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Summer 2026 Special Features

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Pioneers
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Dairy Leader
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Photo by Chris Kloot, Breakwater Dairy, Rosedale, BC

COMING UP
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JUNE	
24-26	BC Agriculture Forum Wednesday-Thursday, Penticton, BC. See www.bcac.ca/agforum for more information.
26	AgSafe AGM Friday 10-11am, Ramada, Kamloops, BC.
JULY	
1-6	SK Junior Ag Showcase Wednesday-Monday, Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK.
3	Northern Alberta Holstein Club Annual Show Friday, Millet Agriplex, AB.
8-10	Saskatchewan Dairy Heifer Show Wednesday-Friday, Prairieland Park, Saskatoon, SK.
9	Vancouver Island Holstein Show Thursday 9am, Cowichan Exhibition Grounds, Duncan, BC.
12-15	Dairy Farmers of Canada AGM Sunday-Wednesday, Moncton, NB.
16-17	North Okanagan Holstein Club Breeders Cup Thursday - Friday.
18	UBC Dairy Centre Open House Tuesday, Agassiz, BC.
24-26	Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Country Fest Friday-Sunday, Albion Fairgrounds, BC. See www.mrpmcountryfest.com for more details.
31	Manitoba Summer Junior Dairy Show & Branch Picnic Friday, Morris Stampede Grounds, Morris, MB.
31 - Aug 2	Abbotsford Agrifair Friday-Sunday, Abbotsford Exhibition Park, BC.
AUGUST	
7	SK Branch Picnic Friday, Ronleen Holsteins, Vibank, SK.
7	Saccomaniacs Sturgeon Fishing Derby Friday 9am start, Island 22 Boat Launch, Chilliwack, BC. See www.saccomaniacsgolf.com for all the details.

Coming Up ONLINE - 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



Complete
Coverage on
pages 16-26



Simply Sensational!

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Western Dairy Expo
Herds of Distinction
1995 Trip to the Royal
Sustainability articles
Past BC Convention Memories
Holstein History - York Champions
1930 Agassiz Master Breeder Shield
Plus more....

Photo by Holly Nicoll,
Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB



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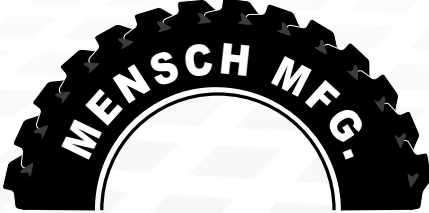




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AUGUST

7-9	Chilliwack Fair Friday-Sunday, Chilliwack Heritage Park, BC.
10-11	Vancouver Island Holstein Club Breeders Cup Monday - Tuesday.
11	Lactanet Canada Official Genetic Evaluation Release for all dairy breeds in Canada.
13	Saccomaniacs Golf Tournament & Awards Dinner Thursday 11am shotgun start, Greentee Country Club, Langley. See www.saccomaniacsgolf.com for all the details.
18-22	40th WestGen Canadian Classic (WCC) Tuesday-Saturday, Brandon, MB.
28	WC Dairy News Booking Deadline for Fall 2026 issue, in the mail September 29.

SEPTEMBER

2-6	Interior Provincial Exhibition (IPE) & Stampede Wednesday-Sunday, Armstrong, BC.
29- Oct 2	World Dairy Expo Tuesday-Friday, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI.

OCTOBER

22-24	Westerner Dairy Showcase National Holstein Show Thursday-Saturday, Westerner Park's Agricentre, Red Deer, AB.
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NOVEMBER

6-15	Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Friday-Sunday, Exhibition Place, Toronto, ON.
8-10	TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic Sunday-Tuesday, at the Royal, Toronto, ON.
12	National Red & White Holstein Show Thursday, at the Royal, Toronto, ON.
12-13	National Holstein Show Thursday-Friday, at the Royal, Toronto, ON.



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Tars' Tale-Spins Summer Greetings!

Convention Camaraderie Volunteers are Heroes

THANK YOU. Organizing a huge, high profile event for several hundred guests is a daunting affair – especially when everyone already has plenty on their plates. BC hosted the first 'National Convention' in 1983 – Holstein Canada's 100th AGM. Our industry was much bigger then and the purebred business was on fire! The Dogwood sales were setting records and bringing interest from far and wide. **BC was on the map!**

(You can read some more about that Convention on page 26, thanks to Barb Souter, Convention Chair in 1983!)

Nonetheless, the **Spirit of the West** was a smashing success, and we have extensive coverage in this issue. We all know that the purebred business and Show industry is different than 1983. But there's no question that big events stir excitement and bring people together – something that we should not take for granted in Dairy...or in life. It's the people that matter in the end, even if we get excited about the show cows.

There were dozens of volunteers that took big and small responsibilities on for this Convention. We can never thank them adequately – but without their efforts, these events don't happen. Same is true for the operation of our dairy industry boards – thanks to the Directors who guide our industry organizations – the per diems never fully compensate for time away from the farm.



Let's start with a big shout of thanks for all our blessings! Great first cut and cover crops, a successful National Holstein Convention, the ongoing momentum of the dairy industry/ dairy consumption and the support of our friends and families...to name a few.

Starting each day off with words of gratitude helps frame my attitude for the better!



Holstein Canada's First Master Breeders

My CSI friend Richard Bosma (Cow Story Investigator) is the only guy I know who has the determination and cow-curiosity to go searching for the very first Master Breeder Shield awarded by Holstein Canada in 1930. This iconic treasure was hidden from view for decades – Richard not only found it, but he brought it to the National Convention Show in Chilliwack where it was enjoyed by many enthusiasts for the first time! Rudy Russenberger and I had a quick visit and photo op (Thanks Trudy) with the only surviving Shield from 1930. **Please read the full story on page 10.**

It's the People that Matter

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of RBC, we can share the news of our dairy community from the across the west in Udder News. It's been the #1 feature in this publication for as long as I've been involved. **People matter.** I'm so pleased that we can continue to share these special moments even when so much has moved to brief online glimpses.

Friendships matter. I want to make special mention of my recently passed friend, Rod Rendle of Stanhope Dairy Farm in Victoria. From the time we were in 4-H, I marveled at Rod's confidence, his showmanship/ clipping ability and the calibre of heifers that he expertly exhibited. I was not in his league.

Nonetheless, we became good friends in our 20's when I worked with the Rendle family for six years. I continued to marvel at Rod's work ethic and the pace he set for his brothers particularly at harvest time! **"Pitter patter, let's get at 'er!"**

Rod gravitated from the cows to the shop where he

could fix/fabricate and re-invent just about anything. His talents were many and his determination impressive.

We roomed together for a year and shared some extracurricular bachelor outings as well. I'm thankful for those super-charged young adult years we shared. Rod packed a lot into his 66 years and left everyone with examples of living life to the fullest!

Friendships matter – even when it hurts to lose them. RIP buddy.



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SUSTAINABILITY ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE



Sustainability on the modern Western dairy farm: How one Alberta farm team is crunching the numbers to make milk production more efficient

Alberta dairy farmers Cassidy and Robert milk 130 cows on the farm where Robert grew up. This husband-and-wife team are in their seventh year of running the operation themselves, and in this time have become a prime example of modern Canadian dairy farmers looking towards the future: they've added fully automated feed, milking, manure scraping, and calf feeding. Accompanying all these changes is a new tool designed to measure their environmental footprint.

"We looked at it as part of the next step going forward, with net zero by 2050," Cassidy said. "It's not just our industry making this commitment either. It's going to be a thing, so we just wanted to see where we're at, and then we can adjust over the course of the next 20 years."

The farm is participating in Dairy Farmers of Canada's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Calculator Pilot Project, currently in its second round. In Round One, the farm was one of 40 across Canada testing a specific calculator called the Cool Farm Tool, an internationally recognized GHG calculator developed in Europe.

Using a GHG calculator provides the couple's farm with benchmark measurements of several environmental factors, including carbon emissions, manure use, and fuel use; they can then compare results against these benchmarks to identify opportunities to reduce their impact.

The first year of the pilot project came as the farm was in the middle of a massive technological shift.

"We had transitioned from a lot of things - from an old barn to our new one, from pull-type silaging to self-propelled, changes like that," Cassidy explained. "We went from running multiple tractors a day, every day, to some days not even starting an engine. Most of the changes show up in our financials. Less diesel, fewer man-hours, and we have a bit of solar, so you can see the difference in the power bill."

In returning for Round Two, which tests the tool's own next phase, called the Cool Farm Platform, they found the added advantage of being able to compare their results from Round One. "We wanted to see in the second year the differences these changes were going to make," said Cassidy. "We're curious to see how using innovation and technology will affect our overall bottom line."

Helping Cassidy and Robert make sense of these differences is Jen, their on-farm advisor. In the GHG Calculator Pilot Project, an advisor helps participants collect data and calculate emissions based on factors such as herd size, feed ratio, manure management, crops, fuel use, transportation, and soil type. Help from project members like Jen is key to making sense of what's involved in a GHG calculator for busy farmers or those new to the project.

"A few of the fuel calculations were a little bit difficult, because we weren't used to logging our time," Cassidy explained. "Jen really helped us with that, and we tried to log it a little bit

better for 2025. Overall, it's not too hard to pull all that information; it's just about being used to it and getting started."

The farm's participation in the GHG Calculator Pilot Project has helped assess and determine what makes the most sense for an individual farm. This Alberta farm will have unique factors not found on a farm in Ontario, and these factors will differ from those of a dairy farm in Newfoundland & Labrador. For farmers to both shore up sustainability and feed Canadians, tools that account for the country's varied landscape will be essential.

"The guidelines and best management

practices are actually tools for you to use to make your farm more efficient," said Cassidy. "A lot of that has improved our overall efficiency of the farm. I mean, people looking at our farm now don't know what the farm was 10 or 15 years ago and how far we've brought it just in seven years."

As a team, Robert and Cassidy continue to carefully examine their operation, looking at how they can make it more efficient and use the best management practices suited to their environmental goals. Adding the GHG calculator to these plans shows that sustainability isn't just a buzzword: it can be a better way to work.

Alberta producers, Robert and Cassidy, know 'net zero' will affect more than dairy producers. It's a matter of getting started and adjusting course over the coming years with innovations and technology to drive efficiency and reduce GHGs.



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Western Dairy PIONEERS

BALME AYR FARMS



Just as they did 60 years ago, the Balme Ayr herd grazes from May through August.

Amanda Poelman

Nestled in the scenic Dougan Lake Valley, just south of Duncan on Vancouver Island, Balme Ayr Farms has long been a familiar landmark along the Trans-Canada Highway. As the highway bends around Dougan's Lake, the farm's bright red barn comes into view – a timeless symbol of an operation that was already well established when the Balmes took ownership in 1961.

History Across Two Continents

The Balme family has a rich history in agriculture in the United Kingdom. In the early 1800s, through marriage into the Nettleton family, prominent wool producers from Yorkshire, the Balmes founded a wool brokerage business, Charles Balme & Co., in London. The enterprise grew into one of the leading auctioneers of colonial wool, handling a substantial share of the wool-auction business at the time. In 1939, after working for a year in New Zealand on one of the largest sheep stations, John Balme, very quiet and soft-spoken by nature, knew he wasn't interested in standing up as an auctioneer in the family business, which was taken over by his brother David. John had travelled across Canada by train on his way home and hoped that one day he would return. In the interim, following the war, he raised Ayrshires and pigs on a mixed farm near Twyford.

In 1961, John returned to Canada and purchased the farm in its present location from Joe Saville, a long-time Ayrshire breeder with a prize-winning herd. In a local newspaper article at the time, John was referred to as an 'Englishman Bachelor Farmer.' Aptly named Lakeside Farm due to the proximity of Dougan's Lake, the 136-head and 206-acre farm was one of the largest farms in the Cowichan Valley region.

John didn't stay a bachelor for long, having met the love of his life, Jenny, before coming back to Canada. In 1966, John married Jenny in England, and the pair came back to the Island, welcoming their son Oliver in 1967, followed by son Mike in 1969. Due to her mother's failing health, John and Jenny made regular trips back and forth across the pond.



John Balme with OAK RIDGE ROYAL JO EX-2E, the matriarch of the Balme herd and top Lifetime Production Cow in Canada in the 1960s.



David Balme (centre) inspects a bale of wool at Associated Wool Exporters (NZ) during his visit in 1969.

John hired a herd manager to take care of the newly minted Balme Ayr Farms, and he and Jenny purchased Whitebridge Farm, which had a 50-head Holstein herd, so they had somewhere to stay while they were in England. For nearly a decade they managed both operations, but as milk price continued to drop in the UK and it became increasingly challenging to own two farms in two different countries, they decided to sell the business in England and moved back to the Island permanently in 1980.

Incremental Development

The Balmes milked 60 cows in the 1960s and it seemed that every time a new decade started, 10 more cows were added – milking 70 cows in the '70s and so on. John took advantage of "quota months," where if you over shipped during that month, you were able to keep the quota, allowing the farm to continually expand. Balme Ayr milk was shipped to Victoria for processing, first to Palm Dairies, and then to Island Farms by the 1980s.

The facilities also changed quickly to accommodate the growing herd. In the late '60s, John converted the tie-stalls into freestall housing, and the first milking parlour was built, a DeLaval single-stall parlour, where he could milk up to four cows at a time. In 1973, the Harvestore silo was constructed along with a proper feed bunk for the cows, but by 1980 the overcrowding problem could no longer be ignored, and a new barn was built to give the herd more room and allow for future expansion.

Balme Ayr Farms 2.0

Oliver took over Balme Ayr Farms from his father in 1998, when he and Shelley were married. They currently manage the farm with their son Colin, who returned home full time in 2023 after completing the dairy program at Lakeland College. Oliver and Colin split all the tasks, handling

Today the Balme Ayr herd, which moved into a WeCover barn in 2010, consists of 135 cows. "Production had been stagnant for some time," shares Oliver, noting that adding a modern feed bunk and two robots increased production by 2L/cow almost immediately. In 2017, a third robot was added and the Balmes saw production increase again. Currently, their cows average 32kgs/day, with 4.51% fat and 3.44% protein on their April milk test. The entire herd is purebred and registered at Ayrshire Canada, with a handful of high-producing Holsteins sprinkled in.

The Balmes own 210 acres and rent 150 acres close by. They grow 200 acres of grass – mainly seeded with a mix of tall fescue, orchard grass and clover, and reserve 30 acres of pasture for the heifers and milking herd, which is grazed from May through August. While enough forage for the herd is produced, alfalfa is purchased, and cows receive a 17% textured grain ration through the robots.

Building on a Solid Foundation

John stuck with the Ayrshire breed because the herd he acquired was very well-bred, having captured Grand Champion titles at the PNE in 1958 and 1959 as well as several other accolades. "My dad always said, 'You can't make a mediocre cow great, but if you start out with good ones, you can keep making them better,'" says Oliver. "The Ayrshires have done us well over the years."

With a foundation of high type-bred cows, the Balmes have focused their attention on production and longevity. "Our cows



23% of the Balme Master Breeder points can be traced through bulls they either bred or purchased, including HEATHER GROVE NORTH STAR EX-90, bought by John in the early '90s.

the breeding, herd management and fieldwork together. Shelley takes care of the accounting and registrations, while also training horses and competing in carriage driving competitions. Daughter Katie lives in Yellowknife (NWT), where she works as a heavy-duty mechanic. The Balmes also employ some extra help, including Kerry Doole (now 84), who has milked and worked for the family since 1974, along with Deanna West who has managed herd health for the past 20 years.

are strong and well-built with good feet and legs," says Colin, "and we keep trying to improve teat placement for the robot." Oliver adds, "We are breeding cows for the long term, it pays better to keep a cow around for five or six years, rather than one or two."

Undoubtedly, the cow that has left the biggest impact on the herd was OAK RIDGE ROYAL JO EX-2E. Jo came with the original Saville herd, lived to be 20 years old, and



Oliver (age 9) can barely reach the pedals but is ready to help!



Oliver, with BALME AYR JUPITER HONOR EX-2E 91, wins the PNE for the second straight year in 1990, before she was sold.



BALME AYR FLINT VG-86, a Royal Jo descendent, made a big impact on the breeding program.



Shelley, Oliver, Katie and Colin with their exhibit at the local Cobble Hill Fair (2019).

produced nearly 100,000lbs of milk in her lifetime, the highest Lifetime Production cow in Canada in the 1960s. She left one EX, one VG and two GP daughters, who can be found in many of the current Balme Ayr pedigrees, including BALME AYR BLINK DALLYS, who scored EX-90 in the April classification round after starting her milking career at only 74 points!

BELLAYRE COPPER DOMINO EX-5E 92 was purchased as a baby calf from the Anderlini herd and produced 123,335kgs of milk in 13 lactations. She was also Grand Champion at Washington's Puyallup Fair in 2015, a show the Balmes traveled to as often as they could. Domino is sired by BIRGHDALE COPPER, a Semex bull bred by fellow Vancouver Island Ayrshire Breeder and longtime friend, Guy Sim. When Guy dispersed his 2X Master Breeder herd in 2024, the Balmes were excited to add some more of Guy's genetics to their barn.

Interestingly, 23% of the points accumulated for their Master Breeder Shield come from cows sired by bulls they either bred or leased privately. "There isn't

as wide of a genetic base as other breeds," says Oliver, "and a lot of Ayrshire bulls today use Swedish Red bloodlines." Raised from their favourite cow families, bulls like BALME AYR FLINT VG-86 (S: NORTH PINE SPARK) and BALME AYR TROUBADOUR GP-80 (S: IO WAYSIDE VAGABOND), from the Royal Jo line, and BALME AYR DOMINATOR EX-90 (S: HUNNINGTON FAMOUS) and BALME AYR DURANGO EX-90 (S: LEGACE RISTOURN) from the Domino family, have made a big impact on the Balme Ayr breeding program. Additionally, HEATHER GROVE NORTH STAR EX-90, purchased in the early 1990s, left his mark through several daughters and his son BALME AYR CYRUS VG-86.



There are less than 10 Holsteins in the barn, but BALME GARRETT INCOME 1 EX-90 3E produced over 170,000kgs lifetime and was 2nd Fat production cow for her age (14 years) in Western Canada in 2025.

For many years, the Balmes used 50% AI sires and 50% bulls they'd purchased and developed their own sons from. Now sexed semen is used on the cows, with bulls like MERINO, CATALYST, BOURNSTAR and DALTON filling the tank, while beef semen is used on heifers. Shelley says, "We aren't afraid to use old bulls and see how they perform in today's environment."

Utilizing the Genetic Toolbox

The Balmes place a lot of value on milk recording, classification and the use of genomic testing for youngstock. "We have just started doing some genomic testing," says Colin, "but we could be doing more with our youngstock to advance our genetics more quickly. I'd really like

Achieving a Dream

Oliver and Shelley had just sat down to breakfast when they received the phone call from Ayrshire Canada General Manager, Michel Boudreault. "It's a huge honour to receive this award," says Oliver, who first shared the news with Colin, away in New Zealand on the World Ayrshire Youth Tour, followed by his mother, Jenny – now 98 years old and living in Abbotsford. "It's really nice to see the work pay off," shares Colin.

Oliver and Shelley travelled to Thetford Mines, QC, at the beginning of March to take in the farm tours, Ayrshire Canada AGM and the Master Breeder Gala. "It was a great experience," says Shelley, "We enjoyed connecting with fellow Ayrshire breeders!"



Proud to be BC's newest Master Breeder! (L-R) Colin, Shelley and Oliver Balme.

to start testing all of them to see what they can do." In Oliver's mind, the lack of Ayrshire herds in Western Canada make classification even more important to maintain information for the breed.

While showing cattle was part of their past, Oliver says, "Showing has become difficult with ferry costs and the lack of breed shows near us. We definitely made more of an effort when our kids were in 4-H." Despite that, a moment Oliver is still very proud of is winning Grand Champion at the PNE with BALME AYR JUPITER HONOR EX-2E 91 in 1989 and 1990. Sired by GLEN NETHY JUPITER, another one of John's early bull purchases, Honor won the Production Award before being sold to Triple S Farms. Her son, BALME AYR MEDALLION EX-90, was sold to Mapleburn Ayrshires in Quebec, siring over 100 daughters in herds there.



Current herd favourite BALME AYR BLINK DALLYS EX-90 can be traced back to Royal Jo.

With 'winning a Master Breeder Shield' checked off the 'to-do' list, the Balmes have set their sights on becoming #1 in Canada for large-herd production again and remain committed to the development of their high producing herd. Improvement projects have included a larger bulk tank in 2025, and an automatic calf feeder earlier this year, with mats planned for the heifer section of the main barn. Adding the DeLaval activity tags has already proven to be a great investment, allowing Oliver and Colin to get cows bred back more quickly.

While much has changed in the Dougan Lake Valley over the decades, the values that built Balme Ayr Farms remain unchanged – driven by a steadfast commitment to continually improving their herd and passion for the Ayrshire breed.





SUSTAINABILITY

ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE

Transforming Dairy Processing Waste into Resources U. of Guelph researchers unlock innovative applications

Kate Ayers, B.Sc. Agr.

A large collaborative project is underway at Ontario's University of Guelph, focused on converting dairy processing byproducts into valuable resource streams. The work began through persistent investigation of different treatment options for cheese whey and skim milk residues from a processing plant. Through continued exploration and refinement of approaches up to the final stages, a promising pathway emerged – a water treatment process capable of valorizing dairy processing waste materials.

"The last two weeks of the preliminary project, I was in the lab with graduate students, and I asked if we had bentonite leftover," says engineering professor and director of the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre, Bassim Abbassi. "I just put a small amount of bentonite, without any scientific rigour, in our cheese whey sample, mixed it together and then we allowed it to settle through a centrifuge. The result was striking: a very clear liquid, appearing almost like drinking water."

Lab results showed that the bentonite, which is an absorbent clay often used to treat water and wastewater, selectively absorbs materials and whatever settles out of the solution can be used in other applications. Indeed, this upcycling process involves selective absorption, filtration and precipitation.

Then, in 2021 the project received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Dairy Farmers of Ontario and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Alliance program. The research's scope has grown ever since.

Through their work, the researchers have learned they can even selectively absorb and remove different proteins – types that are adequate for human consumption and others suitable for animal feed.

Dairy's Diverse Potential

As a result, the project requires multidisciplinary collaboration of environmental and mechanical engineers as well as food and animal science experts to verify the safe use of these byproducts. For example, the team is close to developing a baby formula from dairy by-products using alpha-lactalbumin and they are looking into the use of a microbial fuel cell to produce electricity. Another potential outcome of this research is selectively removing minerals like calcium phosphate for use in a bone supplement.

This work could improve circularity in the dairy sector, reducing waste and its carbon footprint.

"This would be a big jump for the sustainability of this sector because the way we deal with the waste streams coming from the dairy industry is not optimal," Abbassi says of dairy processing. "We did a lifecycle assessment for a couple of dairy products, and we found out that the footprint is very high. Now with this project, we are expecting to cut the footprint of the dairy industry tremendously."

In addition to scaling up the process, the team is investigating more ways to convert cheese whey waste into resources and including waste from other processing systems like grain milling.

"If we take the lactose for example, then mix it with other solid waste, maybe it could be wheat shorts," Abbassi says. "You mix them together and then you do fermentation in order to increase the shelf life and then maybe it can be used as a substitute feed for the animals."

To expand the reach of this research, Abbassi recently travelled to Germany to explore the potential for a European and Canadian consortium through Horizon Europe. This initiative brings together international researchers and is the world's largest research and innovation funding program.

Over the next two years, the team is onboarding and training Masters and PhD students and a postdoctoral researcher to move the project forward and contribute to sustainability-driven innovation by examining waste in a new a light.



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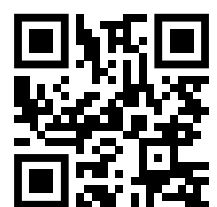


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The Case of the Missing Master Breeder Shield

Richard Bosma

In early April, John Blair and I were talking about the rapidly approaching National Holstein Convention. Always interested in breed history, we discussed the famed Master Breeder Shield which had been awarded to the 'Agassiz Experimental Farm' in 1930. In the past, we had both tried unsuccessfully to borrow this rarest Holstein artifact with the hope of displaying it at certain Holstein functions.

Among a subset of Holstein enthusiasts, the legendary Agassiz Shield is considered to be the "Holy Grail" of cattle breeding awards. Reportedly, this priceless object had never left the Agassiz Experimental Farm since 1930. However, it had not been seen for decades, leaving some of us to wonder if it was lost. The situation was compounded by the Agassiz Experimental Farm's numerous changes over the years of consecutive Directors, shifting mandates, and old buildings replaced by newer versions.

Richard Bosma shares a moment with BC Minister of Agriculture, Lana Popham, with the epochal Agassiz Master Breeder Shield from 1930, at the National Convention Master Breeder Gala in Burnaby.



"I know a guy..."

As John was busy with another Convention-related project, I resolved again to locate and borrow the Shield. I contacted Mike Duncan, who used to work at the Agassiz Experimental Farm, who suggested I contact Mary Lou Swift, Business Operations Manager at the UBC Dairy. Mary Lou admittedly did not know much about the early history of the Agassiz herd, so she checked with staff at the Agriculture and Agri-Foods Research Centre (AAFC) across the yard only to discover that they were totally unaware of the Shield's existence. Finally, Mary Lou called Dr. Lorne Fisher, a retired Head of Animal Science at the Agassiz Experimental Farm. Now in his 80s, Dr. Fisher's great memory narrowed down the search to a back room at AAFC.

Eventually, I got an email that Dr. Shauna Lee Chai, Associate Director at AAFC wanted to meet with me. I pulled into the parking lot of a large gleaming glass and steel building. After receiving clearance from the security guard at the desk, I introduced myself to Shauna-Lee. She opened a large black bag and pulled out the beautiful artifact. As she passed it to me, I thought this must be how it feels to hoist the Stanley Cup! I was given permission to borrow the Shield for a week. Once back in my vehicle, I snapped a photo to send to a few friends, with one immediately texting back that the picture gave him goosebumps.

Lightning Does Strike Twice

Holstein Canada's first and second Master Breeder shields were awarded simultaneously to two herds from British Columbia. Recognized in 1930 for breeding superior cattle were Agassiz Experimental Farm of Agassiz, BC, owned by the federal government, and Colony Farms of Essondale, BC, owned by the provincial government. Unfortunately, the Colony Shield is believed to have been lost in a fire.

These two farms had the resources to procure and combine some of the best



Holstein bloodlines of North America during that era. Cattle from both herds competed regularly at the Royal Winter Fair with great success while setting national production records. These farms also provided exceptional foundation cattle throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

Today, earning a Master Breeder Shield continues to be seen as the epitome of success for Holstein breeders. Although guidelines for achieving this honour have evolved over the last 96 years, Holstein Canada is believed to have originated this type of inspiring award. Other breeds and national associations have since launched similar programs.

The Origins and Future

The story of our Dominion Experimental Farms goes back even further to 1888, when the Canadian government founded five model farms across the country. The Agassiz Research Station was intended to show immigrant farmers what was possible under best management practices with superior livestock and high quality forages.

However, as various federal administrations came and went over the years, the original emphasis of the Agassiz Experimental Farm shifted towards more horticulture and less dairy research. In 1997, UBC took over dairy cattle research at the site. Recently, the 240 milking cow herd innovated with milking robots yielding extensive data for use in relevant studies focusing on animal welfare, health and reproduction.

While the land and facilities are rented from the federal government, the entity known as the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre owns the cattle and milk quota. UBC formerly operated dairy research farms on their Vancouver campus and at Oyster River on Vancouver Island. As part of the 1997 transition, these cattle were merged with the Agassiz Experimental Farm Holstein herd. Under this arrangement the original "Agassiz" herd prefix ceased to exist and was replaced by the "Ubyssy" prefix. However, many animals at the UBC Dairy can be traced back to original Agassiz bloodlines.



A letter from Holstein Canada in 1973 explains the significance of the Shield to a curious employee of the Agassiz Experimental Farm. It's now 53 years since that letter was written.

Because Someone Cared

Thank you to Mary-Lou Swift for pursuing the trail which led to the long-misplaced Shield and thank you to Shauna-Lee Chai for your generosity and trust in lending out this national treasure. Your kindness was certainly appreciated by the many breeders and Holstein enthusiasts from across Canada who were able to view the Shield at the Convention Show, the AGM, and at the Master Breeder banquet.

At AAFC, Shauna-Lee explained that she writes monthly reports to Ottawa to justify ongoing research at the Agassiz Experimental Farm. After hearing the announcement earlier this year that the federal government will be closing several agricultural research centres across the country, we hope along with her, that the Agassiz Experimental Farm will remain open in perpetuity. Nonetheless, Shauna-Lee was excited about the impending release of a new superior blueberry variety.

Upon returning the Agassiz Master Breeder Shield, I tucked a note into a small sleeve attached to the back. Upon the advice of a friend, I had written the following, (along with a postal address): **"If circumstances ever change and this amazing piece of history needs a new permanent home, please contact Holstein Canada."**

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Giving Back Beyond the Barn

Amanda Poelman
Introducing Luke Van Huizen

Luke has known from a young age that he was going to be a dairy farmer. “There was never any doubt for me,” he says with a smile, “I loved it and I knew I’d take any steps I could to make it happen.” The second generation to farm in their current location, just outside Duncan, BC, Luke’s parents purchased their farm, Rockycrest Holsteins, in 1994. Although his dad has family in the dairy business in BC and Ontario, both he and Luke’s mom grew up in the city.

Now 35, Luke finds learning on the farm both enjoyable and rewarding. He became a student of pedigrees and genetics, but also the business side of the operation. Following high school, Luke attended Lakeland College where he completed the dairy certification course before returning to the farm full time in 2009.

In 2019, Luke became a partner in Rockycrest with his parents and together they milk 105 purebred Holsteins, using two DeLaval VMS robots, while farming 200 acres of land seeded in grass and corn.



Luke Van Huizen, Rockycrest Holsteins, Duncan, BC.

While Luke has enjoyed his experiences with all the boards he’s serving on, he believes that his most important role is on the BC Dairy board. “Producers expect BC Dairy to represent them at a high level, both in government and across other provinces, and we’re using their dollars to do that.” Luke admits that his first year on the BC Dairy board was a huge learning curve, but also incredibly rewarding. “We are tasked with advocating for BC producers so the next generation can farm – I have benefited from the advocacy of previous boards making things possible for my generation and now I get the opportunity to return the favour.”

Challenges/Opportunities

Being away 3-4 days per month with BC Dairy, along with various days for the other boards, Luke says that managing a work/life balance while trying to run a successful business has been his biggest challenge. “Time management is key, and you get used to the fact that things will happen at home that might not be done the way you’d do them yourself. You have to be OK with that.” While the robots have provided the flexibility to manage a schedule and be involved with boards, Luke says, “I wouldn’t be off farm without the support of my family and their ability to take care of our business.”

Although challenges, particularly regulatory, continue to come, Luke remains hopeful as a young person in the industry. “There has been a level of uncertainty that every generation before us has faced,” he says, “but there has also been consistent opportunity.” Noting the expected growth in the province, Luke says, “We sell a pure product that consumers keep coming back to; a product we can stand behind. There’s a lot of pride in that.”

Change is inevitable, and producers, especially young people wanting to stay in the dairy industry, need to be willing to adapt. “We’ve seen so many technological advances – robotic milking, GPS on tractors, Rain 360 systems. The industry keeps pushing forward,” says Luke. Diversification of the operation also provides opportunities, “Dairy farmers aren’t just dairy farming nowadays,” he says. “Robotic milking has allowed my brother to do custom work off the farm and me to serve on boards. Others have diversified into chickens or farm-gate sales. Diversity has good downstream benefits that allow you to re-invest into your dairy business.”

There is no doubt that Luke loves what he does, both in the barn and in the boardroom. “I would encourage young producers to get involved with industry boards. It is good for personal growth and becoming more knowledgeable about the industry, but it is essential for shaping the future of the dairy industry and keeping it sustainable for future generations.”



Luke (seated left) along with fellow BC Dairy Director Henry Bremer (centre) meet with Processor Nancy Korva (right), and MLAs from the NDP cabinet, during BC Dairy Lobby Day at the Legislature in Victoria, BC.

Industry Involvement

Recognizing that the dairy industry relies on people volunteering their time, Luke joined his first board, the Vancouver Island Holstein Club (VIHC), as a director in 2011. From there he joined the BC Holstein Branch in 2018, the Island Milk Producers Organization (IMPO) in 2020, and BC Dairy in 2024. “There’s actually no boards that I’ve left,” Luke laughs, looking at the list of involvement. “When I join a board, I do so because I think I can offer something and make a difference,” he says.

Luke has held various positions on each of the boards he’s been on. Currently he’s the Chair of the Sale Committee (VIHC), Chair of the Judging Committee (BC Branch), and in his second year as President of IMPO. At BC Dairy, Luke was recently re-elected as a Director at Large, representing producers outside the Fraser Valley region, and serves as the Secretary and Chair of the Governance Committee.

“Each of the boards challenge me in different ways,” Luke says, noting that a passion for cows comes in different forms. “With the Holstein Club and the Branch, I’m surrounded by people who love the purebred side of the business and showing cattle – which I appreciate, although I didn’t grow up participating in shows. At IMPO and BC Dairy, the focus is on advocating for the producers we represent.”



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A Royal Trip Never to be Forgotten



The 1995 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Grand Champions are pictured with some of the team that helped with the showstring that year. From left, front: Roger Turner, Linsey Chalack, the Japanese trainee from Indianhead Holsteins, Everett Simanton, Bob Crowe and Rod Rendle. Back: Mark Rueth, Grand Champion STOOKEY EP BLACKROSE, Robert Schauf, Paul Hunt, Reserve Grand Champion RAINYRIDGE TONY BEAUTY, Norm Atkins, Marj Atkins and David Chalack.

Bonnie Cooper,
becooper2010@gmail.com

Western Canada exhibitors have been making the long journey to show dairy cattle at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, ON, almost every November since the Royal began in 1922. Whether their mode of transportation was train, airplane or semi-tractor trailer, those trips have made for some fascinating stories.

A Facebook post during last year's Royal by Mark Rueth of Rosedale Genetics in Wisconsin about the 1995 Royal prompted a flood of memories from Ridley Wikkerink and Gord Rendle of Stanhope-Wedgwood, Cobble Hill and Victoria, BC, about the harrowing trip they endured getting to that show 30 years ago when ill-tempered "old man winter" made an early appearance in Canada.

The Arduous Journey

Ridley shares his recollections of that 1995 trip:

"Gord Rendle and I left Vancouver Island on a Sunday. We had an older liner and tractor-trailer that Gord was driving with the cows on. I was driving a pickup truck with a gooseneck trailer that held all our equipment. We were going to meet an H.S. Knill Co. truck at Norm Atkins' Continental Holsteins, Leduc, AB, where we would join other western animals going to the Royal and leave our tractor trailer.

"It started to snow between Abbotsford and Chilliwack. Going up the Coquihalla, it was snowing quite a lot. It was slow going. Our first stop was Chris DeWitt's at Sicamous to milk. The weather and road reports were not good. I remember DeWitt saying, 'You guys are going?' We said, 'We really don't have a choice. We got a Knill's truck waiting at Continental and we gotta get there.' We headed out again about 8pm. It was snowing heavily. At one point I asked Gord: 'Do we need to go back to DeWitts? Or are we going to make it to Golden?' The road definitely wasn't like it is today. It was winding, hilly country.

"We got into Golden. We might have been the last ones through before they closed the road behind us. They closed the road ahead of us as well. We weren't getting out of Golden. The town was full of trucks. We parked at the scales in Golden because they had a water tap and electricity. We stayed there for a few hours and got some sleep. When we woke up, the road was still closed, but we had to milk the cows. About mid-morning they opened the road ahead of us. There was more than two feet of snow. All of the trucks stuck at Golden started heading out. We got on to the 5 Mile Hill coming out of Golden. Everything was going along slowly until one truck stopped. Then everybody had to stop. We couldn't get going again so we had to put chains on the trucks while sitting on this hillside. It was ugly. We were soaking wet and scared the trucks would start to slide. We eventually got going.

"Because it was so late, and we had to milk again, we decided to stop at Rocky Mountain Holsteins, Cochrane, AB. It was after 10pm when we got there. It had snowed all the way. We left Rocky Mountain around 2am and got into the worst whiteout blizzard I have ever been in. It still gives me nightmares! I was following Gord. You couldn't see the edge of the road or the hood of the truck. Those were the early days of cell phones. I remember phoning Gord and saying, 'I can't see! I can't see! Are you still on the road?' He said, 'Just keep crawling along, we are going to get through this.' This went on for 2-3 hours. It was just brutal. It was a miracle we didn't go off the road.

"We eventually got to Norm's. What should have been a 3-hour trip from Cochrane to Leduc took us until almost noon. By then it was just lightly snowing. We got Norm's tack on to our gooseneck and the cattle loaded on the Knill's truck. Gord was going to head to the airport to fly home for a couple days before flying down for the Royal. As the Knill's truck started to pull out of the driveway early that evening loaded with cows, the trailer slid off the driveway because of all the snow. The back end of the trailer was in the ditch and teetering ready to tip. Norm phoned a towing outfit. They had to send out two of the biggest tow trucks in Edmonton. One to hook on to the top of the trailer to stabilize it and another to pull the back of the trailer on to the road. There was no way to get the cows off as it was sitting so precariously. It took another 4-5 hours before we got the trailer righted.

"We finally headed down the road. We were more than a day late. It was just me, Norm, Bobby Crowe (MB) and the Knill's driver travelling with the cattle. It snowed all the way to Toronto. Norm just kept saying, 'We are going to be OK. We are going to be OK.' Four days later we arrived at the Brubacher Sale Arena, Guelph, ON. We laid over at Brubacher's before moving into the Royal. Mark Rueth was working for us at the Royal and he had brought STOOKEY ELM PARK BLACKROSE up from the states to tie in with us," Ridley says.

Worth the Trip

While the trip to the Royal had been gruelling, it was certainly worth it! Four class winners, plus the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion females, came out of that 12-member Royal showstring in 1995. BLACKROSE was first 5-Year-Old and Grand Champion for Rueth, Robert Schauf (WI) and Mark Van Mersbergen (WA).

Travelling on the western truck had been a "Who's Who" of current and future show winners whose names would become known far and wide. Foremost among them was 10-year-old RAINYRIDGE TONY BEAUTY, 1993 Royal Grand Champion who had just been Grand and Supreme Champion at World Dairy Expo a few weeks before. While owned by Ray Brown,



Ridley Wikkerink (left) and Gord Rendle of Stanhope-Wedgwood have shared a lot of memorable experiences at the shows over the years. In 2004, Wikkerink was the Official Judge, and Rendle the Associate Judge, of the International Holstein Show at World Dairy Expo in Wisconsin.

Vista, MB, she stayed at Norm Atkins' during the show season. At the 1995 Royal, Beauty was first Mature Cow and Reserve Grand Champion. Joining her on that western truck was the first Junior 2-Year-Old and Honourable Mention Intermediate Champion, ACME STAR LILY, owned by Everett Simanton, Ponoka, AB, Alta Genetics, Balzac, AB, and Continental Holsteins, and the first Milking Yearling, KERROSE LEADOFF MABEL, from Continental and Alta Genetics. The balance of the western showstring came away with three 3rds, two 4ths, plus a 5th, 7th and 12th placing, and included HAMMING PRELUDE JESSIE, YUPELLDENE MARK GLEAM, CAMEROUN JUBILANT ROSINA, CRESTOMERE BROKER LISA, DAPPLEDALE ECLIPSE CHLOE, HAMMINGVIEW ASTRO CARLA, MILFERNS ALGONQUIN REBA and BECARL LINDY ADELAIDE. Stanhope-Wedgwood finished in third place for Premier Exhibitor.

Ridley recalls, "We gave each other hugs after the show because we were just so relieved after all of the stresses we had gone through on the trip down. It could have gone disastrous so many times. It was just absolutely phenomenal to end up with the results we did." At season's end, the group earned a staggering nine All-Canadian nominations resulting in four All-Canadian and three Honourable Mention awards!

And the trip home from the Royal? "It wasn't as snowy but was still brutally cold," Ridley says. "I remember fueling up in Regina. The wind was blowing and it was -30 degrees Celsius."

Future Results

That 1995 Royal produced some interesting side stories. Stanhope-Wedgwood made the deal to purchase RAINYRIDGE TONY BEAUTY during that Royal and took possession of her after she was Grand at Agribition later that month for Ray Brown. Beauty's flush on Christmas day at Stanhope-Wedgwood produced a dozen SHOREMAR MILAN embryos. One of those embryos became the grandam of RAINYRIDGE TALENT BARBARA, 2010 All-Canadian and All-American 5-Year-Old. Beauty would go on to be Grand and Supreme Champion at World Dairy Expo and Reserve Grand at the Royal in 1999 when she was 14-years old. Continental and Alta Genetics bought their interest in ACME STAR LILY from Ev Simanton the night before the 1995 Royal show. Lily would go on to be Grand Champion 3X at the Royal (1997-98-99) and Grand and Supreme Champion at World Dairy Expo in 1998.

As Ridley says, "I will never forget that 1995 Royal trip. It was hell. But there sure was a lot of history on that truck!"

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Data-Driven Improvement

Originating from dairy farms in Holland, Christiaan and Elisabeth Goselink met in Canada and have been growing their family and developing their herd/dairy business in Eckville, Alberta, with data-driven focus ever since. Christiaan started milking in 2007 with 60 cows, joined by Elisabeth working steadily to reach 350 milking in a 2023 GEA 40-stall rotary parlour today, with two awesome staff. Most of the herd resides in a 2021 flush freestall barn with sand bedding, rubber alley floors and sand separation system. About 30 cows (including Conspire) live on a strawpack. While numerous building projects have kept them busy over the last dozen years, the results are impressive.

"We use all the tools," confirms Elisabeth, before flooding me with reports she **actually uses** in measuring herd progress. Yes - registering, DHI, Classification - all good. Then came genomic testing of all heifers and sexed semen on the milking herd a few years ago. Most recently, eartag health monitoring across the entire herd was added to step-up precision herd management.

All the data (DairyComp/HC/genomics/CowManager) first established benchmarks, then informed their progress and now continuously helps determine their management strategy such as mating plans/emphasis, breeding to beef and much more. Holstein Canada Classification reports show their dramatic Final Score improvements on first and all lactation cows through the last several years. Lactanet reports show their production improvements, impressive longevity past 3rd lactation and efficient calving intervals. All this combined has brought them recognition as 9th (2024) and 10th (2025) place Herd Performance Index herd in Alberta.

"You have to measure how you're doing, then use it to improve."

An Excellent Conspiracy

"She was a quiet but stubborn cow," Elisabeth describes Conspire's attitude. Her dam was also a stubborn 100,000kg cow willing to plow through anyone standing between her and the parlour! Conspire, known as #497 at home, went mostly unnoticed because she needed little attention but was most frequently seen at the feedbunk. A Classifier told Elisabeth that 2-year old Conspire was a potential future Excellent if she could spend more time on the strawpack. "I really wanted an Excellent cow," smiles Elisabeth. Starting out at 83 points, 497 made EX on her sixth lactation.

Calving first at 2-01, 497 kept calving regularly each year, losing only a few months in 6th and 7th lactations, when fertility was slowed, possibly related to her mastitis events only in these lactations. She was regularly in calf following one or two breedings, resulting in an average calving interval of 13.25 months over her life.

Nine calvings with bulls did not set 497 back. With uncomplicated calvings, she seemed to sail through the risky fresh cow period and responded normally in the reproduction programs. Health issues have been limited to the two mastitis incidents. Her SCC was excellent for nearly all of her test days - well-under 100,000.

"Her udder texture is really good - she milks out really clean and is average for milk speed," Elisabeth shares.

Hoof health was another advantage for 497, who was trimmed normally throughout her life without any lameness issues noted.

Pedigree Investigation

A quick scan through 497's pedigree using Holstein Canada's animal inquiry reveals two aspects. One - she originated from a non-purebred background only a few generations ago, with her 3rd and 4th dams classified a modest 77 and 75 points. Second - several sires with strong longevity reputations figure prominently.

Conspire's sire, Koepon Altaclassman - while not well-known, was longevity-infused by his sire Oman, and his maternal grandsire - Shottle! These bulls were rock-stars, improving survival traits - herd life, lactation persistency, daughter fertility, hoof health and body condition score.

497's 86 point dam was sired by Jayz - a Bosside Ruben son from a Rudolph dam. Ruben sired easy-calving, modest-sized cows, while Rudolph was a leader in siring daughter calving ability and daughter fertility. Seems the genetic side of this conspiracy was resolved fairly easily by uncovering these longevity luminaries!

Conspiracy Laid to Rest

"I think having 497 on the strawpack definitely helped but I also think she was special - even

with all the building changes happening here, she did great," Elisabeth offers.

Once again - the successful high profitability cow emerges, when traits that influence longevity, a cow-friendly environment and excellent herd management intersect. Unfortunately, this *conspiracy* family has concluded. The only daughter of this tough, productive, survival cow is also gone - after she made three big lactations and three bulls of her own. 



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for their hard work, dedication,
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Spirit of the West

to life at the 2026 National Convention.



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BC Branch News

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are rolling into summer quickly – planting is mostly done in my area and soon the kids will be finished another year at school – time keeps moving!

April was highly anticipated by the Branch as we hosted the National Convention. What an event it was! Congratulations to the convention co-chairs: Joan Wikkerink, Suzanne Cuthbert, and Morgan Sangster, who have been preparing for and planning this event for well over a year. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to serve on the various committees – without your dedication none of it would have been possible.

Thank you to the farms who opened their doors to host attendees during the pre, post and Fraser Valley tour days, to those who consigned to the convention sale, and to the breeders and exhibitors who travelled from across Western Canada to participate in an incredible Holstein Show. All the events, from the Welcome Reception to the President's Night at Grouse Mountain, the

AGM to the Master Breeder Gala, were top-notch and truly highlighted our province's beauty and rich Holstein history.

Congratulations to the North Okanagan Club on the successful show they hosted at the beginning of April with 76 entries of Holsteins and Jerseys, and we look forward to the 51st edition of the Vancouver Island Holstein Show in July. It is great to see the newly formed Fraser Valley Holstein Club re-activating activities in their region with judging and classification nights, and we anticipate another great year of Breeder's Cup competitions in all three areas.

The Branch Picnic will be held at Postma Farms (Deroche) at the end of June. Plan to bring out your families for a day of fun as we gather together! Follow the BC Branch website and social media to stay updated with all the Branch events. I hope everyone has a safe and successful summer. **See you soon!**



Thomas Cuthbert
President

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Congratulations to the BC planning committee and all the volunteers involved in hosting this year's National Holstein Convention! You all did a tremendous job. We welcomed 20 guests to our farm in Vernon during the Pre-Tour, as Convention participants made their way to the coast. All the events, from the Welcome Reception to Grouse Mountain, sale, show and Master Breeder Gala, were well attended and from what I've heard, enjoyed by everyone!

At the AGM, all the new proposed By-Laws were passed – a project that the Board of Directors has been working on over the past year. The purpose was to make sure that By-laws remain current, clear, and aligned with the Animal Pedigree Act (APA). Additionally, seven of the nine resolutions brought forward by the provincial branches were passed during the meeting. Congratulations

to Harold Sweetnam (MB) on being voted in as President and to Benoît Turmel (QC) who will serve as 1st Vice President. Thank you to the Board for their continued faith in me as I was voted 2nd Vice President to round out the executive for the year ahead.

I was excited to hear that Morgan Sangster has been hired by the Association as the new Director of Business Development. While I have no doubt that she will be missed in her role at BC Dairy, Morgan's skills in building connections with producers will be an asset as we strive to continually support our members.

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to represent BC Breeders at Holstein Canada. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time with any questions or concerns you may have. **Have a great summer!**



Brian Hamming
National Director



BC Holstein Branch

Plan to attend the Family PICNIC

Lots of fun for the whole family!

Friday June 26 - 10am

Postma Farms

10205 Trembley Road, Deroche

Lunch will be served at NOON.

See You There!

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



Congratulations Morgan!

Producers in western Canada and especially in BC will know Morgan Sangster from her varied dairy positions in the west. She has been BC Dairy's Producer Support Manager since late 2021, in addition to serving on the BC Branch Board and as one of three co-chairs of the recent National Holstein Convention.

Morgan previously served as Holstein Canada's Western Canada Field Service Business Partner and is shifting back to Holstein Canada, this time as their new **Director, Business Development.**

Morgan's considerable experience working with a broad range of

producers directly gives her insights which will undoubtedly benefit her as she seeks to lead innovations to support all members of Holstein Canada.

We extend our enthusiastic best wishes to Morgan as she began her new position on June 15!



BC Dairy Association Bulletin Board

Drought vs Water Scarcity in BC

The definitions below are intended to clarify the distinction between drought and water scarcity.

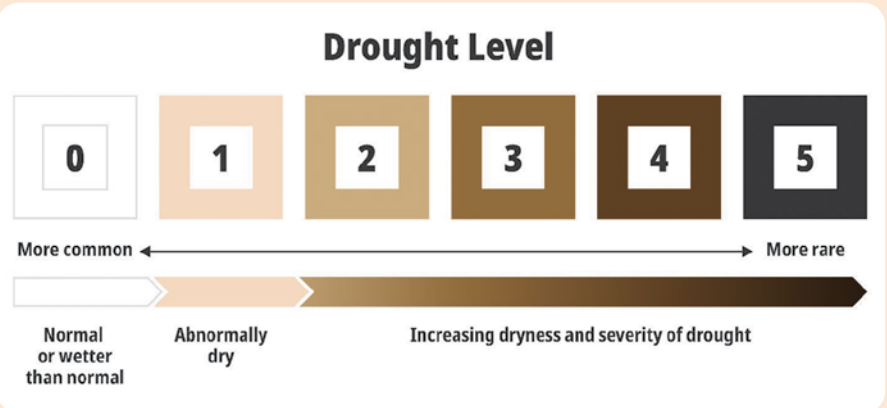
Drought is defined as a climate condition measured relative to long-term historical patterns. It describes a naturally occurring, temporary period of abnormally dry conditions for a specific area.

Water scarcity refers to a lack of available water to meet needs, such as drinking water supply, aquatic ecosystem health, crop production or industrial operations. Water scarcity is influenced by both climate conditions and human activities, and it can occur even in the absence of drought or be made worse by drought.

Setting Drought Levels

Provincial drought levels provide a standardized, province-wide snapshot of drought hazard, the severity and prevalence of climate-driven dryness relative to historical conditions.

BC uses a six-level scale (Level 0–Level 5) to classify drought conditions. The scale was established in 2021 and was refined in 2025 to ensure levels are data-driven measures of natural drought hazard.



Drought levels measure a natural hazard; they are not direct measures of water scarcity, impacts, or response triggers. They help inform (but do not determine) water scarcity risk and response decisions.

Water Scarcity Levels

Water scarcity can develop quickly, sometimes within days or weeks depending on weather conditions, water demand, storage capacity and watershed characteristics. Scarcity can affect both human and ecological systems, especially where water use is high and natural or built storage is limited.

A provincial water scarcity level framework is being developed and piloted in 2026.

The pilot water scarcity level framework describes water scarcity using three levels: low, moderate, and high. Each watershed defines its levels differently, according to local characteristics, water demands, storage capacity, environmental sensitivities and management priorities.



Figure 5: Colour scheme for the three water scarcity levels (subject to change as the pilot project evolves).

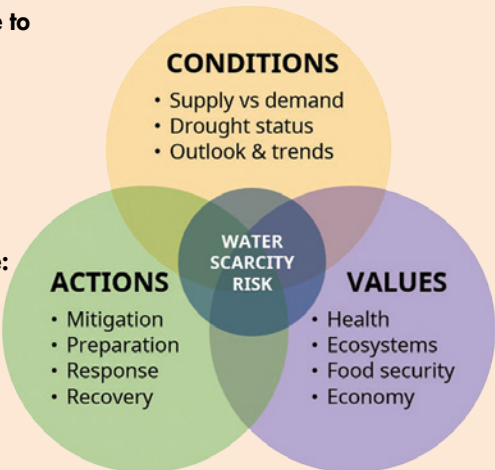
Water scarcity monitoring begins with identifying the key values within a watershed and the indicators that best describe the vulnerability to water shortage. These values and indicators may be developed collaboratively with water users and watershed partners.

Examples of watershed values vulnerable to water scarcity include:

- Drinking water supply
- Fish and fish habitat
- Agricultural water needs
- Wildfire risk
- Tourism and recreation opportunities

Examples of watershed indicators include:

- Local streamflow or lake levels
- Stream temperature
- Vegetation condition or soil moisture
- Reservoir or storage levels
- Aquatic ecosystem health
- Provincial or national drought levels



Water scarcity levels do not trigger regulatory actions. Their intent is to raise awareness early and encourage voluntary action to prevent conditions from worsening.

When voluntary and operational measures are insufficient, regulatory tools under the Water Sustainability Act may be required to prevent significant or irreversible harm and to uphold statutory priorities. Regulatory actions such as Fish Population Protection Orders are independent of provincial drought or water scarcity levels; statutory decision-makers may act where facts warrant (e.g., localized crisis).

Links

BC Drought Information Portal
<https://droughtportal.gov.bc.ca>

Drought preparation and response - Resources for farmers and food producers
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/drought#resources-for-farmers-and-food-producers>

2026 British Columbia Drought and Water Scarcity Operations Plan
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-info/drought_and_water_scarcity_operations_plan.pdf

World Milk Day and Dairy Month Celebrate the People Behind Every Glass

Earlier this month, the dairy industry marked World Milk Day on June 1, a global celebration recognizing the important role dairy plays in nourishing communities, supporting local economies, and sustaining livelihoods around the world. Across Canada, World Milk Day is celebrated through public campaigns, farm and community events, and social media initiatives that recognize dairy farmers and promote the importance of locally produced milk.

Established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in 2001, World Milk Day is an opportunity to celebrate the people behind the product – from farmers and processors to transporters, retailers, and researchers – while recognizing the sector’s commitment to animal care, sustainability, innovation, and producing high-quality nutritious food. This year, there is an added focus on female farmers, as the United Nations has declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer to recognize the vital role women play in agriculture and food systems worldwide. In the dairy sector, women are major contributors to farm operations, animal care, business management, and food production.

On this World Milk Day, BC Dairy and Alberta Milk shared videos on social media showcasing the care and commitment that goes into every glass of milk. Featuring imagery captured on local dairy farms alongside scenes of consumers enjoying dairy products, the video highlighted the dedication of dairy producers and the role dairy plays in everyday life across Western Canada.

The entire month of June is also recognized globally as ‘Dairy Month.’ To help connect consumers more closely with the importance of local dairy all month, BC Dairy and Alberta Milk are highlighting the people and products behind the industry through complementary initiatives.

“Faces of Dairy,” a digital storytelling campaign, is running throughout the month of June on social media. It highlights some of the many people across the industry that contribute to the safety, quality, and success of local dairy products. The campaign features professionals both on and off the farm, including processors, veterinarians, nutrition experts, and transporters, while also showcasing the many jobs and communities supported by the dairy industry. Examples include Beverly Lynch, a Dairy Nutritionist from Abbotsford, BC, and Casey Jacobs, an Animal Care Specialist from Calgary, Alberta.

Finally, throughout June, summer-themed podcast ads that position local dairy products as a familiar and nostalgic part of summer will air on Spotify. The audio ads highlight simple seasonal moments like enjoying ice cream on warm days and sharing grilled cheese sandwiches with family, while reminding consumers about the high quality of Canadian dairy. Together, these initiatives aim to help consumers better understand the care, expertise, and collaboration behind fresh local dairy products and recognize the people whose work helps feed communities every day.



The National Holstein Convention

The Spirit of the West – Excellence and Enthusiasm!

A year in the making, the National Holstein Convention took place in BC April 15-19, 2026. The 'Spirit of the West' flew high and proud through the week which began with a pre-tour through the Rockies, visiting wineries and breeder herds in the North Okanagan before landing in Burnaby, the Convention headquarters.

Wednesday evening's Welcome Reception was a tasty initiation to a Taste of BC, hosted by David Beaudoin, Canada's Cheese Ambassador. Mid-week events included the Youth Showmanship competition in Chilliwack – sponsored by Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic, the Spirit of the West Sale, WestGen's Dairy Showcase, Fraser Valley Farm tours and alternate tour to Fort Langley, the Past Presidents Reception atop Grouse Mountain, the Convention Show, Holstein Canada AGM and the grand finale Master Breeder Gala. A final post-Convention tour to Vancouver Island amazed participants who visited Victoria, enjoyed a whale-watching trip and saw top breeder herds in the Duncan area.

It was a magnificent Convention week, supported by the hardest-working volunteers and dozens of generous corporate sponsors. Thank you to all who had a hand in making this monumental event a great memory for hundreds of Holstein enthusiasts from coast to coast!

The Welcome Reception

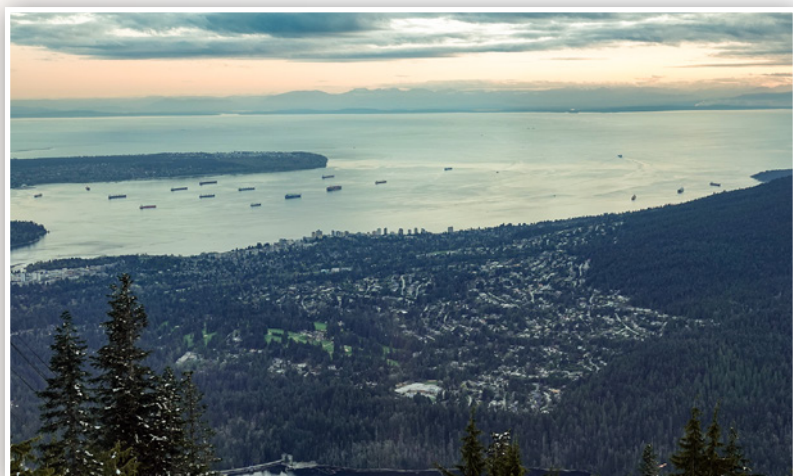
It was a casual affair on Wednesday evening as Convention guests had just arrived from flights and tour buses. Convention Co-Chair, Joan Wikkerink



The Dream Team welcomed Convention registrants in Burnaby on April 15. (L-R) Barry Remus (Finance), Joan Wikkerink, Morgan Sangster, Suzanne Cuthbert (Co-Chairs). Missing – Carl Barclay (Show), Heidi Schurmann (Decorations) and Luke Van Huizen (Young Leader).

welcomed everyone and introduced the Canadian Cheese Ambassador, David Beaudoin. Clearly well prepared for entertaining the crowd with his effusive love of dairy, David stimulated appetites as he described the tantalizing array of cheeses and pairings across the entire delicious and inviting feed bunk! The local BC cheeses were exceptional and gave dairy producers an entirely new appreciation for what their beautiful milk can create.

Everyone had ample time to graze, mingle and meet others through the relaxing evening.



BC's Past National Presidents were acknowledged for their roles in guiding Holstein Canada, as were their spouses for unwavering support – before, during and after their tenures. (L-R) John Blair and Sonya Klemm, Jeanette and Joe Taylor, Suzanne and Ben Cuthbert, Judy and Richard Bosma, Hélène Gagnon and Gilles Côté (outgoing Holstein Canada President).

Atop the World at Grouse Mountain

If the six minute gondola ride up the mountain wasn't exhilarating enough for guests, the views from high up on Grouse Mountain would certainly seal the deal!

This was the site of the WestGen-sponsored Past Presidents Reception – with fresh snow still at the top, it was a boisterous, memorable evening with breathtaking views, especially for guests from outside of BC.

Four of BC's Past National Holstein Canada Presidents were recognized for their past service and had special drinks named humorously in their honour to bring some fun to the evening.



The Grand Finale – Master Breeder Gala!

The gala hall vibrated with excitement as a full house waited with anticipation for each new Master Breeder family to share their on-farm video, before making their way (dancing in some cases) to the presentation stage with their chosen song playing raucously! Many proud, humble, moving stories were heard and each family was appreciated with pounding applause. We offer our deep congratulations to all the winners, but especially to the three first-time Master Breeders from western Canada!



Crestomere – the Simanton Family, AB



Missiontrail – the Hueging Family, MB



Mosnang – the Hehli Family, AB

Holstein Canada photos



Thank You

to ALL who contributed to making
the National Holstein Convention a
Spirited Success!

Sponsors

Thank you to all the sponsors that supported the
financial and in-kind needs of the Convention



DIAMOND SPONSORS



Hosting Farms & Tour Guides

- Hamming Holsteins
- Gietema Farms
- DeWitt's Holsteins
- Academy Farms
- Lorenzetti Acres
- Gracemar Farms
- Wisselview Farms
- Bonnie Doone Dairy
- UBC Research Centre
- Rose Gate Dairy
- Corners Pride Farms
- Wedgwood Holsteins
- J. William Wikkerink Farms
- Willswikk Holsteins
- Cowichan Milk Company



DeWitt's Holsteins Tour Stop

Committee Members & Volunteers

For the countless hours of dedicated planning



Convention Chairs



Show Committee



*Exhibitors, Guests and Venues
Who went above and beyond!*



Past Presidents Reception
Grouse Mountain



Welcome Reception - What a Spread!



Youth Show Sponsor: Abby Vet



Singing the Anthem



Joan survives her FOURTH BC
Convention with a smile!

We couldn't have done it without you!



National Convention BC Spring Show

Sadie Strikes Again!

BC Spring Show, held in conjunction with this year's "Spirit of the West" Holstein Canada National Convention in British Columbia, attracted 190 exceptional animals when it was held on April 17th at Chilliwack Heritage Park, Chilliwack, BC, before a huge crowd of Canadian and international spectators. It was an amazing show with quality running deep in every class in an event that drew

103 cows and 87 heifers representing owners from six Canadian provinces and two American states. Confidently lining up the classes was Canadian-born Judge Jamie Black of Batavia, NY, who owns Opportunity Holsteins & Jerseys and is Show Herd Manager for Oakfield Corners Dairy, Oakfield, NY. He was assisted by Associate Judge James Pruim of Plumblossom Farms, Osler, SK.



Jenna Jongenotter photo

1 - B&W Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge Jamie Black, Kevin Kooyman with WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE - Champion; Nicole Crosbie with BUTLERVIEW AMZN ALL AMOR - Reserve; Dave Dyment with JENDRO DELTA LAMBDA SANDY - Honourable Mention; Associate Judge James Pruim.

2 - B&W Junior Champions: (L-R) Associate Judge James Pruim, Rory Timlin with HAMMING LIMITED DARILYN - Honourable Mention; Tyler Doiron with LUCKY MASTER FROSTY - Reserve; Jeff Kooyman with DREAM MAKER MASTER DECEPTION - Champion; Judge Jamie Black.

Bonnie Cooper,
becooper2010@gmail.com

Impressive Winners

A beautiful group of cows vied for the day's highest award, but "running away with the win" and Grand Championship was WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE, the first 4-Year-Old from Westcoast Holsteins (BC). No stranger to the spotlight, Sadie was All-Canadian and All-American Junior 3-Year-Old last year after being Intermediate and Honourable Mention Grand Champion at the Royal Winter Fair and Intermediate and Reserve Grand Champion at World Dairy Expo. While milking a long time, this Lambda daughter used her combination of dairyness and strength, and added development and width through the front-end, to beat BUTLERVIEW AMZN ALL AMOR-ET, the winning Winter 2-Year-Old and Intermediate Champion who was tagged as Reserve Grand Champion. Acquired just before the show by Westcoast, Butlerview Farms (IL), Walker Dairy Inc. (ON) and Clarkvalley Holsteins (ON), this exciting young cow who, Judge Black said, "will stand a lot of competition this year," was also declared Overall and Intermediate Bred & Owned Champion of the show. Sired by Alligator, her levelness and symmetry of udder, and comfortable way she moved around the ring, put her in a close placing over JENDRO DELTA LAMBDA SANDY, the first 5-Year-Old and Honourable Mention Grand Champion from R&F Livestock Inc. (SK) and Walker Dairy who had been All-Canadian Senior 3-Year-Old in 2024.

In the Intermediate Championship, Amor (the Winter 2-Year-Old) had an advantage in udder quality, length of fore udder, and definition of rear udder crease, to go ahead of SKYCREST BREAKSHOT SHOWTIME, the rambunctious Senior 3-Year-Old winner from Skycrest Holsteins (AB) who was

Reserve Intermediate Champion. The Reserve had more width all the way through and was leveler on the floor of her udder than the first Junior 3-Year-Old, CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX, from R&F Livestock and Walker Dairy, who was Honourable Mention.

Judge Black set a pattern throughout the day and for him the "logical choice" for Junior Champion was the winning Spring Yearling, DREAM MAKER MASTER DECEPTION, from Westcoast. Deception had more "natural dairyness," being cleaner, silkier and having more spring of rib, than LUCKY MASTER FROSTY, the first Fall Yearling and Reserve Junior Champion who had been bought at showtime by Colin Vanden Brink (BC) from previous owner T&L Cattle Ltd. (BC). In a narrower decision, the runner-up's overall width put her ahead of HAMMING LIMITED DARILYN, the first Summer Yearling who was Honourable Mention for T&L Cattle. Best Bred & Owned Holstein Junior Champion was TAZO LIMITED-P ANGELA, the clean boned and dairy Winter Yearling class winner from Tazo Farms Ltd. (BC).

The Red and Whites

In the show's Red & White division, Judge Black awarded the Grand Championship to EXCELERANT PHOENIX-RED-ET, the fourth 4-Year-Old who had been purchased in the Convention Sale earlier in the week by Hamming Holsteins (BC). This Warrior daughter had the height and width of rear udder, levelness of udder and definition of



Claire Swale photo



Jenna Jongenotter photo

3 - Intermediate Champions: (L-R) Judge Jamie Black, Nicole Crosbie with BUTLERVIEW AMZN ALL AMOR - Champion; Katelyn Crest with SKYCREST BREAKSHOT SHOWTIME - Reserve; Greg McLean with CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX - Honourable Mention; Associate Judge James Pruim.



Jenna Jongenotter photo

4 - R&W Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge Jamie Black, Brian Goertzen with EXCELERANT PHOENIX - Champion; Kaycee Meier with LOOKOUT I'M BOUJEE - Reserve; Alberto Medina with MEADOW GREEN ALPHA FERN - Honourable Mention; Associate Judge James Pruim.

crease to place over LOOKOUT I'M BOUJEE, the Alpha daughter who was Reserve Grand Champion R&W after finishing third in the combined Spring & Summer 2-Year-Old class for Westcoast. The height and width of rear udder, and overall udder quality on this cow, took her ahead of MEADOW GREEN ALPHA FERN, who was cited as Honourable Mention and had been fifth Winter 2-Year-Old for Stanhope-Wedgwood (BC).

Grabbing the R&W Junior Championship was LOVHILL MIRACULOUS ALABAMA, the third Fall Calf from Lovholm Holsteins (SK) whose dairyness and longer head and neck took her over LUCKY CHUBANNA SPARKLE, the Reserve R&W Junior Champion by Altitude who was second Fall Yearling. Owned by Lucky Hill Dairy (AB) and Chubanna Holsteins (AB), the squareness and depth of rib on this heifer was preferred over another Chubanna entry, CHUBANNA LITE IT UP DELULU who was third Spring Yearling and Honourable Mention R&W Junior Champion.

The Premier Awards

The final awards of the show were presented during the well attended Pacific Celebration BBQ held that evening on the fairgrounds. The Kooyman family of Westcoast Holsteins, who were owners and/or partners in four class winners including the Grand, Intermediate/Reserve Grand, and Junior Champion Holsteins, went home with the Overall Premier Exhibitor banner. The Overall Premier Breeder banner was won by new

Master Breeders, the Simanton family of Crestomere Holsteins (AB), who were thrilled to see a pair of Crestomere bred cows stand one-two in the Junior 3-Year-Olds. The Junior Premier Exhibitor award was claimed by T&L Cattle Ltd. and the Junior Premier Breeder by Hamming Holsteins. FARNEAR DELTA-LAMBDA-ET was the show's Overall Premier Sire, while the Junior Premier Sire was HYDEN LIMITED-P.

Honoured with the BC Spring Show Dedication award this year was John & Thelma Vanderwal of Rockledge Farms Ltd., Enderby, in recognition of their many contributions over the years to the BC Holstein industry and youth programs.

The hard-working BC Spring Show Committee, headed by Chair Carl Barclay, did a wonderful job of organizing the event which had also been designated a National Show. Tars Cheema of WCDN made the show announcements, while Albert Streutker (BC) was the show's ringman, and Claudia Kessler (QC) provided the French translation of the judge's reasons. The well watched livestream of the show featured informative English and French commentary from Rich Bosma (BC) of Vedderlea Holsteins, and Holstein Canada classifiers Alex Laliberté (QC) and Alex McKay (ON).

A big **THANK YOU** to all the generous sponsors who contributed financially to help ensure the success of this show.



Photos Ketsia Croteau, Holstein Canada

- 5 - Junior Premier Breeder – Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC. (L-R) Brian and Jill Hamming, Dr. Rich Vanderwal (Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic – Sponsor).**
- 6 - Junior Premier Exhibitor – T&L Cattle, Cultus Lake, BC. (L-R) Brian Goertzen and Stéphane Danre (National Bank – Sponsor).**
- 7 - Junior Premier Exhibitor - Tom and Laury De Groot (T&L Cattle).**

- 8 - Premier Breeder – Crestomere Holsteins, Ponoka, AB. (L-R) Luke Van Huizen (BC Dairy – Sponsor), Lee, Lisa, Marylee, Ev, Ava and Easton Simanton.**
- 9 - Premier Exhibitor – Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC. (L-R) Darrin Rasmuson (WestGen – Sponsor), Jeff Kooyman, Mike Duncan (WestGen).**

PLACINGS

- Winter Heifer (6)**
- 1. LAVENDER PREPPY ROCKET**
Ashlee McAvoy, Armstrong, BC
- 2. BOONEMILL SALUTE EMMA**
Bonnie Doone Dairy Inc., Harrison Mills, BC
- Fall Heifer (24)**
- 1. MOSNANG POPROCK IDIDITFOR LOVE**
T&L Cattle Ltd., Cultus Lake, BC
- 2. RF PERENNIAL JAGUAR**
R&F Livestock Inc., Cudworth, SK
- Summer Yearling (23)**
- 1. HAMMING LIMITED DARILYN**
T&L Cattle Ltd., Cultus Lake, BC
- 2. J-A-TELFORD EYE CANDY MYLA**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- Spring Yearling (12)**
- 1. DREAM MAKER MASTER DECEPTION**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- 2. TOPPLEN WAR WINNIFREDD**
T&L Cattle Ltd., Cultus Lake, BC
- Winter Yearling (14)**
- 1. TAZO LIMITED-P ANGELA**
Tazo Farms Ltd., Falkland, BC
- 2. BENBIE DIRECT LENNOX**
Benbie Holsteins, Caron, SK
- Fall Yearling (8)**
- 1. LUCKY MASTER FROSTY**
Colin Vanden Brink, Chilliwack, BC
- 2. LUCKY CHUBANNA SPARKLE**
Chubanna Holsteins & Lucky Hill Dairy, Lacombe, AB
- Best Bred & Owned Jr. Champion**
- TAZO LIMITED-P ANGELA**
Tazo Farms Ltd., Falkland, BC
- R&W Junior Champion**
- LOVHILL MIRACULOUS ALABAMA**
Lovholm Holsteins, Balgonie, SK
- Reserve R&W Junior Champin**
- LUCKY CHUBANNA SPARKLE**
Chubanna Holsteins & Lucky Hill Dairy, Lacombe, AB

- HM R&W Junior Champion**
- CHUBANNA LITE IT UP DELULU**
Chubanna Holsteins, Lacombe, AB
- Junior Champion**
- DREAM MAKER MASTER DECEPTION**
Westcoast Holstein, Chilliwack, BC
- Reserve Junior Champion**
- LUCKY MASTER FROSTY**
Colin Vanden Brink, Chilliwack, BC
- HM Junior Champion**
- HAMMING LIMITED DARILYN**
T&L Cattle Ltd., Cultus Lake, BC
- Junior Breeder's Herd (7)**
- 1. Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC**
- 2. Robella Holsteins, Balgonie, SK**
- Junior Premier Breeder**
- 1. Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC**
- 2. Mosnang Holsteins, Rimbey, AB**
- Junior Premier Exhibitor**
- 1. T&L Cattle Ltd., Cultus Lake, BC**
- 2. Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC**
- Summer 2 Year Old (1)**
- 1. LOVHILL ROYALL LUPINE**
Lovholm Holsteins, Balgonie, SK
- Spring 2 Year Old (10)**
- 1. GENOSOURCE DOUBLE DICE**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- 2. WESTCOAST HASALL ARROW**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- Winter 2 Year Old (20)**
- 1. BUTLerview AMZN ALL AMOR**
Westcoast, Butlerview, Walker Dairy & Clarkvalley, Chilliwack, BC
- 2. ANDREANE LAMBDA MISERY**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- Fall 2 Year Old (12)**
- 1. CRAILA MEMORY BLACKOUT**
Robella, T&L & Joel Phoenix, Balgonie, SK
- 2. KESSEL PLAYBACK TOOTSIE**
R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy, Cudworth, SK

- Junior 3 Year Old (10)**
- 1. CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX**
R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy, Cudworth, SK
- 2. CRESTOMERE DOMINANCE TWEETY**
Crestomere Holsteins, Ponoka, AB
- Senior 3 Year Old (11)**
- 1. SKYCREST BREAKSHOT SHOWTIME**
Skycrest Holsteins, Athabasca, AB
- 2. ROBELLA DELTA LAMBDA MYGIRL**
Robella Holsteins & Westcoast Holsteins, Balgonie, SK
- Intermediate Champion**
- BUTLerview AMZN ALL AMOR**
Westcoast, Butlerview, Walker Dairy & Clarkvalley, Chilliwack, BC
- Reserve Intermediate Champion**
- SKYCREST BREAKSHOT SHOWTIME**
Skycrest Holsteins, Athabasca, AB
- HM Intermediate Champion**
- CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX**
R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy, Cudworth, SK
- 4 Year Old (18)**
- 1. WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- 2. ARWAY SIDEKICK LIDIE**
R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy, Cudworth, SK
- 5 Year Old (10)**
- 1. JENDRO DELTA LAMBDA SANDY**
R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy, Cudworth, SK
- 2. MAIFIELD LAMBDA MAINA**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- Mature Cow (8)**
- 1. LONDAN DAIRY BOJANGLES**
R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy, Cudworth, SK
- 2. EMBRDALE JILLIAN UNIX**
Wendon, Trent Valley & Joel Phoenix, Red Deer County, AB
- Lifetime Production (3)**
- 1. SKYCREST GOLDCHIP NUT**
Skycrest Holsteins, Athabasca, AB
- 2. HAMMING 1ST GRADE SMARTY PANTS**
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC

- Senior Breeder's Herd (6)**
- 1. Wendon Holsteins, Red Deer County, AB**
- 2. Robella Holsteins, Balgonie, SK**
- Best Bred & Owned Champion**
- BUTLerview AMZN ALL AMOR**
Westcoast, Butlerview, Walker Dairy & Clarkvalley, Chilliwack, BC
- R&W Grand Champion**
- EXCELERANT PHOENIX**
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC
- Reserve R&W Grand Champion**
- LOOKOUT I'M BOUJEE**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- HM R&W Grand Champion**
- MEADOW GREEN ALPHA FERN**
Stanhope-Wedgwood, Cobble Hill, BC
- Grand Champion**
- WEST-ADUB LAMBDA SADIE**
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC
- Reserve Grand Champion**
- BUTLerview AMZN ALL AMOR**
Westcoast, Butlerview, Walker Dairy & Clarkvalley, Chilliwack, BC
- HM Grand Champion**
- JENDRO DELTA LAMBDA SANDY**
R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy, Cudworth, SK
- Premier Breeder**
- 1. Crestomere Holsteins, Ponoka, AB**
- 2. Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC**
- Premier Exhibitor**
- 1. Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC**
- 2. R&F Livestock & Walker Dairy, Cudworth, SK**
- Premier Sire**
- 1. Farnear Delta-Lambda**
- 2. Golden-Oaks Master**

National Convention Tours

Ambassadors of BC's Vibrant Dairy Industry

Providing Convention guests with excellent tour options that combine interesting farms and region-specific experiences is challenging but very important to the overall Convention offering!

The 2026 National Convention Tours included a Pre-Tour through the Rockies and Okanagan, Fraser Valley Farm Tours and a Post Convention Tour to Vancouver Island.

- 1 - The Convention Pre-Tour started in Calgary April 12, treating visitors to jaw-dropping vistas through the Rockies en route to Okanagan wineries and wonderful Holstein breeder visits and D-Dutchman ice cream! Thanks to DeWitts, Hammings and Gietemas for hosting!
- 2 - While snow was still falling in many parts of the country, those who visited Vancouver Island for the Post-Convention tour could hardly believe the flowers and carpets of green grass at Mile 0 in Victoria. Whale watching followed the intriguing farm visits to Wedgwood Holsteins, J.W. Wikkerink Farms, Willswikk Holsteins and Cowichan Milk Company (Van Bovens). Thank you to these families for putting in all the extra work ahead of hosting visitors!
- 3 - Thursday farm tours in the Fraser Valley were varied and unique. Bus passengers could hardly believe the state of harvest they witnessed as they passed numerous farms with fields recently harvested, cut or ready to cut! Remember - much of Canada was still emerging from Winter! Farms on tour were Lorenzetti Acres, UBC Dairy, Corners Pride, Bonnie Doone, Gracemar, Rose Gate, Wisselview and Academy Farms.
- 4 - WestGen hosted tour guests for a leisurely lunch and relaxed tour through their Best in the West Dairy Showcase displays, spread through two barns at the ARC (Advanced Reproduction Centre). Forty six impressive, high genomic animals were immaculately presented in beautiful facilities, originating from 17 breeders in BC, AB and SK. Great idea!
- 5 - Happy, hard-working and ever-conscientious, sisters Nicki and Kaycee Meier had the WestGen Dairy Showcase barns and animals in *show-shape* for the hundreds of visitors that came through during Convention week.
- 6 - This Convention's Alternate Tour took guests to explore the lovely historic hamlet of Fort Langley, including a tour of the BC Farm Museum. It wrapped up with a floral finale at Quik's Farm in Chilliwack - innovative greenhouse growers of fresh cut flowers.



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Holstein Canada Annual General Meeting

Adjusting to a Changing Industry



1



2



3



4



5

Bonnie Cooper,
becooper2010@gmail.com

Attendees at the "Spirit of the West" National Holstein Convention in British Columbia turned their attention to business on April 18th when the 143rd Holstein Canada (HC) Annual General Meeting of members took place at the Delta Hotels Burnaby Conference Centre, Burnaby, BC. The meeting was also livestreamed (viewing only) for members unable to attend the session.

Changing Industry Presents Challenges

"Nothing is permanent except change," HC President Gilles Côté told members in his address. During the past year, Côté said "change, modernization and a commitment to act," were the principles that guided HC's Board as they thoroughly reviewed the Association's By-Laws and governance policies and appointed Greg Dietrich as the new HC CEO in December following the departure of the previous CEO in May 2025. He said the Board's Strategic Plan, based on the pillars of member and producer engagement, leadership and governance, industry partnerships, and innovation and research, will serve as the Association's roadmap for the next three years.

Speaking in both English and French, Greg Dietrich presented a frank and honest assessment of where the Holstein Association is today, in his first CEO report. "We are operating in a changing industry. And the reality is we are in a declining environment for classification and registrations. While financially 2025 may appear to have been a fantastic year, in reality our truer position is closer to a deficit. We had \$780,000 that was not paid for staffing, and a good amount of our revenue came from the return on our investments. 2026 is a 'reset' year," he said. "We are going to look at rebuilding internal capacities inside the office to allow us to provide top notch service to members. We are going to invest in our people and systems. We need to take advantage of tools like Artificial Intelligence and position ourselves for long-term relevance and value for generations to come."

In reviewing 2025, Dietrich cited enhancements in HC's classification program, creation of the Homebred Excellent Award, more meetings with Branches, modernized production awards, committee restructuring, and continued research using 3D imaging and Artificial Intelligence for animal phenotyping, as some of HC's achievements. The classification program marked its 100th anniversary last year. In the coming year,

Dietrich said the Association plans to look at modernizing the Herdbook and exploring additional multi-breed opportunities and industry partnerships that will add value to HC members.

Finances and By-Laws

National Director Benoît Turmel presented a very detailed financial report to members. He said most of the surpluses HC has realized in recent years are the result of the Reserve Fund's returns on investments, not from business growth or efficiency in services. This will remain a "challenge" for HC because "growth is limited."

In 2025, HC reported "operational" revenue of \$16,775,987, expenses of \$16,349,748, and a surplus of \$426,239. When investment income from the Reserve Fund is considered, the surplus climbs to \$1,011,874. There is \$6.9 million in the Reserve Fund. Memberships, transfers and classification activity were down last year, while registrations were up 2.1% and genomic tests rose 14.6% from a year ago. Several key staff positions at HC remained unfilled last year which has delayed the implementation of some changes, particularly in the classification program.

For 2026, the Board is budgeting "operational" revenue at \$16,722,097, expenses of \$17,457,157, and a deficit of \$735,060. "While the coming year will be a period of restructuring and redirection, the Board will remain very vigilant about expenses," assured President Côté.

The Association's amended and restated By-Laws were presented for approval at this meeting. During the discussion, members raised concerns about not having adequate time to study the document, voting in British Columbia on amendments that directly impact members in Ontario and Quebec, and not permitting online voting. Despite the objections, all of the By-Law amendments were approved by a majority of the 108 registered voters present at the meeting.

The majority of By-Law changes were minor and simply "modernized" the structure of the Association to prevent future governance issues. The most significant amendments that were approved reduce the number of National Directors in both Quebec and Ontario from "four to three" and give the Board the flexibility to appoint up to two "independent" directors with specialized expertise to help the Association. These independent directors will have voting rights but can not be an officer or serve more than two years. This change means the overall size of the Board will not increase (10

elected directors + 2 independent directors) and considers declining dairy producer numbers and budget constraints. HC Past President, 87-year-old Joe Taylor (BC) reminded the group that in the 1980s there were 32 Board Directors. When that number was later reduced, the work continued to get done. "It's our responsibility," he said, "to ensure the right people get elected to the Board."

Other AGM Highlights

* Members approved seven resolutions:

- 1) that HC support a working group to investigate the use and acceptance of component information from robotic milking systems as an "official" test
- 2) that the judges' names, and complete voting results, for the All-Canadian contest be published
- 3) that national and provincial production awards, plus club awards, be put on animal pedigrees
- 4) that selection criteria weightings for the Cow of the Year award be reviewed
- 5) that lactation numbers and fresh dates be put on show harness cards
- 6) that bulls who sire "crampiness" be clearly identified on AI proof sheets and Lactanet/HC websites
- 7) sire search results be enhanced for online registration.

A resolution asking that all AI bulls be classified was defeated after Doug Blair (AB), retired Alta Genetics CEO, remarked that "very little correlation has ever been found between what a bull looks like and what the progeny results are." Also turned down was a request that participation in the Breeder's Herd class at shows be based on the "breeders" area of the registration, rather than the "prefix."

* The age eligibility for HC's Young Leaders program is being changed to 21 to 35 years old. It was previously 19-30.

* Appreciation was expressed to the dedicated staff at HC for their contributions and specifically Linda Markle, Director of Member Services & Operations, who served as Interim CEO twice in four years; Chris Bartels, Director of Innovation & Research, who was Interim Co-Chief Operating Officer; and Pascal Lemire, Registrar, who served as Interim Manager of the Classification Program. Also thanked was Paul Larmer, retired Semex CEO, who has been a Special Advisor to the Board since October 2024. CEO Dietrich announced that Valérie

1 - On hand to receive two of the six HC educational award scholarships from outgoing HC Director Karen Versloot (centre) were Cailyn Charlton (ON) and Dorian de Lange (AB).

2 - In his final address to the membership, outgoing President Gilles Côté began with high praise for BC's "producers with a vision," Convention co-chairs, their committees, the tour farm hosts and the western exhibitors - "You make us so proud."

3 - (L-R) CEO Greg Dietrich spoke with appreciation for the 'Hometown Heroes,' presenting awards to Luke van Huizen and Carl Barclay of British Columbia, with President Gilles Côté.

4 - HC extended heartfelt thanks to the BC Holstein Convention Committee. (Back L-R) Gilles Côté, Barry Remus (Finance), Luke van Huizen (Young Leaders), Carl Barclay (Show), Greg Dietrich. (Front L-R) Convention Co-Chairs Joan Wikkerink, Morgan Sangster and Suzanne Cuthbert.

5 - The 2025 Cow of the Year award was won by JACOBS HIGH OCTANE BABE EX-96-2E-6*, bred and owned by Ferme Jacobs Inc., Cap-Sante, QC. Ferme Jacobs was presented with a True Type Model featuring Babe's markings and a painting of Babe, created by BC artist, Tanya R. Loewen (right).

Tremblay, current Director of Marketing & Field Service, will be transitioning to Manager of Classification and that HC is currently seeking a new Business Development manager.

* The 2025 Cow of the Year award was won by JACOBS HIGH OCTANE BABE EX-96-2E-6*, bred and owned by Ferme Jacobs Inc., Cap-Sante, QC. Ferme Jacobs was presented with a painting of Babe and a True Type Model featuring Babe's markings, the first True Type Model awarded since the creation of a new model by HC. The new model is now being produced in-house at HC via 3D printing and is identical in conformation, shape and size to the 2004 Mature Cow model, but features individual serialized numbering, a certificate of authenticity, and walnut display base.

* Next year's National Holstein Convention will be held in Brantford, ON, from April 20-24, 2027, with a theme of "Come Home to Holstein."

HC Officers & Directors

During the AGM it was announced that Quebec at Large National Director, Nicolas Lalonde of Ferme Blondin/Blondin Sires, Saint-Placide, QC, had advised the Association that he would be leaving the Board after the meeting. President Côté thanked Mel McLean of Stoneden Holsteins, Gananoque, ON, who was completing his term as Western Ontario National Director, and Karen Versloot of Combination Holsteins, Keswick Ridge, NB, who was defeated in the election for Atlantic Director, for their service. Also finishing his Board term and retiring is Eastern Quebec National Director and HC President Gilles Côté of Ferme Lacnor (prefix Jeanri), Saint-Bruno-Lac-Saint-Jean, QC.

At a Board of Directors meeting held following the AGM, Harold Sweetnam of Sweetridge Holsteins, Stanley, MB, was elected HC President for the coming year. He is the first HC President from Manitoba in 88 years. Benoît Turmel of Beaucoise Holstein, Sainte-Marie, QC, is the new Vice-President, while the new third member of the Executive Committee is Brian Hamming of Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC.

Three new Directors are joining the Board this year: Atlantic - Luke McLellan of Lellavan Holsteins, Noel, NS; Western Ontario - Gerrit Wensink, Hoenhorst Holsteins, Woodstock, ON; and Eastern Quebec - Hubert Guimond, Bard Holsteins, La Pocatière, QC.

Spirit of the West National Convention Sale

Bonnie Cooper,
becooper2010@gmail.com



The Spirit of the West National Convention Sale kicked off the 2026 Holstein Canada National Convention in British Columbia and what a great success it was with the sale averaging \$7380 on 63 lots, which included five choices and eight embryo packages, in addition to an incredible lineup of live cattle. Held on April 15th at Chilliwack Heritage Park, Chilliwack, BC, the offering sold to in-person and online buyers from seven Canadian provinces and the state of Illinois.

The Convention Sale was managed by Brian Hamming of Hamming Holsteins (BC), Duane Wisselink of Wisselview Farms (BC), and Martin Rypma (BC), a sales representative for Blondin Sires. Keeping the sale moving at a brisk pace was auctioneer Jim Doan (ON), while Martin Rypma made pedigree announcements.

Igniting the sale's top bid of \$21,000 was WESTCOAST SALUTE PRINCESS, a September 2025 Salute heifer calf from

the Prude family, who was purchased by Roswitha Holsteins (MB) from consignors Westcoast Holsteins (BC) and T&L Cattle Ltd. (BC). This calf is a daughter of WESTCOAST SIDEKICK PRUDE EX-96-3E, a sixth generation EX daughter of WENDON DEMPSEY PRUDE EX-95-2E-3*, who was All-Canadian and All-American 4-Year-Old in 2016.

Best selling milking female at \$15,000 was EXCELERANT PHOENIX-RED-ET VG-89, a show winning Warrior-Red daughter milking 42 kg/day and backed by an EX-94-USA Defiant dam and EX-91-USA Destry grandam in the WINDY-KNOLL-VIEW PROMIS-ET EX-95-3E-USA family. Consigned by Westcoast Holsteins and T&L Cattle, this 4-year-old would be Red & White Grand Champion at BC Spring Show two days later for new owner Hamming Holsteins.

CHUBANNA DELTA LAMDA LADY, a Lambda bred heifer due in July to Triton PP, was claimed by Westcoast Holsteins and Weststar Holsteins (BC) for \$14,500.



A successful sale executed by a great crew - pictured with the high seller WESTCOAST SALUTE PRINCESS, purchased by Roswitha Holsteins (MB) for \$21,000.

Consigned by Chubanna Holsteins (AB), she is from an EX-93 Legend dam who completes 10 generations of EX/VG and traces through BRAINWAVE GOLDWYN LAURAMIE EX-95-2E-6*, a 2X All-Western winner.

Butlerview Farm (IL) paid \$13,500 for ZESSEN LIMITED ROSES, a September 2025 Limited-P calf consigned by Vanzessen Dairy (SK). She is from a VG-87 Master dam who completes seven generations VG/EX, with the sixth dam being THRULANE JAMES

ROSE EX-97-2E-5*, the 3X Royal Winter Fair Grand Champion and All-Canadian.

The "choice of any heifer" born in the Lovhill herd of Lovholm Holsteins (SK) during 2025 sparked a final bid of \$13,500 cast by Beckholm Holsteins (ON). The buyer will have his pick of 50 heifers from 17 cow families from this highly classified herd which has bred World Dairy Expo Grand Champions in 2025 and 2015 and achieved a string of Superior Production, lifetime production and Star Brood cow awards.



2026 BC Spring Show Dedication

The BC Holstein Branch dedicated the 2026 Spring Show to John and Thelma Vanderwal with gratitude for all the time they have given to the landscape of BC Holsteins over the past several decades, and especially for their investment in BC's dairy youth.

With early years spent at Cedarwal Farms and engaged in the Sumas 4-H Club, John and Thelma moved to Enderby in 2005, starting Rockledge Farms with their son Shawn.

While breeding and marketing high calibre genetics were strengths, their passion lay in encouraging youth. From supporting 4-H clubs to eventually leading WCC, they loved their time developing and uplifting keen dairy youth.

A highlight at Rockledge included their first calf born CEDARWAL SASSY ALLEN EX-92 2E, becoming Grand Champion at the NOK Spring Show. She has 39 daughters (17 EX, 15 VG and seven GP), earning her 29* stars and counting.

We honour John and Thelma for their selfless service to the dairy industry and to the many community organizations they continue to support today.

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National Convention Young Leader Program

Enthusiasm, Camaraderie, Dairy-Building Experiences!



Hannah Woodhouse, Ph. D
(BC Young Leader Participant)

The 2026 National Holstein Convention, held in Burnaby from April 14-18, welcomed approximately 35 participants in the Young Leaders program. Selected based on their interest in and contributions to the dairy industry, the 19-30 year old Young Leaders came from across Canada. Each participant represented their province while taking part in a variety of educational sessions, networking opportunities, and Convention events.

The program began Tuesday evening with a 'meet and greet' networking session with other Young Leaders and with members of the YL Advisory Committee.

On Wednesday, the group attended a series of engaging classroom sessions, with a variety of speakers covering topics such as dairy nutrition, calf health, genetics, and farm succession. The afternoon featured a Master Breeder panel where representatives from Crestomere (Alberta) and Missiontrail (Manitoba) shared their journeys to becoming Master Breeders and lessons learned along the way. That evening, the Young Leaders met with the Holstein Canada Board of Directors before attending the Taste of BC Welcome Reception featuring Canadian Cheese Ambassador David Beaudoin.

On Thursday, the Young Leaders toured three farms (Hessels, Pickmick, and Donia) and also participated in a classification demonstration. The Past Presidents evening reception was held at the top of Grouse Mountain, featuring stunning views while networking with industry members and enjoying a variety of local d'oeuvres and spirits.

The National Holstein show took place at Heritage Park on Friday, where the Young Leaders competed against one another in the judging of the 3-year-old class. The day concluded with an outdoor BBQ attended by Convention participants and local dairy farming families.

Holstein Canada's AGM took place on the final day. Young Leaders attended the meeting and had the opportunity to vote on behalf of their prefixes. The week concluded with the Master Breeder Gala, an exciting evening celebrating the 2026 Master Breeder award recipients, followed by dancing to cap off an unforgettable week of learning, networking, and new friendships.

On behalf of the 2026 Young Leaders, I would like to thank the organizing committee and Holstein Canada staff for facilitating such an outstanding event and for their continued investment in the future of our industry.



Young Leaders from across Canada enjoyed their farm visits to Pickmick, Donia and here at Hessels' in Delta.



A classification tutorial was just one of the wide-range of dairy-building experiences for participants of Holstein Canada's Young Leader programme.

Holstein Canada photos



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National Convention Youth Showmanship

Sponsored by Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic

Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic was once again pleased to sponsor the Youth Showmanship event at the BC Spring Show. Judge Ian Crosbie of Caron, Saskatchewan, meticulously handled the judging duties for two dozen keeners from pre-clubbers to seniors. A veteran of many a showmanship competition, Ian methodically handled each class with increasing expectations with the age and experience of each category. He never failed to patiently provide useful and specific feedback to the young competitors.

But perhaps most appreciated were the prizes and hoodies provided by Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic to every participant – everyone went home a winner with a smile.

- PEEWEE (3)
1. Kennedy Prinse, AB

1. Forrest Telford, BC

1. Taylor Prinse, AB

- JUNIOR (3)
1. Colton Schurmann, BC

2. Raelyn Lovich, SK

3. Sawyer Prinse, AB

- INTERMEDIATE (12)
1. Addison Dunne, BC

2. Kayla Schurmann, BC

3. Everleigh Boerchers, MB

- SENIOR (8)
1. Natalie Boonstoppel, MB

2. Hannah Vanderlinde, AB

3. Adyson Wildeboer, AB

- GRAND CHAMPION
- Natalie Boonstoppel, MB

- RESERVE CHAMPION
- Hannah Vanderlinde, AB

- HONOURABLE MENTION
- Addison Dunne, BC



Jenna Jongenotter photos

- 1 - Showmanship Champions: (L-R) Judge Ian Crosbie, Natalie Boonstoppel (MB) – Champion; Hannah Vanderlinde (AB) – Reserve; Addison Dunne (BC) – Honourable Mention; Dr. James Patterson (Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic – sponsor).
- 2 - Junior Showmanship Winner – Colton Schurmann (BC) with Judge Ian Crosbie.
- 3 - Every year, the Peewee contenders steal the show (and our hearts)!

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THE INAUGURAL NATIONAL HOLSTEIN CONVENTION

1983 Convention Memories

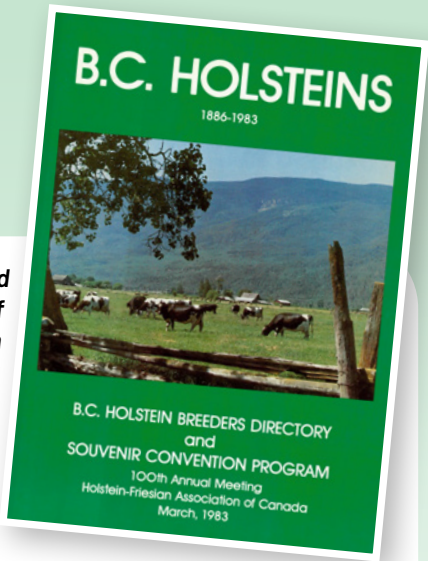


Barb Souter was the publisher of BC Holstein News from 1980 to 1996. She was also the Convention Coordinator for the historic 1983 National Holstein Convention, which you will read about below. Barb produced the combined 1983 BC Holstein Directory and Souvenir Convention Program which brought together the first comprehensive list of Holstein farms across BC, laying them out on regional maps which we still use today!

But even more impressive, she created a time-capsule of BC's interesting Holstein History – writing vignettes of the earliest and most prominent current breeding establishments, record-producing cows, history of the BC Branch and

people of influence. Without the determined efforts of Barb, we would not have details of those pioneers and an account of the path which brought us to this point today. History matters – thank you Barb for recording this history and for establishing the BC Holstein News which continues to serve the dairy community across western Canada.

– Tars Cheema – Publisher, BC Holstein News/Western Canadian Dairy News.



BC hosted the first National Holstein Convention in 1983, an historic event as it was also the 100th Annual Meeting of the Holstein Association of Canada. Since being founded in 1883, all meetings had been held in Ontario except one, and I believe that most, if not all, of these meetings were single day events held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. The one exception was in 1928 when the meeting was held in Montreal.

Gordon McKay had been the National Director for BC for seven terms – 1959 and '60, 1969, 1979, '80, '81 and '82, when he was elected the National President. He had been advocating for years for the meeting to be held in other parts of Canada besides Ontario, and it was largely his initiative that brought the meeting to BC. The BC Holstein Branch extended the invitation to hold the meeting in Vancouver and to make the 100th anniversary celebration a weeklong convention throughout the province, welcoming Holstein breeders from across Canada.

Joe Taylor, who was the incoming National Director for BC, was named Convention Chairman and I was asked to take on the role of Convention Coordinator. Committees were formed and we were hard at work

for more than a year planning the convention. And what a success it was!

When Tars asked if I could write a piece for the Western Canadian Dairy News about the 1983 convention, I of course said yes and have been taking a fun trip down memory lane since then. I did find a scrapbook I'd made, with photos and clippings from numerous publications, so the facts and figures I'm going to quote aren't entirely from memory, but from reports made at the time.

Holstein breeders came from across Canada. One group from Ontario flew to Calgary and did some farm visits in Alberta before their bus tour through the Rockies to BC. They stopped in the Okanagan for more farm visits en route to Vancouver. There were 1300 at the meeting held at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver, with all provinces well represented, including 170 from Quebec. Guests representing Holstein Associations in the US, UK and New Zealand also attended. Both the Federal Minister of Agriculture and the BC Minister of Agriculture were at the convention.

The big events of the week were the BC Spring Show,

with 335 head shown, and the BC Classic Dogwood Sale, both held at the Agrodome at the PNE grounds. Estimates varied from 2000 to 3000 people attending! Buyers came from across Canada and the US, with a top price of \$40,000 and a sale average of \$8700 for 54 head sold. A salmon barbecue was held after the show and pre-sale entertainment included a BC Loggers Sports Show.

Fifteen bus loads toured farms in the Fraser Valley (and two bus loads of women chose a scenic tour to Harrison Hot Springs instead of farm visits). Back in Vancouver for the evening, there was a whale show at the Aquarium followed by a mystery dinner tour with 15 different restaurants participating.

Convention week wound up with two days on Vancouver Island featuring farm and scenic tours. The logistics of arranging this week of events was a huge job. We didn't have today's use of computers to facilitate the complexity of organizing a convention. It was certainly a memorable event, for all of us involved in putting the convention on and also for the Holstein breeders who came from across Canada.



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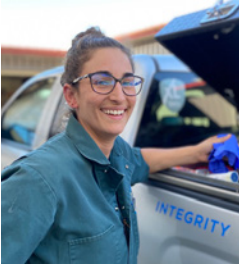
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Many dairy producers have invested in technology to help manage their dairy business and enhance profitability. From milking systems to sensor technologies, producers are generating vast amounts of data every day. While this information holds tremendous potential, turning it into clear, actionable insight remains a challenge for both producers and the advisors who support them.

That's where DairyComp **herd management software** comes in. DairyComp acts as a central hub—bringing together data from multiple sources and transforming it into a meaningful, on-farm data system. By integrating information from milking systems, activity monitors, test-day records, reproduction and health events, genetics, weigh scales, and hoof trimming records, DairyComp allows producers to organize and analyze their data in ways that drive smarter, more profitable decisions.

In many ways, DairyComp becomes the **heartbeat of the dairy**, helping identify animals that need attention and supporting both individual animal management and whole-herd strategy.

Planning Ahead: Managing Future Inventories

With increasing focus on sustainability and strategic herd growth, managing future animal inventory has never been more important. The widespread use of varied semen strategies—conventional, sexed, and beef—adds another layer of complexity.

DairyComp simplifies this by projecting future calvings and categorizing pregnancies by semen type. **Table 1** summarizes expected calvings by month alongside the semen type used, giving producers a clearer picture of future replacement availability.

Complementing this view, **Table 2** tracks recent semen usage trends. This allows producers to quickly assess whether breeding strategies align with herd goals—or if adjustments are needed to ensure the right number of replacements moving forward.

Identifying the Right Animals

As genetic progress and management practices continue to improve, many herds increasingly face the challenge of deciding which animals to replace.

DairyComp makes this process straightforward by enabling producers to rank animals using virtually any performance or genetic metric. For example, in **Table 3**, to rank all cows effectively, regardless of age, lactation, or season of calving, a 305-day mature equivalent fat production would be used. The herd is divided into five equal groups. With a single click on '588', the bottom 20% can be identified—providing a clear starting point for culling or management decisions.

Table 1. Calvings by month and semen type

By MODUE	Pct	Count	CSSEX=B	CSSEX=U	CSSEX=S
Apr26	3	5	2	2	1
May26	11	19	6	7	6
June26	18	30	6	12	12
July26	16	28	9	8	11
Aug26	12	21	4	8	9
Sep26	10	17	11	1	5
Oct26	19	32	11	6	15
Nov26	7	12	5	2	5
Dec26	4	7	3	1	3
Total	100	171	57	47	67

Table 2. Tracking semen usage trends

Usage	Total	Unsexed	Sexed F	Beef	OTHERS
2026 January	32	5	2	25	
2026 February	22	4	4	14	
2026 March	29	4	5	16	4
2026 April	21		2	12	7
TOTALS	104	13	13	67	11

Table 3. Ranking cows by 305-day mature equivalent fat production

By MEFAT	Pct	Count	AvCLASS	Av PROS	Av305ME
588	20	31	83.6	1310	15719
688	20	32	81.4	1514	16871
746	20	31	82.1	1644	16960
802	20	32	82.1	1761	18094
868	20	31	81.5	1939	19246
Total	100	157	82.1	1631	17379



Taking It Further with CowValue

Taking herd ranking a step further, in **Table 4**, DairyComp's **CowValue** module estimates an animal's future economic value based on production potential and likelihood of remaining in the herd. It compares each individual cow to a fresh heifer in the herd and also models how that value changes with key events, such as becoming pregnant or losing a pregnancy.

This helps guide critical decisions around breeding, treatment, and replacement—ensuring each choice supports long-term profitability.

Table 4. CowValue ranking report

ID	LACT	DIM	RPRO	DCC	305M	MILK	FAT	SCC	CWVAL	PGVAL
2480	1	121	BRED	0	7940	29	1.4	448	-3039	-1195
1988	6	57	OK/OPEN	0	11100	44	1.9	106	-1876	134
2495	1	83	BRED	0	9860	36	1.5	20	-1800	1499
2489	1	79	OK/OPEN	0	10550	38	1.9	16	-1110	1946
2391	2	123	BRED	0	13220	47	2.4	12	-603	1153
2491	1	79	OK/OPEN	0	9710	37	1.8	12	-559	1747
2176	4	175	BRED	0	13220	44	2.5	13	-447	-232
2505	1	59	OK/OPEN	0	13000	43	1.9	118	-121	1511
2506	1	65	OK/OPEN	0	11080	40	1.8	24	-121	1497

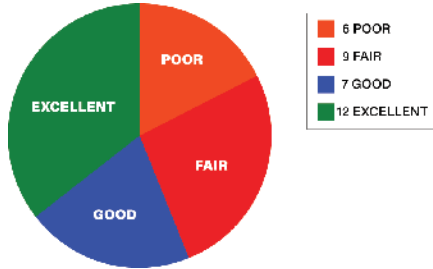
Strengthening Calf Performance

Calf management has become a major priority on progressive dairies, with early-life growth and performance directly impacting future productivity when they enter the milking string.

DairyComp enables detailed tracking of key calf health indicators, including colostrum quality, timing of feeding, and serum total protein levels. By organizing and reporting on these metrics, producers can quickly assess their calf management protocols.

In **Graph 1**, for example, reviewing serum total protein results over the past three months provides a clear snapshot of how well calves are receiving the immunity they need to succeed.

Graph 1. Calves serum total protein results in last 3 months



Turning Sensor Data into Early Action

Modern dairies are increasingly leveraging sensor technologies, and DairyComp ensures this data doesn't go unused.

Rumination data, displayed in **Table 5** for instance, can be grouped and monitored across different pens or production groups. Changes in rumination patterns often signal health or nutritional issues before they impact milk production—giving producers an opportunity to act early.

Table 5. Data rumination by group for last 7 days

By GROUP	Pct	Count	AvRUMSU	AvRUMMO	AvRUMTU	AvRUMWE	AvRUMTH	AvRUMFR	AvRUMSA
1	5	22	487	393	393	432	415	469	463
2	32	143	550	554	555	558	559	541	556
3	34	154	506	516	512	530	518	510	508
4	19	87	529	507	510	537	528	552	546
10	3	13	302	413	399	481	490	322	279
99	7	32	522	450	418	528	547	501	512
Total	100	451	519	513	510	534	529	520	522

Bringing It All Together

DairyComp empowers producers to move beyond simply collecting data—to truly **using it**. By integrating information from across the operation, it supports better decision-making, improved efficiency, and stronger profitability.

For dairies looking to get more from their data, working with the DairyComp support team can help tailor the system to meet specific herd management and data goals—unlocking even greater value from this powerful tool.

Elevate Herd Performance - Webinar recordings are now available!



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37% of cows on-test milk record in robot systems





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This award recognizes
Total lifetime production
of animals in the herd.

CRITERIA: Includes all cows in the herd having
completed a lactation in 2025.

Lifetime milk production of all animals in the
herd who have completed a lactation in 2025
are used to calculate the Milk Herd average.

Grouped by herd size:
(herd size = number of animals completing a
lactation in 2025)

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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	32	1,576,215	62,255	50,454	49,257	F	R
20-39	TAZO FARMS LTD	39	1,537,634	63,360	52,915	39,427	F	R
70-89	SUNNYHOME FARMS LTD	86	3,292,233	141,736	109,240	38,282	F	2
90-129	FRUEH FARMS LTD	109	4,615,099	202,326	155,363	42,340	F	2
130+	WEST RIVER FARM	151	5,871,786	269,621	202,325	38,886	F	R

ALBERTA

Herd Size	Farm Name	Total Animals	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk Avg	Housing	Milk Freq
130+	GERT & SONJA SCHRIJVER	256	10,015,449	426,803	333,170	39,123	F	3

SASKATCHEWAN

Herd Size	Farm Name	Total Animals	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk Avg	Housing	Milk Freq
40-49	HENDRIKUS ZOMER	44	1,916,538	78,922	66,776	43,558	F	2
130+	BENBIE HOLSTEINS LTD	150	5,709,233	249,228	198,518	38,062	F	3

MANITOBA

Herd Size	Farm Name	Total Animals	Milk	Fat	Protein	Milk Avg	Housing	Milk Freq
20-39	PRAIRIE HOLSTEIN DAIRIES LTD	39	1,464,589	58,223	48,822	37,554	F	R
40-49	GRATEFUL DAIRY	40	1,761,852	72,496	58,949	44,046	T	3
50-59	PLEMARK HOLSTEINS	59	2,336,022	95,111	73,053	39,594	T	2
70-89	ISAAC DAIRY LTD	86	3,835,125	165,208	124,137	44,594	T	2
90-129	CANDYVIEW FARM	90	3,971,964	163,800	125,607	44,133	T	3
90-129	CURRENT HOLSTEINS	97	3,998,616	174,474	133,216	41,223	T	2
90-129	HUEGING DAIRIES LTD	126	4,979,113	209,857	162,895	39,517	T	3
90-129	COLUMBINE HOLSTEINS	127	4,988,546	218,491	165,697	39,280	F	R

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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 2025.

BRITISH COLUMBIA	Avg./Day of Life				Milk			Total							Milk		
Animal Name	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Rank	Age	Lacts	Days	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Housing	Freq	Class	Farm Name	
WESTERNROSE SUPERSHOT LAYUP	38	1.3	1.2	2.47	37	9	7	3184	121,087	4138	3737	7875	F	9	VG-85-3YR	ROSE GATE DAIRY FARMS LTD	
WEST RUBLE 838	37.8	1.3	1.2	2.51	44	10	8	3501	132,362	4670	4111	8781	F	9	GP-81-2YR	WEST RIVER FARM	
ALPINA JETT AIR KRISTINA	36.8	1.3	1.1	2.41	77	11	6	4044	148,684	5355	4381	9736	F	9	EX-90-2E	B & L FARMS LTD	
WESTERNROSE MONETARY WINNER	36	1.6	1.1	2.66	116	9	6	3244	116,845	5159	3462	8621	F	9	VG-85-3YR	ROSE GATE DAIRY FARMS LTD	
HUSO MYRLE 6108	35.8	1.5	1.1	2.6	139	9	7	3282	117,458	4797	3739	8536	F	3	VG-87-5YR	COUNTRY CHARM FARMS LTD	
WESTERNROSE SNOWCREST BOARDER	35.2	1.4	1.2	2.61	202	10	6	3552	125,094	5123	4132	9255	F	9	VG-85-3YR	ROSE GATE DAIRY FARMS LTD	
EAGLEHAVEN FLYER MAGGIE	34.8	1.2	1	2.22	249	14	9	4945	172,082	6017	4965	10982	F	2	GP-82-2YR	B & L FARMS LTD	
KAMBROS KOBRA STRIKE 6389	34.5	1.4	1.1	2.48	309	9	6	3201	110,309	4528	3399	7927	F	3	G-79-2YR	KAMBRO FARMS LTD	
HAMMING SYMPATICO DANA	34.3	1.1	1	2.11	344	8	5	3005	103,062	3265	3067	6332	F	2	GP-83-2YR	TAZO FARMS LTD	
FRUEH JANA GILLESPIY	34.2	1.3	1	2.35	363	12	7	4437	151,812	5784	4627	10411	F	2	EX-91-5E	FRUEH FARMS LTD	
ALBERTA	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Rank	Age	Lacts	Days	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Housing	Freq	Class	Farm Name	
MARSFIELD HIGHOCTA ROSE	37.5	1.6	1.3	2.9	52	9	6	3575	134,053	5703	4665	10368	F	3	EX-90-2E	GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER	
REIMER KINGBOY PAIGE	37.2	1.4	1.2	2.61	59	8	4	2949	109,735	4144	3541	7685	F	9	VG-87-5YR	DEERFIELD COLONY FARMING CO. LTD	
OSTARA CHIEF 912	37.1	1.3	1.2	2.52	66	7	5	2746	101,943	3689	3225	6914	F	9	EX-90-2E	OSTARA HOLSTEINS	
NEW ROCKPORT BORIS SUMMER	37.1	1.5	1.3	2.76	69	8	5	3178	117,761	4761	3999	8760	F	2	GP-83-2YR	NEW ROCKPORT FARMING CO. LTD	
MARSFIELD DENZEL KIMMY	35.9	1.7	1.2	2.85	133	14	10	5377	192,822	8929	6390	15319	F	2	EX-93-8E	GERT & SONJA SCHRYVER	
DE WILDT DAFT PUNK ANNA2	35.8	1.5	1.2	2.68	135	9	4	3185	114,149	4718	3806	8524	F	2	GP-80-2YR	DE WILDT DAIRY	
NIFERA DEMPSEY KLARA	35.5	1.1	1.1	2.14	161	7	6	2741	97,401	2929	2926	5855	F	9	EX-91-3E	NIFERA HOLSTEINS	
NOVUM RUTH DISPLAY 5789	35.4	1.3	1.1	2.44	183	8	4	2825	99,953	3747	3138	6885	F	2	G-78-2YR	EAST CARDSTON FARMING CO. LTD	
SYLVANSIDE MILLERP SHAKIRA	35	1.5	1.2	2.62	229	8	5	2879	100,677	4210	3325	7535	F	2	GP-82-2YR	SYLVANSIDE DAIRY LTD	
DE WILDT DAFT PUNK ANNA3	34.9	1.5	1.2	2.7	243	9	4	3283	114,420	4971	3888	8859	F	2	GP-83-3YR	DE WILDT DAIRY	
SASKATCHEWAN	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Rank	Age	Lacts	Days	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Housing	Freq	Class	Farm Name	
SMILEY DESOTO 472	35.8	1.3	1.1	2.49	138	7	5	2858	102,353	3842	3261	7103	F	9	GP-80-2YR	SMILEY HOLSTEINS	
TIGERLILLY ALTA5G 2138	35.7	1.3	1.1	2.42	146	9	6	3195	114,103	4064	3657	7721	F	9	GP-83-4YR	STAR CITY FARMING CO. LTD	
MARFAY BANFF 1646	34.1	1.4	1.1	2.46	380	11	9	3997	136,429	5549	4278	9827	F	3	GP-80-2YR	MARFAY FARMS LTD	
BROYHILL PULSAR CYNOSIS J	34.1	1.3	1.1	2.39	391	10	6	3632	123,781	4697	3980	8677	B	9	EX-90-5E	BROYHILL HOLSTEINS	
MAINCENTRE AMAZON 382	33.9	1.3	1.1	2.38	435	8	6	3257	110,371	4126	3613	7739	F	2	G-77-2YR	MAIN CENTRE FARMING CO. LTD	
ALLEY GILLESPIY PARIS	33.8	1.1	1	2.07	456	10	7	3754	126,871	4042	3737	7779	F	3	EX-91-4E	ALLEY HOLSTEINS	
TIGERLILLY SOMA 2065	32.9	0.8	1	1.83	709	9	7	3213	105,742	2694	3187	5881	F	2	GP-81-1YR	STAR CITY FARMING CO. LTD	
ALLEY 1ST CLASS ABBEY	32.8	1.4	1.1	2.49	756	9	7	3572	117,075	4876	4017	8893	F	3	VG-87-4YR	ALLEY HOLSTEINS	
SMILEY 1243 SHARPI	32.7	1.3	1.1	2.44	786	6	4	2399	78,402	3198	2645	5843	F	9	GP-80-2YR	SMILEY HOLSTEINS	
MARFAY KARMA 2089	32.6	1.3	1	2.3	805	7	5	2617	85,411	3442	2585	6027	F	3	GP-81-2YR	MARFAY FARMS LTD	
MANITOBA	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Rank	Age	Lacts	Days	Milk	Fat	Prot	Comp	Housing	Freq	Class	Farm Name	
ISAAC PURE SULAN	35.4	1.3	1.1	2.41	183	8	6	2986	105,631	3991	3199	7190	T	3	EX-90-3E	ISAAC DAIRY LTD	
AGGIES WILLIE DANA	34.8	1.3	1.1	2.36	249	8	6	3203	111,476	4018	3542	7560	T	3	VG-88-7YR	HUEGING DAIRIES LTD	
GRATEFUL CARDINALS NANKEEN	34.6	1.4	1.2	2.57	278	7	4	2690	93,107	3759	3155	6914	T	3	GP-82-6YR	GRATEFUL DAIRY	
HALARDA GERTY MAURICE 12027	34.6	1.2	0.9	2.12	291	6	4	2260	78,093	2717	2071	4788				HALARDA FARMS LTD	
GRATEFUL AIKMAN GANDER	34.4	1.4	1.1	2.5	319	7	5	2694	92,719	3704	3044	6748	T	3	VG-86-3YR	GRATEFUL DAIRY	
ACE STONEWALL SEPHORA	34.2	1.3	1.1	2.46	359	9	6	3188	109,166	4217	3613	7830	F	9	VG-87-5YR	TRI LEA FARM INC	
HALARDA ILENE DUNFEE 10966	34.2	0.7	0.5	1.21	368	7	5	2455	83,936	1654	1311	2965				HALARDA FARMS LTD	
HALARDA BONNIE GALAPOGA 10137	34.1	0.8	0.6	1.45	386	8	6	3142	107,134	2554	1997	4551				HALARDA FARMS LTD	
HALARDA AIRIANA DELFINO 10450	34	0.7	0.6	1.26	400	8	6	2929	99,677	1983	1701	3684				HALARDA FARMS LTD	
ISAAC FIX SAPHIRE	33.9	1.4	1.1	2.43	425	9	7	3452	117,133	4755	3645	8400	T	3	GP-81-2YR	ISAAC DAIRY LTD	

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SUSTAINABILITY

ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE

From Waste to Wow! Transforming discarded materials into compostable bioplastics

Kate Ayers, B.Sc. Agr.

Generally, plastics are cheap, convenient and effective materials used across a wide range of applications, especially in agriculture. Its versatility makes it ubiquitous, and its components make it harmful to the environment. Fortunately, Canadian scientists and experts are discovering new ways to produce plastic alternatives that have a smaller carbon footprint.

With offices in Toronto and Denmark, Launch Bioindustries is developing fully compostable bioplastics through fermentation using waste streams from dairy processing, food production and pharmaceutical manufacturing. Indeed, discarded byproducts from dairy processing is a top candidate for bioplastic production.

One Man's Waste is...

"Dairy waste is a great feedstock for this type of application primarily because it's quite consistent around the world. Dairy waste exists in almost every jurisdiction that you look at," says Launch Bioindustries founder and CEO Andrew Chiappetta. "The second thing is it is carbon rich, especially lactose, it is something that we can readily digest with our bacterial platform."

Right now, Chiappetta and his team are taking a closer look at dairy waste, including acid whey and lactose-rich

permeate because these components can easily be converted into high carbon feedstocks and then bioplastics.

The company's bioplastic production line involves a three-step process. The first step is to pre-treat the waste. "We try and filter out unnecessary components, concentrate certain things, but essentially get it to a point where it's very consistent for fermentation," Chiappetta says.



Andrew Chiappetta shows his bioreactors which are the key to the microbial magic giving dairy waste a new functional life.



Large Flexible Containers



Bioplastic Pellets



Pill Bottles



Medical Device Components



Consumer Product Bottles

Dairy processing waste by-products can be transformed into environmentally safe biodegradable plastics making a win for the environment and dairy sustainability.

The second step is fermentation, in which bacteria create polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) in a bioreactor under optimized conditions. PHAs are biodegradable polymers that fit into a circular economy. "In nature, bacteria can use PHA to store energy. And we've kind of supercharged this through our strains," Chiappetta says.

The final step is to extract and purify the PHAs. "Once we have the bioplastic produced, we use our innovative purification process to really efficiently get the bioplastic out into a very high level of purity, over 99 per cent, so that we can use it in a variety of applications. From there, we compound it and make it into final products," Chiappetta explains.

Through this process, Launch Bioindustries looks to achieve full

circularity by helping industry offset disposal costs and providing stakeholders with a sustainable product they can integrate into their value chains.

"Lactose and dairy waste in general, it's producing some burden on wastewater treatment plants, and on farmers, because it is a cost to get rid of. Our process eliminates that cost by taking it in for free," Chiappetta says. "Then there's the other side of things, providing sustainable products."

Sustainable Bioplastics

Complete biodegradation depends on the product type and bioplastic thickness, but can take anywhere

Continued on next page ▶



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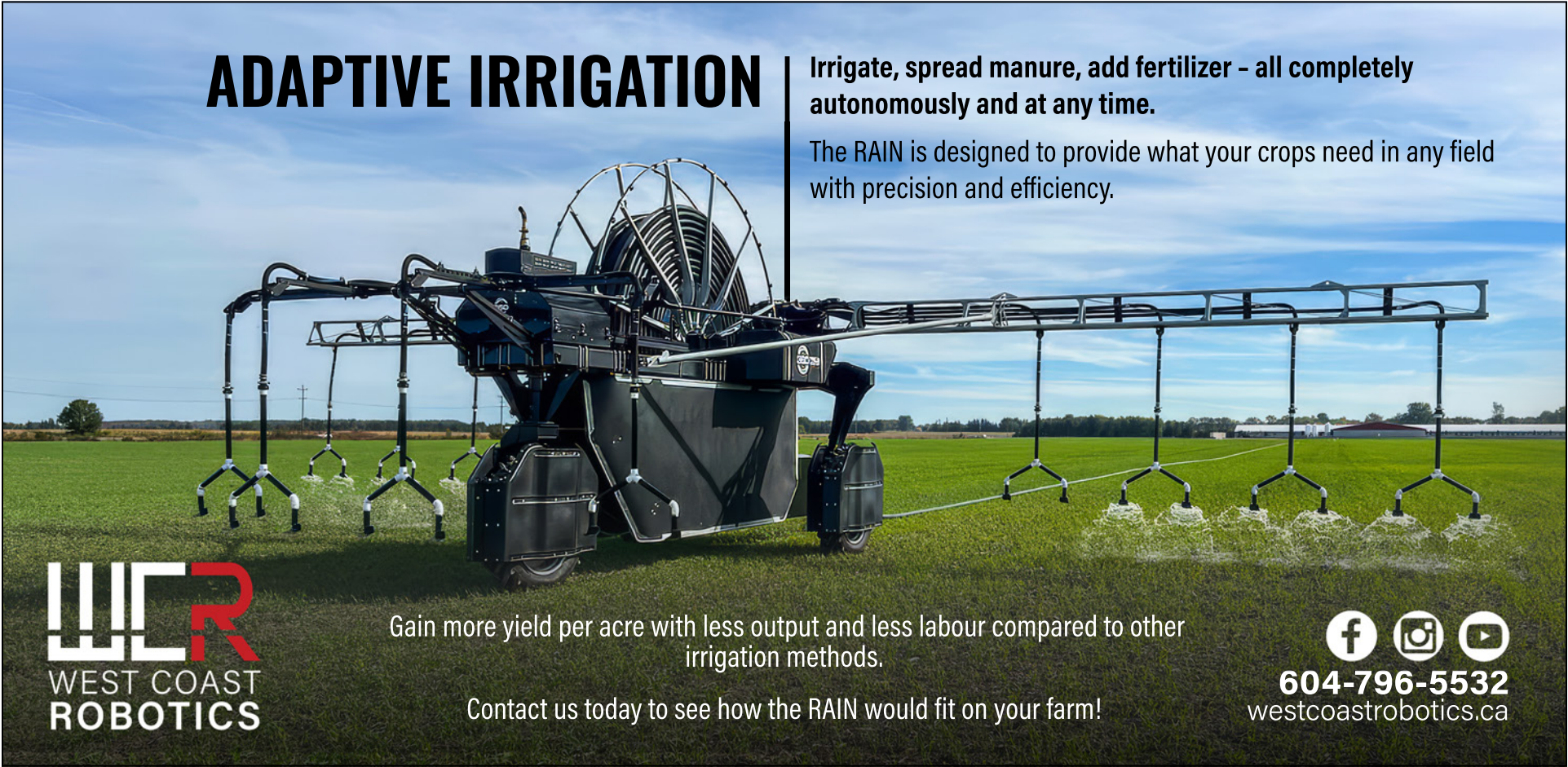
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between six weeks and a year without microplastics or other harmful byproducts produced as the bioplastics break down.

For a long time, cost has been a barrier to implementation of bioplastics, but as the cost of fossil fuels continues to rise, the price gap is shrinking between petroleum plastics and bioplastics.

“The fact that we upcycle waste, it significantly reduces our cost of production. [Also], these extended producer responsibility fees are starting to increase to the point where is it significantly incentivizing switching to sustainable alternatives,” Chiappetta says. “In addition, the price of oil is going up significantly, which is driving up the price of petroleum plastics. As we go further into the future, it’s going to be favouring sustainable plastics a lot more because our price is not dependent on geopolitics or anything like that. And as our technology improves, we’re able to bring down cost of production.”

Scaling up for Economic Viability

Launch Bioindustries’ next step is scaling the technology. The team just completed a 5,000-litre fermentation, which translates to about 200 kilograms of bioplastic that can move towards prototype material.

“We’re looking for more partners, especially in Canada, especially in the dairy industry,” Chiappetta says. “We’re looking for these long-term partners that have abundant waste streams that really want to get rid of it or want to do something with it to offset the cost and are interested in implementing sustainable materials down the line in some way.”

Launch Bioindustries was selected as part of the BioCreate accelerator last winter. This program is a five-year \$11.6-million project funded by Ontario Genomics and the Government of Canada to provide financial and business support to biotechnology start ups.

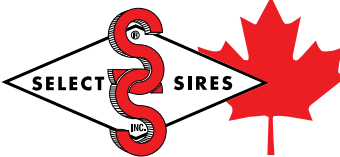
Material Futures is another company in the accelerator that’s using dairy waste to make sustainable colourants for the food, cosmetic and textile industries.

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   	7H017478	STURGEON	3734	1052	1551	88
   	250H015217	CAPONE	3755	296	1855	87
   	7H016276	SHEEPSTER	3915	1116	1300	86
    	7H018108	LANECHANGE	3868	1124	1168	79
	724H02031	RIGHT STUFF-PP	3798	241	1406	76
    	250H017513	TUBMAN	3828	921	1434	70
   	550H014134	RENEGADE	3862	484	1175	66
    	7H016295	HAS IT ALL	3843	477	2294	65



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SUSTAINABILITY

ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE

Carbon Equation Favours Dairy x Beef Systems

Ailsa McFadyen, BA

A new study from the US explores the carbon footprint of dairy x beef crossbred animals. At first glance, it appears that integrating a dairy x beef steer into the beef supply chain produces a higher carbon footprint. However, when considering the ‘dam emissions,’ integrating dairy x beef steers into the beef industry reduces the carbon footprint significantly: while the greenhouse gas (GHG) produced by beef dams are carried entirely by their calves, the mothers of dairy x beef animals can allocate a significant portion of their GHG emissions to milk production.

One of the authors of the study, Professor Matthew Beck of Texas A&M University, explains that he believes producer profitability needs to be the driver in incentivizing GHG reduction.

How We Got Here

Since the mid-2010s, sexed semen has played an increasingly important role in the dairy industry, in particular, producing assured replacement heifer numbers and giving rise to the use of beef-on-dairy. Dairy farms could take advantage of the lucrative beef price as the North American beef herd shrunk under strain caused by significant droughts in the 2000s and 2010s. Feedlots were desperate to keep their numbers up and dairies could supply beef x dairy calves as a by-product of their dairy operations, creating a win-win for both industries.

Initial Findings

Beck found that beef x dairy steers appeared to have a greater carbon footprint in both stocker and feedlot systems when compared to traditional beef breeds, with stocker systems producing more GHG independent of the breed due to the higher forage diet.

The ratio of CO₂ produced per kilogram of hot carcass weight is higher for dairy x beef “not necessarily because of their daily emissions, but because they have a lower performance relative to these traditional beef breeds,” says Beck. “These traditional beef breed animals came from pasture where they’re used to interfacing with that grazing system, whereas these dairy-beef crossed animals are coming from

confined systems. They’re just not as efficient at grazing.”

Beck also explains that “dairy-beef crossed animals have about 10% higher maintenance energy requirements than traditional beef breeds,” although he raises an asterisk that the number hasn’t been well defined to date. He continues, “That’s partly gonna explain why they have a lower performance: it takes more of their intake to support maintenance activities as opposed to supporting gain.”

Simply put, he says, “If you’re gonna take ‘em to the same end point, it’ll take more days” – dairy x beef animals produce more GHG to grow the same amount of meat as traditional beef breeds. Their genetics are not as streamlined for beef production as purebred beef breeds.

Other Considerations

However, Beck flags that what is included in the scope of the study plays a massive role in the conclusion. If only analyzing the growing and finishing phases, dairy x beef have a higher carbon footprint than traditional beef. But there is a massive source of emissions not included in the parameters of Beck’s analysis: **dam emissions.**

Using data from a study performed by C. Alan Rotz, Beck and his team estimate that 70% of the total energy requirements of the beef system are coming from the cow. Kept year-round, the cows’ energy consumption is used for maintenance and reproduction without directly producing beef.

In contrast, dairy x beef calves don’t carry the same carbon baggage, considering that their dams are producing capital in a separate industry. Dairy x beef animals are a necessary byproduct of the dairy industry, and therefore shoulder less GHG emissions from upstream sources. With this in mind, Beck’s study estimates that dairy x beef steers have 50% lower GHG emissions than purebred beef steers, despite the fact that their genetics give them lower productivity relative to beef breeds. It’s all in how the carbon equation accounts for the dams’ GHGs.

Why it Matters

Beck says that “since there’s pros and cons to all systems, the common denominator needs to be driven by producer profitability.”

He says that his work tries “to reframe why we should care about greenhouse gas emissions... We need to incentivize producers to adopt strategies which reduce their emissions, in ways that are coming from a carrot, as opposed to a stick,” – rewarding and incentivizing GHG reduction, rather than penalizing operations which don’t conform.

Legislators and consumers are both increasingly invested in reducing the carbon footprint due to its critical role in climate change, and farmers will need to adapt to systems which produce lower GHG emissions. Research like Beck’s provides opportunities to understand ways in which reduced GHG systems can be achieved.



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News from Lakeland College

Closing out a Successful Year at Lakeland

**Shawni De Jong,
2nd year Lakeland Dairy Student**

As my second year in the Dairy program at Lakeland College comes to a close, I've had a chance to look back on just how much this year has shaped me. From early mornings in the barn to diving deeper into nutrition, reproduction, and herd health, I've gained a whole new appreciation for the skillful knowledge and dedication behind western Canada's strong dairy industry.

This last semester really flew by, and we had so many great opportunities along the way. We attended the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar in Red Deer, where the class was able to connect with industry professionals and see what's happening in the dairy sector beyond the classroom. In March, six members also took part in the North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge for the first time, which was a huge milestone and gave them a chance to test their skills, learn from others, and represent the program on a bigger stage.

We wrapped things up with the Animal Science Student Managed Farm presentations, where we presented about our entire year and the decisions we made, explaining the "why" behind the changes. It was a great way for us to reflect on our learning and showcase the practical experience we've gained.

Being part of the Student Managed Farm has been one of the most impactful parts of the year. It pushed me to grow in animal care, teamwork, and problem-solving, and it reminded me daily that learning on the farm never stops. Every challenge brought a lesson, and every lesson brought me one step closer to the kind of dairy professional I want to become.

This year has shown me how much the dairy industry relies on people who are willing to learn, work hard, and care deeply about the animals they work with. I'm proud of the progress I've made at Lakeland as an employee and teammate, and the skills I've built along the way. I'm excited to carry this momentum into next year, when I bring my skills and knowledge into a career in the dairy industry. With the hands-on experience, support, and opportunities I've had throughout this program, I'm feeling more confident about the path I'm on and the future I'm working toward in the dairy industry.

Interested in Employment at Lakeland? See ad on page 52.

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COURSE DATES AND TIMES

- **proAction: Let's Get it Done**
Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 12:00pm – 3:00pm, Dr. Phil Chris
- **Calving Management**
Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 12:00pm – 3:00pm, Dr. Beverly Chard
- **Basic Examination and Treatment of the Cow**
Thursday, October 22, 2026, 1:00pm – 4:00pm, Dr. John Dick
Friday, October 23, 2026, 9:00am – 3:00pm, Dr. John Dick
- **Health Management of the Young Calf**
Monday, October 26, 2026, 9:30am – 5:00pm, Dr. Beverly Chard
- **Trimming and Treating the Lambe Cow**
Tuesday, October 27, 2026, 9:30am – 4:00pm,
Dr. Christina Lyn & Doug Johnstone, Certified Professional Hoof Trimmer
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- **Dairy Reproduction and Cow Comfort**
Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 10:00am – 3:00pm, Dr. John Dick

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Observations From the Field



Paul Meyer,
WestGen
Genetic Solutions Manager

The conversation is changing

For years, the message about maximizing pregnancy rate on dairies has been a regular topic at seminars and in the farm press. Many farms now reach – or even surpass – a 30% pregnancy rate while also delivering excellent production. Even so, some still argue that with today's more persistent cows, incorporating 80- to 90-day (or even longer) voluntary waiting periods (VWP) is prudent. Are they right?

My view has shifted – here's why

Not long ago, I also wondered whether fewer calvings per year – combined with a strong focus on health and retention – might be the best path as rearing costs continued to climb. My thinking was straightforward: the highest-risk period for any cow is around calving and the transition back to peak production. If we could extend lactations so a cow calved four times over five to six years (instead of more frequent calvings), and still maintain production deep into lactation, we could potentially reduce risk without sacrificing productive days in the herd. I don't think that way anymore. What changed?

Are You Focusing Enough on Pregnancy Rate?

A higher preg rate doesn't just tighten calving intervals—it can materially change calf revenue in a beef-on-dairy market.

The beef-on-dairy reality makes days open more expensive.

The exceptionally strong values we're seeing for beef-on-dairy calves – and that are likely to persist for at least several more years – make this revenue stream a metric worth evaluating, managing, and optimizing.

I'm not suggesting breeding everything to beef and simply buying replacements. Many herds still need to prepare for expansion that will require additional dairy heifers – a requirement I expect will highlight (and exacerbate) a shortage that could drive replacement heifer prices up significantly. Beyond that, genetic planning and home-grown replacements remain a strategic advantage.

For most producers, generating female calves from roughly half of annual calvings will create more than enough high-quality replacements, even with near-term growth. That often leaves the other (often older) half of the herd to use beef-on-dairy sires as an additional profit centre. So let's crunch the numbers.

What a longer calving interval can cost

Assume a herd with 200 milking cows and a 35% replacement rate. That's 70 annual replacements. If most of the pregnancies carried by these replacements come from sexed dairy semen and you average a 90% female rate, you might generate about 60 heifer calves, of which roughly 55 ultimately

enter the milking herd as replacements. The remaining replacements (plus a buffer) can be produced by several sexed-semen opportunities given to approximately 30 of the best milking cows.

That can still leave about 100 milking cows that are good candidates to breed to beef. Here's where the math gets interesting: if longer VWPs (potentially combined with a sub-optimal focus on preg rates) push calving interval for this older-cow group from an ideal 12 months to 14–15 months, a 2-month increase across 100 cows can mean about 14 fewer calvings in a 12-month period from that group of 100 cows.

Revenue callout: At a potential \$1,800 per beef-on-dairy calf, that's roughly \$25,200 in lost annual revenue opportunity (14 × \$1,800).

Reframing the cost of days open

Whether we call it an extended VWP – or simply not buying into the importance of pregnancy rate – the practical effect is the same: fewer calves.

As a rule of thumb, improving pregnancy rate by 1% is often associated with reducing days open by about 4 days. At lower pregnancy-rate levels (for example, <20%), the cost of each extra day open is often estimated at around \$5/day, driven largely by lower production as the herd's average days in milk (DIM) rises.

But with today's beef-on-dairy economics,



every additional month a cow isn't pregnant (when she could be) can also cost roughly 1/12 of the calf's value. Using a \$1,800 calf as an example: \$1,800 ÷ 12 = \$150/month. Spread across 30 days, that adds roughly \$5/day—on top of the traditional production-driven cost.

Bottom line: In this market, each extra day open can plausibly cost about \$10/day.

It's easy to get used to today's exceptional calf values – and we also know this won't last forever. But while this reality persists over the next several years, the importance of pregnancy rate (and the right VWP strategy) increases.

I welcome debate on the subject, but in my view the current economics make a strong case that each extra day open can cost about \$10/day. Pregnancy rate has always been a profit driver on dairies. Are you maximizing yours?

Key takeaways

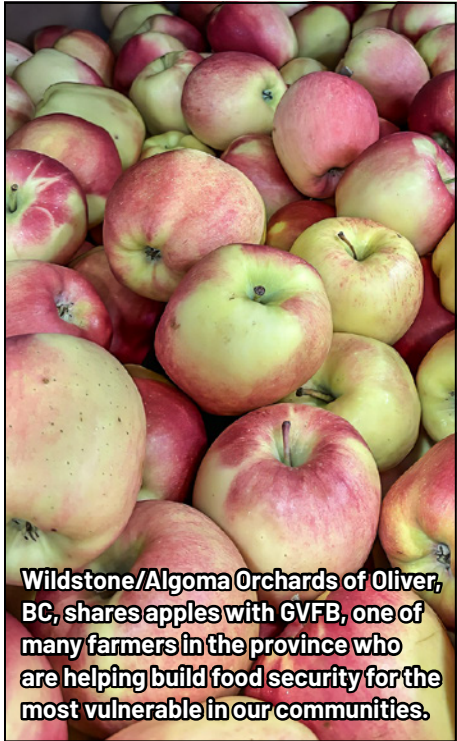
High pregnancy rate supports both production and calf revenue.

Longer VWP and/or weaker conception focus can reduce annual calvings—especially in the older-cow group.

With beef-on-dairy calf values, the cost of days open may be materially higher than traditional estimates.



Here in British Columbia, farmers have always been at the heart of community resilience. Long before headlines made the public concerned with the nuances of their food systems, it was farmers who stepped up – quietly, consistently, and often sacrificially – to ensure the community is fed, all through an honest day's work. Their passion to grow a wide variety of healthy foods has shaped our province and the way we eat on the west coast.



Wildstone/Algoma Orchards of Oliver, BC, shares apples with GVFB, one of many farmers in the province who are helping build food security for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Through Innovation and Partnerships, We Can Ensure Healthy Food from Farms to the Tables of all Canadians

At the Greater Vancouver Food Bank, we have been aware of the abundance of food grown in BC for years now. In 2016, the BC Farmer's Donation Tax Credit was created, but it hadn't yet grown to reach the farms. Starting with a pilot project in 2023, we began connecting directly with farmers to raise awareness of this tax credit, which was introduced not only to support the generosity of BC's growers, but to make it easier to donate imperfect, unsold, or surplus produce.

Through our encouragement to utilize the credit and our partnerships, local farmers have donated over 5.2 million pounds of nutritious, fresh produce to the GVFB since we started our pilot. With only nine dedicated farmers at the beginning, we now work with an amazing 25 farmers throughout BC. But here's the truth we hear repeatedly from farmers: It isn't the incentive of the tax credit that drives donations – it's the impact.

At first, every case of peppers, bin of apples and pallet of fresh tomatoes from farmers had an immediate and direct effect on families across the Greater Vancouver area, creating stability, dignity and nourishment for people facing difficult circumstances. With the growth in farmer partners, we saw such an incredible abundance that we had to rethink our whole model. What if we could expand our impact even further through distribution, innovation and a little creativity?

Perishable, donated apples are turned into a value-added, long-shelf-stable product that is sold through retailers, generating revenues to support the GVFB operations.



We started with innovation. Through exploration into food preserving methods such as juicing, freeze-drying and flash freezing, the GVFB can lengthen the life span of the donated surplus product, while still preserving up to 97% of nutrients. In doing so, we also diminish the weight by approximately 75%, creating a product with enormous possibilities. This shelf/freezer stable produce could now be sent to schools to provide children with healthy snacks, or be transported up north to remote communities, allowing for longer storage and access to fruits and vegetables year-round.

Volunteers are a valued part of the momentous work, taking perishable food (like these blackberries) preparing them for processing into various shelf-stable products.

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Through conversations with the Regina Food Bank, we understood that each province was producing a bounty of agricultural goods, unique to their own location. In BC we have vegetables such as squash, carrots, tomatoes, and zucchini, along with amazing apples, cherries, and peaches from the Okanagan, while Saskatchewan offers oats, lentils, and pulses. Realizing that there was a valuable opportunity to redistribute the surplus, we partnered with them to do the first cross-provincial **food-bank food-trade!** We facilitated the transport of over 45,000 pounds of fresh produce to Regina, with the same amount returning to us!

This is where creativity played a role. In the summer of 2025, we started selling fruit juice and freeze-dried snacks at select Loblaws locations to create more sustainable funding streams for our operations. This trade with Regina Food Bank, with special pricing support from local transportation company, CDS, was funded completely by the sales from the first month in stores. By using creative solutions, we were able to process and redistribute thousands of pounds of surplus, preventing any of it from going to waste.

Pioneering some exciting initiatives wouldn't be happening without the farmers who provide us with the array of foods we are able to grow in Canada. The impact of farmers who generously donate surplus food is seen in parents providing healthy meals for their families, seniors accessing nutrient-dense foods that support their health, children thriving with proper nutrition, and remote communities gaining greater access to fresh produce from southern BC.

Thank you for feeding our communities and creating hope for a healthy future where everyone has access to a colourful diet. We enthusiastically spread the word of the BC Farmer Donation Tax Credit, helping farmers with surplus, who in turn help us to feed others in need. Allow us to keep innovating solutions for improvements to our food system and creating access to fresh nutritious foods to all food insecure individuals and families across British Columbia.

Interested in partnering with us? Please reach out to our Agricultural and Innovation team at rhandin@foodbank.bc.ca.

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The Next Era of the Milk Cheque: Protein, Volume, and Balance

Iain Haig – Head of Dairy +
Wholesale Ritchie-Smith Feeds

For decades, Western Canadian dairy producers have operated in a system built around butterfat and the lack of sufficient milk processing capacity. Quota, nutrition programs, genetics and even conversations around cow efficiency have largely revolved around producing kilograms of fat as efficiently as possible. However, the wider Western Milk Pool now suggests the industry is entering a new era – one where protein production, milk volume and component balance may become the next frontier of profitability.

Far from framing the April 2026 changes as a threat, the outlook presents overwhelming optimism: producers who understand the direction of the market and adapt proactively may unlock substantial opportunity over the next number of years.

The numbers already tell an important story.

Since 2012, BC dairy producers have dramatically increased butterfat concentration. Average butterfat concentrations have climbed from roughly 3.84% to more than 4.50%. The shift accelerated after the 2017 component pricing changes, when the pay structure moved to an 85:10:5 structure, emphasizing fat as the primary goal.

Producers responded exactly as good business operators do: they pivoted production strategies toward the signals being sent by the payment system. Genetics, nutrition and management all evolved to maximize fat production per cow. The result has been remarkable efficiency. Today, BC producers can generate a kilogram of butterfat with 4.5 fewer litres of milk than they did 12 years ago. That represents a major achievement in dairy management and nutritional precision.



However, this same success may now be exposing a new limitation within the system. While fat concentration has surged, protein concentration has increased only modestly. More importantly, milk volume per kilogram of quota produced has steadily declined. That matters because protein yield is fundamentally tied to volume.

In simple terms, a cow producing more milk has far greater opportunity to ship kilograms of protein, even if protein percentage is slightly lower. A cow producing 40 litres of milk at a 3.20% protein still produces substantially more protein than a 30-litre cow at 3.30%.

This distinction could become increasingly important as milk payment models continue evolving. The April 2026 transition to a 70:25:5 milk component pricing structure signals that protein will become more economically influential within the milk cheque as a result of protein demand from current



and new processors. For producers who have spent years optimizing strictly around butterfat, this creates both a challenge and a significant opportunity.

This pricing shift better aligns producer incentives with what processors currently value.

The next step is understanding how nutrition and management can unlock greater protein yield without sacrificing cow health or profitability. At the centre of this is rumen function. The rumen remains the engine driving component production, and future success may depend less on feeding high crude protein diets and more on maximising rumen efficiency and microbial protein synthesis.

The notion that crude protein alone drives milk protein is false.

Instead, highly fermentable carbohydrates with a balanced supply of soluble and degradable protein, to optimise microbial protein production, are the true drivers. Rumen microbes convert nitrogen and energy into microbial protein, which ultimately supplies over half of the cow's metabolizable protein requirements (the form a cow can digest). The remaining protein requirements come from rumen-undegradable protein sources, commonly referred to as by-pass protein, such as protected soy and canola products, and animal by-products being the richest sources to utilize. Attention should also be on amino acid balancing, particularly lysine and methionine, the two most limiting in dairy cow diets, as tools to maximize milk component yield.

That transition does not simply depend on ration formulation. Management remains critical. Cow comfort, lying time, water access, heat abatement and rumen stability are all essential pillars of future profitability. High-producing cows need consistent feed intake, stable rumen pH and excellent environmental management to sustain both milk volume and component production.

But perhaps the most important concept to note: volume matters.

For years, many producers have viewed lower milk volume as a sign of efficiency because quota could be filled with fewer litres shipped, given the high fat percentages in the milk shipped. Freight savings and high component concentration reinforced this thinking. Yet under a system placing greater emphasis on protein, *minimizing volume may limit revenue potential*.

Economic examples can demonstrate how farms emphasizing moderate fat levels alongside higher milk volume and greater protein yield could economically

outperform herds focused solely on extreme fat concentration. In some scenarios, relatively small shifts in component strategy translated into several thousand dollars per month in additional revenue on an average-sized dairy. For example, Farm A with 5% butterfat, 3.45% protein and 5.93% OS generates \$19.37/Kg NET revenue (Net of freight, levies and adjustments) pre-April 1, 2026. That same farm will reduce revenue per Kg to \$19.15 in April on the new 70:25:5 structure. On a 300kg CDQ dairy operation, this means lost revenue opportunity of \$2,013/month. This is the impact of not making any strategic changes in on-farm strategy, from old to new pay structure.

Compare this same 5% fat herd to Farm B, at 4.25% fat and 3.3% protein. Clearly more volume must be produced to ship the same CDQ but filling quota at the lower fat % yields \$4,483/month more revenue (numbers calculated using January 2026 provincial averages). This is a substantial revenue difference now and will only increase should the province increase the percentage weighted to protein. The critical piece here is Farm B is shipping more grams of protein for each Kg fat shipped.

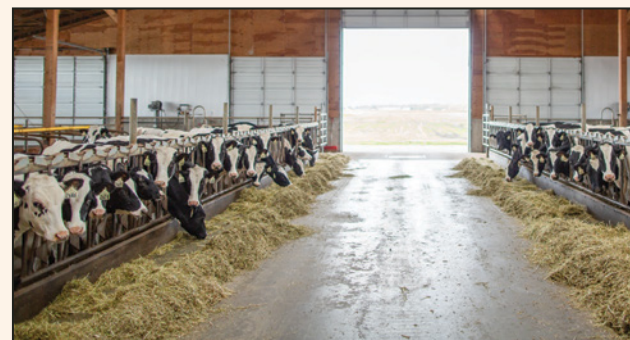
Equally important, these gains can be seen without assuming increases in feed costs. This philosophy may require a mindset shift across parts of the industry. For years, dairies have celebrated producing quota with fewer cows, more fat per cow and lower shipped volume. However, going forward, the more profitable question may instead become: how much protein can be produced per kilogram of quota?

Additionally, many producers need to rethink forage priorities. Highly digestible corn silage and grass silage may provide greater value than simply chasing tonnage or excessively high crude protein forage numbers.

Western Canadian dairy producers have repeatedly demonstrated an ability to respond successfully to changing market signals. The rapid increase in butterfat concentration over the past decade is proof of that capability. If the industry now begins rewarding protein production more aggressively, there is every reason to believe producers can adapt once again.

Most importantly, the changes ahead do not need to be viewed with fear. For progressive dairies willing to embrace evolving milk payment models, focus on rumen efficiency and prioritize protein yield per Kg CDQ, alongside total fat production, the future may offer meaningful financial upside. In a period where beef sales are accounting for 10% of the gross milk cheque, further emphasises that milking more cows could once again be a more profitable route in BC dairy farming. The producers who succeed will likely be those who surround themselves with strong nutritional, veterinary and management teams while remaining open to new thinking.

Change is undoubtedly coming to Western Canadian dairying, and for many farms, that change may represent the next major opportunity.



Have Questions for the BC Dairy Producer Se

Making Sustainability Make \$en\$e for Dairy Producers

Kira Hames,
Dairy Research & KTT Specialist,
Western Milk Pool
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780-577-3308

Sustainability is a loaded topic in the dairy industry, one that currently has more questions than answers. What does sustainability mean? Why does it matter? What are the expectations? Aren't dairy producers already good environmental stewards? Who pays for producers to do more?

It's easy for organizations to set big goals, but when it comes down to how we deliver on those goals it becomes much more complicated. As the provincial producer organizations in the west are working on sustainability at the national level, it is important that sustainability makes sense for producers.

What does sustainability mean? Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In the context of the Canadian dairy industry, sustainability includes three equal and interconnected pillars.

- **Economic Viability:** Ensuring profitability and the long-term resilience of the dairy market.
- **Environmental Stewardship & Emission Management:** Actively managing greenhouse gas emissions while protecting natural resources like soil, water, and biodiversity.
- **Social Responsibility:** Upholding high standards for animal welfare, labour conditions, and contribution to local communities.

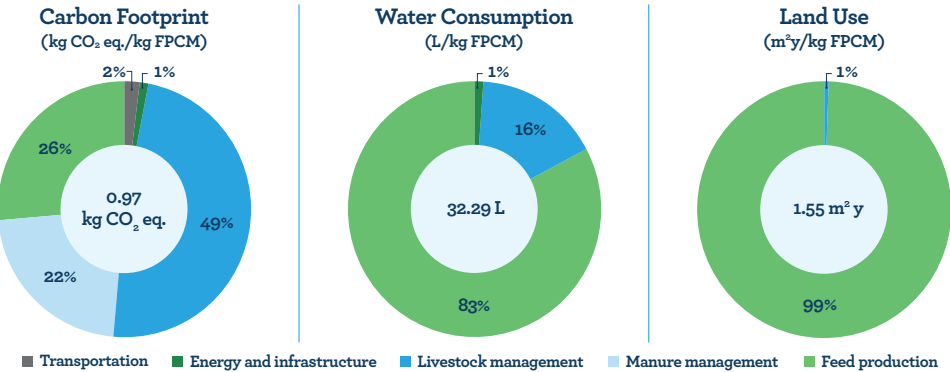
Why does sustainability matter? Beyond the obvious of wanting to produce high quality milk for generations to come, sustainability is one of the ways that the industry builds trust in the marketplace. Sustainability has become a core value for consumers and while that hasn't necessarily translated into consumers wanting to pay more for a more sustainable product, it is part of their consideration when buying dairy products over an alternative. In that way, sustainability on farm manages risk along the entire supply chain and maintains market access in countries with stricter regulations. According to the Canadian Centre for Food Integrity, concern for the environment peaked for Canadian consumers in 2021, but more recently it has been overtaken by concerns over affordability, access to healthcare and political climates around the world. However, we build trust by upholding consumer values, especially when no one is watching. This is an opportunity for the industry to continue building credibility as environmental stewards before concern for the environment returns as a consumer focus.

What are the expectations for sustainability? Pressure to measure and improve sustainable practices on dairy farms does not come from individual consumers, but from our supply chain partners such as dairy processors. The dairy processors in Canada are being asked to report on on-farm sustainability by their customers, like large retailers, grocery chains and so on. In other countries, processors can work directly with individual farms to require specific practices, but in the Canadian supply managed system they must work with the milk marketing boards. It benefits both producers and processors to work together to provide greater reporting to the other supply chain partners, to maintain market access internationally, and to continue attracting investment in the Canadian dairy industry. At the moment, sustainability reporting requirements are looking for an annual carbon footprint for the dairy industry, nationally and regionally, and adoption of specific practices on farm.



Canadian dairy producers are already excellent environmental stewards. Every five years, DFC conducts a life cycle analysis that estimates the carbon footprint for the Canadian dairy industry. In 2021, the industry produced 0.97 kg of CO₂ equivalents per 1 kg of fat-and-protein-corrected milk. This is less than half the global average for dairy production, making the Canadian dairy among the most sustainable in the world. But that doesn't mean there are no improvements to be made. Approximately half of our footprint comes from livestock management, with the vast majority due to methane produced in the rumen of the cows. Sustainability is a dynamic field where technologies are changing and practices are improving. Canadian dairy producers can, and should, continue to be leaders in this space.

2021 Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of Canadian Milk Production, DFC 2025



Who pays for producers to do more in sustainability? Our main measurement for environmental sustainability is our carbon footprint, or kg of carbon produced per kg of milk. So, producing more milk per cow improves production efficiency and environmental sustainability, while benefitting your bottom line. DFC's Sustainability BMP Guide describes a number of sustainable practices and indicates their expected return on investment and potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes improving animal health, feed efficiency, genetic selection, as well as practices like cover cropping and minimized tillage. However, maximizing production efficiency will only get the industry so far in its sustainability goals. When the conversation turns to practices and technologies that benefit environmental sustainability but have little to no economic return for producers, there needs to be a plan to share these costs beyond the farm gate.

For corporations to make internationally recognized sustainability targets, they must commit to funding the reduction of emissions from their supply chain. For the dairy supply chain, most emissions come from the farm. There is an opportunity for the dairy producers to capitalize on investment from corporate supply chain partners, but only with a credible and efficient platform for sustainability. This would create a framework to incentivize the implementation of sustainable practices and sharing the cost along the supply chain.

An incentive model is being developed nationally, evaluating several practice- and performance-based examples for the Canadian context. A practice-based example is a specific feed additive while a performance-based example would be metrics like feed efficiency, herd longevity or carbon footprint. The incentive model will be:

- transparent and credible,
- have farm market value for producers,
- collaborative and pre-competitive for processors,
- user-friendly with minimized participation requirements, and
- include all farms in Canada on a voluntary basis.

The development of an incentive model is being guided by the National Sustainability Committee, which includes producer voting members and staff observers across Canada. This committee also guides DFC's work on piloting an on-farm carbon footprint calculator tool in each of the provinces, updating the Sustainability BMP Guide, and other activities that provide a producer-focussed approach to sustainability.

While there are still many answers needed on the dairy industry's sustainability journey, there are a few key takeaways to remember.

1. 'Sustainability' includes the economic viability of the dairy industry.
2. The Canadian dairy industry is already one of the most sustainable in the world.
3. Environmental sustainability is an investment opportunity; corporations need to finance reduced emissions at the farm level.
4. Production efficiency = sustainability.

Sustainability initiatives build trust in our consumers, grow confidence from our partners, and manage risk along the supply chain.

Milk Protein Pays More - Is Your Feeding Strategy Ready?

Sarah Dean, M.Sc.
Ruminant Technical Specialist, Jefe Nutrition Inc.

Chris Gwyn
Canadian Sales Director, Jefe Nutrition Inc.

For years, dairy nutrition has focused on optimizing milk components – especially fat. However, with today’s market demands, the focus has shifted to milk protein. At the same time, cows are not the cows of 10 or 20 years ago. With early-lactation animals now routinely producing more than 60 kg of milk, an important question is emerging: Are our current models underestimating what these cows actually need?



Researchers like Dr. Mike Van Amburgh (Cornell University) have suggested that the answer may be yes – especially for high-producing cows in early lactation. If that’s the case, then simply meeting predicted requirements may not be enough to maximize milk protein output. What if we fed specific amino acids above what current models suggest, to meet the needs of high-component-yielding early lactation cows?

Amino Acid Nutrition is complex.

Commercial rumen-protected methionine and lysine products are widely available, and their role in milk protein production is well established. However, increasing a single amino acid may not produce the same rapid and predictable response observed when feeding, for example, high palmitic fatty acid supplements used to increase milk fat.

Amino acids are complex and need to be balanced properly within the ration to be effectively utilized. In the cow, amino acids behave like a chain with weak links; if one is missing or out of proportion, the whole system underperforms. Therefore, if an amino acid is not available, the synthesis of protein is halted. This explains the term “first-limiting amino acid,” theoretically any amino acid can be limiting, but generally, non-essential amino acids are least likely to be limiting because they are synthesized within the animal’s system.

Methionine and lysine are essential, but they may not be enough.

In today’s high-producing cows, other nutrients can become limiting. When that happens, protein synthesis is restricted – even if key amino acids are supplemented – resulting in missed milk protein yield.

Nutrients like histidine, arginine, cysteine, and B vitamins such as folic acid (which supports energy use for protein synthesis) may play a bigger role than previously thought.

If one link is missing, the whole chain underperforms – and so does your milk check.

Rumen-protected amino acids are powerful nutritional tools but maximizing ROI means targeting animals most likely to be deficient. That leads to an important question:

can amino acid supplementation be more precise? In a robotic herd, can we feed protected amino acids via the robot pellet or directly in precise doses? Or how about targeting specific groups of cows: early lactation cows, high producers, or transition animals?

Although rumen-protected amino acids have been shown to be effective, it is important not to forget that the rumen is really the foundation of protein production.

Maximizing microbial protein production remains crucial, driven by high and efficient feed intake and rumen health, both of which rely on management, forage quality, properly balanced, mixed, delivered and consumed feed:

- **Avoid overcrowding (bunk and stalls)**
- **Ensure cows can consume the formulated ration**

Ensure feed is available to cows:

- **Push up feed twice in the first hour after delivery**
- **Continue push-ups every hour**
- **Ensure optimal forage quality**

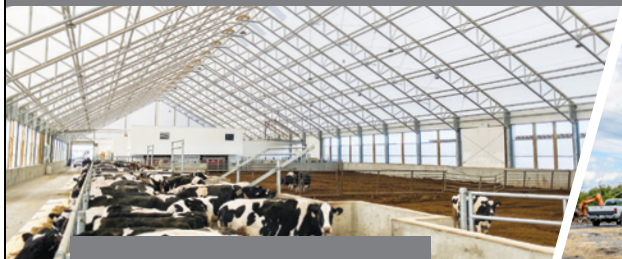
Maximize rumination through comfort:

- **Stall design and bedding**
- **Lameness prevention**
- **Minimizing stress**
- **Execute strong transition cow programs**
- **Group cows appropriately**

With the increased demand for milk protein, producers are asking how to capture this opportunity. The reality is that improving milk protein requires a multifactorial approach:

Step 1: continuously refine your on-farm management practices to improve rumen health and efficient, high feed intake in transition and early lactation groups.

Step 2: re-evaluate the nutrient needs of the modern high-component-yielding dairy cow with a focus on protected amino acids and B Vitamins.



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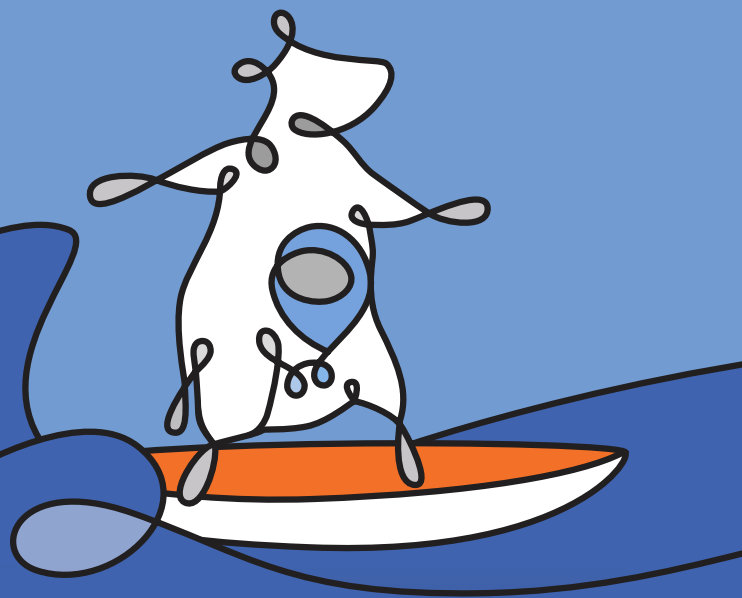
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The Saskatoon Spotlight Swings to Bojangles!



Amanda Poelman

As the lights dimmed and the spotlight fell on the contenders for Grand Champion at the third edition of the Western Dairy Expo, one silky black Mature Cow outshone the rest: LONDON DAIRY BOJANGLES. “It doesn’t take a smart man to figure this one out,” said Judge William Wikkerink (Cobble Hill, BC), “This cow is beautiful. You love her openness and dairyness, and she has the strength to go with it, with incredible width through her mammary.” Giving her the advantage in overall width and power over his Intermediate Champion, CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX, Judge Wikkerink

continued to admire the Junior 3-Year Old, saying, “This young cow has a great udder, great feet and legs, and a great rump. She gets around the ring flawlessly.” Honourable Mention honours went to the winning Lifetime Production cow, SERLI SAMMY BELINDA, now 10-years old with seven calves to her credit.

While numbers in this year’s Holstein show dipped slightly due to participation in the National Convention show in BC the week prior, Jersey entries remained steady as exhibitors from across the west brought out nearly 60 head this year. Standing in the middle of the ring at the end of the day was SUNNY HILL VICTORIOUS ARCADE,

the winning Senior 3-Year Old, who had also captured the Intermediate Champion title earlier in the afternoon. “This cow’s udder is just WOW! It’s so well-attached, high and wide in the rear, and strong in the fore udder,” said Judge Wikkerink, giving her the advantage in the bloom of her mammary over the winning 5-Year Old, CLANMAN OLIVER RINA, who was tapped for Reserve. Honourable Mention went to LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS, the winning 4-Year Old.

Following the show, the “Legends of the Industry” banquet was held, recognizing Joe Guenther, Rod York, Dale Strudwick and Elvin Haupstein as this year’s

honourees for their contributions to the dairy industry in Saskatchewan. The presentation of the Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners followed, with R&F Livestock (SK) winning both Junior Premier Breeder and Exhibitor, while also picking up Premier Exhibitor with their partners from Walker Dairy (ON). Crestomere Holsteins (AB) took home Premier Breeder for the second time this spring, having also earned the award at the National Convention Show. Bramville Jerseys (SK) earned Junior Premier Breeder and Exhibitor of the Jersey Show, while Lone Pine Jerseys (AB) grabbed the Overall Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners.



Junior Champions: (L-R) Judge William Wikkerink, Joanne Vanderlinde, Hayden Anderson with RF MOOVIN-PP KATLYN – HM; Hannah Vanderlinde with SUNTASIA REFUEL SAPPHIRE – Reserve; Natalie Boonstoppel with RF PERNNIAL JAGUAR – Champion; Doug Allin (Western Ag Systems – Sponsor).



Intermediate Champions: (L-R) Judge William Wikkerink, Greg McLean with CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX – Champion; Brent Howe with KESSEL PLAYBACK TOOTSIE – Reserve; Terry Fornwald with SWEETRIDGE LAMBDA BRIGET – HM; Dale Bienert (Ringman).



Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge William Wikkerink, Brent Howe with LONDON DAIRY BOJANGLES – Champion; Stacey Bourque with CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX – Reserve; Terry Fornwald with SERLI SAMMY BELINDA – HM; Dale Bienert (Ringman).



Jersey Junior Champions: (L-R) Judge William Wikkerink, Luke Bruinsma (Select Sires Canada – sponsor), Faith Friesen with KENBERT VICTORIOUS MANTRA – HM; Melyssa Sargent with KENTVILLE JUNCTION VANILLA – Reserve; Natalie Boonstoppel with BRAMVILLE GOLDORAK CRAZED – Champion; Ria Vanzessen (SaskMilk – Sponsor).



Jersey Intermediate Champions: (L-R) Judge William Wikkerink, Michael Haambuckers with SUNNY HILL VICTORIOUS ARCADE – Champion; Kirsty McAvoy with STARRCREST VIRTUOSO ALAKAZAAM – Reserve; James McAvoy with STARRCREST SHES A TEASE – HM; Dale Bienert (Ringman).



Jersey Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge William Wikkerink, Michael Haambuckers with SUNNY HILL VICTORIOUS ARCADE – Champion; Sean Smith with CLANMAN OLIVER RINA – Reserve; Nils Haeni with LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS – HM; Dale Bienert (Ringman).

Photos courtesy Jenna Jongenotter

Holstein Show (88 Head)

Junior Champion

RF PERENNIAL JAGUAR
(1st Fall Heifer)

R&F Livestock Inc., Cudworth, SK

Reserve Junior Champion

SUNTASIA REFUEL SAPPHIRE
(1st Winter Yearling)

John Sunder & Lucky Hill Dairy, Deroche, BC

HM Junior Champion

RF MOOVIN-PP KATLYN
(1st Spring Yearling)

Fred Fornwald & Sons Farms Ltd. & R&F Livestock Inc., Brandon, MB

Junior Breeder’s Herd

R&F Livestock Inc., Cudworth, SK

Intermediate Champion

CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX
(1st Junior 3 Year Old)

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

Reserve Intermediate Champion

KESSEL PLAYBACK TOOTSIE
(1st Fall 2 Year Old)

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

HM Intermediate Champion

SWEETRIDGE LAMBDA BRIGET
(1st Winter 2 Year Old)

Fred Fornwald & Sons Ltd., Sweetridge Farms & Mark Sweetnam, Minnedosa, MB

Grand Champion

LONDON DAIRY BOJANGLES
(1st Mature Cow)

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

Reserve Grand Champion

CRESTOMERE LAMBDA VORTEX
(1st Junior 3 Year Old)

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

HM Grand Champion

SERLI SAMMY BELINDA
(1st Lifetime Production)

Fred Fornwald & Sons Farms Ltd., Brandon, MB

Senior Breeder’s Herd

Malarky Holsteins, Minnedosa, MB

Junior Premier Breeder & Exhibitor

R&F Livestock Inc., Cudworth, SK

Premier Breeder

Crestomere Holsteins, Ponoka, AB

Premier Exhibitor

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

Jersey Show (56 Head)

Junior Champion

BRAMVILLE GOLDORAK CRAZED
(1st Summer Yearling)

Tri Lea Farms, Grunthal, MB

Reserve Junior Champion

KENTVILLE JUNCTION VANILLA
(1st Spring Yearling)

Vanzessen Dairy, Rosthern, SK

HM Junior Champion

KENBERT VICTORIOUS MANTRA
(2nd Spring Yearling)

Kenbert Acres, Drake, SK

Junior Breeder’s Herd

Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK

Intermediate Champion

SUNNY HILL VICTORIOUS ARCADE
(1st Senior 3 Year Old)

Michael, Gina & Tyson Haambuckers, Enderby, BC

Reserve Intermediate Champion

STARRCREST VIRTUOSO ALAKAZAAM
(1st Winter 2 Year Old)

James & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC

HM Intermediate Champion

STARRCREST SHES A TEASE
(2nd Senior 3 Year Old)

James & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC

Grand Champion

SUNNY HILL VICTORIOUS ARCADE
(1st Senior 3 Year Old)

Michael, Gina & Tyson Haambuckers, Enderby, BC

Reserve Grand Champion

CLANMAN OLIVER RINA
(1st 5 Year Old)

Clanman Jerseys Ltd., Clanwilliam, MB

HM Grand Champion

LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LOONS
(1st 4 Year Old)

Lone Pine Jerseys Ltd., Didsbury, AB

Senior Breeder’s Herd

Clanman Jerseys Ltd., Clanwilliam, MB

Junior Premier Breeder & Exhibitor

Bramville Jerseys, Nokomis, SK

Premier Breeder & Exhibitor

Lone Pine Jerseys, Didsbury, AB

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Bred by: Reuter Dairy Inc., Peosta, IA
Acquired from: Reuter Dairy Inc., Peosta, IA

<i>Sire name:</i>	Siemers Cway Pace 36945-ET
<i>Dam name:</i>	Danhof Hashtag 8387-ET VG-87
<i>2nd Dam:</i>	Danhof M Dayla-ET EX-91 2-03 3X 305d 26,330M 4.8% 1268 Fat 3.4% 901 Prot
<i>3rd Dam:</i>	Danhof Renegade Dara-ET VG-88 3-02 3X 365d 34,710M 4.9% 1703 Fat 3.2% 1117 Prot
<i>4th Dam:</i>	Vanden-Berge Frazled 826-ET EX-90 2-01 3X 365d 36,950M 4.4% 1623 Fat 3.1% 1153 Prot
<i>5th Dam:</i>	Vanden-Berge D Sshot 404-ET VG-87 2-00 3X 335d 29,410M 3.7% 1100 Fat 3.1% 906 Prot
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Simply A-mazing! Acorn and Arcade Victorious in Armstrong North Okanagan Spring Show

Amanda Poelman

The 2026 Western Canadian show season kicked off with a bang in Armstrong, BC, as the North Okanagan Holstein Club held its annual two-day event on Easter weekend in April. Friday brought several participants out for judging practice, followed by a catered dinner and social evening, complete with an Easter Egg hunt for the kids.

The club welcomed Kenton Lindenbach (Robella Holsteins) of Saskatchewan to judge this year's show, which saw 76 entries (57 Holstein and 19 Jersey) hit the shavings at the Armstrong Fairgrounds. At the end of the day, Judge Lindenbach found his Grand Champion in the 4-Year Old class, KENTVILLE MASTER ACORN, exhibited by Hamming Holsteins. She got the nod over

HAMMING TURBO MAGGIE 901, a fancy Junior 3-Year Old who had claimed Intermediate Champion honours for Hamming Holsteins earlier in the day.

For the Jersey show, it was the winning Senior 3-Year Old, SUNNY HILL VICTORIOUS ARCADE, who took top honours for Michael, Gina, and Tyson Haambuckers. She was followed by ALIKONA VICTORIOUS BOOMBAH, the 1st Winter 2-Year Old, who was bred by Allyson McAvoy and is now exhibited in partnership with her parents, Jim and Kirsty McAvoy.

Congratulations to Hamming Holsteins for capturing Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor in the Holstein show, and to Michael, Gina, and Tyson Haambuckers, who claimed the Jersey banners.



Holstein Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge Kenton Lindenbach, Martin Rypma with KENTVILLE MASTER ACORN – Champion; Brian Goertzen with HAMMING TURBO MAGGIE 901 – Reserve; Dave Hamming with TAZO BRIDGESTONE ANGELICA – Honourable Mention; Toby Kleinsasser (Ringman).



Holstein Intermediate Champions: (L-R) Judge Kenton Lindenbach, Brian Goertzen with HAMMING TURBO MAGGIE 901 – Champion; Brian Hamming with HAMMING MAJOR SAVVY – Reserve; Martin Rypma with HAMMING DRIVEN MARITZA – Honourable Mention; Toby Kleinsasser (Ringman).



Holstein Junior Champions: (L-R) Taya Hamming (Tazo Farms), Dave Hamming with TAZO LIMITED-P ANGELA – Champion; Martin Rypma with HAMMING MAXIMUM FELICTY – Reserve; Judge Kenton Lindenbach.

Holstein Show (57 Head)	
Junior Champion	
TAZO LIMITED-P ANGELA (1st Winter Yearling) Tazo Farms, Falkland, BC	
Reserve Junior Champion	
HAMMING MAXIMUM FELICTY (1st Summer Yearling) Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
Honourable Mention	
HAMMING DETECTIVE GLAZING (1st Spring Yearling) Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
Junior Breeder's Herd	
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
Intermediate Champion	
HAMMING TURBO MAGGIE 901 (1st Junior 3 Year Old) Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	

Reserve Intermediate Champion	
HAMMING MAJOR SAVVY (1st Fall 2 Year Old) Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
HM Intermediate Champion	
HAMMING DRIVEN MARITZA (1st Winter 2 Year Old) Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
Grand Champion	
KENTVILLE MASTER ACORN (1st 4 Year Old) Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
Reserve Grand Champion	
HAMMING TURBO MAGGIE 901 (1st Junior 3 Year Old) Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
HM Grand Champion	
TAZO BRIDGESTONE ANGELICA (1st 5 Year Old) Tazo Farms, Falkland, BC	

Senior Breeder's Herd	
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
Junior Premier Breeder & Exhibitor	
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
Premier Breeder & Exhibitor	
Hamming Holsteins, Vernon, BC	
Jersey Show (19 Head)	
Junior Champion	
STARRCREST GOLDORAK AMARAH (1st Fall Heifer) James & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC	
Reserve Junior Champion	
LAVENDER VICTORIOUS SUGAR MOMMA (1st Summer Yearling) Lavender Farms, Enderby, BC	
Junior Breeder's Herd	
Michael, Gina, and Tyson Haambuckers, Enderby, BC	

Grand Champion	
SUNNY HILL VICTORIOUS ARCADE (1st Senior 3 Year Old) Michael, Gina & Tyson Haambuckers, Enderby, BC	
Reserve Grand Champion	
ALIKONA VICTORIOUS BOOMBAH (1st Winter 2 Year Old) Allyson, James & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC	
HM Grand Champion	
STARRCREST JOEL MOCHA (1st Mature Cow) James & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC	
Senior Breeder's Herd	
James & Kirsty McAvoy, Armstrong, BC	
Junior Premier Breeder & Exhibitor	
Michael, Gina & Tyson Haambuckers, Enderby, BC	
Premier Breeder & Exhibitor	
Michael, Gina & Tyson Haambuckers, Enderby, BC	



Jersey Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge Kenton Lindenbach, Gina Haambuckers with SUNNY HILL VICTORIOUS ARCADE – Champion; Allyson McAvoy with ALIKONA VICTORIOUS BOOMBAH – Reserve; Kirsty McAvoy with STARRCREST JOEL MOCHA; Toby Kleinsasser (Ringman).



Jersey Junior Champions: (L-R) Judge Kenton Lindenbach, Kirsty McAvoy with STARRCREST GOLDORACK AMARAH – Champion; Janessa Vaandrager with LAVENDER VICTORIOUS SUGAR MOMMA – Reserve.

Congrats Jack – Now Hit the Road!

One June 1 at the NOK DHI Awards banquet, Blake Luttmerring presented a plaque to Jack Van Dongen, with his ladle and inscription reading, 'Hit the road Jack, and don't you come back no more.' We wish Jack a happy retirement after 12 years milk testing for CanWest/ Lactanet and a lifetime in dairy. Jack was also a genetics sales rep for many years after dairy farming in Aldergrove and Delta for 16 years.

The Hidden Liability in Farm Construction Projects

Chad Stewart, AgSafe



When planning a construction project, do you dust off your architectural, engineering, and construction skills and do it yourself, or do you hire professionals to handle it for you? When you hire a professional, the expectation is that they manage every aspect of the job – informing you of what must be done and identifying the permits, applications, and approvals required to complete the project properly. Nothing slows a construction project down faster than regulatory requirements that were not addressed before breaking ground.

If we are going to be talking about construction, the all-important topic of prime contractor designation will be the first discussion point.

What is a prime contractor and why is this important?

At a multiple-employer workplace, where workers from two or more employers are working at the same time, the prime contractor is responsible for coordinating workplace health and safety among all employers and ensuring a system is in place to maintain compliance with health and safety responsibilities. **A written, signed agreement is required to designate the prime contractor; if no agreement exists, the workplace owner is automatically considered the prime contractor.**

How does this apply to your construction project and your responsibility as the owner?

If your contractor has never discussed prime contractor responsibilities with you, does that mean the responsibility doesn't need to be managed? Unfortunately, no. It is the owner's responsibility to designate a prime contractor, and if the owner does not raise the issue with the contractor, most contractors are happy to leave that responsibility with the farm owner.



Is it really that big of a deal?

Is this a real issue or just another “what if” scenario that safety professionals like to talk about? What actually happens if you don't establish who the prime contractor is? As of May 12, 2026, 15 companies have been fined in 2026 for failing to fulfill their duties as prime contractors, with total penalties reaching \$350,000. In agriculture, this is one of the least understood health and safety topics I encounter, despite carrying some of the greatest potential for financial liability when not managed properly.

Regardless of who is taking on the role of prime contractor, here are some of the responsibilities that a prime contractor must undertake:

- Coordinating health and safety activities and ensuring compliance
- Coordinating the health and safety activities of subcontractors on site
- Implementing and maintaining a system to ensure site-wide compliance with health and safety requirements

- Communicating and coordinating with employers
- Conducting and attending site meetings with employers
- Having each subcontractor provide the names of their designated supervisors
- Obtaining the name of each subcontractor's qualified person responsible for health and safety activities
- Ensuring subcontractors notify the prime contractor before undertaking any work that could create a hazard for workers of another employer
- Informing subcontractors about workplace hazards that could affect them
- Appointing a qualified coordinator to oversee worksite health and safety activities
- Maintaining accurate records
- Risk assessment and control measure documentation
- Safety meeting records
- Site and equipment inspection reports
- Incident investigation and corrective action reports
- First aid records (prime contractors are required to ensure first aid requirements are met for all subcontractors on site)
- Worker orientation and training records

Sounds like fun, right? If possible, my recommendation is to avoid taking on the responsibilities of a prime contractor yourself. Reach out to your AgSafe representative so they can guide you through the process and provide resources for assigning prime contractor status to your general contractor. General contractors typically have the knowledge, capacity, and control necessary to fulfill the role properly and ensure the job is done correctly.



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Alberta Holstein Branch News



PRESIDENT'S Message

Spring / Summer 2026

Welcoming Spring in Alberta

As I write this President's Report, Alberta has finally rolled into spring. There's plenty of action in the fields as we all rush to get seed into the ground, hoping for timely rain and perfect weather. With the annual Holstein Canada Convention still a fresh memory, our focus now shifts to seeding and favourable conditions for the coming months.

Shows and Events

By the time you read this, we will have hosted what is sure to have been another successful Alberta Dairy Congress Show in Rimbey from June 3-6. Alberta Holsteins is a major sponsor of this show, providing prize money for the cow classes, including the Red & White (R&W) and Black & White (B&W) Best Bred & Owned categories.

We will have also hosted our annual Judging Clinic on June 4, welcoming all participants young and old. This year, we introduced a new feature to the clinic: computer-generated official placing. This system has been used in Ontario for a few years with great response, and we are eager to see it in action here.

Summer Activities and Youth Engagement

As the summer continues, we look forward to participating in club shows and 4-H club achievement days, where Alberta Holsteins actively contributes. In late July, the annual Youth Show will also be held in Rimbey. Of course, summer would not be complete without another WCC event, which this year will take place in Manitoba as the program celebrates 40 years!

Connecting with Members

As always, I look forward to attending as many events as possible and engaging with our members across the province. Good luck to all participants!

- Fred Hofstra
President, Alberta Holsteins



President Fred Hofstra presents the Junior Champion R&W award to Raelyn Lovich with LOVHILL MIRACULOUS ALABAMA.



Messages from the Young Leader participants at the National Convention:

I had an incredible experience and am grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Young Leader Program for a second time. It was an amazing week connecting with fellow young leaders and industry partners from across Canada – talking about what we love and learning from one another. Our group learned from local producers during our farm tours. We also had a full day of speakers who shared on feed management, the importance of colostrum, using data for genetic planning, and insights from a top-managed herd on succession and advocacy for agriculture. Cheering on farms from across our Western provinces, learning from two Master Breeder herds, and walking away with new friendships were just three of my many highlights. I'm honoured and proud to represent Alberta as one

of the many young leaders this year. It's a powerful industry, and this program continues to support both it and its youth. Thank you to the Alberta Holstein Association and Holstein Canada for your continued support of this amazing program.

- Carmen Vogel

The young leader experience was great! I hadn't attended one of these events before, but it did not disappoint. I really enjoyed talking to producers from across the country and learning the different ways of farming from many different provinces. The committee did a great job planning interesting farm tours as well as having great speakers and presentations. Throughout the time spent with other farms I was reminded again how much we can

learn from those in the same industry as us even if their farming practices are much different than the ones used to in our area. I'd highly recommend the program to anyone considering attending in the future.

- Denver Oudshoorn

I was very grateful for the opportunity to attend the annual convention with the Young Leaders program through Holstein Canada. It was an amazing experience to meet new people from across the country who share a passion for the dairy industry. I enjoyed the networking, touring farms in BC, and hearing how producers worked towards their Master Breeder award. I appreciated learning from speakers, participating in activities, and representing our area at such a great event. Thank you to everyone involved for making it such a memorable experience.

- Simone Huisman

1 - Alberta's Young Leader Participants at the National Holstein Convention: (L-R) Simone Huisman, Denver Oudshoorn, Emma Van Steekelenburg (Young Leader Advisory Committee), and Carmen Vogel.

2 - Young Leaders enjoyed a great day of informative farm tours in the Fraser Valley.

3 - A full day of speakers covered topics about feed management, colostrum, data for genetic planning, insights from a top-managed herd and more.

4 - All dressed up and ready to celebrate the Master Breeder winners at the end of a great week of networking with Young Leaders from across the country!



Photos Ketsia Croteau, Holstein Canada



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BC Dairy Industry Spring Producer Meeting Highlights

BC Dairy Update

Board Chair, Casey Pruim, shared the results of the recent elections at BC Dairy, following the adoption of a new governance model. Luke Van Huizen and Mark Van Klei were both re-elected to the Board, while new members include Ron Kooyman (Chilliwack) and Nico Vankeulen (Surrey).

The BC Dairy Board is currently considering options for a reform of producer levies paid to the Dairy Industry Development Council (DIDC). The levies, which haven't changed in 10 years, are currently being paid on a hectolitre basis. However, increased growth in volume means higher levies. "The Board wants to explore multiple options for a fair and equitable levy," says Casey, "We are reviewing the policy to make sure that BC Dairy is still funded while not taking any more money off the farm." Since producers are paid in \$/KG held, switching the levies to that model would seem the most logical. The levy reform lends itself to one single levy, rather than multiple, would allow for DIDC research funding, and would be set with the BCMMB's projected growth in mind. The new levy would not be tied to milk composition or end use and would also eliminate levies on incentive days.

BC Milk Marketing Board

Directors Ben Cuthbert and Kevin Mammel presented updates from the BCMMB, drawing attention five areas that producers need to be aware of.

New Pricing Ratio Starts April 1, 2026

Component payments have shifted to 70% (BF), 25% (Protein) and 5% (other solids), to reflect the demand for protein in the industry and the need for more milk volume.

Demand is Strong, but Markets are Changing

Cream, cheese, and high-protein products continue to be at an all-time high and drive demand, while global butter prices have dropped dramatically and inventories are at a record high. Class 2 products have been particularly dynamic, with yogurt growing by 7.4%.

P10 Pooling Agreement Consultation

The updated national pooling agreement modernizes governance and processes, coming up for review every five years. While there are have been no new policy changes in the agreement during this review, updates focus on alignment with current practices, clarity and governance. New sections include improved dispute resolutions, expanded



BCMMD directors Ben Cuthbert and Kevin Mammel share updates and field audience questions about upcoming changes.

audit framework, and updated marketing language. Following the producer feedback period, final board discussions and decisions will be made during the summer.

Big Growth is coming – P500 Plant

The plant remains on track for commissioning in late 2027, with milk production ramping up during next year. P500 is expected to officially start processing early in 2028. Four key elements remain in the milk production plan: daily quota adjustments, incentive days, quota credit use restrictions, and pricing ratio changes. The proposed plan is outlined in Figure 1.

Policy Consultations Underway in Four Areas

- 1) Changing the producer levy basis to per KGs of BF, instead of litres of milk shipped.
- 2) Transportation Policies
 - The Board is considering adjustments to B-train incentives and accessibility,

changes to the Every-Day Pick-Up fees to discourage long-term reliance, disallowing non-conforming pickup restrictions (e.g. No Sunday pick-up) and setting minimum milk pick-up windows to reduce routing inefficiencies.

3) High Free Fatty Acid (FFA) Enforcement

• Elevated FFA levels are increasingly affecting milk marketability and the production of cheese. One tanker with high FFAs can ruin a whole silo of milk if the conditions are right. The proposed policy change would introduce stricter consequences for on-going noncompliance, including limits on quality bonuses and milk pick-up until compliance is achieved.

4) Organic Supply Incentives

• More organic producers are needed in BC. The Board is seeking input on policy changes needed to incentivize organic conversations and bring in more new entrants into the organic sector.

	Jan 2027	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027	May 2027	Jun 2027
Quota		2%		2%		2%
Incentive (days)			1	1	2	2
Restriction (days)				2	2	2

	Jul 2027	Aug 2027	Sept 2027	Oct 2027	Nov 2027	Dec 2027
Quota		2%			2%	
Incentive (days)	3	3	3	3	2	2
Restriction (days)	1	1	1	1	1	1

Figure 1: Proposed P500 production plan for producers.

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Dairy Product Manufacturing: 2026 FCC Food and Beverage Report

Navigating rising milk costs and evolving consumer trends

Canada's dairy processing sector is diverse and dynamic, spanning from fluid milk and butter to cheese, milk protein products, and specialty powders for infant formula, beverages and snacks. Downstream markets include retail, foodservice and further manufacturing. Given the demand for protein, there's an increase in the use of milk proteins as ingredients in other processed food products. Of over 600 processors nationwide, nearly 70% are concentrated in Quebec and Ontario, and most are small operations employing fewer than 100 people.

Dairy product manufacturing sales: 2026 forecast

Processed dairy product sales showed strength again in 2025, rising by 0.9% to reach \$19.8 billion. While volumes stagnated amid slower population growth in the second and third quarters, per capita sales of processed dairy products (yogurt, butter, ice cream and cheese) remained above 2024 levels. Slower population growth was a key risk flagged last year, so maintaining per capita gains is a positive sign for the sector. However, given existing immigration plans, the sector will need to continue to rely on per capita growth and/or product diversification to maintain volumes.

The outlook for volumes is positive for 2026, as continued demand for simple, accessible, nutrient-rich foods makes dairy products appealing to health-conscious and time-strapped consumers. Given the announced producer price increase for unprocessed milk (approximately +2.4% in 2026), it's reasonable to expect processors to pass some of this cost through to higher prices.

The combined boost in volumes and prices brings our forecast for dairy product manufacturing sales in 2026 to \$20.5 billion, a 3.6% increase over 2025.

Boosting sales as population growth slows remains something to watch in this sector, as do trade negotiations with the US, which are likely to include revisiting the tariff rate quota (TRQ) allocation process for dairy imports, given that this process has been a non-tariff trade irritant stateside. Allocation process changes could negatively impact demand for processed Canadian dairy products if consumers have more direct access to US processed dairy products through retail channels.

Ingredient insights: Unprocessed milk

The fundamental ingredient in all processed dairy products is unprocessed milk. Unprocessed milk pricing in Canada is supply-managed, and the price paid by processors to producers is determined by provincial marketing boards. This price varies based on what the processor plans to make (for example, yogurt, ice cream, cheese, fluid milk, cream) and the components they're buying (butterfat, protein, other solids). However, once milk is processed, it follows a different pricing method. These processed products are used as an input in further processing, such as butter in baked goods or cream in canned soup.

Dairy manufacturers using unprocessed milk benefit from low variability in its supply and price. Prices are typically set once per year, creating stability and predictability that help with annual business planning. Manufacturers that use dairy products as ingredients in further processing face monthly prices set based on global supply and demand. The result is a less stable cost throughout the year.

Milk pricing matters beyond cost: it influences product mix, marketing strategies and investment decisions. Relative component values (protein vs. butterfat vs. other solids) can shift processor priorities, but processing technologies, brands and consumer demands remain significant considerations.

Dairy product manufacturing: 2026 margin forecast

Gross margins in dairy manufacturing remain healthy and have been stable over the past decade compared with other sub-sectors. We forecast margins to remain steady in 2026, though they'll still trail 2019 levels after the squeeze in 2022-23, when high input costs eroded profitability.

In 2026, costs are expected to rise, driven mainly by higher producer prices for unprocessed milk and incremental wage increases, the two largest expense categories. However, strong demand for dairy products, along with dairy's role as a low-cost protein

option, should allow some cost increases to be passed on, helping to protect margins.

Productivity remains a key advantage when assessing dairy product manufacturing margins. Between 2020 and 2024, labour productivity in this sector increased by 2.5%, compared with an average increase of 0.9% for the overall food manufacturing sector. Maintaining this strength in productivity will be critical to continue managing costs and protecting margins as population growth slows.



Stay informed: Subscribe to the FCC Economics Newsletter for dairy sector highlights, food manufacturing insights and more. fcc-fac.ca/newsletter.

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Manitoba Holstein Branch News



Branch President Mark Sweetnam presents the Intermediate Best Bred & Owned Award to Nicole Crosbie with BUTLERVIEW AMZN ALL AMOR at the National Convention in BC.

Submitted by Carla Plett, Secretary, MB Branch

National Convention Highlights...

Manitoba Holsteins was proud to present the Intermediate Best Bred & Owned award at this year's National Holstein Convention Show held in BC in April. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the show, including Natalie Boonstoppel who was named Grand Champion in the Youth Showmanship contest, and Everleigh Boerchers for her third place finish in the Intermediate division.

Congratulations to Harold Sweetnam (Sweetridge Farms, Stanley, MB) who was elected President of Holstein Canada. Harold is the first president from Manitoba in 88 years, and we wish him well in his new role!

WCC heading to Brandon

Manitoba Holsteins is looking forward to welcoming all the participants and their families to Brandon in August for the 40th Anniversary of the WestGen Canadian Classic. We hope to see you there!

Coming Events:

July 9 – Twilight Golf at Maplewood Golf Club, St Pierre-Jolys, MB

July 31 – Summer Junior Dairy Show & Branch Picnic, Morris Stampede Grounds, Morris, MB

August 18-22 – WestGen Canadian Classic, Brandon, MB

★ Busy Spring for the Eastern Manitoba Holstein Club

The Eastern Manitoba Holstein Club brought members together this spring through a combination of educational and social events. On April 27th, the club hosted a one-day AI Clinic run by Beausejour Animal Hospital. Nine producers participated in the hands-on clinic, gaining valuable skills and practical experience in reproductive management. With it being several years since the club last hosted an AI clinic, it was great to bring this opportunity back for producers.

On May 7th, the club hosted a fun-filled evening at Steinbach Bowling Alley.

Producers with their families came out to enjoy an evening of bowling, pizza, and socializing after renting out the entire bowling alley for the night.

The Eastern Manitoba Holstein Club is looking forward to our next event with our annual BBQ on July 18th, which will be held at Splatters Paintball this year!

The club would like to thank everyone who came out and supported the spring events, as well as our sponsors whose continued support allows us to be able to put these events on!



Nine keen producers participated in the one-day AI Clinic held at Beausejour Animal Hospital.



A great night of fun was had at the Steinbach Bowling Alley for producers and their families.

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Geneticist Brian Van Doormaal

Bonnie Cooper,
becooper2010@gmail.com

Geneticist Brian Van Doormaal retired from Lactanet Canada, Guelph, ON, in December after a career of nearly 40 years in the dairy cattle improvement industry, 30 of those leading Canada's dairy cattle genetic evaluation services.

Chapters in an Amazing Career

Van Doormaal, 67, developed his work ethic and love for agriculture growing up on a 90-cow Holstein dairy farm in the Ottawa, ON, area. While Brian wanted to farm, his parents insisted he first go to university. At the University of Guelph, he met Dr. Ted Burnside, who recognized Brian's interest in genetics and encouraged him to get a Master's degree after gaining his Bachelor of Science in 1982. It would be one of many "forks in the road" for the young man. Van Doormaal finished his Masters in animal breeding in 1984 and then stayed on as a Research Associate for Burnside while pursuing a PhD. As a Research Associate, he ran the genetic evaluation system for type traits as a University service to Holstein Canada and also lectured an undergraduate genetics class. "Teaching that class was a great experience. I lost all my previous nervousness of public speaking," says Van Doormaal as he shared his passion for genetics.

In April 1986, Robert Chicoine, General Manager of Centre d'insémination artificielle du Québec (CIAQ), the Quebec AI company, offered Van Doormaal a job as CIAQ's Director of Genetics. The 27-year-old accepted, even though it meant not completing his PhD and not becoming a professor and teaching genetics. "I knew what would give me happiness and contentment in life was teaching. But I quickly realized that I could still be a teacher of genetics and genetic principles in whatever role I had. Instead of teaching students in a classroom, I could teach dairy farmers through presentations at conferences and writing extension articles," Van Doormaal says. As part of CIAQ's offer, they provided Brian and his wife with French lessons, a valuable tool which made him fully bilingual. At CIAQ, Van Doormaal was responsible for the company's young sire procurement and sampling programs, computerized sire recommendation service, and beef programs.

In 1995, Van Doormaal, then 36, was appointed General Manager of the newly created Canadian Dairy Network (CDN)



Brian Van Doormaal (left), Canadian Dairy Network (CDN) General Manager, and Gordon Souter, CDN Board Chairman, signing the CDN and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada agreement in 1995 that transferred genetic evaluation services from the federal government to CDN.

based in Guelph. CDN had been created as a result of the federal government's decision to privatize all dairy cattle genetic evaluations in Canada. The opportunity to manage a national organization that was responsible for all genetic evaluations suited Van Doormaal well. He thrived in the role. "From my CIAQ experience, I felt I had a good pulse on the industry and the needs of dairy farmers and so when I came to CDN I had a plan of how I could help the industry and dairy farmers be successful," he says. During his CDN tenure many new traits and improvements would be made to Canada's genetic evaluation system (see sidebar). A gifted communicator, Van Doormaal's greatest strength proved to be his ability to take the most complex genetic subjects and make them readily understandable. That talent, combined with his ongoing commitment to do extension and teaching, led him to personally write 250 to 300 extension articles, many of which appeared in the *Holstein Journal*, so that Canadian dairy farmers would better understand genetics.

Brian Van Doormaal (centre) cites Robert Chicoine (left) and Doug Blair as two influential mentors in his career and in 2008 the three were pictured together when Chicoine and Blair were recognized as the first recipients of Canada's Dairy Cattle Improvement Industry Distinction Award.



mentors now all Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame inductees and former CDN Board directors, with helping him "become a better leader" and showing him the importance of "surrounding yourself with a team of good people." He continues, "Robert Chicoine taught me that every single employee of an organization is important and they all contribute to the success of a company. Gordon Souter, CDN's first Board Chairman, taught me to be a manager with compassion and the importance of a work/life balance after my first wife died in December 1996 from cancer and I was only 1.5 years into CDN and had three young children to raise. Doug Blair was a visionary and was responsible for me getting an Executive MBA at Queen's University."

Industry Reflections

What is Van Doormaal most proud of having achieved in his career? "While my initial response is usually the introduction of 'genomic' evaluations in Canada in 2009, I feel the fact that I led an organization in delivering 100 official genetic evaluations over the span of 30 years is my biggest accomplishment," replies Van Doormaal

As Van Doormaal looks to the future he offers these thoughtful comments:

- "I foresee heifer genotyping becoming more valued and embraced at the farm level.
- The collection of data for more novel traits will continue to expand and translate into genomic evaluations.
- The industry will learn how to use Artificial Intelligence to provide better, and more predictive, services to dairy farmers, allowing them to be more proactive.
- Better collaboration and data collection between Canada's dairy and beef industries is vitally needed because dairy farms now produce a significant quantity of quality beef-on-dairy crossbreds for the meat sector. More data is needed on these animals to ensure farms benefit from their full value."

In retirement, Brian Van Doormaal is planning for more travel with wife Karen, visits to their children and nine grandchildren, pool, golf and projects around his home. His energy and passion for genetics remains strong and through his new BVDconsulting & Analytics company he intends to continue being involved and giving back to the industry he so dearly loves. As he says, "It has been an honour and privilege to have had the responsibilities I did over the last 40 years. There is no better industry than ours and I was so happy to be able to work in it."

A Few of Brian Van Doormaal's Career Highlights

- Over a span of 30 years (1995–2025) led the delivery of 100 Official Genetic Evaluation Proof releases for dairy cattle in Canada.
- Has been directly involved in the development and implementation of essentially all the current genetic evaluation systems and services in Canada including the Canadian Test Day Model (1999), Milking Temperament (2001), Daughter Fertility (2004), Mastitis Resistance (2014), Pro\$ (2015), Metabolic Disease Resistance (2016), Hoof Health (2018), Feed Efficiency (2021), the world-first Methane Efficiency evaluations (2023), Calf Health (2025), and the modernized Lifetime Performance Index (LPI) and its subindexes (2025).
- Member of Canada's Genetic Evaluation Board (GEB) for 38 years.
- Chair of the International Committee of Animal Recording (ICAR) DNA Working Group for eight years.
- Recipient of Canada's Dairy Cattle Improvement Industry Distinction Award (2023) and ICAR's President's Award (2016).



Brian receives the Dairy Cattle Improvement Industry Distinction Award from Lactanet Chair, Barbara Paquet in 2023.

Paying it Forward

After 24 years as CDN General Manager, Van Doormaal transitioned to Lactanet Chief Services Officer following discussions between CDN, CanWest DHI and Valacta that created the Lactanet partnership in June 2019. Late last year, Van Doormaal decided the time was right for him to "pay it forward" and retire and let the next generation of young leaders have their opportunity to learn and succeed. As he says, "I was privileged by the opportunity to have had leadership roles in our industry early on in my career. That opportunity, given to me by people who had faith in me and my ability, is something that I feel really strongly about passing on and paying it forward."

Van Doormaal says, "The greatest pleasure in my career has been the people I have worked with." He cites his father, along with Dr. Ted Burnside and Dr. Larry Schaeffer (University of Guelph), as being early mentors. He credits Robert Chicoine, Gordon Souter (BCAI/WestGen), and Doug Blair (WBS/Alta Genetics), as three

humbly. "Managing a team of people that were able to deliver Canadian genetic evaluation services led by the industry, not the government, that have become so highly recognized and valued nationally and internationally, including our website, gives me a huge sense of pride."

Farms, technology and the dairy cattle industry in Canada are changing. Van Doormaal says, "We continue to need discussions at the industry level encouraging partnerships and collaborations. We can't stay stagnant in how our industry is structured." From 2010-12, Van Doormaal served as both CDN General Manager and CEO of Holstein Canada, while the two organizations explored amalgamation. While the effort was not successful, Van Doormaal feels, "These are the most challenging discussions an industry leader can have. But they are also the important ones. The best leaders of our industry in the past had one thing in common – they understood the need for change in our industry's structure and in how we do things. They put what is best for Canadian farmers and the industry first, rather than their own organization."

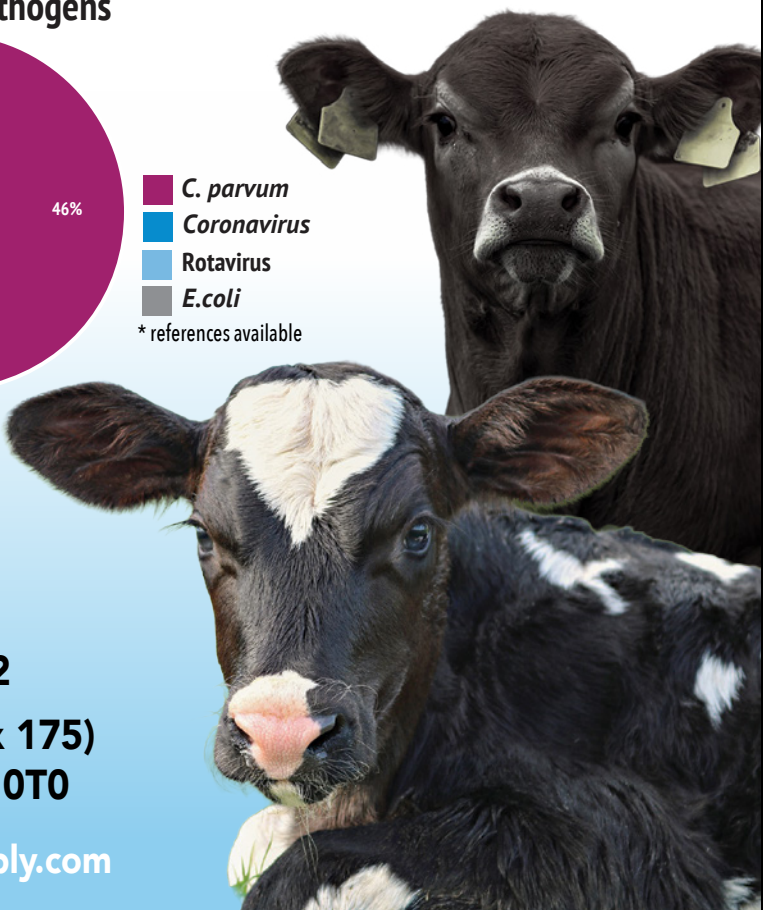
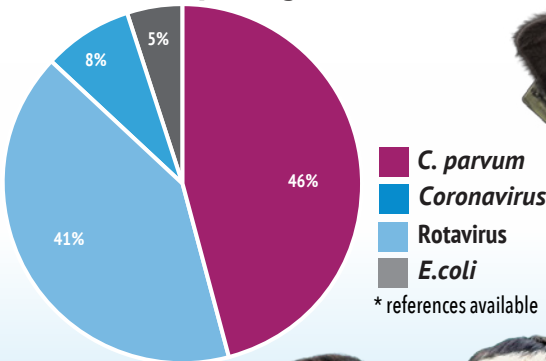
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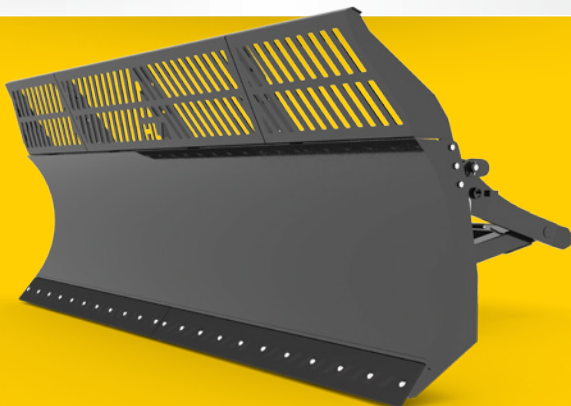
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Saskatchewan Holstein Branch News



2026 Saskatchewan Dairy Legends Celebrated

Following the Western Dairy Expo Show, four new honourees were celebrated at the second “Legends of the Industry” banquet in Saskatoon. The annual award was initiated in 2025 by Dairy Expo Chair, Bryce Fisher, who recognized the importance of honouring people, past and present, who have contributed to the dairy industry in Saskatchewan and paved the way for future generations.

The 2026 “Legends” included Joe Guenther, Rod York, Dale Strudwick and Elvin Haupstein.

Ria Vanzessen, SK Branch Secretary



Joe Guenther,
Rhein Holsteins, Osler, SK

Joe Guenther is a lifelong dairy leader whose family farm near Osler carried a proud Holstein tradition for generations under the RHEIN prefix. Joe’s passion for cattle, youth development, and community has made a lasting mark on Saskatchewan dairy.

As a founder of the Hub Holstein Club, a longtime supporter of dairy shows and sales, and a dedicated volunteer on numerous industry boards, Joe has played an important role in promoting and advancing the breed. His breeding accomplishments, including the renowned RHEIN BROKER LEE ANN LILY, are a testament to his eye for quality cattle and commitment to excellence.

Joe’s impact can be seen through the people, programs, and progress he has helped build over the years.



Rod York (1947-2024),
Downyork Holsteins, Tisdale, SK

Rod’s life was built around hard work, family, and a deep passion for the dairy industry. From his early days learning the ropes on the farm in Saskatchewan to showing cattle across the Prairies, building respected programs, working sales rings, and mentoring the next generation, Rod left his mark wherever he went.

He had an eye for great cattle, a love for the people in the industry, and a personality that could light up any room. Whether in the show ring, at an auction, on the farm, or in the community, Rod brought energy, humour, and heart to everything he did.

He will be remembered not only for his many contributions to agriculture, but also for the friendships he built and the way he made people feel. A life well lived, and a legacy that will not be forgotten.

A true cattleman, showman, and friend to many.



Dale Strudwick,
Prairie Diamond Farm, Balgonie, SK

Though unable to attend the banquet, we are proud to recognize Dale for a lifetime of passion, leadership, and stewardship in the dairy industry. A third-generation dairyman, Dale built upon his family’s legacy while helping shape the future of dairy farming in Saskatchewan and beyond.

From building progressive farms and earning Master Breeder status, to judging cattle, supporting youth programs, and serving in leadership roles with Holstein Canada, Saskatchewan Holstein, and Canadian Western Agribition, Dale’s impact has been far-reaching.

Known for his dedication to excellence, love of cattle, and commitment to promoting agriculture, Dale’s legacy continues to inspire generations to come!

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Elvin Haupstein (1936-2013),
Haupstein Dairy, Weyburn, SK

A true leader in Saskatchewan dairy, Elvin helped build not only a respected family farm near Weyburn, but also a stronger future for the entire industry. Alongside his wife Nellie, he raised six children while growing a successful dairy operation rooted in hard work, innovation, and stewardship.

Beyond the farm gate, Elvin dedicated more than 50 years to agricultural leadership, helping shape quota policy, supporting producer organizations, advancing dairy processing in Saskatchewan, and championing research and education. His vision and commitment left a lasting mark on Canadian agriculture.

Today, the Haupstein family legacy continues through future generations, a testament to the foundation Elvin helped build.



Coming Events

Junior Ag Showcase – July 1-6
Prairieland Park, Saskatoon

Saskatchewan Dairy Heifer Show – July 8-10
Prairieland Park, Saskatoon

SK Branch Picnic – August 7
Ronleen Holsteins, Vibank

WCC – August 18-22
Brandon, MB

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Where's the Beef!?

'The Evolving Beef on Dairy Landscape'

Tars Cheema

The dairy industry has always contributed to the beef supply chain. Estimates are 17-22% of the beef sold in stores are Holstein origin, according to veterinarian and beef industry expert, Kee Jim, in his intensely interesting presentation at WestGen's AGM on March 17.

Show Me the Money

He showed that in the US, the 20 year average per head profit for cow-calf producers was \$40 – while last year alone, the per head profit was \$900. “The last three years have been the best I’ve seen in five decades, especially on the cow-calf side!” He added that the last two years have also been record profit years for feedlots.

A number of elements caused “the perfect storm,” including the 2015–2016 moment when Tyson Foods, one of the three major packers, turned away from Holstein beef to focus on “high choice/prime carcasses.” This decision caused the already weakening fed-cattle price (due to growing beef cow herd) to plummet for dairy males. The \$500US price for Holstein males dropped to well under \$100US. At the same time, sexed semen was on the upswing thanks to improved fertility, as overall reproductive results also improved, opening the door to breeding more beef-on-dairy without risking insufficient dairy replacements.

“The cross-bred animals had many advantages such as better feed conversion, better gain, better carcass traits, better health outcomes and a higher selling price,” Kee explained. All of these factors made the value of pure Holstein males pale in comparison. It was even more dramatic in the case of Jersey-beef crosses – it was a complete game-changer – pure Jersey bull calves had little value.

Dairy calves went from around \$120 each in 2020 to over \$1500 today for the beef crosses as the beef cow herd has still not recovered sufficient numbers since the big sell-off caused by droughts.

Beef AI semen was mostly limited to the seed-stock sector with ~2M doses annually used in the US. Beef on dairy semen units grew from 5.5M in 2020, steadily to 10M in 2024 (US stats). “It was unlike anything I had seen in 50 years,” Kee exclaimed, referring to rate of B on D adoption by the dairy industry. Money was the universal key to shift the dairy industry to endorse this new breeding approach.

Predicting the Future

The opportunity for genetic improvement in the B on D sector remains large and untapped. The cross-bred calf value is so high that more attention will come to improving the traits of interest. The challenge is to collect good phenotypic data on these calves through the many ownership stages they move through (dairy producers, calf raisers, feedlots, slaughterhouses). It's too easy for the data stream to break at one of those change points. A closed-loop data collection system is needed. Good phenotypic data could support a genetic evaluation system, much like dairy already has, although how breeding companies could access the data remains unclear.

It was of course, the North American droughts in recent years that significantly caused the beef herd in the US and Canada to shrink. “Drought has been the big story and is still the driver. Numbers haven’t been this low in the US since the 1960s,” he said. “There is very little evidence that the national beef herd is rebuilding. Even with better climatic conditions, margins are OK but there’s no future guarantee,” he explained. Once we see the beef herd rebuilding, it still takes 3–4 years to impact the retail supply.

Meanwhile, packers compete to keep their dedicated slaughter plants at full capacity for efficiency, keeping pressure on the supply chain.

Perhaps most surprising is the continued inelasticity of beef demand even as consumers paid substantially more. “Demand for beef remains high, even

while we’ve significantly increased carcass weights and imports from the outside,” Kee described the unexpected situation. Enough consumers appear to be favouring beef over pork and over ‘fake meat,’ suggesting demand should stay strong for a while yet. He even suggested the GLP-1 effect could be influencing consumer intake of beef protein.

But he also shares caution – prices could plummet if demand drops or supply increases. What if corn price spikes? What about the risk posed by geopolitical vibrations?

Kee’s final view is that supply will still be slow to catch up to continued strong demand for North America’s high quality grain-fed beef. Calf prices may still have room to increase some more yet. And summer BBQ season is here! 



Beef industry expert, Kee Jim, described the fascinating factors underpinning the beef-on-dairy phenomenon before forecasting its future.

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IN PURSUIT OF PROGRESS AND PROFITABILITY

Taking a Closer Look at Top Performance

We are pleased to present a detailed look at the top Herd Performance Index farm from each western Province.

How are Canada’s best managed dairy herds identified?

Each year, Lactanet customers enrolled in milk recording receive a Herd Performance Index (HPI) score along with data from each of the six indicators: Milk Value, Udder Health, Age at First Calving, Calving Interval, Herd Efficiency and Longevity. By analyzing data within these areas that are driving today’s dairy farms, and then comparing the information with other Canadian herds, Lactanet can allocate points, calculate an HPI and annually rank each dairy herd. This information helps producers monitor overall herd management performance, track progress, and identify opportunities for improvement.



Sierra Colony Farms Ltd
Shaunavon, Saskatchewan
HPI Score: 861



Sierra Colony Farms is a mixed farming operation spanning broiler production, cow-calf, dairy, and cash cropping. The dairy has been in operation since 2011, beginning with two Lely robots milking 80 cows. Today, Josh and Zach Kleinsasser milk 156 Holstein cows with three robots, focusing on producing high quality milk from happy, healthy cows as efficiently as possible. The farm’s strategy is simple: “Do your best every day and leave the rest up to the good Lord.”

This philosophy has shaped the evolution of the dairy, driving investments that prioritize efficiency, cow comfort, and animal health. In 2019, the dairy expanded to include a maternity barn and four all-in all-out calf rooms equipped with automatic feeders. These improvements enhanced cow comfort at calving and early-life management, resulting in healthier, more robust calves.

Ongoing monitoring supports the focus on cow health. Each robot is equipped with SCC counters, and eDHI is used for real-time data tracking. In addition, Lactanet reports provide an important support for management decisions, benchmarking, and identifying areas for continued improvement.

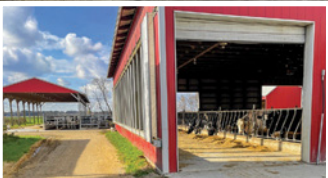
Cow comfort remains a priority at every stage of production. In the milking barn, cross tunnel ventilation and water beds keep cows cool and comfortable. In 2025, the farm added an inside feeding monoslope barn for dry cows and replacement heifers, which is also used for feeding out crossbreds. This facility further strengthened animal comfort and health while reducing feed waste.

Together, comfortable housing, proper nutrition and attentive management lead to healthier cows with higher conception and pregnancy rates. Breeding decisions follow a balanced approach considering both production and type, with emphasis on good feet and mammary systems. Higher classifying and good BCA cows are bred with sexed semen, while lower ranking animals are bred to beef. Lactanet reports support these breeding decisions, ensuring genetic progress aligns with the farm’s emphasis on durability and efficiency.

At the heart of Sierra Colony Farms’ success is a strong belief in teamwork. The Kleinsassers place great value on surrounding themselves with a trusted group of industry professionals, including their veterinarian and nutritionist, recognizing that strong partnerships are a key to success. Looking ahead, they hope to continue to be part of a great industry, producing high quality milk while passing the dedication, care, and work ethic required to the next generation.



Isaac Dairy Ltd
Kleefeld, Manitoba
HPI Score: 932



At Isaac Dairy Ltd, excellence is measured by how consistently cows perform over long, and healthy lifetimes. Located in Kleefeld, Manitoba, and owned by Brent and Reg Isaac, the farm has been in the family for over 130 years. Today, the dairy milks 92 cows in a tie-stall facility focusing on high production achieved alongside exceptional animal welfare.

One of the herd’s goals is for as many cows as possible to reach 80,000 kg of lifetime milk, while keeping high daily averages. Through precision across all management areas, steady progress is being made, and a growing number of cows are achieving 100,000 kg while remaining ahead of the second lactation group in daily production. This priority begins in early life, with the philosophy that healthy calves set the pace for a long and productive life.

Feeding and transition management are equally important. Working closely with their nutritionist, the farm keeps a good handle on rations using a robotic feeding system, with the milking herd split into two groups to support ideal body condition at dry-off. When cows are dried off with proper body condition, transition periods are usually less challenging, leading to strong lactations and conception rates of 55% to 65%. Lactanet tools, including SCC testing and Transition Management Index, are used to provide insights into dry-off and early-lactation performance.

When it comes to reproductive management, Isaac Dairy prioritizes flexibility and voluntary waiting periods are tailored to each cow. Shorter lactation cows have a voluntary waiting period of 60 days or less, while longer lactation cows are bred at 120 days or more. This individualized approach supports productivity without increasing culling rates.

Mating decisions further reinforce the herd’s long-term focus. Approximately 60% of females are bred to beef, with Holstein matings reserved for animals with production evaluations in the top quartile. Close attention is also paid to Mastitis Resistance, Daughter Fertility, and Median Suspensory, aiming to eliminate weaknesses that could lead to premature culling. The Isaacs’ philosophy is that the time invested in identifying the right matings is justified by the potential return of a cow capable of achieving 100,000 kg of lifetime production.

While Isaac Dairy consistently ranks among the top herds in Western Canada for 305day milk value, its real strength lies in 365day production and lactation lengths that match cow needs. By managing elite cows as the norm rather than the exception, this Manitoba Best Managed Herd demonstrates how high performance can become routine.



IN PURSUIT OF PROGRESS AND PROFITABILITY

Based on annual herd averages, herds in the top 10% nationally (90th percentile) achieve approximately:

- Milk Value: \$11,984 (Holstein 305-day lactation) • Udder Health: 101,000 SCC • Age at First Calving: 23.1 months
- Calving Interval: 12.6 months • Herd Efficiency: 89.7% of cows in milk • Longevity: 54.6% of the herd with more than 3 lactations

*BASED ON LACTANET'S 2025 DATA



New Rockport Colony New Dayton, Alberta

HPI Score: 903



With roots dating back to 1932, New Rockport Colony has built its success on a commitment to doing the simple things well, every day. The current barn milks 128 cows in a Double 6 BouMatic Herringbone parlour. Simon Waldner began managing in 2015 and, building on a strong foundation left by the previous manager, developed a system focused on consistency and attention to detail. In 2023, Joshua Wipf joined the operation, and together, with additional support, they continue to refine herd performance.

A strong commitment to daily routines is a defining strength of the farm. Feeding times for the milking herd remain highly consistent, and all handling is structured around milking to minimize stress. Lactanet's SCC and Mastitis4 reports are used to identify and address issues proactively. Through the use of udder health reports and improvements in milking procedures, the farm managed to significantly reduce the somatic cell count to 100,000 from 200,000 six years ago.

Investments in cow comfort have also delivered results, including rubber flooring in the free stall alleys, reducing falling. Lameness is addressed within 24 hours, and regular hoof trimming supports excellent foot health. These practices have led to measurable improvements across the herd. Over 45% of cows were in their third lactation or greater last year, an achievement considered one of the farm's biggest successes. Classification scores have also strengthened, supporting durability and long-term productivity.

Unlike most farms, New Rockport Colony has fed an all-hay diet for more than 30 years. Supported by their nutritionist, the farm focuses on a simple, high-quality ration with minimal use of feed additives, resulting in excellent intake, with cows achieving 61 lbs of dry matter intake. The dry cow program mirrors this approach, where separate diets are fed to far-off and close-up groups and slightly longer dry periods of 65 to 70 days, are preferred.

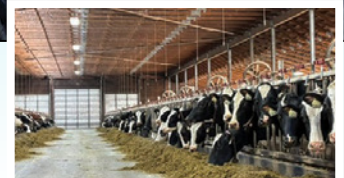
DairyComp serves as the main herd management software, supporting breeding, health, and daily management decisions. More recently, genomic testing has been introduced to help refine heifer selection and support long-term genetic progress. Combined with DHI data and classification results, these tools help guide culling and breeding decisions.

The success of this herd comes down to doing every task, large or small, the same way every day. Through a focus on simple, effective management, New Rockport Colony has built a system where health, longevity, and performance work together.



West River Farm Ltd Rosedale, British Columbia

HPI Score: 944



At West River Farm, the strength of the people and the care they bring to their animals is what defines success. Located in Rosedale, British Columbia, the operation was established in the mid-1970s by Denis and Jill Satche next door to Jill's family farm. The owners, brothers Grant and Gene Satche, along with their families, have transitioned to management 20 years ago, milking 190 cows on four Lely robots.

A defining feature of West River Farm is the level of control the Satches maintain over their herd strategy. The herd is closed, with all replacements raised on-farm in a dedicated young stock facility renovated from a former cow barn. The farm also grows and harvests their own forages, allowing them to manage what goes into the bunks and ultimately fed to the animals. By managing both genetics and feed quality internally, the farm has built a consistent system that supports herd health and performance. The farm approach is supported by DairyComp as the backbone for record keeping, including traceability, registrations, and treatments, while the VAS platform allows for easy access to look up specific animals, particularly heifers.

A strong team plays a central role, ensuring that animals are comfortable, well fed and cared for, while facilities are maintained to a high standard. There is a shared sense of commitment across the farm, with each person taking on a diverse range of roles and responsibilities. That teamwork creates an environment where successes are shared, making the day-to-day work productive and rewarding.

The family is especially proud of the farm's success transitioning to the next generation, and their commitment to continuous improvement. The culmination of a lot of small changes over time have led to great results in all aspects of the operation.

Looking ahead, the future of British Columbia's Best Managed Herd is approached with optimism, recognizing the challenges of farming while embracing the opportunities within the industry. The family remains committed to continuing what they have built, while being excited to see how the next generation may choose to be involved.

Looking for more information?

Lactanet's 2025 Ontario and Western Canada Progress Report is now available online or in print delivered with the May issue of the Milk Producer magazine. The annual report features high-performing herds, inspiring farm profiles, and provides insights into herd performance trends, benchmarking results, and practical takeaways to support on-farm decision-making.

View the report at <https://lactanet.ca/en/annual-reports/>



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SUSTAINABILITY

ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE

The Prairies’ Debate Over Strychnine Use

Ailsa McFadyen, BA

The recent legislative changes regarding access to strychnine as a rodenticide in Alberta and Saskatchewan have become a polarizing issue. Many producers insist that the chemical is a necessary tool to cope with the damage inflicted by the Richardson’s ground squirrel, while others question the employment of a chemical which has adverse effects on environmental systems and potential safety hazards.

Economic Impact

In March 2020, Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) implemented a federal phase-out of strychnine “due to environmental risks of concern for non-target organisms, including species at risk.” The final phase of the federal ban completed in March 2023, causing extremely negative effects on farmers and ranchers. According to Alberta’s Minister of Agriculture RJ Sigurdson, damages have increased tenfold in the past three years due to crop destruction, pasture degradation, negative impacts on livestock health, and damage to irrigation lines as well as underground infrastructure.

The magnitude of damage caused farmers to fight for the reintroduction of strychnine to control ground squirrel populations. After an initial rejection, the emergency use request (EUR) submitted by the Alberta and Saskatchewan governments was approved on March 30, “authorizing a time-limited and controlled

emergency registration of Strychnine.” The EUR was granted with stricter conditions, including tighter regulation on geographical scope, reduced application time, and risk mitigation measures.

After the EUR expires in November 2027, the path forward becomes unclear. Producers and provincial governments are treating the limited-use authorization as a way to demonstrate that the chemical can be used safely and sustainably.

It’s Complicated

Some suggest the use of strychnine in any form is unethical, and that alternative solutions need to be found.

University of Saskatchewan’s Dr. Ryan Brook has studied the effects of strychnine and is concerned about its recent return to the province. He comments, “Strychnine was banned [in 2020] for a good set of reasons. It’s a danger to human health, pets, and wildlife.” Indeed, PMRA initially cancelled the registration of strychnine due to “unacceptable environmental risks,” such as secondary and accidental poisoning.

Dr. Brook believes producers and legislators need to have a broader approach: “Strychnine can’t be the only tool in the toolbox,” he comments. Zinc phosphide has been considered as a viable alternative. Furthermore, Dr. Brook suggests a more integrated model of environmental management, one that deters ground squirrels through planned infrastructure and integrates the



Photo by Acidfern/Unsplash

natural food chain by supplying healthy ecosystems for the natural predators of ground squirrels.

The development of such a program would provide a long-term, sustainable solution, if it could garner the funding and support needed for such a cooperative approach.

The Difficult Balance

Prospective consumers, while certainly reticent to pay for higher food prices, are also tetchy about participating in systems which are perceived as unpalatable or unsustainable. Health Canada walks a thin

line trying to balance its responsibility to the Canadian public and environmental health while also tending to the economic stability of farmers.

In their initial denial of the EUR, PMRA stated their intent to “work collaboratively with provincial partners to explore opportunities to expand or develop new tools that target RGS.” Although the EUR has since been granted, focusing on viable, long-term alternatives in the intervening years may be the most prudent path forward.

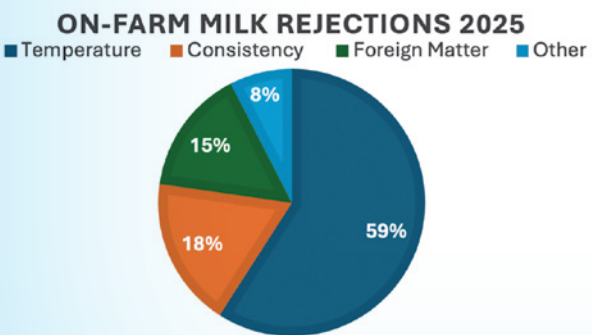
Milk Quality Focus

Keep Your Bulk Tank Tip-Top Prevent Quality Issues Before They Start

Erin Cuthbert, MSc PAg,
Lead Dairy Inspector, BC AGRI

Milk rejections on farm by the bulk tank milk grader (BTMG) are never an easy pill to swallow for producers, but they are essential for keeping sub-optimal milk out of the food supply. What may seem like a minor issue to the naked eye can be a serious concern for milk quality that can only be determined by testing. Today, when milk is rejected on farm, we no longer test rejected milk samples because the science has already shown that this milk should not enter the supply chain.

In 2025, on-farm milk rejections occurred 70 times. The top three reasons for milk rejections were 1) inadequate temperature (too warm or too cold), 2) Poor consistency (ex. coagulated milk particles or butterballs), and 3) foreign matter such as debris or insects.



Inadequate Temperature

Milk that is too warm or too cold at the time of milk pick-up is a serious concern because of the risk of bacteria growth, elevated free-fatty acid levels (FFAs), and reduced quality of the milk, for example, denatured protein due to low milk temperature causing excessive ice.

A sluggish bulk tank that cools milk too slowly or forms excessive ice on its internal surfaces should be approached with caution by the producer, as it will run the risk of the following:

a) Elevated bacteria growth.

Bacteria growth can occur exponentially in milk that is not cooling efficiently which is why it is essential for milk to be cooled as per the conventional and robotic guidelines set out in the MISR. When milk is harvested from a healthy cow, the bacteria levels are around 1000 IBC, and IBC increases are due to contamination from the tank and milking system itself. These bacteria will grow until the milk is cooled below 4.0°C.

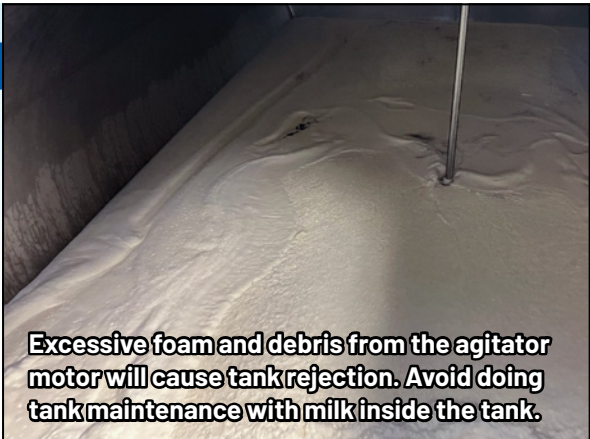
Blend temperature is a great indication of how well a bulk tank is cooling, if combined milk is getting close to exceeding 10.0°C and taking a long time to cool down, it is time to service your bulk tank. Check your milk pick-up sheet for pick-up temperatures, if they are increasing slowly, there could be a problem.

b) Elevated free-fatty acids are also associated with bulk tank cooling issues.

Research shows that bulk tank alarms for low temperature are positively correlated with elevated FFA levels. The more alarms in a month, the more days the farm shipped milk with high FFA levels. Low temperature alarms are associated with ice formation, and when milk freezes the milk fat globule will become damaged and lipolytic activity will increase in the bulk tank. Conversely, slow cooling tanks spend more time stirring milk, which incorporates air into the milk, causing the same globule damage and lipolysis.

Poor Consistency

The presence of butterballs in milk is the second most common reason that bulk tanks are rejected. In most instances, butterballs are caused by delayed or prolonged



Excessive foam and debris from the agitator motor will cause tank rejection. Avoid doing tank maintenance with milk inside the tank.

cooling of the milk while the agitator paddle is operation. Essentially, the bulk tank becomes a butter churn. This type of rejection can occur in an instant when the bulk tank compressor fails, or in some cases, it can occur over a drawn-out period as bulk tank cooling capability slowly becomes compromised. Time-temperature-recorders can be an essential tool for preventing butterballs by alerting the producer to cases of “too slow cooling.”

Foreign Matter

Foreign matter rejections typically refer to the presence of biofilms, debris or specks, insects in the milk; but on rare occasions, the presence of a ladder inside the bulk tank (twice!!). The first places to look are the milk filtration system and the cleanliness of the agitator motor and shaft on the top of the tank. Always make sure the bulk tank lid is kept closed when the tank isn’t being accessed. Even one piece of debris or insect on the surface of the milk will result in a rejection, due to the inability to determine if there is more foreign matter below the surface or at the bottom of the tank. The BTMG is required to take zero risks to avoid compromising the milk that is already on the truck.

On-farm rejections can occur as a one-off, but in most cases, they can be prevented by implementing daily protocols that ensure the bulk tank is cooling effectively and occasionally verifying that the temperature probe on your bulk tank is accurate. It is also essential to check your milk pick-up sheet for any notes your BTMG might have left that could be an early warning sign that your tank is compromised.

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Curtis Clark Achievement Award Nominations Sought for 2026

Nominations for this year's 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 2026 winner will be announced on November 13th 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 Bonnie Cooper, Secretary of the Curtis Clark Achievement Award Committee, by email at becooper2010@gmail.com or call 416-579-6572. Nominations previously submitted for the award need not be submitted again.

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Udder News

Proudly sponsored by RBC



Kyle and Charissa Bremer (Cliffview Dairy, Enderby, BC) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Seth Garrison. Seth was born November 8, 2025, weighing 10lbs 15oz. Proud grandparents are Henry and Henrietta Bremer (Cliffview Dairy, Enderby, BC) and Terry and Ruth Ratzlaff of Enderby, BC.



Elizabeth and Jordan Hamming of Martiann Holsteins (Delta, BC) are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first child, a son, Caden Martin Hamming, born March 19, 2026. Welcomed with so much love, Caden is the fourth grandchild of Perry and Angela Hamming, and the eighth great-grandchild for Martin and Ann Hamming!



Congratulations to Jared and Michelle De Jong on the safe arrival of their sixth child, Josiah Edward De Jong on March 26, 2026. Josiah weighed 8lbs 5oz and is already being spoiled by his older siblings. Proud grandparents are Evan and Susan Schuurman of Schuurman Holsteins (Leduc, AB), and Ted and Greta De Jong of Rose Gate Dairy (Abbotsford, BC).



Michael and Kim Luttmerding of Luttmerding Farms and Mtn-Edge Holsteins (Armstrong, BC), are excited to announce the safe arrival of their son, Chase Alfred Luttmerding, on March 31, 2026, weighing 7lbs 10oz. Big siblings Maya (12) and Beckett (2) are very excited to welcome their new baby brother. Proud grandparents are Gerald and Rachelle Luttmerding (Luttmerding Farms), Trena Jordan, Al and Patti Paterson (Armstrong, BC).

This spring brought plenty of excitement to the Donohoe family, as Mark Donohoe of Malarky Farms (Basswood, MB), welcomed three new grandchildren!



Mark's youngest daughter, Anna and son-in-law Will Hales welcomed their daughter, Grace Edith Hales, on April 8, 2026. Grace is the first grandchild for Brenda and Henry Hales (Minnedosa, MB).



Mark's son, Haydn Donohoe and wife Laci welcomed their fourth child and third son, Joe Martin Donohoe, on April 23, 2026. Joe was warmly greeted by proud grandma, Lylla Peters, and excited older siblings: Hazel, Hank and Jack.



On May 8, 2026, daughter Holly and husband Mike Flaman welcomed their second daughter, Ruby Kay Flaman. Ida (2 years) is thrilled with her baby sister. Proud grandparents include Matthew and Tricia Flaman of Chris-Adie Holsteins (Vibank, SK), along with great-grandparents Keith and Christie Flaman (Regina, SK), and Paul and Therese Kress (Kendall, SK).



Congratulations to Austin and Avery Schaeffer on the birth of their son, Owen Austin Schaeffer on May 1, 2026, at 3:45am, weighing 8lbs 13oz. Both mom and baby are doing great and Blair LOVES being a big sister! Proud grandparents are Ron and Cathy Schaeffer of Ronleen Holsteins (Vibank, SK).

Matthew and Tricia Flaman of Chris-Adie Holsteins (Vibank, SK) celebrated the marriage of their youngest son, Jack to Emma Stevens, daughter of Diana and Derek Stevens (Sackville, NS). The couple married on April 8, 2026, at the Grand Sirenis Riviera Maya Resort in Mexico, surrounded by 90 family members and friends, including older brother and best man Michael Flaman, wife Holly, and flower girl Ida Flaman. Great-grandparents Keith and Christie Flaman (Regina, SK), and Therese Kress (Kendall, SK), also made the trip down to Mexico for the beautiful celebration. Congratulations Jack and Emma!



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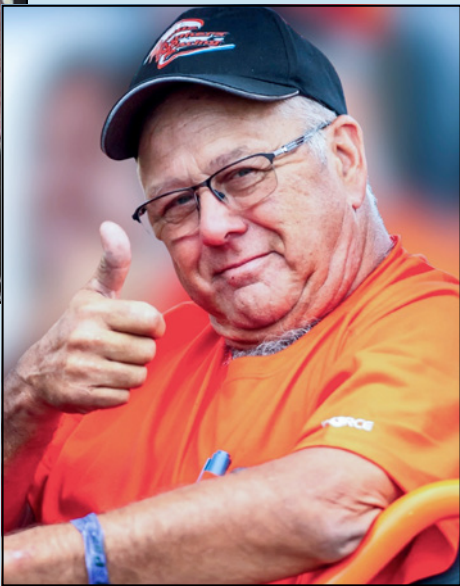
Michele Anderson
Director
Senior Commercial Markets
778-986-2109



Matthew Vaandrager of Craila Dairy (Langham, SK) and Denise Sayles of Bridon Jerseys (Ayr, ON), tied the knot on April 25, 2026, in a beautifully decorated hayshed at Craila Dairy, on a cold and snowy Saskatchewan day. Proud parents are Calvin and Diane Vaandrager and Bruce and Carolyn Sales. The couple followed their wedding with a honeymoon to Banff, Alberta, and continue to make their home at Craila, where they both work.



Rod Rendle
March 14, 1960 –
April 9, 2026



Surrounded by his family, Rod Rendle passed away on April 9th, 2026, at the age of 66, after a year-long battle with a rare form of cancer.

Rod was born in Victoria, BC, the youngest son of Gordon and Bette Rendle, at Stanhope Dairy Farm, where he lived and worked for 62 years, alongside his family.

In 1987, Stanhope formed a partnership with Wedgwood Holsteins (Cobble Hill) and longtime friend Ridley Wikkerink. For nearly 40 years Stanhope-Wedgwood travelled across North America showing cattle, with Rod often behind the wheel in the early days. They achieved many successes including Intermediate Champion at the 1999 Royal Winter Fair with STANHOPE TIFFANY SKYDOME EX-3E 5*, Grand and Supreme Champion at World Dairy Expo with RAINYRIDGE TONY BEAUTY EX-5E 9*, and many accolades at the BC Spring Show and Vancouver Island Holstein Show. They accomplished everything they set out to do, “except winning Grand at the Royal.”

In 2009, when the cows at Stanhope were sold, Rod dove headfirst into his other passion: racing cars. Originally starting with a stock car, Rod, along with Gord, have found success in the “Winged Sprint Car” world, under Rendle Brothers Racing, which travels to races all over the Island and the Pacific Northwest. Whether it was cows or cars, Rod’s competitive nature fuelled his passion for the pastimes he loved, always willing to lend a hand to fellow competitors both at the track and in the show barn.

Rod enjoyed putting miles on his motorhome with Christine, camping, golfing, quadding and building things in his shop, as well as spending time with the people he cherished most, including his grandson Jett.

Predeceased by his parents, Rod is survived by his wife Christine, daughter Christina and grandson Jett, Gord (Karen), Richard (Doris), his “Dutch Brother” Ridley Wikkerink, several nieces and nephews – including Scott, with whom he had a very close relationship, and many close friends. Rod’s warm smile and sense of humour will be missed forever by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Pieter Tuytel Sr.

April 6, 1935 – March 27, 2026

Pieter Tuytel passed away peacefully in his sleep on March 27, 2026, at the age of 90, while living at the Chilliwack Waverly Care Home.

Pieter grew up in Kooiwijk, a small town in the province of South Holland (NLD) on a purebred dairy farm. At age 19, following the sudden passing of his father, Pieter immediately took over managing the farm for this mother.

In 1957, Pieter married Elisabeth and together they welcomed six children before immigrating to Canada in 1968. He got right to work after the family’s morning arrival and was milking cows by the afternoon. In 1969, Pieter and Elisabeth purchased the farm on McGuire Road where they had been renting, while also welcoming their seventh child.

In a nod to his hometown, Pieter started the KOOIWIIK prefix and purchased his first purebred animals in 1980 from San Doeleman’s dispersal sale. KOOIWIIK TEMPO ROSABEL VG-86 became the matriarch of the herd, and her prolific descendants earned Pieter a Master Breeder Shield in 2003. Known for his keen cow sense, Pieter also loved Red & White genetics and took special care in picking bulls to improve the R&W Holsteins in his herd. A lifelong cowman, Pieter spent many hours on the farm well into his retirement and milked cows until he turned 80.

Predeceased by Elisabeth, his wife of nearly 60 years, along with his daughter Corrie, Pieter is survived by sons Bill (Karen), Bert (Patte), and Peter; daughters Adriana, Margaret and Betty, as well as eleven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.



*Where I have gone, I am not so small. My soul is as wide as the world is tall.
I have gone to answer the call – the call of the One who take care of us all.
Wherever you look, you can find me there –
In the heart of a rose, in the heart of a prayer.
On butterflies’ wings, on wings of my own,
To you, I’m gone, but I’m never alone.
I am Home.*

Sophia Margaretha Tamis

March 5, 1930 — January 14, 2026

Sophia Margaretha (Sophie) Tamis passed away peacefully on January 14th, 2026, in Surrey, BC, at the age of 95. Sophie was born on March 5th, 1930 (Ash Wednesday) in Woudsend, Friesland, The Netherlands.

She is lovingly remembered by Arie, her husband of 69 years, and her children; John (Linda) of Lindrian Farms, Agnes (Richard), Linda (Harry), Diane, Ron (Pam); her 18 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Sophie was predeceased by her daughter Mary (Dick).



She grew up on a dairy farm and later became a seamstress. In 1955, she travelled to Surrey, BC, to visit her brother and sister-in-law, Steve and Tina DeJong. There she met Adrian (Arie) Tamis. They soon fell in love and returned to Holland to be married on January 17, 1957. Sophie and Arie returned to Canada and started a dairy farm (Adriso Holsteins). They joined Precious Blood Parish in Cloverdale and were a part of a strong community of “Dutchies” who had all immigrated at that time.

Over time, Sophie and Arie welcomed six children. Sophie put her skills as a seamstress to good use making most of her children’s clothing. She also taught all her daughters to sew, knit and do needlework. She was very active in school and church organizations. She and Arie volunteered many hours to help build Precious Blood Church and Cloverdale Catholic School.

As grandchildren began to arrive, Sophie helped the new moms with babysitting, cooking, cleaning and laundry. She volunteered with Canadian Food for Children, knitted many newborn baby toques as well as beautiful sweaters for her children and grandchildren.

Upon Arie’s early retirement, she took up cross-stitch. She loved to read, garden and was known to visit a casino now and again. Sophie and Arie joined their friends to play cards and go bowling. They also did a lot of travelling. In her last years, Sophie was content to be at home with Arie, reading books, visiting with her children and grandchildren and sharing all the memories of a long and fulfilling life with Arie - her lifelong partner and forever love.

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(Summer 2026 Issue in mail: September 29)



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Relationship Manager
604-621-6795, BC



Tony Lenchyshyn
Relationship Manager
204-291-4633, MB



Udder News CONTINUED

Roy Groothof

December 29, 1961 – April 18, 2026

Roy Leonard Groothof passed away into the arms of Jesus unexpectedly on April 18, 2026, leaving family and friends shocked and deeply saddened. Born in Abbotsford, BC, on December 29, 1961, to his proud parents just minutes after his twin brother Len. Always the quieter one but one half of a whole. They shared a deep bond and working together, they started their company Groothof Trucking at the age of 19. Roy took over ownership when he decided to stop working on his Dad’s dairy farm and go into trucking full time. He ran the company with integrity, a strong work ethic and the help of valued employees and was well known in the forest and agricultural industry. Roy loved his family and dedicated his time helping his kids and grandchildren of whom he was so proud. He loved travelling with his wife and boating, fishing, making huge fires, camping, and hanging out with his circle of friends. Always up for an adventure, he loved to work hard and play hard at his beloved cabin where his journey to Heaven began. He leaves behind a legacy of faith, love, strength, loyalty, and a willingness to help people quietly behind the scenes.

Roy will be deeply missed by his loving wife of 39 years, Cheryl; daughter Alyssa (Michael), Carson, Sophia, Hailey, and Olivia; son Ethan (Melissa) Roy, Jake, Emma, and Ada; daughter Alexandra (Matthew); parents Henry and Alice, siblings Len (Angela), Bernice (Darren), Stanley (Monica); brother-in-law Kevin (Kim), father-in-law Ray and mother-in-law Ann, as well as many nieces and nephews. There are a multitude of family and friends who will miss him more than words can ever say. A celebration of Life service was held at Gateway Community CRC, on May 5th. Donations can be made to Tribe Mission International. <https://www.tribemissioninternational.org/donate>. Please write in the comment box, In Memory of Roy Groothof.



Laurence Sprangers

November 8, 1929 - January 6, 2026

Laurence Sprangers passed away on January 6th, 2026. He was predeceased by his daughter Marcia and his wife Antonia. He is survived by his children Jackie Jones (Stan), Joanne Stewart (Craig), Mark, Laurence (Melanie), and Michelle Gallina (Patrick), as well as many grandchildren. Laurence was born in Lage Zwaluwe, Holland, on November 8th, 1929, into a

family of eight siblings, three sisters and five brothers. He and his family survived the perils of occupied Holland with grit and tenacity before he immigrated to Canada in 1952 with a suitcase, the clothing on his back, and change in his pockets. He returned briefly to Holland to find his true love of 62 years, Antonia. Laurence and Antonia started their family and dairy farm in Cloverdale, moving to Chilliwack’s Lickman Road in 1967. They busied themselves raising a family of six and breeding a successful Holstein herd using the LAUTONI prefix. Yet they found time to square dance, curl, bowl, support local 4-H, and grow their Catholic faith at St. Mary’s Church. They really blossomed once Laurence retired at 65 and spent more time travelling and socializing with friends. Laurence also found immense joy singing with the local Barbershop Singers until he could sing no more. Once Antonia passed, he found peace tending to their large garden and watching the world develop with curious fascination. The family celebrated Laurence’s 96th birthday where he was surrounded by family and friends. They’ll remember their dad as a man who was spirited, adventurous and lived his final years with gratitude, warmth, and kindness. “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me,” were words he often spoke.



Dick Vink

October 15, 1932 - April 19, 2026

Dick was born in Wyngaarden, Holland, on October 15, 1932, to Gysbert and Maria Vink. He was raised with nine siblings on a small dairy farm in Oud Alblas, Holland. In May of 1952, Dick and three of his siblings, along with a sister-in-law, niece and nephew, sailed to Canada in search of their dreams of becoming farmers. In February 1955, Dick met and married the love of his life, Betty, and together they raised their six children. In 1959, Dick and Betty rented a dairy farm in Matsqui and began farming on their own. In 1969, they bought their dream farm in Yarrow where they bred Holsteins using the CHARLINDA prefix. Long after retirement, Dick would purchase bred heifers to graze his pasture every summer. In 1996, he retired from dairy farming to a dream home designed by Betty, on a corner of their former property. Later, Dick and Betty purchased a cabin at Loon Lake in Cache Creek, where the entire family regularly spent holidays at the lake, fishing, boating and making special memories. Dick’s hobbies were hunting, fishing, roller skating, snow skiing, water skiing, hiking and camping trips. He was always active in his church, leading boys club (Crusaders) and hosting youth events at the farm. Dick was so proud to be a Canadian and had a real interest in politics and current events. Dick was predeceased by his parents, seven siblings, son Kenneth and grandson, Kevin. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Betty, daughters, Linda (Ernie), Charlene (Martin), Karen (Doug), Donna (Art), and son Jim (Mary), 20 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren, four great great grandchildren, and his large extended family. His greatest desire was that his family and friends will meet him in heaven one day.



Neil Allan Muxlow

May 12, 1952 – March 14, 2026

Neil Allan Muxlow passed away on March 14, 2026, at age of 73, at his home in Chilliwack, BC, surrounded by the memories of a life lived exactly as he intended: on his own terms and full of laughter. Born in Gladmar, SK, the fourth of seven children born to Rich and Kay Muxlow, Neil moved to Chilliwack with his family at the age of five. Farming wasn’t just a job for Neil; it was in his blood. He took great pride in the hard work and also enjoyed the business of farming. Neil is survived by his devoted wife Michelle; his sons Kevin (Serina) and Colin (Tamara), and their mother Jo-Ann; and his stepdaughter Beverly (Alex). He was the proudest Grandpa to Grace, Spencer, Fraser, Preston, Porter, MacLean, Logan and Lynsey. They were truly the lights of his life. Whether he was cheering from the sidelines of a hockey rink, a basketball court or a rugby field, Neil was their biggest fan.

Neil knew how to work hard, but he knew how to live even better. He was a man of many passions and a competitor - from the grit of team roping to the greens of the golf course, the freedom of his motorcycle, and the thrill of travel, he lived life to the fullest. He cherished his second home in Arizona, where he enjoyed a “second life” filled with sunshine and a multitude of dear friends. Neil was a legendary storyteller; he possessed a quick wit and a classic sense of humor. Often reminding those around him that one should “never let the truth get in the way of a good story.” Neil was predeceased by his parents, Rich and Kay; his brother Ivan and his nephew Timmy. He leaves behind his siblings: Stuart (Linda), Kathy (Harry), Glen (Julie), Hal, Harvey (Susie), and sister in-law Maggie, along with his many beloved nieces and nephews, and many lifelong friends. “He lived his life to the fullest, full of love, happiness, and fun, He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.”



Charles Nwagbogwu
Relationship Manager
236-558-0706, BC



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Money Matters in the Cancer Fight

This year marks five years since Kim Keulen (Neveridle Dairy Farm, Delta, BC) passed away from colon cancer, which has seen a dramatic increase among people under the age of 50. Kim was only 38 years old. To mark these five years, the Keulen family, in partnership with the BC Cancer Foundation, has launched a fundraiser to help bring the first PET/CT scanners to the Fraser Valley Region, to be installed at the new BC Cancer Centre coming to Cloverdale.

PET/CT scanners are among the most powerful tools in cancer care today. During Kim's treatment, these scans were essential in guiding decisions, evaluating progress, and providing clarity during incredibly difficult moments. Yet access to this technology remains limited in British Columbia, with scanners currently only available in Vancouver, Kelowna, and Victoria.

Kim was a beautiful person, both inside and out. Though not having grown up on a farm, she quickly adapted to the farming lifestyle, seeking to be a support wherever she could. When her husband George faced his own health crisis, needing a double-lung transplant, she was ever faithful in keeping him going in the face of mounting odds.

In addition to her faith, which served as the backdrop and motivating factor behind all of what Kim sought to be and do, the three values that played such a huge part in making Kim who she was were *People, Practicality, and Generosity*. Choosing to raise funds to help bring the first PET/CT scanners south of the Fraser was a decision made in line with Kim's core values – something that would help thousands of people in the future, something very functional and practical in cancer care, and something

for which we would have to dig deep in generosity.

As cancer diagnoses continue to rise, so does the need for faster, more accessible imaging. Expanding access to these diagnostic imaging machines in the Fraser Valley will reduce wait times, ease the burden of travel, and help ensure patients receive the right care at the right time.

Kim left a lasting legacy in the lives of everyone she was close to, and now, it is her family's hope that her legacy will touch the lives of those who will benefit from these machines. Their goal is to raise \$750,000 by the end of the year. Currently, all donations are being matched 2:1, this means that for every dollar donated, three dollars will be going to help pay for these critical machines in the fight against cancer. At the start of June, \$203,710 was raised – over 25% of the goal!

If you or your business would like to consider donating, please check out the website, www.georgekeulen.com for more information, and for a link to their BC Cancer Foundation fundraising page fundraising page.



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Navigating Recent Changes to Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker Program

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

In recent years, Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker Program has received consistent public and political attention. This has resulted in ongoing changes and uncertainty for employers who access labour through the LMIA program. However, for Canadian agriculture employers, the federal government continues to recognize that foreign workers are a vital part of the industry. While farmers should expect continued access to the program for the foreseeable future, they should also expect increased scrutiny and stricter enforcement of existing rules. Employers who understand and adapt to the changing requirements, as well as make genuine efforts to use the program in good faith, will continue to access foreign labour when needed.

“Employers who understand and adapt to the changing requirements, as well as make genuine efforts to use the program in good faith, will continue to access foreign labour when needed.”

In the Primary Agriculture and Seasonal Agriculture Worker streams, the most significant recent change is the reintroduction of recruitment efforts

aimed at Canadians and permanent residents. Prior to submitting an LMIA application, employers are again required to advertise positions locally for at least two weeks – a requirement that had been suspended since the Covid-19 pandemic. Advertisements are required to be posted for two weeks prior to the submission of an LMIA application, using at least two separate platforms. One of the mandatory advertising platforms is the federal government’s Canada Job Bank.

When submitting an LMIA application, employers must provide results of their recruitment efforts and explain why any Canadian citizen or permanent resident who applied was not hired. Employers should also be aware that Service Canada officers reviewing LMIA applications have access to their Canada Job Bank portal and will be aware if any legitimate resumes were received from Canadian applicants.

Beyond this change, Service Canada Officers are applying the current rules of the TFWP more strictly. For example, in some cases, employers would request more positions on an LMIA than they require with the intention of reserving a position for future use, in case an employee leaves



unexpectedly or staffing needs change. This way they still have an open position without the need to reapply for a new LMIA. This type of action is the sort of thing that Service Canada is trying to reduce. Employers are expected to ensure that every position requested in an LMIA application reflects a legitimate need on the farm.

Generally, this scrutiny comes in the form of a phone interview with the Service Canada officer processing the application. This step of the LMIA process largely disappeared over the past few years but has returned almost universally so far in 2026. During these calls, employers are expected to be aware of details such as the job title they are trying to fill, the wage they

are offering and the results of their recruitment efforts. If the officer is satisfied that you have made a genuine effort to fill the role with a Canadian prior to applying and have a genuine labour need to be filled, these calls usually result in a positive LMIA decision.

There is no doubt employers seeking access to the LMIA/Foreign Worker program are facing increased scrutiny. Despite these changes, it’s clear that the Federal Government still recognizes the important role that Foreign Workers play in the agriculture sector. For employers who use the program in good faith, and remain compliant with program requirements, foreign workers will likely continue to be an essential part of their farms for years to come.



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4-H News From BC

Next submission deadline: August 28,
Fall 2026 issue in the mail September 29.

Chris Maarhuis: 604-855-1240
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MATSQUI HOLSTEIN 4-H CLUB

Club Reporter: Jason Kampman



Hello, this is Jason Kampman, club reporter for the Matsqui Holstein 4-H Club. Since my last report in March, much more has happened.

The District Speeches went well. Two of our members placed first and second. Mikaela Yoder received first in Juniors, and Michael Kampman placed second in Seniors. Both went to Regionals and did an awesome job with their speeches.

Our meeting during spring break was at Kambro Farms. We worked on the 4-H knot, learned about farm drugs and how to use them and what animals to use them on, and learned how to measure a calf properly. Our next meeting was our judging meeting held at Golden Gate Farms. We focused on proper terminology and used such skills to judge three classes of cows of different lactations. Thank you, Mrs. Yoder, for hosting our meeting.

Our annual flower fundraiser went well. All profits will go towards funding our fair costs for the summer. A big thank you to those who have purchased flowers from us - Let's hope you remember to water them and can make them last longer than a few weeks!

Every member has handed in their calf selection paper and is now busy in training and preparing for the fairs. We hope to see everyone in (or around) the show ring soon.

SUMAS HOLSTEIN 4-H CLUB

Club Reporter: Mia Bouwman

In early April, we had six members attend District Speeches. Kaycee Meier got First, along with Kylie Luymes in third. Also in April, our members presented their Educational Displays and had one Speak and Show. Thank you to Lorene Barnum for hosting us. The winners for our club Educational Displays were:

- 1st place Junior: Frazer Winkelaar with "Eyes on Screens"
- 1st place Senior: Olivia Dueck with "Substitute Sodas"
- 2nd place Senior: Kaycee Meier with "Growing Leaders for Life"
- 3rd place Senior: Hudson Winkelaar with "Protein on your Plate"

Our Speak and Show was presented by Frazer Winkelaar who went on to Districts. Thank you to our Ambassadors Sophia and Lacey for judging. In May, we had our club judging day and dairy quiz. We judged a class of heifers and 2-year olds. Thank you, Tara Sweetnam from Agwest Veterinary Clinic, for being our judge and to Kielstras for hosting the event. On June 1st, the club went to the practice judging rally at the Agrifair pole barn and learned how to judge other projects for the District Judging Rally on June 13.

This year, our club will be attending the Vancouver Island Show, Maple Ridge, Agrifair, and the Chilliwack Fair.

Thank you to everyone that bought tickets from our semen raffle in support of us going to the Vancouver Island Show.

Sumas Holstein is participating in the Gator Lottery, so we encourage everyone to enter their name for a chance to win a Gator!



RIDGE MEADOWS DAIRY CLUB

Club Reporter: Josephine Ansell

Our club is excited to start a brand-new year! Our original name, Brookfield Dairy, has undergone a new change to Ridge Meadows Dairy. We are starting the year with 14 members showing Holstein and Jersey calves. We've had three club meetings so far and elected our club executives:

- President: Chloe Shimmin
- Vice President: Callia Shimmin
- Secretary: Makayla Barclay
- Treasurer: Heidi Ansell
- Press Reporter: Josie Ansell & Josh Braaksma
- Safety Officers: Henry Chevalier & Sam Hamming

We held our club speeches in March. A big congratulations to our Junior member, Josh Braaksma, who came third in regional speeches! We're looking forward to attending our district judging rally and the Maple Ridge Fair! We can't wait to see what this year has in store!

*Congratulations to all speech participants!
You're building skills that will benefit
you in every part of your life!
Wishing everyone a safe summer and
fun show season!*

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World Ayrshire Youth Tour

The Trip of a Lifetime in New Zealand

Colin Balme,
Balme Ayr Farms, Duncan, BC

In January, I had the opportunity to visit New Zealand on behalf of Ayrshire Canada, as part of the World Ayrshire Youth Tour. We would be travelling throughout the Kiwi countryside, looking at some of the best Ayrshire herds! Since I was already going halfway across the world, I took the opportunity to see a bit more of the country outside of the tour. I landed in Auckland on January 18th, met up with some friends from college, and practiced driving on the left side of the road before heading out to Roger and Jane Hutchings in Ōkaihau to see the Lodore herd. They milk 650 cows in a rotary parlour, which takes around two hours. Their farm also hosts a sanctuary and recovery center for rescued Kiwis – an endangered, flightless bird, roughly the size of a chicken, native to NZ – with an estimated 50 pairs living on the farm. Following an excellent visit, I headed back

towards Auckland to join the official tour at the airport. Our group included Samuel MacAdam (Australia), Reuben Allison (New Zealand), Megan Stratton (UK), and Emelie Runarsson and Elvira Davidsson (Sweden), along with our tour guides for the North Island, Charlotte Stachurski and Jonathan Glentworth.

The first herd we visited was Carmelglen near Waiuku, which was founded in 1907 and began registering in 1911. Today, they milk 245 Pedigree Ayrshires, many of which can be traced back to the first registration in 1911. They have incorporated some Canadian genetics in their herd breeding program, currently using Kildare Marcus, Marbrae Challenger and Laroc Crispers. That evening, we visited the Brookview herd and saw the show string they were preparing for the NZ Dairy Event, the national show in Fielding.

The next day, we toured the Livestock Improvement barn, which is a co-op similar to DHL, offering herd testing and genetic solutions. They have a methane trial barn, where they are testing different herds to see how efficient the cows are on different



Roger Hutchings with his heifers at Lodore Farm.

rations. Individual feed troughs scan each cow's ear tag to measure daily feed intake and collect a variety of data for the study.

In the afternoon, we toured Goldwyn Ayrshires, with impressive production from their pasture and feedpad. Then we travelled south to Taranaki. Unfortunately, it was overcast, and we couldn't see Mount Taranaki, the only active volcano in that area. Our hosts told us to "just imagine it!"

We toured a few farms in the Taranaki region, including the Kenmure, Fern View, Waitower, Sanrosa, South Wind and Te Matai. At Te Matai they use a system called 'Halter.' It brings the cows in from the field for milking and sets borders throughout the farm, using an app. This allows the farmer to be more efficient with grazing, making sure the herd does not waste any pasture. Using sound and vibration, it keeps the animals within a virtual fence set by the farmer. It also detects heats and monitors rumination. The technology was very impressive; it would certainly save on labour and fences in a pasture-based dairy or beef operation.

We carried on south to Palmerston North and Fielding for the New Zealand Dairy Event, where we helped our sponsors with their show string and saw a lot of good animals from every breed. This year, KITEROA CREAM BUBBETTE, an Ayrshire

from Ōhaupō, took home Supreme Champion in the All-Breeds Exhibition as well as Senior Grand Champion of the Ayrshire show.

After an exciting few days at the show, we jumped on a plane from Wellington to Christchurch for the second half of the tour. Our first stop was at Hatherleigh Ayrshires, who supply A2 milk for baby formula. We also toured the Musica herd owned by the Ackermanns. We visited the Royal Albatross Centre in Dunedin, a sanctuary built at Fort Taiaroa, where we got a close-up view of Albatross and their chicks in the nest. Afterwards, we toured Bonacord Farms, where we did an on-farm judging challenge, and visited Rosedene Ayrshires in the afternoon. In the evening, we visited Curio Bay and saw some penguins returning at high tide.

The next day, we carried on to Ingleside Ayrshires and Inglecorner Ayrshires, and the weather finally cleared so we could see Stewart Island from the Riverton Rocks. During the final day of our trip, we travelled north towards Queenstown, where we boarded the historic TSS Earnslaw that took us across Lake Whakatipu for lunch and a working dog demonstration at Walter Peak Farm. It was an excellent way to end the trip with a great group of young Ayrshire breeders!



A cow at Te Matai wearing the specialized collar for the 'Halter' system, an innovative virtual fencing system that uses sound and vibration.

Ashlee McAvoy heads to EYBS with Team Canada

Ashlee McAvoy (Armstrong, BC) will be attending the 24th European Young Breeders School (EYBS) as part of Team Canada at the beginning of September. She was chosen from Western Canada, based on her High Point

Participant standing at the 2025 WestGen Canadian Classic, finishing second overall (1st Senior) behind Junior participant, Georgia de Lange.

The event, which began in 1999, welcomes competitors to Battice, Belgium, for several days that include training on animal preparation, nutrition, judging, showmanship, marketing, genetic selection and leadership. Last year, 164 eager participants attended, forming 28 teams from 19 different countries. Team Canada is sponsored by Holstein Canada, Holstein Quebec and Semex.

Best of luck Ashlee and Team Canada!



The Tour Group:
(L-R) Colin Balme
(CAN), Reuben
Allison (NZ),
Emelie Runarsson
and Elvira
Davidsson (SWE),
Megan Stratton
(UK), and Samuel
MacAdam (AUS).





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Jersey Canada News

From Pasture to Parliament: 2026 Jersey Canada AGM

Michelle Grubb,
Communications Specialist, Jersey Canada



Doug Robinson presents Senator Rob Black with a Jersey Canada hoodie in the Senate Chamber.

The 2026 Jersey Canada Annual General Meeting was held March 27 through 29, in Ottawa, Ontario. The event was organized by outgoing Jersey Canada President, Doug Robinson, and the St. Lawrence Valley Jersey Club.

The weekend began with a visit to the Senate of Canada, where the group met with Senator Rob Black. Senator Black addressed attendees in the interim Senate

Chamber, which has served as the Senate’s temporary home since 2019 while Parliament Hill’s Centre Block undergoes renovations. The visit gave attendees a chance to see how Canada’s government works and how agriculture fits into those conversations. Following the Senate visit, the group embarked on a guided bus tour of the city and received presentations from representatives of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Dairy Farmers of Canada and EastGen. They also visited the Canadian Agriculture and Food Museum and finished the day off with the dinner theatre experience, “Oh Canada Eh!?” in downtown Ottawa.

The Annual General Meeting was called to order on Saturday the 28th. Members reviewed 2025 committee and financial reports and discussed nine member-submitted resolutions. All of which were voted on and passed and are available on the Jersey Canada website: jerseycanada.com.

Saturday evening concluded with the Jersey Canada Awards Banquet. Emceed by Jeff Waldroff, the evening began with recognizing the 2025 All-Canadians. This was followed by honoring the award recipients, including Master Breeder winners – Mike and Brenda Slegers. Incoming Jersey Canada President Danny Morin presented the past president’s pin to Doug Robinson

before the evening closed out with a live auction.

The auction opened with a special guest appearance by a young Jersey heifer from Payneside Farms. The heifer was a stand in for PAYNESIDE JACK N JUNE, who was donated to the auction by a syndicate, with proceeds going to the Jersey Canada Youth Fund. The auction continued with many generous contributions offered through both the live sale and a silent auction.

On Sunday, seven farms across the region welcomed visitors for a self-guided farm tour. From milking robot systems to traditional tie-stall barns, each stop showcased a different style of farm, while all sharing one thing in common: our favourite Jersey cow.

Included on the tour were Therihof Jerseys, owned by the Elshof family; Creek Valley Farms, owned by the Loos family; Jamink Farms, owned by the Booyink family; and Walnutlane Jerseys, owned by the Cooper family. Those travelling west had the opportunity to visit Spruce Briar, owned by the Bromley family, while eastern tourgoers could stop in at Ferme Cavallait, owned by the Poirier family, and Ferme Oakriver, operated by Patricia Fontaine and Bruno Laurin. Together, the farms offered a fitting and memorable way to wrap up an unforgettable weekend.



A Total of \$15,500 Raised for the Jersey Canada Youth Fund!

Thank you to Payneside Farms, the St. Lawrence Valley Jersey Club, and the syndicate members for donating to the Jersey Canada Youth Fund through the sale OF PAYNESIDE JACK N JUNE at the Jersey Canada AGM auction on March 28, 2026.

Congratulations to the Cole family of Wynt Farms in Nova Scotia on their winning bid of \$6,000, best of luck with this new addition to your herd!

The following syndicate members each purchased a \$250 share of Jack N June, contributing a total of \$8,500 to the Youth Fund:

Ferme Oakriver
Quality Holsteins & Jersey
Joanne Edwards
Drentex Jerseys
John White
Weeksdale Holsteins
Glenholme Jerseys
Michael St. Pierre
Maker Farms
Meadow Lawn/Barry Little
Jordan Raymer
Sterling Park
Brent Joly
Bryan & Jennifer Weldrick
Bel-Smith Farms
Bridon Farms
George & Dawn Van Kampen
Sara Loos

Danny & Heidi Morin
Redview Jerseys
Olivier Marquis
Dorothy Robinson
Marcel Choiniere
Lencrest Jerseys
Unique ValleyStream Genetics
Eric Dupasquier
Allison Bossel
Theriof Jerseys
RJ Farms
Sleeperholm Jerseys
Caledon Jerseys
Charlyn Jerseys
Bruce Robinson
Betty & Brent Butcher



The “Brown Cows & Green Tractors” quilt brought a winning bid of \$1000!



Congratulations to the Cole family on the purchase of PAYNESIDE JACK N JUNE (L-R): Doug Robinson, Helene & Kyle Cole, Jill Robinson.

Jersey Canada also thanks Arlene Ross, Maria Elshof, Tracy Porteous, Jen Fraser, and friends for creating and donating the “Brown Cows & Green Tractors” quilt to the AGM auction. Doug and Jill Robinson purchased the quilt for \$1,000, with proceeds supporting the Youth Fund.

A Message From Jersey West

JERSEY WEST

Tracy & Casey Morey, Co-Chairs, Jersey West

Jersey West has undergone some changes recently. We would like to thank Sean Smith for taking the lead of Jersey West for the last few years and for all his efforts, Western Jersey breeders thank you!

Casey and Tracy Morey will be co-chairing Jersey West moving forward with the capable assistance of their team: Michael Haeni, Michael Haambuckers, Rachel Bueckert, Kirsty McAvoy, Nick Isenschmid, Lee Morey, and Mike Podschadly.

Jersey West recently committed to a

Diamond-level sponsorship of the WCC Youth program, demonstrating our commitment to the youth in the dairy industry. Members, watch for a Jersey West newsletter coming into your email inboxes soon!

April Proofs: Western Jersey Highlights

April Proofs saw Western Canadian bred and owned UNIQUE MATTADOR HEAVEN EX93 2E, maintain her top spot on the Jersey LPI cow list at +2251. Heaven is a direct descendent of VALLEYSTREAM REMAKE HONEY (Westerner Dairy Showcase Grand

Champion 2009 and Jersey Canada Cow of the Year nominee 2011), thus SILVER B HILDA on the bottom side and AVONLEA MISCHIEF’S MAGNOLIA (Intermediate Champion RAWF 2006 and aunt to the infamous Martha) on her top side. Heaven resides in Alberta and is in her seventh proof round (two years) in the #1 spot. Heaven joins eight of her herd mates and two more Western Canadian bred cows on the top 20 cow list, making a total of 11 of the top 20 coming from Jersey West. CLANMAN TBF TIDAL (MB) comes in at #13 on the May listing and KAMBRO CHIEF JANE 7717 (BC) comes in at #16.

Western Bred Bull Making an Impact

SUNNYHILL AIR, bred by Michael and Gina Haambuckers (Enderby, BC), is gaining international notoriety with several daughters performing well around the world at varying shows. One of his daughters, TRIPLE S PANAMA AIR, owned by Triple S Farms & Glorybound Holsteins (Enderby, BC), just went max score VG89 on her second lactation. Congratulations to both the Haambuckers and Triple S/Glorybound, we look forward to seeing how both these animals continue to develop and make an impact within the Jersey breed!



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Industry Updates

Introducing Pinnacle Equipment!

It's been a busy time in May for Pinnacle Equipment – the new name for DLE Avenue Equipment that we are all familiar with.

Michael Correale, President of Pinnacle, is both excited at the new unifying name, but also reassures everyone that “everything else stays the same.” He says, “You’ll still be working with the same team you know and trust, along with the equipment, brands, and support you rely on.”

Pinnacle Equipment celebrated by hosting the ‘Big Orange Event’ – a Kubota specialty – together with the Grand Opening of the new impressive location in Abbotsford. “Over the course of the three days, more than 1,300 people came through our doors. As we move forward as Pinnacle Equipment, we’re grateful for the support we’ve received and look forward to continuing to serve our customers and community.”

They operate out of nine BC locations – Dawson Creek, Williams Lake, Vernon, Kamloops, Kelowna, Oliver, Surrey and two in Abbotsford – Sumas Way and the new location on North Parallel.



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2026 WESTGEN CANADIAN CLASSIC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18	
7:00 am	Move In and Setup
2:30pm	Interprovincial Committee Meeting (draw clipping calves)
6:00 pm	Get Acquainted Night with dinner Sponsored by Penner Farm Services
10:00 - 5:00am	Security on Duty Nightly
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19	
9:00 am	Dairy Science Quiz
11:00 am	Check papers
11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Herdsman Competition
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Clipping Competition (staggered start)
1:00 pm	Lunch for participants Sponsored by Central Manitoba Holstein Club
3:00 pm	Clipping Results
6:00 pm	Fun Night Sponsored by Masterfeeds & MB Holstein Branch
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20	
10:00 am	Judging Competition
12:30pm	Lunch for participants Sponsored Tristar Dairy Centre Ltd.
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Herdsman Competition • Free Evening
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21	
9:30 am	Opening Ceremonies
10:00am - end of show	Herdsman Competition
10:00 am	Showmanship Competition
11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Canteen open for lunch Lunch Provided for participants Sponsored by WestGen Team Photos following Showmanship • Free Evening
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22	
10:00 am - end of show	Herdsman Competition
10:00 am	Conformation Classes *European Young Breeders School Presentation during Winter Heifer Heats
11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Canteen open for lunch Lunch provided for participants Sponsored by WestGen
4:00 pm	Closing Ceremonies
6:30 pm	Awards Banquet & Dance Sponsored by Dairy Farmers of Manitoba Victoria Inn, Brandon

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— Appreciating Our Holstein Past — Revisiting Stories from the Holstein Journal York Region's Royal Grand Champions~PART 1

At the 2026 York Region Holstein Club Banquet in Ontario, this author (and former Holstein Journal editor), spoke of the famous cows with connections to York Region who have been Grand Champion at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. We are presenting the oldest and newest Grand Champions in Part 1. Part 2 will share more winners from York.

The first Royal Agricultural Winter Fair was held in Toronto, ON, in 1922. Over the last 100+ years, there have been 12 different Holstein cows with ties to York Region who have been a Royal Grand Champion.



ALTONA LEA UNIX HERMINIE EX-97-3E was Grand Champion at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair's National Holstein Show in 2025 for Dalton & Alan Faris, East Gwillimbury, ON.

Vicki Fletcher photo



SILVIA PABST TEXAL EX-4* was Grand Champion at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in 1957-58-59, but won many other championships like this one at Calgary Exhibition & Stampede in 1957 where she can be seen with owners Curtis Clark (left) and Lloyd Pickard (right) of Carstairs, AB.



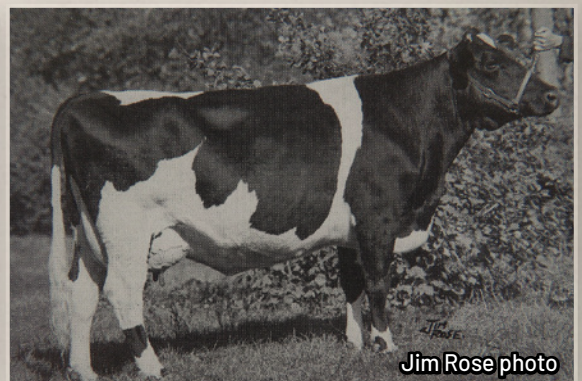
QUALITY B C FRANTISCO EX-96-3E-31* was Grand and Supreme Champion 2X at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair for breeder and owner Quality Holsteins, Woodbridge, ON, and she is seen here at the time of her 2005 win with, from left: Judge Hank Van Exel; Ari Ekstein of Quality Holsteins; Bert Stewart at halter; and Paul Ekstein of Quality Holsteins.

Vicki Fletcher photo



ROYAL GRAND CHAMPION AND ALL-CANADIAN AGED COW IN 1947 - GLENVUE NOELLE INKA - EX-4* - Hays Ltd., Toronto, ON and Solana Rios, Uruguay.

Harry Strohmeyer photo



ROYAL GRAND CHAMPION AND ALL-CANADIAN FOUR YEAR OLD IN 1955 - GLENVUE ROSALIE FOND HOPE - VG Romandale Farms, Unionville, ON.

Jim Rose photo

Bonnie Cooper,
becooper2010@gmail.com

The first was **GLENVUE NOELLE INKA EX-4*** in 1947. Owned by Hays Ltd., Toronto, ON, and Solana Rios of Uruguay, this INKA SUPREME REFLECTION daughter was bred by Doug Dunton, Brampton, ON. Dunton sold Noelle to Elmcroft Farms, Oshawa, ON, in the mid-1940s. They sold her to Rios. Hays Ltd. likely appears as her Royal co-owner because they were the export firm involved in her purchase. The Hays family got their start in Alberta in the early 1900s and had a well-known Holstein herd. Brothers Tom, Harry and Jack Hays exhibited at the Royal from 1929 until the herd was dispersed in 1947. The family got into the export business after World War II and opened an office in downtown Toronto. The operation later moved to Oakville, ON, where Hays Farms International became a respected exporter and sale manager. Noelle is from the same family as GLENVUE NETTIE JEMIMA. She's also the dam of ELMCROFT VOYAGEUR M, the sire of SPRING FARM FOND HOPE, a leading sire of All-Canadians and a show bull in his own right.

In 1955, a 4-year-old Fond Hope daughter, **GLENVUE ROSALIE FOND HOPE VG**, also bred by Doug Dunton, was Royal Grand Champion for Stephen B. Roman of Romandale Farms, Unionville, ON. Rosalie was the first of four Royal Grand Champion females for Romandale. Roman was the founder and president of

Denison Mines and the Roman Corporation. Despite his vast success, Roman remained a "country boy at heart." He established a dairy farm at King City, ON, in 1950 and then bought farms near Unionville in 1954 where this internationally recognized herd remained until its dispersal in 1990. Stephen's brother George was his operative partner/farm manager. They hired Dave Houck as herd superintendent in 1953. Together the three men made a powerful team for nearly 40 years.

In 1957-58-59, the Royal Grand Championship went to **SILVIA PABST TEXAL EX-4***, a LONELM TEXAL LOGMAN daughter bred by York member Victor Reid, York Mills, ON. She was shown by Lloyd Pickard and Curtis Clark of Acme Holsteins, Carstairs, AB. Silvia is one of only seven Holstein females to be Royal Grand Champion 3X. Pickard spotted Silvia in a pasture while looking for consignments for the Maple Cattle Breeders Association Sale in 1956. When Reid didn't know what cow he was talking about, Pickard returned to the pasture in the rain and sketched her markings on a cigarette package. He bought Silvia for \$750. Pickard & Clark were partners from 1943-66. Acme Holsteins dominated the western shows and fueled Western Canada's invasions at the Royal when they travelled by train and boxcar. Silvia was All-Canadian Aged Cow 3X and Reserve All-Canadian 2X.

In 2004 and 2005, **QUALITY B C FRANTISCO EX-96-3E-31*** was Royal Grand and Supreme Champion for Paul & Ari Ekstein of Quality Holsteins, the 4X Master

Breeder herd at Woodbridge, ON. Frantisco was sired by BOULET CHARLES and a granddaughter of PLUSHANSKI VALIANT FRAN, the 35* brood cow. Frantisco was nominated for All-Canadian eight consecutive years (1999-2006), seven of those in milking form. She was All-Canadian 5X. Frantisco was Holstein Canada "Cow of the Year" in 2005 and the dam of 18 EX daughters.

In 2025, **ALTONA LEA UNIX HERMINIE EX-97-3E** became Grand Champion of the largest Holstein Show ever at the Royal for Dalton & Alan Faris of Farisview Holsteins, East Gwillimbury, ON. Herminie was bred by Altona Lea Farms, the 4X Master Breeder herd at Blackstock, ON, established by Frank & Donna Barkey and currently owned by children Glenn and Carolyn and their families. Herminie is sired by CROTEAU LESPERRON UNIX. She is a descendant of ALTONA LEA STARLITE HARRIETT EX-9*, from whom 11 generations of EX trace. The Farises acquired Herminie as a 3-year-old in 2022. She is housed and cared for by Adam & Derek Clark at Clarkvalley Holsteins, Woodville, ON. Herminie was All-Canadian and All-American Mature Cow in 2025 after being Reserve All-Canadian and nominated for All-American in 2023-24. Since 1919, three generations of the Faris family have bred Holsteins in York under the Poplar Hall, Fairshome and now Farisview prefix. They have won three Master Breeder shields. The Farisview herd moved to a new farm in Simcoe County in 2008, but the Farises still reside in York and have been very active in the York Holstein Club.



SUSTAINABILITY ENSURING A DAIRY FUTURE



Christine Kuo, MSc

There are multiple influences on fertility, including genetics. At the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar, Dr. Christine Baes, professor and Canada Research Chair in Livestock Genomics at the University of Guelph, shared current and emerging knowledge about the relationships between fertility and genetics, as well as suggestions for improving fertility in Canadian dairy herds.

The current state of breeding for fertility

Fertility is a complex trait. Currently, the traits used to evaluate fertility include age at first service, non-return rate in heifers, non-return rate in cows, first service to conception, and calving to first service.

Dr. Baes explained that "current fertility traits are imperfect" because they are heavily influenced by management, do not always reflect the underlying biology of the cow, and have low heritability, making genetic progress slower than for production traits like milk yield.

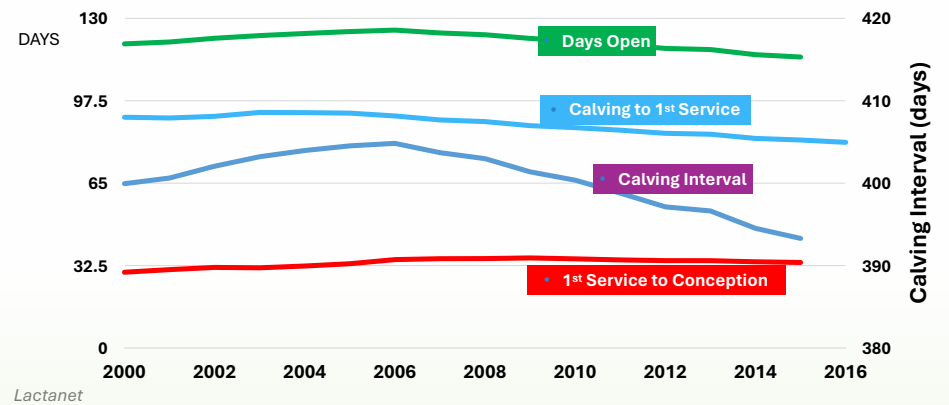


Dr. Christine Baes explained how fertility genetic trait selection can be improved through better phenotypes, accurate recording of on-farm data and genomics.

The future of breeding for fertility

New "closer-to-biology" fertility traits that have improved heritability are emerging. Dr. Baes presented research from universities across North America showing that reproductive tract size and position, anogenital distance, and sensor-derived estrus traits are associated with fertility outcomes. In the future, this research might contribute to adding new fertility traits to the current selection, giving producers more control over their breeding programs and better fertility outcomes. This can give producers the opportunity to focus on improving the genetic merit of their cows in addition to investing in management practices that improve fertility. Although

Trends in Repro Traits used in Canadian Holsteins



the traits that producers have had available up until now have worked, "We can do better," she stated.

What can producers do to improve fertility in their herd?

Environment and management remain crucial for fertility by helping cows to perform at their best. Fertility outcomes are strongly influenced by heat stress, nutrition, health status, and reproductive protocols. For example, Dr. Baes shared research from the University of Guelph showing first service to conception was impacted by THI values above 66. "It's not going to get any cooler anytime soon," she stated, highlighting the importance of managing heat stress going into the future.

Dr. Baes also emphasized the importance of recording accurate data about management practices such as timed AI because failing to do so can bias genetic evaluations, potentially reducing genetic gain by up to 50% over time.

According to Dr. Baes, "Genetics is a long-term game with long-term gains." Overall, she highlighted that "improving dairy fertility requires combining better phenotypes, accurate data recording, and genomic selection, while recognizing that good management and environment remain essential."

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Late-Gestation Heat Stress

The Hidden Threat to Your Genetic Investment



Dr. Eddie Bennett, DVM,
Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic

The negative impacts of heat stress on lactating cows beyond animal welfare, decreased production and compromised reproduction, are becoming well documented. But there's surprising and serious consequences resulting from heat-stressed dry cows – often the most over-looked group.

Progressive producers put considerable effort into selecting the right mating and confirm it through genomic testing to reveal the true genetic potential of that calf. Yet a heat-stressed dry cow can produce a calf that is unable to fully express what you bred her to be. Why?

The answer lies in the effects stressors such as heat have on epigenetics and DNA methylation. Research by Dr. Jimena Laporta indicates that heat stress during the final sixty days of gestation is far more damaging to the dry cow fetus than to the lactating cow.

DNA is the animal's instruction manual, but epigenetics determines which genes are turned on or off without changing the DNA itself. One of the key mechanisms is DNA methylation, where chemical tags attach to DNA and act like a dimmer switch, reducing how often certain genetic instructions are read.

When a dam experiences heat stress during late gestation, hormonal and metabolic changes can alter the fetus's DNA methylation patterns. In effect, the calf becomes biologically programmed for survival in a stressful environment rather than optimal performance. As a hot baby trapped in a hot uterus with no cooling ability, it is helpless and vulnerable to these changes. Stress during this dry period creates permanent epigenetic imprints on the unborn calf, negatively affecting its health and productivity, often also for future generations of the herd. Repeat: often for the next generation(s) of calves from her too.

You can't manage heat stress after the fact and expect the genetics to express fully and overcome these permanent changes.

Protecting dry cows from heat stress isn't only just about cow comfort in the milking herd – it's about protecting the genetic investment you worked so hard to create by keeping those pregnancies from heat stress.

Impact on Growth and Organ Development

In utero heat stress calves are born smaller (10.4%–12.0% lower birth weight) and prematurely (3–7 days shorter gestation). They remain persistently smaller with 7% lower average daily gain and have smaller critical organs but larger adrenal glands, suggesting heightened stress sensitivity. Collectively, these factors lead to lower



growth potential, higher rearing costs, and a delayed entry into the milking herd.

The Udder is Pre-Programmed for Lower Milk

Beyond growth, heat stress during the dry period permanently damages the udder tissue of the unborn heifer, limiting her peak production for life. The damage is structural, resulting in fewer milk-secreting cells (MEC), smaller internal milk-storage units (alveoli), and an underdeveloped duct system. These heifers are born with a biological 'ceiling' on milk production and often display visible differences, such as narrower and more elongated udders, even before calving.

Calf Immunity: A Double Deficit

In utero heat stress leaves calves highly vulnerable to disease by reducing both colostrum quantity and quality (30–40% less colostrum) and the calf's absorption efficiency (16% lower). This double deficit creates a lifelong compromised immune system, increasing susceptibility to scours and respiratory diseases.

Lifetime Production Loss

These physiological handicaps impose a permanent 'production tax' on your herd. Daughters (F1) never reach their genetic potential, producing 6 kg (14 lbs) less milk daily by their third lactation. They also face reduced fertility and a productive lifespan shortened by five months on average.

Multigenerational Damage

Late-gestation heat stress creates a multigenerational handicap. Granddaughters (F2) produce 1.3–1.5 kg less milk daily because their eggs developed within the heat-stressed F1 dam. Evidence suggests these epigenetic effects, including physical markers, may even persist into the F3 generation, permanently sacrificing high-production genetics for heat tolerance.

Heat Abatement: Strategic Implementation for Dry Cows

Heat stress can occur at much lower

temperature thresholds than most would think, especially when considering humidity. Effective heat abatement requires a combination of shade, air movement, and water to maximize evaporative cooling. The methods for cooling dry cows are identical to those used for the lactating herd, but they must be prioritized equally.

Environmental Management

- **Fresh air:** Mitigate wind shadows with mechanical ventilation where necessary.
- **Fans:** Above feed bunks and stalls/packs to maintain air velocities of 4–6 mph.
- **Soaker Systems** for evaporative cooling.
- **Stocking density** at or below 100% prevents overcrowding and ensures all cows have adequate access to these cooling measures.

Nutritional Support

- **Water Availability:** Water intake rises nearly 30% when temperatures increase from 18°C to 30°C. Ensure unlimited access to clean, fresh water, providing 30 to 36 inches of linear water space per dry cow.
- **Feeding Times:** Delivering fresh feed during the cooler hours of the morning and evening (shifting 60–70% of the ration to the night) can encourage higher intakes.

Protecting Your Genetic Future

Cooling dry cows supports animal welfare, while being a strategic investment in the genetic integrity of your future herd. Research confirms that mitigating late-gestation heat stress prevents permanent epigenetic damage, ensuring that future generations can fully express their high-production potential. By protecting the unborn today, you secure the long-term productivity and resilience of your pedigree for years to come.



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Industry Updates

HANDLERS EQUIPMENT Expands with LS TRACTORS

Founded in 1991, Handlers Equipment of Abbotsford, known for their Mahindra tractors and Hyundai Construction Equipment, recently added a new line of tractors.

The LS Tractor brand brings innovation and value through their range of compact, sub-compact, and utility models with ergonomic operator stations, advanced hydraulics, and dependable diesel engines.

"Adding LS Tractors to our lineup allows us to offer even more choice and flexibility to our customers," said Joel Venema of Handlers Equipment. "LS has built a strong reputation for quality, ease of use, and exceptional value."

LS Tractor is a global manufacturer of agricultural equipment headquartered in South Korea, with a strong presence in North America.

Handlers Equipment is excited to bring a new brand to farmers and property owners of all sizes, providing full sales, service and parts support as they do for all their product lines.



Genomics Research and Tools to Help Farmers Fight Herd Diseases

Hannah Woodhouse, PhD

Western Canadian dairy farmers have a powerful new ally in the fight against devastating herd diseases: the Applied Genomics Centre (AGC) at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, BC. As Canada’s only genomics-focused Technology Access Centre, the AGC uses state-of-the-art DNA sequencing technology and scientific expertise to support research and development across multiple agricultural sectors, including dairy.

Current dairy projects at the AGC focus on herd health and production, with particular attention on two challenging pathogens: Salmonella Dublin (S. Dublin) and Mycoplasma bovis (M. bovis). Both bacteria are difficult to control and resistant to many antibiotics, making prevention and early detection critical.

S. Dublin can cause diarrhea, respiratory distress, fever, and reduced productivity in cattle. It is also a zoonotic pathogen, meaning that it can infect humans as well. M. bovis is associated with pneumonia, mastitis, arthritis, reduced milk production, and bovine respiratory disease. One of the biggest challenges with M. bovis is that infected animals can appear healthy while still spreading the bacteria throughout a herd.

To better understand these pathogens, the AGC partnered with WestGen to study samples collected from dairy farms across BC. Researchers gathered 53 S. Dublin samples and 16 M. bovis samples from blood, ear or nasal swabs,

milk, or other tissue. These samples were then analysed using Whole Genome Sequencing, which reads the complete DNA code of each bacterium. DNA is composed of the four chemical bases, A, C, T, and G, arranged in specific sequences that act like a biological language. Even a single change in the sequence can create a variant with different characteristics, such as increased virulence or antibiotic resistance.

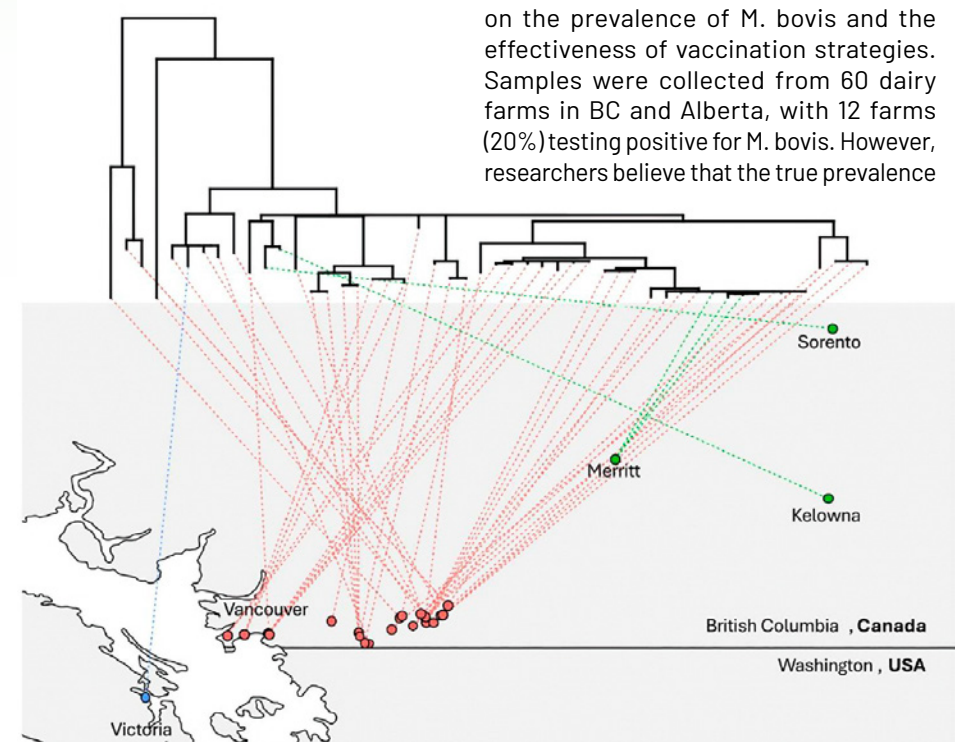


Image from Kwantlen Polytechnic University AGC: Whole Genome Sequencing identified multiple S. Dublin variants across BC dairy farms.

To detect these pathogens on farms, AGC researchers also developed new genetic tests using quantitative PCR (qPCR). These highly sensitive tests can identify bacterial DNA quickly and accurately. While the team successfully developed tests for both S. Dublin and M. bovis, they found that further research is needed to improve the detection of S. Dublin in blood samples.

The AGC team also conducted research on the prevalence of M. bovis and the effectiveness of vaccination strategies. Samples were collected from 60 dairy farms in BC and Alberta, with 12 farms (20%) testing positive for M. bovis. However, researchers believe that the true prevalence

may be higher. The study found that M. bovis was more likely to be detected in calf ear or nasal swabs than in bulk tank milk samples, suggesting bulk tank milk testing may underestimate herd prevalence by up to 20%.

Researchers also evaluated the Zoetis M. bovis vaccine ProtivityO, with encouraging results. Calves that received the vaccine had significantly fewer cases of symptomatic pneumonia. Among vaccinated calves, 81.5% remained healthy compared to only 25.5% of unvaccinated calves. However, vaccination did not significantly reduce the overall presence of M. bovis. This highlights that the presence of M. bovis alone does not necessarily cause disease. Many animals act as asymptomatic carriers. When calves experience stress or a weakened immune system, M. bovis can take advantage of the situation, disrupting the microbiome and contributing to pneumonia.

In addition to ongoing research, the AGC is working to share these advancements directly with BC producers. An upcoming Bovine Genotyping Workshop will introduce dairy farmers to genetic tools that can improve herd management decisions. Hosted by the Kwantlen Polytechnic University AGC in partnership with the WestGen Endowment Fund, the workshop will focus on how genetic testing can help producers identify valuable traits in their animals and make management decisions that could potentially save them thousands down the road.

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