

# Udder News

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Congratulations to Tim (Boa-Vista Farm, Chilliwack, BC) and Alyssa (Lone Prairie Dairy, Chilliwack, BC) on welcoming their son, Carter Steven Elgersma. Carter was born January 16, 2026, at 2:51 pm, weighing 6lbs 4.5oz. He is the first grandchild for both Richard and Ashley Vander Kooi and Steve and Christine Elgersma.



Matt, Vanessa, big brother Korbin and big sister Kylee (Princar Holsteins) are excited to announce the safe arrival of the newest addition, Konrad David Mcquillin. He was born June 1, 2025, weighing 10lbs 1oz. Very proud grandparents are Carey and Joan Prinse (Princar Holsteins) of Chilliwack and Dave and Denise Mcquillin of Abbotsford. Delighted great grandma is Nellie Prinse, also of Chilliwack.

Kenny and Lorna McRae of Martiann Holsteins (Delta, BC) are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Audrey Joy McRae, on January 16, 2026, weighing 8lbs 9 oz. Ready to protect her are big brothers Nathan and Noah (2 ½ years). Proud grandparents are Perry and Angela Hamming (Martiann Holsteins) and Jim and Robin McRae (Vankleek Hill, ON). Audrey is the seventh great-grandchild for Martin and Ann Hamming!



Ian and Brianne Porter (Porter's Dairy Ltd., Chemainus, BC) are delighted to announce the birth of their second grandchild and first grandson, Walter Porter, born to proud parents Marshall and Arianna Porter on August 19, 2025. Welcome to the family little Walter!



Laurus Haralampous was born on February 21, 2026, in the Swiss canton of Graubünden. Proud parents Kaitlyn Gisler and George Haralampous were pleasantly surprised that Laurus arrived on his due date with no complications. Should Laurus become a writer, this adherence to deadlines will bode well for him. (Kaitlyn and George were past writers for this publication).

Proud grandparents are Angela and Dino Haralampous of Toronto, now enjoying their retirement in Greece, and Henry Gisler from Hiding Acres Ltd. in Langley. Laurus' namesake is Grandma Laura Gisler, who we hold dearly in our hearts and miss every day. Great-grandmother Bertha Gisler has also been a great source of comfort during this special time.



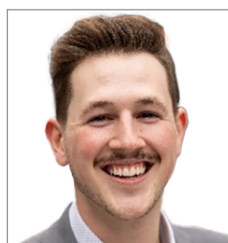
Congratulations to Lee and Melissa Morey of Unique Stock Farm (Rochester, AB) on the birth of their son, Levi David Morey, on February 16, 2026, weighing 6lbs 15oz. Big sister Avery couldn't be happier with the new addition! Proud grandparents are Dave and Tracy Morey (Unique Stock Farm), Greg Gablehaus (Calgary, AB) and Gail Atha (Vernon, BC).

Gatlin Raleigh Brewster made a speedy entrance into the world on December 24, 2025, an early Christmas present for his parents Mark and Christine (Dewitt) Brewster, and big brother Rowdy. Weighing 7lbs 15oz, Gatlin is the fifth grandchild for Chris and Melanie Dewitt of Goldenset Holsteins (Sicamous, BC), and the second grandchild for AB Brewster (Bowden, AB) and the late Tanya Krough (Innisfail, AB). Christine shares, "We are incredibly fortunate to have this sweet little boy join our family." Congratulations!

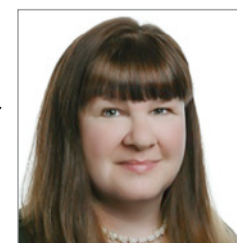


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**Justin Van Dorp**  
Relationship Manager  
236-887-4508, BC



**Michele Anderson**  
Director  
Senior Commercial Markets  
778-986-2109



Jeremy and Aimee Laity welcomed the first child on March 4, 2026, Redding Jeremiah Laity, weighing 6lbs 11 oz. Proud grandparents are Matthew and Deanna Laity of Brookfield Farm (Maple Ridge, BC) and Dennis and Katherine Tjernagel (Maple Ridge, BC). Redding is the eighth generation of Laitys on the family farm!

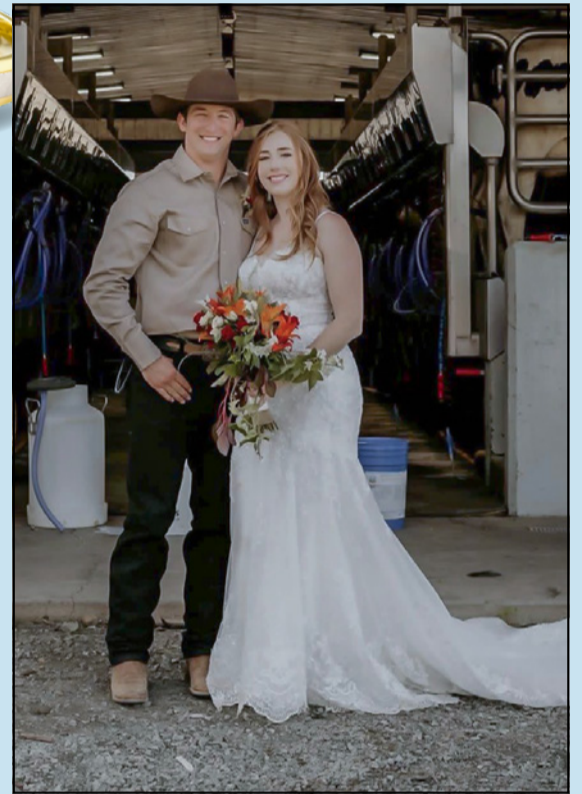


Congratulations to John Prui and Miekie Brits on their engagement! John proposed on February 25 after a few laps around the skating rink at Boffin Gardens on the U of S campus in Saskatoon. John is the son of Art and Elaine Prui of Plumblossom Farms (Osler, SK), and Miekie is the daughter of Nico and Elbie Brits (Saskatoon, SK). Wedding plans are pending as John continues making delicious ice cream for Twin Peaks Creamery (Warman, SK), and Miekie works as a hairdresser at Dahlia Salon in Martensville.

YES....He finally popped the question! They are ENGAGED! Justin Kampman and Kristen Boeve got engaged in November 2025. The couple share a love for agriculture and met at Lakeland College. Justin is son of Mark and Sheri Kampman of Kampman Farms (Matsqui, BC). Kristen is the daughter of Stuart and Darlene Boeve of South Prairie Farms, Taber, AB, (both grew up in Matsqui!). Kristen works for Agwest Veterinary Group and loves the dairy industry just as much as Justin. The wedding will take place in June of 2026 in Matsqui, where the couple will reside.



Ian and Brianne Porter (Porter's Dairy Ltd., Chemainus, BC) are happy to announce the marriage of their son Jack to Samantha, daughter of Janet and Todd Chwelos. Beautiful wedding took place on the family farm on July 5, 2025. The happy couple now reside on the farm, where Jack is herd manager and Sam works for her parents/family business as well as helps feed calves. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Joel Aldrich-Witt and Maia Savarella on their engagement! The couple met during the COVID era at a Starbucks drive-thru where Maia worked as a barista and Joel was a regular customer. Joel proposed in November 2025 at Sombrio Beach with the help of their 2-year-old Maltipoo, Otis. The couple is planning an intimate wedding near Otter Point, on southern Vancouver Island, with family and friends in August 2027. Joel and Maia intend to stay on the island to live and grow their family while Joel manages Farm to Garden Organics (Victoria, BC) and Maia works for Island Health. Proud parents include Jen Savarella and Glenn Sheather (Victoria, BC), Jurgen Witt (Germany) and Ridley Wikkerink (Wedgwood Holsteins, Cobble Hill, BC).



Meghan Russell and Douglas Groenendijk were married January 3, 2026, in Renfrew, ON, in front of family and friends. Meghan is the daughter of Joanne and Donald Russell of Dojo Holsteins (Cobden, ON), and Doug is the son of Chris and Henrietta Groenendijk of Greendike Farms (Chemainus, BC). After a honeymoon in Cancun, Doug and Meghan returned to Vancouver Island and Legend Dairy Farm (Chemainus, BC), where they milk 50 Jersey cows – excited to settle into the next chapter of their journey together. Congratulations!

UDDER NEWS NEXT PUBLISHING DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2026  
 Phone: 604-855-1240 • E-mail: chris@holsteinnews.com  
 (Summer 2026 Issue in mail: June 16)



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



**Tony Lenchyshyn**  
 Relationship Manager  
 204-291-4633, MB



Udder News *CONTINUED***Jason Arie Herfst**

March 15, 1975 – October 11, 2025

He was too young. He still had much to live for. He tried everything he could for 1.5 years to stop the cancer, which finally stopped him. He was a well-loved man.

Jason Arie Herfst, son of the late Ken Herfst, Barb Herfst, husband to Amy, father to Arianna Grace and Zachary Robert, passed away Saturday, October 11th, 2025, at 6:06am at Abbotsford Hospital under the careful watch of Amy and his kids.

Jason was born and raised in Chilliwack (Rosedale), one of six boys (Rick, Greg, Kevin, Dave, Dan). He graduated from Timothy Christian School. Jason was a dairy farmer until he sold his farm and enjoyed an early retirement. As a farmer, he was an innovator, being one of the first in the Fraser Valley to install robotic milkers and other technological advances.

Jason loved sports, especially hockey, which he played and encouraged in his son Zach, enough to build a rink in their backyard. He was always there for his kids, Ari's dance and aspirations as a chicken farmer, and Zach's hockey. He was an exemplary father with clear guidelines, but always loving and kind. He carried himself with a sense of grace that made him the type of person who was easy to like, easy to get along with, and a good friend.

He will be greatly missed by his brothers, their spouses (Clarinda, Nancy, Rebecca, Sue, Kandis) and his many nieces and nephews, as well as Amy's parents, Rob and Carol Lees, her brother Noah and Erin, and their children.

Gratitude to all those carers, health care professionals, and friends who were on the journey with the family. Donations in his name can be made to [comserv.bc.ca](http://comserv.bc.ca) (Chilliwack Community Services).

**Neeltje (Nel) Poelman**

September 19, 1935 – February 26, 2026

Neeltje (Oma) Poelman passed away peacefully on February 26, 2026, after spending her last days at home surrounded by loving family and dear friends.

Nel was born in Houten, Netherlands, on September 19, 1935, the only daughter of Cornelius and Johanna van der Kley. She immigrated to Canada in 1952 with her parents and younger brother Arie on board the Leerdam, where she also met the love of her life, Jannes Poelman. They were all sponsored by the same fruit grower in the Okanagan.

After relocating to the Island, Nel married Jannes on June 4, 1955, in the Christian Reformed Church in Duncan. The happy couple purchased their farm in Shawnigan Lake the day before the wedding and were blessed with four children during their time there.

Nel was an immensely supportive partner to Jannes, helping in the barn and dairy, washing bottles and carrying milk on the milk route they had for several years. In 1964, the family moved to Cowichan Bay, where Sunny Vale Farm continues today. Nel loved the cows and always eagerly awaited the results of classification day or new additions to the herd, right up to the end of her life.

She was actively involved in church life at Duncan CRC, serving with various committees and groups, and visiting. She was also an Honourary Lifetime Member of the Vancouver Island Holstein Club and the Cobble Hill Farmers Institute, participating in the Cobble Hill Fair for more than 60 years.

Nel devoted countless hours to her projects – knitting thousands of pairs of socks for family and friends, toques for the Ministry to the Seafarers, and sewing items for Canada Comfort. Her hands were rarely idle. The door to her home was always open for family, friends and strangers, and no one ever left hungry.

Nel is predeceased by her husband of 61 years, Jannes (2016), son John (1996), grandson Anthony (2001), and son-in-law Don (2016).

She leaves to mourn, but not without hope, Audrey (Ralph), Shirley, Grace (Wim), and Gerald (Shannon); nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, brother Arie, many nieces and nephews, treasured friends and countless others whose lives she touched.

**Elsie Hildegard (Loewen) Goerzen**

August 18, 1945 – January 6, 2026

Elsie Hildegard Goerzen, daughter of Jacob and Edith Loewen, was born on August 18, 1945, in Rosetown, SK. She was greeted by three brothers, Ernie, well known to the dairy industry, being the eldest. In 1946, the family moved to a dairy farm in Matsqui, BC. Elsie often spoke of the joy of the morning milking chores as a teenager – quality time alone with her dad.

Elsie and Walt were married in May 1967 after she completed nursing training at VGH. Two years later, after Walt graduated from UBC, they moved to Creston where they enjoyed five wonderful years, Elsie worked as an RN in the local hospital, Walt as District Agriculturist. Both sons, Paul and Mark were born there. When the young family transferred to Chilliwack in 1974, Elsie chose to be a stay-at-home mother, providing strong support for the family. She enjoyed volunteering in the local school, their church and related community agencies. As the family grew, she embarked on a 40-year career, the first 20 as the founder and volunteer director of Sardis Doorway Society for single mothers. In the second part of her career, she was hired by MCC to develop and lead a program in domestic abuse. She loved the work of growing the program, was passionate about addressing issues of domestic violence and clergy sexual misconduct. She was invited to speak in many churches and community agencies, including education classes at Columbia Bible College and the UFV Nursing program.

Elsie lived her deep faith in real time by advocating for justice, supporting the abused, caring for the poor and the needy. She spoke up for mutuality in marriages, safety in the home, and equality in the church. Elsie's career ended in late 2023, when serious breathing problems required a tracheostomy. A cancer diagnosis followed with complications. When Elsie was re-hospitalized in late November 2025, she was greatly disappointed to miss the dairy conference where Walt was presented (in absentia) with the 2025 Dairy Industry Achievement Award.

She passed away peacefully into the presence of God on January 6th with Walt and Paul at her side. Elsie is survived by husband Walt, sons Paul (Rebecca), Mark (Jen) and five adult grandchildren. She is survived by all her eight siblings.

In addition, she will be greatly missed by countless women and men who benefited from her work, her ministry and friendship. She is gone to the next place, but the memory of who she was, and the impact of her life's work will continue for generations to come.

**Charles Iberg**

April 16, 1942 – January 26, 2026

Charles Iberg passed away peacefully on January 26, 2026, surrounded by his family.

Charlie was born on April 16, 1942, in Murrayville, British Columbia, the son of Swiss parents Karl "Charles" and Elisabeth Iberg. Charlie grew up on the family dairy farm. As a young man, he took his teacher training at Simon Fraser University, where he began as a charter student when it opened in September of 1965. He taught at Otter Elementary for a year and was head teacher at South Otter Elementary for two years. In 1970, he decided to farm full time, shipping milk and building a Holstein herd known as Idelle Holsteins and later Iberg Farms. Charlie came to the dairy barn faithfully up until the pandemic in 2020. He continued to feed heifers at his barn until his first stroke in November 2023.

Over the years, Charlie served on many agriculture boards and committees including Director on the BC Milk Marketing board from 1997-2003, Director at BCIA Center (now WestGen) from 1981-1988 and President 1989-1997.

In the past 20 years, Charlie's hobbies included tending his large vegetable garden and fruit trees, the harvest of which he processed, canned or shared with others. He also enjoyed cutting lumber on his portable sawmill. He built and gave away many tables, bookcases, desks, and birdhouses made from trees he cut from the farm or donated logs.

Charlie will be greatly missed by his daughter Shelley (Bill) Yarbrough and son Karl (Marianne) Iberg; grandchildren Katie Iberg (Shawn Campbell), Tricia (Wesley) van der Sluis, Jeffrey (Jessie) Iberg and Jaylin "Jayce" Iberg-Weston (Spencer Stephenson); great-grandchildren Averie and Ethan van der Sluis, Lillian and Rowynn Iberg; sister Freda Smith; nieces Wendy Smith, Kerry (Gordon) Peturrson, nephew Gordon (Bridget) Smith, many grand and great-grandnieces and nephews, his longtime friend Doris Riedweg and friend Fonging.

Charlie was predeceased by daughter Aleta Iberg, sisters Anna and Ida Iberg, niece Nancy Smith, grandnephew Spencer Smith-Copus and longtime friend John Riedweg.

No service by request, but family is planning an on-farm gathering in honour of his memory. Details to follow.



**Teresa McKinley**  
Relationship Manager  
250-618-4316, BC



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

