



# WESTERN CANADIAN DAIRY NEWS

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## Summer 2025 Special Features

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Breeder -  
Frueh  
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Holstein  
Canada's  
Celebrating  
Longevity  
**Page 13**



Oliver Davis, photo taken at McDonald Landing Farm, Deroche, BC

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No. 2  
68 pages

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## COMING UP

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**BC DAIRY**

### JUNE

**14** **MYMP Spring Social** Saturday 7pm, 48181 Rose Road, Chilliwack.  
Presentation by Carla Soutar. Contact Amy Balaban ([mainlandmilk@gmail.com](mailto:mainlandmilk@gmail.com)) for more info.

**27** **BC Branch Picnic** Friday, 10am start, lunch at noon, WestGen, Abbotsford.  
Contact [bcbranch@telus.net](mailto:bcbranch@telus.net) for more details. Everyone Invited!

### JULY

**3** **Saskatchewan Branch Picnic** 5pm start, Craila Dairy, Langham, SK

**3** **Northern Alberta Holstein Club Show** Millet, AB

**3** **Central Alberta Mid-Summer Classic** Lacombe, AB

**4-5** **Manitoba SE 4-H and Open Heifer Show** Tri Lea Farms, Grunthal, MB

**9-11** **Saskatchewan Dairy Heifer Show** Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK

**9** **VI Holstein Club BBQ Social Evening** Wednesday 6pm,  
Cowichan Exhibition Grounds.

**10** **50<sup>th</sup> Vancouver Island Holstein Show** Thursday 9am, Cowichan Exhibition  
Grounds. Contact Cindy Wikkerink ([cindywikk@shaw.ca](mailto:cindywikk@shaw.ca)) for more info.

**17-18** **North Okanagan Holstein Club Breeders Cup**

**21-24** **Alberta Dairy Youth Show** Agrim Centre, Rimbey, AB

**26-27** **Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Country Fest** Saturday-Sunday, Albion  
Fairgrounds. See [www.mrpmcountryfest.com](http://www.mrpmcountryfest.com) for more details.

**28-Aug 18**

**Ag4Autism Auction** [www.32auctions.com/saccommaniacs](http://www.32auctions.com/saccommaniacs)

### AUGUST

**TBA** **Vancouver Island & Fraser Valley Breeders Cups** See VI Holstein Club and  
BC Holsteins on Facebook 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.

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## SUSTAINABILITY ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE

*Wishing everyone a Safe and Sustainable Summer  
with Healthy Herds, Abundant Crops, and Steady Returns*



Hans van Wijk (Van Wijk Customwork), photo taken at PJV Farms, Chilliwack, BC

### Other features:

- Guest: Holstein International
- Regenerative Ag - Clanman
- Holstein History - Acme
- Western Herds of Distinction Production Champs
- Sustainability Articles
- SK & MB Dairy Chairs
- National Convention
- NOK Spring Show
- BC DHI Awards
- ... and more!



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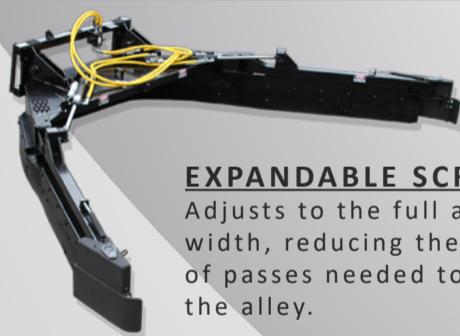
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## Western Canadian Dairy News

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## COMING UP

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### AUGUST

<b>1-3</b>	<b>Abbotsford Agrifair</b> Friday-Sunday, Abbotsford Exhibition Park. Find more info at <a href="http://www.agrifair.ca">www.agrifair.ca</a> .
<b>8</b>	<b>Saccommaniacs Sturgeon Fishing Derby</b> Friday, Island 22 Boat Launch, Chilliwack. See <a href="http://www.saccommaniacsgolf.com">www.saccommaniacsgolf.com</a> for all the details.
<b>8-10</b>	<b>Chilliwack Exhibition</b> , Heritage Park, Chilliwack, BC
<b>12</b>	<b>Lactanet Genetic Evaluation Release</b> of domestic and MACE evaluations.
<b>14</b>	<b>Saccommaniacs Golf Tournament &amp; Awards Dinner</b> Thursday, Greentee Country Club, Langley. See <a href="http://www.saccommaniacsgolf.com">www.saccommaniacsgolf.com</a> for all the details.
<b>16-Sept 1</b>	<b>PNE</b> Saturday-Monday, Vancouver, BC.
<b>19-23</b>	<b>WestGen Canadian Classic (WCC)</b> Tuesday-Saturday, Co-operators Agrim Centre, Rimbey, AB.
<b>27-31</b>	<b>Armstrong IPE</b> Wednesday-Sunday Armstrong Fairgrounds.
<b>28</b>	<b>VI Holstein Club Sale</b> Thursday 11am, Cowichan Exhibition Grounds.
<b>29</b>	<b>WC Dairy News Deadline</b> for Fall 2025 issue, Friday, in the mail September 30.

### SEPTEMBER

<b>TBA</b>	<b>NOK Holstein Club Sale</b> IPE Fairgrounds, Armstrong, BC. Follow their Facebook page for more details.
<b>30-Oct 3</b>	<b>World Dairy Expo</b> Tuesday-Friday, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI.

### OCTOBER

<b>24-25</b>	<b>Westerner Dairy Showcase</b> Friday-Saturday, Westerner Park's Agricentre, Red Deer, AB.
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# Tars'Tale-Spins



Tars Cheema

Is it possible to balance stability while shaking things up? I love stability/sustainability, but not when it becomes boredom. Dull routine kills creativity and enthusiasm.

#### So, what's the answer?

In my small world, creativity benefits from talking with a wide-range of dairy people and from attending industry gatherings of varied types. WE NEED TO SOCIALIZE and spend time interacting in various ways across our industry networks. I know how easy it is to just stay home and work – but making the effort to attend meetings and engage with our richly complex industry is how we keep things interesting.

#### Work alone is over-rated.

Industry events are important – they provide a place for us to gather and learn/share. I heard

so many positive reactions from the Western Dairy Expo in Saskatoon, the National Holstein Convention, the North Okanagan Spring Show and the many DHI award banquets.

**Shake things up** in your routine and get out to the provincial summer picnics or another industry event and get re-invigorated with your neighbours and dairy friends. I know it won't solve any of the hard financial realities producers are facing these days, but a lighter mood is a great start.

**"There's always something!"** was the tough-hided response of our elders to the many upheavals and uncertainties they faced – in life and business. Those words don't solve anything, but they should

remind us that these uncertain times are just new potholes in the road we travel. I think once we take stock of where we are in the 'big picture', it helps us move forward with perspective and purpose. **Have a safe and wonderful summer everyone!**

## Shamo-saurus

I'm a sucker for cheesy laughs. Thanks to my friend Ian Hodges from Saskatchewan for sharing this amusing juxtapositioned photo of his newly acquired Ko Shamo rooster as they took a bird-break in Drumheller, Alberta, to reconnect with a few long-lost ancestors. Ian has a fancy bird hobby and he enjoys breeding, showing and selling

stock to other breeders. This muscular, intelligent, upright-standing bantam breed originated hundreds of years ago in Japan where they were bred for cock-fighting.

I wonder if Ian could engage in some gene editing in his spare time and bring back the T-Rex from the Shamo's DNA?



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# CHANGE HAPPENS



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# SUMMERTIME

# No time for Down time!

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## WestGen Solidifies Long-Term Commitment to Youth in Agriculture with Landmark Partnership

The Western Canadian Classic (WCC) is proud to announce a transformative, long-term partnership with WestGen, through a historic sponsorship agreement that secures over \$500,000 in contributions over the next 10 years. This landmark investment marks a new chapter in WCC's 40 year legacy and ensures the continued vitality and sustainability of one of Canada's premier youth dairy shows.

In recognition of this unprecedented commitment, the event will now proudly carry the name "The WestGen Canadian Classic," reflecting both the depth of WestGen's support and the shared vision for empowering the next generation of dairy leaders.

This agreement builds on 27 years of loyal WestGen sponsorship, formalizing a strengthened partnership that reaffirms WestGen's dedication to youth in agriculture while also playing a critical role in ensuring the Classic remains a thriving, high-impact event for years to come.



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Farm Boy Productions photo

# Rooted in Tradition, Bred for Excellence

## Frueh Farms – 2X Master Breeder

### Amanda Poelman

Just 10 minutes south of Duncan on Vancouver Island, nestled in the northernmost corner of the Dougan Lake Valley and surrounded by old-growth fir trees with Kinsol Mountain rising in the background, lies Frueh Farms Ltd., a family-run operation proudly owned by the Frueh family, recently recognized as BC's newest 2X Master Breeder herd. As a long-time neighbour and friend, I've visited Frueh Farms many times, but as I pulled into the driveway on a sunny April day, I paused and took out my camera as I took in the sight of their well-bred herd grazing on knee-high spring grass – captivated by the natural beauty of the setting and the clear display of the longevity the Fruehs work so hard to achieve.

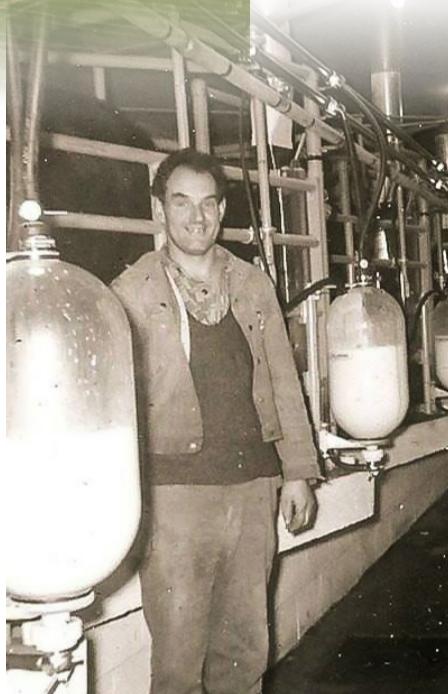
### Laying the Foundation

After emigrating from Switzerland in the early 1950's, Hans Frueh worked on a dairy farm in Ontario before heading west. Seeking various jobs along the way, Hans' first stop

Two of Hans and Maria's children pursued careers off the farm, while son Steve worked alongside his dad, with wife Janice and their three children: Kevin, Dave and Amy. In 1999, as they continued to develop the farm, the herd moved into a new barn where cow comfort and maximized feed intake reaped benefits immediately.

Today Frueh Farms is operated in partnership between Steve, Kevin and Dave. While milking and daily chores are divided evenly between them, Kevin mainly takes care of the cow side of the business, managing the breeding program and quota holdings; Dave's focus is cropping, managing their 440 acres, where he grows corn, grass and is experimenting with alfalfa; and Steve oversees the business and paperwork.

The milking herd consists of 130 cows and after the February 2025 classification includes 25 ME, 9 EX, 75 VG and 36 GP animals, who average 12,000kgs of milk,



**Hans' breeding goals focused on production and longevity, a philosophy which hasn't changed.**

4.7% fat with BCAs of 259-305-262. "We've mainly been a closed herd for the past 10-15 years," says Steve, "but our expansion has been growing slowly since our first shield."

### Cow Family Influence

When the Fruehs received their first Master Breeder Shield in 2009, 70% of their accumulated points were from the matriarch of the herd, FRUEH FARM JOYCE ADMIRAL VG-87 2\*. Joyce earned seven Superior Lactations and produced over 170,000kgs of milk in her 12 lactations. While her influence still impacts today's herd, Kevin notes, "75% of the points we earned for this shield come from four main cows."

FRUEH JEWELER IVY EX-92 8E 8\* produced 117,000kgs in her lifetime and left 1EX and 5 VG daughters in the herd. Out of an EX-92 2E 3\* Leader dam, her sire FRUEH JEWELER, was a Gibson son from the Joyce Admiral family, a herd bull that was used for several years.

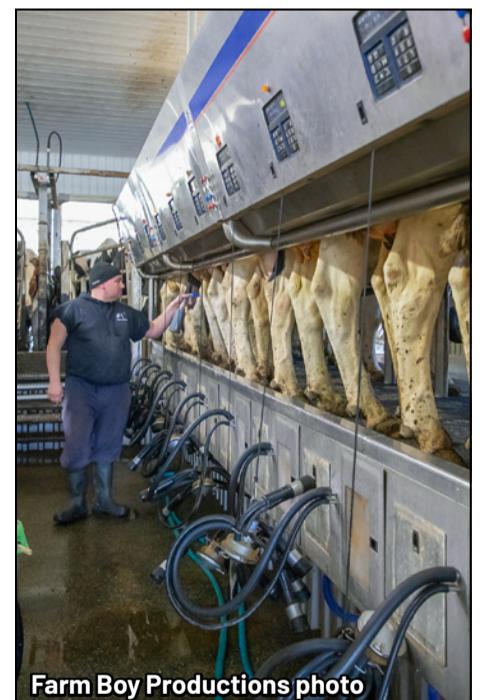
FRUEH JUNEBUG DUNDEE VG-85 5\*, has 3 EX and 2 VG daughters and made over 100,000kgs with two Superior Lactations. "Junebug kind of came out of nowhere and turned into a great brood cow," says Kevin. Her dam, a GP-82 2\* Storm, is backed by six generations of VG or EX dams, back to none other than Joyce herself.

Junebug has 23\* in her pedigree, none of which came by using embryo transfer. Moving away from the Joyce family, credit is given to FRUEH CANDY EX-90 4E 4\*, a Bushy-Park Chesapeake daughter, who produced 144,000kgs, earned three Superior Lactations, and left 2 EX, 1 VG and 2 GP daughters in the herd. Kevin notes that her granddaughters and great granddaughters have left the biggest impact from this family.

In 2007, Kevin purchased FURT ALLEN BARLEY EX-93 5E 7\*, who's influence has been felt in multiple ways. In addition to three Superior Lactations and 87,000kgs of milk, Barley left 2 EX, 3 VG and 1 GP daughters in the herd and was a true transmitter of both type and production. Several of her descendants are producing and continue to add to the legacy of high production, big scores, and multiple brood stars. Barley's influence is also felt on the top side of the pedigree in the barn, with FRUEH SPARROW, a De-Su Cotton son out of EX-92 3\* Yorick granddaughter of Barley, having already produced 2 EX and 3 VG daughters in the herd himself.

### Genetics and Management

Genetic selection and management have remained keys to success for the Fruehs, whose breeding philosophy has not changed since their first shield. "I select for shallow udders and health traits," says Kevin. "Health traits are better for longevity than type, and the reason classifiers don't move mature cows up in points often has to do with udder depth." Preferring photos of a mature bull or seeing a bull in person, Kevin adds, "I believe what I see a lot more than trends others tell me to follow."



Farm Boy Productions photo

Although he has experimented with extreme type or production bulls, Kevin finds that his oldest cows come from health trait sires that put on decent udders. "I don't like a tall, skinny show cow," says Kevin, "they rarely make 100,000kgs." A testament to this is FRUEH JANA GILLESPIY EX-915E who has produced over 146,000kgs in six lactations and is pregnant and due again this fall. "Jana is a mid-sized cow, but she is still very functional," Kevin says proudly.

While bulls like SHOTTLE, LINJET, GILLESPIY and GOLDSUN, have left their mark in the Frueh herd, Kevin is not a believer in 'blanket breeding' and says, "the tank is always changing and there is no magic breed-changing bull. Progress happens little bits at a time." Extremely keen in pedigree knowledge, Kevin is also not afraid to throw in the odd 'antique' sire like ROSAFE CITATION R, born in 1958, just to see how older genetics work in today's modern management.

May results Van Isle DHIA						
May report for Van Isle South Dairy Herd Improvement Association shows the herd of Hans Frueh again heading the list with high butterfat content						
Detailed records as provided by Jim Bell, supervisor, follows:-						
Herds with an average of over 50 lb. fat for the month						
Milk Fat Burdge Farms 1425 51.7						
Owner Hans Frueh 1724 61.6	Jannes Poelman 1416 51.4					
R. Devries 1755 56.9	Roger Hughes 1372 50.7					
G. B. Wikkerink 1545 56.3	G. H. Wikkerink 1476 50.4					
J. Pendray 1602 55.6	G. A. Swan, Sons 1151 50.4					
Karl Hendrikson 1444 51.9						
Two-year-olds completing a lactation with over 400 lb. of fat						
Cow Breed Stubby 2 H. Susie J.	Age 2 15114 561 305					
Burdge Farms Terry 2 H.	2 8970 527 305					
J. Pendray Penelope 3 H.	2 12694 523 305					
James Poelman Shasta 3 H.	2 13400 515 305					
F. Raymakers Jet H.	1 12603 483 305					
Burdge Farms Patsy H.	2 12091 447 305					
Booby H.	2 12914 421 305					
	2 11385 408 305					

**DHIA reports were regularly published in the local paper each month in the '70's, this one showing Hans' herd ranked #1 for Fat production on the Island.**



(L-R) Kevin, Janice, Steve and Dave Frueh.



**Current herd favourite, FRUEH SPARROW JAMAICA EX-90, combines Frueh breeding on both sides of the pedigree from the ALLEN BARLEY EX-93 5E 7\* x JOYCE ADMIRAL VG-87 2\* families.**



Maria with sons Peter & Steve (mid 1960's).

Interestingly, several sires of point-contributing cows have been developed from their own herd. "We've done well with our own bulls. You keep a bull from a cow that does well in **your** herd with **your** management style," says Kevin, who adds that selecting bulls from their own maternal lines has often worked better than using proven bulls from other countries. In addition to the previously mentioned FRUEH SPARROW and FRUEH JEWELER, another homebred bull, FRUEH BUDDY HOLLY, has also been impactful. A grandson of Junebug Dundee, Buddy Holly is a Seagull-Bay Silver out of a VG-87 Atwood that made three Superior Lactations. Buddy Holly has produced 3 ME and 2 VG daughters, who, along with their descendants, have tallied multiple Superior Lactations themselves.

Steve agrees, adding, "Breeding is a start, then culling rate and the setup of your barn and how you manage it. You don't want to be in a situation where you're keeping cows you'd rather get rid of." With sexed semen such an available commodity, the Fruehs use a 30/70 ratio - 30% sexed semen and 70% beef semen, noting, "We don't need to breed ugly replacements!" Longevity remains just as important to Steve and Kevin as it was to Hans. "If your cows stay around a long time, you have the luxury of getting rid of ones that don't fit the bill."

#### Chasing Thresholds

Kevin is adamant that a lot of what goes into a Master Breeder shield is knowing every cow well and getting them across thresholds for type and production. "If she's 1000kgs away from 100,000kgs, get an extra milk test in, or if you think she'll go up a point or two, show her to the classifier - all the little things, they all pile up." The Fruehs regularly utilize both classification and milk testing in their herd to keep a keen handle on the thresholds for each cow. While paying some attention to genetic values, Kevin always keeps the age of a pedigree in mind, aware that most older pedigrees don't have high genetic values.

He has also been putting more stock into the use of genomic bulls, saying "Genomics have become more reliable, especially for production and health traits."

#### A Trip to Halifax

Although they knew they were in the Top 10, Kevin was busy milking during the Master Breeder reveal in January. "My phone started blowing up and then I just continued milking," he laughs. Steve and Janice attended the National Convention

in Halifax with their two grandsons, Cohen (14) and Eddie (12). "We had an excellent time! The events were well-run and a lot of fun to attend," says Steve. "It was nice to meet with all different breeders and hear many viewpoints on breeding and the state of the dairy industry." Despite a substantial weather delay in Toronto, which unfortunately caused them to arrive in the wee hours of the morning and forego farm tour day, the Fruehs attended all the other convention events, and made time for stops at Peggy's Cove and Pier 21.

#### Forging a Future

With their land base secured, Steve says the plan is to continue to increase the herd size and quota holdings. The Fruehs farm 440 acres of land, 320 acres of which they own, and grow all their own forages. "We have the feed for more cows," says Steve, "and with incentive days continuing, it makes sense to expand." The purchase of a vacant dairy about 10

minutes away from the home farm helps to make an increase possible. "There's two options for growth," says Kevin, "either get the parlour at Riverside up and running and milk at both locations, or move all the dry cows to that facility and just milk at home." Both opportunities will require some renovations, but it's good to have choices.

Although the number of cows and the facilities have evolved since Hans' original 12-cow herd, the Frueh family's breeding philosophy, cow sense, and commitment to longevity have remained unchanged - continuing to fuel their hard work and passion for the business they love. 🚜



Steve and Janice celebrated in Halifax with grandsons Eddie (left) and Cohen (right).



Photo: Terri Giacomazzi

Hans appeared with herd matriarch, FRUEH FARM JOYCE ADMIRAL VG-87 2\*, on the cover of the Holstein Journal in 1996. Joyce produced over 170,000kgs in 12 lactations.



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# Paws and Purpose: A Veterinary Mission Trip to Peru

Danielle Groenendijk-Westwood

I had the opportunity to go on a short-term mission trip with Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) to Pucallpa, Peru, from May 5-11, 2025. I initially learned about CVM during my first year at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine through a student group that meets once a week. The objective of CVM's short-term Missions program is "to provide opportunities for veterinarians, technicians and vet students to use their skills, faith and abilities in Christian service alongside national leaders and missionaries in ministries with similar values, partnering with them in the long-term goals and vision for their communities."



**Ben and I, loaded up with supplies and ready to hit the road in our Motokar – a popular mode of transportation in Pucallpa, Peru.**

Our team consisted of nine people, all from the United States except my husband Ben and me. We worked with a local couple, Casey and Giully Kidd, who serve as missionaries in the area, traveling to the villages to bring the love of God, while Giully provides veterinary



**Christian Veterinary Mission**

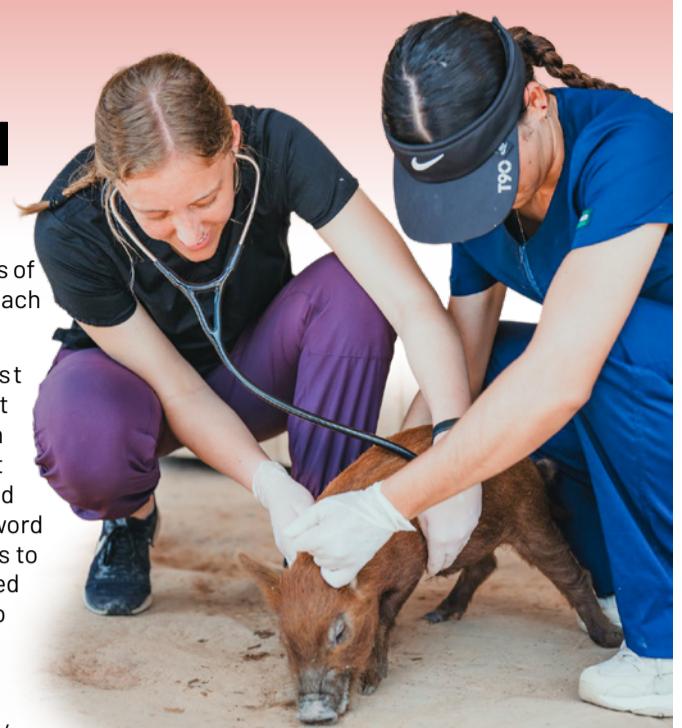
services. We were joined by individuals from a local church to help with the evangelism aspect, as they could speak Spanish and Shipibo, the language in the villages we went to.

We visited three villages throughout the week and offered free veterinary services. At each stop, we set up three treatment tables and provided rabies vaccinations,

day, and the varying levels of care animals receive in each village was evident.

Since this is the first year that CVM has sent a group to Peru to run these clinics, we knew it would be a building year and focused on getting the word out. Having fewer animals to treat in the villages provided a unique opportunity to play and interact with the kids! It was a true joy to play volleyball with them, teach 'Duck, Duck, Goose,' or do some colouring pages and little activities. Being in the villages was also an eye-opening experience to see the living conditions and see how they farm the land.

Another focus of our trip was to provide support and training to the local veterinarians. One afternoon, three of the veterinarians performed surgeries at a local veterinary clinic. They were able to teach the local vets how to do a cherry eye surgery, perform a dog castration more efficiently, and remove a mammary tumour. We also ran a clinic out of Cyndi's, one of Giully's classmates from vet school, veterinary practice. Cyndi used to run a practice out of her house, but it was out of the way and not profitable. She recently moved to the new location and having us run a clinic helped promote her veterinary practice more. That day we treated 87 animals, a great opportunity for me to use some of the skills



I have learned so far in my veterinary career.

Partnering with a local couple was a great way to get immersed in the Peruvian culture. In Pucallpa, the main transportation method is Motokars (a combination of a motorcycle and a car), which we used to get around the city and to the village closest to the city, often squeezing three people into one Motokar. On the other village days, we took a boat and then also a bus. We also got to experience a variety of local foods, including empanadas, tamales, cow heart, ceviche, octopus, and Peruvian Chinese food.

I am very grateful for the opportunity I had to serve in another country with fellow believers and use our veterinary skills to bless others!

## SUSTAINABILITY *ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE*

### Dairy Cows Solving Food Waste Problems A Win-Win Solution

Hannah Woodhouse B.Sc., Ph.D

It's astonishing that almost half of the food produced in Canada is wasted. According to a recent report by Second Harvest, a Canadian food rescue organization, 21.1 million tonnes of food in Canada is actually never used. This equates to a shocking \$58 billion! Not only is this a financial crisis, but also an environmental one. Most of the food that does not reach your dinner plate ends up in landfills where it emits CO<sub>2</sub> and methane as it decomposes. However, dairy cows present a very sound solution to this waste problem.

It is well known that cows are some of the most remarkable upcyclers thanks to their complex 4-stomach ruminant digestive system. The billions of microbes and enzymes in the cow's digestive tract enable them to convert almost anything into the nutritious dairy products we know and love.

So called "food waste" is another man's (or should we say, **cow's**) treasure. Products like fruit or vegetable scraps, bakery waste, cotton seeds, soy hulls, soybean meal, and distillers' grains, to name a few, are obviously not suitable for human consumption, but would be a treat to cows. These are excellent sources of energy, protein, and fibre, and often cheaper than other feedstuffs!

Feeding non-traditional feeds is not a new practice, and many dairy producers are familiar with incorporating these products

into their TMR rations today. What farmers may not realize is that beyond saving on feed costs, they are also contributing to environmental sustainability.

It's a win-win for everyone; farmers spend less on expensive feed, while suppliers save food disposal fees. At the same time, the environment is spared from excess greenhouse gas emissions. The process contributes to a more sustainable future by creating a circular economy that efficiently uses food products already produced. In turn, the land, energy, emissions, and water resources that would be needed to create more food are reduced! This ultimately helps improve food security across our nation as well.

By sending these products to farms instead of the limited landfills, we could be eliminating up to 25.7 million metric tonnes per year of CO<sub>2</sub>. To put this number into perspective, that's the equivalent of 253,000 flights from Toronto to Vancouver! These so-called "waste" products can make up about 40% of the cow's diet without compromising milk quality or yield. Doing the math, if a cow eats on average 29 kg (0.029 tonnes) per day, 40% of the diet coming from food waste would be 0.012 tonnes. So, if every dairy cow in the country (~962,000) were consuming this amount, we'd be eliminating over 11,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year!

Aside from the more well-known food waste products that have been incorporated into dairy diets, some are more niche. Regional differences can impact what is available, but there's usually a variety of options. For farms that live near apple orchards, they can receive apple pomace – a great source of dietary fibre for the cows. Whey feeding has been done successfully in some locations but requires more diligence due to the perishable nature of the liquid product. Amusingly, even candy and chocolate have been incorporated into rations, though it has not led to chocolate milk!

Of course, it's important to manage feed quality and to involve your nutritionist in how to best balance the ration for non-traditional feed ingredients while considering the consistency of supply.

Consider starting the conversation with a local food business or processor. Whether you live close to a bakery, brewery, grain processor or fruit/vegetable farm/processor, there are lots of options to incorporate food waste into your herd's diet. You would be doing these businesses a favour by taking "waste" off their hands while saving on expensive feed costs and improving your farm's environmental footprint, contributing to a more sustainable future.





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# A FLAWLESS 'DESIGN'

## OLORTINE AVENGER DESIGN captures the crown at Western Dairy Expo!



Bonnie Cooper, [bcooper2010@gmail.com](mailto:bcooper2010@gmail.com)

A marvelous Western Dairy Expo Holstein Show took place at Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK, on April 25 & 26. Exhibitors from all four Western provinces took part in this well-organized event that drew spectators from across Canada in person and to their online coverage. Judge Paul Trapp, Taylor, WI, Genetic Acquisition Team Lead for Semex, and Associate Judge Jon Larson of Larcrest Holsteins, Albert Lea, MN, assessed a total of 164 Holsteins, plus another 62 head in the Jersey Show, over two days of judging.

This is the second year for this Saskatchewan spring show which was resumed after an absence of many years. Chairman Bryce Fisher of R&F Livestock Inc. and his committee have worked hard to make this not only an elite dairy cattle show, but a memorable event by establishing a "Hall of Fame" for cows last year, and this year presenting their first "Legends of the Industry" awards to dairy industry people in Saskatchewan during a special Social Night at the Western Development Museum.

The lights dimmed and music filled the arena as a spotlight shone on each contender for Grand Champion Holstein as they were introduced in the dramatic closing moments of the show. "Lots of adjectives could be used

to describe our champion," remarked Judge Trapp, but only one, "Wow!" suitably fit this incredible young cow, he said as he made OLORTINE AVENGER DESIGN, the winning Senior 3-Year-Old and Intermediate Champion, the logical Grand Champion. Shown in class by R&F Livestock Inc. (SK) and Walker Dairy Inc. (ON), it was announced during the championship parade that this two-time All-Canadian winner had just been acquired by Blondin Sires (QC) and Butlerview Farms (IL). The Avenger was a clear-cut winner with her balance, dairy strength, mobility, and fantastic udder and rib design in going ahead of the second Senior 3-Year-Old and Reserve Intermediate Champion, MARYLANDER THUNDER HIPPY, who was made Reserve Grand Champion for RockyMountain Holsteins (AB), T&L Cattle Ltd. (BC) and Wenden Holsteins (AB). The height, width and bloom of udder on this cow placed her over the first 4-Year-Old and Honourable Mention Grand Champion, SILVERMAPLE LIMITED CERSEE, from new owners T&L Cattle Ltd. (BC), Robella Holsteins (SK) and Tyler Doiron (QC). In the Intermediate Championship, Honourable Mention went to WENDON MASTER DEVICE, the balanced and modern Junior 3-Year-Old winner from Wenden.

HAMMING I HAVE TOO REPLAY, the big, correct white Summer Yearling winner who never gave the judge a bad look, took the Junior Champion rosette for Hamming Holsteins Ltd. (BC). Her breed character and long, lean neck gave her the edge over BENBIE DETECTIVE HARLOW, the first Spring Yearling and Reserve Junior Champion shown by Benbie Holsteins Ltd. (SK) and RockyMountain Holsteins. The advantage in age, width and capacity on this yearling took her ahead of HAMMING BELIEVEP BONITA, the well balanced first Fall Calf from Hamming Holsteins who was Honourable Mention.

Benbie Holsteins, who bred or owned five class winners, took Overall Premier Breeder and both the Junior Exhibitor and Breeder banners, while the partnership of R&F Livestock and Walker Dairy clinched the Overall Premier Exhibitor award. GOLDEN-OAKS MASTER-ET was Premier Sire.

A large Junior Show took place on April 24th with Casey Morey, Rochester, AB, handling the judging assignment. Bart Verkuijen (MB) claimed Grand Champion in the 43-head Conformation contest with RF SIDEKICK CHARLIE, while Adyson Wildeboer (AB) was first Senior showperson and Champion in the Showmanship division. The Peewee showmanship class drew 23 young entrants.



Etching her name in the Hall of Fame, OLORTINE AVENGER DESIGN is now owned by Butlerview & Blondin Sires, Chebanse, IL



Grand Champions: (L-R) Associate Judge Jon Larson, Tyler Doiron with SILVERMAPLE LIMITED CERSEE, Honourable Mention; Joel Phoenix with MARYLANDER THUNDER HIPPY, Reserve; David Dyment with OLORTINE AVENGER DESIGN, Champion; Judge Paul Trapp.



Intermediate Champions: (L-R) Judge Paul Trapp, David Dyment with OLORTINE AVENGER DESIGN, Champion; Joel Phoenix with MARYLANDER THUNDER HIPPY, Reserve; Tyler Doiron with WENDON MASTER DEVICE, Honourable Mention; Associate Judge Jon Larson.



Junior Champions: (L-R) Associate Judge Jon Larson, Tyler Doiron with HAMMING BELIEVEP BONITA, Honourable Mention; Nicole Crosbie with BENBIE DETECTIVE HARLOW, Reserve; Joel Phoenix with HAMMING I HAVE TOO REPLAY, Champion; Judge Paul Trapp.



Winning Junior Breeder's Herd - HAMMING HOLSTEINS, Vernon, BC. (L-R) Jill and Brian Hamming, Joel Phoenix with I HAVE TOO REPLAY, Tyler Doiron with BELIEVEP BONITA, and Megan Baars with BULLSEYE SISSY.



Winning Senior Breeder's Herd - MOSNANG HOLSTEINS, Rimbey, AB. (L-R) ARMY DELIGHT, RESPECT DANGER ZONE, DEMPSEY BELLINI, Markus Hehl.



Congrats to Ian, Nicole and Nadine Crosbie and the entire crew at Benbie Holsteins – winners of six banners including Junior Premier Breeder and Exhibitor, and overall Premier Breeder of the Holstein Show.



Congrats to R&F Livestock, Walker Dairy and their crew – earning Intermediate & Grand Champion and Premier Exhibitor of the Holstein Show.

• Photos courtesy of Jenna Jongenotter, Melissa Kemmere and Claire Swale

#### Winter Heifer (8)

1. **BENBIE ATTRACT ALANI**  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK
2. **LOVHILL RT STRAWBERRY MILKSHAKE**  
Lovholm Holsteins & Raelyn Lovich, Balgonie, SK

#### Fall Heifer (21)

1. **HAMMING BELIEVEP BONITA**  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. **ROBELLA MASTER ELLIS**  
Robella Holsteins, Balgonie, SK

#### Summer Yearling (18)

1. **HAMMING I HAVE TOO REPLAY**  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. **NEW MARS SKYCREST DURAN GOBBLE**  
New Mars Dairy & Skycrest Holsteins, Millet, AB

#### Spring Yearling (17)

1. **BENBIE DETECTIVE HARLOW**  
Benbie Holsteins & RockyMountain Holsteins, Caron, SK
2. **ROBELLA MAJOR SABRINA**  
Robella Holsteins, Wenden Holsteins & Pat Conroy, Balgonie, SK

#### Winter Yearling (15)

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

#### Fall Yearling (11)

1. **BENBIE EYE CANDY FANCY**  
Roswitha Holsteins, Steinbach, MB
2. **PETITCLERC BULLSEYE ABELIA**  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

#### Junior Breeder's Herd (6)

1. **Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC**  
2. Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### Junior Champion

1. **HAMMING I HAVE TOO REPLAY**  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

#### Reserve Junior Champion

1. **BENBIE DETECTIVE HARLOW**  
Benbie Holsteins & RockyMountain Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### HM Junior Champion

1. **HAMMING BELIEVEP BONITA**  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

#### Junior Premier Breeder

1. **Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK**
2. Robella Holsteins, Balgonie, SK

#### Junior Premier Exhibitor

1. **Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK**
2. Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

#### Summer 2 Year Old (1)

1. **WESTCOAST UNREPLACEABLE**  
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

#### Spring 2 Year Old (10)

1. **BENBIE LOYALL CARMELA**  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK
2. **EBYLANE ALLEYOOP TWINKLE**  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

#### Winter 2 Year Old (5)

1. **JACOBS CHIEF BAYLA**  
Wenden Holsteins, Red Deer County, AB
2. **KOZAK WILLOWS RED DESIRE**  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

#### Fall 2 Year Old (8)

1. **HAMMING MASTER BOSS BABY**  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. **WENDON MASTER CLEOLA**  
Falona-Springs Holsteins, Wetaskiwin, AB

#### Junior 3 Year Old (3)

1. **WENDON MASTER DEVICE**  
Wenden Holsteins, Red Deer County, AB
2. **MIL-EN-ROY PICASSO LOLA**  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### Senior 3 Year Old (15)

1. **OLORTINE AVENGER DESIGN**  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

2. **MARYLANDER THUNDER HIPPY**  
RockyMountain Holsteins, Wenden Holsteins & T&L Cattle, Water Valley, AB

#### Intermediate Champion

1. **OLORTINE AVENGER DESIGN**  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

#### Reserve Intermediate Champion

1. **MARYLANDER THUNDER HIPPY**  
RockyMountain Holsteins, Wenden Holsteins & T&L Cattle, Water Valley, AB

#### HM Intermediate Champion

1. **WENDON MASTER DEVICE**  
Wenden Holsteins, Red Deer County, AB

#### 4 Year Old (15)

1. **SILVERMAPLE LIMITED CERSEE**  
Robella Holsteins, T&L Cattle & Tyler Doiron, Balgonie, SK

2. **GOSELINK ILLUSTRATOR AVA**  
R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK

#### 5 Year Old (5)

1. **LUCKY SIDEKICK GOLDEN GIRL**  
R&F Livestock Inc. & RockyMountain Holsteins, Cudworth, SK

2. **BENBIE RAPID CASSA**  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### Mature Cow (7)

1. **BENBIE SIDEKICK PRISSY**  
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

2. **MOSNANG ARMY DELIGHT**  
Mosnang Holsteins, Rimby, AB

#### Longtime Production (5)

1. **SERLI SAMMY BELINDA**  
Laurie & Donna Harp, Brandon, MB

2. **KOZAK AUSSIE RED RIBBON P**  
Kozak Holsteins, New Sarepta, AB

#### Senior Breeder's Herd (5 entries)

1. **Mosnang Holsteins, Rimby, AB**

2. **Mil-En-Roy Farms (1981), White City, SK**

#### Grand Champion

1. **OLORTINE AVENGER DESIGN**

R&F Livestock Inc. & Walker Dairy Inc., Cudworth, SK  
Now owned by Butlerview & Blondin Sires, Chebanse, IL

#### Reserve Grand Champion

1. **MARYLANDER THUNDER HIPPY**

RockyMountain Holsteins, Wenden Holsteins & T&L Cattle, Water Valley, AB

#### HM Grand Champion

1. **SILVERMAPLE LIMITED CERSEE**

Robella Holsteins, T&L Cattle & Tyler Doiron, Balgonie, SK

#### Premier Exhibitor

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

2. Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK

#### Premier Breeder

1. **Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK**

2. Mosnang Holsteins, Rimby, AB

#### Premier Sire

1. **Golden-Oaks Master**

2. Farnear Delta-Lambda

**From the outstanding quality of cattle in the barns to the phenomenal group of breeders & exhibitors, the event was a true celebration of the Western dairy community. None of it would have been possible without the support of the sponsors and people who made it happen!**

The show committee



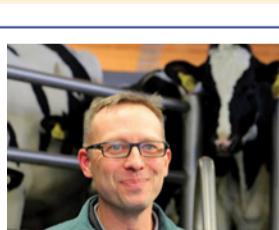
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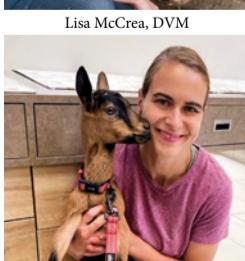
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Leadership

Integrity

Excellence

Passion

# Meet Your Dairy Association Board Chair

## Gordon Ell

The second installment in our series, we spotlight the leaders of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. While you might be familiar with the leader in your own province, here's your chance to learn a bit about the others. Beyond their boardroom roles, they are hands-on farmers, balancing innovation with tradition while managing their dairies and family life.

### Amanda Poelman

Gordon Ell is the fifth generation to farm Ell's Dairy Farm at Kronau, SK, where it has been operational for over 125 years. Alongside his wife Tiffany, and sons Ryan and Travis, the Ells milk 200 cows in a freestall barn and crop 4000 acres. "The boys are the sixth generation here," says Gord proudly. "My daughter lives close to the farm as well and we have five grandchildren who visit regularly."

### Board Involvement

This is the second time Gord has been involved with SaskMilk, having served as a director 15 years ago when Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan and the Milk Control Board were separate entities. "I was asked to run again in 2019 after 10 years off and was elected Vice-Chair in my second year, before becoming chair in 2023."

Passionate about purebred Holsteins, Gord was actively involved in Holstein Canada for nine years, serving in a variety of roles on the board before being elected president in 2000.

### Highlights and Challenges

The biggest highlight for Gord has been the four western provinces working together. "There is open and honest communication

in the west. From what I understand of the past, it hasn't always been as good as it is now." On the national level, Gord feels positively about the relationships in the P10 as well, "I would say there were a lot of hard feelings in years past, but now everyone really gets along better – we are trying to work towards a common goal."

"The biggest challenge has been the time commitment," he admits. "Tiffany and I have a standing joke about the commitment being only two days a month – that's how they reel you in!" In reality, Gord spends 10-12 days away from the farm monthly. "It takes planning. We have a big calendar in the dairy that I put all my days away on, and we just work around it." Gord works most weekends so that others can take time off. He is thankful for his family and their great staff. "They take the worst of it when I'm not home, and without their support I wouldn't be able to do the job," he says.

One-day meetings in Ottawa usually mean three days gone from home due to poor flight options in the province. "It's a problem that is getting worse, not better. You waste a lot of time in airports, so you get good at working there and sleeping on the plane!"



### Issues Facing Saskatchewan Producers

Gord notes "financial position" as the greatest problem currently facing producers. "Many farmers haven't recovered from high interest rates and the consecutive years of drought we've had." The province welcomes the growth that is coming, but Gord admits it will be tough for some producers who are still hampered by their financial position and ability to borrow. "There was no processing growth for five or six years, no quota was being given out, milk was being skimmed, and the blend price was down. Some producers were able to get through the hard times quickly, but others are still coping."

Gord believes that the Dairy Innovation West (DIW) plant and the P500 plant in BC will be a huge help for Saskatchewan producers. "The goal is to help with transportation costs – even a 10-15% decrease will make a big difference for us."

### Looking Ahead

Up for re-election in 2026, Gord is eager to continue the work that has been started at the national level. "We are working towards one Canadian system," he says, "It's a slow process but we want to get to a place of



sharing markets and costs." Gord feels that the Western Milk Pool was hugely beneficial. "Coming in as one group with a bigger share has helped. I know the WMP has had its challenges, but we are stronger together for sure."

### Beyond the Boardroom and the Barn

An active curler for many years, Gord has been sidelined by needing a knee replacement, which he is hopeful will happen soon. He and Tiffany enjoy getting away to their home in Florida, a great spot that the kids can take advantage of too. "I still love the show circuit," says Gord, "You never lose the passion you have for showing cattle." Gord enjoys helping R&F Livestock when he can and still has his hand in a few partnerships on some special ones.

**Meet Miriam Sweetnam, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba chair, on page 23.**

## BC Milk Marketing Board Member Appointment by the BC Milk Industry Advisory Committee

The British Columbia Milk Marketing Board, under federal and provincial legislation, promotes, controls and regulates the production, transportation, packing, storing and marketing of milk, fluid milk and manufactured milk products in British Columbia.

A Board Member is to be appointed by the BC Milk Industry Advisory Committee with a three-year term effective November 2025. (Reference: BCMMB Election and Appointment Rules and Procedures, July 10, 2024).

Board duties include the analysis and interpretation of detailed statistics in relation to production, product quality, consumption patterns, and industry economic impacts, and direct involvement in regional, national and international policies.

The person appointed will have strong skills in communication, complex analysis and decision-making. Good background knowledge of the dairy industry and supply management will be important. Board members are required to relate well to and have the confidence of producers, processors, suppliers, Board staff and other stakeholders.

This part-time position is suitable for an individual who can commit to Board and other meetings, likely or approximating three to five days a month, and who can undertake some travel.

This Board Member cannot be a licensed producer.

The BC Milk Industry Advisory Committee invites applications from qualified individuals who are keen to make an active contribution to the Dairy industry.

If you feel qualified and the opportunity is of interest, to apply for an interview please send your résumé in confidence by September 30, 2025:

Via email to: [miac@bcmilk.com](mailto:miac@bcmilk.com)

Attention: Ben Janzen, Chair

BC Milk Industry Advisory Committee



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### An Apple a Day at UBC

### UBYSSEY WINDBROOK APPLE 2043

#### Tars Cheema

At the University of British Columbia's Dairy Education and Research Centre in Agassiz, BC, the cows and the students come and go.

While the students conduct a wide range of research year after year on their way to achieving higher level degrees, there's one cow who has witnessed the graduation of dozens of students while participating in numerous research trials, reaching her own higher degrees of achievement along the way!

Born May 15, 2012, UBYSSEY WINDBROOK APPLE 2043 GP-83 calved young and often, now in mid-11th lactation. Over 10 completed lactations, 2043 tallied an impressive BCA average of 275-363-288 with deviations of +21, +75, +34 in this 250 cow real-world dairy. Even more impressive is her 5% BF (2.1 kg fat/day lifetime average) and recent lifetime milk of 150,100KG after having just passed her 13th birthday in May!

#### Dairy Education and Research

This research facility is where UBC dairy science professors and students undertake a wide scope of dairy research including nutrition, reproduction and transition health, but is also regarded as one of the leading centres for dairy animal welfare research in the world.

The Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2020, before embarking on an ambitious modernization project which focused on retrofitting the barns with six GEA robot milkers, creating six separate potential research groups. Four groups have 50 cows each, while one group currently has 30 cows (intake trials) and the last group handles 20-30 fresh/transition cows. "The cows began milking with the new robots on July 4, 2023," explains Dr. Julia Lomb, the Centre's Animal Health, Welfare and Research Manager. Every group can contribute to research depending on the question being asked with numerous data streams collected through the robots, allowing for efficient, data-driven precision research.

#### 2043's Résumé

With seven Superior Lactations and one Super Seven, 2043 definitely stands out from her classmates. Then there's the teaching and research aspect...

2043 has contributed to several research studies at the UBC Dairy Centre, leading to 15+ peer-reviewed publications. A few highlights include participating in studies

focused on using changes in behaviour to identify sick transition dairy cows (e.g., Neave et al., 2018; she was a healthy control cow), and research on outdoor access (e.g., Smid et al., 2018). 2043 was also part of research on the validation of a leg-mounted activity monitoring system (Marques et al. 2024), and on the effects of GnRH administration on conception risk and estrus expression (Burnett et al., 2022).

#### Work History

Calving first at 1-08, she continued regular calvings at 2-09, 3-09, 4-09 and 5-09. In her fifth lactation, she made over 17,000kg in 365 days with 5.5% fat, which probably explains the seven breedings it took to bring her back to calve at 7-02. Regular calvings returned with few breedings after that lactation. With uncomplicated calvings and no twins, she avoided the associated risks while regularly producing 12,000-15,000kg lactations in 305 days.

2043 receives high marks for health records until her last lactation - flagged with RP and ketosis. This lactation she calved with another RP but is doing better overall.

Foot health has been excellent with routine trims until one bout of lameness last lactation.

Her Udder Health report card shows excellent SCC until her last two lactations - undoubtedly correlated to her other health difficulties.

#### Soft Skills

As far as 'people skills' go, Dr. Julia says 2043 is not a troublesome cow. "She has a 'leave me alone' attitude." And until recently, this very healthy cow needed little attention, leading Dr. Julia to say, "She doesn't really stand out, she just goes about her business, so you don't really get to know her."

#### Pedigree Résumé

2043's sire Gillette Windbrook was respected for leaving solid 'honest' cows, but his sire FBI was a son of Mtoto - who excelled as a longevity sire, leaving fertile, tough survival cows with excellent feet. Windbrook's dam was sired by Blitz, who also left good calving and fertility traits.

2043's 81pt dam was sired by Premier-G Blacksmith-ET who wasn't particularly known for outstanding longevity traits, but further back, we find Blackstar, Aerostar, Rudolph and Chief Mark - all sires with strengths in the longevity faculty.

The next dam was an 85pt daughter of Rudolph, one of the most prevalent sires in the pedigrees of longevity cows, presumably owing to his fertility, good calving, productivity and udder health traits. Interestingly, her VG third dam was sired by Indianhead Cherokee, who traces a parallel path alongside Rudolph back to JIM-MAR-D ASTRONAUT GAIL, through Valiant sisters Charmaine and Chanel. Astronaut daughters' personalities varied between tough and miserable, but they are often behind some of the breed's most influential sires

(including Starbuck, Rudolph's grandsire).

#### A Lifelong Learner

Dr. Julia says 2043 proves old cows can learn new tricks. She was particularly impressed with the minimal adjustment 2043 needed to adapt to robot milking in her ninth lactation! A confident attitude was aided by a sound udder that made robot attachment easy.

Between 2043's extensive research/teaching life and numerous dairy achievements, we grant her an Honourary Bovine Ph. D.! 🐄



#### Include Holstein Canada in your management strategy

“

ConneXXion is a very efficient, easy to use app. Registrations seemed to always fall behind and then our field rep recommend we try the new app. We really like the fact that the tag inventory is loaded, and we can search by tag number. Same as the sire, its so easy to search by short-name, and saves the last few sires used for quick entry with next calf.

The replacement tag order option works the same way, search by ear tag instead of registration number, which makes it easy when we walk the cows and see a missing tag, and can order right on the spot.

We recommend this app, and won't register calves any other way now.

– Brandon Hofer- Ponteix Hutterite Colony, Ponteix, SK

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# BC Branch News



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a good start to the year! First cut is well underway or nearly done for most of us, and corn is in the ground and germinating.

It was great to take in the Okanagan Spring Show this year – the stands were full, and I think everyone would agree that it was a good show with great quality. Congratulations to the North Okanagan Club for hosting a successful event, including Tier 1 Judging and social evening, and to all the exhibitors this year.

I'm looking forward to catching up with all of you at the BC Branch Picnic, which will be held June

27th at WestGen, at the 50th Anniversary of the Vancouver Island Holstein Club show, and at the various Breeders Cups in August. It's shaping up to be another great summer of events.

The National Convention committee had a successful trip to Halifax to officially invite everyone to BC for next year's convention. If you would like a sponsorship package for the event, please reach out to myself or our convention sponsorship committee: Suzanne Cuthbert, Steve Saccomano and Krista Christiuk.

*See you all soon!*



**Thomas Cuthbert**  
President

## NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



It has been an eventful spring. I attended the National Convention in Halifax at the beginning of April. Congratulations to the planning committee. The event activities were all very well attended, the tour buses were all full, 150 head exhibited at the Atlantic Spring Show, Goldenflo and Leighside had a successful Tag Sale, and the Master Breeder Gala highlighted many great accomplishments.

Several resolutions passed during the Annual General Meeting, including a new award recognizing longevity – SUPER 10. Congratulations to the Schrijvers on winning the first award with their cow, MARSFIELD DENZEL KIMMY. Beyond this classification anniversary year, Holstein Canada will continue to recognize breeders that achieve 100 Excellent cows, and further milestones in classification as well.

During the Annual Meeting, the board welcomed Kevin Harvey, representing Ontario, who will fill the vacancy by retiring director Dennis Werry.

Congratulations to Harold Sweetnam (SK/MB) for being named the new Vice-President.

The board is currently building a portfolio as it seeks a new leader, following the departure of Sartaj Sarkaria. As this process moves forward, the board will be integral in hiring for the CEO position, rather than employing a search committee. We are hopeful that the right candidate will be sought out quickly and be the best fit for leading Holstein Canada's membership.

Congratulations to the organizing committee of the Western Dairy Expo in Saskatoon. It was a fantastic event with top-quality cattle exhibited. I'm looking forward to catching up with breeders and producers throughout the summer at Dairy Congress, VI Show, WCC and IPE.

*Hope everyone has a great summer and stays safe in the fields!*



**Brian Hamming**  
National Director



## BC is Excited to Host the National Holstein Convention

**April 15-19, 2026**

**APRIL 15** - Welcome Reception

**APRIL 16** - Farm and Other Tours

**APRIL 17** - National Holstein Show

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

### CHAIRS OF BC CONVENTION COMMITTEE:

Suzanne Cuthbert Morgan Sangster Joan Wikkerink

*Come join one of our committees and make this an experience to remember!*

*For Sponsorship packages and other inquiries: bcbranch@telus.net*

# Plan to attend the Family PICNIC

## Friday June 27 - 10am

Lunch will be served at NOON.

WestGen  
1625 Angus Campbell Road,  
Abbotsford

See You There!

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets.  
Food and drinks provided.

*Lots of fun for the whole family!*



# BC Dairy Association Bulletin Board

## BC Dairy Expands Nutrition Education Across BC Classrooms



From interactive lesson plans to a new digital platform, BC Dairy is helping educators across British Columbia bring nutrition education to life in the classroom. With new resources, record-breaking engagement, and a growing digital presence, BC Dairy is helping educators deliver nutrition education that connects students to where their food comes from – and the role dairy plays in our food system.

### Big Gains in Nutrition Education

This past school year, BC Dairy's classroom programs reached nearly 19,000 students – a 52% increase over the previous year. These engaging, food-focused lessons are designed to help students build positive relationships with food while reinforcing the importance of dairy as part of a balanced diet and our BC food system.

And educators are taking note: Over 740 teachers across the province used BC Dairy's resources in their classrooms this year – a 40% increase from the year before. This growth reflects both the relevance of the content and the trust educators place in BC Dairy as a

leader in food and nutrition education.

### Introducing the BC Dairy Education Hub

To meet the evolving needs of educators, BC Dairy launched the **BC Dairy Education Hub** – a new, easy-to-use online platform that brings all of its classroom-ready resources into one accessible space. Teachers can take professional development workshops, browse lesson plans, and access student activities, all created by registered dietitians and aligned with BC's curriculum.

Designed for flexibility and accessibility, the Hub makes it easier for teachers – whether in urban or rural communities – to integrate food and nutrition education into their classrooms. From early learners exploring new foods to high school students learning about the BC food system, the BC Dairy Education Hub gives educators the tools they need to confidently teach nutrition, with a clear connection to BC agriculture.

### Connecting Nutrition to the Bigger Picture

While the focus of BC Dairy's programs is on food

and nutrition, they also help students make real-world connections – such as understanding where food comes from, including local dairy farms. This context gives students a broader appreciation of their food system.

With a modern approach, strong educator engagement, and a commitment to supporting informed food choices, BC Dairy continues to be a trusted resource for teachers across the province. By investing in classroom learning, BC Dairy is helping the next generation grow into confident, curious eaters – ready to make sense of the food on their plates.

### Want to learn more?

Explore BC Dairy's classroom programs and free educator resources – or share them with a teacher or school in your community – at [bcdairy.ca/school-or-educator](http://bcdairy.ca/school-or-educator).



## Wildfire Season Preparedness

Glen Burgess,  
Emergency Management Specialist,  
BC Dairy



With the start of summer comes the threat of wildfire. On average, BC experiences 1,600 wildfires per year. While the majority of these fires are put out before they threaten people, homes and communities, it is important to be prepared, especially if you live in an area prone to wildfire.

The BC Wildfire Service web site has links to information to help be better prepared. **Plan, prepare, stay informed.**

Additionally, updates on the current wildfire situation are presented via an interactive map or through an app that can be downloaded for your portable device. <https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map>

In general, a wet June weather pattern will tend to indicate a less significant wildfire season.

There are a number of things that can be done around your homes and farms to help reduce the likelihood of wildfire impacting your property.

- Avoid accumulations of flammable materials in and around structures. This includes tree needles, cones, dry grass/weeds, firewood piles, etc.
- If possible, when a wildfire is nearing your property, shut down barn ventilation fans to reduce the chances of burning embers being pulled into barns.

- When replacing roofing materials, look to use fire resistant products.
- Keep eaves troughs clear of flammable materials.
- Ensure haystacks and wood chip piles are away from buildings and can be protected with sprinklers if needed.
- Simple lawn sprinklers strategically placed around your home and on roof tops can significantly reduce the chance of a flying ember igniting a fire on your property.
- Consider non-combustible landscaping materials around your home. Particularly within 1.5 m of structures.

FireSmart BC has a program specifically designed for Farms and Ranches. The **Farm and Ranch Wildfire Preparedness** web site contains information related to the program as well as some helpful tips to improve the fire resiliency of your property. Farm and Ranch Fire Smart Assessments can identify risks on your farm. These assessments ([example](#)) are conducted by

qualified individuals and are eligible for funding support through the **Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program**. This program is one of many available through the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF). If you choose to have an assessment completed, some preparedness and mitigation activities may also be eligible for funding through IAF. Availability of funding and application intake dates for the 2025/26 fiscal year are still awaiting confirmation.

Flying embers in advance of wildfire pose the most significant risk to starting a fire on your property. Managing combustible materials where these can land and ignite in and around your structures will significantly reduce the chance of this occurring.





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

An enthusiastic East Coast welcome greeted Holstein members, Young Leader delegates, and industry representatives from across Canada to the 2025 Holstein Canada National Convention in Halifax, NS, from April 1-6. "Our Doors Are Open" was the theme of this year's enjoyable convention, hosted by the Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Holstein Branches. The well-planned agenda included the Dairy Focus Atlantic Trade Show, area farm tours, the Atlantic Spring Showcase National Show, Young Leader activities, an East Coast Kitchen Party at Canada's Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, the Master Breeder Gala and other events.

#### AGM Reviews the Challenging Year

The 142nd Holstein Canada (HC) Annual General Meeting took place on April 5th. The past year has been challenging for HC. As President Gilles Côté stated, "I became President of the Board of Holstein Canada mid-term, under less than ideal conditions. Extraordinary circumstances have challenged our governance. First and foremost, we must admit when our actions have not always been correct and appropriate and take corrective measures to ensure adherence to our Association's by-laws and proper governance practices." Côté became President in June 2024 after Nancy Beerworts stepped away from her duties as HC President for 2024-25 and Eastern Ontario National Director. Côté said they are "welcoming Nancy back to our Board" and extended sincere regrets to her "for the misunderstandings that created challenges in this aspect of our governance." He told members, "Such circumstances force us to analyze, learn and grow. We are working hard to ensure that such mistakes never happen again." Côté said the Board is committed to assessing the Association's by-laws and policies, while adding Board training and expertise in the governance area moving forward, initiatives which were reinforced in a later Governance Committee report. Côté also thanked Paul Larmer, retired Semex CEO, for his support as Special Advisor to the Board since last October.

Côté assured members that the Board is doing everything they can to manage the impact of the prolonged absence of the Association's current CEO who has been on medical leave since last September. "We understand that this is a source of frustration for members," he said. Because of the high level of confidentiality legally required in these situations, the Board can not say more at this time. He thanked members for their patience, loyalty and for trusting the Board. "We're working hard to find a solution to this challenge," he said. In the absence of the CEO, Linda Markle (Director, Customer & Member Support) and Chris Bartels (Senior Director, Innovation & Business Operations) are sharing the role of Chief Operating Officer. "The work is getting done," Côté told members.

Paul Larmer updated members on HC's "Strategic Plan" for 2026-29. This "roadmap for the future" includes the development and execution of strategies for member engagement, leadership and governance, industry partnership, and research and development, as well as defining who is to be responsible, accountable, consulted and informed about the tasks and its progress. In addition, the work will include governance

# "Doors Open in Halifax"

## 2025 Holstein Canada Annual Meeting & Convention

overview and training and ensuring the leadership structure and "people" policies and processes align with the plan.

These AGM Board reports appeared to answer and address many of the questions and concerns HC members have had about their Association over the past year. Harry Van Der Linden (NS) thanked President Côté for his "courage" in standing in front of the membership to give his report. Logan Leyenhorst (SK) told the Board, "You have battled through challenges, and while I know not everything is done, I think you are doing a great job, and our organization is in great hands." Fred Hofstra (AB) said while the Board has encountered "many speed bumps," he saw a "lot of positivity on the Board. I think we are headed in the right direction," he concluded. These comments drew applause from the over 200 members in attendance.

#### Selected highlights from AGM and Convention

\* HC reported revenue of \$15,823,416, expenses of \$15,431,101 and a surplus of \$869,826 in 2024. There is \$6.3 million in the Reserve Fund. Registrations, transfers and memberships were down last year, while classification and genomic testing activity were flat. HC finances remain "fragile." For 2025, the Board is budgeting revenue at \$16,587,340, expenses of \$16,447,506, and a surplus of \$139,833.



**Lyle Pretty and Shelly Reid of Mil-En-Roy Farms Ltd., White City, SK, were thrilled to accept their farm's second Master Breeder award at the Holstein Canada National Convention in Nova Scotia in April.**

\* HC signed a new agreement with Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) for the proAction® program in 2024. Members were updated on HC's web enhancements, regionalization plans for the classification program, its work with the Canadian Angus Association to use new tools to evaluate animal traits, efforts to improve the genetic abnormality reporting system, and the launch of Canada's international classification platform, ConneXXion International, in Australia. The Board said more will be done to ensure the



**Janice and Steve Frueh of Frueh Farms Ltd., Duncan, BC, were honoured to receive their second Master Breeder Shield at the recent Holstein Canada National Convention in Nova Scotia. Travelling with them to Halifax for the celebration were grandsons Eddie Frueh (left) and Cohen Frueh (right).**



**Joan Wikkerink (left) and Suzanne Cuthbert, two of the three co-chairs for the 2026 Holstein Canada National Convention, were in Halifax, NS, to invite everyone to attend next year's National Convention when it is held in British Columbia from April 15-19.**

bilingual nature of the National Association is respected and there will be more interaction with Branches going forward.

\* President Côté said Canadian dairy producers and its supply management system face huge challenges as a result of US President Trump's administration. "Let's stand together, support DFC and keep our elbows up!" David Wiens, DFC President, said "unity" will be essential for Canadian dairy farmers amongst the "uncertainty and instability" of future trade talks. While Canada's political parties have pledged support for supply management, Wiens said it was essential that "supply management remain off the table in future discussions" related to CUSMA.

\* President Côté congratulated the 111 herds that have bred over 100 Excellent cows as HC marks the 100th anniversary of its Type Classification program. The Board has approved plans to continue recognition of these herds in future. Michael Lovich of Lovholm Holsteins (SK) was presented with his certificate for breeding over 100 EX cows with the Lovhill prefix and thanked for his part in alerting the Association to a system glitch used in identifying the herds that had reached this milestone.

\* Members approved 19 of 24 resolutions

at the meeting. Among them: 1) a request that HC reinstate the insurance coverage previously provided for directors/officers in the Western and Eastern Canada Branches and/or present options for similar insurance; 2) that HC offer an option to record birth/calving information for single white tag activations in DairyTrace so it may be linked to a producer's active cow list; 3) that HC work to ensure "all classifiable first lactation cows" and "all animals in suitable condition" are presented for classification; 4) that data collection and research efforts on "crampiness" continue and genetic proofs for "crampiness" be improved; 5) that an abbreviation be added in the extended pedigree header to highlight cows with Superior Production; 6) that HC stand up against regulations banning the existence or building of tie-stall facilities; 7) that HC create an "unbiased formula" to determine the "Cow of the Year" winner; and 8) a new award be created to recognize cows with over 100,000 kg lifetime production, an EX score and at least one Brood Star. Among the resolutions defeated was a request that HC Directors must hold milk quota to be on the Board.

\* ROTALY GOLDWYN ALLEGRIA EX-96-5E-5\* won the 2024 Cow of the Year award for breeders and owners Rock Hebert

& Nathalie Dumais, Sainte-Hélène-de-Kamouraska, QC.

\* Some 325 people attended the Master Breeder Gala where 19 farms were presented with Master Breeder Shields by President Côté and Linda Markle. The elated winners included Frueh Farms Ltd., Duncan, BC, and Mil-En-Roy Farms Ltd., White City, SK.

\* Suzanne Cuthbert and Joan Wikkerink, two of the three chairs for next year's Convention, invited Holstein members to come and enjoy the "Spirit of the West" at the 2026 National Holstein Convention when it

is held in British Columbia from April 15-19.

\* The Atlantic Spring Showcase National Show attracted 142 head for the appraisal of Judge Pat Lundy, Granville, NY, when it was at the Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Grounds, Bible Hill, NS, on April 4th. Clinching Grand Champion honours was WOODMANSEES HARRIS JORA EX-94-5E, the almost 10-year-old Mature Cow owned by East River Farms (PE).

\* Gilles Côté of Ferme Lacnor Inc. (prefix Jeanri), Saint-Bruno-Lac-Saint-Jean, QC, was re-elected HC President for another



**The Atlantic Spring Showcase National Show champion cows. From left: WOODMANSEES HARRIS JORA, first Mature Cow and Grand Champion for East River Farms (PE); WEEKSDALE UNIX TIKTOK, first Senior 3-Year-Old and Reserve Grand Champion from Weeksdale Holsteins (PE) & Sweetview Holstein (QC); and WEEKSDALE UNIX KHLOE, first Junior 3-Year-Old, Intermediate Champion and Honourable Mention Grand Champion for Elmer Weeks (PE).**

**Elected to Holstein Canada's Executive Committee for 2025-26 are, from left: Harold Sweetnam (MB) as Vice-President; Gilles Côté (QC) as President; and Benoit Turmel (QC) as the third member of the Executive.**



Photo by Bruce Sargent of Farm Boy Productions

year at a Board of Directors meeting following the AGM. Newly elected as Vice-President is Harold Sweetnam of Sweetridge Holsteins, Stanley, MB, and newly named as the third member of the Executive Committee is Benoit Turmel of Beaucoise Holstein, Sainte-Marie, QC. Just prior to the AGM, Western Ontario National Director Doug Peart stepped down from the Board. HC and the Ontario Branch have mutually agreed to appoint Mel McLean,

Eastern Ontario National Director, to serve the remaining year of Peart's term with a new Western Ontario Director elected at the regularly scheduled time in 2026. President Côté thanked National Directors Dennis Werry (ON), who elected not to run for re-election this year, Angus Mackinnon (QC), who left the Board last July, and Doug Peart for their service. Kevin Harvey of Harvdale Holsteins, Stayner, ON, is the new Central/Northern Ontario National Director. 

## ★ Holstein Canada Announces First SUPER 10 Award ★

Holstein Canada is proud to announce a historic milestone in dairy cattle performance with the awarding of the very first SUPER 10 recognition. The SUPER recognition program celebrates elite cows that have consistently achieved SUPERIOR PRODUCTION over multiple consecutive lactations.

The inaugural recipient of the SUPER 10 title is MARSFIELD DENZEL KIMMY EX-93 8E 5\*. Born on April 9, 2011, Kimmy has completed 10 consecutive lactations, each meeting the rigorous production thresholds required to qualify for

Holstein Canada's SUPERIOR PRODUCTION recognition level. Over her career, she has produced an impressive 186,225 kg of milk, averaging 4.6% fat and 3.3% protein – a remarkable achievement that reflects both her genetic merit and excellent management.

Kimmy is proudly owned by Gert and Sonja Schrijver of Stettler, AB. Their dedication to herd management and long-term performance has made this extraordinary achievement possible.



## How are you using the DairyTrace Mobile App?

Report traceability events on-the-go with the DairyTrace app. **No internet connection? No problem!** Enter event reports and the app will automatically sync them when you have a connection.

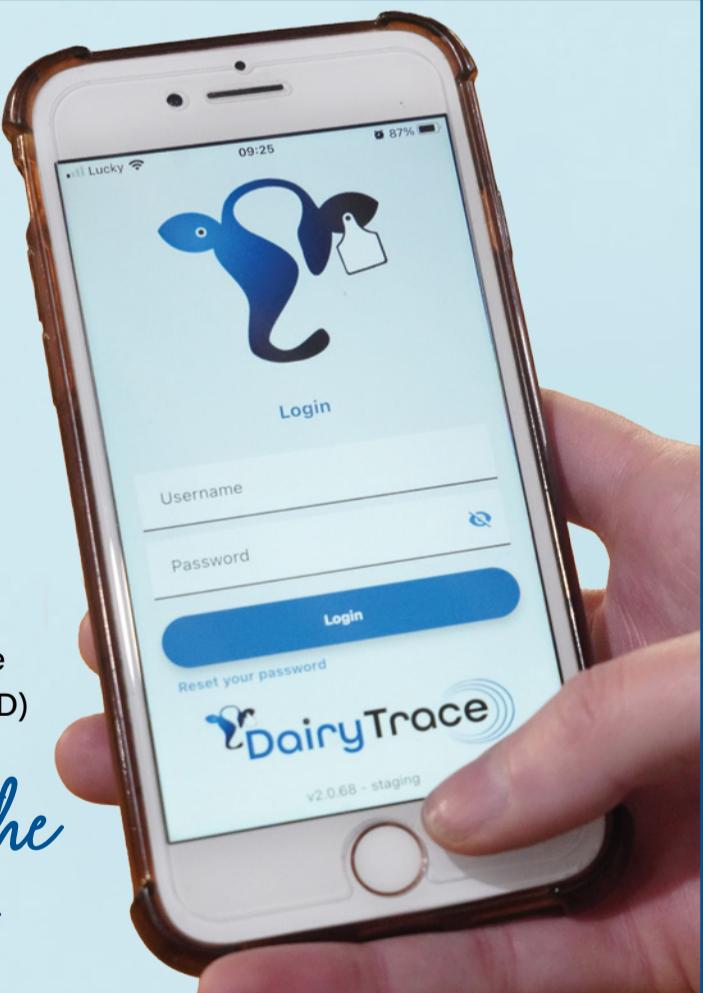
**Reporting movements?** The app even links to your address book in the DairyTrace Portal, making reporting easier when you save premises identification numbers (PID) for future movement reporting.

**Gerrit Damsteegt, Boundary Lane Farms, Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia**



“The thing that works very well for us is reporting traceability events using the DairyTrace app...you can report anywhere, anytime you want.”

download the app here



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# Mistaking Taxes for Trade-Offs



**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.

Don't worry, this Kinder Ground connection is not about politics, it's about how we think about sustainability. I am a "big bucket thinker," and admit sustainability is a bucket too big for me to put into context. Is it the soil? Air? Your business? The health and welfare of your cows? Water?

**YES. All the above.**

In the simplest of terms, to be **sustainable** we must strike a balance – optimizing the health of the planet, our businesses and the animals we all benefit from. Finding a balance means we accept making trade-offs. Keeping the balance means making sure trade-offs don't become a tax.

## Stocking Rates - Making Trade-offs or Paying Taxes?

Every system has trade-offs. Free-stall barns allow us to manage bedding, feed, climate, breeding and manure efficiently. The trade-off is that cows spend most of their life, sometimes their entire life, on concrete. Bedded packs are great for many reasons, but they too require tradeoffs. We trade the investment of time managing the pack for bedding for cow comfort. There are many trade-offs made in managing dairy cattle, but the one management decision that always becomes a tax is **overcrowding**. When we overstock, any immediate or short-term benefit is overshadowed by negative impacts that build over months to years. This is because overstocking isn't just about lying space. It is about rest, feeding space, access to water, and competition for all of it. Let's take a closer look at the taxes paid when we overstock. First, let's align on a definition.

**Anything fewer than one functional, well-bedded, comfortable stall per cow is overstocking.** On pasture or bedded packs (depending on several factors) we should aim for 10.2m<sup>2</sup> or more per cow. The Canadian Code of Practice allows for 9.3m<sup>2</sup> **minimum** per cow.

## From heat stress to hygiene - overstocking compounds imbedded tradeoffs into taxes.

Overstocking taxes milk quality, cow comfort and reproduction. Let's take a closer look at the impacts of overstocking on competition as this tax is one that sneaks up on us long after the short-term benefits of overcrowding are realized.

## Competition and Hoof Consequences

If you read our last connection, you will remember that

## Hidden Taxes of Overstocking

There are many trade-offs made in managing dairy cattle, but the one management decision that always becomes a tax is overstocking. When we overstock, any immediate or short-term benefit is overshadowed by negative impacts that build over months to years.

Milk Quality	Alley area is reduced, more cows, more manure poorer hygiene.	Somatic cell counts rise, treatment cost rise, milk is lost; feed is sorted impacting production and components	Every 1% increase in stocking rate reduces milk 2.6-2.9 kg per cow per day
Cow Comfort	Longer milking times, more standing time, lying times are reduced and interrupted	Competition for resources, feed, water, rest	Results in permanent changes to the foot, increases forced culling and lameness, decreased milk of 1.4 kg/day
Reproduction	Creates more heat and moisture, interferes with air exchanges creates more heat stress	Transition and calf pens overcrowded, increase stress at calving and post calving disease for	Every 1% increase in stocking rate reduces conception by 0.1%

TAXES INCREASE OVER TIME

competition for resources, whether it is bunk space, water troughs, or lying space results in permanent damage to a cow's feet. When cows are forced to stretch, push, shove, and reach for stalls, food, and water, it causes them to put unnatural pressure on structures inside the hoof. This results in a permanent rotation to the bone in their feet that shows up as a rotated hoof wall, commonly referred to as "reverse corkscrew." This means overcrowding and competition matter everywhere, at the feed bunk and in our young stock. The corkscrew problem appears to be

worse when heifers are raised on recycled sand and made even worse by limit feeding. Well-managed herds taxing their heifers with overstocking, limit feeding or bedding on recycled sand have seen more than 50% of their heifers enter the lactating herd **irreversibly damaged and severely lame**. That is not the kind of heifer pressure we want to see, and it doesn't have to be.

Our summer challenge to you: take a walk and ask, "What hidden taxes are my cows paying?" When it comes to striking a balance in the health and welfare of your cows, your business and the planet, we need to make sure we don't mistake necessary trade-offs with harmful taxes. Walk your barn, invite your veterinarian and take a look at the world from your cows' perspective. When you see a potential tax your cows will have to pay, let's make sure it's "elbows up!" when it comes to protecting cow comfort.

For more information on housing and hoof health, check out the resources at <https://thedadairylandinitiative.vetmed.wisc.edu/> at the University of Wisconsin.

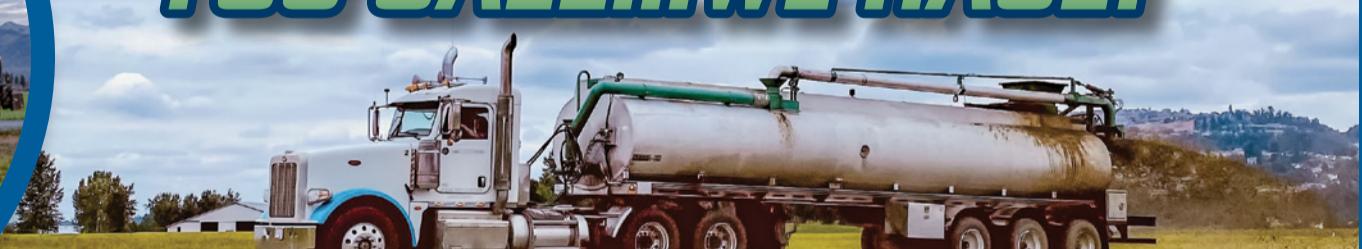


**Competition leads to reverse corkscrew - the result of pressures that deform the inner claw when the cow is straining abnormally.**



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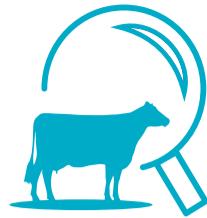
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# ADVANCING LEUKOSIS MANAGEMENT

## NEW TESTING AND AN INTEGRATED SOLUTION

By Elouise Molgat, D.M.V., Karol Gilberto Solano Suarez Ph.D., and Simon Dufour, Lactanet Canada

Bovine leukosis is an incurable disease affecting the health, productivity and profitability of dairies. A cow infected with the bovine leukosis virus generates an average of \$635 per year less than an uninfected cow (Kuczewski et al., 2019). About 90% of Canadian herds have at least one infected cow, but many herds actually have a significant proportion of infected cattle (Kuczewski et al., 2019; Nekouei et al., 2015).

Given the large number of herds affected and the impact of this disease, it is crucial to implement screening and control measures. The goal is to gradually reduce the presence of this disease in Canadian herds - an ambitious and necessary project for the prosperity of the dairy industry.

One of the first steps is to identify the infected animals in the herd in order to, for example, isolate or cull them as they pose a risk to healthy animals.

### A new leukosis test

In collaboration with the Chair in Biosecurity at the Université de Montréal's Faculté de médecine vétérinaire, Lactanet has introduced a new test for the detection of leukosis in individual cows.

This test, now the standard leukosis offering at Lactanet, uses ELISA technology to detect antibodies against the bovine leukemia virus (BLV), which tells us if a cow has been exposed to the virus. Since the disease cannot be cured, a cow with a positive ELISA test is considered to be actively, chronically infected.

During its validation, this new ELISA test was compared to other available leukosis tests (qPCR and lymphocyte count on blood samples). The results of this comparison demonstrate that the ELISA test is very efficient and reliable, with a better ability to detect positive cows, and confirm negative cows equivalent to that of other tests. The interpretation of the test has been optimized to further maximize its ability to detect negative cows.

It is important to understand that screening tests are not perfect. This is partly due to the dynamic nature of diseases, meaning that a disease develops over time and in a slightly different manner in each animal. That is why we validate and optimize the tests offered at Lactanet, and for their intended use (milk screening). As tests evolve, we will continue to improve, revalidate and adjust to ensure their effectiveness and reliability.

The Lactanet Leukosis reports have been redesigned to be more than just a regular health test, but rather a comprehensive management and decision support tool.

Leukosis detection		Individual testing												
NAME	HERD NUMBER	PAGE	TEST DATE	SAMPLE COLLECTION DATE										
VETERINARIAN														
Consult your veterinarian for result interpretation and to determine any appropriate action.														
Registration # / NLID		Cow Name		Chain #	Test Results	Test Day Date	305 M 30 mm Score	Lact #	Days in Milk	SCC	Adult or Prog.	Reproduction	Health Test History (Latest)	
<b>Positive</b>		January		002083	05-07	3.29	4	306	21	13093	114	202	2	Neg
1240000		Rivera		002096	05-09	3.16	4	289	345	11787	100	214	1	Neg
1240000		Bobbie		002356	02-09	2.12	1	275	64	7915	87	219	1	Neg
1240000		Apple		001912	07-09	1.83	6	253	1173	10266	82	195	1	Neg
1240000		Cindy		002402	02-00	1.79	1	28	56	12702	98	0	0	Neg
1240000		Jesse		002401	02-00	1.39	1	37	55	11090	98	0	0	Neg
1240000		Dora		002410	01-11	1.27	1	26	214	12712	98	0	0	Neg
1240000		Skyler		002264	03-09	1.07	2	304	40	12787	109	196	3	Neg
<b>Negative</b>		Caberne		002417	01-10	.15	1	11	52	7614	98	0	0	Neg
1240000		Bily		002380	02-05	.10	1	264	137	9102	98	210	1	Neg
1240000		Tanya		002412	01-11	.10	1	42	284	6853	98	0	0	Neg
1240000		Arkansa		002320	03-00	.04	1	339	70	9504	101	222	2	Neg
1240000		Saskia		002265	03-09	.03	2	291	19	12742	107	211	1	Neg
1240000		Sandra		002416	01-10	.01	1	12	62	6668	98	0	0	Neg
1240000		Elani		002193	04-06	.01	3	265	48	12287	104	221	1	Neg
1240000		Beth		002353	02-09	.01	1	276	17	8948	93	206	1	Neg
1240000		Rowi		002272	02-07	.00	1	290	1194	8593	88	194	1	Neg
1240000		Spirniki		002370	02-07	.00	1	280	38	9611	89	219	1	Neg
1240000		Leilani		002192	04-07	.00	3	275	33	11939	85	198	1	Neg
1240000		Randy		002407	02-00	.00	1	40	17	10864	98	0	0	Neg

#### Important change

A single interpretation threshold, with only two possible interpretations of the results: either negative or positive. Cattle will no longer be marked as "suspect".

#### References

Kuczewski, A., Hogeweij, H., Orsel, K., Wolf, R., Thompson, J., Spackman, E., & van der Meer, F. (2019). Economic evaluation of 4 bovine leukemia virus control strategies for Alberta dairy farms. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 102(3), 2578-2592. <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2018-15341>

Nekouei, O., VanLeeuwen, J., Sanchez, J., Kelton, D., Tiwari, A., & Keefe, G. (2015). Herd-level risk factors for infection with bovine leukemia virus in Canadian dairy herds. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, 119(3-4), 105-113. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2015.02.025>

### The phenomenon of carryover in milk recording samples

To fully validate this new test, residual milk was evaluated to avoid the risk of obtaining a false positive due to the contamination of the milk sample by the previously milked cow. Milk carryover from one positive cow to the next cow in the milking order can affect test results, contaminate the sample, and affect the milk recording test results. To clarify, this situation cannot occur when the sample is taken manually.

In the worst-case scenario, if the transfer of residual milk is not well-controlled during milk recording, the test will be less accurate when a healthy cow is milked right after an infected cow. This loss of accuracy leads to an increased risk of false-positive results, which are healthy cows that will be falsely identified as positive by the test.

#### Benefits of the new ELISA test

- Improved screening: maximized detection of negative cows and very good ability to detect infected cows, in addition to having minimized false-positive results.
- Practical use: no inconclusive (or "suspect") results that leave uncertainty and make it difficult to manage and make decisions.

To avoid false positives in leukosis screening results, here are some recommended best practices:

- Control of residual milk: Optimize sampling and milking equipment to reduce residual milk after each milking and to avoid contamination between samples. Consult your equipment dealer and your Lactanet technician for further advice.
- Sampling order: Whenever possible, sample cows starting with those that are least likely to be infected (young cows) to those that are most likely to be infected (known positive status, older cows, clinical suspicions, etc.).
- Confirmation with a manually collected milk sample (hand-strip): Before taking any action for a cow that has tested positive (such as culling), confirm her status with a milk sample collected manually and send it along with your next test, or use one of the other available tests.
- Integrated approach to manage positive cows: Use Lactanet's new leukosis reports to make informed decisions.

#### Conclusion

In summary, Lactanet's Leukosis Individual Cow Test offers a comprehensive solution for leukosis detection and management. This test is reliable and integrates milk recording data to facilitate decision-making and improve the health and productivity of dairy herds. It is a practical, effective, and affordable approach, but above all, it is a unique and innovative Lactanet solution.

Lactanet's Leukosis test is designed to be a screening tool used to detect the disease and monitor its evolution in herds. As with other herd tests offered at Lactanet, a Herd Summary Report has been developed to monitor the herd's history and status over time.

LEUKOSIS REPORT		Herd Summary											
NAME	HERD NUMBER	PAGE	TEST DATE	SAMPLE COLLECTION DATE									
VETERINARIAN													
Interpretation of individual animal results should be made in consultation with the herd veterinarian, test may occasionally give false positives or false negatives. Please note that the test is not a diagnostic test for bovine leukosis virus infection. Please note that we sometimes must change testing materials and/or methods, and validate these to ensure uniformity of results. Please note that milk carryover from one positive cow to the next cow in the milking order can affect test results. Antibodies in the residual milk carried over could be sufficient to cause false positive results. Ensure appropriate sample collection procedure, and optimize sampling equipment and milking system to reduce the residual milk volume after each milking. Recording the milking order at the time of sampling can be useful in sorting out potential milk carryover cases.													
HERD SUMMARY													
RESULTS INTERPRETATION													
Test Date	Total Samples	Samples Tested for	Positive Samples	% Positive of Samples	ELISA Score	Explanation	Effective date: 03 Aug 2024						
17 Sep 2024	157	23	8	35		Positive	Very Likely						
05 Jul 2024	156	17	4	24									
29 May 2024	156	13	2	15									
24 Apr 2024	166	7	1	14									
15 Mar 2024	169	13	1	8									
22 Jan 2024	166	15	3	20									
11 Dec 2023	161	23	1	4									
25 Oct 2023	150	12	0	0									
20 Sep 2023	157	39	14	36									
15 Aug 2023	135	20	4	20									
11 Jul 2023	154	11	2	18									
06 Jun 2023	161	17	1	6									
24 Apr 2023	145	5	2	40									
16 Mar 2023	156	46	5	11									
20 Oct 2022	154	13	4	31									
16 Aug 2022	147	3	0	0									

LEUKOSIS TEST RESULTS BY AGE

#### Integrated screening

Lactanet's Cow Summary Report has recently been transformed to incorporate milk recording and health test data. The enhanced version not only displays test results, but also assesses the impact of BLV on the productivity and health of cows that test positive. This integrated approach assists with management decisions based on the animals overall performance, rather than just a single test result.

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■ JAN BIERMA ■ HAN HOPMAN



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Looking back, Startmore Rudolph has truly met all expectations. And they were high, in fact. When he first became available in 1992 as a young sire, Canadian dairy farmers did not know how quickly they should use

nine in all) in the Holstein breed. Significant in the long career of Rudolph – he became no less than fifteen years old, remarkable for such an intensely used AI bull – is the fact that since 2000, fitness traits started playing

#### MISSY/ZIP

As already stated in the title of this story: Rudolph did not only provide a lot of daughters, but also a remarkably high percentage of daughters that played an extraordinary role as brood cow. Likely the most influential of all Rudolph daughters is the American Wesswood-HC Rudy Missy, born in 1997. Deserving of mention is that she was actually supposed to be a bull, because Missy was born from the AI-contracted Elton daughter Mimi. But: the question remains as to what

would have been most favourable for the Holstein breed. After all, as a brood cow, Missy attained stupendous influence – here we limit ourselves to mentioning the extremely influential transmitters Mogul, Supersire, Silver and Balisto – all Missy descendants. In HI's global Cow Family Competition in 2021, Rudy Missy became an honourable third – behind the unbeatable legends Della and Laurie Sheik, but ahead of Roxy!

The British brood cow Woodmarsh Rudolph Lyme 5 EX-92 (out of a Prelude dam), in terms of frame, strongly resembles her sire Rudolph. She became the dam of two bulls: Woodmarsh Topshot and Lotto.

Article published by:

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him. His supply of young sire semen was sold in no time flat. (Rudolph originates from an era when young bulls were first sampled before they became widely available. For the sampling period, usually 1,000 doses were made available – next they waited for the daughters to come into production to evaluate the bull.) As a young test bull, there was a lot of interest in Rudolph since he originated from a virtually royal Canadian family, chock full of splendidly performing brood cows. As such, the confidence of Canadian breeders in Rudolph was iron strong: earlier they had seen this family provide bulls like Startmore Supreme, Cutlass, and Sterling. What they did not know at the time was that precisely with Rudolph, they had selected the very best bull from this family. That became evident in August 1996, when Rudolph made his progeny proven debut and instantly captured the lead on the Canadian LPI ranking. From that moment on, the Aerostar son became popular. Extremely popular. Not only did he surpass one million doses sold, his total sales came unbelievably close to 1.5 million. Rudolph ended up with 1,495,000 doses sold, and thus almost became one of the very rare "supermillionaires" (just

a significant role. Also on that front, Rudolph turned out to exhibit notable quality, so that he was used as a longevity transmitter for an extended period.



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Rudolph daughter Missy is the first in a long row of powerful brood cows, with some being mentioned in the introduction of this story. There are literally too many to mention. From this impressive list, we also want to highlight Windsor-Manor Rud Zip, a truly powerful Rudolph daughter, classified EX-95. Just like Missy, she can frequently be found back as the foundation cow behind promising young DNA sires. At the same time, she is the foundation cow behind the much talked about Global Cow 2018: Miss OCD Robt Delicious. She was the dam of impactful transmitters like Delta, Dynamo, Draco, and many others. In the list of high-ranking Rudolph daughters in our introduction, likely the names Elaine and Nikki don't say a lot to you, but: respectively, they are the dam of the German elite bull Mascol and the third dam behind the elite Italian-Canadian bull Numero Uno.

#### RAMOS

Yes, we could talk for hours yet about the breeding strength of Rudolph daughters. Often it is the case with bulls like this that they are less successful as sires of sons. Indeed, it must be said that Rudolph was certainly not the world's most successful sire of sons. However, he did provide one truly important son: the German bull Ramos, who garnered tremendous influence world-wide. He was featured recently in an HI article (01/2025). His direct descendants include Delta Atlantic, Larcrest Crimson, Coyne-Farms Jelly and Clear-Echo Ramo 1199 & 1200. Their influence reaches to bulls like Bookem, McCutchen, Charley, and Gymnast – much more about them in our January issue. Besides Ramos, Rudolph has a number of other well-known sons. The popular Italian Fantasy Britt Gap became the sire of the very popular longevity transmitter New-Farm Britt Prince – thus following in the footsteps of grandsire Rudolph. Then, of course, there is the Rudolph son Calbrett-I Champion, from whom more than one million doses of



Startmore Rudolph, born in 1991, enjoyed a long career. He became fifteen years old and was able to reach nearly 1.5 million doses sold. At seven years of age, Rudolph classified EX. This picture was taken when he was fifteen years old.

semen were sold, and who became the sire of Regancrest Cinderella, the dam of Regancrest Chassity (Global Cow 2011 and the dam of Gold Chip), Celebrity, and Cashmere. Other well-known Rudolph sons are Mr Millennium, De-Matt Teamster, Timmlyn Adam, and Windsor-Manor Machoman (no, not related to herdmate Zip).

#### ASTRONAUT

Madawaska Aerostar was the Starbuck son who was line bred on Elevation. Of all of the Starbuck sons, he became one of the most used sires of sons. Of them – on the TPI base – Rudolph is the best son. That will not surprise anyone, given the enormous impact that he was able to generate on the female, but also on the male side. Rudolph became a true superstar – and nearly a super-millionaire. So

they were right after all, all those Canadian dairy farmers, who in 1992 ensured that Rudolph's supply of young sire semen was used up in record time. And the breeders of Rudolph, Earl Start and son David, were also right when during a purchase trip to the American state of New York in 1976, they "could not keep their eyes off" of the splendid four-year-old Paclamar Astronaut daughter Jim-Mar-D Astronaut Gail. The Starts had decided to transition from Guernseys to Holsteins, and wanted to acquire outstanding foundation material for their new herd at Woodstock (Ontario, Canada). With Gail, that mission was tremendously successful. At four years of age already, she scored EX in Canada and in seven lactations reached 68,157 kg/149,945 lb 4.57%F – take note, during the 1970s. But even more significant: she herself,

**Table – Countries with the most Rudolph daughters**

COUNTRY	#
Canada	62,658
Spain	21,777
Germany	21,027
US	16,589
Great Britain	16,318
Japan	11,482
France	9,532
Italy	7,880
Netherlands	6,662
Scandinavia	3,506

her daughters, and granddaughters became successful brood cows who provided popular bulls like Startmore Cutlass, Sterling, and Supreme. And to top it off, of course, the elite bull Startmore Rudolph. Permanently and intensely interwoven into the pedigrees of the Holstein breed. •

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## DFC's Greenhouse Gas Calculator Pilot Project

### DFC Staff

Many Canadian dairy farmers want to measure their carbon footprints to learn how they can take practical individual action towards a more sustainable sector. To this end, Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) and the provincial associations were proud to launch a pilot project to test an on-farm greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculator in late autumn of 2024.

### Introducing the Cool Farm Tool

The pilot project will determine whether this specific calculator, called the Cool Farm Tool (CFT)

- will provide accurate measurements within the Canadian dairy landscape,
- paint an accurate picture of our sector's sustainability,
- and assess its ease of use.

### How Can the Cool Farm Tool Help?

The CFT is designed to help measure a farm's carbon footprint, provide farmers with data, and help them customize environmental plans and increase efficiencies. Creating a baseline can help farmers reduce emissions and support the dairy industry's path to net zero.

### The Pilot Project Plan

Forty farms across Canada volunteered to test this tool, with data and feedback being collected until June 2025. These participants are benefitting from the knowledge of CFT-certified advisors for ongoing technical support, assessment completion, and advice on how to turn results into a continuity plan that promotes the implementation of best management practices. Farmers will then evaluate their complete experience, including the CFT's usefulness and ease of use.

### The Goal of the CFT Pilot Project

This pilot project will determine if the CFT provides accurate insights for Canadian dairy farmers; for instance, understanding where energy and transport emissions are highest can help farmers improve efficiencies and lower costs. The data from the project will then be compared to DFC's 2021 Life Cycle Assessment results to determine if Cool Farm Tool can support national sustainability reporting, and the results will be used to help farmers identify the most significant areas of on-farm emissions contributions.

While the pilot project's focus is on carbon footprints, farmers can also use the CFT to voluntarily explore other desired sustainability projects, including identifying 'hotspots' and mitigating risks beyond GHGs, such as water conservation and soil health.

The CFT Pilot Project will hopefully help the dairy industry establish a baseline of GHGs while supporting the systematic approach to managing the carbon footprint for a more sustainable future.

DFC looks forward to updating farmers on the progress of this project.

This pilot project has been made possible through Agriculture and Agri-food Canada funding via the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. For more information on DFC's sustainability efforts, please visit [dairyfarmersofcanada.ca/sustainability](http://dairyfarmersofcanada.ca/sustainability).



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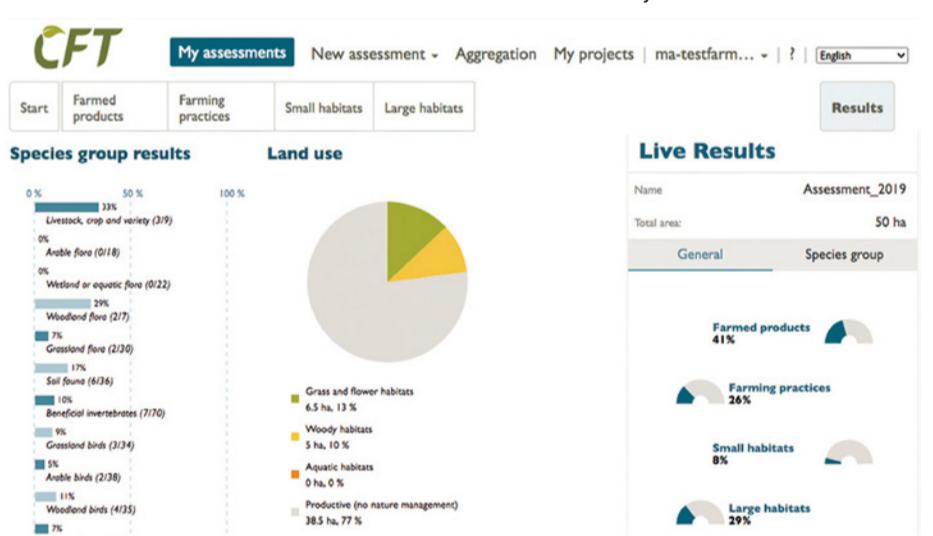
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# Meet Your Dairy Association Board Chair

## Miriam Sweetnam

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12) Concluding our series, we've put the leaders of our four provincial dairy associations in the spotlight. While you might be familiar with the leader in your own province, here's your chance to learn a bit about the others. Beyond their boardroom roles, they are hands-on farmers, balancing innovation with tradition while managing their dairies and family life.

### Amanda Poelman

Moving from their small farm in Ireland, Miriam, her husband Harold, and their two children – Mark and Tara – packed everything they owned into a 40-foot container to start fresh in Manitoba in 2000. "Access to quota was limited and there was no room to grow," says Miriam, who knew that if she and Harold wanted opportunities for their children to farm, relocation was necessary.

After their emigration, the Sweetnams started Sweetridge Farms, a 100-cow dairy in La Broquerie, MB. Unfortunately, a devastating fire in 2006 forced them to pack up and start over again, this time in Winkler, 90 minutes southwest of Winnipeg.

Their 380-head Holstein and Jersey herd is milked 3X in a double-12 parlour. The family grows forage on 1250 acres of land that they crop themselves. While Miriam has moved out of her regular role in the parlour, she still manages all the paperwork, including proAction and registrations.

### Board Involvement

Miriam's involvement in the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba board was not immediate. "It took a couple tries to get on the board as someone new, relatively unknown and female," she says. Miriam took over the remaining one-year term for a retiring board member and thought she'd "give it a year" to see how things went. "I knew I wanted to be a part of the board – I was extremely conscious of people sitting in an office and making decisions for people on the farm – I'd seen that firsthand in Ireland," Miriam says, driven by her desire to improve the dairy industry, while also keeping it practical amidst new regulations.

Miriam has now been on the board for nine years, becoming its first female chairperson in December 2024. During her tenure, she has held several roles and currently represents Dairy Farmers of Manitoba at Dairy Innovation West (DIW) and the Western Milk Pool (WMP).

Recently, Miriam completed her term as chair of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar advisory committee. A teacher by trade, she enjoyed being part of WCDS, which provides its attendees educational and knowledge transfer opportunities. Miriam also spent seven years as the chair of Manitoba's WCC committee.

### Highlights and Challenges

One of the biggest highlights has been meeting farmers from coast to coast. "Seeking to understand the realities in each region and finding common ground between us is so important," she says. Miriam also credits her involvement on the DIW board as a highlight, saying, "The concept started on the back of a napkin by a group of people who realized the need for processing and transportation savings in the West. It's been a privilege to be a part of that board!" With DIW set to open this summer, Miriam believes that the concentration facility will be a "game changer" for Western Canadian producers.

Despite her love of board work, Miriam says that one of the biggest challenges

is travel. "We live two hours from the airport and the weather is not always good! It usually means an extra night, or arriving home at 2am," quick to credit her family and 'Team Sweetridge' for their ongoing support.

### Issues Facing Manitoba Producers

The uncertain trade situation concerns Manitoba producers, especially since they have no control over it. Beyond that, producers are working on solutions to fill the forecasted growth coming to the province over the next several years. "This is a challenge, but not necessarily a bad one," she says. "Each farm is different, and while some will be able to capture the growth, others will not." Miriam appreciates the

energy that producers bring to meetings, stating, "Producers want to be assured of the growth before committing financially."

### Looking Ahead

Although Miriam's term as chair will be up for re-election in December, she is looking at the big picture. "In the P10 we are trying to move towards sharing costs, risks, and making it equitable across the country." Hoping to help change that narrative on the national level, Miriam believes that having the pools all working together is a win-win situation and exceptionally good for growth across the country. "It's a slow process that started with strategic planning in the west."



Miriam Sweetnam farms with her husband and two children just outside of Winkler, MB.

### Beyond the Boardroom and the Barn

Coming to Canada with two small children, Miriam says, "I didn't have much free time then or now!" She speaks candidly of the work she and Harold did together to improve their farm. "We were set back quite a few years after the fire, but our goal has always been to provide the next generation with the opportunity to farm."

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# North Okanagan Spring Show

Amanda Poelman

The Western Canadian show season kicked off with the North Okanagan Holstein Club Spring Show, held in Armstrong, BC, on April 11th and 12th. With just over 80 head entered, there was an excited buzz around the barn that was reminiscent of the Okanagan shows of years past. The two-day event began on Friday with a Tier 1 Judging school hosted by the BC Holstein Branch. With over 25 participants, seven new names were identified and added to the 'Aspiring Judges' list: Lorene Barnum, Bryan

Hoeppner, Kenny McRae, Lorna McRae, Mike Podschadly, Martin Rypma, and Kyle Vaandrager. The day was capped off by a well-attended evening social, hosted by the sponsors of the North Okanagan Holstein Club, which brought over 100 local dairy enthusiasts out to enjoy a great meal.

Jonathan Rylaarsdam (Delcreek Holsteins) of Ontario, made his first visit to BC to judge this year's show. Supremely impressed with the quality of cattle on display as well as the natural beauty of the sunny Okanagan, Jon

said, "I hope this is not my last trip out here – what a beautiful place and what a great show we've had today!" Expertly sorting through the participants in front of a large audience, and even donning a fancy red cape to judge the Super Cow class, Jon found his eventual Grand Champion, SUNNINGHILL TS LAURA, in the Senior 3-Year Old class. Bred by the de Dood and Hamming families, Laura was purchased by T&L Cattle and Joel Phoenix during the show.



**Jersey Junior Champions:** (L-R) Judge Jonathan Rylaarsdam, Gina Haambuckers with SUNNY HILL JORDAN DISAPPEAR, Honourable Mention; Allyson McAvoy with STARRCREST BLACK WYTCH, Reserve; Mike Podschadly with PACIFIC CREST JORDAN SNEAKERS, Champion.



**Holstein Junior Champions:** (L-R) Brian Goertzen, Judge Jonathan Rylaarsdam, Kyle Vaandrager with LAVENDER LAMBDA PIRANHA, Honourable Mention; Megan Baars with HAMMING BULLSEYE SISSEY, Reserve; Joel Phoenix with CRESTOMERE MASTER DEVISE, Champion; Tom DeGroot and Brian Hamming.



**Intermediate Champions:** (L-R) Judge Jonathan Rylaarsdam, Kenny McRae with SUNNINGHILL TS LAURA, Champion; Brian Goertzen with HAMMING MASTER BOSS BABY, Reserve; Kyle Vaandrager with LAVENDER FRIGHTENING DESTINY, Honourable Mention; Albert Streutker (ringman).



The McAvoys of Starrcrest Jerseys claimed both Premier Breeder and Exhibitor of the Jersey show. (L-R) Kirsty with STARRCREST VICTORIOUS FIG NEWTON; Allyson with STARRCREST WEBCAM TWITCH; Jim with STARRCREST CANADIAN CLUB JIGSAW.



**Jersey Grand Champions:** (L-R) Judge Jonathan Rylaarsdam, Ridley Wikkerink with SHOESTRING KINGSTON SUPER B, Honourable Mention; Allyson McAvoy with ASHCREST CHOICE TARANTULA, Reserve; Jim and Kirsty McAvoy with STARRCREST VICTORIOUS FIG NEWTON, Champion.



**Holstein Grand Champions:** (L-R) Judge Jonathan Rylaarsdam, Kenny McRae with SUNNINGHILL TS LAURA, Champion; Joel Phoenix with WENDON LAMBDA DEVASTATE, Reserve; Brian Goertzen with HAMMING MASTER BOSS BABY, Honourable Mention; Albert Streutker (ringman).



Congratulations to the Hamming Holsteins crew, winner of Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor!

## Winter Heifer (4)

1. HAMMING HULU BOSS BABY Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. HAMMING DETECTIVE JAIDA Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

## Fall Heifer (10)

1. HAMMING BULLSEYE SISSEY Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. HAMMING BELIEVEP BONITA Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

## Summer Yearling (10)

1. LAVENDER LAMBDA PIRANHA Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC
2. WILLSWIKK ROCKSTAR DORY T&L Cattle Ltd., Cultus Lake, BC

## Spring Yearling (10)

1. LAVENDER AMBROSE REINVEST RED Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC
2. LAVENDER AMBROSE REQUEST RED Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC

## Winter Yearling (8)

1. TAZO SALUTE CARLEE Tazo Farms, Falkland, BC
2. HAMMING LOYALL ABBEY Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

## Fall Yearling (6)

1. CRESTOMERE MASTER DEVISE T&L Cattle Ltd., Cultus Lake, BC
2. HAMMING MAJOR STYLE Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

## Junior Breeder's Herd

1. Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC

## Jersey Junior Champion

PACIFIC CREST JORDAN SNEAKERS  
Mike Podschadly & Brent Rocha, Armstrong, BC

## Jersey Reserve Junior Champion

STARRCREST BLACK WYTCH  
Jim & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC

## Jersey HM Junior Champion

SUNNY HILL JORDAN DISAPPEAR  
Sunny Hill Jerseys, Enderby, BC

## Holstein Junior Champion

CRESTOMERE MASTER DEVISE  
T&L Cattle Ltd., Cultus Lake, BC

## Holstein Reserve Junior Champion

HAMMING BULLSEYE SISSEY  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

## Holstein HM Junior Champion

LAVENDER LAMBDA PIRANHA  
Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC

## Jersey Junior Breeder & Exhibitor

Mike, Gina & Tyson Haambuckers, Enderby, BC

## Holstein Junior Breeder & Exhibitor

Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

**PHOTOS COURTESY  
NORTH OKANAGAN  
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**Junior 2-Year Old (2)**

1. STARRCREST CANADIAN CLUB JIGSAW  
Jim & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC
2. HAMMING BREAKSHOT DAPPLE  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

**Senior 2-Year Old (6)**

1. HAMMING MASTER BOSS BABY  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. HAMMING ALLEYOOP SASSPERILLY  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

**Junior 3-Year Old (1)**

1. WEDGWOOD UNIX LAURA  
Stanhope-Wedgwood, Cobble Hill, BC

**Senior 3-Year Old (9)**

1. SUNNINGHILL TS LAURA  
T&L Cattle Ltd. & Joel Phoenix, Cultus Lake, BC
2. LAVENDER FRIGHTENING DESTINY  
Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC

**Intermediate Champion**

- SUNNINGHILL TS LAURA  
T&L Cattle Ltd. & Joel Phoenix, Cultus Lake, BC

**Reserve Intermediate Champion**

- HAMMING MASTER BOSS BABY  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

**HM Intermediate Champion**

- LAVENDER FRIGHTENING DESTINY  
Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC

**4-Year Old (8)**

1. WENDON LAMBDA DEVASTATE  
Ashlee McAvoy, Armstrong, BC
2. STARRCREST VICTORIOUS FIG NEWTON  
Jim & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC

**5-Year Old (2)**

1. ASHCREST CHOICE TARANTULA  
Jim, Kirsty & Ashlee McAvoy, Armstrong, BC
2. SHOESTRING KINGSTON SUPER B  
Stanhope-Wedgwood, Cobble Hill, BC

**Mature Cow (2)**

1. COBEQUID TATTOO LINLEY  
Tazo Farms, Falkland, BC
2. HAMMING 1ST GRADE SMARTY PANTS  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

**Jersey Super Cow**

- STARRCREST VICTORIOUS FIG NEWTON  
Jim & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC

**Holstein Super Cow**

- HAMMING 1ST GRADE SMARTY PANTS  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

**Progeny of Dam (3)**

1. Tazo Farms, Falkland, BC
2. Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC

**Senior Breeder's Herd (2)**

1. Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. Tazo Farms, Falkland, BC

**Jersey Grand Champion**

- STARRCREST VICTORIOUS FIG NEWTON  
Jim & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC

**Jersey Reserve Grand Champion**

- ASHCREST CHOICE TARANTULA  
Jim, Kirsty & Ashlee McAvoy, Armstrong, BC

**Jersey HM Grand Champion**

- SHOESTRING KINGSTON SUPER B  
Stanhope-Wedgwood, Cobble Hill, BC

**Holstein Grand Champion**

- SUNNINGHILL TS LAURA  
T&L Cattle Ltd. & Joel Phoenix, Cultus Lake, BC

**Holstein Reserve Grand Champion**

- WENDON LAMBDA DEVASTATE  
Ashlee McAvoy, Armstrong, BC

**Holstein HM Grand Champion**

- HAMMING MASTER BOSS BABY  
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

**Jersey Premier Breeder & Exhibitor**

1. Jim & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC
2. Mike, Gina & Tyson Haambuckers, Enderby, BC

**Holstein Premier Breeder & Exhibitor**

1. Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
2. Stanhope-Wedgwood, Cobble Hill, BC

**Showmanship Junior (3)**

1. Callista Drury
2. Maya Wolzen
3. Maria Carlson

**Senior (4)**

1. Allyson McAvoy
2. Logan van den Brink
3. Annabelle Carlson
4. McKenzie Gyorkos

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# Saskatchewan Holstein Branch News

## Western Dairy Expo's 'Legends of the Industry'

### Bonnie Cooper

Over 300 people attended the Western Dairy Expo's first "Legends of the Industry" Social Night in Saskatoon, SK, when it was held on April 25th at the Western Development Museum. Western Dairy Expo Chair Bryce Fisher, who initiated the idea for what is to be an annual award, said the "Legends of the Industry" award was created to honour people, past and present, who have built and contributed to the Saskatchewan dairy industry. "We need to remember these people, what they did, and how they paved the way for us," he said.

Recognized in 2025 were: **Richard Dyck** (1947-2017) of Corman Holsteins, Warman, SK; **Lorne & Glenna Loveridge** of Glenridge Holsteins, Grenfell, SK; **Harry Martens** (1942-2025) of Twilight Plains Holsteins, Osler, SK; and **Elaine Donald** of Delaine Holsteins, Saskatoon, SK. Each of the recipients were honoured with a banner that describes their life story and the contributions they have made to the dairy industry in Saskatchewan.

The Legends program, emceed by Saskatchewan Holstein Branch President Logan Leyenhorst, also included two guest speakers.

Dan Wong, president of Western Dairy Council, which represents dairy processors in the four Western Canada provinces, said, "Change is the defining feature of today's processing industry and dairy supply chains. Success in the supply chain is built on relationships between all of the different segments – producers, processors, transporters, distributors/retailers and customers. We need to start understanding each other better across the supply chain. The good news," he said, "is we are starting to get a better appreciation of each other's challenges and that is going to stand us in good stead in the long run."

Dr. Carl Nienhuis, a kinesiology professor at the University of the Fraser Valley and a certified mental performance consultant for professional athletes, used the word "COWS" to describe the similarities he saw between sport athletics and dairy producers. He cited "C" for Consistency, "O" for Optimism, "W" for Work, and "S" for Supports, as the elements these two groups share in common.

Elaine Donald (seated) of Delaine Holsteins, Saskatoon, SK, shares her award with family and friends.



On hand to receive the award for Lorne and Glenna Loveridge of Glenridge Holsteins, Grenfell, SK, were their daughters Barb, Lorna and Laurel, grandson Devon Burnham, and best friends Margaret and Dennis Boldt.

Accepting the award for the late Richard Dyck of Corman Holsteins, Warman, SK, were his wife Ruby Dyck (centre), and daughters Leah and Raquel.



Accepting the award for the late Harry Martens of Twilight Plains Holsteins, Osler, SK, were his wife Eva, along with other family and friends.

*Great Cow, Bright Future!*

**Marylander Thunder Hippy**  
VG-88 3YR

**Res. Int & Res. Grand Champion – Western Dairy Expo 2025**  
**HM Grand Champion – Green Acres Show 2024**

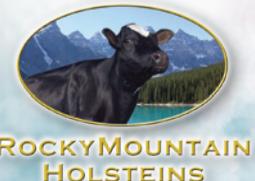
3-01 Proj: 12,976kgs, 3.8%F, 3.2%P · BCA: 276-283-279

Daughters by Chief and Major

**Hippy is due back in December to sexed Jerry Lewis**

We are excited about the bright future of this young cow!

Thank you to the Hummel family at Marylander Holsteins for making her available, and to Egbert Korenberg and Scott Hastie for "getting her ready" 365 days a year.



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**The Judging Clinic was well attended by veterans and large contingent of youth judges!**

The Branch hosted a judging clinic at the Western Dairy Expo that was well attended, with nearly 40 participants, including more than 20 youth judges! Thank you to Tyler Doiron, Ty-D Holsteins (Cap Sante, QC), for providing official reasons for the day.





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# From Rumen to Revenue: Precision Nutrition in Sustainable Dairy

**Sarah Dean, M.Sc.,**  
Ruminant Technical Specialist, Jefo Nutrition Inc.

**Victoria Asselstine, Ph.D.,**  
Ruminant Technical Service Manager, Jefo Nutrition Inc.

"Sustainability" has become a central theme in agriculture today – but what does it truly mean within the context of dairy production? At its core, sustainability involves the integration of economically viable practices, environmental responsibility, and social accountability. For dairy producers, this translates into implementing smarter, more data-driven strategies that reduce waste, optimize resources, and support long-term productivity.

Adopting sustainable practices not only benefits the environment – it also enhances the farm's bottom line. With more precise input application and reduced waste, producers can achieve greater efficiency, lower costs, and improve herd outcomes. Advanced technology is now a critical tool in reaching these goals.

Various technological innovations have been developed to enhance the efficiency, precision, and consistency of feed delivery. These systems include automated calf feeders, feed mixers, conveyor belts, automated milking systems (AMS), and robotic feed pushers. Such systems help mitigate the risks of nutritional inconsistencies that may arise due to employee variability, empty feed bunks, or mismatches between feed intake and

production demands. However, while automation can significantly improve herd performance, it requires proper calibration and oversight to prevent new inefficiencies from emerging.

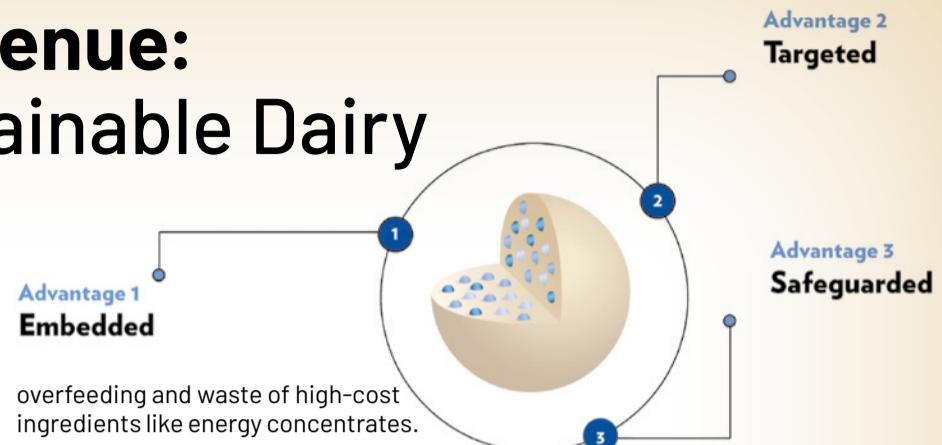
Providing consistent feed to cattle and continually ensuring they have access to feed has been linked to increased milk production and greater animal welfare (Matson et al., 2022). Every five additional feed push-ups are associated with an increase of +0.67 milking visits per cow per day in a study examining feed push-ups and automatic milking systems (Van Soest et al., 2024). For this study the range of feed push up frequency was 0 – 32 times, with an average of 12.9. Manually achieving this frequency is impractical on most operations. Automated feed pushers fill this gap by reducing labour requirements while ensuring cows have regular feed access – improving both intake consistency and feed efficiency and reducing overall feed waste.

Automated milking systems also offer the capability to individually tailor concentrate delivery. These systems can be programmed to dispense supplements based on factors such as days in milk or individual milk production. This ensures nutrients are delivered to the animals that need them, avoiding unnecessary

overfeeding and waste of high-cost ingredients like energy concentrates.

Precision nutrition means more than supplying nutrients – it ensures they reach the right place at the right time. B vitamins are essential for energy metabolism but are easily degraded in the rumen. Sophisticated technologies exist to embed B vitamins in a special protective matrix to pass through the rumen and enable targeted release in the intestine (Figure 1). This ensures better absorption and supports optimal performance, especially during periods of high metabolic demand.

Sustainability in dairy production is no longer an abstract concept – it's a practical, profit-driven approach grounded in efficiency, precision, and science-based decision-making. From targeted nutrient delivery and automation to innovations in feed additive protection, producers have



**Figure 1. Embedding B Vitamins in a protective matrix allows for targeted release in the intestine – an advantage for peak performance in times of high metabolic demand.**

more tools than ever to support their animals, optimize inputs, and secure long-term success for their operations.

\*References available upon request\*



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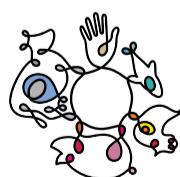


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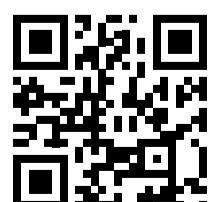
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# Alberta Holstein Branch News

## A Season of Optimism and Activity



Submitted by Alberta Holsteins

### From the President

The change of season brings great optimism and very busy times in Alberta as we all strive to get our crops in and get ready for the first cut. Along with our members, Alberta Holsteins looks forward to the various shows coming up on the schedule. The upcoming events promise to be a time of growth, learning, and celebration for the dairy community.

### Judging Clinic

We hosted our annual Judging clinic on June 5th in conjunction with the Alberta Dairy Congress. This clinic is an excellent opportunity for members to refine their judging skills and share their expertise. Alberta Holsteins sponsored all the Best Bred and Owned Holstein show classes, ensuring that our finest cattle are represented and acknowledged.

### Club Shows

We look forward to club shows in the various areas again this year. This was kicked off by Green Acres on May 29th and will include the North and Central shows in July. These shows are crucial for showcasing the exceptional breeding and care our members provide for their cattle.

### Summer Highlights

This summer also includes the Youth Dairy Show and the WestGen Canadian Classic (WCC), events that are particularly important for nurturing young talent within the dairy industry. Alberta Holsteins is a proud supporter of all the dairy shows across Alberta and strives to support our youth in the dairy industry.

### Community and Commitment

As the president of Alberta Holsteins, I look forward to visiting with many of you as these events take place this summer. Our commitment to the dairy community remains steadfast, and we are dedicated to providing opportunities for growth, education, and excellence in dairy farming.

**Fred Hofstra**  
President, Alberta Holsteins

### Focused on the Future



**U of A Judging Team: (L-R) Jenna DeBoer, Ashley Tolsma, Faith Salsbury and Noah Kastelic.**

Alberta Holsteins sponsored the University of Alberta's Multi-Species Judging Club team as they attended the Canadian Intercollegiate Judging Competition, hosted by the University of Guelph. Congratulations to the team on a strong showing!



**Young Leader program delegates: (L-R) Emily Nieuwland, Sylvia Slingerland, Casey Morey, Sharissa Dijkstra, Carmen Vogel, and Emma Van Steekelenburg (Holstein Canada Western Rep, Young Leader Program).**

Five ladies represented Alberta at the Young Leaders program portion of the National Convention, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from April 1st to 6th. Here's what they had to say:

"It was a privilege to be a part of the Young Leaders program. I enjoyed meeting some of Holstein Canada's staff and Board members and voting in the AGM. My favourite part of the trip was meeting other young farmers my age and hearing about other people's succession plans and management styles. I also really enjoyed the farm tours!" – **Emily**

"This trip is a great opportunity to network with other young individuals and farmers that are passionate about the dairy industry. One of the highlights for me is the farm tours. This year we toured three robot farms, two of which are 'guided flow,' which is something I'd never seen before. This is my second time as part of the Young Leader program, and I highly recommend it!" – **Sharissa**

"The Young Leader program is an amazing opportunity to connect with fellow young leaders and talk about each other's farms, backgrounds, roles, and management, across the country. The program included speakers and panels, farm tours, attending the Atlantic Spring Show and Master Breeder ceremony, and participating in the AGM. My favourite part of the week was networking with the group, as well as the Holstein Canada Board and many other producers." – **Carmen**

"Attending the National Convention as a Young Leader was an incredible opportunity to connect, learn, and grow within the dairy industry. Highlights from the week included touring a variety of farms, one with exceptionally high-scoring cows, another utilizing a self-propelled feed mixer, and one herd that is new to registering and classifying. I enjoyed the Master Breeder panels where we heard from knowledgeable farmers who offered an insight into their operations, herd management styles, and breeding strategies." – **Sylvia**

"The program was an incredible opportunity to expand our knowledge on herd management and nutrition, partake in the Holstein Canada AGM as voting members and network. My favourite topic during 'classroom day' was about nutrition. I learned about forage management, proper cutting times, how to interpret NDF values and how those values affect the cow, and what is the most important thing to consider when formulating your rations. I really appreciated that as a young leader I got to play an active role in the Holstein Canada AGM, having the ability to vote on the large number of resolutions presented this year."

In our free time, we took the time to explore the Halifax harbour, a place well known for its summer vibes, delicious food, coastal views, and numerous breweries. I strongly encourage anyone considering the Young Leader program to apply! You'll come away with a larger knowledge base, cultural experiences, and an expanding network of lifetime friends." – **Casey**

**All the delegates say, "Thank you to Holstein Canada and Alberta Holsteins for their continued support of this program!"**

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# Appreciating Our Holstein Past

## Revisiting Stories from the Holstein Journal

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

Holsteins have a rich and vibrant history in Canada. And nowhere is that truer than in Western Canada where a long line of people, animals and herds have left their mark on the breed and industry. In 1984, the *Holstein Journal* published a special limited edition called "Century of Achievement" in recognition of Holstein Canada's 100th Anniversary. Among the influential breeders they profiled from Western Canada was the highly respected Acme Holsteins of Carstairs, AB. Here is how that Acme story appeared in 1984:

### Acme Holsteins

Acme Holsteins in Alberta has enjoyed 40 years in the purebred cattle business and has continually been a front-runner with its fine quality, deep-pedigreed stock. The original Acme Holsteins, which was started at Acme in 1943, was a partnership of Curtis Clark and Lloyd Pickard. Curtis had already gained quite a reputation for his Acme Percherons which he owned with Al Greenway, and although his experience with dairy cows had been limited to milking a grade Holstein herd, his innate ability as a stockman would soon become evident. Lloyd Pickard had made a name for himself as a showman, scout and salesman while employed by Hays Farms, and was looking for a partner in the purebred Holstein business. The partnership of Pickard & Clark made its first purchases from the CPR Farm at Strathmore, AB, from a small group of cattle which did not go east for their dispersal. Most notable among the 11 purchased was STRATHMORE WAYNE AGATHA HEILO VG who would become a Silver Seal producer with 166,502 lbs milk and 5722 lbs fat in 10 lactations. She had three daughters for Acme, one classified VG, who, in turn, also had three daughters.

The Acme herd moved to Carstairs in 1948 when Curtis purchased the 800-acre original Hays Farm. Lloyd remained in Ontario where he continued his work with Hays Farms, but he always managed to send a few good ones to the west and was always on hand for show times.

During its heyday, the Acme herd was considered Canada's most travelled show herd, and one of its most successful. Grand championships and Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners were won throughout the west and Pickard & Clark always made a strong showing at the Royal Winter Fair at the end of a long show season. One of their best known show campaigners was SILVIA PABST TEXAL EX-4\* who accounted for 18 grand championships

during her show career, including three consecutive titles at the Royal. This led to her selection as an All-Canadian in 1957-58-59 and came back as Reserve All-Canadian in 1960-61.



**Curtis Clark of Acme Holsteins, Carstairs, AB, was a highly respected cowman and 2X Master Breeder and in 1972 he served as President of Holstein Canada.**

Pickard moved back to Alberta in 1959 and established Lloyd Pickard & Associates, a sales management and order buying business. In 1965, Pickard & Clark were presented with the coveted Master Breeder award, but just one year later they decided to disperse the herd, in what would be the highest averaging auction in Western Canada. Fifty-seven head sold for an average of \$1435.09, with a top price of \$9200. This was for ACME SYLVIA ANNIE EX, an Edmonton grand champion from an EX 3-Star ABC dam.

Following the dispersal, Curtis and his son Jim, who had previously been the herdsman for Pickard & Clark, formed a partnership to continue the Acme herd. They built on a foundation of daughters of THORNLEA TEXAL SUPREME, BURTHILL LADYSMAN and AGRO ACRES PANSY FOUNDATION and have continued their winning ways in the showing too. In 1980, their Breeder's Herd was nominated for All-Canadian honours and was comprised of these outstanding individuals in their own right: ACME LADY ADA EX, a Ladysman nominated for All-Canadian as a 2-year-old in 1978; ACME LADY CHIEF EX, by Chieftain; her maternal sister, ACME NADINE LADY EX, by Ned and twice nominated for All-Canadian in 1978-79; and ACME NADINE TRIXIE VG, another Ned and a fourth generation VG/EX.



Curtis Clark's contribution to the Holstein breed has been notable through the cattle he has bred and in the time he gave to Holstein members during his 18-year tenure as Alberta National Director and as he served as Holstein Association of Canada President in 1972. He has also judged many shows throughout Canada, as well as in Italy and Mexico.



**Curtis Clark (left) and Lloyd Pickard (far right) of Acme Holsteins receive the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor banners at the 1957 Calgary Exhibition & Stampede. Joining them is SILVIA PABST TEXAL, the show's Grand Champion, who went on that year to capture the first of three consecutive Grand Championships at the Royal Winter Fair for Acme Holsteins.**

Acme Holsteins today is definitely a family farm with three generations of Clarks keeping the tradition going. Curtis, Jim, Lynn, Curtis Jr. and another granddaughter Rene all share in the heritage of Acme Holsteins and are dedicated to carrying it on.

### What happened at Acme Holsteins after 1984?

The Acme herd achieved a second Master Breeder shield in 1985 and continued to amass a multitude of show awards. The Clarks won All-Western Breeder's Herd honours 11 times. ELLS PRINCE HOPE EX-3E-4\*

Curtis Clark (left) and Lloyd Pickard established Acme Holsteins in 1943 and worked together as partners until they dispersed the herd in 1966. Curtis was the caretaker, while Lloyd was the showman, for their well travelled show herd.

and her daughters, ACME SENORITA ELLEN EX-2\* and ACME SENORITA HOPE EX, who were Honourable Mention All-Canadian Produce in 1983, would contribute to the herd in later years. Jim was Alberta Holstein Branch president in 1985-86. Jim and his wife Mac assumed ownership of Acme Holsteins in 1989. They sold the herd privately in the fall of 1993. One of the last animals they bred, ACME STAR LILY EX-2E-CAN-8\*/EX-94-USA, was Grand Champion at the Royal Winter Fair in 1997-98-99 and Supreme Champion at World Dairy Expo in 1998 for Everett Simanton,

Continental Holsteins and Alta Genetics Inc. of Alberta. Acme Holsteins is the only herd to have bred and/or owned two Holstein cows who have been Grand Champion 3X at the Royal.

Hard working and down-to-earth, the Clarks have always been great ambassadors for the Holstein breed and Western Canada. In 1988, the Alberta Holstein Branch recognized Curtis's lifelong contributions to the dairy industry by establishing the Curtis Clark Achievement Award which is given annually at the Royal.

While Curtis and Jim Clark and Lloyd Pickard (who later achieved success with Aberdeen Angus and Suffolk sheep as well) are now gone, their leadership, innate talent and achievements in the showing and barn not only stimulated interest and genetic sales for other herds in Western Canada, but inspired others to follow their path. The Acme legacy has enriched us all.



## 2025 Curtis Clark Achievement Award Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 2025 Curtis Clark Achievement Award are currently being sought. Presented annually at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, ON, the Curtis Clark Award goes to the Canadian dairy cattle exhibitor who possesses the ability, sportsmanship and character necessary to be respected by their fellow breeders and exhibitors. The award, established in 1988, is sponsored by the Alberta Holstein Branch.

To be eligible for the Curtis Clark Achievement Award, the nominee must be an "active" Canadian showperson, breeder or manager of any dairy cattle breed who is exhibiting animals at major shows in Canada. The person **must be present** at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to accept the award. Nominees will be judged on their support of breed activities and ability to breed, manage, develop and exhibit dairy cattle. Selection of the winner is made by former recipients of the award.

The 2025 winner will be announced on November 14th during the Royal's National Holstein Show.

Nominations for the award must include a brief résumé on the nominee and be submitted by **October 1st** to the Curtis Clark Achievement Award Committee Secretary, Bonnie Cooper, 904 - 12 Rockford Road, North York, ON M2R 3A2, e-mail: becooper2010@gmail.com, cell: 416-579-6572. Nominations previously submitted for the award need not be submitted again.

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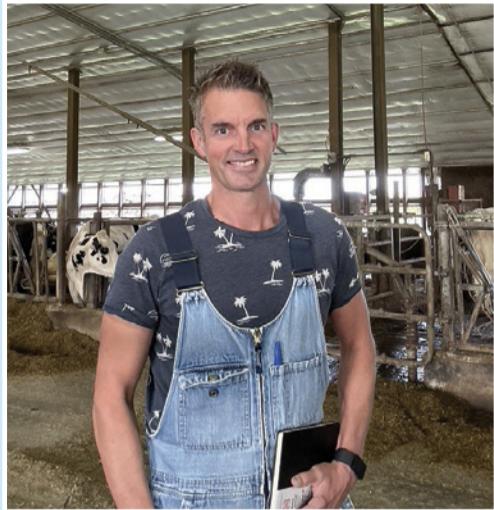


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## Three Key Production Metrics That Matter for Dairy Farms

### And How Diet Can Impact These



Daniel Scothorn,  
Scothorn Nutrition

Upon entering a well-managed dairy barn, the signs of excellence are evident: a perfectly prepared Total Mixed Ration (TMR), calm and content cows, excellent air quality, and optimal body condition. Things may look good, however, to truly assess the farm's performance and identify areas for improvement, it's essential to examine key metrics. Three critical metrics stand out: Feed Efficiency Ratio (FER), kilograms of milk solids produced (kg of butterfat

plus kg of milk protein), and dairy feed cost as a percentage of milk income. Focusing on these areas can lead to significant improvements in farm performance, particularly with high-genetic Holsteins.

#### 1. Feed Efficiency Ratio

Probably one of the best metrics to use because it quantifies how well your diet is working and is significantly influenced by management factors like repro and cow health! Feed Efficiency Ratio measures how efficiently cows convert feed into milk. It is calculated as:

$$\text{FER} = \text{Energy Corrected Milk (ECM)} / \text{Dry Matter Intake (DMI)}$$

Energy Corrected Milk standardizes milk yield to 3.5% butterfat and 3.2% protein using the following formula:

$$\text{ECM (kg)} = (0.327 \times \text{Milk kg}) + (12.95 \times \text{Fat kg}) + (7.2 \times \text{Protein kg})$$

This calculation allows for consistent comparisons across cows and herds with varying milk compositions, much better than using standard milk yield. FER directly impacts profitability by indicating how well feed is converted into milk. Higher efficiency means more milk from the same feed input. In addition, better FER equates to lower carbon emissions per liter of milk.

#### What the Numbers Mean:

- **2.0 or higher:** May indicate excessive body fat loss, which can negatively affect reproduction.
- **1.7 to 1.9:** Excellent – suggests efficient feed conversion and healthy rumen function.
- **1.5 to 1.6:** Good – but improvement opportunities exist.
- **1.4 or less:** Concerning – often linked to poor rumen health, long Days In Milk (>200), high percentages of first-lactation animals, and variable cow performance.

Ration formulation can have a major impact on FER. The key is to aim for high intakes of energy and protein. This involves optimizing, number one, forage digestibility and quality by focusing on key factors such as time of cut, and choosing varieties that will give a good digestibility of NDF (30h dNDF). Ensure proper balance of starch (24 to 28%) and sugar (total starch and sugar of 30 to 32%) to promote optimal rumen fermentation. The use of fatty acids like 300 to 500g of supplemental Palmitic Acid can also improve FER. The protein quality should be adequate to support cows peaking at 70kg or greater in early lactation. This means focusing on Metabolizable Protein quality and paying attention to Essential Amino Acids.

Management factors leading to a long Days In Milk can negatively affect FER due to a tendency for late lactation cows to allocate more energy to body condition gain rather than milk yield. Controlling the air quality with proper cooling and movement during heat stress can also help maintain milk yield and components which will help FER during the summer.

#### 2. Kilograms of Fat + Protein Yield

This metric refers to the total kilograms of butterfat and protein produced. Milk solids drive farm revenue. While high profitability should guide decisions, this metric is highly associated with income over feed cost. It is calculated as:

$$\text{Milk Solids (kg)} = \text{Butterfat (kg)} + \text{Protein (kg)}$$

Top Canadian dairy farms are achieving 3.5 to 3.8kg in 2025. Levels of 3.0 to 3.5kg is considered excellent. While your farm may not be reaching these levels, the important thing is to look at where you are today and discuss strategies with your feeding and management team that can positively influence this.

The dietary factors associated with improving FER are similar to those needed to influence F+P Yield. Also, managing the feed bunk with frequent feed push ups and 24-hour availability of high quality TMR (or forage) allows cows to maximize the intake per meal. This can be monitored by dividing the average Dry Matter Intake by the minutes of eating time, which is commonly found on rumination monitoring devices. Top dairy farms achieve 30kg of dry matter intake or higher. FOCUS on your farm and how to improve it.

Harvesting milk at optimal intervals can influence solids production as well. In a parlor or tie stall, going from 2x to 3x can improve solids production per cow, assuming the cows are not shorted on the time allowed to eat, as higher dry matter intake need to support higher milking frequency. Robotic milking systems should aim for 3x per day and focus on the provision of very high quality PMR and robot feed. The amount of robot feed is not necessarily associated with higher production of fat and protein, but rather, overall intake of total diet.

#### 3. Dairy Feed Cost as a Percentage of Milk Income

This ratio compares total feed cost to the milk revenue. It is calculated as:

$$\text{Feed Cost \%} = (\text{Total Feed Cost} / \text{Milk Income}) \times 100$$

Start by calculating this on a monthly basis, or more frequently. Then focus on figuring out the factors that affect this on your farm. The goal is highly dependent on the region you are located, milk pricing and feed component pricing. Aiming for 25% is ideal for some regions of Canada, while 30% is excellent in other areas. The goal should be farm and regionally based, rather than comparing with farms in different milk pools or provinces.

- **Cost Control:** Use high quality homegrown forages where possible. Monitor commodity prices to buy inputs strategically.
- **Feed Management:** Reduce shrink and feed waste. Use consistent feeding protocols.
- **Precision Feeding:** Match feed to production groups. Avoid overfeeding or underfeeding.

Focusing on Feed Efficiency Ratio, kilograms of Fat + Protein, and feed cost as a percentage of milk income gives producers a clear path to improved performance and sustainability. By fine-tuning feeding strategies and herd management practices, dairy farms can convert inputs into profits more effectively – while ensuring cow health and long-term viability.

Daniel will be one of the speakers at the 2025 BC Dairy Industry Conference, held November 26-27, 2025.



Do you have questions for BC Dairy? Feel free to reach

# Infection Metrics and Strengthening Biosecurity

bcdfa.ca

## Putting HPAI Infections into Perspective: Evaluating Your Farm's Biosecurity

Morgan Sangster, BC Dairy Producer Support Manager  
Erin Cuthbert, MSc, Lead Dairy Inspector, BC AGRI

As concerns grow over the presence of **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)** in dairy cattle, federal and provincial authorities in Canada have mobilized a structured response to evaluate, contain, and understand this emerging issue. Central to this effort is the **Premises Investigation Questionnaire (PIQ)** – a detailed, standardized data collection tool developed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). In the event that a farm becomes infected with a federally regulated disease, the PIQ is used to conduct on-farm investigations efficiently and consistently. It will be used if HPAI is detected on your farm. The purpose of this article is to familiarize the reader with biosecurity elements contained in the PIQ and provide food for thought for enhancing the biosecurity practices and plans already in place for your dairy farm. A high level of preparedness will assist with an efficient investigation in the event of a positive HPAI case on your farm, or within your farm's proximity.

### The Who, What, Where, and When for Your Farm

Biosecurity is a cornerstone for protecting herd health and the broader agri-food system. Your farm's biosecurity plan should contain up-to-date details and records that can be easily accessed and shared during an investigation.

#### Details must include:

- Geographical information (address, GPS location, layout)
- Type of cattle operation (e.g., dairy, beef, mixed)
- Contact information of animal owners, caretakers, and administrators
- Health history and clinical signs observed in the animals
- Employee roles, on-farm activities, and movement patterns

A structured approach to record keeping and data collection ensures consistency across different regions and cases.

### Assessing Your Farm's Biosecurity Readiness

The presence of HPAI in cattle highlights the **urgent need for vigilant biosecurity**. Assessing each premises' biosecurity readiness is essential, and producers should review and update their biosecurity plans often to ensure they continue to reflect on-farm practices and animal management. Determining what events trigger higher levels of biosecurity should also be considered and documented. This includes reviewing practices related to:

- Quarantine and testing of new or returning animals
- Isolation of sick animals
- Visitor access controls and hygiene protocols
- Cleaning and disinfection (C&D) of equipment, vehicles, and facilities
- Management of animal by-products and mortalities
- Feed and water safety
- Rodent and wild bird deterrence
- Prompt reporting of unusual illnesses

**Site plans** should also be kept up-to-date and include mapping barns, feed storage, water sources, visitor access points, and surrounding wildlife-attracting features like ponds or crop fields. Spatial data is crucial for identifying high-risk zones and implementing biosecurity checkpoints and restricted areas.

Having these elements readily available and up to date allows authorities to trace possible sources of infection and block future transmission routes.

### Field Observations: What Biosecurity Measures Work

**Effective biosecurity practices** currently in use across Canadian cattle operations have been identified:

- **Visitor Protocols:** Many farms enforce downtime periods for visitors who've been on other livestock premises, require logbook sign-ins, and provide coveralls and disinfectant footbaths at entrances.
- **Animal Isolation:** Sick or incoming animals are often segregated in physically separate areas with dedicated staff and equipment, reducing cross-contamination risk.
- **Feed and Waste Management:** Safe storage of feed to avoid wildlife contact and composting mortalities away from high-traffic areas help limit environmental exposure.
- **Routine Milking Hygiene:** Farms often follow stringent milking sequences – milking healthy cows first and sick cows last – combined with glove use, disinfection, and regular cleaning of milking equipment.

These practices, while routine on many farms, have taken on **heightened significance** in the face of HPAI transmission concerns. The virus is known to spread through direct contact between cattle, and may also be transmitted via contaminated equipment, airborne particles, and wildlife vectors.



### Common Biosecurity Gaps

Despite strong awareness, biosecurity assessments within the dairy industry have revealed **gaps and inconsistencies** in on-farm biosecurity implementation:

- **Infrequent C&D of Vehicles:** Not all farms disinfect transport vehicles or driver footwear before entry, posing a major introductory risk.
- **Shared Equipment Across Farms:** Sharing of tractors, manure spreaders, or feed mixers between farms – without proper cleaning – is a transmission risk.
- **Lack of Pest Control:** Wild birds, rodents, and domestic pets accessing feed, bedding, or milking areas remain common challenges.
- **Improper Isolation of Sick Animals:** In some cases, sick cows shared airspace or fence lines with the main herd, increasing exposure risk.

These findings emphasize that biosecurity is not just a set of rules – it must be a **consistent and well-documented practice** across all levels of operation.

### Traceability and Contact Premises

A key element of a farm's biosecurity practices is traceability and documenting any significant contact between farms, people, animals, or equipment. This includes:

- Staff who work across multiple premises
- Equipment that's been shared between locations
- Livestock movements (DairyTrace)
- Incoming deliveries (e.g., feed, veterinary services)
- Outgoing products (e.g., raw milk, manure)

Contact tracing logs help assess the **true scope of exposure** and trigger quarantine or movement restrictions when needed. If HPAI or another infectious disease enters Canada and is near your farm, maintaining a visitor log or other contact tracing information is in your best interest as a standard practice, and will assist traceback processes.

### Human and Animal Health Intersections

Another important angle is the **potential for zoonotic transmission** – i.e., the risk of disease spreading from animals to humans. Investigators check for any farm staff experiencing flu-like symptoms and whether raw milk has been consumed. Warnings are issued where applicable, advising personnel to **avoid raw milk** and consult medical professionals if symptoms appear. The potential for HPAI to spread to humans is among one of the main reasons HPAI is being monitored so closely from an agricultural and human health perspective.

### Future Steps and Recommendations

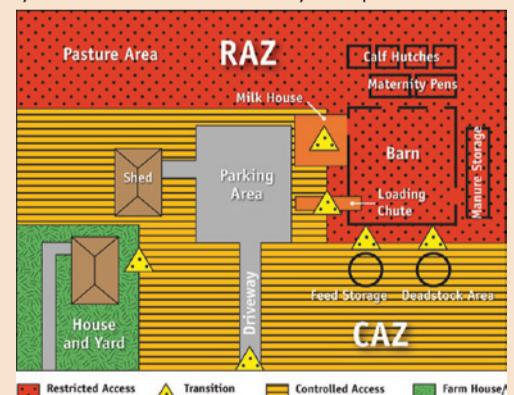
In light of the lessons we are learning regarding HPAI and biosecurity, farms are encouraged to:

- Review your **proAction biosecurity modules** regularly
- Update biosecurity SOPs and emergency response plans, including site maps
- Train all staff on risk-reduction measures
- Limit unnecessary movement of animals and equipment
- Source cattle locally from known status herds
- Collaborate with veterinarians and industry bodies for audits and best practices

### Conclusion: A Call for Enhanced Vigilance

The HPAI situation in the US has made one thing clear: **biosecurity is no longer optional** – it is essential. With evolving disease threats and greater scrutiny on livestock systems, farms must move beyond merely compliance and embrace **biosecurity as a mindset**.

For dairy and cattle producers, now is the time to review protocols, educate staff, and ensure that your biosecurity infrastructure is robust, current, and actively enforced. The health of your herd – and our industry – depends on it.



# Jersey Canada News

## Western Dairy Expo's Jersey Show

Bonnie Cooper

Photos Courtesy of Jenna Jongenotter



**Junior Champions:** (L-R) Associate Judge Jon Larson, Cassandra Knouse with BRAMVILLE BRIGHT CRACKERS, Honourable Mention; Taylia Rees with CLANMAN STING ROXANNE, Reserve; Nicole Crosbie with LONE PINE MOONLIGHT FEYRE, Champion; Judge Paul Trapp.



**Intermediate Champions:** (L-R) Judge Paul Trapp, Nils Haeni with LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS, Champion; Cassandra Knouse with BRAMVILLE YA GOT TO BELIEVE, Reserve; Jonas Haeni with LONE PINE NUANCE BELLINI, Honourable Mention; Associate Judge Jon Larson.



**Grand Champions:** (L-R) Judge Paul Trapp, Tyler Doiron with LONE PINE VICTORIOUS DONNY, Champion; Joanne Edwards and Cassandra Knouse with BRAMVILLE LEMONHEAD CRICKET, Reserve; Nils Haeni with LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS, Honourable Mention; Associate Judge Jon Larson.

The Jersey Show at this year's Western Dairy Expo attracted 62 outstanding entries from breeders across the west when it was held on April 25 & 26 at Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK. Lining up the classes was Judge Paul Trapp, Taylor, WI, and Associate Judge Jon Larson, Albert Lea, MN.

Declared Grand Champion was 4-Year-Old LONE PINE VICTORIOUS DONNY. Her straight lines, modern make-up, and youthful, well-attached udder cinched

it for owners Robella, Prospect Valley & Austin Kopecky(SK), putting her over the Lifetime Component class winner and Reserve Grand Champion, BRAMVILLE LEMONHEAD CRICKET, from Bramville Jerseys (SK).

Selected Intermediate Champion, and Honourable Mention Grand Champion, was LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS, the Senior 3-Year-Old from Lone Pine Jerseys Ltd. (AB) whose bloom, curve of udder, and width and capacity put her ahead of

the stylish Senior 2-Year-Old and Reserve Intermediate Champion, BRAMVILLE YA GOT TO BELIEVE, from Bramville & Steve Dufault, and then the second Senior 3-Year-Old and Honourable Mention Intermediate Champion, LONE PINE NUANCE BELLINI, also from Lone Pine.

The large framed and hard topped Summer Yearling winner, LONE PINE MOONLIGHT FEYRE was tagged Junior Champion for Benbie Holsteins & Jerseys (SK). This June heifer's drop

and spring of rib took her over CLANMAN STING ROXANNE, the first Fall Calf and Reserve Junior Champion from Clanman Jerseys Ltd. (MB), she followed by the second Summer Yearling and Honourable Mention, BRAMVILLE BRIGHT CRACKERS, from Bramville.

In the banners race, Bramville Jerseys took home Premier Breeder, Unique Stock Farm (AB) was Premier Exhibitor, and Lencrest Tobefamous was Premier Sire.

### WINTER HEIFER (3)

1. BRAMVILLE GOLGORAK CRIMSON  
Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK
2. UNIQUE GHOST VARLEY  
Unique Stock Farm, Rochester, AB

### FALL HEIFER (5)

1. CLANMAN STING ROXANNE  
Clanman Jerseys, Clanwilliam, MB
2. QUALITY EDGELEA GHOST SHERI  
Kenbert Acres & Markus Hehli, Drake, SK

### SUMMER YEARLING (8)

1. LONE PINE MOONLIGHT FEYRE  
Benbie Holsteins & Jerseys, Caron, SK
2. BRAMVILLE BRIGHT CRACKERS  
Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK

### WINTER YEARLING (2)

1. ROBELLA VICTORIOUS NEMO  
Robella Jerseys, Balgonie, SK
2. KENBERT BOOMERANG MOONCAKE  
Kenbert Acres, Drake, SK

### FALL YEARLING (3)

1. ALLEY TBF SASSAFRAS  
Alley Holsteins, Dalmeny, SK
2. LAMPADA COOKIE CRUMBS  
Lampada Holsteins & Jerseys, Brandon, MB

### JUNIOR BREEDERS HERD (2)

1. Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK
2. Clanman Jerseys, Clanwilliam, SK

### JUNIOR CHAMPION

LONE PINE MOONLIGHT FEYRE  
Benbie Holsteins & Jerseys, Caron, SK

### RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION

CLANMAN STING ROXANNE  
Clanman Jerseys, Clanwilliam, MB

### HM JUNIOR CHAMPION

BRAMVILLE BRIGHT CRACKERS  
Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK

### SPRING 2 YEAR OLD (1)

1. ROBELLA UZ KIDROCK TINKERBELL  
Robella, Unique & Zimmer, Balgonie, SK

### SENIOR 2 YEAR OLD (10)

1. BRAMVILLE YA GOT TO BELIEVE  
Bramville Jerseys & Steven Dufault, Nokomis, SK
2. UNIQUE TO BE FAMOUS WARSAW  
Unique Stock Farm, Rochester, AB

### JUNIOR 3 YEAR OLD (1)

1. BRAMVILLE FERDINAND VANIAH  
Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK

### SENIOR 3 YEAR OLD (10)

1. LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS  
Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB
2. LONE PINE NUANCE BELLINI  
Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB

### INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION

LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS  
Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB

### RESERVE INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION

BRAMVILLE YA GOT TO BELIEVE  
Bramville Jerseys & Steven Dufault, Nokomis, SK

### HM INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION

LONE PINE NUANCE BELLINI  
Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB

### 4 YEAR OLD (12)

1. LONE PINE VICTORIOUS DONNY  
Robella, Prospect Valley & A. Kopecky, Balgonie, SK
2. BRAMVILLE WEBCAM MOONBEAM  
Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK

### 5 YEAR OLD (2)

1. UNIQUE CHOICE HOOLIGAN  
Unique Stock Farm, Rochester, AB
2. UNIQUE HALIFAX WEEKEND  
Unique Stock Farm & Lakefield Farm, Rochester, AB

### MATURE COW (3)

1. BRAMVILLE VIVALDI MAJESTIC  
Markus Hehli, Rimbev, AB
2. NELLRIDGE JOEL ADALIDA  
Alley Holsteins, Dalmeny, SK

### LIFETIME COMPONENT CLASS (2)

1. BRAMVILLE LEMONHEAD CRICKET  
Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK
2. UNIQUE HP MATTADOR HEAVEN  
Unique Stock Farm, Rochester, AB

### SENIOR BREEDERS HERD (3)

1. Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB
2. Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK

### GRAND CHAMPION

LONE PINE VICTORIOUS DONNY  
Robella, Prospect Valley & A. Kopecky, Balgonie, SK

### RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

BRAMVILLE LEMONHEAD CRICKET  
Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK

### HM GRAND CHAMPION

LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS  
Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB

### PREMIER BREEDER

1. Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK
2. (tie) Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB

### PREMIER EXHIBITOR

1. Unique Stock Farm, Rochester, AB
2. Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB

### PREMIER SIRE

1. Lencrest Tobefamous
2. River Valley Victorious

## Canadian Jersey Breeders Gather at Hockley Valley for 2025 AGM

Michelle Grubb, Communications Specialist  
Jersey Canada



Jersey breeders and producers from across Canada gathered at the scenic Hockley Valley Resort in Mono, Ontario, for Jersey Canada's Annual General Meeting (AGM), hosted by the Grand River Jersey Club, on the last weekend of March 2025.

The weekend kicked off on Friday, March 28, with a six-stop farm tour. First was Belgia Farms in Grand Valley, where Han and Irma Brink milk 120 cows with Lely robots and showcased a new heifer barn with Urban calf feeders. Next, attendees visited Sunrise Jerseys in Wallenstein, owned by Marlin and Eunice Brubacher, who entered the industry in 2021 and milk in a double-8 parlour with a sand-bedded free-stall. After lunch, the group moved on to Maker Farms in Rockwood, where

Continued on next page ➔

Kerry Alexander and daughter Lainie impressed with their high-type herd (avg. 88.2pts) and homemade butter tarts.

Sharpe Lane Farms was next, featuring a mixed herd and a new robotic barn addition run by Les and Darlene Sharpe. Then it was off to Erin to visit Alex and Angela Dolson of Galaxy Jerseys and Dreammaker Holsteins, known for deep pedigrees and two EX-94 cows. The final stop was Markay Holsteins and Lothmann Jerseys in East Garafraxa, a tie-stall barn where Markus and Brenda Lothmann focus on a blend of type and production.

Back at the resort, attendees enjoyed a plated dinner followed by the All-Canadian award presentations and evening social.

Saturday opened with the 'Next Generation' program featuring Ian Ross of Grand Valley Fortifiers and Jenny Butcher and Wes Kuntz of Little Brown Cow. The morning also included Youth of Distinction and Travel Bursary presentations. The AGM was called to order, with members addressing reports and presenting four resolutions. The President's Luncheon celebrated the 2024 Production Hall of Fame and Class Leaders before the meeting resumed.

Saturday evening's Awards Banquet, hosted by Russell Gammon, honoured Jersey Young Achievers, Honorary Life Members, Constructive Breeders, as well as the 2025 Master Breeders, Athlone Farms Inc. After a live and silent auction, the evening closed with incoming President Doug Robinson presenting the Past President's pin to George Van Kampen.

The 2025 Jersey Canada AGM united breeders coast to coast in celebration, connection, and shared enthusiasm for the breed. Plans are already underway for next year's event in Ottawa, Ontario.

**New heifer facility at Belgia Farms – Tour Stop #1.**



**MAKER JOEL VIOLA VG-89 (max)**

at Maker Farms – Tour Stop #3.



Photos courtesy of Claire Swale

(L-R Back Row) Kerry Alexander, ON (MAKER), Rebekah Mathers, AB – 2nd Vice President (STERLING PARK), Doug Robinson, ON – President (PAYNESIDE), Deanna Doctor, PEI (REDVIEW), Melissa Bowers, QC (LENCREST), Jon Kingdon, ON (CHARLYN), Linda Horner, MB (REDHOT); Seated: Danny Morin, QC – 1st Vice President (MSM), Danny Ostiguy, QC (HERITAGE).



*Join us as we Celebrate* **50** YEARS



**Vancouver Island Holstein Show**  
Cowichan Exhibition Grounds, Duncan

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**BBQ and Social - 6pm**

*Thanks to our great club sponsors!*

**THURSDAY, JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> - 9AM**  
**50<sup>TH</sup> VI HOLSTEIN CLUB SHOW**

*4-H Showmanship followed by Open classes*  
*Judge: Adam Hodgins, Kincardine, Ontario*

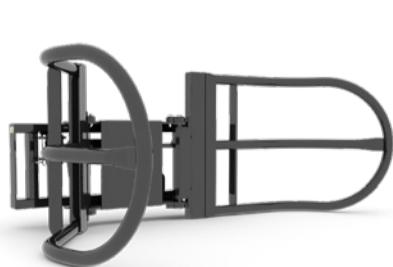


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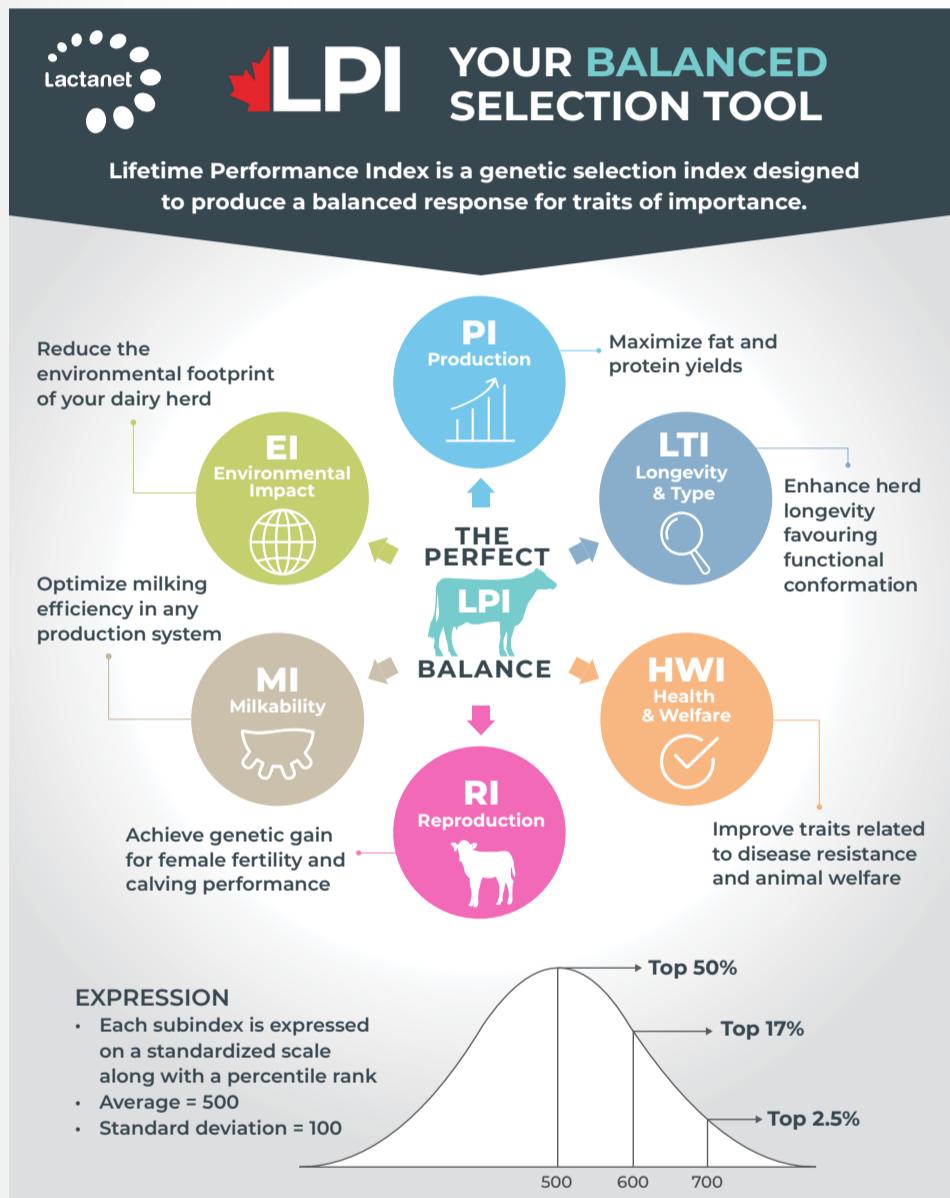


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**JOB DONE RIGHT.**

# IN PURSUIT OF PROGRESS AND PROFITABILITY

Lactanet is pleased to recognize western Canadian herds and cows that excel in various metrics of performance and profitability. In this first feature, Lactanet presents the top herds in Western Canada for the Lifetime Performance Index (LPI).



## Relative Weights for the Holstein Lifetime Performance Index (LPI)

"A collaborative presentation of Lactanet and Western Canadian Dairy News"



## THE NEW MODERNIZED LPI

Since its introduction in 1991, the Lifetime Performance Index (LPI) has been a crucial tool for dairy farmers and breeders, guiding informed selection and mating decisions. Over the years, the LPI formula has evolved alongside industry breeding objectives with the inclusion of additional traits. With the expansion of new traits evaluated in Canada in recent years, (and in the years to come) April 2025 marked the latest update of the LPI for seven dairy breeds.

The new formula includes five subindexes for all breeds, namely Production (PI), Longevity & Type (LTI), Health & Welfare (HWI), Reproduction (RI), and Milkability (MI), and a sixth Environmental Impact (EI) subindex for the Holstein breed. Each of these subindexes are published on their own and combined into LPI while maintaining the previous LPI scale, providing several options to support your selection and mating decisions.

**The Production Index (PI)** is similar to the previous Production component of the LPI with the aim of maximizing fat and protein yields thereby increasing profitability.

**The Longevity & Type Index (LTI)** aims to enhance herd longevity favouring functional conformation.

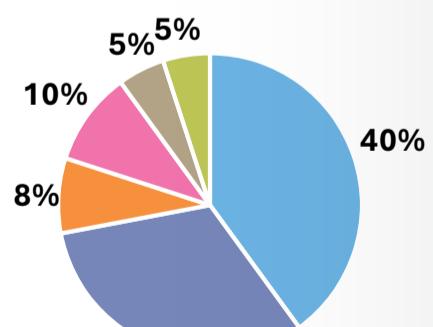
**The Health & Welfare Index (HWI)** improves disease resistance and animal welfare traits. In combination with superior management, the HWI will lead to healthier, more disease resistant cows thereby decreasing expenses.

**The goal of the Reproduction Index (RI)** is to achieve genetic gain for female fertility and calving performance.

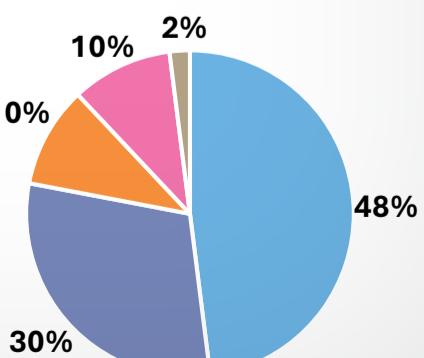
**The Milkability Index (MI)** is a new component of LPI with an aim to optimize milking efficiency designed to help all dairy farmers regardless of their production system.

**The Environmental Impact Index (EI)** is another new component, aimed at reducing the environmental footprint of your herd through selection of Feed Efficiency, Methane Efficiency, and Body Maintenance Requirements.

- Production Index
- Longevity & Type Index
- Health & Welfare Index
- Reproduction Index
- Milkability Index
- Environmental Impact



- Production Index
- Longevity & Type Index
- Health & Welfare Index
- Reproduction Index
- Milkability Index



## Relative Weights for the Jersey Lifetime Performance Index (LPI)



# IN PURSUIT OF PROGRESS AND PROFITABILITY



To help you compare subindex values and identify each animal's overall areas of strengths, each subindex is expressed on a standardized scale. The average proven sire is set to 500 with a standard deviation of 100, which means that two-thirds of proven sires will fall between 400 and 600. Favourable values will reach 700 or more.

## Top Western Canadian Herds by LPI APRIL 01, 2025

(minimum 20 active cows with official LPI)

\*%G = The percent of genotyped active cows in the herd with an official LPI.

WESTERN CANADA HOLSTEIN													
Rank	LPI	Pro\$	No. Cows	%G*	Name of Farm/Owner	City	Province	PI	LTI	HWI	RI	MI	EI
1	3390	\$2088	235	98	CHILLIWACK CATTLE SALES-SPRINGBEND	CHILLIWACK	BC	652	577	574	529	484	518
2	3188	\$1494	320	99	CEDARWAL FARMS LTD	ABBOTSFORD	BC	578	577	530	542	493	516
3	3177	\$1429	472	40	ENTERPRISE LAVOIE (1999) INC	ST. ISIDORE	AB	583	571	528	519	506	512
4	3175	\$1595	112	97	LAKESIDE DAIRY LTD.	STURGEON COUNTY	AB	607	546	527	520	480	481
5	3165	\$1446	284	99	DICKLANDS FARMS	CHILLIWACK	BC	579	562	534	528	525	501
6	3125	\$1243	179	22	SUMMERSHADE FARMS LTD.	ABBOTSFORD	BC	592	562	475	473	506	503
7	3088	\$1421	84	99	DE WILDT DAIRY LTD.	BARRHEAD	AB	603	519	499	523	464	491
8	3078	\$1172	167	81	WISSELVIEW FARMS	PITT MEADOWS	BC	555	570	504	501	518	496
9	3071	\$1254	127	91	HUEGING DAIRIES	WOODLANDS	MB	600	521	485	486	483	503
10	3063	\$1327	329	9	VALEDOORN FARMS INC.	AGASSIZ	BC	568	526	525	537	497	544
10	3063	\$1206	333	20	BENNER HOLSTEINS LTD	STEINBACH	MB	564	541	528	512	501	511

WESTERN CANADA JERSEY													
Rank	LPI	Pro\$	No. Cows	%G *	Name of Farm/Owner	City	Province	PI	LTI	HWI	RI	MI	EI
1	1575	\$1045	39	0	DAVISON FARM	MAPLE RIDGE	BC	606	496	507	475	519	
2	1547	\$883	112	16	KAMBRO FARMS LTD	ABBOTSFORD	BC	583	516	520	471	490	
3	1538	\$611	39	59	QUO VADIS DAIRY FARM LTD.	DEROCHE	BC	535	569	522	523	494	
4	1533	\$608	56	16	CLANMAN JERSEYS	CLANWILLIAM	MB	532	589	512	488	474	
5	1518	\$487	37	43	SWEETRIDGE FARMS	STANLEY	MB	524	580	528	506	484	

## Top Holstein Herds APRIL 01, 2025

BRITISH COLUMBIA													
Rank	LPI	Pro\$	No. Cows	%G*	Name of Farm/Owner	City	Province	PI	LTI	HWI	RI	MI	EI
1	3390	\$2088	235	98	CHILLIWACK CATTLE SALES-SPRINGBEND	CHILLIWACK	BC	652	577	574	529	484	518
2	3188	\$1494	320	99	CEDARWAL FARMS LTD	ABBOTSFORD	BC	578	577	530	542	493	516
3	3165	\$1446	284	99	DICKLANDS FARMS	CHILLIWACK	BC	579	562	534	528	525	501
4	3125	\$1243	179	22	SUMMERSHADE FARMS LTD.	ABBOTSFORD	BC	592	562	475	473	506	503
5	3078	\$1172	167	81	WISSELVIEW FARMS	PITT MEADOWS	BC	555	570	504	501	518	496

ALBERTA													
Rank	LPI	Pro\$	No. Cows	%G*	Name of Farm/Owner	City	Province	PI	LTI	HWI	RI	MI	EI
1	3177	\$1429	472	40	ENTERPRISE LAVOIE (1999) INC	ST. ISIDORE	AB	583	571	528	519	506	512
2	3175	\$1595	112	97	LAKESIDE DAIRY LTD.	STURGEON COUNTY	AB	607	546	527	520	480	481
3	3088	\$1421	84	99	DE WILDT DAIRY LTD.	BARRHEAD	AB	603	519	499	523	464	491
4	3057	\$1266	436	91	GREENBELT FARMS	WAINWRIGHT	AB	566	532	535	515	484	550
5	3007	\$1054	187	2	BAR E DAIRY LTD	RED DEER COUNTY	AB	527	552	536	529	495	522

SASKATCHEWAN													
Rank	LPI	Pro\$	No. Cows	%G*	Name of Farm/Owner	City	Province	PI	LTI	HWI	RI	MI	EI
1	2980	\$989	114	81	RAYNER DAIRY - U OF SASK	SASKATOON	SK	534	542	512	509	511	505
2	2963	\$891	137	2	SCHULTZ FAMILY FARM	DALMENY	SK	520	544	511	514	510	541
3	2932	\$801	119	2	KESSEL FAMILY FARM	BALGONIE	SK	510	559	488	492	504	517
4	2928	\$713	157	42	BROYHILL HOLSTEINS	BALGONIE	SK	506	572	496	478	508	476
5	2927	\$604	101	1	QUILL LAKE COLONY	QUILL LAKE	SK	493	590	496	475	492	454

MANITOBA													
Rank	LPI	Pro\$	No. Cows	%G*	Name of Farm/Owner	City	Province	PI	LTI	HWI	RI	MI	EI
1	3071	\$1254	127	91	HUEGING DAIRIES	WOODLANDS	MB	600	521	485	486	483	503
2	3063	\$1206	333	20	BENNER HOLSTEINS LTD	STEINBACH</							



2024 NOK DHIA award winners: (Back row, L-R) Rick Geisler, Clayton Hamming, Henry Bremer, Carson Hamming, Ken DeRuiter, Dan Gietema, Scott Crandlemire, Jordan Krause. (Front row, L-R) Chenielle Hamming, Walter Hamming, Peggy Hamming and Mariah Hamming.



Hamming Holsteins won ten of the 19 awards and received a sign with ten plaques on it, recognizing the categories they won. Brian and Jill Hamming could not attend because they were showing cows in Saskatoon! (L-R) Clayton, Chenielle, Peggy, Walter, Mariah, and Carson Hamming.

## TOP YEARLING

SPONSORED BY OKANAGAN FERTILIZER

Gietema Farms Ltd.	GIETEMA 32 FLO PANTONE	357-474-381=1,212
Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN EIFLE KABOB	329-444-363=1,136
Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN GALORE RUNAWAY	339-388-340=1,067

## TOP 2-YEAR-OLD

SPONSORED BY SURE CROP FEEDS

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	ROCKLEDGE SUZIE LAMBDA	382-503-402=1,287
Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN HORIZON MOLSON	343-514-390=1,247
Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	SUNNINGHILL OTHELLO LARISSA	384-431-406=1,221

## TOP 3-YEAR-OLD

SPONSORED BY HORNBY EQUIPMENT

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING DAISY DUKE	428-529-417=1,374
Elkview Farms Ltd.	ELKVIEW SEABIS AADEY	398-532-390=1,320
Elkview Farms Ltd.	ELKVIEW CAMARO JANINE	396 511 398=1,305

## TOP 4-YEAR-OLD

SPONSORED BY COUNTRY TRACTOR

Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN PARACHUTE CADBURY	342-516-364=1,224
Elkview Farms Ltd.	ELKVIEW IMPRESSION LONI	334-510-330=1,174
Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN HORIZON DANGEROUS	348-452-343=1,143

## TOP 5-YEAR-OLD

SPONSORED BY FMF CUSTOM WORK

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING MAMBO BASHA	339-521-360=1,220
Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	SPALLVUE SOLOMON GRACIE	323-514-346=1,183
Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING CINDERDOOR STEFANIA	342-451-348=1,141

## TOP MATURE COW

SPONSORED BY BDO

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	ROMYNS DEMPSEY RORY	329-530-357=1,216
Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING CALLEN STYLING	326-445-346=1,117
Windfire Jerseys	WINDFIRE BANCROFT JENNA	371-331-374=1,076

## TOP PUBLISHABLE COW

SPONSORED BY DEVANNAH HOOFTTRIMMING LTD.

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING DAISY DUKE	428-529-417=1,374
Elkview Farms Ltd.	ELKVIEW SEABIS AADEY	398-532-390=1,320
Elkview Farms Ltd.	ELKVIEW CAMARO JANINE	396-511-398=1,305

## MOST IMPROVED HERD

Sponsored by Bank of Montreal

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	+44.3 BCA
Luttmerding Farms	+24.0 BCA
Sicor Farms	+20.3 BCA

## TOP MANAGEMENT SCORE

SPONSORED BY ARMSTRONG VET CLINIC

Bomi Farms Ltd.	839
Cliffview Farm Ltd.	831
Luttmerding Farms	806

## LOWEST SCC

SPONSORED BY SHUSWAP VET CLINIC

Sicor Farms	57,000
Luttmerding Farms	68,000
Shenandoah Dairy	100,000



## TOP LIFETIME MILK

SPONSORED BY PRAIRIE COAST EQUIPMENT

Silvertale Farm Ltd.	SILVERVALE ALTABAXTER BABS	140,841 kgs
Bonivista Farms	BONIVISTA JORA WISCONSIN RED	137,628 kgs
Evergraze Holsteins Ltd.	EVERGRAZE MONETARRI DEMPSEY	136,769 kgs

## LIFETIME FAT

SPONSORED BY J&D FARMERS DAIRY SERVICE

Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN PLANET MAXIE	6,340 kgs
Silvertale Farm Ltd.	SILVERVALE ALTABAXTER BABS	6,120 kgs
Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING EPIC EVERLY	5,910 kgs

## LIFETIME PROTEIN

SPONSORED BY MIANE CREEK LIVESTOCK

Bonivista Farms	BONIVISTA JORA WISCONSIN RED	5,131 kgs
Evergraze Holsteins Ltd.	EVERGRAZE MONETARRI DEMPSEY	4,500 kgs
Silvertale Farm Ltd.	SILVERVALE ALTABAXTER BABS	4,500 kgs

## LIFETIME AVERAGE DAILY MILK

SPONSORED BY BEN'S BINS & AG SERVICES

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING EPIC EVERLY	34.34 kg/day
Elkview Farms Ltd.	ELKVIEW EPIC PAITON	34.07 kg/day
Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN SMURF SLEEPING BEAUTY	33.22 kg/day

## TOP COWS BY 305 MILK

SPONSORED BY ROSSWORN HENDERSON

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING DAISY DUKE	21,028 kgs
Schurway Farms	BSCHUR 134	19,495 kgs
Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN SMURF SLEEPING BEAUTY	18,836 kgs

## TOP COWS BY 305 PROTEIN

SPONSORED BY REES EARTHWORKS

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING DAISY DUKE	647 kgs
Schurway Farms	BSCHUR 134	624 kgs
Gietema Farms Ltd.	WHATCOM 692 JACK PATRE	603 kgs

## TOP COWS BY 305 FAT

SPONSORED BY CD MECHANICAL

Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	ROMYNS DEMPSEY RORY	1,039 kgs
Hamming Holsteins Ltd.	HAMMING MAMBO BASHA	975 kgs
Wallyann Holsteins	WALLYANN PARACHUTE CADBURY	964kgs

## TOP SMALL HERD (< 90 RECORDS)

SPONSORED BY WESTGEN

Gietema Farms Ltd.	BCA 294-340-313	Avg=315.7



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# Highlights of BC Dairy Industry Spring Producer Meetings

The BC Milk Marketing Board (BCMMB), in conjunction with BC Dairy, visited Vancouver Island on April 7th, 2025, the fourth stop on the tour of Spring Producer meetings held across the province.

## BC Milk Marketing Board Update

Vice-Chair Tom Hoogendoorn and newly elected director Ben Cuthbert led the first portion of the meeting, bearing down on several provincial production issues. "Meeting production requirements is imperative," said Tom, noting that high butter fat and lower milk volumes have highlighted the current loss of production issues – a problem that will only be magnified as more processing facilities come online and the demand for fluid milk is greater.

The BCMMB is currently reviewing the penalties to producers, since while there are no penalties for under-producing, there are for those over their production allotment. Options include a \$5/kg penalty and loss of incentive days for producers who don't utilize the Credit Transfer program, designed to manage variability in production; or removing the current \$10/kg penalty for overproduction to meet market demands. While there are pros and cons to each scenario, the bottom line is that allocations for dairy producers will be steady over the next several years and producers must find a way to meet the provincial targets.

With new processing facilities coming online, including the Project 500 (P500) plant being built by Vitalus in Abbotsford, BC producers can expect steady quota increases over the next several years. Hoogendoorn encouraged producers to "plan for these increases now," by making investments in facilities and improved management strategies. While this seems optimistic, it falls on the ears of producers in a region where cost of production is the highest in the country. As one producer pointed out, "We don't need 18% increases, we need margin!"

Discussion continued about transportation issues as producers voiced their discontent over recent dumping of milk in the Okanagan, and what the BCMMB is doing to stop this from happening. Hoogendoorn stated that the milk board has engaged a third party to study "every aspect of milk movement in the province" with the goal of improving efficiencies and seeking cost saving opportunities. The Transportation Advisory Committee, which will be chaired by Ben Cuthbert, has also been reinstated at the board level to tackle various issues.

## Dairy Innovation West Update

Mark Van Klei, BC Dairy's rep on the DIW board, gave an update on the progress of the plant which is set to be operational by mid-June. "There have been some overruns in cost," says Van Klei, noting the \$260,000 hit in foreign exchange, "but that was planned for in the contingency fund." Additionally, the DIW milk volumes for 2025/2026 are lower than expected due to economic uncertainty. "Processors want to see what the market does before committing to DIW," says Van Klei, who is optimistic about steady growth. By year three, the plant is projected to be concentrating 230 million litres, at which time processor payments will offset transportation costs.

## BC Dairy Update

Board Chair Casey Pruim brought updates about BC Dairy's Special General Meeting, where producers will be able to vote on the proposed changes to the governance model. He also urged producers to sign up for the Cost of Production study if they hadn't already. "This is your chance to showcase what the issues are," said Pruim. "While it might not result in immediate increases, it's harder for the CDC to dispute the problem if there is solid available data." The study requires 100 participants and is being managed by KPMG and MNP.

Pruim also encouraged producers to stay vigilant about their own farm biosecurity, as it's been one year since HPAI was detected in the US. Voluntary testing continues to be offered free of charge to producers and there have still been no positive cases reported in Canada. BC Dairy has been working closely with the chief provincial vet to improve testing options, aiming for each milk route in the province to be tested monthly. Pruim reiterated that a positive test would not affect milk pickup, as pasteurization kills the disease.



Tom Hoogendoorn and Ben Cuthbert deliver Milk Board updates.



Casey Pruim and Mark Van Klei share updates from BC Dairy and DIW.

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**HIGHEST HERD AVERAGE**

Farm Name	Average	BCAs	Records	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P
1. West River Farm Ltd.	321.7	288-364-313	153	13,001	606	448
2. Rosegate Dairy Farms Ltd.	317.0	295-350-306	261	12,693	567	423
3. Triwest Farms	314.0	291-351-300	130	12,792	573	422

**HIGHEST YEARLING IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. TONESA SOLSTICE EPOXY	401.7	14,161	592	452	387-435-383	Glenn De Groot
2. CHIMEWOOD CHANGE UP EDINA	396.7	9,306	497	365	393-391-406	Gifford Acres Farm Ltd.
3. WESTERNROSE GOPRO SKYPE	395.7	15,120	549	444	410-401-376	Rosegate Dairy Farms Ltd.

**HIGHEST 2-YEAR OLD IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. CEDARWAL PARFECT BALLERINA	427.3	15,532	658	515	403-460-419	Cedarwal Farms Ltd.
2. WESTERNROSE CHIEF BURPEE	419.3	17,062	740	552	398-463-397	Rosegate Dairy Farms Ltd.
3. CEDARWAL DAWSON ARROW	410.7	17,626	649	536	419-416-397	Cedarwal Farms Ltd.

**HIGHEST 3-YEAR OLD IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. WESTERNROSE DAWSON CARMELCUP	404.0	18,226	674	576	411-404-397	Rosegate Dairy Farms Ltd.
2. WEST HUGO 1329	391.7	16,089	767	529	353-457-365	West River Farm Ltd.
3. WEST MONONA 1301	390.3	16,305	687	577	364-409-398	West River Farm Ltd.

**HIGHEST 4-YEAR OLD IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. ELMIDO DAFNI FUEL 3659	401.3	17,467	804	587	368-452-384	Elmido Farms
2. KAMBROS MATEUS LEXUS 7036	393.7	17,009	842	579	345-465-371	Kambro Farms Ltd.
3. ELMIDO DABRIA UNIX 3868	387.0	16,997	880	549	338-476-347	Elmido Farms

**HIGHEST 5-YEAR OLD IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. TONESA LUPIN ALBUM	371.0	17,510	846	606	329-423-361	Glenn De Groot
2. MOSNANG SOLOMON LIQUIFY	367.3	18,148	738	585	351-388-363	Westcoast Holsteins
3. HUSO JOSUPER 8025	358.3	16,535	703	562	335-382-358	Country Charm Farms Ltd.

**HIGHEST MATURE COW IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. TONESA LUCINDA WICKHAM	388.0	18,330	795	596	362-427-375	Glenn De Groot
2. KAMBROS MR MAX GABRIELLA 6721	369.7	17,972	883	602	326-433-350	Kambro Farms Ltd.
3. KAMBROS KINGTUT VERSUS 6629	363.7	16,515	856	562	315-437-339	Kambro Farms Ltd.

**HIGHEST LIFETIME PRODUCTION FOR MILK**

Cow Name	Lactations	Kg Milk	Farm Name
1. KENMARANK BLITZ ATTACK	11	166,115	Kenmarank Farms Ltd.
2. KAMBROS JUNCTION GABY 4982	12	149,397	Kambro Farms Ltd.
3. HUSO STOLJOC 99	11	149,039	Country Charm Farms Ltd.

**HIGHEST LIFETIME PRODUCTION FOR FAT**

Cow Name	Lactations	Kg Fat	Farm Name
1. KAMBROS JUNCTION GABY 4982	12	7,649	Kambro Farms Ltd.
2. HUSO STOLJOC 99	11	5,972	Country Charm Farms Ltd.
3. KENMARANK BLITZ ATTACK	11	5,662	Kenmarank Farms Ltd.

**HIGHEST LIFETIME PRODUCTION FOR PROTEIN**

Cow Name	Lactations	Kg Protein	Farm Name
1. KAMBROS JUNCTION GABY 4982	12	5,416	Kambro Farms Ltd.
2. KENMARANK BLITZ ATTACK	11	4,826	Kenmarank Farms Ltd.
3. HUSO STOLJOC 99	11	4,781	Country Charm Farms Ltd.

**HIGHEST LIFETIME AVERAGE KILOGRAMS OF DAILY MILK**

Cow Name	Lactations	Average Kg	Farm Name
1. WEST RUBLE 838	7	37.67	West River Farm Ltd.
2. WESTERNROSE SUPERSHOT LAYUP	6	37.14	Rosegate Dairy Farms Ltd.
3. ALPINA JETT AIR KRISTINA	5	34.96	B&L Farms Ltd.

**HIGHEST HERD AVERAGE INCREASE**

Farm Name	BCA 2023	BCA 2024	Increase	# Records
1. Sache Farms Ltd.	207.7	234.7	27.0	253
2. Gifford Acres Farm Ltd.	265.0	287.3	22.3	93
3. Summershade Farms Ltd.	277.7	299.7	22.0	178

**LOWEST HERD AVERAGE SOMATIC CELL COUNT**

Farm Name	SSC	#Cows
1. West River Farm Ltd.	64	182
2. Elmido Farms	67	677
3. Benco Holsteins Ltd.	77	160

**HIGHEST HERD MANAGEMENT SCORE**

Farm Name	Total Score	Avg # Cows
1. West River Farm Ltd.	968	182
2. Rosegate Dairy Farms Ltd.	904	304
3. Elmido Farms	893	677

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Richmond-Delta Holstein Club members enjoyed a night out celebrating the DHIA award winners.

### HIGHEST HERD AVERAGE IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS

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1. Martiann Holsteins	266-327-277=870
2. Mayacres Farm	274-304-290=868
2. Hesgen Holsteins	264-280-276=820

### HIGHEST HERD AVERAGE BCA INCREASE

SPONSORED BY: ROLLINS EQUIPMENT

Farm Name	Increase
1. Hesgen Holsteins	+16
2. Richlaan Holsteins	+15.7

### HIGHEST YEARLING IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS

SPONSORED BY: GRAND VALLEY FORTIFIERS

1. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN MOLIERE FLUSTER 986	323-483-337=1143
2. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN ALCOVE SECRET 962	307-391-317=1015
3. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN RIDGELIN LUCIOUS 983	308-358-315=981

### HIGHEST 2 YEAR OLD IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS

SPONSORED BY: PACIFIC DAIRY CENTRE

1. Mayacres Farm MAYACRES ELLYN ALCOVE	325-392-354=1071
2. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN PAYDAY BIG MAC 936	343-381-335=1059
3. Mayacres Farm MAYACRES WILLIS BROOKS	335-359-348=1042

### HIGHEST 3 YEAR OLD IN ORDER OF COMBINED BCAS

SPONSORED BY: RITCHIE SMITH FEEDS

1. Mayacres Farm MAYACRES AVA DUNCAN	370-419-345=1134
2. Neveridle Farms NEVERIDLE PARACHUTE 270	356-417-359=1132
3. Mayacres Farm MAYACRES BAILEY BARDO	324-430-348=1102

### HIGHEST 4 YEAR OLD

SPONSORED BY: CALIBER EQUIPMENT

1. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN FUEL KASSIE 643	312-435-332=1079
2. Mayacres Farm MAYACRES SILVER RIDGE RISER	326-381-359=1066
3. Martiann Holsteins ROEMERS PHARO JACKPOT 670	330-392-340=1062

### HIGHEST 5 YEAR OLD

SPONSORED BY: FARM CREDIT CANADA

1. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN ELUDE CASSIDY 598	330-383-320=1033
2. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN KYRIAN ROCKSTAR 472	292-396-281=969
3. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN MIDNIGHT IN LONDON	308-334-298=940

### HIGHEST MATURE COW

SPONSORED BY: ALTAGENETICS

1. Martiann Holsteins MARTIANN ALONZO NICOLE 381	315-392-326=1033
2. Mayacres Farm MAYACRES TOPSHOT BOMBAY	284-343-306=933
3. Hesdon Holsteins HESDON DOORMAN GOOSE 944	293-325-293=911

### HIGHEST LIFETIME AVERAGE KILOGRAMS OF DAILY MILK

SPONSORED BY: WEST COAST ROBOTICS

Farm Name	Cow Name	Average KG
1. Martiann Holsteins	PROGENESIS FEDEX CELESTE	5 Lacts = 31.56
2. Davie Farm Ltd.	KENAVIE KATES MARC	6 Lacts = 30.09
3. Mayacres Farm	MAYSONS SOCKS	5 Lacts = 29.33

### HIGHEST BCA FOR FAT

SPONSORED BY: CRV GENETICS

Farm Name	Cow Name	BCA Fat
1. Martiann Holsteins	PROGENESIS FEDEX CELESTE	393
2. Martiann Holsteins	MARTIANN KYRIAN ROCKSTAR 472	377
3. Martiann Holsteins	MARTIANN ALBUM SOPHIE 579	359

### HIGHEST LIFETIME FAT KGS

SPONSORED BY: LACTANET

Farm Name	Cow Name	Total Kgs
1. Neveridle Farms	NEVERIDLE JETT AIR 613	4,382
2. Martiann Holsteins	PROGENESIS FEDEX CELESTE	4,147
3. Mayacres Farm	MAYSONS RAYLEES DAWN	4,051

### LOWEST HERD AVERAGE SOMATIC CELL COUNT

SPONSORED BY: J&amp;D FARMERS DAIRY SERVICE

Farm Name	SSC
1. Hesgen Holsteins	64,000
2. Neveridle Farms	69,000
3. Davie Farm Ltd.	72,000

### HIGHEST HERD MANAGEMENT SCORE

SPONSORED BY: AGWEST VET GROUP

Farm Name	Avg # Cows	Total Score
1. Martiann Holsteins	233	821
2. Neveridle Farms	154	728
3. Davie Farm Ltd.	126	678

### HIGHEST BCA FOR MILK

QC AND ADRIANA VANDONGEN MEMORIAL

Farm Name	Cow Name	BCA Milk
1. Mayacres Farm	MAYACRES AVA DUNCAN	370
2. Neveridle Farms	NEVERIDLE PARACHUTE 270	356
3. Mayacres Farm	MAYACRES ELMA ALCOVE	355

### HIGHEST LIFETIME MILK PRODUCTION

JAMES ERSKINE MEMORIAL TROPHY

Farm Name	Cow Name	Lact.	Kg Milk
1. Neveridle Farms	NEVERIDLE JETT AIR 613	8	104,300
2. Mayacres Farm	ROEMERS DEMPSEY D TINY	7	102,573
3. Davie Farm Ltd.	KENAVIE KATES MARC	6	101,000

## DAIRY FARMERS ...

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Centre for Genetic Improvement of Livestock (CGIL) at the University of Guelph has partnered with Holstein Canada, Lactanet, and SEMEX, to develop a reporting system tailored to Canadian Dairy farmers to document incidences of pregnancy loss and calf developmental complications in their herds.

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RESEARCH PROJECT: SURVEY  
REB #64

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Contact  
Gabriella Condello Dr. Hannah Sweett  
gcondello@uoguelph.ca hsweett@lactanet.ca

Dr. Shannon Cartwright  
scartwright@holstein.ca

### WHAT ARE PREGNANCY AND DEVELOPMENTAL COMPLICATIONS?

- Embryonic Loss
- Abortions
- Stillbirths
- Malformed/Deformed Calves
- Diseased young stock (< 3 years of age)



# SUSTAINABILITY ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE

## Is Safety Sustainable?

Chad Stewart, AgSafe chad@agsafebc.ca

It's a challenging question and one that will get varying answers depending on who you approach. Having this conversation with producers who are dealing with unpredictable weather, trade agreements and overall regulatory fatigue (and you're having an **honest conversation...**) – you'll most likely get a resounding "No" as safety is often viewed through the lens of their most recent WorkSafeBC inspection. But shift this discussion to employers in industries outside of agriculture (mining, forestry, construction, transportation, and warehousing) that employ numerous workers, and you'll end up with a much different answer.

Why the shift in perspective between industries? Why is safety (or the perception of safety) sustainable in one industry and not in agriculture? I believe this can be attributed to several factors.

First, agriculture is a family business – the workplace is the home...literally. If the place you generate revenue is also where you raise your children (or where you have grown up), how do you introduce a safety program to those family members? At what point does a family member become an employee? Regulatory agencies such as CRA and WorkSafeBC can make this distinction quite easily, but the application of these definitions to farm workplaces can be much more challenging.

These challenges include how family

members are raised on farms. Being raised on a farm comes with the ever important and extensive training program known as "common sense." If you perform task A and get hurt, next time you'll perform task A differently – sound familiar? If family members have been raised with common sense – how do we introduce safety programs that include risk assessments, safe work practices and competency determination checklists? The honest answer is, most don't – because that concept lacks common sense to them.

**With agriculture sitting as the seventh most dangerous occupation in Canada, the argument against having some form of safety program on site gets harder to support.**

The second factor involves margin compression. Times are tight, and with that, certain things get left behind in favour of activities that will generate revenue or decrease expenses. If you're going to pick one binder to work on, it's going to be the one that guarantees that you can continue to ship milk – not the one that might be used in case of a WorkSafeBC inspection. Honestly, I don't disagree – some safety programs started unnecessarily complex and have only become more so over the years. This is something AgSafe has

focused extensively on to ensure programs integrate into the way you do business.

Lastly, many workers don't expect health and safety in agriculture.

They've come from farms that also weren't running safety programs – so it's normal. The challenge with this is that agriculture is quickly running out of qualified agricultural workers. With increasing frequency, we are seeing workers come from industries that have a heavy health and safety presence and with this comes extensive safety knowledge. Some workers are now arriving with the expectation of formal orientation and training and when this doesn't occur, issues can arise. In some cases, the lack of an employer safety program is viewed as an easy target – workers with experience in the workers' compensation system know that with little to no safety documentation on site, a fraudulent claim will be easy to obtain.

So why then do some industries pursue rigorous health and safety programs? It reduces injuries, fatalities, and saves companies money. This has been demonstrated consistently and repeatedly worldwide. In 2013 the cost of workplace injuries (both direct and indirect) in Canada was \$19.8 billion – and while there are no

current numbers, I believe we can assume this number has increased to keep pace with the increase in total number of workers since. In 2022 there were close to 350,000 time-loss injuries in Canada (this doesn't include injuries where no workdays were lost) and 993 fatalities. With agriculture sitting as the seventh most dangerous occupation in Canada, the argument against having some form of safety program on site gets harder to support.

Safety doesn't have to resemble a bunch of binders on a shelf. We are aware of the challenges and constraints that exist within agriculture and have developed our programs to reflect this. Remember – working on your timeline is always better and more flexible than working on WorkSafeBC's.

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



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**Highest Herd Average**

Farm Name	Average	BCAs	Records	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P
1. Davison Farm	326.3	332-317-330	21	10,099	528	381
2. Wisselview Farms	326.0	312-333-333	148	14,284	567	486
3. Hammingview Farms Ltd.	292.3	272-327-278	79	12,378	554	403

**Highest Yearling in Order of Combined BCAs**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. WISSELVIEW CAPTIVATING CHAN	382.7	14,940	560	501	376-381-391	Wisselview Farms
2. WISSELVIEW JOHNBOY CANDY	372.7	13,909	528	465	363-374-381	Wisselview Farms
3. WISSELVIEW RELAY DIXIE	360.7	13,120	495	420	359-364-359	Wisselview Farms

**Highest 2-Year Old in Order of Combined BCAs**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. DAVISON JORDAN SCARLET 263	369.3	9,172	436	367	379-330-399	Davison Farm
2. WISSELVIEW TROPIC LOOKAS	361.3	13,026	610	459	321-407-356	Wisselview Farms
3. WISSELVIEW LUX FARAH	359.7	13,394	542	451	344-374-361	Wisselview Farms

**Highest 3-Year Old in Order of Combined BCAs**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. WISSELVIEW RAPID DIX	430.7	21,601	637	673	464-373-455	Wisselview Farms
2. WISSELVIEW DAWSON MICKIE	412.0	18,187	706	569	410-428-398	Wisselview Farms
3. WISSELVIEW DATELINE CHAN	400.3	18,114	670	638	389-387-425	Wisselview Farms

**Highest 4-Year Old in Order of Combined BCAs**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. DAVISON BUTTERSCOTCH SCARLET 8	352.3	11,879	585	464	361-325-371	Davison Farm
2. WISSELVIEW CASPER CAMILLE	350.3	17,924	655	585	351-341-359	Wisselview Farms
3. DAVISON VICEROY TOPS 856	350.3	10,805	614	416	344-357-350	Davison Farm

**Highest 5-Year Old in Order of Combined BCAs**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. WISSELVIEW KYRIAN DISCOVERY	356.7	19,753	623	580	382-328-360	Wisselview Farms
2. WISSELVIEW EXPANDER DIXIE	356.3	20,207	592	611	386-308-375	Wisselview Farms
3. WISSELVIEW SSI PHANTOM DARVA	353.7	18,395	661	610	348-341-372	Wisselview Farms

**Highest Mature Cow in Order of Combined BCAs**

Cow Name	Comp BCA	Kg M	Kg F	Kg P	BCAs	Farm Name
1. WISSELVIEW EXTREME D ADRIAH	420.7	18,600	974	613	363-518-381	Wisselview Farms
2. VOGUE DOOR TO HEAVEN	367.0	16,247	870	610	299-439-363	Wisselview Farms
3. WISSELVIEW EXTREME DELLIA	354.7	16,683	716	560	327-385-352	Wisselview Farms

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Cow Name	Lactations	Kg Milk	Farm Name
1. WISSELVIEW ENFORCER DAVY	7	129,567	Wisselview Farms
2. HAMMINGVIEW SATCHEL MILI P	9	128,255	Hammingview Farms Ltd.
3. WISSELVIEW ENFORCER DIXIE	6	119,565	Wisselview Farms

**Highest Lifetime Production for Fat**

Cow Name	Lactations	Kg Fat	Farm Name
1. HAMMINGVIEW SATCHEL MILI P	9	5,047	Hammingview Farms Ltd.
2. WISSELVIEW ENFORCER DIXIE	6	4,800	Wisselview Farms
3. KLEINVALLEY GATEAU REALA 1079	7	4,793	Kleinvalley Farms

**Highest Lifetime Production for Protein**

Cow Name	Lactations	Kg Protein	Farm Name
1. HAMMINGVIEW SATCHEL MILI P	9	4,226	Hammingview Farms Ltd.
2. WISSELVIEW ENFORCER DIXIE	6	4,186	Wisselview Farms
3. WISSELVIEW ENFORCER DAVY	7	4,142	Wisselview Farms

**Highest Lifetime Average Kilograms of Daily Milk**

Cow Name	Lactations	Average Kg	Farm Name
1. WISSELVIEW DUKE 2ND LOOK	4	34.80	Wisselview Farms
2. WISSELVIEW KYRIAN DISCOVERY	4	32.91	Wisselview Farms
3. WISSELVIEW ENFORCER DAVY	7	32.71	Wisselview Farms

**Highest Herd Average Increase**

Farm Name	BCA 2023	BCA 2024	Increase	# Records
1. Brookfield Farm	176.3	210.0	33.7	48
2. Iberg Farms	233.7	256.0	22.3	163
3. Wisselview Farms	304.3	326.0	21.7	148

**Lowest Herd Average Somatic Cell Count**

Farm Name	SSC	#Cows
1. Ebenezer Farms	60	60
2. Brunoro Farms	63	45
3. Raincoast Dairy	79	24

**Highest Herd Management Score**

Farm Name	Total Score	Avg # Cows
1. Hammingview Farms Ltd.	842	1



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As a producer, you face unique challenges — which is why you need an advisor who truly understands. Recently joining MNP, Steve Saccomano brings more than 30 years of experience in banking and agriculture, with a focus on supply management, processing, and farm management consulting. Raised on a dairy farm and owning a processing facility, Steve knows the pressures firsthand. He is committed to helping producers in the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island reach their business and succession goals.

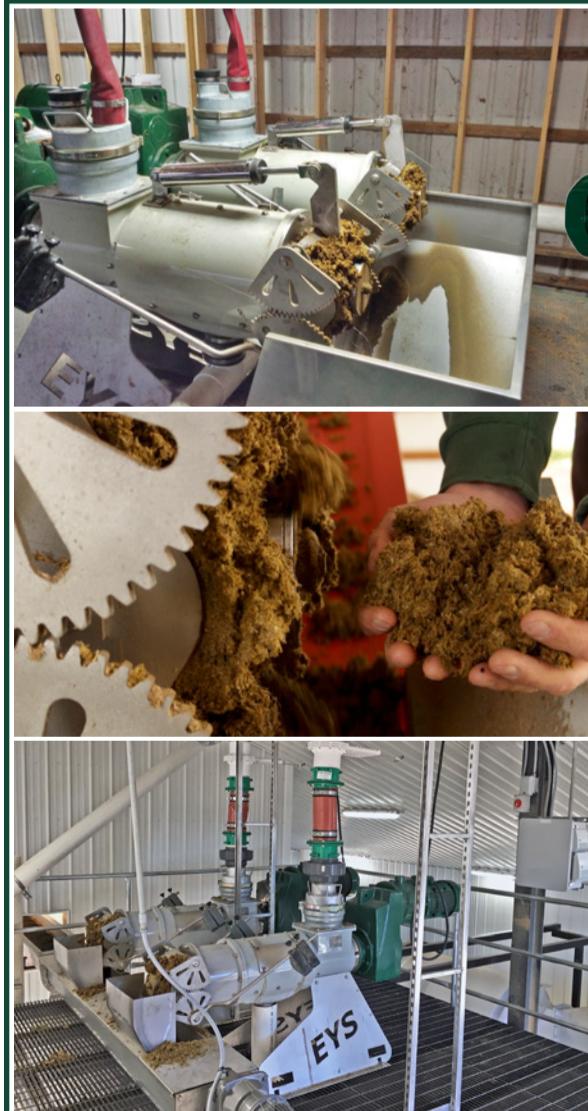
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# DHIA Awards

RESULTS COMPILED FROM LACTANET DATA 

# Dewdney Deroche DHI

## HIGH HERD AVERAGE (ROBOT MILKING)

Farm name	No. Records	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. Fraser Edge Farms	147	13,504	572	446	301-344-312	957
2. Dale Jerseys	98	8,945	473	357	302-295-319	916
3. Oroby Holsteins	76	12,653	499	416	281-298-290	869

## HIGH HERD AVERAGE (101+ RECORDS)

Farm name	No. Records	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. Quo Vadis Dairy Farm	149	10,771	468	379	261-287-281	829
2. Bewelcome Farms	110	11,674	471	391	261-284-275	820
3. Joamy Farms	140	7,632	392	298	268-254-275	797

## HIGH SMALL HERD AVERAGE (<100 RECORDS)

Farm name	No. Records	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. Nicomen Farms	98	12,041	483	400	292-298-297	887
2. Trinity Holsteins	51	11,601	502	403	275-307-292	874
3. River Island Jerseys	77	7,960	447	318	273-284-289	846

## HIGH YEARLING

Farm name	Cow	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. Nicomen Farms	42	13,286	558	449	360-407-381	1148
2. Dale Jerseys	143	9,401	449	349	397-354-388	1139
3. River Island Jerseys	161	7,644	469	325	339-394-382	1115

## HIGH TWO-YEAR OLD

Farm name	Cow	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. River Island Jerseys	156	9,400	633	425	380-476-452	1308
2. Fraser Edge Farms	2	17,319	774	576	404-484-414	1302
3. Fraser Edge Farms	4	17,872	738	557	414-456-398	1268

## HIGH THREE-YEAR OLD

Farm name	Cow	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. Dale Jerseys	956	11,440	585	451	403-377-418	1198
2. Fraser Edge Farms	939	17,999	844	586	360-456-369	1185
3. Fraser Edge Farms	849	17,430	708	575	367-405-381	1153

## HIGH FOUR-YEAR OLD

Farm name	Cow	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. Fraser Edge Farms	905	18,280	907	607	362-488-382	1232
2. Fraser Edge Farms	850	19,169	632	566	408-361-375	1144
3. Fraser Edge Farms	917	19,262	645	584	383-349-370	1102

## HIGH MATURE COW (5 YEARS & OVER)

Farm name	Cow	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. Fraser Edge Farms	711	17,204	734	565	341-397-358	1096
2. Dale Jerseys	864	11,092	645	437	352-373-367	1092
3. Fraser Edge Farms	710	16,302	797	512	326-431-324	1081

## HIGHEST LIFETIME PRODUCTION

Farm name	Cow	Age	Kgs Milk	Kgs Fat	Kgs Protein	BCAs	Combined BCAs
1. Nicomen Farms	134	9	125,965	4,932	4,076	286-301-291	878
2. North Bank Dairy Farm	1301	11	121,577	4,568	3,618	229-234-218	681
3. North Bank Dairy Farm	1284	12	114,394	4,516	3,992	242-258-265	680

## LOWEST SOMATIC CELL COUNT

Owner	No. of Records	SCC
1. Trinity Holsteins	65	45,000
2. Suntasia Farms	94	71,000
3. Fraser Edge Farms	166	91,000

## MOST IMPROVED HERD IN ONE YEAR

Owner	No. of Records	Combined BCA Score
1. River Island Jerseys	77	29
2. Fraser Edge Farms	147	14
3. Quo Vadis Dairy Farm	149	13

## HIGHEST HERD MANAGEMENT SCORE

Owner	No. of Records	Management Score
1. Fraser Edge Farms	166	892
2. Trinity Holsteins	65	875
3. River Island Jerseys	87	848

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# A Complex Case: Prairie Farmers and Cover Crops

**Ailsa McFadyen,**  
**B. Arts, English/History**

Ailsa McFadyen is a farmer living on Vancouver Island. Working in multiple facets of her local food system, Ailsa's days are filled with food production, writing, and singing.

There is a small percentage of farmers on the Prairies who are early adopters of cover cropping. Callum Morrison, a PhD student at the University of Manitoba who coauthored a survey of Canadian cover croppers in 2020, calls it a "producer led movement."

Morrison's survey, conducted with Dr. Yvonne Lawley, questioned 281 farmers growing a total of 102,539 acres of cover crops across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The survey defined a cover crop as "a crop that is planted primarily to provide soil health and other agronomic benefits that is not harvested as a major cash crop." This definition includes intercrops, shoulder season crops, full season cover, and annual forages grown for grazing.

**In Figure 1 - Farmers reported a myriad of benefits.**

Impressively, 24% of the survey's farmers reported increased profit. The authors cite "increasing yield, nutrient cycling, and water use efficiency" as potential sources for this outcome. In other words, by improving the health of the biological system, fewer inputs are required to produce the same yield: by using nitrogen-fixing legumes or nitrogen-scavenging rye, less fertilizer is required to grow cash crops, reducing input costs; by intercropping tillage radish with a cash crop, water can more easily penetrate the soil, saving on irrigation.

## Not that simple

Morrison emphasizes that cover cropping is a delicate balance and that it's "never a simple thing and will change each year." He continues, "Every location will get different opportunities for what they can get from a cover crop, because their climate, their soil, their moisture is all different. But they also all have different needs for a cover crop. For example, in some systems that have high soil disturbance, you then potentially have a bigger motivation to plant a cover crop. And then in some systems, say a dairy system, you also have an added direct financial motivation [for spring grazing]. And these things all interact."

The top five cover-cropping challenges cited by producers were:

- the short growing season
- the lack of moisture in the fall
- a late harvest of their cash crops
- the additional costs of growing a cover crop
- the impact of cover crops on their herbicide choice

Nonetheless, the numbers are encouraging, with 81% of farms reporting benefits despite these challenges, and only 4% of farms reporting a decrease in profit.

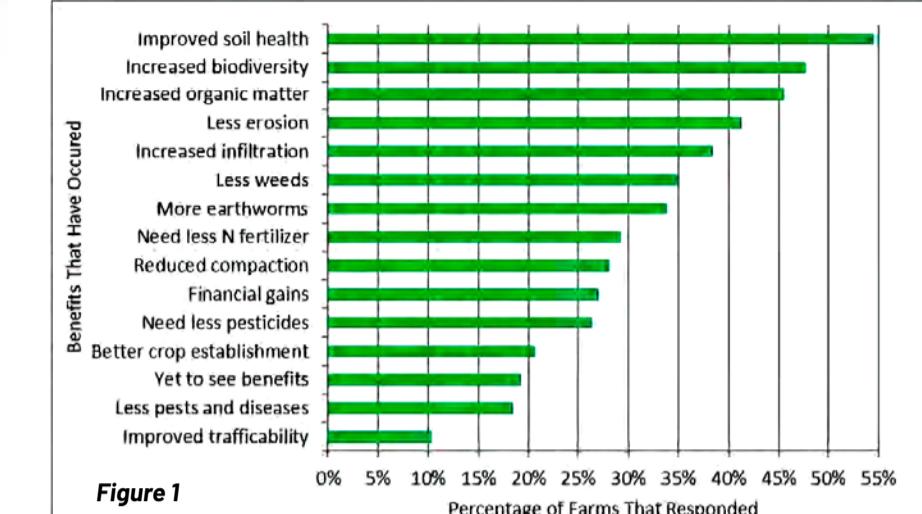
Undoubtedly, cover cropping is an investment of time, money, and attention

that could otherwise be spent elsewhere. This brings a more theoretical question to light, as the primary benefits of using a cover crop are not monetary, but rather ecological. Morrison asks, are there "broader problems in society that we don't put a price on pollution? ...and how do you put a price on biodiversity?"

## How to move forward

When asked what would help enable farmers to grow cover crops, the primary responses were: payment for storing carbon, tax credit for planting cover crops, and payments from conservation or watershed groups. Putting financial incentives on cover cropping would not only encourage more hesitant farmers to consider cover cropping as a viable option but also enable producers who are already employing cover crops to devote more attention to the practice.

Morrison comments, "We like to think about things in totalities: either you grow cover crops, or you don't." But it's not that simple. Morrison and Lawley's research suggests that farmers start by growing cover crops on a very small amount of their land and



Graphic used with permission from: Morrison, C.L., and Y. Lawley. 2021. 2020 Prairie Cover Crop Survey Report. Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba.

increase diversity and complexity as their experience grows.

He suggests that farmers interested in cover cropping "really take time. Don't rush it. Sit down and think: Well, why do I want

to do this? ...Identify what you want to do, then identify what opportunities there are to actually achieve that."

Morrison summarizes with wise advice: **start small and go slow.**



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# DHIA Awards

RESULTS COMPILED FROM LACTANET DATA

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# Agassiz-Kent DHIA 2024



Mike Wisse, rep for AltaGenetics, presented the award for Top Yearling to Tara from Holberg Farm.



Melanie Lantz, RBC, presented the Top Two Year Old award to Alex Schwichtenberg, Holberg Farm.



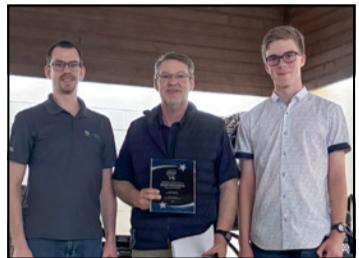
Amanda Bega, WestGen, presented the Top Three Year Old award to Barry Thompson of UBC Dairy.



Richard Meinen of Top Notch Hoof Care presented the Top Four Year Old award to Tara and Alex of Holberg Farm.



Monique Stuyt, Backwoods Mechanical, presented the Top Five Year Old award to Ruby Peterson, Peterson Farms.



John Klop, representing Prairie Coast Equipment, presented the Top Herd Management Score award to Vince and David Vanderhoek, Hoek Holsteins.



Stephanie Struys, Trouw Nutrition, presented the High Herd BCA for Milk award to Tara, Holberg Farm.



Jack Neels of Pacific Dairy Centre presented the High Herd BCA for Fat award to Eric Peterson, Peterson Farms.



Josh Roberts, Ritchie-Smith Feeds. Presented the High Herd BCA for Protein award to Alex Schwichtenberg, Holberg Farm.



Benno of Spaeti Construction Ltd. Presented the Most Improved Herd Difference in BCA award to Bill Klop, Mount Cheam Farms.



Dairy Smart sponsored the Lowest Herd SCC Average award, presented to Mike Duncan of Bonnie Doone Dairy.



J&D Farmers' Dairy Service sponsored the High Herd Combined BCA's 125 Cows award, presented to Ruby Peterson, Peterson Farms.



Hub International Insurance sponsored the High Herd Combined BCA's 125+ Cows award, presented to Tara from Holberg Farm.



Otter Co-Op sponsored the High Lifetime Milk Production award, accepted by Megan from UBC Dairy.



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## TOP YEARLINGS

SPONSORED BY: ALTA GENETICS INC.

Farm Name	Cow Name	305 Milk	BCAs	Combined
1. Holberg Farm Ltd.	HOLBERG NELLIE ALTUVE	13,516	364-357-374	1095
2. Holberg Farm Ltd.	HOLBERG NEXI AMULET	13,263	348-351-370	1069
3. Holberg Farm Ltd.	HOLBERG FINLEY SALUKI	11,927	347-319-373	1039

## TOP TWO YEAR OLDS

SPONSORED BY: RBC ROYAL BANK

Farm Name	Cow Name	305 Milk	BCAs	Combined
1. Holberg Farm Ltd.	HOLBERG NYRA RNR	16,041	347-385-357	1089
2. Valedoorn Farms Inc.	VALEDOORN GOPRO 3777	14,131	317-409-354	1080
3. UBC Dairy	UBYSSEY DUMBLEDORE EARLA 1159	15,063	366-336-358	1060

## TOP THREE YEAR OLDS

SPONSORED BY: WESTGEN

Farm Name	Cow Name	305 Milk	BCAs	Combined
1. UBC Dairy	UBYSSEY POSITIVE DAISY 119	16,438	379-360-370	1109
2. Valedoorn Farms Inc.	VALEDOORN MAUI 3503	17,243	347-405-355	1107
3. UBC Dairy	UBYSSEY CIRCUS ALMA 155	17,020	363-388-336	1087

## TOP FOUR YEAR OLDS

SPONSORED BY: TOP NOTCH HOOF CARE INC.

Farm Name	Cow Name	305 Milk	BCAs	Combined
1. Holberg Farm Ltd.	HOLBERG ZINZI BLOWTORCH	19,062	390-342-379	1111
2. Valedoorn Farms Inc.	VALEDOORN BLAST 3348	15,570	325-405-330	1060
3. Holberg Farm Ltd.	HOLBERG CALI DRAGO	15,666	322-398-334	1054

## TOP FIVE YEAR OLDS & OVER

SPONSORED BY: BACKWOODS MECHANICAL

Farm Name	Cow Name	305 Milk	BCAs	Combined
1. Peterson Farms	COLBRIT DISPLAY BULLET	16,878	337-337-333	1007
2. Holberg Farm Ltd.	HOLBERG CHICO AMULET	16,436	320-338-341	999
3. UBC Dairy	UBYSSEY JETT AIR OPSICLE	16,962	330-352-303	985

## TOP HERD BY MANAGEMENT SCORE

SPONSORED BY: PRAIRIECOAST EQUIPMENT

Farm Name		Total Score	Avg # Cows
1. Hoek Holsteins	Vince & Greg Vanderhoek	823	320
2. Peterson Farms	Gordon & Ruby Peterson	786	69
3. Valedoorn Farms Inc.	John & Tom Hoogendoorn	780	357

## HIGH HERD BCA FOR MILK

SPONSORED BY: TROWU NUTRITION

Farm Name		BCA Points
1. Holberg Farm Ltd.	Holger Schwichtenberg	278
2. Peterson Farms	Gordon & Ruby Peterson	275
3. Mount Cheam Farms Ltd.	Bill Klop	273

## HIGH HERD BCA FOR FAT

SPONSORED BY: PACIFIC DAIRY CENTRE

Farm Name		BCA Points
1. Peterson Farms	Gordon & Ruby Peterson	318
2. Valedoorn Farms Inc.	John & Tom Hoogendoorn	316
3. Harborace Holsteins Inc.	Mike & Lisa Boer	299

## HIGH HERD BCA FOR PROTEIN

SPONSORED BY: RITCHIE-SMITH FEEDS INC.

Farm Name		BCA Points
1. Holberg Farm Ltd.	Holger Schwichtenberg	296
2. Peterson Farms	Gordon & Ruby Peterson	286
3. Valedoorn Farms Inc.	John & Tom Hoogendoorn	282

## MOST IMPROVED HERD DIFFERENCE IN BCA - COMBINED TOTALS

SPONSORED BY: SPAETI CONSTRUCTION LTD.

Farm Name		% Increase of BCA Points
1. Mount Cheam Farms Ltd.	Bill Klop	19.6
2. Valedoorn Farms Inc.	John & Tom Hoogendoorn	11.6
3. Harborace Holsteins Inc.	Mike & Lisa Boer	10

Continued on next page ➔

**LOWEST HERD SCC AVERAGE**

SPONSORED BY: DAIRYSMART NUTRITION WEST

Farm Name		SCC Average
1. Bonnie Doone Dairy	Mike Duncan	114
2. Dinn Farms Ltd.	Erin Bell & Martin Dinn	115
3. Harborace Holsteins Inc.	Mike & Lisa Boer	133

**HIGH HERD COMBINED BCAS 1-125 COWS**

SPONSORED BY: J&amp;D FARMERS DAIRY SERVICE

Farm Name		Combined	Records in Average
1. Peterson Farms	Gordon & Ruby Peterson	879	53
2. Bonnie Doone Dairy	Mike Duncan	764	80
3. Dinn Farms Ltd.	Martin Dinn & Erin Bell	618	105

**HIGH HERD COMBINED BCAS 125 + COWS**

SPONSORED BY: HUB INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE LTD.

Farm Name		Combined	Records in Average
1. Holberg Farm Ltd.	Holger Schwichtenberg	860	145
2. Valedoorn Farms Inc.	John & Tom Hoogendoorn	859	317
3. UBC Dairy	Agassiz Milking Crew	824	248

**HIGH LIFETIME MILK PRODUCTION**

SPONSORED BY: OTTER CO-OP

Farm Name	Cow Name	Milk	% Fat	% Protein	Avg Kg/Day	Lactations	Age
1. UBC Dairy	UBYSSEY WINDBROOK APP	146,788	5	3.3	31.94	10	11yr 5m
2. UBC Dairy	UBYSSEY IMPRESSION JUNKIE	126,375	3.8	4	33.03	8	9yr 8m
3. UBC Dairy	UBYSSEY FEVER CLAIRE	120,477	3.8	3.1	29.74	8	10yr 2m

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**JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Manitoba Branch Open Heifer Show**

**Judge: Nicole Crosbie, SK**  
**Location: Tri Lea Farms, Grunthal, MB**

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# Scams Targeting Farmers

## A Growing Rural Risk

Julie is a fraud prevention educator and consumer protection expert. She travels around Western Canada providing presentations to businesses, community groups and conferences about the latest scams and how to protect yourself. She is especially passionate about fraud targeting rural areas. [JulieMatthews.ca](http://JulieMatthews.ca)

### Julie Matthews

#### Cattle and Cons

Canadians lost \$648 million last year to fraud and the schemes are getting more and more sophisticated. Fraudsters are casting a wide net, and farmers, along with the agriculture industry, are increasingly in their crosshairs, facing scams crafted specifically to exploit them.

Livestock sales scams are one of the most common. Scammers post listings for cattle or other livestock on classified sites (like Kijiji, Facebook Marketplace, or farm-specific platforms). The animals are often advertised at attractive prices, with photos stolen from legitimate farms. Victims are asked to pay a deposit or full payment upfront. Once payment is sent, the seller disappears, and the livestock never arrives.

The fake sellers will use high pressure tactics claiming there are "multiple interested buyers," or the animal(s) must be sold immediately due to a sudden emergency (e.g., moving, illness, financial hardship). They are hoping to rush the buyer into making a payment.

Photos are not the only thing the fraudsters will steal. They love to use the names of well known and reputable farms and companies to make their fake ads more convincing. I have spoken to farmers who had their social media accounts hacked or stolen by fraudsters in order to accept deposits from buyers. Those farmers were innocent, yet their reputation was dragged through the mud due to the actions of those online scammers.



Fraudsters will also pose as buyers and send a fake cheque or money order for more than the agreed amount. They ask the seller to refund the difference. The cheque later bounces, and the seller is out that money. This is called an overpayment scam. Unfortunately, it can take weeks for the bank to catch the fake cheque.

#### Red flags to watch for:

- Seller or buyer avoids phone calls or in-person visits
- No physical address or refuses farm visits
- Requests quick payment
- Sympathetic story about "urgent sale" due to illness, moving, etc.
- Comments on the post/ad may be turned off
- Prices are "too good to be true"

Never provide payment until you have seen the animals in person. Photos are just too easy to steal. Fake profiles are too easy to create.

Here's a little trick I like to use. If you are talking to a seller that lives a distance away where you are unable to see them in person quickly, tell the seller you have a friend or relative that lives in their area and can come take a look at the animals this afternoon. If the seller is legitimate, they will have no issues working out some sort of arrangement in the near future. Fraudulent sellers will come up with all kinds of excuses as to why your representative is unable to view the animals in person.

Online livestock auctions can also be plagued with fake bidders or sellers. Fraudulent online auction platforms (or hacked accounts on legitimate ones)

run fake sales or shill bidding to inflate prices. Buyers may pay and receive no cattle, or sellers may never be paid after delivering animals. Only visit well known and established auction websites and platforms. Beware of sellers or buyers with no physical address or unclear contact information.

Stolen livestock scams also occur. Scammers may steal actual cattle or claim to be transporting livestock on someone else's behalf. In some cases, they use stolen branding or livestock ID numbers to make their animals appear legitimate. Farmers buying cattle without checking proper documentation risk buying stolen animals, which can lead to legal trouble or seizure. Watch for red flags like incomplete or forged paperwork or refusal to provide proof of ownership.

#### To protect yourself from livestock sales scams:

- Verify identities and meet in person when possible
- Use traceable payment methods
- Request official documents for animals
- Check reputation on industry forums and social media
- Trust your gut—if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

If you have fallen victim to a scam, contact your local police and file a complaint with Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. 1-888-495-8501 or visit the website at [antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca](http://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca).

For more information on protecting yourself from scams or to book a fraud prevention talk, visit [juliematthews.ca](http://juliematthews.ca). Watch for Julie's next article in the Fall issue, where she will share additional examples of scams targeting farmers, while providing guidance to stay safe.

## All about dairy-beef: Challenges and opportunities with crossbred calves

Christine Kuo, B.Sc., Agr.

Christine Kuo is a Master's student in the Animal Welfare Program at the University of British Columbia. Her current research is on dairy producers' experiences with transitioning to a social housing setup for pre-weaned calves.



#### How can you optimize the value of dairy-beef calves on your farm?

At the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar, Dr. Michael Steele, dairy cattle physiology and nutrition professor from the University of Guelph, presented in the "Feeding the Youngstock for an Efficient Future" session to illuminate the challenges and opportunities of dairy-beef calves. Emphasizing that "there's a lot of margin here that dairy farmers can capitalize on," he shared strategies for how producers can promote good early life development to increase the value of dairy-beef calves.

#### How do crossbred calves compare to full dairy breed and full beef breed calves?

Dr. Steele presented research from the University of Guelph showing that crossbred calves have different carcass traits compared to Holsteins. Crossbred calves have larger girth and more ribeye area, and intramuscular, back, and subcutaneous fat. They also generally have greater red meat yield and improved steak shape, color, and shelf-life. These benefits, paired with beef shortages, explain why producers have been fetching \$1,000 CAD or more per dairy-beef calf depending on the region, with

Dr. Steele saying, "We've never, ever been in this position, and it's a great position to be in as a dairy producer."

Dairy-beef calves also have some advantages compared to full beef breed calves. They can yield just as much or more than full beef breeds and their meat can be more tender. Dr. Steele also explained that it was more environmentally sustainable to use dairy-beef calves to produce beef, as it reduces emissions that would have come from the cow-calf sector during the typical beef production cycle. "This is an amazing story to tell the producers and also the consumers," he said. In addition, because the dairy industry uses artificial insemination and genomic testing when breeding cows, producers are able to make rapid genetic progress, tailor calves to the market, and improve traceability



Dr. Michael Steele outlined many significant advantages with dairy-beef including the genetic gains possible from utilizing AI and genomic testing.

Continued on next page ➔

and recordkeeping. Lastly, dairy cows are bred year-round rather than seasonally, meaning that they can provide a year-round supply of crossbred calves to fill feedlots.

#### There are still some challenges...

Despite the benefits of breeding to beef, there are some challenges. A significant challenge is early life transport. Transport is a stressful process for any animal and is particularly stressful for young animals with a vulnerable immune system. Transport can also be long – according to the Health of Animals regulations, calves can be transported up to 12 hours without food, water, and rest.

These stressors, which are often paired with calves not receiving enough high-quality colostrum, can contribute to high morbidity and mortality for calves after transport. Calf growers might try to combat this by using antibiotics, but high levels of antibiotic use can be a public perception concern, beyond adding costs.

#### What can producers do about these challenges?

Dr. Steele noted that early-life nutrition and management is the “biggest black box in the dairy-beef world,” highlighting

the “untapped opportunities” for producers to take advantage of calves’ high plasticity during their early-life period.

One recommendation was for producers to ensure that calves receive enough high-quality colostrum. He also emphasized the importance of feeding high volumes of milk early in life, and shared research showing that feeding higher volumes of milk can increase carcass fat and carcass quality grade. Lastly, he recommended that producers feed calves right before transport to help prepare them for the stressors of transport and transitioning to the calf growing facility.

Dr. Steele concluded by warning that the value of cross-bred calves is “never going to be this high ever again,” hypothesizing that calf buyers may become more discriminatory and pay premiums for calves based on their health in the future. However, producers can ensure that their

dairy-beef calves are competitive and desirable in the beef market by practicing good early-life management on-farm, which will help their development and set them up for success at the calf growing facility.

Is every non-replacement calf fed milk before transport on your farm?

33 8

Yes

76%

Sometimes

18%

No

6%

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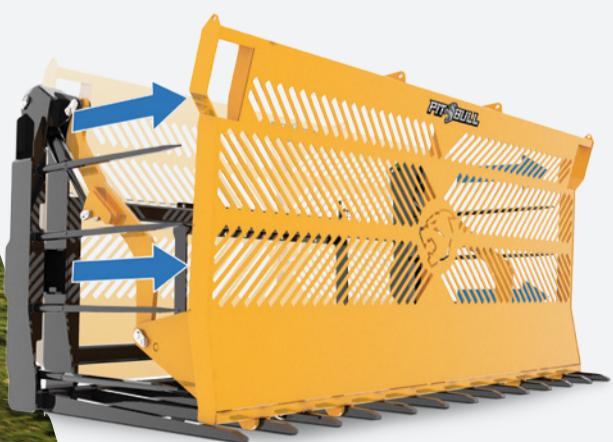
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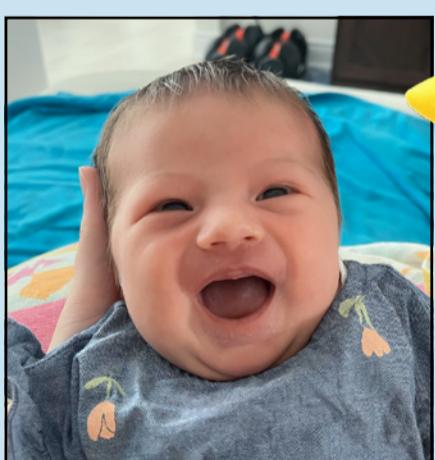


After waiting 10 years, Wendy and Peter Hanson of HP Cattle in Lumby, BC, announce their miracle baby boy, Eli Peter Hanson to the dairy world. Born February 28, 2025, weighing 8lb 10oz, he joins proud brothers Lucas (12) and Joseph (10). Congratulations!



Greg and Coral Hessels (Mission, BC) are thrilled to welcome their son August Joseph Hessels to the world! August was born March 16, 2025, weighing a whopping 10lbs 7oz and measuring 22 inches long. August is the eighth child for Greg and Coral, and his siblings are thrilled with him. Proud grandparents are Jim and MaryAnn Hessels of Hesdon Holsteins (Delta, BC) and John and Colleen Kuit (Abbotsford, BC).

On April 8, 2025, Ava Elizabeth Brandsma made her grand entrance into the world, the first child for WestGen Genetic Advisor Matt Brandsma and wife Hannah. Weighing 5lbs 15oz and measuring 19 inches long, Ava is welcomed by grandparents Jim and Darlene Brandsma (Cobble Hill, BC), Alison and Brad Isaak (Mill Bay, BC) and Colin and Sherilyn Downie (Calgary, AB). She is also the first great grandchild for Bill and Gert Wikkerink of J. William Wikkerink Farms (Cobble Hill, BC).



Curtis and Laurisa (Wikkerink) Alcock welcomed their first child, Athena Johanna Alcock, on April 18, 2025, weighing 6lbs 6oz. Athena is the first grandchild for Fred and the late Marjan Wikkerink of Wikksview Farms (Cobble Hill, BC) and Richard and Judy Alcock (New Lowell, ON). Congratulations!



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Jeremy and Hanna Rouw of Udder View Dairy (Telkwa, BC) are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their son, Lukas William Rouw, on April 20, 2025, weighing 9lbs 10 oz. Lukas is welcomed by big brother Pieter (2 years), and grandparents Lies and Ria Rouw (Telkwa, BC) and Rick and Sarah Apperson (Smithers, BC).

Natalie Veles (nee Janssens), daughter of David and Sandy Janssens from Nicomekl Farms, Surrey, welcomed her first child with husband Oleg Veles on April 22, 2025. Baby boy Luka Volodymyr Veles weighed 9lb 5oz at birth and – in true Janssens fashion – clocked in at 23" long. Luka is the third grandchild for David and Sandy, and first for Olena and Slava Veles. Natalie and Oleg married in 2022 on the farm and live in Maple Ridge. They couldn't be happier to take on their new roles as parents and are enjoying watching two cats, Teeter and Tiggy, adjust to life with a little human in the house!



Congratulations to Jenna Maarhuis, daughter of Jason and Chris Maarhuis (WC Dairy News), Abbotsford, on her graduation from the University of Waterloo (ON), with a degree in Actuarial Science. Stay tuned for an update on her job situation!



Richard and Ashley Vander Kooi (Lone Prairie Dairy, Chilliwack, BC) are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Alyssa to Tim, son of Steve and Christine Elgersma (Boa-Vista Farm, Chilliwack, BC). The wedding took place on Saturday, February 15, 2025 in Chilliwack. After a honeymoon to Puerto Vallarta for a week, the couple has settled into married life in Chilliwack, where Alyssa works full time at Lone Prairie and Tim works full time at Boa-Vista.



**Justin Van Dorp**  
Relationship Manager  
236-887-4508, BC



**Alecia Karapita**  
Relationship Manager  
250-318-8142, BC



## Cheers to 65 Years!

Congratulations to Burt and Sharon Youell on celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on April 14! Married at 17 years old, they required their parents' permission to tie the knot! Married on Good Friday, their honeymoon was a weekend in Qualicum Beach, making it back home to Saanich for Monday afternoon milking.

Sharon was a 'city girl' Burt met in school – he obviously chose very well. Sharon has been at his side ever since, being a big part of Youelldene's success, managing paperwork, registrations, calf-raising and much more from 1960 through to 1994 when the herd was sold to Stanhope -Wedgwood.

Along the way, Sharon helped deliver bottled milk for one of their city milk-routes and raised their three children, Gary, Morris and Vivian (all who have passed 40 years married!).

There weren't a lot of holidays during their farming years – but they would attend sales together when possible. In 1975, Burt and Sharon attended a Western Breeders tour back east where they were impressed by the consistency of the Downlane Reflection Emperor daughters, and less so with the deep uddered hard-working Rockman daughters.

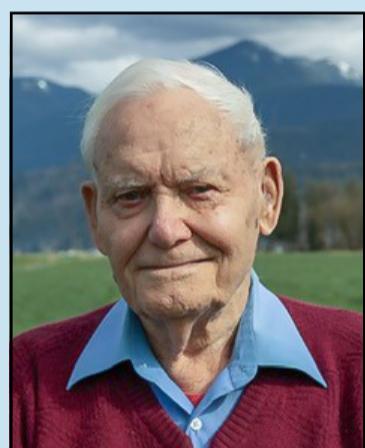
They have made up their travel deficit in retirement, sailing on 28 cruises and taking 20 bus trips, covering 45 states, Ireland, UK and Italy.

Burt and Sharon count themselves very fortunate, with three children, spouses and seven grand kids, four great grands and one on the way!



## Congrats Albert & Anne

Albert and Anne Kampman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in April with a few close family members in their care home. They were married in 1965 in Abbotsford. They still reside in Abbotsford today but have moved around a few times over the years as life and farming have guided them. Early in married life they started farming with some family, and in 1977 split off to start Kampman Farms as a couple. Albert still talks farming to this day with every visit. Albert is proud that God has blessed them with 60 years of marriage together. "Till death do us part!"



## Happy 100th Birthday Cor!

On Sunday, March 30, 2025, family and friends came together to celebrate Cor Dirven's 100th birthday.

Born in Geertruidenberg, Netherlands, he first came to Canada in 1954. He returned to Holland for a short time and married Helena VanBohem, and they immigrated to Canada in 1956. The early years were spent working for the City of Burnaby, digging peat, logging, and farming. They lived in Richmond, Pemberton Meadows, and Ladner before buying a dairy farm in Rosedale in 1962. Helco Holsteins was born.

Cor was very proud of the show string of Holsteins that were shown from Chilliwack to the PNE and his prize cow HELCO REFLECTOR LADY that also showed in Alberta. His second biggest achievement was earning the Premier Breeder Award at the Chilliwack Fair. His first are his children Maggi, Bert, Mary, and Mike.

He retired from the farm in 1991 and moved to Agassiz.

A birthday party was held on his birthday in Agassiz. Many family and friends travelled to BC to celebrate, 10 family members from Holland, 15 from outside of BC and many from all parts of BC.

Cor announced to all that it was the start of the next hundred!



Chris and Henrietta Groenendijk of Greendike Farms (Chilliwack, BC), along with Joanne and Donald Russell of Dojo Holsteins (Cobden, ON), are excited to announce the engagement of their children, Doug Groenendijk and Meghan Russell. Under the guise of filming a follow up episode of CTV's 'Farming for Love' where the couple met a little over two years ago, Meghan says the proposal was a complete surprise! Doug proposed at their Legend Dairy Farm (Chilliwack, BC), where the couple milks 50 Jerseys. "Doug chose a really special place for both of us, since we have been working really hard the past few years to build a farm we are proud of," says Meghan, who also works as a dairy nutritionist for Top Shelf Feeds in Duncan. Although no date has been set, the happy couple hopes to be married by the end of 2026 and are looking forward to the next episode, as they enjoy many seasons together on the green carpet!

UDDER NEWS NEXT PUBLISHING DEADLINE: AUGUST 29, 2025  
Phone: 604-855-1240 • E-mail: chris@holsteinnews.com  
(Fall 2025 Issue in mail: Sept. 30)



**Joey Harms**  
Relationship Manager  
204-793-3190, MB



**Shay Hunter**  
Relationship Manager  
306-640-8091, SK



**Udder News *CONTINUED*****Lynn Lancaster**

February 6, 1948 - March 9, 2025



It is with heavy hearts we announce the peaceful passing of Mary "Lynn" Lancaster (nee Vaillancourt) on March 9, 2025, at the Marjorie Willoughby Snowden Memorial Hospice Home in Kamloops, BC.

She will be dearly missed by her husband of 51 years Richard Lancaster, children Soren Lancaster, Wade Lancaster (Jessica) and Rhea Wheeler (Michael), and grand children Mallory, Ty, Tate, Kipton, Lawson, Hazel, Rhett, and Edwin.

**Henry (Hank) Jacob Vanderpost**  
1938 – 2025

It is with incredible sadness that we announce the passing of Henry (Hank) Jacob Vanderpost on Monday, April 28, 2025, at 86 years of age.

Beloved husband of Betty Lou (nee Williams) for 61 years, loving father of Garry (Bev), Darlene (Brian Jebb) and Joanne (Bill English), proud Grandpa of Trenton (Nichole), Ryan (late), Madison, Carter, Brenleigh and Vanessa, admired "Grandpa Hank" to Archer and Wynn, brother to the late Leonard (Willie), late Maria Dol (late Joe), Peter (Carol), late John (Cheryl), and Jake (late Anne).

Hank immigrated from Holland with his family in 1952 and settled at Kingsfield Farm in King City. Shortly thereafter, he began working for Tannery Hill Farms where he remained for 15 years. It was through his mentor, Jim Schwartz, that he developed his skills and knowledge in the purebred dairy cattle



Lynn was born February 6, 1948, in Yellowknife, NWT, before her family moved to Burnaby, BC. She was involved in the United Church all throughout her youth and graduated from Burnaby South in 1966. After meeting Richard, she joined him in Whitehorse, Yukon, and took a job working at Trans-North as one of the parts girls, becoming a much-loved member of the Trans-North family. Lynn and Richard returned to the family dairy farm in Matsqui after their wedding and raised their children there. In later years, the dairy farm moved to Walhachin, BC.

Lynn spent much of her time volunteering for various organizations over the years. The United Church Women's group was one of her favourites and she maintained involvement throughout her time at churches in Abbotsford, Ashcroft, and Kamloops. Lynn was invested in her children and was heavily involved with the schools PAC and 4-H clubs. Many dear and lifelong friendships were

made through her years of volunteer work.

Lynn had a passion for her hobbies, and she enjoyed the time that it allowed her to spend with family and friends crafting and creating. She was always willing to try something new and mastered many skills in flower arrangements, cake decorating, sewing, tole painting, scrapbooking and card making. Sharing her creations with others brought her much joy when they received the lovingly made gift. During the last few years, gardening at Walhachin was one of her favourite hobbies and brought her great joy.

Lynn will be remembered for her cooking and entertaining; she put great effort into making delicious meals for special events. Hosting dinner parties for family and friends was always enjoyable and happily attended by everyone. Lynn provided love through her cooking and entertaining.

**Auke Elzinga**

December 25, 1945 - February 28, 2025

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend. Auke was surrounded by his beloved family in his last days, as he was in life.

Auke was born in Friesland, The Netherlands and immigrated to Canada in 1952, first to Lethbridge, Alberta, then to Leamington, Ontario, and finally settling in the Cowichan Valley.

Auke was predeceased by his parents Sye and Sophie Elzinga, brothers Tony Elzinga and Gerry Elzinga and his much-loved grandson Theron Keel.

Survived by his wife of 55 years Sheila, daughters Theresa (Michael) Keel, Susan (Thomas) Schaad, son Kevin (Lindsay) Elzinga, granddaughters Neila (Max) Schaad, Tyra (Kevin) Schaad, Haylee (Tanner) Elzinga, Alicia (Justin) Sloan, Skyla Elzinga and Oakley Elzinga, and great granddaughter, Holland Murray, siblings Hank (Nancy), Len (Sophie), Wes (Arlea), Jannie (Roland) and Frank (Rhonda).

When Auke and Sheila were first married, Auke worked at the Chemainus Sawmill living in Westholme where they built their first home. With an offer from his in-laws, Watson and Margaret Evans, he started dairy farming. He then, along with his family, built and developed Somenos Farms at the foot of Mt. Prevost, where he built their second home. When he retired, the farm was sold, and they moved to a smaller farm in Westholme, where he raised beef and racing pigeons. Importing some pigeons from the Netherlands, he raced locally and went on to race at the Calgary Stampede and in South Africa.

Auke was a very kind and helpful man, spending much of his time volunteering with the 4-H Dairy Club, Vimy Riding Club, and Island Motocross Club. Auke worked very hard to give his family a good life of which he took great pride in.

He will always be remembered for a glove box full of Mars Bars, trips to Dairy Queen ("Don't tell your mother") and a pocket full of salted black licorice. He will be missed by many. May you and Theron play crib and fish forever. Rest in Peace Dad.

**Marjan Wikkerink**

August 22, 1968 – April 16, 2025

Marjan Thérèse Ovinge Wikkerink went to be with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on April 16, 2025.

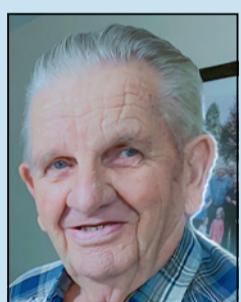
Marjan was born on August 22, 1968, in Assen, The Netherlands, to Jan and Johanna Ovinge. She is survived by her parents Jan and Johanna, her loving husband Fred, her three children, Laurisa (Curtis), Breanna, Eric (Isabelle), her siblings, Harma (Hans), Gert (Monique), many nieces and nephews and recently welcomed grandchild, Athena.

Marjan spent the first 23 years of her life in the Netherlands where she completed her education in physiotherapy. In 1992 she moved to Vancouver Island where she worked as a physiotherapist at the Chemainus Health Care Centre for 29 years.

A few months after moving to Canada, she met her future husband Fred at the Duncan Christian Reformed Church, and they married July 16, 1994. Three years later Marjan and Fred purchased and moved onto Wiksview Farm in Cobble Hill where they raised their three children.

Marjan was an active member of the Christian school and Church. Her family was her pride and joy. She will be remembered for the love she had for her family and her strong faith in Jesus.

Marjan passed away peacefully at home after a four-year long courageous battle with metastatic breast cancer. Her faith and bravery were an inspiration to many. The family would like to thank the many nurses/doctors who cared for Marjan over the years.

**San Doeelman – Celebration of Life**

Date: Friday, August 15, 2025

Time: 2 to 4 pm

Location: Lynnwood Retirement Residence  
Address: 9168 Corbould Street, Chilliwack, BCPlease stop by, say hello,  
and share your stories.

**Teresa McKinley**  
Relationship Manager  
250-618-4316



**Michele Anderson**  
Director  
Senior Commercial Markets  
778-986-2109



# Shifting Standards: How to Stay Compliant in the TFW program

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

As we move through 2025, change seems to be the only constant in the Canadian immigration system. While the program requirements of the Primary Agriculture stream remain the same, employers in the dairy industry applying to hire foreign workers are facing heightened scrutiny from Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) during the application process and with increased compliance audits of approved LMAs. Failure to pass an ESDC audit may result in serious consequences for you and/or the farm. The following are key compliance requirements that dairy employers must adhere to, to ensure they remain in good standing amid an evolving regulatory landscape.

**Do you have an Abuse-Free Policy at your farm? It is required in the ESDC inspection process.** The employer is responsible to take "every reasonable effort to provide a workplace free of abuse." Your policy must be comprehensive, carefully outline unacceptable behaviour, and include a reporting structure and system for addressing safety concerns. We also encourage farms to include an overview of their Abuse-Free Policy in their new hire orientation session, and include it in your Employee Handbook, so your workers can refer to it easily.

**Make sure your Foreign Workers know their rights.** ESDC has produced a document titled *Temporary foreign workers: Your rights are protected*, which outlines the rights and protections available to Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW) in Canada. Employers are required to provide a copy of this document (available online) to their Foreign Workers

prior to the start of work. Best practices can involve posting it somewhere on-site where the workers are likely to see it in addition to emailing it directly to the worker on arrival to Canada.

**Are your payroll deductions in order?** ESDC emphasizes while you are required to deduct income tax, Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance all other deductions except for housing require a signed agreement between the employee and employer outlining the purpose of the agreement and the repayment terms. Remember it is illegal to recover any recruiting costs associated with hiring a Temporary Foreign Worker.

Wage compliance is of utmost importance; employers must ensure that all employees are compensated at least at the wage rate listed on the LMIA and adhere to the National Commodity List wage and provincial minimum wage. This should be reviewed regularly to avoid discrepancies. ESDC has stated farms must have pay records to include time sheets with each worker's time-in, time-out, and breaks to support the hours paid on each pay period.

**Is your worker housing in order?** Employers must provide proof that the on-farm or off-site housing has been inspected by the appropriate provincial/territorial/municipal body or by an authorized private inspector with appropriate certification. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that the number of workers living in the accommodations does not exceed the number approved on the housing report.

Lastly, double-check your housing



inspection, and ensure that if any requirements were listed by the inspector (e.g., must install Co2 detector/fire extinguisher) are met **before** your workers arrive.

**Are your workers covered by your provincial Workers Compensation Insurance?** As part of the LMIA application, employers must provide Workers Compensation Insurance coverage to foreign workers.

Ensure the workers only work within the bounds of their authorization! If a foreign worker works outside the approved job duties and/or work location(s) of your LMIA, or without valid status, you may be found non-compliant with your requirements as an employer.

**Do you have proof of paid Transportation and Health Insurance costs?** Employers are responsible to pay for the round-trip transportation costs (plane, train, boat, car, bus) of the TFW to worksite in Canada, and back to the TFW's country of permanent residence. Employers must keep records of

all transportation costs paid, for a minimum of six years.

In applicable provinces/territories, you must obtain and pay for private health insurance that covers emergency medical care, for the period during which the TFW isn't covered by the applicable provincial/territorial health insurance system. The coverage the employer purchases must correspond with the TFWs' first day of work in Canada.

While these increased scrutiny measures may present challenges for employers, they also serve to enhance the overall working conditions for temporary foreign workers in Canada. As the landscape of Canadian immigration shifts in 2025 and beyond, dairy employers must remain vigilant and prepared for audits from ESDC. By implementing robust workplace policies, maintaining compliance with wage regulations, and preparing for the reinstatement of recruitment advertising, employers can navigate this transitional period with confidence.

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## Farming for the Future Regenerative Ag in Action

**Carla Plett, B.Sc., Agr., Rumardale Holsteins**

Regenerative Agriculture, a term becoming increasingly popular within the agriculture sector, describes a holistic approach to farming with a focus on improving the overall health of the agricultural ecosystem, particularly, soil health. For the Smith family of Clanwilliam Jerseys, who milk 60 purebred Jerseys in Clanwilliam, MB, embracing regenerative ag practices on their dairy farm has become an integral part of their management strategy.

"In a way, we have always had some form of it on our farm," says Sean, when asked about the inspiration for incorporating regenerative ag practices. "We have always grazed our animals, including the milking herd. But the first time we heard the term 'regenerative agriculture' was in 2012 when my dad went to a Holistic Management Conference." Since then, the farm has established three core regenerative agriculture practices that aim at improving soil health.

**1. Zero till and utilizing a single disc zero till drill to incorporate new species in stands.**

**2. Grazing as many acres as possible and extending the grazing season, when possible.**

**• Lactating cows have access to pastures 24/7 from spring through fall, with additional TMR fed outside in early spring and late fall.**

**• Heifers over nine months have access to pastures year-round, with bale grazing in the winter months.**

**3. Growing multiple species, including blends for high protein digestibility, high starch digestibility and for grazing.**

Passionate about soil health, Sean focuses on six main principles: context, reducing soil disturbance, having a living root, creating diversity, keeping the soil covered, and incorporating livestock. "When considering regenerative practices, it is very important it fits into the context of the operation. For dairy, the three key points to remember is the need for high quality forage, high level of nutrition year round, and cows need to be milked every day." Since regenerative ag practices are extremely farm specific, benchmarking can be a challenge. Sean measures the success of their practices through testing and monitoring of organic soil matter, where he has seen increases of 2-3% in some fields.

The soil's water infiltration rate is another important aspect according to Sean. "Essentially we test the speed at which water is absorbed, as we see fewer but larger rain events occurring, it becomes important to retain water when possible." This is particularly important in Clanwilliam, located three hours northwest of Winnipeg, where the climate is drier. "Our best fields can handle eight inches within an hour."

Economic success is measured both by inputs and feed costs. Sean says, "We stopped the use of fertilizers seven years ago and we haven't lost any yield with our crops. Also, with animals getting 40-60% of their dry matter intake on pasture during the summer, we have also seen a great reduction in feeding cost."

Though the Smiths have had many successes incorporating regenerative practices, it did not come without challenges. "Since we were the only ones in the beginning, finding blends that worked for us within the dairy context was difficult and we were often blending mixtures on-farm, based on our own research, by trial and error." Sean shares his "go-to" resources include podcasts and audiobooks, especially those related to dairying. "I really enjoy the Regenerative Ag Podcast with John Kempf [founder of Advancing Eco Agriculture and the Regenerative Agriculture Academy]. He interviews dairy producers with varying herd sizes from 50 to over 1000 cows, who utilize a wide variety of regenerative practices."

For dairy producers looking to incorporate regenerative agriculture practices on their farms, Sean suggests starting with the addition of one or two species into their annual forages. For example, "If a producer is growing barley for forage, consider adding an annual clover and annual rye grass." This would achieve two of the six



**A high starch multi-species mix allows the Smiths to feed from a single pile.**



**'Second Pass' grazing on a multi-species annual mix.**

soil health principles: diversity and living root (after the barley is harvested), leading to soil health improvements over time.

Throughout this whole process, Sean has worked closely with Ducks Unlimited. Initially, helping with forage establishments and covering the cost of perennial establishments, Ducks Unlimited has continued to provide funding for improvements over the past three years, establishing a supportive relationship that Sean hopes will continue.

Looking ahead, Sean's goal is to improve his blends of multiple species mixtures - having a blend that will allow for higher starch, while also feeding from a single pile. Although there are no premiums for milk produced through regenerative agriculture practices currently, Sean hopes that will come in the long run as more producers adopt regenerative agriculture practices to ensure sustainability for the future.



**Grazing perennials on a beautiful evening, the milking herd is out on pasture from early spring to late fall.**

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# 4-H News From BC

Next submission deadline: Aug. 29, 2025  
Fall 2025 issue in the mail September 30.

Chris Maarhuis: 604-855-1240  
E-mail: Chris@holsteinnews.com

## CHILLIWACK 4-H DAIRY CLUB

Club Reporter: Colton Schurmann

Chilliwack 4-H Dairy has been keeping busy this spring! Our members have been busy participating in District and Regional Speeches as well as Demonstrations and Speak and Shows. Jackson Schurmann and Kayla Schurmann participated in District Speeches with Kayla earning 1st Place Junior Public Speaker in the district; she went on to the regional competition. Kirstyn Kobes and Logan van den Brink completed a Demonstration project, and Kayla Schurmann completed a Speak and Show. The club held our club judging competition at Locarno Farm, where we judged Holstein milk cows and Jersey milk cows. We would like to thank Martin Rypma for being our judge. Our club has been busy planning and organizing supplies for the upcoming show season. Our club attended the WestGen Genetics night on May 7, and we all learned a lot. Thank you to WestGen for putting on a great event for all 4-H kids!

We held a club meeting in May where we did the Dairy cow parts quiz and judged Holstein heifers. The District judging rally was held on May 31.



West Coast Robotics, KPMG, Corals Cows Herd Services, Loewen Welding, Gagner Ventures and Greenbelt Veterinary Services. Without sponsors, we wouldn't be able to do all of the club activities, so we really appreciate the support! If you are interested in sponsoring, please reach out to us at chilliwack4hdairy@gmail.com.

## COWICHAN 4-H HOLSTEIN CLUB

Submitted by: Jeremy Wikkerink and Lillian Wikkerink

In the last couple months, our club has participated in Educational Displays, and we are starting to practise our judging skills.

The winners of our club Educational Displays were:

1st place Junior: Julia V with "Bee-Yond Honey - Our Native Bees."

2nd place Junior: Jeremy W with board on "Elk: A Farmers Nightmare."

1st place Senior: Amy G with "A Herd of Colour."



Our club winners went on to the district Ed Board competition where Julia V was 1st place Junior and the overall winner. Amy G was third place in the Senior category. Congratulations to everyone - Well done!

We have also started practicing our judging skills at Mr. Ridley Wikkerink's farm. We competed in the district judging rally on Saturday, May 24th.

We continue to work with our calves and look forward to competing at the fairs this summer.

## MATSQUI HOLSTEIN 4-H CLUB

Club reporter Zackary DeJong

We completed our club speeches March 8 at the WestGen buildings. Everyone in the club gave great speeches!

Our next event was a hoof trimming day with Phil Hemphill from Heritage Hooftrimming, hosted by the DeJong family at River Island Farms. A big thanks to Phil for teaching us about cows' hooves and showing us trimming and why it is important. Also thank you for the HH shirts!

Our next meeting was hosted by the Yoder family at Golden Gate Farms. We practiced judging a group of Brown Swiss Cows.

We look forward to our field day in June and getting ready for all the fairs this summer!



## 4-H British Columbia Provincial Council/4-H BC Foundation

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E-mail: mail@bc4h.bc.ca | Website: www.bc4h.bc.ca

## 4-H Canada

www.4-H-Canada.ca



## SUMAS HOLSTEIN 4-H CLUB

Club Reporter: Mia Bouwman

Sumas Holstien 4-H club had their speeches at the Yarrow Community School, and everyone did an awesome job! Thank you to our Senior speech judges, Megan Baars and Dr. Lisa McCrae. Our winners were: 1st - Olivia Dueck, 2nd - Kaycee Meier, 3rd - Jenoah Winkelhaar. Thank you to our Junior speech judges, Angela Groothof and Richard Bosma. Our Junior winners were: 1st - Quin Bartsch, 2nd - Evan Hammersmark, 3rd - Addison Kielstra. Congrats to the top two Juniors and Seniors who moved on to Districts.

On April 19 we showed our Demonstrations and Ed. Displays. Thank you to Jenny Janzen for hosting, and our judges, Emily and Sophia. Our Junior winners were: 1st - Frazer Winkelhaar with "Safety in Every Spark," 2nd - Quin Bartsch with "Terry Fox," 3rd - Kylie Luymes with "Oh, Canada." Our Senior winners were: 1st - Jenoah Winkelhaar with "Mad Cow Disease," 2nd - Hudson Winkelhaar "Got Beef," 3rd - Kaycee Meier with "How to Save a Life."

### Junior speech winners



The first May meeting that we had was our club judging day and dairy quiz at the Kielstra dairy farm. Thank you to Angela Hamming for coming out and helping us grow in our judging skills.



Senior speech winners

Our district practice judging rally was on May 26. We then had our district judging rally and Ed. Displays on June 7th - Thank you Wendy Mohle for hosting this event.

We will be attending the Vancouver Island Holstien show July 8-10. For this show, our club is doing its 2nd annual semen raffle. If you are interested,

please contact a Sumas Holstein 4-H member for tickets. We will also be attending the Maple Ridge fair (July 25-28), Agrifair (August 1-3) - we will be achieving at this fair, and Chilliwack Fair (August 8-10). Come on out and support your local 4-H club!

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# ¶ A Peek *into* the Past ¶

## THE CREAM PRODUCER: PRAIRIE DAIRY HISTORY ONLINE

● Mike Yusko, BC Dairy Historical Society ●  
dihscurator@gmail.com www.bcdairyhistory.ca

For a quarter of a century, the BC Dairy Historical Society (BCDHS) has diligently preserved and digitized the history of British Columbia's dairy industry. This includes historical records of interprovincial collaborations and cooperation with Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. For instance, milk from BC's Peace River was processed by Northern Alberta Dairy Pool plants located in Alberta and BC, while companies such as Burns & Co. Limited of Calgary operated milk plants in British Columbia's Okanagan, Kootenays and across the prairies. Prairie butter and cheese was sold in BC.

In 1929, Mr. Everard Clarke was hired by Burns & Co. Limited to increase farm milk production among forty Burns' dairy plants in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, and to establish a paper called "The Cream Producer." Mr. Clarke had already started publishing the "The Cream Collector" newsletter in 1927 for Shuswap

Okanagan Dairy producers. *The Cream Collector* published articles similar to those written in *The Cream Producer* newsletter. In January 1927, Volume I Issue 1 of *The Cream Collector* appeared along with the monthly cream cheque. It featured the motto, "We Are Not Milking Cows for Honor and Glory." Various characters were introduced through its pages, including Ima Bumfeeder, Hesa Goodfeeder, Mrs. Nosey Naybor, and "How Not to Farm," accompanied by many cartoons. Poems by J.S. (Mrs. Don Saunders) and others were included, providing enjoyment for readers.

The *Cream Collector* and *Cream Producer* publications provided advice and items relevant to dairy farming, along with informative editorials. Topics included methods for improving milk and cream production through choices in sire selection, breed, husbandry, and animal nutrition. The publications also covered government policy, trade,

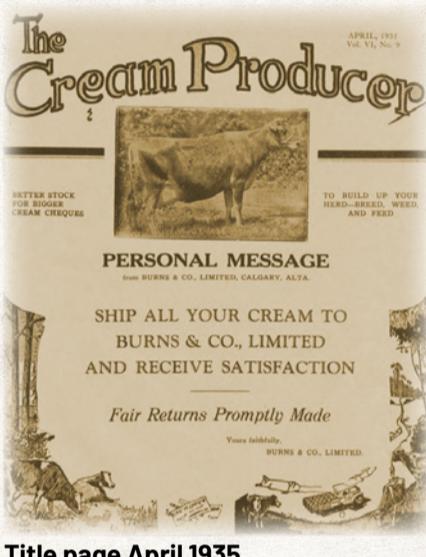
milk quality, equipment innovations, cow comfort, and high-quality feed production. Advertisements and classifieds showcased equipment and services available to farmers. Information on poultry and swine production was also included.

The BCDHS archive includes 53 editions of *The Cream Producer* publications from 1929 to 1938. This was the era of the Great Depression. These editions provide insight into the dairy industry during that difficult period in Canadian history.

The physical copies of *The Cream Producer* are now preserved in the Rare Books and Special Collections section of the University of BC Library and Archives. These editions are also online and can be viewed, searched, and downloaded at the BCDHS website at <http://www.bcdairyhistory.ca/cream-producer/search.php>.



**Title page April 1937**



## Title page April 1935



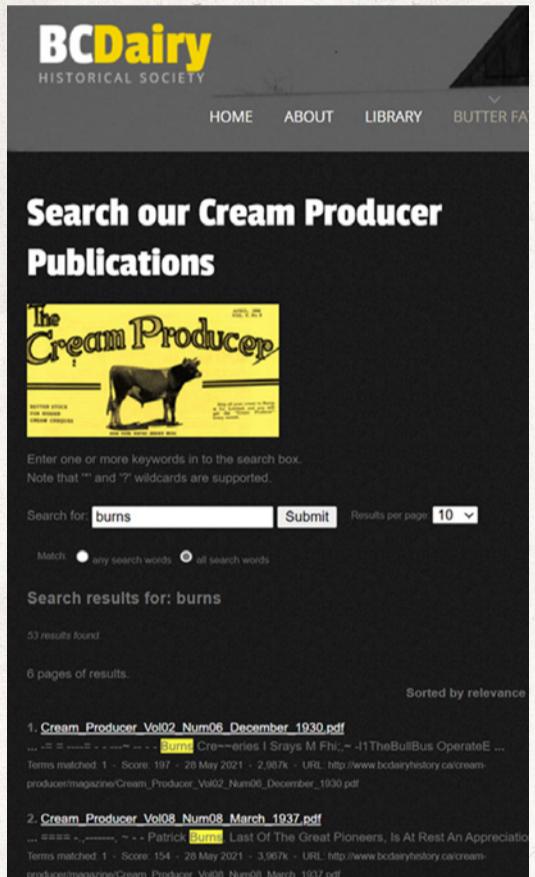
## Example article 1938



# Rural Road Construction



## Example article 1938



## The Cream Producer Search Page



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## Young Stock Corner

### Mainland Young Milk Producers



Amy Balaban

**Feed and Finance Night**

On April 2nd, MYMP directors and young dairy farmers came together for an engaging social and educational evening focused on the financial aspects of dairy farming and feed/commodity pricing.

Steve Saccomano, Farm Management Consultant specializing in succession planning at MNP, provided valuable insights into the financial side of dairy operations. Meanwhile, James Colquhoun, Director of Purchasing at Ritchie Smith Feeds, shared his expertise on feed management and pricing strategies.

Overall, it was a highly informative and enjoyable evening. MYMP extends its sincere gratitude to both Steve and James for their time and for sharing their knowledge on the key elements of feed and finance in dairy farming.

**Vitalus Tour**

On April 28th, MYMP directors had the opportunity to tour Vitalus, a leading dairy ingredient supplier. Marcela of Vitalus guided the group through the plant, offering an insightful presentation on the company's operations, the future of Canadian dairy, and key industry developments.

A significant discussion centered around projected quota allotments, sparking thoughtful exchanges among the directors. They also gained valuable insight into Canada's strong global standing in the dairy sector.

Vitalus continues to play a crucial role in

MYMP's visit to Vitalus. (L-R) Alex Schwichtenberg, Alicia Postma, Anton Schmidt, Noah Driessen, Marcela Cota (Vitalus), Andrew Gietema representing MMA, Kevin Werner, Bryce Tuytel, Dan Huizing, Moe Emami (Vitalus, Marketing).

the industry, producing a diverse range of dairy-based products – from butter to protein powder and private-label beverages, among others. It was an engaging and informative day, and MYMP looks forward to seeing how Vitalus expands its operations in the near future.

*A heartfelt thank you to Marcela and the Vitalus team for welcoming MYMP and providing this valuable learning experience!*

*Spring Social**Join MYMP for Our Spring Social!*

MYMP invites all young dairy producers to a night of community and connection at our Spring Social on Saturday, June 14th, at 7pm at Bryce Tuytel's farm (48181 Rose Road, Chilliwack).

Enjoy an evening of great company, industry camaraderie, and a short presentation from Carla Soutar.

Stay updated by following us on social media:

INSTAGRAM: @mainlandymp

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Stay tuned for MYMP's Harvest Party. Save the Date! Until then, we look forward to seeing you at the Spring Social.

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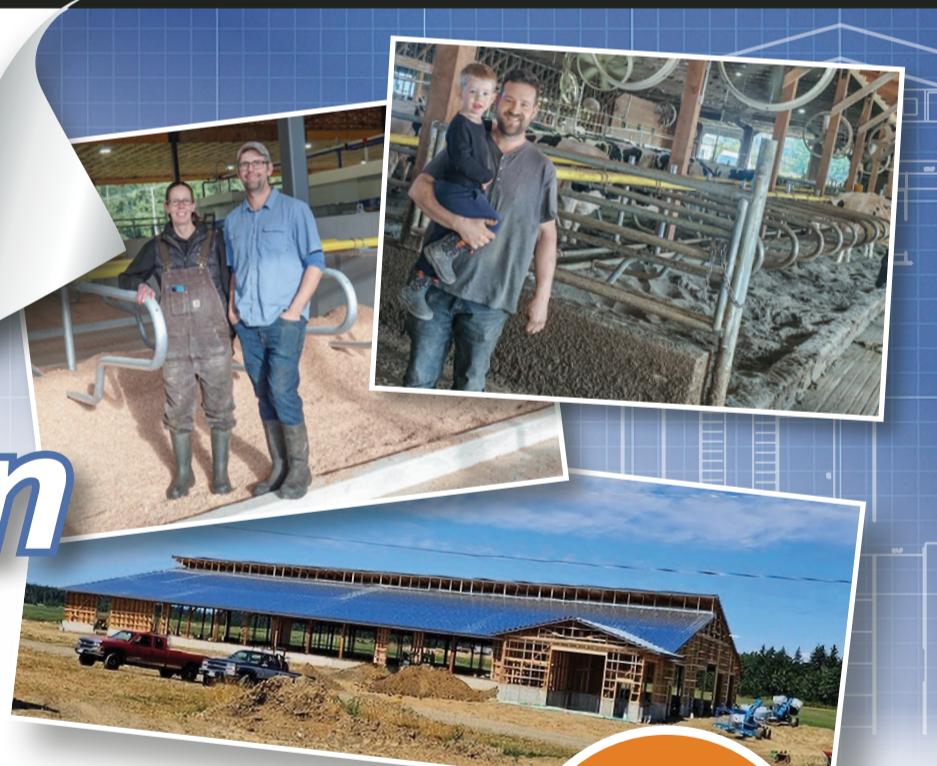
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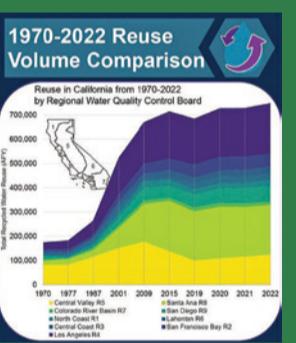
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## Holstein Canada Herds of Distinction ★★★ 2024 ★★★

**This award recognizes  
Total lifetime production  
of animals in the herd.**

**CRITERIA:** Includes all cows in the herd  
having completed a lactation in 2024.

Lifetime milk production of all animals in  
the herd who have completed a lactation  
in 2024 are used to calculate the  
Milk Herd average.

Grouped by herd size:  
(herd size = number of animals  
completing a lactation in 2024)

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CANADA AWARDS**

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Herd Size	Farm Name	Total Animals	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk Avg	Housing	Milk Freq
20-39	B&L FARMS LTD	31	1,471,239	56,944	46,888	47,459	F	R
60-69	P.J.V. FARMS LTD	64	2,790,980	116,261	95,682	43,609	F	3
60-69	COLBRIT HOLSTEINS	64	2,264,119	95,933	74,856	35,377	F	R
130+	UBC DAIRY ED CENTRE	270	10,186,686	436,795	328,673	37,728	F	R

### ALBERTA

Herd Size	Farm Name	Total Animals	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk Avg	Housing	Milk Freq
50-59	CAWITHCA DAIRY INC	55	2,242,843	92,851	71,237	40,779	PA	2
50-59	HAPPY COW DAIRY	53	1,931,369	76,943	63,243	36,441	F	3
130+	GERT & SONJA SCHRIJVER	235	10,759,743	458,062	355,749	45,786	F	3

### SASKATCHEWAN

No herds qualified in 2024.

### MANITOBA

Herd Size	Farm Name	Total Animals	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk Avg	Housing	Milk Freq
20-39	MIVELAZ HOLSTEINS	36	1,516,110	61,363	51,070	42,114	F	3
40-49	GRATEFUL DAIRY	41	1,636,108	68,384	55,240	39,905	T	3
70-89	CANDYVIEW FARM	83	3,267,497	131,535	103,533	39,367	T	3
70-89	PLEMARK HOLSTEINS	72	2,747,741	111,594	85,195	38,163	T	3
70-89	TRI LEA FARM INC	74	2,744,242	111,960	91,697	37,084	F	R
90-129	ISAAC DAIRY LTD	92	3,664,039	156,925	117,988	39,827	T	3
90-129	BADIOU DAIRY LTD	101	3,804,622	137,686	115,326	37,670	PA	R
90-129	CURRENT HOLSTEINS	98	3,659,190	157,400	121,635	37,339	T	2
90-129	HUEGING DAIRIES LTD	111	4,081,548	171,164	133,167	36,771	T	3

## DAILY PRODUCTION CHAMPION

### ★★★ Top value per day of life ★★★

**Top 10 Cows in BC, AB, SK and MB**

**CRITERIA:** Animals must be 60 months of age or older  
and have completed a minimum of four lactations.

• Animals are ranked in order of top kilograms of milk per day of life.  
Total milk, fat and protein values are divided by the number of days of life  
(birthdate to completion of lactation).

• AWARDS ARE BASED ON LACTATIONS TERMINATED IN 2024.

BRITISH COLUMBIA	Avg./Day of Life					Milk	Total	Lact	Days	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Housing	Freq	Class	Farm Name
	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Rank												
WEST RUBLE 838	37.7	1.3	1.2	2.49	34	9	7	3271	123,208	4303	3830	8133	F	9	GP-81-2YR	WEST RIVER FARM	
WESTERNROSE SUPERSHOT LAYUP	37.1	1.3	1.2	2.39	53	8	6	2923	108,550	3841	3354	6995	F	9	VG-85-3YR	ROSE GATE DAIRY FARMS LTD	
ALPINA JETT AIR KRISTINA	35	1.3	1	2.33	161	10	5	3481	121,697	4473	3631	8104	F	9	EX-90-2E	B & L FARMS LTD	
TONESA LUCINDA WICKHAM	34.9	1.5	1.2	2.64	177	8	5	2835	98,857	4113	3371	7484	F	2	EX-92-3E	TONESA HOLSTEINS LTD	
WISSELVIEW DUKE 2ND LOOK	34.8	1.1	1	2.18	184	7	4	2449	85,218	2785	2550	5335	F	3	VG-87-3YR	WISSELVIEW FARMS	
HAMMING EPIC EVERLY	34.3	1.6	1.1	2.6	245	11	7	3802	130,561	5911	3989	9900	F	2	EX-90-5E	HAMMING HOLSTEINS LTD	
HUSO MYRLE 6108	34.3	1.4	1.1	2.5	255	8	6	2844	97,455	4001	3114	7115	F	3	VG-87-5YR	COUNTRY CHARM FARMS LTD	
FRASER EDGE PROUD PHEADRA	34.2	1.3	1.1	2.39	267	8	6	2626	89,800	3478	2808	6286	F	9	GP-82-2YR	FRASER EDGE FARMS LTD	
WEST EZRA 794	34.1	1.5	1.1	2.64	280	10	7	3393	115,839	5189	3755	8944	F	9	VG-85-4YR	WEST RIVER FARM	
WESTERNROSE MONETARY WINNER	34	1.5	1	2.5	313	8	5	2719	92,393	4080	2713	6793	F	9	VG-85-3YR	ROSE GATE DAIRY FARMS LTD	
ALBERTA	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Rank	Age	Lact	Days	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Housing	Freq	Class	Farm Name	
MARSFIELD ELUDE HOPE	37.5	1.4	1.1	2.52	39	9	6	3102	116,423	4283	3542	7825	F	2	VG-88-4YR	GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER	
CONTINENTAL DEMPSEY DELORES	37.4	1.4	1.2	2.53	42	11	8	3898	145,908	5315	4539	9854	F	9	EX-90-8YR	DEERFIELD COLONY FARMING CO. LTD	
CHUBANNA MERIDIAN PABLO	36.8	1.4	1.2	2.61	61	8	5	2706	99,677	3783	3270	7053	F	9	VG-87-3YR	CHUBANNA HOLSTEINS LTD	
OSTARA CHIEF 912	36.5	1.3	1.2	2.47	74	6	4	2385	87,055	3144	2752	5896	F	9	EX-90-2E	OSTARA HOLSTEINS	
MARSFIELD LET IT SNOW SAM	36.3	1.3	1.2	2.48	81	11	7	3829	138,946	5066	4415	9481	F	2	GP-83-3YR	GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER	
MARSFIELD DUDE SAMMY JO	36.1	1.4	1.1	2.51	91	11	8	4003	144,335	5601	4461	10062	F	2	EX-91-5E	GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER	
NEW ROCKPORT BORIS SUMMER	36	1.5	1.2	2.71	97	7	4	2870	103,201	4210	3560	7770	F	2	GP-83-2YR	NEW ROCKPORT FARMING CO. LTD	
MARSFIELD DENZEL KIMMY	35.9	1.7	1.2	2.84	98	13	9	4751	170,573	7862	5634	13496	F	2	EX-93-8E	GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER	
MARSFIELD MONETARY SAM	34.9	1.4	1.1	2.46	166	8	5	2754	96,238	3756	3031	6787	F	3	VG-88-4YR	GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER	
NIFERA AIRINTAKE ALI	34.8	1.4	1.2	2.57	187	9	7	3235	112,519	4612	3706	8318	F	9	VG-86-4YR	NIFERA HOLSTEINS	
SASKATCHEWAN	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Rank	Age	Lact	Days	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Housing	Freq	Class	Farm Name	
BROYHILL AIRINTAKE SONOVA	37.4	1.1	1	2.14	44	9	6	33									

# News from Lakeland College

## Student-Managed Dairy Wraps Up Another Strong Year at Lakeland College

**Jessica Emmott,**  
**Ag Sciences Instructor**

As another academic year comes to a close, the students of Lakeland College's Student-Managed Farm Dairy Unit - Powered by New Holland have wrapped up a productive and rewarding semester.

This year's team recently completed their final presentations, showcasing a year of hard work, decision-making, and real-world farm experience. The presentation was a success and demonstrated both the knowledge students gained and the practical outcomes of their year managing the dairy herd.

The students also had the chance to start monitoring the new DeLaval Behaviour Analysis ear tags, which

were introduced in the last few months of the term. While they only had a short time to get familiar with the system, the early signs are promising. Next year's team will be able to build on this and compare the ear tags with the existing SenseHub collars to see which system best supports herd management.

Now, the team has dispersed, heading back to family farms, summer employment, or full-time roles across the industry. A number of students will be returning in the fall to continue their studies in Agricultural Business, bringing with them a deeper understanding of herd management, financial planning and leadership.

One of the team's final initiatives involved planning for a permanent



bred heifer pen closer to the main barn. The goal of this improvement is to support more consistent monitoring and management of close-up heifers. The new pen, once complete, will allow students to walk heifers directly into the barn when it's time to transition - eliminating the need to load and haul them - ultimately improving both animal handling and efficiency.

The team also pulled together some practical suggestions for next year's group, hoping to make the transition a little smoother, setting the stage for another good year. As they pass the torch, they've left the dairy ready for the next team to step in, keep things moving, and add their own ideas and improvements.



**The Student Managed Farm team ended their semester, making final presentations, showcasing the many aspects of their varied hands-on projects.**



Bonnie continues to grow the international list of recipients of her monthly digital Coming Events and Holstein news bulletin to help keep everyone connected since she retired from the Holstein Journal. We appreciate her sharing these with us. Reach out to Bonnie to get added to the entire comprehensive news bulletin. [becooper2010@gmail.com](mailto:becooper2010@gmail.com)

### Holstein News

\* As was shared earlier, **Holstein Canada** announced on May 1st that CEO Sartaj Sarkaria is no longer with Holstein Canada, and **Dairy Farmers of Canada** (DFC) reported on April 24th the departure of CEO Jacques Lefebvre.

\* **MARSFIELD DENZEL KIMMY (EX-93-8E-5\*)**, bred and owned by Gert and Sonja Schrijver, Stettler, AB, is the first cow to ever receive Holstein Canada's **Super 10** award, recognizing ten consecutive Superior Lactation records. Over her career, Kimmy has produced 186,225 kg milk, 4.6% fat, 3.3% protein (329-403-337) in 10 lactations.

\* **Brian Kitchen**, "Kitch" died in April in Stuart, Florida. Originally from the Curries, ON, area, Brian worked for Western Breeders Service before founding *Dairy Contact*, the Alberta based dairy newspaper. He would go on to hold a variety of positions during his career in both Canada and the United States, including General Manager of the Canadian Maine-Anjou Association from 1980-85.

\* **Yvan Ten-Have**, 63, of La Sarre, QC, died on April 25th. Yvan bred Holsteins under the Tendale prefix at Saint-Simon-de-Clermont, Que., until 2021. He is survived by three children including son Maxime (Melissa Kemmere) of Crossfield, AB, who is a fitter and sales representative for STgenetics.

*Bonnie Cooper  
Retired Holstein Journal Editor*

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# Going Viral to Combat Johne's Disease

Natali Shafer, M.Sc.

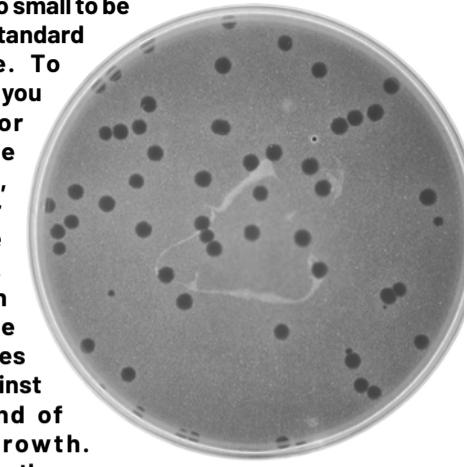
Natali recently graduated with a Master's degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Calgary and continues to study bacteriophages. She can be reached at [natalishafer1@gmail.com](mailto:natalishafer1@gmail.com).

Many livestock owners have seen first-hand how devastating the spread of a pathogen can be for a cattle operation. One such pathogen, *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* (MAP) bacteria, causes Johne's disease. Johne's disease can be found all over the world. It causes ruminants such as cattle to lose body conditioning, experience diarrhea, and eventually die. Usually, calves are exposed to MAP bacteria when they are very young through incidental ingestion of feces. The chronic infection can take years to show any clinical signs, all the while the cow could be shedding and spreading the pathogen around the farm. Canadian cattle farmers have very few disease mitigation options as no vaccines are currently available in Canada, and there is no way to cure the disease. So, in the De Buck Laboratory at the University of Calgary, we sought to investigate nontraditional ways of fighting bacterial infections. One such way was first discovered by a French Canadian scientist named Felix d'Herelle in 1917, when he observed that bacteria can be killed by another microbe: a virus. Our research group focused on these viruses, because we believe they could be a valuable tool in our fight against Johne's disease.

## When Viruses are on Our Side

Viruses that kill bacteria are called bacteriophages, or phages. In the laboratory, we can grow billions of phages and administer them to infect and kill bacteria. Phages are not the same type of virus that can infect humans, they can only infect bacteria. In fact, phages are a normal part of our microbiome, helping to keep bacteria populations in check. Not only do these viruses only kill bacteria, but they also have preferred types of bacteria they selectively predate, while they leave the other bacteria alone. This makes them preferable to antibiotics in some ways because antibiotics kill most bacteria, including ones that are beneficial. However, sometimes phages cause the bacteria they infect to become resistant to further phage infection, which could give the bacteria a leg up. To disable the main source of resistance in the phage, we must edit the phage genome.

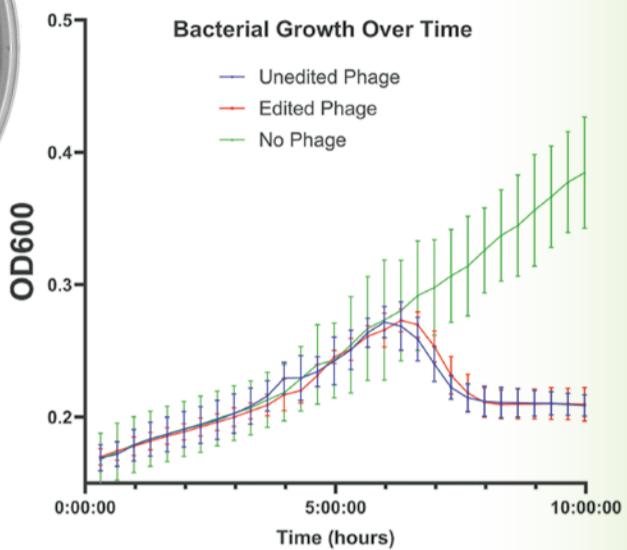
Phages are too small to be seen with a standard microscope. To find a phage, you don't look for the presence of the phage, you look for the absence of bacteria. The dots on this culture dish are 'zones of death' against a background of bacterial growth. Those dots are the result of phages killing the bacteria in that area.



First, we needed to prove that phages can be used to prevent Johne's disease. We isolated several new phages that could kill MAP bacteria. Then, we added phages to milk replacer and gave it to the calves every day until weaning, and subsequently exposed them to MAP. We found that the calves that were given phages were protected from MAP infection, whereas the calves that had no phage showed evidence of infection. Therefore, the phages successfully prevented the calves from getting Johne's disease in this experimental trial. The next step was to genetically modify the phages to eliminate the most common source of phage resistance, so they can potentially be used on a larger scale.

First, we selected one phage that was found to be particularly promising throughout the course of the trial. We found the phage in many samples taken from the calf trial, so we knew that this phage was a persistent and effective MAP killer. To eliminate the main source of resistance from the phage genome, we genetically engineered the phage to delete a key gene. Without that gene, the phage was unable to easily generate a

phage-resistant bacteria. Then, we made sure that our tinkering did not change the fundamental parts of this phage that we liked, namely its killing efficiency. Indeed, the engineered phage performed similarly to its natural counterpart, killing the bacteria at the same rate as our unedited phage. We measured this by comparing the time it takes to achieve complete bacterial death between the two phages. This was encouraging, as it told us that we have a phage that was likely to be just as effective as it was in the trial, without the problem of phage resistance for regulators to be concerned about.



This graph shows bacterial growth over time. The green line represents what happens when there is no phage and the bacteria continues to grow. The red and blue lines show how the natural and modified phage perform similarly, killing off the bacteria at the same rate.

I envision a future where genetically engineered phages are a routine supplement given to calves in their first few months of life. These phages will be designed so they have a reduced risk of causing phage resistance in bacteria, so that they are safer and more likely to obtain regulatory approval. Our trial and our subsequent genetic engineering experiments are the first steps towards this future.

# From the Farm Up: Producer Feedback Drives proAction Animal Care Pilot Project

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As the Canadian dairy industry continues to prioritize excellence in animal welfare, the **Animal Care proAction pilot project** emerged as a vital initiative in refining and evolving national standards. Delivered across Canada, this pilot provided a valuable opportunity to assess proposed updates based on the 2023 Code of Practice for Dairy Cattle to the proAction Animal Care module while directly involving producers in the process.

The pilot project's primary goal was to inform and **gather meaningful feedback from dairy producers** about the draft changes under consideration by the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) **Animal Care Technical Committee (ACTC)**. Through a combination of **mock validations and producer engagement sessions**, the project served as a test run of the proposed new requirements and tools to ensure they are practical, effective, and reflective of on-farm realities.

## Western Canada's Active Participation: Broad Engagement and Strong Feedback

In British Columbia and Alberta, the pilot project saw **exceptional engagement from producers**. Over the course of the initiative, 12 **dedicated proAction pilot meetings** were held across both provinces. These producer engagement sessions brought together **more than 190 dairy producers**, demonstrating a strong collective commitment to shaping the future of animal care in the industry.

These meetings weren't just informational – they were

designed as **interactive platforms for feedback**. Through open discussions, producers shared their perspectives on various aspects of the proposed new requirements for Animal Care module, including the proposed protocols, recordkeeping tools, and assessment procedures. As a result, both BC and Alberta collected **over 400 individual comments** and recommendations around the proposed new requirements of the program. These were compiled and submitted directly to the **DFC proAction ACTC**, ensuring that producer voices were well-represented in the national review process.

## Validation as a Learning Tool: Realistic Mock Assessments

To simulate how the updated module might be applied under real conditions, all four western provinces decided to invite all producers due between January-March 2025 for a full validation to participate in the mock validation. The uptake was impressive with a total of **185 mock validations having been completed**. These validations offered a dual benefit: they helped test the proposed animal care assessment tools, and they provided producers with firsthand experience in how future validations could look and feel.

Each mock validation included a thorough walkthrough of proposed new criteria, such as animal-based indicators, new SOP requirements, and updated recordkeeping expectations. The feedback from these validations was instrumental in highlighting strengths, uncovering

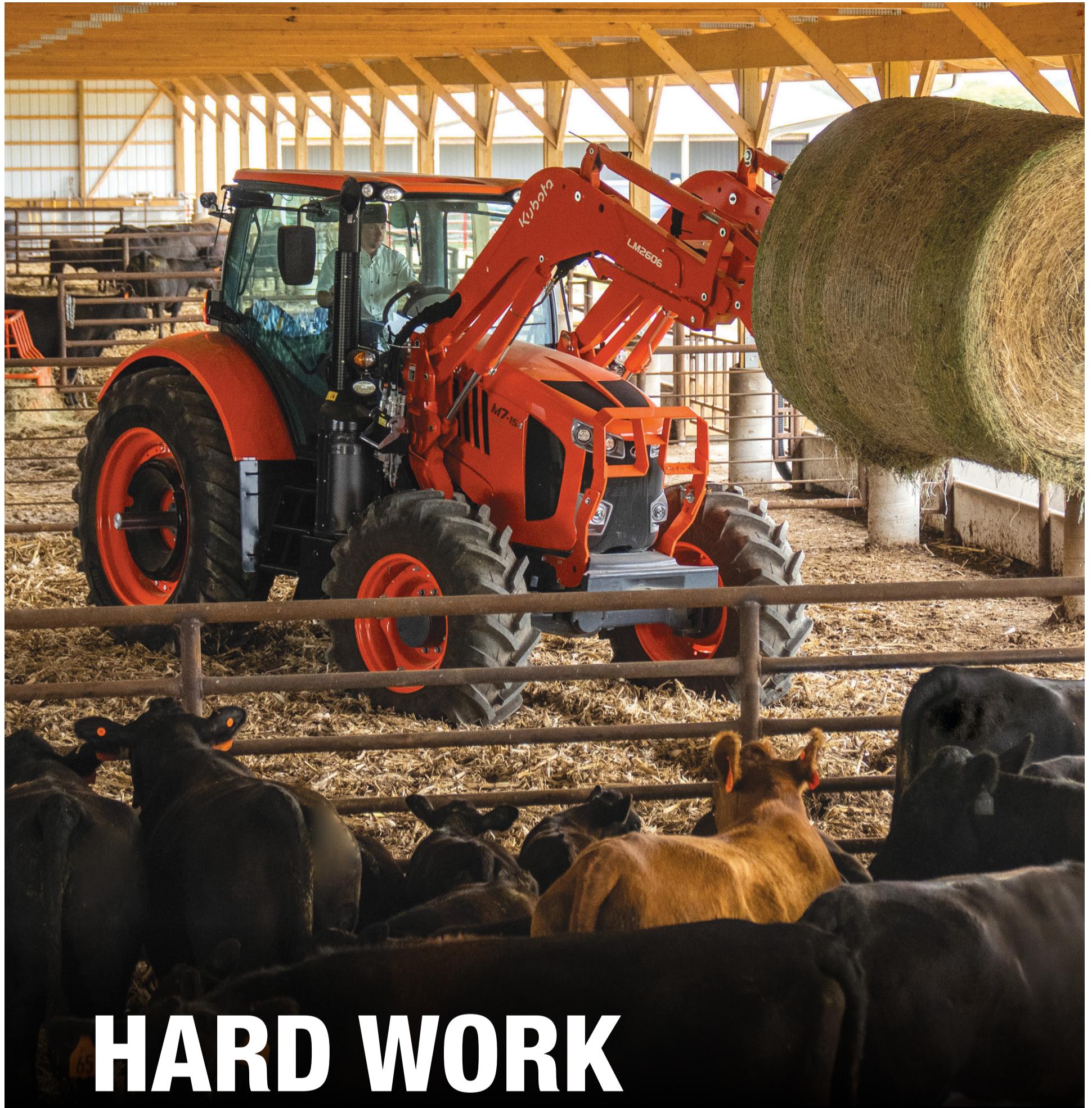
challenges, and identifying areas for clarification or improvement.

The high level of producer participation in these mock validations cannot be underscored – it highlights a robust level of engagement and ensures adequate representation at both the regional and national levels. This widespread participation reflects the dairy community's shared dedication to transparent, science-based, and feasible animal care standards.

## Looking Ahead: Collaborative Standards, Stronger Outcomes

The Animal Care proAction pilot project showcased how **collaborative consultation strengthens national standards**. By involving producers at every stage – from validation to group feedback – the pilot ensured that any future changes to the proAction Animal Care module are both scientifically grounded and practically applicable on the farm. We are very appreciative for producers that took the time out of their busy lives to participate and offer their valuable feedback as well as to those that participated in the on-farm mock-validations.

As the DFC ACTC continues its review process of the data collected nationally, the insights gathered from Western Canada will play a critical role in providing practical consideration for on-farm implementation of proAction. This process ensures continuous improvement, accountability, and a commitment to the highest level of animal care standards across Canadian dairy farms.



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