

Udder News

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Congratulations to Iris and Elyas Tesfaye (Agribution) on the safe arrival of their daughter Abigail, on April 9, 2025, weighing 7lbs 10.5 oz. Her big brother Joshua is very excited for his new playmate and looks forward to many adventures together. Proud grandparents are Girma and Nejat in Ethiopia, and Gert and Gea ten Have, former dairy farmers from St. Claude, MB.



Christian and Grace Taylor of Viewfield Farms (Courtenay, BC), welcomed their first child, Romeo Manzi Taylor, on August 1st, 2025. Born at Campbell River Hospital, Romeo made his grand entrance weighing 8lbs 2oz. Proud grandparents are John Munga and Joy Mukamurenzi (Kigali, Rwanda) and Dave and Lisa Taylor of Viewfield Farms. Romeo is also a great grandson for Joe and Jeanette Taylor.

Mike and Shania Duncan are pleased to announce the birth of their third child, a daughter, Adrianna Shania Postma-Duncan, born August 26, 2025. Proud big brothers are MJ and Waylon. Grandparents Art and Anita Postma of Postma Farms Ltd. (Deroche, BC), Brad and Kim Duncan of Bonnie Doone Dairy (Harrison Mills, BC), and great grandparents Ben Brandsema of Brandy Farms (Abbotsford, BC), Art Postma Sr. of Postma Farms Ltd., and Jean Duncan of Bonnie Doone Dairy are thrilled with the new arrival.



Congratulations to Courtney Swain and Pete Vanden Dungen of Meadow Green Farms (Duncan, BC), who welcomed their first child, Parker Brandt Vanden Dungen on September 29th, 2025. Parker was born at 3:40pm and weighed 8lbs 10oz. He is third grandchild for John and Tanya Vanden Dungen, and the first for Wes and Jen Swain

Finnley Blaze Leffers made her grand entrance on October 4th, 2025, weighing 8lbs 12 oz. Proud first-time parents are Ryan and Jodie (Stoker) Leffers of Deroche, BC. Only five minutes away from the family farm, Finnley will surely be visiting her grandparents, Theo and Brenda Stoker of Melinke Farms, often. She is also welcomed by Andrew and Arlene Leffers (Houston, BC). Congratulations!



The last of the Haeni brothers is officially off the market! Congrats to Sam Haeni and Marie-Ève Longchamps who were engaged on April 22, 2025. Sam is the son of Adrian and Vreni Haeni of Lone Pine Jerseys and Creamery (Didsbury, AB), and Marie-Ève is the daughter of Pierre Longchamps and Hélène Légaré (Revelstoke, BC). Plans are in the works for an August 2026 wedding, and the couple plans to stay in Airdrie for the foreseeable future, where Marie-Ève is a French immersion elementary teacher, and Sam commutes to Didsbury to work both in the creamery and on the farm at Lone Pine.



Congratulations to Andrew Gietema of Whatcom Acres Farm (Abbotsford, BC), and Amy Balaban (Maple Ridge, BC), on their engagement. Andrew proposed on Amy's birthday in August 2025, at their favourite place in the Cariboo – Canim Lake. No concrete wedding plans have been set yet, but the couple is looking towards a wedding sometime in 2026. Proud parents are Harvey and Brigitte Gietema, and Todd and Colleen Balaban.



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Congratulations of Josh Telford of J-A-Telford Holsteins (Enderby, BC), and Brittany Golsof (Kelowna, BC), on their October 12th engagement. Josh is the son of Jim and Julie (late) Telford of Telford Farms (Abbotsford, BC), and Brittany is the daughter of the late Kerry and Linda Golsof. The engagement took place at Telford Farms and the happy couple, along with Josh's son Forrest who is equally excited, are making plans for a fall wedding in 2027 in the North Okanagan.



Congratulations to Sydney Toth and Noah van der Woude (Warman, SK), who were married September 20th, 2025. The happy couple met through mutual friends in the dairy industry while attending Agribition in Regina, SK, in 2021, and were excited to tie the knot in front of family and friends, some of which traveled from the Netherlands! Noah is the son of Jos van der Woude and Judy Bruinsma (Rien, NLD), and Sydney is the daughter of Emanuel and Shauna Baumann of Baumann Holsteins (Kipling, SK). The happy couple has made their home in Warman, where Noah works for Dairy Lane Systems and Sydney raises their two daughters, Meela (6 years) and Sophie (9 months).

Tamara Antonsen, daughter of Kevin and Carol Antonsen of Alderan Farms (Aldergrove, BC), and Joshua Schoepp, son of Ken and Debra Schoepp (Langley, BC), were married August 29, 2025, at the Walnut Grove Lutheran Church. They celebrated with a reception at Fort Langley Community Hall. After a honeymoon in Maui, Hawaii, the couple has settled in Langley, where Tamara works as a graphic designer and Joshua as a welder.



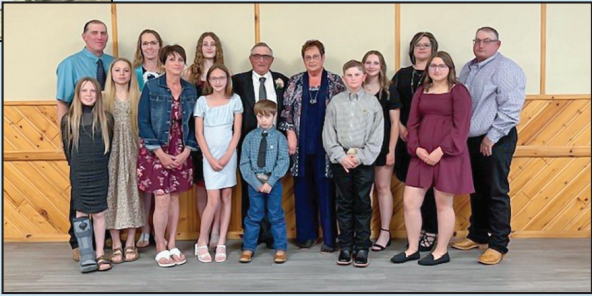
On August 30, 2025, Nicki Meier, daughter of Jimi and Tony Meier of U&D Meier Dairy #2 (Abbotsford, BC) married Evan Davidson, son of Aaron and Sandra Davidson of Ontario. The couple exchanged vows out in the field at the Meier family farm, with a few old 4-H cows quietly looking on. Flowers adorned the venue from field to table, creating the picture-perfect day for the celebration of their marriage. Evan and Nicki are deeply grateful to their family and friends who traveled from near and far to celebrate their special day, sharing in all the dancing and laughter the day brought. They both look forward to building a beautiful future together surrounded by love, laughter, and the life they cherish on the farm.



John & Clara Klop of Lorenzetti Acres (Hope, BC), and Shaun & Lisa Vanderveen (Abbotsford, BC), are pleased to share that Nelliese Klop and Nick Vanderveen were married on September 12, 2025, at the Christ Church of Hope National Site (1861), in the presence of family and friends. Nelliese gifted her new husband a ride from Valley Helicopters, up to the top of Mount Hope, for the most stunning wedding pictures! Followed by more beautiful pictures at Othello Tunnels. The reception was a magical forest wedding with live saxophone music and forest mist. Their honeymoon was a week to 'Carmel by the Sea' in California. The couple now resides in Rosedale, BC.



Congratulations to Garry and Dianne Lovich of Lovhill Holsteins (Cherhill, AB) who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14th, 2025. Their family, along with over 150 guests, celebrated the happy couple at a party (on their actual wedding date!) in Cherhill with dinner, live music and dancing, as well as a slideshow highlighting the last 50 years. The original wedding party, almost entirely intact, was also on hand for the occasion! Wishing you many more years together!



Congratulations to Nel Poelman of Sunny Vale Farm (Cowichan Bay, BC), who celebrated her 90th birthday on September 19th. A casual party was held at the Cobble Hill Hall, where Nel has been a member of the Women's Institute for more than 60 years. Family and friends from near and far were present for the festivities, including a niece and three nephews from Holland!



On September 27, 2025, Steven Vanzessen married Lauren Buekert in a lovely garden wedding, followed by a reception and party hosted by the groom's parents. Steven is the son of Tymen and Ria Vanzessen of Vanzessen Dairy (Rosthern, SK). Lauren is the daughter of Joe Buekert (Warman, SK), and Amanda Kowalski (Davidson, SK). Congratulations Steven and Lauren!

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Udder News *CONTINUED*

Albert Raymond Bazinet

January 8, 1964 – October 2, 2025

Albert Raymond Bazinet passed away on October 2, 2025, at the age of 61. He will be lovingly missed by his wife of 37 years, Shirley Swan, his mother Helen Bazinet, his six siblings, and many nieces and nephews. Albert was predeceased by his father, Victor Bazinet.



Albert was born in Eriksdale, Manitoba, where he lived and worked on the family farm alongside his parents and siblings. Growing up in a close-knit rural community shaped his lifelong values of hard work, kindness, and friendship. Albert met Shirley in the spring of 1988, and together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and adventure. They especially cherished camping, spending countless weekends exploring the outdoors and sharing quiet moments by the fire.

Albert was a dedicated and hardworking member of Manitoba's agricultural community. He worked on numerous dairy farms and with both Alta Genetics and Lactanet. His career took him across the province as he became highly respected within the dairy and beef industries. Albert went the "extra mile" to ensure everything he did had the best possible results, either with milk recording, registrations, or communicating with breed associations on behalf of his herds.

Known for his friendly nature and love of conversation, Albert enjoyed talking with people wherever he went—whether he knew them or not—and could always find common ground and good humour in every exchange. If you mentioned the name Bazinet anywhere, someone in the group would invariably ask, "Do you know Albert?"

Albert's greatest passion was curling. He made a lasting impact on junior curling in Manitoba, coaching over 24 teams during his 20-year tenure. His experience and love for the sport were evident in his coaching and in the many relationships he built within his broad curling family.

Whether he was at the rink or in a dairy barn, he was never shy about sharing his thoughts, happy to offer friendly coaching and encouragement to curlers or his farm customers.

The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Cancer Centre team at the Victoria Hospital for their exceptional care, compassion, and support throughout Albert's journey.

Aaltje Cornelia (Corrie) Kampman

December 21, 1942 – September 2, 2025

Corrie was born on December 21, 1942, in Echten, Friesland, the Netherlands. She was the seventh of ten children born to Tienus and Jeltje DeJong. Corrie immigrated to Canada with her family at the age of four in June 1947. For being such a young girl, Corrie had strong and vivid memories of that trip, and she loved to share stories of her childhood as well as of growing up in the Fraser Valley.



Corrie and Bill Kampman were married on July 27, 1962, and were blessed over a span of years with seven children. They raised their family on the farm on Townshipline Road and eventually handed the farm down to their sons.

Corrie was always a hard worker, and she worked to instill in her children the value of a job well done, and to do their work as doing it unto the Lord. Over the years, Corrie was always involved in her church, helping where needed, leading and attending Bible studies, visiting and supporting those in need as well as volunteering at Life's Second Chance Thrift Store.

In February 2020, her husband of 57 years passed away. Of course, this was hard on her only to be made worse shortly after with COVID-19 and all its restrictions. Corrie stayed focussed on the Lord and rode it out trusting in God's plan and provision.

Corrie was devoted to being involved and present in the lives of her many grandchildren and great grandchildren. She enjoyed playing games and was determined to win, and most often did! She loved camping/fishing, gardening, animals and her birds, and being outdoors.

Corrie will be greatly missed by her children Allen & Cindy Kampman (Springbreeze Dairy, Oakbank, MB), Tom (Kambro Farms, Abbotsford, BC), Helena & Ron Vanderwal (R&H Mechanical, Abbotsford), June & John Pool (John Pool Construction, Abbotsford), Doug & Wannetta Kampman (Kambro Farms), Chris & Jason Maarhuis (WCDN, Abbotsford) and Will & Janice Kampman (Kambro Farms), as well as her many grandchildren, great grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews and friends.

John Stefkovic

February 2, 1938 – October 11, 2025



John Stefkovic passed away peacefully at the age of 87. Born on February 2, 1938, on his family's farm in Dugald, Manitoba, John was the son of Imrich and Mary Stefkovic, who immigrated from Slovakia. He is survived by his daughters Gladys Stefkovic, Grace Bazinet, and Phyllis Cook, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. John was predeceased by his beloved wife, Victoire, his parents, and his son-in-law, Maynard Bell.

John dedicated his life to working on the farm, spending long hours alongside his loved ones. He continued farming until November 2022, when a massive stroke forced John to step away from the farm he cherished so deeply.

John and his family were dedicated breeders of high-quality, purebred cattle, initially using the 'IS' prefix before establishing the 'STEFHAVEN' name. John proudly exhibited his prized animals at fairs throughout Manitoba and across Western Canada. He valued the friendships he formed within the dairy community, and people knew when John set his sights on a particular cow, he would bring it home.

John's keen eye earned him recognition as an official judge with Holstein Canada, and he shared his enthusiasm for breeding and exhibiting cattle with his daughters and grandson, Bradley Bazinet (BRANET), inspiring the next generation to continue his legacy.

In 1999, after a devastating barn fire claimed most of the herd, John was determined to rebuild what was lost. He insisted, "There is a hole in the yard," and soon replaced the barn with a new freestall facility, rebuilding the herd from the ground up. In 2015, John and Victoire sold the farm to Bradley, yet he continued to grain farm over 1,000 acres and was always eager to lend a hand.

John's devotion to his family was evident in everything he did. He found great joy in visits from his great-grandchildren, his face lighting up whenever they arrived. One of his favorite pastimes was playing bingo at Kin Place, where winners could select a chocolate treat or toy as a prize. True to his generous spirit, John always chose stuffed toys to delight his great-grandchildren.

John Duncan Mackay Skinner

February 25, 1956 – September 29, 2025

We are heartbroken at the sudden passing of our beloved brother John at the age of 69 in Vancouver. John was born in Jasper, Alberta, but spent most of his growing up years in Boston Bar, BC. He finished high school in Chilliwack and continued to UBC, eventually completing a Master's degree in Animal Genetics. He worked at the BCIA Center/WestGen in Milner for over 30 years where he was appreciated and valued for his many talents and unfailing work ethic. John's strengths in computer programming and genetics made him indispensable in supporting staff with computer systems while developing programs for tracking young sires, herd mating, sales and sire analyst work.

Upon retiring, John turned his talents to plant genetics and backyard gardening. He loved spending time in the sun. More recently, John enjoyed

serving and sharing at English Conversation classes at West Point Grey Baptist Church.

John faced many great challenges in his life, but he overcame them all with grace and steadfast determination; he was an inspiration to all who knew him. John's kindness and generosity knew no bounds and his greatest joy was in helping others. His life was a reflection of his profound faith in God.

John was predeceased by his parents George and Barbara. He has left a huge hole in the hearts of his four surviving sisters: Anne, Christine, Mary (John) Griffioen and family, and Jane (Fred) Sloodweg and family.



Rest well dear brother; you were our hero, our shining star.



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