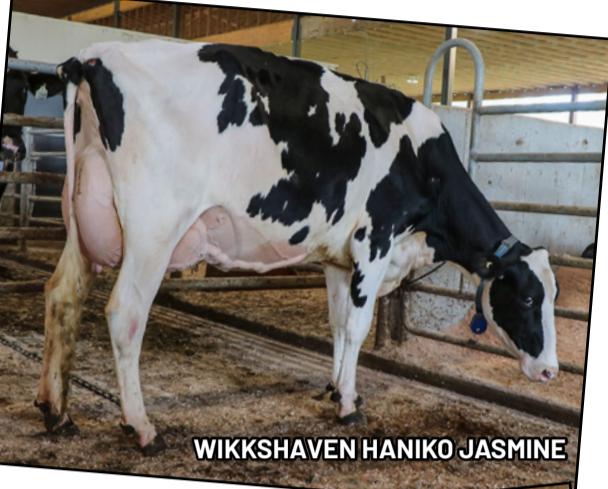
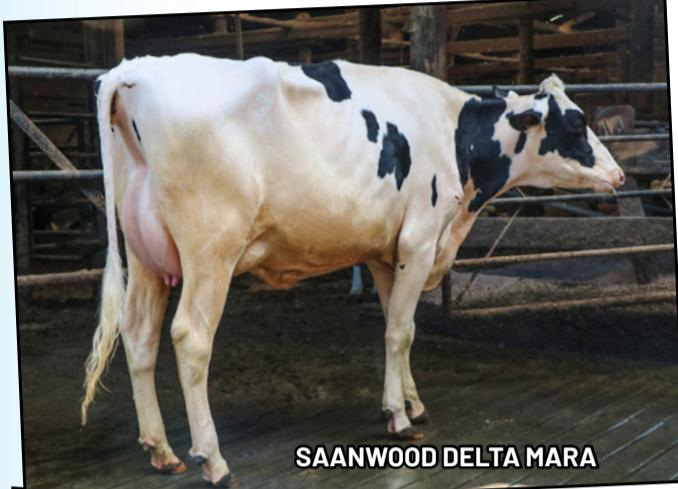
Hague, Saskatchewan  
98 N Service Rd, Box 723  
Hague, SK S0K 1X0  
Phone: 306-225-5000



# Vancouver Island Holstein Club

## Breeders Cup

AUGUST 18 & 19, 2025



**Judge**  
**Kenny McRae, Delta**

Photos & Results courtesy of  
Amanda Poelman

68 ENTRIES, 14 PREFIXES

### 1st Lactation (16 entries)

1. SAANWOOD DELTA MARA  
Viewfield Farms, Courtenay
2. FRUEH AUTOGRAPH TYPHOON  
Frueh Farms, Duncan
3. WILLSWIKK LAMBDA GERMANI  
J. William Wikkerink Farms, Cobble Hill

### 2nd Lactation (16 entries)

1. WIKKSHAVEN HANIKO JASMINE  
Wikkshaven Holsteins, Cobble Hill
2. SILVERMAPLE ILLUSTRATOR FROST  
Silvermaple Holsteins, Ladysmith
3. WILLSWIKK LAMBDA DEENA  
J. William Wikkerink Farms, Cobble Hill

### 3+ Lactations (20 entries)

1. WILLSWIKK WINDBROOK CHERISH  
J. William Wikkerink Farms, Cobble Hill
2. ROCKYCREST BOMBA SHIMMER  
Rockycrest Holsteins, Duncan
3. POELMAN THUNDERSTRUCK KALHUA  
Sunny Vale Farm, Cowichan Bay

### 80,000kgs Production Class (11 entries)

1. WIKKSHAVEN ATWOOD DAHLIA  
Wikkshaven Holsteins, Cobble Hill
2. ALDERLEA CARAMILK GILLESPIY  
Kevin Frueh, Duncan
3. ROCKYCREST ALONZO ROSALYN  
Rockycrest Holsteins, Duncan

### Colour Breeds (5 entries)

1. DOVE CREEK MOONLIGHT CATHLEEN  
Trevor Severinski, Courtenay
2. FRUEH WILBERT AMBER  
Frueh Farms, Duncan
3. BALME AYR ORLANDO MARTHA II  
Balme-Ayr Farms, Cobble Hill

### Overall Production Winner

WIKKSHAVEN ATWOOD DAHLIA  
Wikkshaven Holsteins, Cobble Hill

### Breeders Pair

WILLSWIKK WINDBROOK CHERISH  
WILLSWIKK LAMBDA GERMANI  
J. William Wikkerink Farms, Cobble Hill

### Grand Champion Overall

WIKKSHAVEN HANIKO JASMINE  
Wikkshaven Holsteins, Cobble Hill

**DIAMOND CITY**  
FARM  
SUPPLY

Thank you for all your support in  
2025! We look forward to working  
with you in the next year.

Layne Van Rhijn

Phone: 403-715-7482

441 McKechney Ave (Box 175)  
Diamond City, AB T0K 0T0

info@diamondcityfarmsupply.com  
www.diamondcityfarmsupply.com



### Some of the products we carry include:

- Colostrum Storage & Feeding Bags
- Colostrum Bag Accessories
- Selekt® Drench Products and Tools
- Surecheck Test Kit for Calf Scours
- Mastitis Treatments
- Milk Taxis & Cabs
- Milk and Colostrum Pasteurizers
- Cream Separators
- Self Cleaning Colostrum Pail
- Robot Liners
- Agrimin Calcium Bolus
- Colostrum Testers
- Used Equipment
- And so much more!

Contact us today for more information on any of  
our products, or to place an order! We look  
forward to working with you!

*Merry Christmas*



**RBC Royal Bank®**

**BC Agriculture & Agribusiness Team**

|                   |                       |              |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Melanie Lantz     | V.P. – BC Agriculture | 604-217-2572 |
| Michele Anderson  | Lower Mainland        | 778-986-2109 |
| Grace Browne      | Lower Mainland        | 604-799-2437 |
| Justin Van Dorp   | Lower Mainland        | 604-824-5034 |
| Parm Kooner       | Lower Mainland        | 604-360-1740 |
| Quincy North      | Lower Mainland        | 604-621-6795 |
| Charles Nwagbogwu | Lower Mainland        | 236-558-0706 |
| Teresa McKinley   | Vancouver Island      | 250-618-4316 |
| Alecia Karapita   | BC Interior           | 250-371-1542 |

**MERRY Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

*From all of us at*

**SILA GROW**  
THE SILAGE EXPERTS



- Corn Seed • Forage & Grain Seed
- Twine • Net Wrap • Bale Wrap
- Hay Tarps • Silage Bags • Bunker Covers
- Green House Films • Polycarbonate Panel
- Ground Covers • Landscaping Fabric
- Mulch Film • Shade Net • Trellis Net
- Vineyard Net • Meat/Cheese Packaging Bags

**WWW.SILAGROW.COM**

PHONE: 250-804-4769 TOLL-FREE 1-800-663-6022  
E-MAIL: [office@silagrow.com](mailto:office@silagrow.com)

**BECAUSE COWS DON'T TAKE HOLIDAYS**

When your dairy doesn't stop, not even on Christmas morning, you need equipment that's built to keep up.

Massey Ferguson® S Series tractors deliver the power, comfort and reliability BC farms count on all year long for feeding and hauling, field prep, and more.

And with local support from Vanderwal Equipment, you're backed by people who know the work and show up when it matters.

**FIND YOUR NEXT MASSEY FERGUSON TRACTOR AT VANDERWAL EQUIPMENT.**

**VANDERWAL EQUIPMENT**

23390 River Road  
Maple Ridge, BC

604-463-3681  
[vanderwaleq.com](http://vanderwaleq.com)



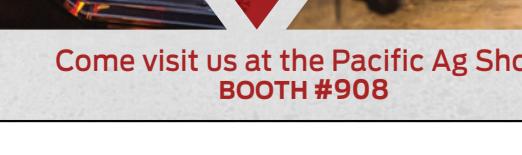












**Come visit us at the Pacific Ag Show  
BOOTH #908**



©2025 AGCO Corporation. AGCO Parts and Massey Ferguson are worldwide brands of AGCO Corporation. AGCO and Massey Ferguson are trademarks of AGCO. All rights reserved.

# BLACKSTOCK Hay Sales

established since 2010

*Wishing you all a very  
Merry Christmas!*

- » **Dairy Hay**
- » **Feeder Hay**
- » **Calf Hay**



**» Wheat Straw**  
**» Rye Straw**

*Supplying the Dairy  
Industry with High Quality  
Hay at Competitive Prices.*

*We look forward to working with you in 2026!*

**Contact: Bailey 604-991-4355**  
**Landon 604-798-2133**

**We haul most of our own hay, so when it gets  
hard to get trucks, we've got you covered.**

## MYMP Harvest Party



**Alex Schwichtenberg**

This October, the Mainland Young Milk Producers (MYMP) hosted their annual After Harvest Party, held this year at the Huizing Farm in the Matsqui Flats. A big thank-you to Dan and Rachelle Huizing for graciously hosting the event, as well as our generous sponsors for making an event like this possible.

We were thrilled to welcome over 60 attendees, with plenty of both new and familiar faces. It was great to see everyone come together to enjoy a beer, a burger, and some great conversation about how the harvest season went.

MYMP events like this one are an excellent opportunity to connect with like-minded farmers, share ideas, discuss plans for the future, and learn what others are trying on their farms. We encourage you to join us at our upcoming gatherings – including the Winter Gala taking place December 9th.

Thanks for coming and we'll see you at the next event!

*Happy Holidays*

deltawaterproducts.com



**DELTA**  
IRRIGATION

Langley, BC | Chilliwack, BC | Williams Lake, BC  
Kamloops, BC | West Kelowna, BC | Lynden, WA

### Boost Your Crop Yields with Smart Irrigation!

*Farm Better, Farm Stronger—Keep Your Feed Crops  
Thriving With Our Turnkey Irrigation Solutions*

✓ Efficient ✓ Sustainable ✓ Automated  
✓ Precise ✓ Profitable

# Caring For Calves

## Is It Time To Upgrade My Calf Raising Facility?

**Jackson Matschke,  
Western Canadian Sales Manager,  
Grober Nutrition**

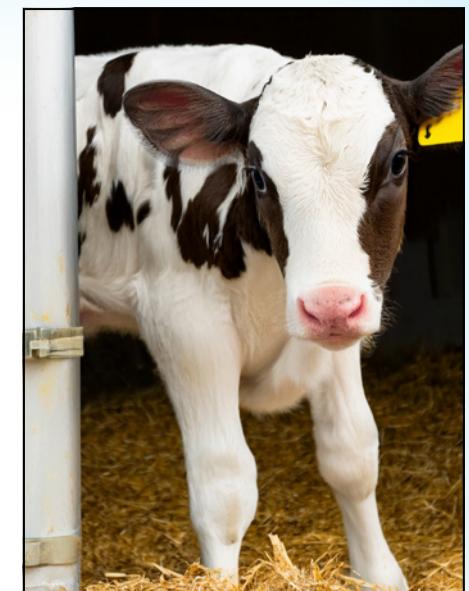
Calf raising facilities are often an afterthought or considered lower priority than upgrades to other farm facilities. They are also more likely (like the calves themselves) to be considered an “expense” because they do not directly generate revenue towards the bottom line of the farm. However, like investing in calf nutrition, upgrading subpar calf facilities can improve calf performance and yield dividends when those animals join the milking herd. Other benefits may also be realized in areas such as labour cost, if upgrading to a less labour-intensive calf rearing system.

When discussing calf rearing programs on farm, I find that climate drives many practical considerations either directly or indirectly. Calves require a clean, dry, stable environment to thrive. What is often not considered is that the humans on the farm need to work in the same environment that the calves live in. An example to illustrate this point: calf hutches are often touted for their ability to prevent the spread of disease due to calf separation and good ventilation. In BC's wet climate, it is possible to keep calves dry in hutches despite the heavy rainfall if they are properly sited and bedded. However, if (when) a calf gets sick, or simply doesn't want to drink, it seems unlikely that the calf feeder (employee or owner) will spend as much time with that calf than if there wasn't torrential rain soaking them as they tend to that calf. This same logic can be applied to hutches in the prairies, with freezing temperatures and high winds. The issue becomes more complicated still when considering existing calf barns. Is the calf feeder likely to linger in the calf barn if it is poorly light, damp, and has poor air quality?

Calf performance can also be indirectly affected by climate. Again, take hutches for example, when considering the entire picture of calf performance. It is well established that providing clean, fresh, water 24 hours a day has a positive impact on water intake, which then drives starter intake, and in turn calf growth (with the associated increase in milk production later in life). Calves housed in hutches in cold climates (the majority of the country) often have limited or no access to water in the winter, as the water either freezes too quickly or isn't fed at all due to the challenge of removing ice from solidly frozen buckets every day.

So, do these examples mean that everyone should consider a move indoors? Not necessarily, and even then, different options (and budgets) are available. First consider your current calf program. Is it effective? If labour is not an issue, mortality is low, and calves are gaining close to 1kg per day in the preweaning period, then perhaps a move indoors isn't necessary. However, if calves are not growing, mortality and morbidity are high, or labour is a challenge, then a new calf facility may be in order. Key considerations include:

- **Sufficient space (plan for future needs, not current needs)**
- **Excellent air flow (positive pressure tubes are the most common option)**
  - For air quality - 4 air changes per hour are recommended.
- Faster airflow for summer cooling and perhaps heating for winter (depending on facility and location).
- **Labour efficiency**
  - Automatic group feeders are not the only option to automate feeding. There are various brands of milk feeding carts, and some even offer individual feeding programs based on RFID tags mounted on the stall.
  - Efficient movement of calves, replenishment of bedding, water, etc.... and easy cleaning. Jobs that are easy to do are more likely to get done.
- **Sanitation facilities**
  - Having an area than makes it easy to prepare milk/milk replacer and clean all feeding equipment in a convenient manner.



Your on-farm professionals can help guide the discussion on what type of facility to pursue. Individual vs. group housing, fully indoors or pole barn, auto vs hand feeding, are all important choices that have to be made during the design process of the facility.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## FROM THE GROBER TEAM

WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR THE FARMERS WHO GIVE THEIR BEST – EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR.

1-800-265-7863 | [GroberNutrition.com](http://GroberNutrition.com) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/GroberNutrition)

### J.R. (Tim) Armstrong Memorial Bursary for Full-Time Students In Agriculture or Journalism

**DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2025**

Open to BC students enrolled in their second year or higher at a university, institute or regional college in Canada.

Details: [www.bcfwa.ca/bursary-links.html](http://www.bcfwa.ca/bursary-links.html)

Ronda Payne, Scholarship Chair  
[bcfarmwriters@gmail.com](mailto:bcfarmwriters@gmail.com)

Proudly sponsored  
by the  
BC Farm Writers'  
Association

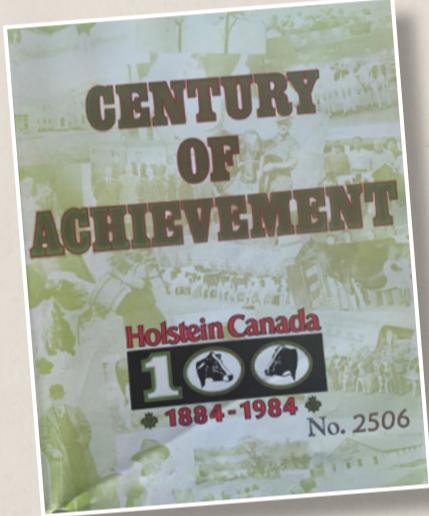


Appreciating Our Holstein Past  
Revisiting Stories from the Holstein Journal

# Bulls that Built the Breed

Bonnie Cooper,  
becooper2010@gmail.com

Delve back into a Holstein pedigree today and you will likely find the names of some of Canada's famous bulls from the 1960s and 1970s, bulls who made a lasting impact on the breed. We present the stories of five such bulls as originally published in 1984 in the Holstein Journal's limited edition commemorative book, *Century of Achievement* (with updates in italics).



## ROSAFE CITATION R EX-EXTRA

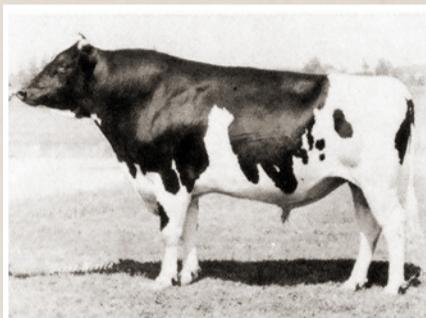
ROSAFE CITATION R, sired by A.B.C. REFLECTION SOVEREIGN EX-EXTRA, was the calf carried in dam when his mother, GLENVUE NETTIE JEMIMA EX-13\*, topped Hector Astengo's Rosafe Dispersal at Brampton, ON, in 1958. Selling at 15 years old, Nettie sold for \$9000 to H.J. Wilcox & Sons, Beeton, ON. In September 1958, Nettie calved with Citation R. Seven weeks later, Citation R drew the high bid of \$30,000 from the Ontario Association of Animal Breeders in the Sale of the Stars. In November 1960, Wilcox announced that Citation R had proven to be a Red Factor Carrier and, in keeping with the general practice of the time, he was returned by the AI units. Wilcox offered the semen at \$5/vial to a still ready host of purchasers. The semen price soon rose, but purchases remained brisk. In 1960, Citation R was Honourable Mention All-Canadian and All-American Senior Yearling. In 1961, he was purchased by Don Marcos Ortiz of Rancho Santa Monica in Mexico. In that country, Citation R was Grand Champion 4X at the Queretaro Show (1963-64-65-67). Though Wilcox had retained some semen, it was not until 1966 that Ortiz gave distribution rights to Kempton & Snedigar of Arizona, and his semen became available through all Canadian AI units. Citation R died in Mexico in April 1969. Citation R had 10 All-Canadian and 13 Reserve progeny. He sired the All-Canadian Gets in 1965-66-67-74. Two prominent daughters were CITATION TARA HILLS BARONESS EX, 1965 Royal Grand Champion and All-Canadian 4-Year-Old, and NORTH-LEEDS CITATION GIRL EX, a 2X Reserve



ROSAFE CITATION R EX-EXTRA



DOWNALANE REFLECTION EMPEROR EX-EXTRA



ROYBROOK STARLITE EX-EXTRA

All-Canadian who sold in the 1967 Glenafton Sale for a then World record price of \$43,000.

Citation R's most famous daughter would later be GLENRIDGE CITATION ROXY EX-97-4E-USA-GMD-6\*, the legendary 2X "Queen of the Breed" bred by Lorne Loveridge, Grenfell, SK. Another daughter was SPRING FARM CITATION ROSETTA EX-10\*, All-Canadian Aged Cow in 1977, 3X Reserve All-Canadian and nominated 8X. Citation R's best sons would include DOWNALANE REFLECTION EMPEROR EX-EXTRA, ROMANDALE COUNT CRYSTAN EX-JPN-ST and NORTHCROFT ADMIRAL CITATION EX-EXTRA.

## SEILING ROCKMAN EX-EXTRA

Known as the "Genetic Giant," SEILING ROCKMAN was born in November 1960 and died in May 1973. Rockman was purchased for \$6000 in the 1961 National Sale by the Kemptville and Quinte AI Units that later became Eastern Breeders Inc. Consigned by his breeder, Albert Seiling, Elmira, ON, Rockman was sired by SEILING TRIUNE ROCKET EX-ST. His dam was ROSAFE SHAMROCK ROSAMOND VG-4\*, an ABC daughter. Rockman was noted for his ability to transmit top production. He was the leading sire of Honor List producers an unprecedented 9X (1968-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-81). Among his outstanding producers were three former Canadian Champions for milk or fat: GLAVINDALE ROCKMAN IRIS VG, RICE LAKE LEA ROCKMAN TOPAZ EX, and LLEWXAM NETTIE PIEBE A EX-5\*. Rockman was All-Canadian 2-Year-Old in 1963 and All-Canadian Aged Bull in 1964. He sired six All-Canadian progeny. His popularity came early and was sustained by his offspring's showing success in Eastern Ontario. He provided over 180,000 first services in the EBI area. Rockman sired a number of prominent sons including ROYBROOK STARLITE EX-EXTRA.

Other noted Rockman sons later were INGOLM KLONDIKE EX-SP and ALMERSON ROCKMAN LESTER EX-EXTRA.

## DOWNALANE REFLECTION EMPEROR EX-EXTRA

Bred by Ernest Brown of Downalane



SEILING ROCKMAN EX-EXTRA

Farms, Welland, ON, DOWNALANE REFLECTION EMPEROR was born in May 1962 and died in February 1975. A Citation R son, he was from DOWNALANE ENSIGN EMPRESS EX-8\*. Emperor was purchased by Douglas Gregson, Hillsburgh, ON, in 1963 and successfully used in his Oak Knoll herd. In 1968, the Hamilton District Cattle Breeding Association (later part of Western Ontario Breeders Inc.) bought an interest in him. Emperor made a tremendous genetic contribution to WOBI member herds. He was Honourable Mention All-Canadian Aged Bull in 1965-66 and Reserve in 1967. He sired the All-Canadian Get in 1971 and Reserve Gets in 1972-74. Emperor daughters were the mainstay of several winning Breeder's Herds including those of Douglas Wingrove, Campbellville, ON, who had All-Canadian Breeder's Herd in 1971-72-73-77. One of Wingrove's best Emperors was ALLANGROVE REFLECTION WINNIE EX, 1977 All-Canadian 4-Year-Old.

Winnie became the grandam of DUPASQUIER STARB WINNIE EX-3E-8\*, 3X All-Canadian and All-American and 1996 Holstein Canada "Cow of the Year." Emperor's influence can also be found on the maternal side of MADAWASKA AEROSTAR EX-GM-EXTRA and his son MAUGHLIN STORM EX-EXTRA, who has two crosses to Emperor. Storm sired the dam of BRAEDE GOLDWYN GP-GM-EXTRA.

## ROYBROOK TELSTAR EX-EXTRA

Bred by F. Roy Ormiston, Brooklin, ON, ROYBROOK TELSTAR gained global respect as a sire of outstanding type. Born in December 1963, Telstar was a linebred product of the White Cow Family at Roybrook. He was sired by ROYBROOK ACE EX-ST, a son of the "White Cow" BALSAM BRAE PLUTO SOVEREIGN EX-7\*. His dam was ROYBROOK MODEL LASS EX-15\*, a "White Cow" granddaughter. At 6-months-old, Telstar topped the 1964 National Sale at \$25,000 to an Ontario County Syndicate of T. Robert Flett, Flettdale Farm; Harold Werry & Son, Werrcroft Farm; and George McLaughlin, Elmcroft Farms. Ormiston later joined the group. An effective



ROYBROOK TELSTAR EX-EXTRA

advertising program produced wide use of his semen. In 1967, Telstar sold to the Federation of Agricultural Societies in Japan, at what was rumoured to be the highest price ever paid for a Canadian bull to Japan. Telstar made significant improvements to the breed in Japan and in 1978 the Hokkaido Livestock Improvement Association had a sculpture of Telstar placed in the Dairy Shrine at the Sapporo Show Grounds. Telstar completed his career in February 1977. In the 1969 Flettdale Dispersal, 14 milking Telstar daughters averaged \$4103 and FLETTDALE STARLITE LYNN EX, later 1971 Reserve All-Canadian Aged Cow, topped the sale at \$18,000. Telstar sired the All-Canadian Get in 1973. His offspring also includes BRIARWOOD MELISSA EX-6\*, a 3X All-Canadian (1968-70-71) and Royal Grand Champion in 1971, and GREEN ELMS ECHO CHRISTINA EX-18\*, All-Canadian Aged Cow in 1972-73 and Royal Grand in 1972.

One of Telstar's most acclaimed sons was HANOVER-HILL TRIPLE THREAT-RED VG-GM, while another daughter, MOERACRES ANNA GEM EX-92-2E-USA-4\*, is the dam of BRIDON ASTRO JET EX-ST.

## ROYBROOK STARLITE EX-EXTRA

One of Canada's most highly rated sires for production was ROYBROOK STARLITE. Bred by Roy Ormiston and born in February 1968, he is a maternal brother to Telstar. United Breeders Inc. purchased an interest in him in 1969, and he remained there until his death in November 1981. Following in the footsteps of his sire, Rockman, Starlite was the leading sire of Honor List producers in 1978-80-82 and was runner-up 4X. Among his top producers was GRASSHILL STARLITE MADGE VG, the first junior 2-year-old in Canada to make 1000 lbs. fat. His best show daughter was BECKHAVEN STARLITE GOVERNESS EX-2\*, Reserve All-Canadian in 1973-74 and nominated another 3X.

Starlite sired many popular sons including ROYBROOK TEMPO EX-EXTRA and GLENNAFTON ENHANCER VG-SP and one of his best brood daughters was ALTONA LEA STARLITE HARRIET EX-9\*. 



**Vanderdeen**  
**HAY SALES LTD**



**BONDED HAY DEALERS**  
• HAY • GRAIN • PET FOOD • SUPPLIES

18726 56<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SURREY, BC  
**604-576-1177**

*Serving BC Farms for over 50 Years with  
Quality Products.*

**May your Christmas and New Year  
be filled with joy and blessings.**

We would like to offer our sincerest gratitude for this past year's business and the privilege of working with each of you.

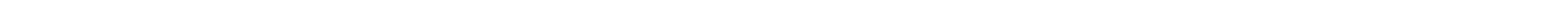
**Merry Christmas!**

From your friends at  
Island Dairy Services Ltd.  
(250) 710-1559 • [islanddairy@telus.net](mailto:islanddairy@telus.net)

 DeLaval

[www.delaval.com](https://www.delaval.com)

DeLaval is a registered trademark of Tetra Laval Holdings & Finance S.A. and "DeLaval" is a registered trade/servicemark of DeLaval Holding AB. © 2021 DeLaval Inc.



**HLA SNOW**  
**PUSHBACK**  
**WINTER**

VISIT [HLASNOW.COM](https://hlasnow.com) FOR OUR  
FULL LINEUP OF SNOW PRODUCTS



**A  
SAVIOUR  
IS BORN**

**SNOW WINGS**

**180° ROTATION**

*Powered by Patented  
Rotary Actuators*

**HYDRAULIC ROTARY BROOM**



**UNIQUE  
FORWARD AND  
LATERAL FLOAT**

**SNOW PUSHERS**



**SLIM DOUBLE  
SIDE WALL**

*Eliminates bulky brace for  
reduced material build-up*



# UPDATE

Krista Christiuk, WestGen Marketing Manager

For more than two decades, WestGen has demonstrated its deep commitment to the sustainability and growth of Western Canadian agriculture. One of the most powerful examples of this dedication is the WestGen Endowment Fund, established in 2004 with an initial investment of \$5,000,000.

The fund was created with a clear purpose: to reinvest its earnings into initiatives that strengthen and secure the future of the Western Canadian cattle industry. Through careful management and strategic direction, the Endowment Fund Committee has been able to support a wide range of educational programs, research projects, and industry development initiatives that create lasting benefits for both beef and dairy producers.

To date, the WestGen Endowment Fund has reinvested \$2,885,543 dollars into the Western Canadian agriculture sector, reflecting WestGen's ongoing commitment to advancing knowledge, innovation, and leadership in the industry.

Recent funding approvals highlight the diversity and impact of projects supported by the Endowment Fund. Among them is a research project led by Dr. Paul Adams at Kwantlen Polytechnic University that is studying bovine pathogens such as *Mycoplasma bovis* and *Salmonella Dublin*, helping to improve vaccine development and diagnostic tools while educating farmers on the importance of genotyping.

"WestGen's support has helped us create new diagnostic tests and deepen our understanding of cattle diseases, generating knowledge that informs farm and veterinary practices to improve animal health. Equally important, their educational leadership and industry connections have opened doors

for collaboration and learning that have been instrumental in the AGC's growth into a nationally recognized Technology Access Centre. We are deeply grateful for their continued support and partnership." - Dr. Paul Adams, Director of the KPU Applied Genomics Centre.

Youth development remains a key focus, with continued support for both the Canadian Cattle Young Leaders program and the WestGen Canadian Classic. These programs play an important role in mentoring and inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders, offering opportunities for learning, leadership, teamwork, and connection among young beef and dairy producers across the country.

The Endowment Fund has also provided support for the upcoming National Holstein Convention, helping to celebrate innovation and excellence in Canadian dairy breeding. In addition, WestGen is involved in a collaborative Beef Supply Chain Data Integration Pilot, working alongside industry partners to improve data traceability from farm to retail and strengthen consumer confidence in Canadian beef.

Since its inception, the WestGen Endowment Fund has reflected the company's belief that the success of agriculture depends on continuous learning, innovation, and collaboration. By reinvesting in research, education, and youth development, WestGen is helping to build a stronger and more resilient cattle industry for generations to come.

As the fund continues to support new initiatives, so too does its impact, empowering producers, supporting science, and inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders across Western Canada.

## Ken Davie Honoured at Delta's Farmers Ball

Nearly 300 farmers and agriculture supporters gathered in Ladner on November 15 to celebrate another year of harvest, while honouring the contributions of local farmers. Hosted by the Delta Farmers Institute (DFI), the *Farmers Ball* is a gala with a remarkable history - spanning more than a century.

Delta dairy farmer, Ken Davie received the DFI Service Award for his dedication to the community. Ken is a Director of the Delta Agricultural Society and has served in leadership roles with the Richmond-Delta Holstein 4-H Club, the BC Holstein Branch, and the Delta Chapter of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers Association.

Ken joined East Delta's volunteer fire hall at age 14, eventually becoming Fire Chief. He served as Delta's Volunteer Fire Chief at Hall 4 for 12 years, until the hall's decommissioning in 2010.

His commitment to service extends beyond agriculture and firefighting. Ken began donating blood in high school and has continued every 88 days since age 16. He will soon reach 260 donations and is considered a lifetime donor.

When asked why community service is important to him, Ken shared, "Delta is my home, and I always wanted to contribute. I was raised in a family where you always extend a hand to your neighbour." On behalf of the Delta Farmers Institute—thank you, Ken for your lifetime of service!

**Ken and his family's farming legacy were featured in our Spring 2024 Pioneers series. You can see the full article at [wcdairynews.com/past issues](http://wcdairynews.com/past-issues).**



**Lifelong Delta dairyman and past fire chief Ken Davie was honoured for his life of varied service across his community.**

WISHING YOU A HOLIDAY FILLED  
WITH PEACE & JOY

*Merry Christmas*



FROM THE  
**ritchie-smith** FAMILY TO YOURS

33777 Enterprise Avenue, Abbotsford, B.C.

Ph: (604) 859-7128

TF: 1-800-242-8011

[www.rsfeeds.com](http://www.rsfeeds.com)





## CUSTOM STEEL FRAME DAIRY BARNs



CHILLIWACK, BC



ENDERBY, BC

**WECOVER**  
STRUCTURES

## BUILDING FOR THE WAY YOU WORK

### DON'T LET OUTDATED INFRASTRUCTURE HOLD YOU BACK

WeCover's consultants take time to understand your needs and work with you to create a barn that optimizes your efficiency and production.

**Book a Consultation Today**  
Visit [WeCover.net](http://WeCover.net) or  
Call 1-866-606-9122

## Melarry Fuel – EX-97 Passes



Eastgen announced the passing of MELARRY FUEL in October at nine years of age. Initially released in April 2017, Fuel debuted as #7 proven LPI sire in December 2020 and rose to #5 four months later. Available in both sexed and conventional, Fuel was popular across all Semex markets due to his extreme production with components and impressive type profile.

Today, nearly 10,000 classified daughters boast an outstanding 82% GP or better, averaging almost 14,000 kg of milk in Canada alone.

Classified max 97 points (one of only six bulls in Canadian history), together with a calm disposition, helped make him the star of the 2023 Semex display at the Royal. 



## 1000 Excellents and Counting

Semex announced in September that their global superstar, CROTEAU LESPERRON UNIX (EX-96-ST), achieved his 1000th Excellent classified daughter in Canada.

Now with over 15,000 daughters classified, his Excellent count has grown to 1040, with



88% GP and better! Sired by Numero Uno, Unix remains one of the breed's most respected udder specialist sires.



# MERRY & BRIGHT

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR CUSTOMERS!



The JCB TM320 Agri articulated telescopic handler combines the features and benefits of a JCB wheel loading shovel and JCB telescopic handler for maximum versatility around the farm. In addition to articulated steering and telescopic reach, the JCB TM320 Agri articulated telescopic handler is ideally suited to a huge range of attachments, for maximum productivity.

**MATSQUI JCB**

Thank you all for your support this year!  
Wishing you all the best in 2026!

[www.matsquiagrepair.com](http://www.matsquiagrepair.com)

34856 Harris Rd, Abbotsford BC V3G 1R7  
604-826-3281

    @matsquiagrepair

**MATSQUI**  
**AG REPAIR**<sup>1989</sup>  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES, SERVICE & PARTS

**SILOKING**

**MCCORMICK**

**M-Hale**



# Nesting Is Not Just For The Birds



**Kinder Ground**  
Where compassion grows

**Jennifer Walker, DVM, Ph. D., Co-founder, Chief Animal Welfare Officer Kinder Ground**

A veterinarian by trade, with advanced degrees in Epidemiology and Animal Welfare, Ethics, Policy & Law, Dr. Jen's life's work is improving the lives of animals in production systems. Leaving traditional practice in 2010 to create change at the corporate level, she has been developing industry leading programs designed to elevate the welfare of dairy cattle and manage risk for the business.

Winter is here and if we listen carefully, we can hear the collective sigh across the northern hemisphere after the first good freeze and the end of fly season. There are few things I dislike more than being cold - flies and Katy Perry being two of them - so I will take a win where I can get it. That being said, there is a reason to dislike the cold especially if you are a dairy calf. Farms spend a lot of time and energy trying to minimize heat stress. This time of year, it is important to remember that cold stress in calves impacts the calf's health today and her lactating future. As temperatures drop, calves will use their body stores to keep warm - wasting calories meant for growth and immune function.

What if I told you that by keeping your calves warm, you could decrease pneumonia in your calves by over 50%? **Fifty percent less calves with pneumonia = less antibiotics, less needles, less headaches and more milk when she enters the lactating herd.** Recent studies have shown that pneumonia in calves can decrease milk yield by as much as 8% in her second lactation. The long-term impacts of poor calf health are clear - which means that concentrated efforts to support calf health and comfort are time and money well spent.

## Jackets or Deep Bedding?

**Both!** Deep straw bedding is the best way to ensure calves are clean, dry and comfortable when it is chilly. The University of Wisconsin-Madison has developed a nesting score system, based on how much of the calves' rear legs can be seen when lying down. When it is cold, you want to maintain a nesting score of 3. There should be enough bedding for the calf to nestle down to where her legs are not visible, covered by bedding. During very cold months, adding a jacket helps to maintain the score of 3 as straw will tend to flatten and lose some coverage if not refreshed daily. If shavings or less straw is used, and the calves' legs are partially visible(score 2) or fully visible (score 1), or, if straw bedding is not possible, providing a jacket is a must. Deep bedding and jackets also allow us to manage better air quality. Allowing for adequate air to flow through the barn decreases the incidence of pneumonia. If you are comfortable in the barn in the winter, the barn is too tight!

## When should I worry about the cold?

**It depends.** The easy answer is to say, "Winter through early spring based on average temperatures." The better answer is to look at your temperature across the day, not the average (see Figure 1). The thermal comfort zone of a calf less than 3 weeks of age is 15-26°C. That means, for most of Canada, there are parts of the day throughout most of the year when your youngest calves would benefit from deep bedding and or a jacket.



**Calf Jackets can be used to supplement lighter bedding in the spring and fall and even summer in areas where daytime temps are warm but evenings and early mornings are chilly.**

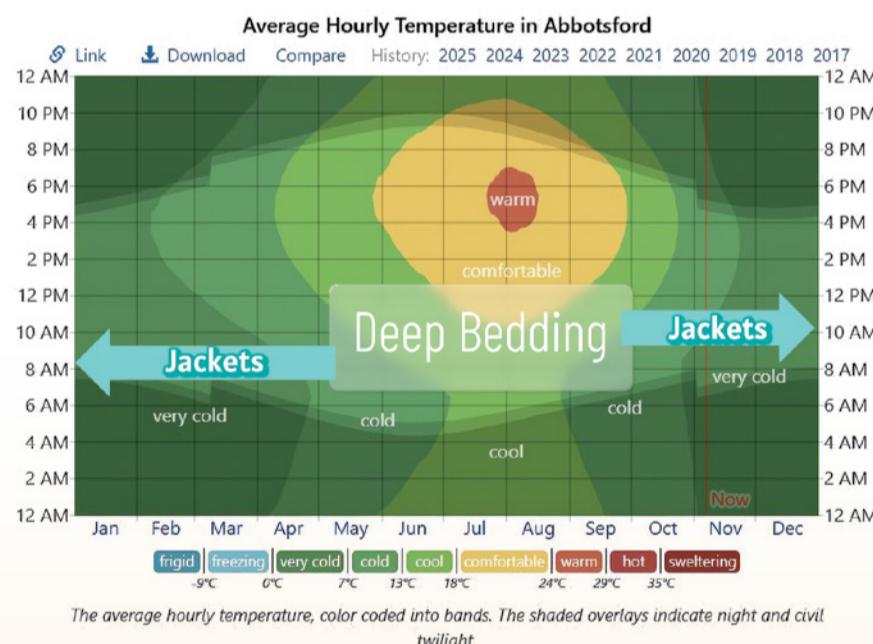
Using Weather Spark, you can see the average hourly temperature for your specific geography throughout the year. Let's take Abbotsford as an example, an area where Kinder Ground partnered with Future Cow providing calf jackets for the dairy. If you only consider the average daily temperature of Abbotsford (Table 1), you would be tempted to offer jackets only from November through March. Looking at the lows, and even better, looking at the hourly averages, you can see that young calves would benefit from deep bedding the entire year and could use the extra warmth of a calf jacket from October through April. Jackets can be combined with less bedding or shavings during the summer months when the days are plenty warm but the nights and early morning still get chilly.

In the case of social housing, research indicates that performance advantages may be enhanced in cool weather. Is a snuggle factor another unforeseen bonus of social housing? Makes sense to me.

Calf Jackets are an effective, safe and economical way to up your nesting score and do all you can to make sure your calves start off on the right hoof! What does your farm-specific weather map tell you? Don't let the daytime highs fool you. If you haven't unpacked the jackets yet, my bet is you are already a little late. Take a walk around your calf barn and see how your calves are nesting. If you haven't considered adding a jacket, now is a good time to give it a second look.

| Average | Jan | Feb | Mar  | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct  | Nov | Dec |
|---------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| High    | 6°C | 9°C | 12°C | 15°C | 19°C | 21°C | 25°C | 25°C | 22°C | 15°C | 9°C | 6°C |
| Temp.   | 3°C | 5°C | 7°C  | 10°C | 13°C | 16°C | 18°C | 18°C | 15°C | 11°C | 6°C | 3°C |
| Low     | 1°C | 2°C | 4°C  | 6°C  | 9°C  | 11°C | 13°C | 13°C | 10°C | 7°C  | 4°C | 1°C |

**Table 1. Average daily temperature for Abbotsford, Canada.**



Graphics courtesy Weather Spark

**Figure 1. Rules of Thumb for Abbotsford Area: Emphasize deep bedding and nutrition if too warm for jackets (10-15°C; April to October), Calf Jackets should be used when <10°C consistently day and night (October to April).**



Seasonal culled potatoes also available for delivery.

**Excellent Nutrition ...Excellent Value!**

## Fraser Valley and Okanagan



# BREW TO YOU!

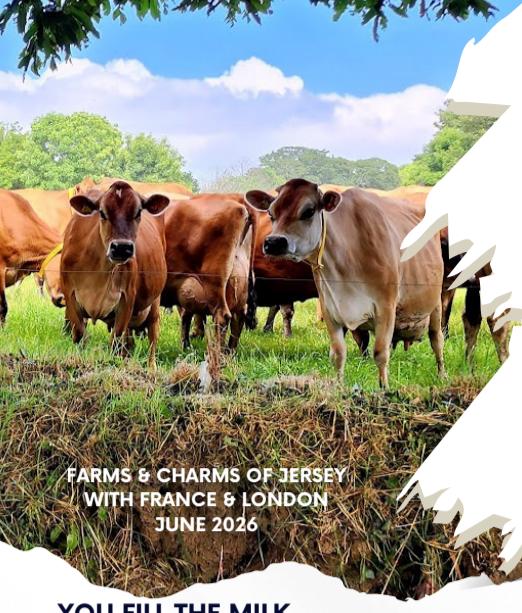
**J. Wolzen Trucking** Email: [jwt@dccnet.com](mailto:jwt@dccnet.com)

**RELIABLE DELIVERIES**

Fraser Valley: Call Mike **604-771-4378**  
Okanagan: Call Tony **250-309-2360**

- **Brewers Grain** is excellent nutrition in lactating cow TMR's while reducing grain costs
- **Spent Brewers Yeast** available for regular delivery, yeast tanks will be installed





**TIME to travel!**

**Farms & Charms of Jersey with France & London June 2026**

**YOU FILL THE MILK BUCKET... WE FILL YOUR TRAVEL BUCKET...**

- Farms & Charms of Jersey Island with Rural France & London June 2026
- Co-hosted with Russell Gammon! Amazing Opportunity for farm visits in France and Jersey Island as well as overnights in London & Paris!
- Ladies Only Italy (2 departures Oct 2026)
- River Cruises on Rhine, Seine, Douro, Danube & Mekong Rivers 2026, 2027 & 2028.
- St Patrick's Day in Ireland March 2027
- Farms & Charms of South Africa Mar 2027
- Wonders of Kenya Safari Nov 2027
- Scotland Islands & Orkney Aug 2027
- Farms & Charms of New Zealand coming!
- Dairy Farms & Charms of Azores coming!
- Many of our 2026 tours are Sold out - Plan ahead for 2027 & 2028!

**FARMSTEADTRAVEL.CA**

**CONTACT: WENDY WEIR CTA**  
📞 DIRECT: 519.922.FARM (3276)    [WENDY@FARMSTEADTRAVEL.CA](mailto:WENDY@FARMSTEADTRAVEL.CA)

FARMSTEAD TRAVEL IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE TRAVEL AGENT NEXT DOOR 55 YORK ST. SUITE 1005, TORONTO ON M5J1RT  
TEL: 416367.8263 TICO#50021282



**farmstead travel & tours**  
Custom Group Experiences for Foodies & Farmers






# MERRY Christmas

## HANK'S

WELDING & REPAIRS LTD.



- BETTER CONSISTENCY
- FASTER UNLOAD
- BETTER CLEANOUT

A STEP AHEAD  OF THE REST

**Excited to be your NEW Fraser Valley NDEco dealer!**

**SERVING THE FRASER VALLEY with:**

- Parts • Hydraulic Hoses & Fittings
- Farm Equipment Repair • Diesel Engine Rebuilding
- MERLO SERVICE CENTRE - TELEHANDLERS AND MORE!
- DESIGNATED INSPECTION FACILITY

**HANK'S WELDING & REPAIRS LTD**  
1188 Powerhouse Road  
Abbotsford, British Columbia **604-864-2238**  
[Hanksweldingrepair.ca](http://Hanksweldingrepair.ca)





## Separation made simple.



Daritech's EYS Screw Press Separator easily separates solids from liquid portions of fibrous manure. It's ideal for quickly and effectively turning manure into a valuable and marketable end-product.

Daritech has a variety of separators to choose from depending on your goals. Whatever your screw press manure separation needs, Daritech's EYS separators can get the job done.



# Udder News

Proudly sponsored by RBC



Congratulations to Iris and Elyas Tesfaye (Agribution) on the safe arrival of their daughter Abigail, on April 9, 2025, weighing 7lbs 10.5 oz. Her big brother Joshua is very excited for his new playmate and looks forward to many adventures together. Proud grandparents are Girma and Nejat in Ethiopia, and Gert and Gea ten Have, former dairy farmers from St. Claude, MB.



Christian and Grace Taylor of Viewfield Farms (Courtenay, BC), welcomed their first child, Romeo Manzi Taylor, on August 1st, 2025. Born at Campbell River Hospital, Romeo made his grand entrance weighing 8lbs 2oz. Proud grandparents are John Munga and Joy Mukamurenzi (Kigali, Rwanda) and Dave and Lisa Taylor of Viewfield Farms. Romeo is also a great grandson for Joe and Jeanette Taylor.



Mike and Shania Duncan are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, a daughter, Adrianna Shania Postma-Duncan, born August 26, 2025. Proud big brothers are MJ and Waylon. Grandparents Art and Anita Postma of Postma Farms Ltd. (Deroche, BC), Brad and Kim Duncan of Bonnie Doone Dairy (Harrison Mills, BC), and great grandparents Ben Brandsema of Brandy Farms (Abbotsford, BC), Art Postma Sr. of Postma Farms Ltd., and Jean Duncan of Bonnie Doone Dairy are thrilled with the new arrival.



Congratulations to Courtney Swain and Pete Vanden Dungen of Meadow Green Farms (Duncan, BC), who welcomed their first child, Parker Brandt Vanden Dungen on September 29th, 2025. Parker was born at 3:40pm and weighed 8lbs 10oz. He is third grandchild for John and Tanya Vanden Dungen, and the first for Wes and Jen Swain



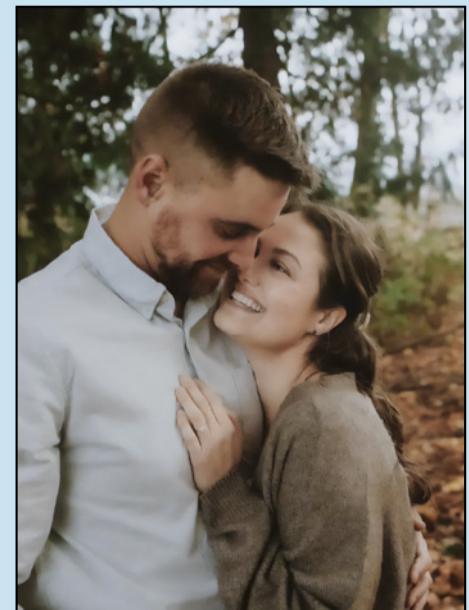
Finnley Blaze Leffers made her grand entrance on October 4th, 2025, weighing 8lbs 12 oz. Proud first-time parents are Ryan and Jodie (Stoker) Leffers of Deroche, BC. Only five minutes away from the family farm, Finnley will surely be visiting her grandparents, Theo and Brenda Stoker of Melinke Farms, often. She is also welcomed by Andrew and Arlene Leffers (Houston, BC). Congratulations!



The last of the Haeni brothers is officially off the market! Congrats to Sam Haeni and Marie-Ève Longchamps who were engaged on April 22, 2025. Sam is the son of Adrian and Vreni Haeni of Lone Pine Jerseys and Creamery (Didsbury, AB), and Marie-Ève is the daughter of Pierre Longchamps and Hélène Légaré (Revelstoke, BC). Plans are in the works for an August 2026 wedding, and the couple plans to stay in Airdrie for the foreseeable future, where Marie-Ève is a French immersion elementary teacher, and Sam commutes to Didsbury to work both in the creamery and on the farm at Lone Pine.



Congratulations to Andrew Gietema of Whatcom Acres Farm (Abbotsford, BC), and Amy Balaban (Maple Ridge, BC), on their engagement. Andrew proposed on Amy's birthday in August 2025, at their favourite place in the Cariboo – Canim Lake. No concrete wedding plans have been set yet, but the couple is looking towards a wedding sometime in 2026. Proud parents are Harvey and Brigitte Gietema, and Todd and Colleen Balaban.



Together, let's celebrate agriculture in our communities

Contact your RBC advisor or visit [rbc.com](http://rbc.com)



**Melanie Lantz**  
VP Agriculture  
604-217-2572, BC



**Charles Nwagbogwu**  
Relationship Manager  
236-558-0706, BC



Congratulations of Josh Telford of J-A-Telford Holsteins (Enderby, BC), and Brittany Golsof (Kelowna, BC), on their October 12th engagement. Josh is the son of Jim and Julie (late) Telford of Telford Farms (Abbotsford, BC), and Brittany is the daughter of the late Kerry and Linda Golsof. The engagement took place at Telford Farms and the happy couple, along with Josh's son Forrest who is equally excited, are making plans for a fall wedding in 2027 in the North Okanagan.



Congratulations to Sydney Toth and Noah van der Woude (Warman, SK), who were married September 20th, 2025. The happy couple met through mutual friends in the dairy industry while attending Agribition in Regina, SK, in 2021, and were excited to tie the knot in front of family and friends, some of which traveled from the Netherlands! Noah is the son of Jos van der Woude and Judy Bruinsma (Rien, NLD), and Sydney is the daughter of Emanual and Shauna Baumann of Baumann Holsteins (Kipling, SK). The happy couple has made their home in Warman, where Noah works for Dairy Lane Systems and Sydney raises their two daughters, Meela (6 years) and Sophie (9 months).

Tamara Antonsen, daughter of Kevin and Carol Antonsen of Alderan Farms (Aldergrove, BC), and Joshua Schoepp, son of Ken and Debra Schoepp (Langley, BC), were married August 29, 2025, at the Walnut Grove Lutheran Church. They celebrated with a reception at Fort Langley Community Hall. After a honeymoon in Maui, Hawaii, the couple has settled in Langley, where Tamara works as a graphic designer and Joshua as a welder.



On August 30, 2025, Nicki Meier, daughter of Jimi and Tony Meier of U&D Meier Dairy #2 (Abbotsford, BC) married Evan Davidson, son of Aaron and Sandra Davidson of Ontario. The couple exchanged vows out in the field at the Meier family farm, with a few old 4-H cows quietly looking on. Flowers adorned the venue from field to table, creating the picture-perfect day for the celebration of their marriage. Evan and Nicki are deeply grateful to their family and friends who traveled from near and far to celebrate their special day, sharing in all the dancing and laughter the day brought. They both look forward to building a beautiful future together surrounded by love, laughter, and the life they cherish on the farm.



John & Clara Klop of Lorenzetti Acres (Hope, BC), and Shaun & Lisa Vanderveen (Abbotsford, BC), are pleased to share that Nelliese Klop and Nick Vanderveen were married on September 12, 2025, at the Christ Church of Hope National Site (1861), in the presence of family and friends. Nelliese gifted her new husband a ride from Valley Helicopters, up to the top of Mount Hope, for the most stunning wedding pictures! Followed by more beautiful pictures at Othello Tunnels. The reception was a magical forest wedding with live saxophone music and forest mist. Their honeymoon was a week to 'Carmel by the Sea' in California. The couple now resides in Rosedale, BC.



Congratulations to Garry and Dianne Lovich of Lovhill Holsteins (Cherhill, AB) who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14th, 2025. Their family, along with over 150 guests, celebrated the happy couple at a party (on their actual wedding date!) in Cherhill with dinner, live music and dancing, as well as a slideshow highlighting the last 50 years. The original wedding party, almost entirely intact, was also on hand for the occasion! Wishing you many more years together!



Congratulations to Nel Poelman of Sunny Vale Farm (Cowichan Bay, BC), who celebrated her 90th birthday on September 19th. A casual party was held at the Cobble Hill Hall, where Nel has been a member of the Women's Institute for more than 60 years. Family and friends from near and far were present for the festivities, including a niece and three nephews from Holland!



On September 27, 2025, Steven Vanzessen married Lauren Buekert in a lovely garden wedding, followed by a reception and party hosted by the groom's parents. Steven is the son of Tymen and Ria Vanzessen of Vanzessen Dairy (Rosthern, SK). Lauren is the daughter of Joe Buekert (Warman, SK), and Amanda Kowalski (Davidson, SK). Congratulations Steven and Lauren!

UDDER NEWS NEXT PUBLISHING DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 7, 2025  
Phone: 604-855-1240 • E-mail: chris@holsteinnews.com  
(Christmas 2025 Issue in mail: December 9)



**Shay Hunter**  
Relationship Manager  
306-640-8091, SK



**Joey Harms**  
Relationship Manager  
204-793-3190, MB



Udder News *CONTINUED***Albert Raymond Bazinet****January 8, 1964 – October 2, 2025**

Albert Raymond Bazinet passed away on October 2, 2025, at the age of 61. He will be lovingly missed by his wife of 37 years, Shirley Swan, his mother Helen Bazinet, his six siblings, and many nieces and nephews. Albert was predeceased by his father, Victor Bazinet.

Albert was born in Eriksdale, Manitoba, where he lived and worked on the family farm alongside his parents and siblings. Growing up in a close-knit rural community shaped his lifelong values of hard work, kindness, and friendship. Albert met Shirley in the spring of 1988, and together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and adventure. They especially cherished camping, spending countless weekends exploring the outdoors and sharing quiet moments by the fire.

Albert was a dedicated and hardworking member of Manitoba's agricultural community. He worked on numerous dairy farms and with both Alta Genetics and Lactanet. His career took him across the province as he became highly respected within the dairy and beef industries. Albert went the "extra mile" to ensure everything he did had the best possible results, either with milk recording, registrations, or communicating with breed associations on behalf of his herds.

Known for his friendly nature and love of conversation, Albert enjoyed talking with people wherever he went—whether he knew them or not—and could always find common ground and good humour in every exchange. If you mentioned the name Bazinet anywhere, someone in the group would invariably ask, "Do you know Albert?"

Albert's greatest passion was curling. He made a lasting impact on junior curling in Manitoba, coaching over 24 teams during his 20-year tenure. His experience and love for the sport were evident in his coaching and in the many relationships he built within his broad curling family.

Whether he was at the rink or in a dairy barn, he was never shy about sharing his thoughts, happy to offer friendly coaching and encouragement to curlers or his farm customers.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Cancer Centre team at the Victoria Hospital for their exceptional care, compassion, and support throughout Albert's journey.

**Aaltje Cornelia (Corrie) Kampman****December 21, 1942 – September 2, 2025**

Corrie was born on December 21, 1942, in Echten, Friesland, the Netherlands. She was the seventh of ten children born to Tienus and Jeltje DeJong. Corrie immigrated to Canada with her family at the age of four in June 1947. For being such a young girl, Corrie had strong and vivid memories of that trip, and she loved to share stories of her childhood as well as of growing up in the Fraser Valley.

Corrie and Bill Kampman were married on July 27, 1962, and were blessed over a span of years with seven children. They raised their family on the farm on Townshipline Road and eventually handed the farm down to their sons.

Corrie was always a hard worker, and she worked to instill in her children the value of a job well done, and to do their work as doing it unto the Lord. Over the years, Corrie was always involved in her church, helping where needed, leading and attending Bible studies, visiting and supporting those in need as well as volunteering at Life's Second Chance Thrift Store.

In February 2020, her husband of 57 years passed away. Of course, this was hard on her only to be made worse shortly after with COVID-19 and all its restrictions. Corrie stayed focussed on the Lord and rode it out trusting in God's plan and provision.

Corrie was devoted to being involved and present in the lives of her many grandchildren and great grandchildren. She enjoyed playing games and was determined to win, and most often did! She loved camping/fishing, gardening, animals and her birds, and being outdoors.

Corrie will be greatly missed by her children Allen & Cindy Kampman (Springbreeze Dairy, Oakbank, MB), Tom (Kambro Farms, Abbotsford, BC), Helena & Ron Vanderwal (R&H Mechanical, Abbotsford), June & John Pool (John Pool Construction, Abbotsford), Doug & Wannetta Kampman (Kambro Farms), Chris & Jason Maarhuis (WCDN, Abbotsford) and Will & Janice Kampman (Kambro Farms), as well as her many grandchildren, great grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews and friends.

**John Stefkovic****February 2, 1938 – October 11, 2025**

John Stefkovic passed away peacefully at the age of 87. Born on February 2, 1938, on his family's farm in Dugald, Manitoba, John was the son of Imrich and Mary Stefkovic, who immigrated from Slovakia. He is survived by his daughters Gladys Stefkovic, Grace Bazinet, and Phyllis Cook, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. John was predeceased by his beloved wife, Victoire, his parents, and his son-in-law, Maynard Bell.

John dedicated his life to working on the farm, spending long hours alongside his loved ones. He continued farming until November 2022, when a massive stroke forced John to step away from the farm he cherished so deeply.

John and his family were dedicated breeders of high-quality, purebred cattle, initially using the 'IS' prefix before establishing the 'STEFHAVEN' name. John proudly exhibited his prized animals at fairs throughout Manitoba and across Western Canada. He valued the friendships he formed within the dairy community, and people knew when John set his sights on a particular cow, he would bring it home.

John's keen eye earned him recognition as an official judge with Holstein Canada, and he shared his enthusiasm for breeding and exhibiting cattle with his daughters and grandson, Bradley Bazinet (BRANET), inspiring the next generation to continue his legacy.

In 1999, after a devastating barn fire claimed most of the herd, John was determined to rebuild what was lost. He insisted, "There is a hole in the yard," and soon replaced the barn with a new freestall facility, rebuilding the herd from the ground up. In 2015, John and Victoire sold the farm to Bradley, yet he continued to grain farm over 1,000 acres and was always eager to lend a hand.

John's devotion to his family was evident in everything he did. He found great joy in visits from his great-grandchildren, his face lighting up whenever they arrived. One of his favorite pastimes was playing bingo at Kin Place, where winners could select a chocolate treat or toy as a prize. True to his generous spirit, John always chose stuffed toys to delight his great-grandchildren.

**John Duncan Mackay Skinner****February 25, 1956 – September 29, 2025**

completing a Master's degree in Animal Genetics. He worked at the BCAI Center/WestGen in Milner for over 30 years where he was appreciated and valued for his many talents and unfailing work ethic. John's strengths in computer programming and genetics made him indispensable in supporting staff with computer systems while developing programs for tracking young sires, herd mating, sales and sire analyst work.

Upon retiring, John turned his talents to plant genetics and backyard gardening. He loved spending time in the sun. More recently, John enjoyed

serving and sharing at English Conversation classes at West Point Grey Baptist Church.

John faced many great challenges in his life, but he overcame them all with grace and steadfast determination; he was an inspiration to all who knew him. John's kindness and generosity knew no bounds and his greatest joy was in helping others. His life was a reflection of his profound faith in God.

John was predeceased by his parents George and Barbara. He has left a huge hole in the hearts of his four surviving sisters: Anne, Christine, Mary (John) Griffioen and family, and Jane (Fred) Slootweg and family.

*Rest well dear brother; you were our hero, our shining star.*



**Quincy North**  
Relationship Manager  
604-621-6795, BC

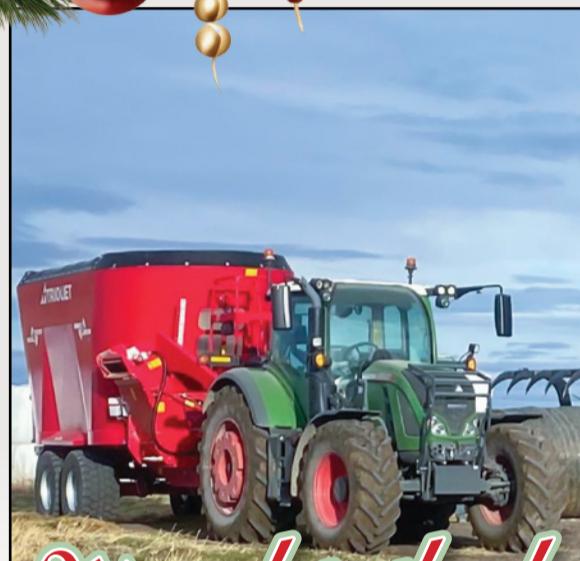


**Justin Van Dorp**  
Relationship Manager  
236-887-4508, BC





*Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas  
and a Trioliet New Year!*



*We wish to thank  
our customers  
across the west for  
their support this  
past year.*



**IT'S ALL  
ABOUT  
THE MIX**



ALBERTA SOUTH  
SASKATCHEWAN SOUTH:  
2 locations



SASKATCHEWAN:  
New Vision Agro



ALBERTA NORTH CENTRAL:  
Pentagon Farm Centre  
4 locations



ALBERTA NORTH CENTRAL:  
(in-barn automated)  
Agrai Dairy Mart  
2 locations



BC FRASER VALLEY, VANCOUVER ISLAND,  
THOMPSON-NICOLA:  
Pacific Dairy Centre



Trioliet. Invents for you.



**REGIONAL SALES MANAGER**

**Ben Meinen**  
604-378-9931  
b.meinen@trioliet.com



**TRIOLIET.COM**

TRIOTRAC

## Dairy Innovation West Celebrates Grand Opening of Groundbreaking Facility

On October 3rd, Dairy Innovation West (DIW) proudly celebrated the grand opening of its new facility, marking a major milestone for the Canadian dairy industry. The event brought together producers, industry leaders, and dignitaries, including RJ Sigurdson, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Located in Central Alberta, DIW is the first facility of its kind in Canada and sets the standard in dairy innovation and sustainability. Representing an investment of over \$75

million, DIW seeks to strengthen the industry across Western Canada by helping to reduce transportation needs, improve efficiency, lower emissions, and support processing expansion.

DIW Chair, Henry Holtmann said, "Dairy Innovation West is about more than building a facility; it is about building the future of dairy in Western Canada. This project embodies collaboration, innovation, and sustainability, and positions our industry to grow stronger and more resilient for years to come."



## Brian Van Doormaal Set to Retire

**Bonnie Cooper,**  
[bcooper2010@gmail.com](mailto:bcooper2010@gmail.com)

After 40 years of dedication, leadership and impact in Canada's dairy cattle genetic improvement industry, Brian Van Doormaal of Lactanet Canada will retire on December 19th.

Van Doormaal began his career as Director of Genetics at CIAQ in 1986. In 1995, he became the first employee and only General Manager of Canadian Dairy Network (CDN), a role he held for 24 years until the CDN/Lactanet partnership in 2019 when he transitioned to Lactanet's Chief Services Officer. For more than 30 years, Van Doormaal has led the delivery of Canada's genetic evaluation services for dairy cattle. He has been directly involved in the implementation of essentially all of Canada's current genetic evaluation systems and services, including genomic evaluations, Mastitis Resistance, and Feed and Methane Efficiency. He led the development and introduction of DairyTrace and Pro\$. He has been a member of Canada's Genetic Evaluation Board (GEB) for 40 years, and Canada's representative to Interbull for over 25 years.

Van Doormaal was honoured for his many contributions at his retirement party held during the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, ON, in November.



**Brian Van Doormaal and his wife Karen at the retirement party honouring Brian's many years of dedication, leadership and impact in the dairy cattle genetic improvement industry.**

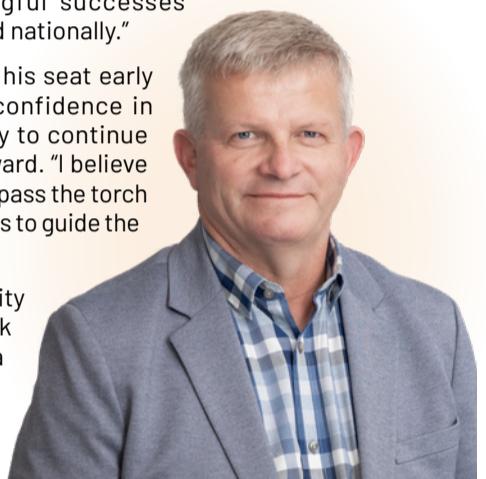
## Boeve Steps Down as Alberta Milk Chair

After five years as Chair of Alberta Milk, Stuart Boeve has decided to step down a year earlier than planned, effective November 26, 2025.

Joining the board in 2016 and assuming the role of chairman in 2020, Boeve is proud of the challenges and progress that Alberta Milk has made during his term. "Together, we have navigated dynamic industry issues, faced challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic with resilience, and celebrated meaningful successes provincially, regionally, and nationally."

Boeve's decision to leave his seat early comes from a place of confidence in the current Board's ability to continue to propel Alberta Milk forward. "I believe this is the right moment to pass the torch and allow fresh perspectives to guide the next chapter."

Honoured by the opportunity to represent and work alongside Alberta producers, Boeve says he will continue to champion Alberta Milk in the industry as a delegate.



**Britespan Knows Canada**  
— AND CANADIAN AGRICULTURE.

**Built for Canada. Trusted Nationwide.**  
Britespan designs and manufactures fabric structures that stand up to heavy snow, high winds, and tough weather. From livestock, crops to equipment, farms across Canada rely on our strength, innovation, and expert service.



DISCOVER THE  
**Britespan**  
DIFFERENCE



1-800-407-5846  
[britespanbuildings.com](http://britespanbuildings.com)



**YOUR LOCAL  
Britespan  
DEALER  
IS READY TO  
BUILD!**

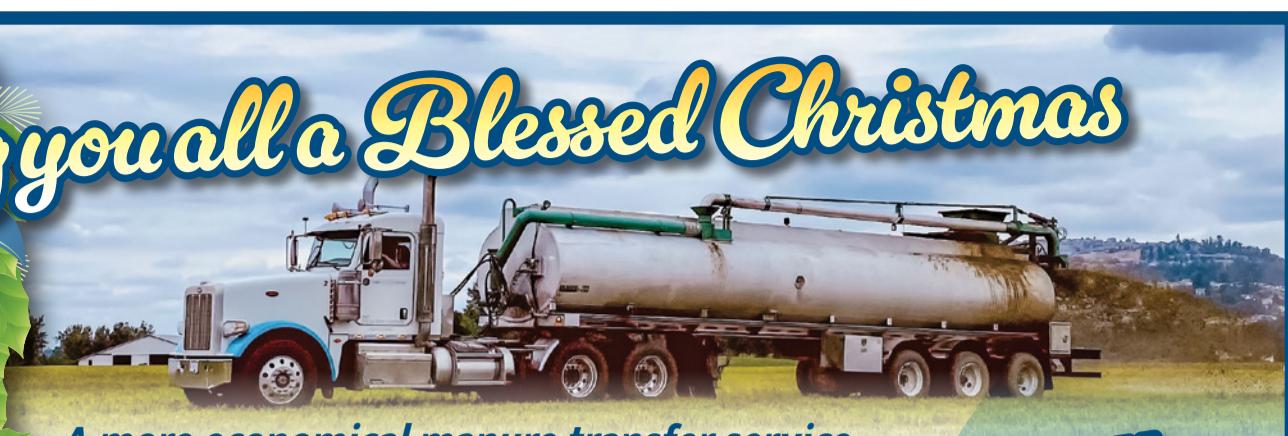
**Goosen Construction Inc.**, is your local Authorized Britespan Dealer, proudly serving a dynamic range of clients in the Fraser Valley, and beyond.

**Strong, reliable, and built to last  
— right in your area!**

46165A Fourth Ave, Chilliwack, BC  
604-316-2148  
[goosenconstruction.ca](http://goosenconstruction.ca)

# Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas

## Mobile Manure Tank



**A more economical manure transfer service**

- Saves time, money and inconvenience
- Moving high gallon volume efficiently
- Transport manure fast to where it's needed

**You Call... We Haul!**

**GROOTHOF CUSTOM WORK LTD**

*Servicing the Fraser Valley and the Interior.*

Call Ethan at **778-808-7407** for your farming needs

email: emgroothof@gmail.com



• ROUND-BALING • MANURE SPREADING • MANURE PIT TRANSFERS • HAULING – LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE

## 2025 Curtis Clark Award Winner

Bonnie Cooper,  
becooper2010@gmail.com

Herb Henderson of Hendercroft Holsteins, Ashton, ON, won the 2025 Curtis Clark Achievement Award presented on November 14th at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, ON. Henderson is the 37th winner of the Clark Award which was established by the Alberta Holstein Association in 1988 to honour the late Curtis Clark, the noted Alberta Holstein breeder, cowman and showman from Acme Holsteins.

Henderson, 62, is a longtime exhibitor at local and major shows. Hendercroft Holsteins has been Premier Breeder 15X and Premier Exhibitor 6X at the Eastern Ontario/Western Quebec (EO/WQ) Championship Show and has earned multiple All-Canadian and All-Ontario nominations, including Reserve All-Canadian Breeder's Herd in 2018 and 2023. At the heart of Henderson's success has been the cow family of HENDERCROFT LHEROS GUMBALL (EX-96-6E-36\*) who had 22 EX daughters. Gumball and two of her daughters, HENDERCROFT FEVER BAZOOKA (EX-96-4E-7\*) AND HENDERCROFT WINBROK GUMMYBEAR (EX-95-4E-4\*), have all been finalists for Holstein Canada's "Cow of the Year" award. Gumball and Bazooka were Canada's first EX-96 Holstein dam and daughter duo and both were Grand Champion at the EO/WQ Championship Show. Gummybear was All-Canadian Longtime Production Cow in 2023. A 2001 Holstein Canada Master Breeder winner, Henderson has bred over 100 EX cows (166 to the end of 2024). The current Hendercroft herd includes 14 ME, 8 EX, 40 VG and 18 GP cows. Henderson is an Official Judge, a member of Holstein Ontario's Judges Committee, and a mentor to many. Herb and his wife Darlene have three children and currently farm with their son Chad.

For more information contact  
Bonnie Cooper, Secretary, Curtis  
Clark Achievement Award Committee,  
becooper2010@gmail.com or 416-579-6572.



Design © Jessica Willison | Bull Photos © Vicki Fletcher | 08/25 CDN Genetic Evaluations

**STANTON GENETICS** ♂

*Expect to get more!  
BUT DON'T EXPECT TO GET HORNS!*

**HOMOZYGOUS POLLED - PERFORMANCE PACKED**



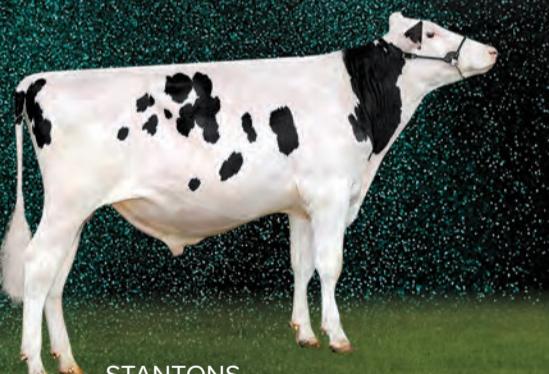
**STANTONS  
AGENT PP**

Revamp P x Bundle x Bighit  
GPA LPI +3907 Pro\$ +2836  
Milk +924 Fat% +0.64 Protein% +0.19 Conf. +11  
His Dam: Stanton's What It Takes VG-89



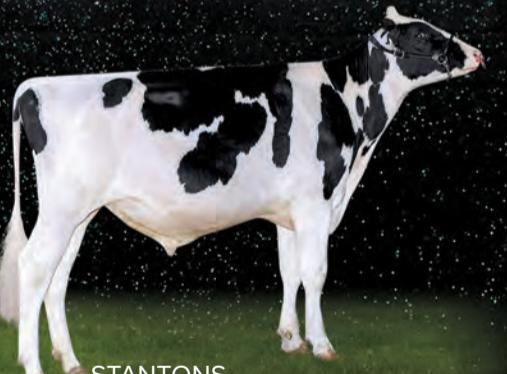
**STANTONS  
LOADED PP**

Logic PP x Remover PP x Nitpit PP  
GPA LPI +3936 Pro\$ +2834  
Milk +1007 Fat% +0.62 Protein% +0.25 Conf. +13  
Leverage PP's Full Brother  
His 5th Dam: Calbrett Kingboy Miranda P RDC EX-93 17\*



**STANTONS  
REMOVER PP**

Luster x Bighit x Jedi  
GLPI +3897 Pro\$ +3265  
Milk +2176 Fat% +0.40 Protein% +0.15 Conf. +9  
217 Classified Daughters: 94% GP or Better  
World's #1 GLPI & Polled GLPI Sire



**STANTONS  
LEVERAGE PP**

Logic PP x Remover PP x Nitpit PP  
GPA LPI +3904 Pro\$ +2731  
Milk +430 Fat% +0.75 Protein% +0.36 Conf. +11  
Loaded PP's Full Brother  
His 5th Dam: Calbrett Kingboy Miranda P RDC EX-93 17\*

You can expect to get a lot from these Homozygous Polled bulls. But, don't expect to get horns. EVER!!

Semen is available with no restrictions on usage. For more information, and to order semen, we invite you to contact us or HOLDSTAR GENETICS Ph.: 819-357-2145 / Email: holdstarqgenetique@gmail.com

**Master Breeder Herd**

**Stanton Bros. Limited**

13514 Twelve Mile Road, RR3, Ilderton, Ontario, Canada N0M 2A0  
Office: 519-666-0800 | Jim Cell: 519-859-3242 | Jeff Cell: 519-859-3249  
laurie@stantonfarms.ca | jim@stantonfarms.ca | jeff@stantonfarms.ca |  Stanton Farms | www.stantongenetics.com





# BILLBOARDS

Advertise here Email: [tars@holsteinnews.com](mailto:tars@holsteinnews.com)

## 2026 Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

Red Deer Resort & Casino  
Red Deer, AB

March 10 - 13, 2026

- 2.5 Days of Speakers • 80 Vendor Trade Show
- Virtual Farm Tours & Producer Panel • and More!

Follow Us! @wcds\_dairy

Questions? Email us at [wcds@ualberta.ca](mailto:wcds@ualberta.ca) or check out our website [www.wcds.ualberta.ca](http://www.wcds.ualberta.ca)

Proudly serving BC as your local distributor for CRV, United Sires, and Viking Genetics.



COASTAL Sires

Coastal Sires delivers quality genetics that work for farmers.

Looking to build your herd's production, health, or efficiency?

We offer a full lineup of dairy and beef genetics, including:

- Dutch & U.S. Holstein • Jersey • Fleckvieh
- Viking Red • Beef Breeds

Peter Hill-Davie • 778-834-6431



Armstrong  
Regional  
Cooperative

SERVING THE OKANAGAN & SHUSWAP  
SCHEDULE YOUR DELIVERY TODAY!

BULK FUEL & LUBRICANTS 1-888-535-2667

BULK PROPANE 1-833-707-4594

[www.armstrong.coop](http://www.armstrong.coop)



YOUR LOCAL FRASER VALLEY IT PARTNER

HigherBridge

Network & IT Services  
[www.higherbridge.ca](http://www.higherbridge.ca)



Camera Solutions • Cloud-Based Solutions • WiFi & Network Solutions

From security, surveillance, and data security, we have you covered!

[info@higherbridge.ca](mailto:info@higherbridge.ca)  
604-819-9369



Hoof Sol Bath

Successful Field Testing for Prevention

Cost Effective | Easy to Use | Proven Protocol



Hoof Sol Spray

Weekly Routine: Getting the Cleanest Application

Early Detection | Strong Adhesion | Reduces Waste

[diamondhoofcare.com](http://diamondhoofcare.com) | (403) 388-4309

 DIAMOND  
Hoof Care & Animal Health



Novin®  
Block the  
Mycotoxin Impact!



 AGRIBUTION  
Trusted Knowledge | Connecting Opportunities

[info@agribution.com](mailto:info@agribution.com) • tel: 204-229-5916 • [www.agribution.com](http://www.agribution.com)



ANDRIES STEEGSTRA  
ASSOCIATE

B.Sc. Agriculture (Farm and Immigration Consultant)

E-mail: [asteegstra@royallepage.ca](mailto:asteegstra@royallepage.ca)

[www.centralalbertafarms.com](http://www.centralalbertafarms.com)

Tel: 403-782-3171 | Cell: 403-391-6260 | Fax: 403-782-7003

 LIFESTYLES REALTY

5820A, Hwy 2A Lacombe, AB T4L 2G5

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED, BROKER



got brew?

Feed CLEAN Brewers Grain!

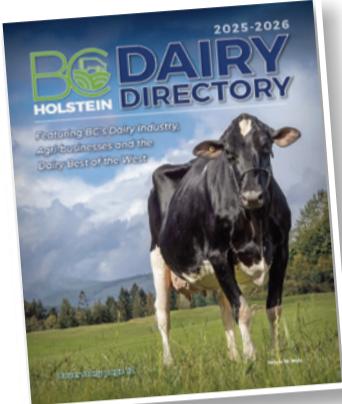
  
Ja-San  
FARMS LTD.

Text/Call Ken:  
604-799-3930

Hygienic bins – suitable for small/medium herds  
Weekly deliveries – you choose how many bins  
No messy piles prone to spoilage

# BILLBOARDS

Advertise here Email: [tars@holsteinnews.com](mailto:tars@holsteinnews.com)



**NOW is the time to book your place in the 2026/2027 Annual BC Dairy Directory!**

**The GO-TO guide for producers and agribusiness professionals since 1978!**

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

**All Questions, Options, Pricing**  
E-mail: [amanda@holsteinnews.com](mailto:amanda@holsteinnews.com) or [chris@holsteinnews.com](mailto:chris@holsteinnews.com)  
[tars@holsteinnews.com](mailto:tars@holsteinnews.com)



**BC FARM & RANCH REALTY CORP.**

BC's Leader in Agricultural Real Estate

**YOUR  
AGRICULTURE  
REAL ESTATE  
SPECIALISTS!**

Whether you are looking to purchase or sell a commercial farm, small hobby farm, or house & acreage, we can provide you with professional assistance every step of the way.



[www.bcfarmandranch.com](http://www.bcfarmandranch.com)



**GORD HOUWELING**  
604-793-8660  
[gordhouweling@gmail.com](mailto:gordhouweling@gmail.com)  
Personal Real Estate Corporation



**GREG WALTON**  
604-864-1610  
[greg@bcfarmandranch.com](mailto:greg@bcfarmandranch.com)



Farm insurance

**Coverage designed with your farm in mind.**

Talk to me today.



**Bethany Heppner**  
Financial Advisor and Mutual Fund Investment Specialist  
8-8590 200 St, Langley  
604-455-5070 [bethanyheppner\\_associates@cooperators.ca](mailto:bethanyheppner_associates@cooperators.ca)

Investments. Insurance. Advice.

**co-operators**  
Investing in your future. Together.

Bethany Heppner and Associates Ltd. | Co-operators Financial Investment Services Inc.

Farm insurance is underwritten by Co-operators General Insurance Company. Not all products are available in all provinces. © 2023 Co-operators and Co-operators Financial Investment Services Inc. Co-operators® is a registered trademark of The Co-operators Group Limited. For Saskatchewan, visit [cooperators.ca](http://cooperators.ca), or contact 1-800-265-2662. F0007 (04/23)



**Chris Kloot**  
604-703-4335

*Proudly serving the Fraser Valley and beyond since 2004.*

**ROYALLEPAGE**  
Wheeler Cheam Realty

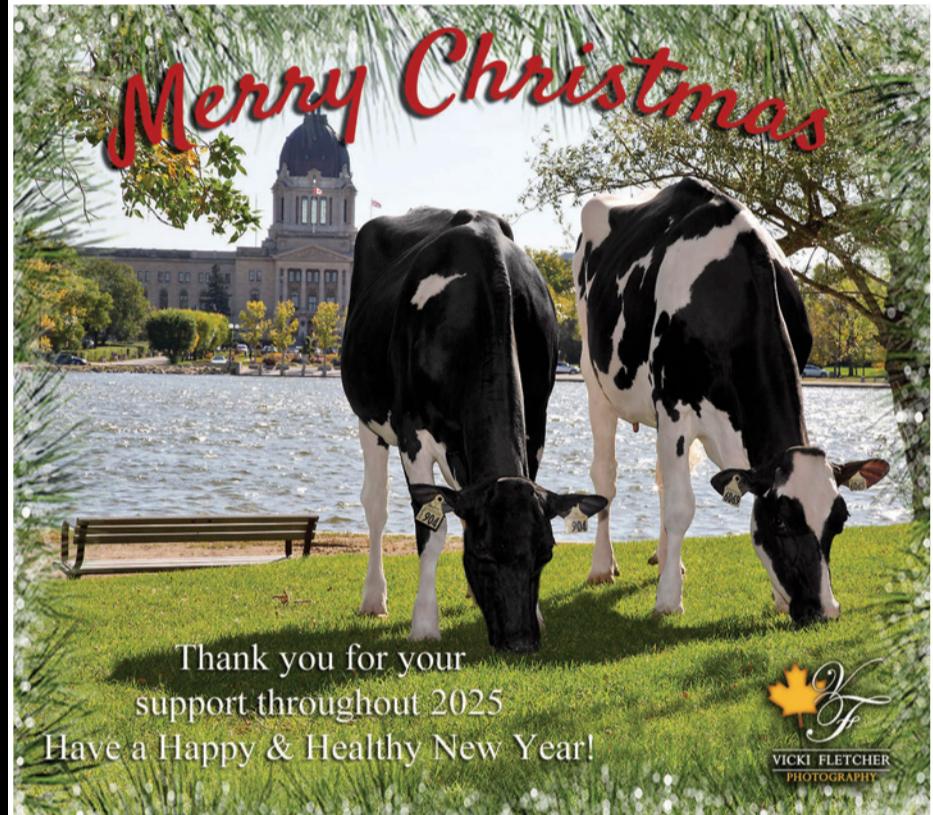


**PERSONAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION**

*Your Fraser Valley Farm - Acreage - Residential Expert*

**OFFICE: 604-792-0077**

[www.chriskloot.com](http://www.chriskloot.com) / [chris@chriskloot.com](mailto:chris@chriskloot.com)



**Cowsmopolitan COUNTRY**



Farm insurance

**Coverage designed with your farm in mind.**

Talk to me today.



**Shawna Vandeven**, EPC, QAFPTM  
Financial Advisor and Mutual Fund Investment Specialist  
101-1520 McCallum Rd, Abbotsford  
604-853-0744 [vandeven\\_financial@cooperators.ca](mailto:vandeven_financial@cooperators.ca)

Investments. Insurance. Advice.

**co-operators**  
Investing in your future. Together.

Vandeven Financial Solutions Ltd. | Co-operators Financial Investment Services Inc.

Farm insurance is underwritten by Co-operators General Insurance Company. Not all products are available in all provinces. © 2023 Co-operators and Co-operators Financial Investment Services Inc. Co-operators® is a registered trademark of The Co-operators Group Limited. For Saskatchewan, visit [cooperators.ca](http://cooperators.ca), or contact 1-800-265-2662. F0007 (04/23)

# 4-H News From BC

Next submission deadline: Jan. 9,  
Winter 2026 issue in the mail February 10.

Chris Maarhuis: 604-855-1240  
E-mail: Chris@holsteinnews.com

## COWICHAN 4-H HOLSTEIN CLUB

Submitted by: Jeremy and Lillian Wikkerink



The Cowichan 4-H Holstein Club members are sad to see the year end. We had a great time at all the fairs, judging rallies and all the other events that happened this year. This year we sharpened our skills in many areas including public speaking, judging, clipping, ed boards, herdsmanhip and showmanship. Thank you to all those who helped us advance our skills through your advice and time.

We ended our year officially on November 1st with our year end banquet. Each member was well represented in the awards, certificates and badges that were passed out during our evening. It was a great way to celebrate another great year!

We also want to thank our club sponsors, club leaders, volunteers and the farmers that provided calves and advice throughout the year. None of this is possible without your support. **We are looking forward to next year and all the new experiences and adventures that will come!**

## 4-H British Columbia Provincial Council/4-H BC Foundation

1150 Kalamalka Lake Road, Vernon, BC V1T 6V2  
Phone: 250-545-0336 Fax: 250-250-545-0399  
Toll Free: 1-866-776-0373  
E-mail: mail@bc4h.bc.ca | Website: www.bc4h.bc.ca

## 4-H Canada

www.4-H-Canada.ca



## MATSQUI HOLSTEIN 4-H CLUB

Club reporter: Zackary DeJong



We just finished our 2025 4-H year, and we would like to give a special Thank-You to all our sponsors. We had our year-end banquet on November 8, held at Deroche Hall. We had a potluck dinner, and awards and prizes were given out. **Thank you everyone who helped out the 4-H club throughout the year!**

## SUMAS HOLSTEIN 4-H CLUB

Club Reporter: Mia Bouwman

The last fair that our club attended was the Agassiz Fall Fair on September 12-13. We had Addison Kielstra as Champion Junior Showman and Frazer Winkelaar as Reserve Junior Showman. For our Senior we had Dominic Hill as Reserve Senior Showman. In calf placings, we had Addison Kielstra with Champion Junior Calf and Dominic Hill with Champion Senior Calf. The club also went to Greendale Acres, and we had lots of fun. We had our club's award banquet at the Yarrow Community School in November, and district awards were held in November as well. **A huge Thank You to all our generous sponsors for making this 4-H year possible! Looking forward to next year!**

**Plan Equipment Maintenance NOW**

- Sprayers • Harvesters • Planters
- Tractors • Any equipment!

**Precision Planting tune-ups to your corn planters can significantly improve yield performance!**

**Precision Planting. Every Seed. Every Time!**

**AGSolutions**  
 agsolutions@telus.net  
 Box 67, Matsqui Stn,  
 Abbotsford, BC, V4X 3R2

Matt De Jong  
604-854-0668  
  
 Cam De Jong  
SALES AND SUPPORT  
604-302-9407

Visit online for more information – [agsolutionsbc.ca](http://agsolutionsbc.ca)

**4-H BC Friends & Community,**  
**Happy Holidays &**  
**Best Wishes for the**  
**4-H Year Ahead!**

**This Holiday Season donate to the 4-H BC Foundation in honour of someone who inspires you!**

**Donate Today!**

[www.4HBC.ca](http://www.4HBC.ca)

# BC Fall Producer Meetings

## Island Producers say “Get Tough at the Table for Us”

In their fourth stop on the Fall Producer Meeting tour, Directors of the BC Milk Marketing Board (BCMMB) and BC Dairy visited Vancouver Island at the end of October. Tom Hoogendoorn (Vice-Chair) and Ben Cuthbert (Board Member), along with Leah Sheffield (Executive Director of Governance & Operations), brought updates from the BCMMB.

On a national level, “requirements for milk have been steadily increasing,” said Tom, noting that yogurt has been particularly strong over the past year, while butter and cheese stocks are high, meaning that there is less demand lately.

Producers can expect to see changes in cost structure ahead as the need for Butterfat (BF) cools down in the market while Protein becomes a hot commodity. The current 85/10/5 policy (85% BF, 10% P, 5% Other solids) was implemented in 2017 to stimulate the production of BF, however, now that processors are looking for more volume and less BF, policy has been proposed to stabilize BF production by switching to 70/25/5 (70% BF, 25% P, 5% Other solids). As BC is the highest producer of BF in the country, Tom urged producers to lower their BF production below the national average, to minimize the impact of the variance in pay, while maintaining their current herd size.

Based on producer feedback, the BCMMB will introduce an ‘Underproduction Penalty Policy’ in January 2026. Producers will incur a \$10/kg penalty for each BF kilogram lost beyond -15 days, and will be restricted from purchasing quota or credits during that time until production is increased.

**BC Milk Board updates were provided by (L-R): Ben Cuthbert, Leah Sheffield, and Tom Hoogendoorn.**



### BC Dairy Updates

Casey Pruim (Board Chair), Mark Van Klei (Director), and Carolyn Hornell (Director of Corporate Services), brought updates from BC Dairy, mindful that many of their updates will be shared at the BC Dairy Conference in November.

Mark Van Klei presented updates from Dairy Innovation West (DIW), which is officially open. Although milk has been running through the plant for the past couple months, a grand opening ceremony and ribbon cutting was held October 3rd. Designed to process 300 million litres of raw milk, full utilization is expected within the next 2-3 years, and will be maximized when the new P500 plant in Abbotsford is operational.

Casey Pruim thanked the 19 island producers who participated in the Cost of Production study, which was made up of 101 producers in total. While the initial study doesn’t guarantee immediate results, Casey is hopeful that, “if we keep bringing data to the table it will promote future change.” Producers are encouraged to sign up to participate as the study continues.

The CFIA has tested 1631 raw milk samples for HPAI in Western Canada, all of which remain negative. The last detection of HPAI in the US was October 10th in Idaho, and Casey warned that with fall migration season upon us, “it is important for producers to keep biosecurity at the forefront and restrict cattle movement between farms.” Morgan Sangster (Producer Services Manager) will be organizing various workshops to help producers develop solid biosecurity plans.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was reconstituted at the beginning of 2025 with the purpose of uncovering cost saving opportunities in the transportation system, based on recommendations in a study done by Deloitte Canada in 2024. The committee will be focusing on infrastructure, which requires capital investment from processors, as well as network optimization on the producer side, largely in relation to pickup and delivery windows; therefore, some changes to regional zoning have already been made.

A “Powers and Duties” review was conducted this past year, a regulatory requirement to assess the adequacy and appropriateness of the Milk Board’s power. In their feedback, producer support for amalgamating the Milk Board and BC Dairy was overwhelmingly low, while there was strong support for increased quota policy flexibility as well as

a fully elected, all producer board. However, on the side of processors, federal and provincial partners, “moving to one board should be a priority,” and maintaining non-producer board members is essential. After its review, the Milk Board’s desired action is that the BC Government be asked to initiate a collaborative, consultative process, over the next five years to enable one board by 2030.

The open question period led to some emotionally charged discussion relating to the continued cost of production issues in the province, which will be exacerbated by the forthcoming price changes. One producer emphatically stated, “It’s time for the BCMMB to get tough at the table for us,” noting pricing formulas in other markets see updates yearly, while milk pricing has only increased 4% over the past 10 years.

## Partners for life



We do  
Dairy  
Water  
Power  
Controls  
Robotics  
Irrigation  
Generators

**MOUNTAIN VIEW**  
ELECTRIC LTD.



Let's discuss your  
next project.  
250 838 6455  
[mtnview.ca](http://mtnview.ca)



# Jersey Canada News



## True Jersey Showmanship: A Community Effort at the Royal

Michelle Grubb, Communications Specialist,  
Jersey Canada



**Winning Breeders Herd – Lone Pine Jerseys.** (L-R) Doug Robinson (President, Jersey Canada), McKenna Morrison with LONE PINE VIDEO BLASTED (1st Winter 2-Year Old), Emily Franken with LONE PINE MATT BOUJEE (7th 5-Year Old), and Pierre Boulet with LONE PINE JORDAN BOOSTER (2nd 4-Year Old & HM Senior & HM Grand Champion), Matt Vaandrager.

The 2025 National Jersey Show at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair took place in Toronto, Ontario, on Saturday, November 15. Among the many highlights, one story stood out: a testament to friendship, teamwork, and the spirit of the Jersey community.

This year's Breeder's Herd title went to **Lone Pine Jerseys (the Haeni family) of Didsbury, Alberta**, an achievement that was anything but ordinary. For those unfamiliar, the Breeder's Herd class requires three animals with the same prefix, and at least part of one animal must still be owned by the original breeders. With nearly **3,500 km separating Lone Pine Jerseys from Toronto**, pulling this off seemed next to impossible, but in the Jersey community, the sky is the limit.

The effort began with Lee Morey of Unique Stock Farms (Rochester, AB), who was at the Royal earlier in the week serving as Associate Judge for the TD 4-H Classic Conformation classes. Recognizing an opportunity to assemble a Lone Pine Breeder's Herd, Lee reached out to the current owners of Lone Pine animals. After connecting with George Mason of Morningmist Jerseys (Woodstock, ON), Lee paid the transfer fee as a gift, allowing a

portion of LONE PINE VIDEO BLASTED to return to Lone Pine Jerseys.

Joining Blasted were LONE PINE MATT BOUJEE, owned by Bridon Farms (Paris, ON), and LONE PINE JORDAN BOOSTER, owned by Pierre Boulet and Mike Berry (Montmagny, QC). With teamwork and generosity, the herd was complete.

Meanwhile, back in Alberta, the Haeni family tuned into the National Jersey Show livestream, unaware of what was about to unfold. To their astonishment, not only did Lone Pine have a Breeder's Herd entered, but it was also named first in the class!

Reflecting on the moment, the Haeni family shared: "We are speechless! This is proof that friendships and people in this industry can be just as special as the cows we all admire."

This story is a reminder that true showmanship is rooted in initiative, teamwork, and a shared passion, not only for the Jersey breed, but for the people who make this incredible community what it is. (To read more about the Lone Pine breeding program, check out the Spring 2025 issue of the WC Dairy News at [www.wcdairynews.com](http://www.wcdairynews.com)).

## Westerner Jersey Show Sees Surge in Entries

This year's Westerner Dairy Showcase Jersey show in Red Deer (AB) was held October 24th & 25th, drawing 66 entries – nearly 25 more than 2024. Judge Pat Lundy (NY) found his eventual Grand Champion in the 4-Year Old class, SPRUCEHEDGE VIDEO PANSY, exhibited by Lampada, River Run, and Ben and Amy Hennessy (MB). Intermediate Champion was captured by the winning Junior 3-Year Old, MOSNANG DELL ZIG ZAG, exhibited by Markus Hehli (AB). In the Junior division, KOZAK CHOCOCHIP MARIGOLD, exhibited by Kozak Jerseys, came out of a tough Fall Heifer class to capture Junior Champion honours.

Markus Hehli (AB) earned the Junior Premier Breeder banner, with Unique Stock Farm (AB) grabbing Junior Premier Exhibitor. Overall, the Haeni family of Lone Pine Jerseys (AB), walked away with the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor banners at the high-quality show.



**Junior Champion: KOZAK CHOCOCHIP MARIGOLD, Katelyn Kozak at the halter.**

**GRAND CHAMPION**  
SPRUCEHEDGE VIDEO PANSY  
Lampada, River Run & Ben & Amy Hennessy, Brandon, MB  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION**  
ROBELLA ZIMMER JOEL NATALIE  
Robella & Zimmer, Balgonie, SK  
**HM GRAND CHAMPION**  
CLANMAN JORDAN SCOTTIE  
Jon Fornwald, Jamie Donohoe & Jazmyne Barkman, Brandon, MB  
**INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION**  
MOSNANG DELL ZIG ZAG  
Markus Hehli, Rimby, AB

**RESERVE INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION**  
ROBELLA ZIMMER VIP NAOMI  
Robella & Zimmer, Balgonie, SK  
**HM INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION**  
UNIQUE THOR LARAMIE  
Unique Stock Farm, Rochester, AB  
**JUNIOR CHAMPION**  
KOZAK CHOCOCHIP MARIGOLD  
Kozak Jerseys, New Sarepta, AB  
**RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION**  
MOSNANG TIKTOK VIDEO  
Markus Hehli, Rimby, AB  
**HM JUNIOR CHAMPION**  
KENBERT VICTORIOUS MANTRA  
Kenbert Acres, Drake, SK



**Grand Champions:** (L-R) Judge Pat Lundy, Jeff Donohoe with SPRUCEHEDGE VIDEO PANSY – Champion; Kenny McRae with ROBELLA ZIMMER JOEL NATALIE – Reserve; Mark Sweetnam with CLANMAN JORDAN SCOTTIE – Honourable Mention, Ringman Albert Streutker.

**JERSEY CANADA'S 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Save the date**  
**March 27-29, 2026**

Jersey Canada will be going from "Pasture to Parliament" for the 2026 Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario. The weekend will consist of a city tour, the AGM meeting, Jersey Canada's Awards Banquet and farm tours.

*More details to follow at [jerseycanada.com/agm](http://jerseycanada.com/agm).*

## Jersey Canada Seeking Award Nominations

**DEADLINE: JANUARY 9, 2026**

Jersey Canada welcomes nominations for the following awards to be presented at the 2026 Jersey Canada Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, on March 28th, 2026.

- Youth of Distinction
- Jersey Young Achiever
- Honourary Life Member
- Distinguished Service Award
- Certificate of Appreciation

Award details and nomination forms can be found on the Jersey Canada website: [jerseycanada.com/awards/](http://jerseycanada.com/awards/).

# FIND A SOLUTION THAT WORKS

Existing Operation

New Construction



**One Way Grooving**  
**Diamond Grooving**

**Safety Surfacing**  
**Alley Scraper Grooving**

**Cutting and Coring (BC only)**

## CALL FOR A FREE CONSULTATION

Josh Kraubner  
BC

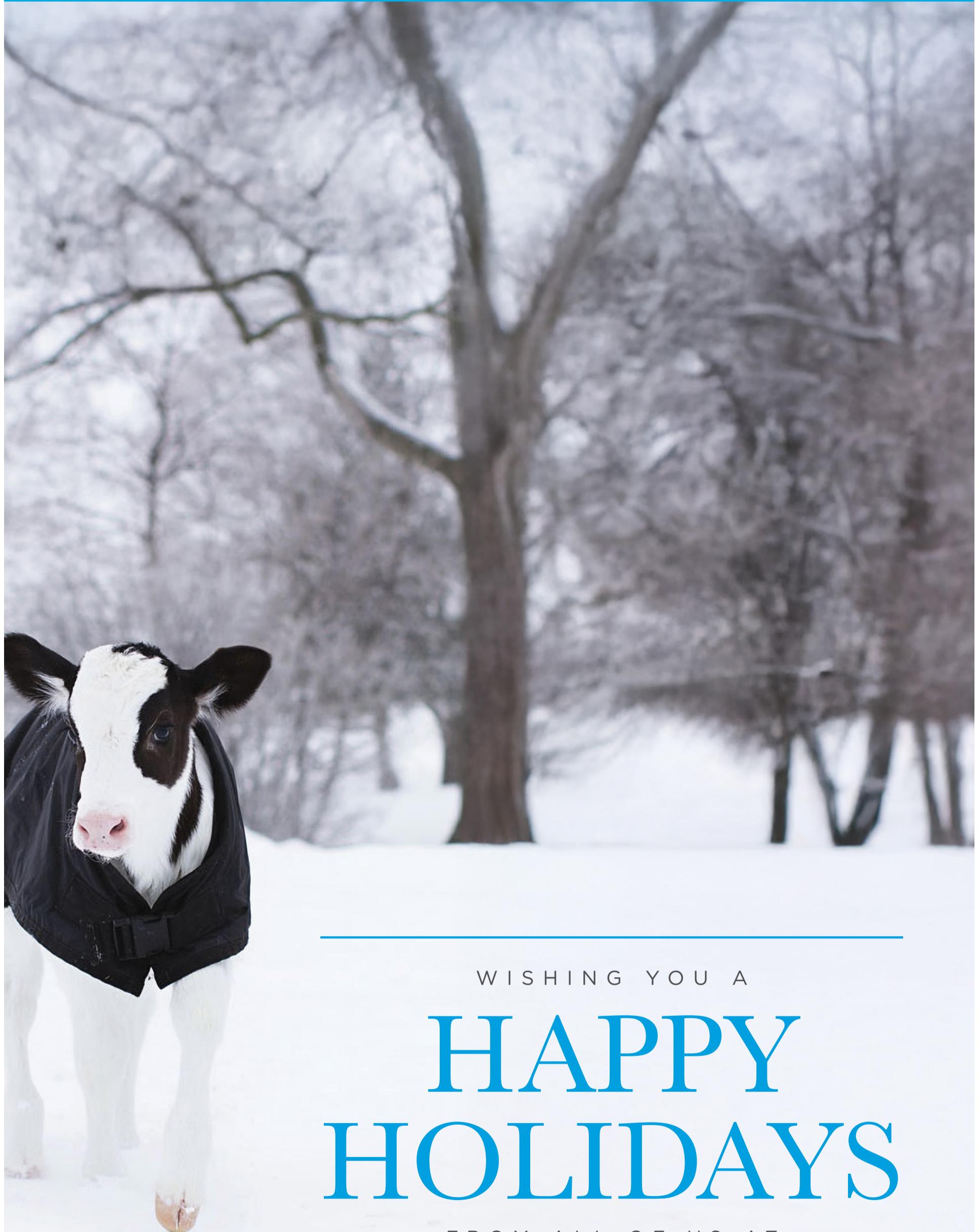
**604-302-2988**

Matthew Horne  
AB,SK,MB

**403-808-6984**



**GROOVIN' GORD**  
[groovingord.com](http://groovingord.com)



WISHING YOU A

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM ALL OF US AT

 WestGen™