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DECEMBER	
6	**Lactanet Genetic Evaluation Release** of domestic and MACE evaluations.
13	**MYMP's Winter Gala** Tuesday 6:30pm, Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre, 36035 North Parallel Rd., Abbotsford. Tickets are $10 each. Contact MYMP directors or Christine Koch at koch.c@telus,net for tickets.
JANUARY	**2023**
6	**Mainland Milk Producers AGM** Friday 10am-3pm, Clarion Hotel, Abbotsford. Email Christine Koch at koch.c@telus.net for more info.
14	**Master Breeder Reveal** by Holstein Canada on their social media.
18	**2022 All-Canadian Nominations** announced on Holstein Canada social media.
26-28	**Pacific Agriculture Show** Thursday-Saturday 9am-4:30pm, Tradex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford. See www.agricultureshow.net for all the details.
31	**2022 All-Canadian Results** announced on Holstein Canada social media.
FEBRUARY	
3-4	**Islands Ag Show** Friday-Saturday, Cowichan Exhibition Park, Duncan. See www.iashow.ca or ad on page 9 for more details.
TBA	**BC Branch Dairy Management Seminar** – watch BC Holsteins for further details. southcoastagro@outlook.com
MARCH	
7-10	**Western Canadian Dairy Seminar** Tuesday-Friday, Red Deer Resort & Casino, AB. For more info, call 780-492-3236 or email wcds@ualberta.ca.

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MARCH	
16	**BC Spring Jersey Show** Thursday, Heritage Park, Chilliwack. Watch *BC Holstein News* and BC Holstein Branch FB and websites for updates.
17	**BC Spring Holstein Show** Friday, Heritage Park, Chilliwack. More details to come!
21	**WestGen AGM** Tuesday. Details to come. Check www.westgen.com
APRIL	
4	**Lactanet Genetic Evaluation Release** of domestic and MACE evaluations.
5-6	**Canadian Dairy Xpo (CDX)** Wednesday-Thursday, Stratford Rotary Complex, Stratford, ON.
12-15	**Holstein Canada Convention and AGM** Wednesday-Saturday, Montreal, QC.
AUGUST	
8	**Lactanet Genetic Evaluation Release** of domestic and MACE evaluations.
OCTOBER	
1-6	**World Dairy Expo** Sunday-Friday, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI.



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Tars' Tale-Spins

Floods: 1 Hope and Perseverance: 100

Acknowledging the emotions does not make any of us weak...it makes us human.

As I spoke with numerous people leading up to the one year anniversary of the November floods, it was clear that the emotions remain close to the surface. Some used the term PTSD when the latest early November 'atmospheric river' rains returned. No one can blame them. I think sharing those feelings within our farming circles where we understand the realities without judgment helps us process what we've been through. We also hear of the **hope and positive side** of this calamity. It's been a year, the cows are being milked, the 2022 crops turned out not too bad and so many have supported the wide community recovery with generosity and kindness. But we know there remains a long road to normal. Some people remain out of their homes, many remain burdened by financial consequences and others are frustrated with paperwork and unfilled promises of help. The reality is tough, and yet people take a deep breath after they vent and return to **hope.** I remain in awe of the perseverance and positivity of our dairy community.

As we approach the Christmas season, I hope everyone can take some time to slow down and enjoy one another and our blessings – even though we know challenges will continue in the world around us. Somehow, having gratitude, being positive, makes even the hard times a little easier. As we celebrate Christmas, I offer prayers for those who are missing someone special this year, who are struggling with health or other difficulties. Please take care and may we look forward to positive gatherings in the new year.

From all of us at BCHN – Chris, Kevin and Tars – we wish you a wonderful Christmas!

Looking Back on the Flood a Year Later

Rob Beukens Three-Oaks Farm

Tars Cheema

Three-Oaks Dairy Farm has been operating on these 72 acres on the north side of Hwy 1 near #3 Road since Rob Beukens' father moved here in 1969 from Delta. "Dad started out milking 40 cows in a stanchion barn until 1976 when he had a double-four herringbone parlour built," Rob starts. More recently, they moved their 104 cows into a new facility with a double eight DeLaval parabone parlour. The farm borders the Sumas River with a sizable dike that had worked pretty well for a very long time.

On Monday, November 15, Rob was watching the flood anxiously all day like everyone who was witnessing their friends get flooded in west Sumas Prairie. When he finished milking just after midnight Tuesday morning, he was aware of the warnings of rising flood waters possibly exceeding the dike. His neighbour Wayne DeJong woke him at 3:30am with a warning to 'get out – the dike is breached.' Rob's son Zach, milking at the DeJongs' neighbouring farm, saw a foot of water on the roads around 4am – and by 4:30, they shut down milking as the water was rapidly coming up their legs. "At 5am Tuesday morning, I could see about 2" of water flowing over the dike and across my fields. I'm a little higher so I thought I'd be ok," Rob describes. At 8am, it was 3" flowing over, then 4-5" by noon, and worse, it appeared the pouring water was eroding the base of the dike. "By 2:30 Tuesday afternoon, we could see a 50-foot section of the dike was gone. It was strange, there was sunshine and a rainbow around 4pm, but we were being flooded out," Rob shares.

He moved their herd to higher ground while Zach was helping the DeJongs get their herd relocated to Matsqui. Rob and Gwen were evacuated thanks to Ross Siemens who secured a Chilliwack S&R boat. "John and Dave Kruk from Matsqui Ag Repair brought Zach back in with a riverboat and helped him do chores and milk the cows. And it was Gary Baars who got us back in a day later," Rob acknowledges.



Water poured over the Sumas River dike bordering Rob Beukens' farm for many hours before breaking open.

Photo credit: Gwen Beukens

Photo credit: Gwen Beukens

Rob looks in disbelief at the massive hole where the dike failed.



The dike is repaired and raised a half meter with an engineered spillway included.



Rob's fields still bear the scars of the tons of scouring water that gouged out a deep lake and carried trees and debris across his farm.

"We had power and water – except for the 4-5 days when they shut down to repair water lines. DeLeeuws and others brought me water. We pumped from the lake to feed the animals, we had enough grain and I didn't lose my forage," Rob says with relief. Like most everyone around that time, the milk had to be discarded. "Steve Brandsma, our feed rep, was constantly checking on us. It helped that so many were watching out for us."

"Insurance covered very little – overland water isn't covered. We lost a few cows, but we're really blessed overall," he realizes in the big picture. Rob's field was ground zero for the major dike failure and the power of the thousands of tons of water dug out 4-5 acres of land as deep as 20 feet. "I got covered for all the damage and debris on the land," he acknowledges. About 25 acres were unusable. But the flood damaged so many more acres that Rob estimates he only harvested about 40% of his normal crop yield with only 25 acres getting into corn – when it's normally 70 acres. There's still a long recovery.

"They added about a half meter to the dike height and they intentionally engineered it a bit lower in one spot so there's a controlled spillway. In November, Kimmet bored holes in the dike and pumped in a mixture of cement and special clay which is supposed to saturate the dike and seal it up."

A year later, Rob, like so many others, is still shocked by what took place and the extent of the damage to so many. "This was a crazy time! So stressful. But I have to recognize there were so many people who stood with us through this."

Things appear calmer today but the plan for preventing this from happening again is not quick, simple or cheap. "They're talking five years to get more pumps, bigger pumps and dike improvements in place," Rob shares with a deep breath.

young Dairy Leaders IN ASSOCIATION WITH KPMG

Choosing the Dairy Life. Get Involved.



Most are born into dairy – yet there are those who choose it later and thrive amid the work, challenges and rewards. Growing up in Chilliwack surrounded by dairy farms and having a father who was immersed in the industry provided Greg Streutker with excellent context for what life in dairy might look like.

Greg was just in middle school when he began working at local dairies and he carried on through high school. But his career took a different direction after graduation – he would spend eight years working in ag construction, which, it turns out, was very lucky. It was while building a barn at Cedarbrink Dairy in Chilliwack that he met his wife, Breanna! They married in 2015 and with the help of Breanna's parents and brother Nigel, began milking 125 cows at their Riverbend Dairy two years later. "We're very fortunate to have this chance to dairy – it helps that we can do many things together with Breanna's family at Cedarbrink," Greg shares.

Taking advantage of a market niche, they are milking 285 A2A2 cows today, with about one third of their production being allocated to Agrifoods A2 product line. "It's only a small premium, but our additional costs to maintain A2 across the entire herd is not too high," Greg explains. They genomic test all replacement heifers around three months of age for A2 and use the full results to aid in culling decisions for the lowest ranked. They must also comply with a third-party certification, animal welfare standards and provide monthly reporting.

INDUSTRY INVOLVEMENT

Greg was first elected to the Mainland Young Milk Producers board in December 2019. He was Chair in 2021 and is now in his second term. "I want to encourage all young producers to go to meetings yourself – don't just rely on others – hear it yourself firsthand and you will get more out of it," he implores. "It's good to get involved in any capacity – it gives you reason to get out, learn, form relationships and build your network!" The MYMP organization was happy to resume some early activities this year including the Spring Social and Fall Harvest party. In December, they will hold their first Winter Gala since 2019. Greg was a rep from the MYMP on the DIREC committee which has just concluded its work; going forward, the new structure of the four western province dairy organization (recently announced) will define and execute these programs with a broader vision.

Greg's years in construction give him an interesting perspective. "There's a camaraderie in dairy that you don't see in construction where companies have to compete for different jobs. In dairy, our neighbours aren't our competitors. There's an openness and willingness to work together." Greg witnessed a little of the incredible selfless efforts of many dozens of volunteers through last winter's Sumas Prairie flood. "It was unreal. You can't forget what we saw. So many people came together and did whatever was needed to help. The heart of dairy was really shown through that time," he expresses.





Greg holding Ava, Kasen, Breanna and Bowen.

CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES/FUTURE

"Interest rates. That's going to be our biggest challenge in the short term," Greg states. "We can only compensate with tighter efficiency so much, we have to really manage this." He sees that farms have experienced excellent conditions for expansion with very advantageous interest rates in recent years – but change is here.

"The financial environment is going to challenge us for a couple years," he believes. Recent trade deals have not helped the dairy market. But he is hopeful that the new 'Western Milk Pool' governing body will give the four western provinces more strength to ensure the industry has a clearer voice with more volume when it comes to national policies and issues. "It's possible the new organization will be able to deliver more efficiencies and operational savings. But I think their biggest benefit will be to give us a stronger position in any negotiations especially on the national scene."

Greg wants to see the dairy industry seize opportunities like growing processing in the west, to help ensure a vibrant industry for the next generation. "Covid highlighted the importance of having local food supplies – we can use that to our advantage. The dairy industry is still exciting – it's an important source of high quality nutrition and it's a staple for our communities. We need to remain committed, consult the past and keep moving forward," Greg asserts.

"This is a great industry and my generation can still take responsible risks – don't be afraid of a mistake – be optimistic – and keep moving," he encourages.

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WCC Team BC – The Support Continues

Tars Cheema

Three months have passed since the terrible truck crash that took the lives of the three truck drivers and all but one of the heifers on the Team BC WCC cattle liner. Since our initial coverage in the Fall issue, we have learned about more caring considerations from other corners of our country. We previously reported the $9300 raised at the Frankhaven Dispersal in Ontario in September that split funds between the families of the truck drivers and the efforts of Kyle Stockdale of Ky-Vision Blade and Clipper Service in Ontario to collect a variety of clipping equipment/supplies to help replace what was lost. "The outreach in the early days was amazing – it helped to know that so many others cared about what happened and were especially concerned about the kids," Gerard Baars recalls. "We were focused on the kids, while others were focused on us."



HAMMING B LEGEND SWEETIE is the miracle heifer that survived the WCC liner accident. Aside from a capped right hip and a jaw injury which is not completely resolved yet, Sweetie is doing pretty well, due to calve in April with a heifer.

Much more has been going on in the background.

When the WCC team needed clippers and supplies urgently ahead of the IPE, they bought them from Carol Wright, one of the original founders of WCC. Carol shipped everything at her expense by air to make sure it would arrive in time.

"The kids lost a lot of tack, clipping supplies and personal belongings," shares Gerard. "Twelve sets of clippers, blowers, clothing, boots....it all adds up in a hurry." One of the earliest offers of support came through the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Lana Popham, who immediately recognized how difficult the situation was and reached out with support that took the form of crisis line support initially. The Minister further provided $10,000 to Team BC for the replacement of tack and supplies that had been lost in the crash.

WestGen quickly mobilized a donation portal on behalf of the WCC Interprovincial Committee, which received considerable contributions from a varied cross-section of industry supporters. "The generosity and kind words of encouragement shared from so many has been so appreciated," expresses Aretha Westenenk. Donations have come from AI organizations, producers, industry organizations, past WCC members – all who felt the tragedy and value the benefits of this program to grow young dairy people into leaders far beyond just the dairy industry. The BC committee has recently earmarked these funds to the WCC members to replace what they lost in the crash. "We'll never replace it all, but we'll get a long ways for the kids who have lost a lot of equipment and personal belongings," Gerard admits. They hope to release the funds by Christmas.

"Five days after the crash, we heard talk that breeders back east wanted to help by trying to replace some heifers," Gerard says. Linsey Whelan of the Interprovincial Committee who is coordinating this aspect, shares that so far, a half dozen heifers have been offered up by breeders primarily in Quebec and Ontario. "Breeders wanted to do something to help – they knew some farms lost multiple head on the liner," Linsey says. Some heifers will make their way westward over the winter as trucking can be arranged and other younger heifers will wait for spring before heading west.



Improving Reproduction Through Stress Mitigation

Vicki Brisson, M.Sc., Ruminant Technical Service Specialist at Jefo Nutrition Inc.

A herd's performance is centered around the reproductive status of its cows. While some influencing factors such as genetics take a longer time to change, it is possible to mitigate the impact of stressors to improve reproductive performance more rapidly. Notable sources of stress that can affect reproduction include the environment and nutritional changes.

Sources of stress

When thinking of stress, heat stress often comes to mind. However, stress also can occur during winter weather. As cows strive to maintain a constant core body temperature of about 38°C, when their temperature drops too low, they have to expend extra energy to stay warm.

When feeding dairy cows, although the goal is to keep the ration composition constant to maintain the rumen environment for better health and performance, the reality on most farms makes it difficult to achieve; forage quality varies from one harvest to the next, ingredient sourcing changes, starch digestibility is different between silages or fiber digestibility is inconsistent throughout the pile. These significant nutritional changes are sources of stress for dairy cows as they influence the rumen environment and its microbial population. Ingredients will be degraded and utilized differently in the rumen and will provide a completely different nutrients profile to the cow, including rumen solubility of amino acids, fat, and carbohydrates.

Impact of stress on reproduction

The sources of stress discussed earlier impair the cow's metabolism, causing **oxidative stress**, challenging their immune system and therefore increasing incidence of disease. Because it takes 100 days for a follicle to grow before reaching ovulation (Britt, 2008), it is important to remember that any health events that occur around parturition hinder the ability to get cows cycling by the time they reach 60 days in milk. The same is true throughout the cow's lactation, to ensure successful insemination, gestation and embryo development. In a study conducted by Ribeiro et al. (2017), poor health events (metritis, mastitis, digestive problems, lameness, and respiratory problems) in early lactation were shown to lead to a 30% reduction in cows confirmed pregnant 45 days after the first insemination and the risk of pregnancy loss doubled 45 days after breeding. These impaired reproductive performances can be explained by sequential events (triggered by the environment, health events and/or nutritional changes), as outlined in Figure 1, which include poor liver function due to fat infiltration, leading to reduced synthesis of insulin-like growth factor-I (IGF-1), responsible for the increase in LH and FSH that support the resumption of ovarian activity (Butler et al., 2006, 2012).

Possible solutions

To reduce the impact of environmental stressors, animals need protection from extreme cold and excessive snow, rain and dampness. Other strategies to combat weather-related stressors include good year-round air quality and proper lighting, as a lack of light can slow down metabolism and lead to less productivity.

Nutritional changes can't be avoided, but to minimize their effects on the cow's digestion and nutrient absorption/utilization, ration formulation and preparation need to be adjusted frequently to minimize the effects that nutritional changes can have on health.

Additionally, beyond ration formulation, many nutritional solutions are available to ensure a more constant nutrient supply. For example, B vitamins are enzyme co-factors that are synthesized in the rumen, but their supply, much like other nutrients, varies greatly with nutritional variations. Because of their essential functions in carbohydrate, lipid and protein metabolism, it is important to ensure their supply is as constant as possible at all stages of lactation through the use of rumen-protected B vitamin dietary supplementation. Other nutrients with antioxidant functions, such as rumen-protected Selenium, can also have positive effects on reproductive performance to help cows cope with the various stressors that affect them.



Sequential events during the transition period creating a delay in ovarian activity.

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Luke loves his fifth lactation, 87-point Citation R daughter. She's earned 1897 LPI by calving like clockwork, producing herd average with high fat and being trouble-free.



Kevin Frueh's 85 point Citation R has a great udder and never misses a beat.



This red carrier Citation R from the Absolute Fanny family at Meadow Green is one the Vanden Dungens will watch with anticipation and curiosity.

Tars Cheema

When Luke Van Huizen of Vancouver Island showed me a two year old daughter of Rosafe Citation R in his herd a few years ago, I knew there would eventually be a story I would have to tell. Here we go...

You Had Me at Citation R

The legendary Canadian sire, Rosafe Citation R was born in 1958, bred by Master Breeder, Dr. Hector Astengo in Ontario. Citation R started out with great promise – the combination of ABC Reflection Sovereign and GLENVUE NETTIE GEMIMA (both **royalty** in their time). Doug Blair shares the intriguing story of how this little calf with tremendous popularity, would end up in Mexico simply because he carried the gene for red coat colour!

There was a time when red Holsteins were considered evidence of impure breeding. But science would eventually push forward the acceptance of red coat colour as just a variant in the Holstein breed and not a blight. Citation R had enough Canadian daughters from his original usage to qualify him for Class Extra status in his 1964 sire proof. Limited Citation R semen remained in Canada and some even made its way back from Mexico, and today, Holstein Canada shows 1694 classified daughters and Lactanet shows 4907 progeny. His semen was scarce and very pricey! He continued to have impact on Canadian breeding through his sons and daughters, but we will never know what we missed due to the much-reduced usage.

Old Genetics for a Change

But this isn't *just* about Citation R.

Luke grew up studying and learning everything he could about his family's herd – production, breeding, calving.... **everything**... basically from the time he could read. He had significant influence on the breeding program since he was 13 and by 19 it was all on him. "I'm fortunate that my Dad gave me responsibility early and he trusts my breeding decisions and judgement," Luke shares. Like many of us who grew up obsessing on genetics in bull catalogues and Holstein Journals, the term 'cow-nerd' or 'cow-geek' is a fair and even, honoured title!

"I have always had an interest in the old bulls. But I know just because they're old, there's no guarantee they're great," he reassures me. Over the years he has picked up the occasional old sire (like Puget Sound Highmark from Ontario) from dairy friends in and out of BC.

A few years ago, he hit the jackpot when a dairy friend directed him to a mostly retired AI tech who still had a couple tanks stocked. "There were two tanks, six cannisters with 30 canes each. Some canes were so old that codes weren't recognizable on the tabs," he recalls. Some were local BCAIC sires like Engraver, Endeavour, Monitor and Marathon. Others came with more 'history' – Agro Acres Attraction and Unique, Romandale Crystal Count and Ideal Fury Reflector. The Citation R came in vials (ampules) while Triple Threat and Unique had some vials and straws. There were other interesting bulls – Blackstar, Chief Mark, Broker, Raider, Derry and Inspiration. "These were all leading bulls back in their day," Luke stresses. "I kept a third, sold a third to Kevin (Frueh) and discarded the rest. I had a guy in Ontario take some Skagvale Startrek." Luke has sold newer bulls like Broker and Jolt to particular buyers, and so far, has resisted selling his only dose of Jed to a persistent buyer.

The Living Holstein Museum

Luke's collection of old genes includes three heifers by Agro Acres Unique – from both vial and straw breedings. Two of the Uniques are out of a Stantons Elude that Luke says, 'lacks power.'

"I like crossing old with new genetics – I used the Citation R on a cow that was too refined, and it's worked out really well." CITATION GALAXY is now 87 points in her fifth lactation, pregnant with a heifer by Stantons Applicable, and has a VG Diamondback in her third lactation. "She scored 80-83-85. I like those cows that mature steadily and get better with each lactation."

Luke used some Marathon, but he's not had any pregnancies yet. "I'll be interested to cross some of the good old bulls like Blackstar and Sheik with new genetics, but I'm not in any rush. I do 15-20 of these breedings a year – always careful to make complementary matings," he clarifies.

Luke's influence has resulted in two other Citation Rs in the neighbourhood. Neighbouring friend and dairyman Kevin Frueh, also intrigued by older genetics, had bought a selection of Luke's inventory. A trained AI technician, Kevin improvised horse-breeding pipettes with a syringe and rubber tubing to facilitate the vial-semen breedings. He too is milking a Citation R daughter; BELLE is 85 points and from an 87 point Golden Dreams dam that he says seriously needed more strength. "Belle's a really quiet cow with a great udder, but a little coarse over her rump. The classifier said she has the widest hips he's seen," Kevin says. "She is super healthy – never sick, no foot issues and she's testing 5% butterfat right now!" He reveals that he has other old genetics. "I also have a springing Quality Ultimate and more Ultimate in the tank," he grins. Then he tells me there's a few Linjets still in the barn (same as Luke). "It's fun to try something different sometimes," he laughs.

Just down the road, their friend Pete Vanden Dungen is also looking forward to having his own milking Citation R daughter. "Kevin bred her red Hvezda dam for me since he's got the equipment to breed with vials," Pete says. The Hvezda is a maternal sister to the famous red show winner, MEADOW GREEN ABSOLUTE FANNY. A **red** Citation R related so close to Fanny would have been even more fun, but CITATION FALLBACK is a strong, *black* January 2022 heifer with an interesting red-carrier future, nonetheless.

"I've got about 15 old bulls that really interest me and another 15 that can just sit and wait – there's no deadline...maybe someone will want them in the future," Luke suggests. "Breeding with some old genetics just adds some fun – it's unusual and it makes things more interesting again."

Witnessing a Unique Moment in Holstein History

Doug Blair

I was 16 years old in 1958 when I won the 4-H Dairy Cattle Judging Contest held at the PNE in August. This entitled me to represent BC 4-H Dairy Section on a trip to Toronto at the time of the Royal Winter Fair in November. I had the opportunity to attend the Sale of Stars and watched Rosafe Citation R sell. What a memorable moment!

When GLENVUE NETTIE JEMIMA topped the Rosafe Farms Dispersal held May 12, 1958, for $9000, she was 15-years old and due to calve in September. She was purchased by a relatively unknown breeder H.J. Wilcox of Beeton, Ontario. She calved September 29 with a bull calf they named Rosafe Citation R, who they consigned to the Sale of Stars to be held November 19 at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. He was not yet two months old when he was purchased for $30,000 by the Ontario Association of Artificial Breeders, representing the (then) eight Artificial Insemination organizations in Ontario. The runner up bid came from the three Ministers of Agriculture of three Maritime provinces. The terms of the Sale required 1/3 down ($10,000) with the balance to be paid when Citation R was proven to be free of Red Factor. He turned out to be a red carrier and thus returned to Wilcox who promptly sold him to Mexico for a reported $33,000.



It was a momentous occasion when Rosafe Citation R rocked the 1958 Sale of Stars for $30,000. Lloyd Pickard of Alberta (Pickard and Clark) was on the halter.

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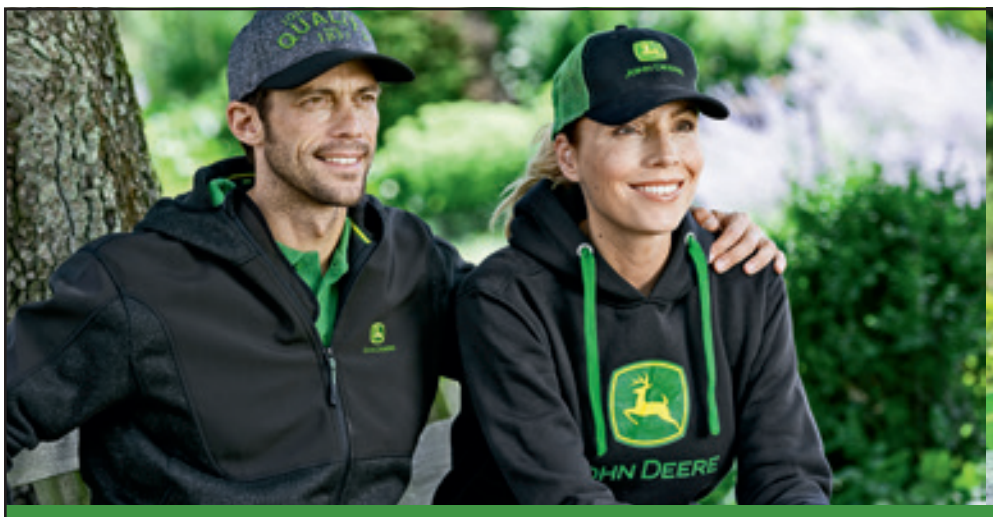
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BC Branch AGM – Highlights

The BC Branch held their 2022 AGM virtually again this year for convenience and timing.

Tars Cheema

President Carl Barclay gave a recap of the year, identifying some of the carry-over difficulties of the Covid restrictions and the Fraser Valley flood. The successful National Holstein Convention, tours and sale in Saskatoon in the Spring seemed to reboot the enthusiasm for shows and other Club activities around BC. The Branch has long been strong supporters of WCC and were elated with the return of the show. But the BC WCC liner crash with its terrible loss of life was tragic. Carl thanked his Directors and recognized Sydney Fox for her work as she leaves the Board. Carson Hamming will become the NOK Club Director.

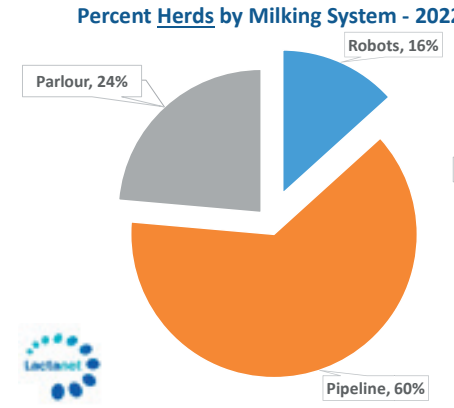
Carl's Show Committee report recalled the pandemic conditions which prevented the Spring Show for two years. While early 2022 offered a possibility for a return, it seemed better to support the National Convention Show in Saskatoon. He was excited to announce the dates for the 2023 Spring Show: March 15-17.

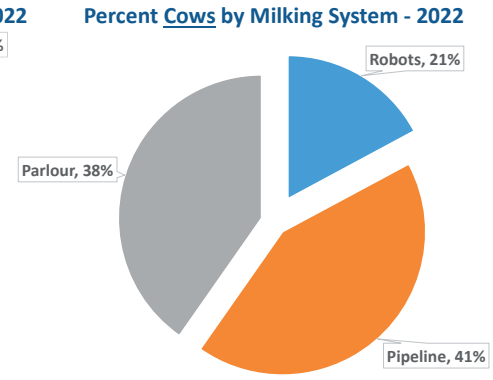
Greg Hessels' Promotions Report touched on the Branch's social media platforms for showcasing cows in the 'Longevity Spotlight.' This year's winners of the watches for Grand and Reserve calves at the Maple Ridge Fair: Champion - Elianah Rees with HAMMING MOMENT DAMSEL from the Shuswap Dairy club and Reserve was Celina Vaandrager with LAVENDER IP SCREECHER ROO from the Sumas Holstein club.

Luke Van Huizen's Judging Report was short since the Tier 1 program is held in conjunction with the Spring Show – which he anticipates will return in 2023. The National Judging Competition held in Ontario this summer saw BC's delegate, Ridley Wikkerink, placing second! Ridley followed with his Finance report, which he called a "low key – low activity" year, with correlated low expense. Two notable expenses were $6000 each for WCC support and BC Flood Relief. Next year's budget identifies funding for the Spring Show (March) and the Management Seminar – planned for February.

VANVALLEY EPIC SIIRI was recognized for Cow of the Year **(see page 14)** and Richard Bosma was recognized as an Honourary Lifetime member of the Branch **(see page 29).**

National Herd and Cow Demographics...





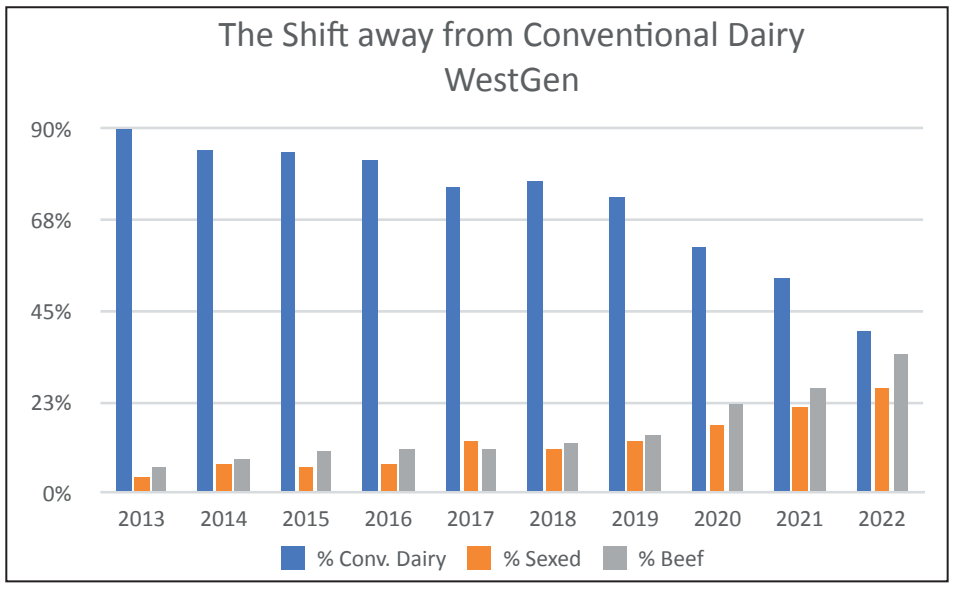


125,000 Cows now Testing in Robot Herds

Lactanet

Robot Statistics by Province

Province	# Farms	% Farms	% Cows
BC	58	28%	25%
AB	66	22%	20%
SK	22	29%	22%
MB	66	48%	49%
ON	340	16%	21%
QC	392	14%	18%
NB	22	25%	18%
NS	13	13%	16%
PEI	10	12%	17%
NFLD	3	33%	20%
Lactanet	992	16%	21%



Holstein Canada

Holstein Canada Board President since April's AGM, Ben Cuthbert delivered the update from Holstein Canada. Considerable work has been undertaken to layout a strategic plan which highlights six priorities: retention of producers using services, recruiting of new producers, improving operational efficiencies, develop business opportunities from other countries, developing new business within Canada as distributors of new products/services, and a careful pricing strategy. He identified the slight reductions in registrations in 2021 and 2022 from the record year in 2020. This trend is believed to be the reflection of the 'beef on dairy' trend reducing the number of Holstein heifers being retained for replacements. HC provided support to the four maritime provinces in response to Hurricane Fiona – parallel to the support provided to BC following the flood. Ben is optimistic about the benefits provided by the ConneXXion phone app to simplify registrations and genomic testing expected to be launched in Spring 2023. Genomic testing uptake is growing year over year. Classification numbers have increased year over year for both 2021 and 2022. In BC, the Pilot Project with increased Classification visit frequency is going well. The Project in Ontario is testing multiple day classification in large herds with just one classifier vs two classifiers and more cows in a single day. Another project is testing 'regionalization' of services with more classifiers working regularly from their home locations to reduce travel costs.

Awards are being revised to better align with profitable performance using key metrics such as production per day of life. On-farm data generated using on-farm sensors or unsupervised tests will be integrated where appropriate.

HC is investigating a simplified and uniform levy-collection system across all Branches. Currently, when individual Branches request a levy adjustment, the IT costs are significant to reprogram this fee collection system. Ben concluded with an update on the CEO search plan. The full posting has been live since November 4, and that individual will be responsible for delivering the strategic plan.

Lactanet Highlights

Richard Cantin, National Director Business Development, started off reminding the meeting that Lactanet had just completed its third year under the new structure, and went on to share a number of highlights, industry trends and coming plans. Some of the successful innovations have been connecting with on-farm technologies with eDHI, Selective Dry Cow Therapy reports and reports that leverage genetic tools such as fertility disorders and feed efficiency. In 2022, they introduced a new A2A2 Probability report, showing herds their possible level of A2. In 2023, Lactanet will be adding enhanced Feed Efficiency evaluations for inclusion in LPI/Pro$ and introducing genetic evaluations for Methane Efficiency. A new herd report will rank cows by income for producers.

The expanded PROFILab Services will allow all herds to bulk tank test for Fatty Acids Profile to identify trends and early indications of issues in the herd.

Lactanet will also be updating lactation publication rules to align with evolving technology which is providing more on-farm sensor options together with the continued growth in robotic milking systems resulting in changing information needs of dairy producers. Looking forward ambitiously, Lactanet has added a Sustainability pillar in their 2025 Strategic Plan which seeks to support the industry's NetZero 2050 goal.

WestGen Update

WestGen's Sales Manager, Paul Meyer, recalled the flood conditions that they and Sumas Prairie farmers were coping through one year ago. Repairs to WestGen's first floor office building are expected to be completed in December. "The flood set the tone for priorities in 2022," Paul explained. The flood disrupted their business – particularly the semen distribution activities in the office. WestGen supported producers impacted while also donating substantially and working with BC Dairy to assist those with the greatest need. A generally constricted dairy economy (especially in BC) with fewer incentive days resulting in fewer cows/heifers being bred partly contributed to reduced sales. Compounding that is the radically shifting product mix with Beef on Dairy becoming an established practice. Beef products represent 30% of BC sales and are growing.



"It was great to see events back! WCC came back with enthusiasm after two years of pandemic postponements. We are proud of the leadership shown by Team BC following the tragic crash of the liner returning to BC," Paul shared. "There was a lot of enthusiasm back in the show ring you could see throughout the year." Paul recognized the success of the 'Western Canadian contingent' at the Royal Winter Fair – Wedgwood, Westcoast, Mosnang, R&F all having prominent results.

"Other areas of WestGen's business are thriving," Paul continued, "The ARC in particular in the prairies is enjoying record work." The Advanced Reproduction Centre is active in both dairy and beef sectors. With ever-increasing costs, it is even more important to have a specific genetic planning strategy which ensures the replacements "have the genetic make-up that warrants that investment."

He added, "We think putting aggressive reproductive strategies in place will become the norm even for progressive commercial dairy producers who understand the importance of genetics." Elevate genomic testing has become an integral part in the recipe for genetic success, Paul says.

Additional WestGen companies are performing well. Cryogen, supplying liquid nitrogen for medical purposes, continues to grow and redirect profits back to support WestGen's activities, benefiting producers. WestGen, as one of the partners in Semex, made investments over the past two years, more than doubling the semen sorting machines – recognizing the importance of this technology for the future. Bow Valley Genetics is very active in custom collection and IVF work on the prairies, and now houses some of the Semex beef bulls.

Looking ahead to 2023, WestGen plans to continue developing the genetic planning tools, and grow the understanding of and participation in the P3 beef partnership program.

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Back Together After Three Years
The BC Dairy Industry Conference 2022



BC Dairy's Christine Terpsma made a guest appearance to serve as the Conference MC adding to the event's overall enthusiasm.



Ben Brandsema took a few minutes to address the Dairy Conference audience after receiving the Dairy Industry Achievement Award from Jim Byrne.



George Dick of Dicklands Farm, Chilliwack, shared his thoughts on Sustainability issues and opportunities, as their biodigester nears launch.

Tars and Kash Cheema

Despite the ever-present challenges that evolve and persist in the dairy industry, producers and industry people alike were quick to recognize their appreciation for meeting again in-person at the 2022 Dairy Industry Conference.

MC Christine Terpsma kept the schedule moving smoothly, despite the inevitable challenge to bring the audience back from the breaks, refreshments and visiting. Dan Wong, of the Western Dairy Council, was rescheduled to the beginning of the agenda since Ag Minister Lana Popham was still in the Legislature late the night before. When the Minister finally arrived from Vancouver Island, taking an early morning ferry, she amusingly quipped, "I know it's not worth complaining to farmers about having to get up early to get here." The Minister went on to recognize the difficult year producers have faced and thanked them for demonstrating their resilience to all of BC and continuing to deliver dairy products while 'selflessly delivering a sense of hope.' After summarizing the Province's Flood payouts so far, she went on to remind producers of funding opportunities related to sustainable/regenerative practices. "I see you making headway. Your milk is produced with half the global average GHG emissions. I see you doing your level best." Further resources are being made available for Best Management Practices, drought mitigation (water storage, irrigation), preparedness for fire resistance.

Chair of the WMP, Henry Holtmann of Manitoba, provided a Zoom update on the WMP Transformation plan. "This plan requires all of us to work together," he stated. While they identified dozens of issues to address, they settled on 13 priority projects which they will assign resources to ensure they are achieved. Some of the priority initiatives are Dairy Innovation West (DIW), milk quality testing, animal welfare, on-farm practices, transportation and many relating to operational efficiencies/alignment. He pointed out that the new governance model will focus primarily on governance and not on operational details. Provincial regulations won't change at this time, but common areas will be harmonized. DIW continues to be their number one priority – realizing the positive 'green' benefits to reducing transportation of concentrated milk to processors. Currently, KPMG is studying DIW cost recovery to ensure end pricing will represent fairness to all processors.

After two years of delay, Jim Byrne, Chair of the BC Dairy Historical Society, was pleased to present the Dairy Industry Achievement Award to Ben Brandsema. Ben made many significant contributions to the dairy industry over his 47 year career, but he was quick to credit 'a whole team of people' with the successes of different organizations. "It's been a real honour," he said. "I saw a lot of you on my farms through the flood – so many people came to help… governments, donations, volunteers. It's all about the people," he concluded with gratitude and humility.

Michael Graydon from Food, Health & Consumer Products of Canada (FHCP) spoke passionately about the need for a Grocery Code of Conduct to help rebalance the fundamentally asymmetrical relationship between large grocery retailers and the suppliers. While the Code can't fix the consolidation that has led to five companies having 80% of Canada's retail grocery market, it will help provide a 'rulebook' to engage for better balance. While the UK's decidedly successful implementation of their Code was based on government regulation, the developing Canadian Code will be voluntary.

DFC President Pierre Lampron gave his final DFC update to this event as his term will conclude at the 2023 DFC AGM. He spoke to the efforts of all involved to secure 'full and fair' compensation from the federal government for the CTCPP, CETA and CUSMA trade deals, citing the recent announcement of $1.2B to be paid out over the coming six years. He was pleased that the front of package labeling initiative, which at one time would have negatively affected 89% of dairy SKUs, was significantly softened with science-based evidence resulting in 2/3 of dairy products receiving exemptions. He is proud of the partnerships established with Tree Canada, CleanFarms and Ducks Unlimited to advance positive environmental impacts involving dairy. He cited the success of the 'little blue cow' campaign that has resulted in over 85,000 products now being identified with this highly consumer-recognized label. He concluded with reference to the challenges that remain, including achieving carbon-neutrality by 2050.

Fawn Jackson, DFC's Chief Sustainability Officer took the stage with Fraser Valley dairy producer George Dick of Dicklands Farm. Fawn shared the frustrations of

Butter is the Bacon of the Dairy Industry!

When Chef Ned Bell gleefully held up his "brick of gold," (a coveted pound of BC-produced Vitalus butter), we knew we were in for a tantalizing demonstration at the BC Dairy Conference!

Ned Bell, French-trained chef, sustainable-practices advocate and Chef Ambassador for the Buy BC program, reminded us that all humans are connected by the need and want for food.

His passion for food, people/animals and sustainability is genuine – and his engaging style melts away resistance to dairy products as easily as the cheese on his three-layered grilled cheese experience! Slathering creamy butter generously on both sides of the bread, it was the smell and sizzle of his grilled three-cheese magic that had his audience's full attention! Proud to profile local ingredients, he stated, "Your industry is my industry too!"

He recognizes that challenges facing BC's producers will also impact his world in the restaurant industry. He noted that today's consumers love food but are also very interested in how that food is produced and where it came from. Sustainable, environmentally and ethically responsive production methods are in everyone's best interests.

He expertly slid two eggs out of their shells onto the buttered griddle alongside the bread. With an unexpected scoop of chopped kale, his final creation was a three layer tower of perfectly melted/crusted cheese bonded with butter-crisped bread, crowned with two gently fried eggs.

The world's 'best grilled cheese sandwich.' Brought to you by BC's dairy, egg and kale producers and the magic of Chef Bell!



Chef Ned Bell gently passes his BC grilled cheese sandwich over to a ravenous Casey Pruim as MC Christine Terpsma watches from a safe distance.



Continued from previous page

'sustainability' while stating, "It's truly about efficiency and doing the right thing." She said, "There's not one golden ticket for everyone," meaning there will be many different approaches that farms can take to optimize their sustainability opportunities. "Ag is part of the solution with carbon sequestration and other opportunities," Fawn emphasized. George, who is nearing start-up of his own biodigester, and has made a major commitment to achieving sustainability, says we are not unique – there are many others in the world trying to accomplish the same thing. "We're all in this together," he offered, adding that there are many things coming available to help – some short term and others long term. "Look for the enhanced economic opportunity – be open to ideas and make some profit while we get somewhere," he summarized practically.

Back again for another intriguing and insightful ***call to action*** was Christophe Lafougere, CEO of Gira, the highly regarded France-based market research and strategic consultancy group. Christophe painted the global dairy picture, summarizing the international players' positions amid a world with geo-political tensions and economic pressures. Milk supplies will be limited in much of the world while price pressure will be up on processors. Margins will remain tight for all in dairy. Weather extremes/difficulties exacerbate milk prices. Farmers are quitting in some countries with both economic and lifestyle expectations leading the way. With labour shortages and tight margins, dairying is less attractive. His fascinating presentation concluded with this: "Canada has great potential to grow milk production, but it needs to find solutions for ***surplus proteins***." He is convinced that only 'valorisation' of milk constituents will yield vital profit margins from milk processing. The status quo of processing will not yield adequate margins for a thriving industry.

We look forward to sharing much more detail on these presentations in our *BC Holstein News* Winter issue.



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BC Branch News

President's Report



Carl Barclay
President

2022 is going to be over before we know it, along with my term as the President of the BC Holstein Branch. This year we got to start bringing some of our fun events back once the COVID restrictions were lifted in the spring. Many of the Holstein clubs around BC started to host events again in 2022. I want to congratulate them on getting things happening again. There were shows, sales, barn meetings, a picnic, and breeders cup events; very encouraging to see these things happen again!

In October, our BC Branch sponsored coffee and donuts for exhibitors at the Westerner Dairy Showcase in Red Deer, Alberta. BC was well represented at the show with several cattle coming from BC to compete.

In November, BC cattle made the trip to the Royal Winter Fair - the first show back at the Royal since 2019. The BC Holstein Branch sponsored the Grand Champion rose garland for the Black and White and Red and White Holstein show. This year the same cow won both titles, BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE. The last time a Red and White Holstein won the Royal was in 1982. A truly historic champion! Congratulations to her owners and breeders!

We also held our BC Holstein Branch AGM on November 17th. Thanks to those of you who attended. Congratulations to Vanvalley Farm on winning BC cow of the year with VANVALLEY EPIC SIIRI EX-90-2E 5* - she is an amazing long lasting cow. I also want to congratulate Rich Bosma on becoming an Honorary Lifetime member of the BC Holstein Branch. Your involvement and commitment to BC Holsteins has greatly benefitted our entire community.

I want to thank our directors, Thomas Cuthbert, Angela Hamming, Ben Cuthbert, Ridley Wikkerink, Greg Hessels, Luke Van Huizen, Mike Duncan, Sydney Fox, and Lexi DeJong. I also want to thank our Branch Secretary Joan Wikkerink. Thank you, Thomas Cuthbert, for letting your name stand for another term on our board. Thank you all for being willing to serve our Holstein Community. Thank you to our outgoing director Sydney Fox for her three years on the BC Holstein Branch.

On behalf of the BC Holstein Branch, I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Enjoy this time with your family and loved ones and reflect on all that we have to be thankful for. See you in 2023 – Merry Christmas!

National Director's Report



Ben Cuthbert
National Director
Holstein Canada President

I was fortunate to be able to attend World Dairy Expo in Madison in October. Canada was very well represented with exhibitors from coast to coast. The group from western Canada was outstanding, particularly the BC breeders, with top placings in Black & White and Red & White shows.

Congratulations to the BC exhibitors who showed at the 100th anniversary of the Royal Winter Fair. There were a record number of entries in both B&W and R&W shows with close to 650 entries.

The HC Board of directors are searching for a new CEO. Following the departure of Vincent Landry, the board immediately set up a search committee. Following revisions to the job description and profile, the job was posted on November 4. Please go to holstein.ca for further information and application details.

The board is fortunate and thankful to have a very experienced and dedicated staff that will ensure the ongoing operation of the organization.

As this fiscal year is quickly coming to its end, it means that very soon we will be celebrating the winners of the Master Breeder Shield. In the past month, over 70 farm families have been notified that they are currently sitting in the top 10 of their respective categories. We are excited once again to be hosting a virtual Master Breeder reveal on January 14, 2023. Please join all of us at HC as we announce the 2022 MB recipients. Watch out for notifications on the Holstein Canada website or our social media pages for details of the event.

It is never too soon to start planning for the AGM which will be held in Montreal, April 13-16. Come join us for farm tours, national show, the AGM and Master Breeder celebration the evening of April 16.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

BC Branch Princess Report



Kylie Langelaan
BC Branch Princess

As the end of year quickly approaches, my time as Holstein Princess wraps up too. It was so great to reconnect with folks throughout the year, and to meet new faces from within our industry. With the rainy and cold months here, it's time to bundle up for those long work days. While we all wish for the warm summer days again, know they'll be back next year. It is now time to focus on what matters: spending time with family, and of course, the cows!

I wish you and your family a healthy holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

bcholsteins.com

BC'S 2022 COW OF THE YEAR IS EPIC!

The BC Holstein Branch has awarded the 2022 Cow of the Year Award to VANVALLEY EPIC SIIRI EX-90-2E 5*, from Vanvalley Farm, Duncan. Ben, Margie and Matt vanBoven have been amazed by Siiri's incredible productivity, tenacity and influence on their herd.

- Calved this summer for 14th time!
- Lifetime production 173,875 liters of milk
- 13yr 365d 17,105kg 616kg 3.6% f 482kg 2.9%p (BCA: 316-309-277)
- Daughters: 5 VG, 4 GP, 2 heifers (No ET)
- Siiri's progeny make up 1/3 of herd – 36 head currently
- Siiri has one triple great granddaughter

Siiri calved for the 14th time right on her 17th birthday on July 27 (with a heifer calf)! Unfortunately, although she was off to a good start, she was lost to health complications three weeks into lactation.



Congratulations to the vanBoven family, Ben & Margie and Matt & Darbi for winning 2022 BC Cow of the Year!

BC Dairy Year End Update

New marketing campaign: Make it with Dairy

BC Dairy and Alberta Milk have launched a new campaign to engage with Gen Z and young Millennials by showing them how dairy continues to be an important and delicious part of their diet. Using a humorous approach, the campaign will show our target audience that when dairy products are missing from your favourite dishes, it can be beyond disappointing.

Our research continues to follow the global trend with young people consuming less dairy compared to the general population. This group represents strong potential for dairy consumption but are at the highest risk of reducing or eliminating dairy from their diets based on their values, lifestyle, and perception of dairy farmers.

To engage with this group, we must do it on their terms. Gen Z's are more likely to support brands that are 'brand authentic' meaning



those that are **transparent and relatable,** as well as engage with brands that are 'cool' and 'fun.' Further, this group consumes media on more social platforms than other demographics with preference for short-form videos.

With a focus on communicating that nothing comes close to the taste of dairy, the creative concept brings viewers through a series of scenes with uncomfortable metaphors of what it's like to not have dairy in their meals. Through absurd humour and a sense of unpredictability, we transfix our young audience until the end – revealing that you just need to 'Make it with dairy.'

From October 31 through to March 5 the video spots are airing on various video platforms which includes connected and traditional TV programming, social media including TikTok, Instagram and Facebook, and digital video platforms such as YouTube and Vevo. We will lean heavily on descriptive metaphors for display banners and digital out-of-home, injecting humor and iconic foods such as pizza clearly missing the goodness of dairy. The campaign will be measured through Intensions Research with the aim to see a lift in positive sentiment towards dairy products for those who recall the campaign.

Tag Trial Participants Needed!



We are looking for participants for our Tag Project! If you have bull calves or beef crosses that you do not have sale contracts for, and take them to an auction, rely on a calf buyer to pick them up, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As of September 2023, proAction will make it a requirement for all animals born on a dairy to be tagged with a white DairyTrace tag and plans to phase out the use of the yellow CFIA RFID tag. After September 2023 all animals will need either a dual tag for dairy animals, or a single white RFID for those animals that will not be entering the dairy industry.

We have heard concerns expressed from producers regarding this change and want to do our due diligence prior to this being implemented. The purpose of this project is to determine whether or not there is significant financial impact to the producer's bottom line based on the colour of tag used. To do this, we need YOUR HELP from the farm level! We are looking to collect very simple information from the farm and encourage everyone to participate! All participants will be entered into a draw with a chance to win $500!

If you'd like to participate, have any questions or would like more information please reach out to:

Morgan Sangster - BC Dairy Producer Support Manager
msangster@bcdairy.ca
306-290-5695

Morgan Hobin - AB Milk proAction Coordinator
mhobin@albertamilk.com
780-577-3318

Are you interested in representing BC Dairy on industry committees, government relations, or in other ways?
Check out **bcdairy.ca/governance** to let us know!

Sustainability Examples from DFC

Dairy Farmers of Canada Staff

Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) has committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by the year 2050 to proactively align with national and international goals.

Some farms across Canada have already begun to initiate practices that will aid in achieving 'net-zero'.

Here are just a few examples of environmental initiatives currently taking place on farms across Canada:

Planting projects are a big part of sustainability efforts. On some farms, cover crops and tree breaks are being planted to help support pollinators and prevent soil erosion. On other farms, trees are being planted on marginal land to promote biodiversity.

"In the 1960s, my parents planted maple trees in the driveway and it's kind of gone from there," Holger says. Today, he and his family manage about two acres of new trees around their Agassiz farm. With help from Tree Canada, his planting projects continue, and so does the positive environmental impact he's seen.

"We, like many other farms, understand the importance of the wetlands and waterways on our land," says owner Chandler Colpitts. "We take these types of ecosystems into careful consideration when it comes to establishment of riparian zones, nutrient management planning and runoff prevention measures."

Ontario-based Clovermead Farms got its biodigester off the ground thanks to grants from the Ontario government's Green Energy Act. Korb Whale, farmer and owner of Clovermead Farms, invested



more than $2 million in capital on his anaerobic biodigester in 2009 before landing a contract to sell electricity back to the grid. "We're reducing our greenhouse gas waste by almost 95%."

In addition to the farm's manure, Clovermead's digester takes in approximately 8,000 tonnes a year of food waste from local producers and processors.

Whale's farm also generates additional revenue by taking in this food waste while lowering its own carbon footprint.

Over in Quebec, there's an innovative biogas project launched by sharing the costs – and revenues – among 12 local agricultural producers and one cheese processor. Coop Agri-Énergie Warwick is now selling biogas back to the Énergir gas network, the main gas distributor in Quebec.

DFC is focused on making sustainability an opportunity for Canadian dairy farmers both on the farm and with consumers and remains steadfast on ensuring that economic sustainability and avoidance of reporting burden remains at the forefront of all work connected to sustainability.

We know that sustainability is important to Canadians, and we will ensure that Canadians know it is important to dairy farmers, too.

Hurricane Fiona Hammered Maritime Farms

Dairy farmers worked together in the wake of the post-tropical storm that hit Atlantic Canada in late September.

Photos supplied by families affected

Ronda Payne

Dairy farmers of PEI and Nova Scotia knew hurricane Fiona was coming. The fact that it was downgraded to a post-tropical storm hardly made a difference in the wee hours of September 24 when winds blew at more than 100 kilometers per hour.

Fiona changed coastlines, threw homes into the ocean, cut power for days/weeks and put a number of farmers out of business indefinitely. Three people were killed (one in each province of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and PEI), along with an undetermined number of animals. Most Maritimers put as positive a spin as possible on the situation and are grateful things weren't worse, but it is uncertain when things will ever be "normal" again.

Jeff Bysterveldt of Winterbay Holsteins (Master Breeder herd) was among the most severely impacted on PEI. "We knew all week it was going to happen; we just didn't know it was going to be that bad," says Bysterveldt. "I've never seen anything like this before and we deal with hurricanes every couple of years. Before then I had never felt unsafe inside my own house."

When he got up at his usual time of 4 a.m., it was dark, but he could make out the change in the silhouette of his farm buildings. He and his wife Amy lost about a quarter of their milking herd when the hurricane brought down two empty silos on the wood framed dairy barn. "Even though it was still dark and storming, I could tell we were going to need to get the rest of the cows out to get milked, fed and watered."

He kept his look at things minimal with a flashlight and didn't go in the barn, uncertain of the structural integrity of a third silo, damaged and filled with grass. "We just started making phone calls right away to some neighbours that we thought would have some extra room for some cows," Bysterveldt explains. "We didn't want to go into the barn to make any moves until daylight so we could see it was safe to go in."

As is the case with farmers, good neighbours, friends and those in a strong community, help came quickly, but even that wasn't simple. Tractors and chainsaws were required to get to roads and other farms. "A lot of people started showing up and helping," he says. "Trees were covering the roads everywhere and power lines were down. We had to clear a path from one farm to the next."

When neighbours saw cattle trailers going by, they knew something had happened and despite the constantly dropped phone calls, about 20 people from the community came to help. "We didn't have to go calling, asking for help," Bysterveldt says. "We didn't really want to, because we didn't know what anyone else was going through."

One of the first calls he made was to the vet, who drove through ditches and past downed power lines to get to the farm. "He helped us all day long. He went above and beyond," he says. "And he had to do the dirty work. He had to do the painful stuff dealing with the cows under the rubble."

There wasn't a single person that wasn't impacted says Jon Raymond Dykstra, who is the PEI Branch president of Prince Edward Island Holsteins. He primarily raises show heifers and milks cows on the weekend at another Master Breeder herd, Red Oak Farms. "I think it was eight dairy barns that were significantly impacted," he says. "A lot of them were tarp barns. Three of them are now milking cows without a roof."

The weather since the storm has been surprisingly nice, taking some of the pressure off, but as the saying goes: **winter is coming.** "They were just lucky that we had a really nice fall," he adds. Even into November many barns (as well as other businesses and homes) don't have a roof. The beaches will never be the same, Dykstra says. "Tourism is a big thing on PEI," he says. "Our beaches, the sand dunes that were there, have been decimated."

Most people on the island were out of power for at least a week. "Some of them were closer to two or three [weeks]," he says. "And you know what the price of diesel is like running a generator that long."

Another issue that is likely to impact everyone in dairy is the corn which was ready to be harvested. "People were just getting underway," says Dykstra. "A lot of corn got damaged, flattened. Feeds are going to be something they're going to have to watch."

Prior to the storm, Logan Jewell of Jewell Dale Farm was milking about 130 cows with his family. "We suffered a major loss here.



Winterbay's milking barn was crushed by silos brought down by the hurricane. Some cows were lost.

Fiona's fury completely leveled one silo and took down another half while damaging a third.

We did lose our dairy barn," he says. "We have a tarp barn. It hit the north end of our barn which is quite high. The back end of the barn collapsed completely. Half the barn rafters caved in."

He still can't believe they didn't lose a single animal. "Which is really a miracle," he says. "It doesn't really hit home until something like this happens to yourself. It gets quite real. We heard about [BC farmers] experiencing the flooding."

His dad called and told him the barn was gone and Jewell couldn't believe it. "I was prepared to come here and start euthanizing the cows," he notes. "My brother and father were there; it was still dark."

Luckily, they were able to bring the cows around to the front of the barn and milk them, before moving them to other farms. "A lot of neighbours showed up with trucks and trailers," he says. "The days following, a lot of our neighbours stopped in and helped us with the clean-up. We are very grateful for that. I think everyone kind of banded together."

He knows they will be removing trees from the fields for years. And here, like everywhere else on PEI and much of Nova Scotia, the corn that looked so good, switched from harvest to salvage.

"Us Maritimers, we'll tough it out," says Jack Thomson of West River Holsteins in Nova Scotia. "The most devastating losses are the uninsurable things."

While the insurance firms have come out and looked at some properties, the sheer volume makes it a significant effort. "The insurance on some things on the farms is suspiciously quiet on what they're going to do or cover," he says. "They came out and took a look at the damage we had and I haven't seen an adjuster yet."

Instead, he, like many in the region, has taken pictures and started the clean-up, because they have to. The winter weather is on its way.

Prior to the storm, Jewell had been looking at a robotic milker. Having to rebuild makes this one item hopefully a little easier to incorporate. They are also going to go with a wood barn rather than a tarp barn.

Bysterveldt was in Toronto when he spoke to *BC Holstein News*, touring barns to see what he'd like to move forward with. "I don't think I'll ever build tall silos again," he says.



Jewell Dale Farm's tall tarp barn, home to 130 milking cows, took a direct hit from Fiona.



The nice weather after Fiona has helped with clean-up, but rebuilding is a long-term project, and winter has arrived.

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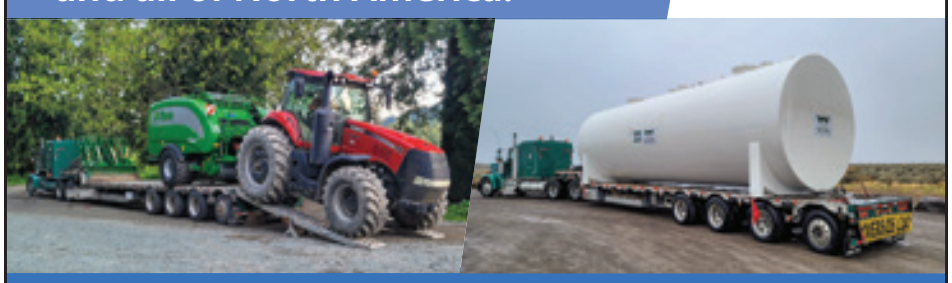
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The management, staff and families at Pacific Dairy Centre wish you peace, health and happiness throughout 2023!

PACIFIC DAIRY CENTRE

Looking Back on the Flood a Year Later
Graham Farms

Tars Cheema

The Sumas Prairie farms that suffered greatly from the November 2021 flooding continue to push forward – *a year later* - with tired determination. Phil Graham of Graham Farms was among the hardest hit, and as we speak, it is apparent that the trauma of those days remains close to the surface. Phil and his wife Trina had four young children and about 450 head (230 milking) last November when the days of unrelenting rains overwhelmed the rivers and caused a section of the dike to fail on November 16.

One Farm Family's Story

When the atmospheric river of rain finally wrung out on Sunday, November 14, the first wave of farms was under 4-5 feet of water. The Nooksack in Washington State continued spilling water that flowed through Sumas Prairie on the 15th. But the calamity was about to take out a whole new group of farms to the east when the dike holding back the engorged Sumas River proved inadequate to contain the historic amounts of water on Tuesday the 16th.

Phil and Trina had little time to contemplate a plan when the Abbotsford Police knocked on their door at 7am Tuesday and told them to evacuate – water was flowing over the dike and the risk of failure was great. In a half hour, Trina had packed a few things and the four littles and headed for Chilliwack to safer ground. The sun was shining and the weather calm as Phil, his neighbours Ben and Kevin, stood on the road contemplating the situation. Phones began ringing as others were coordinating the evacuation of neighbouring herds. "The water didn't look bad that early in the morning, so I thought I should finish feeding the cows and re-evaluate then," Phil remembers how it started. With his employee stranded in Abbotsford, Phil was alone to milk and do chores.

But the water continued flowing steadily, quietly and soon Phil knew, "We had to go!" First came sourcing trucks and locations for his 200 plus milking cows. By noon, his cows were on their way to three farms initially in Chilliwack, with about 50 diverted to Delta several days later when the westbound highway was opened. "We got the milk cows and dry cows out that day," Phil says. As the water level continued to climb, they moved all the baby calves to the highest barn. But the water just kept coming. Water was filling their home's crawl space when Phil called Trina in Chilliwack to tell her he was staying the night, until a warning was issued that the pump station was at risk of failing and that could be catastrophic.

"Three of us had been using Theo's truck and trailer to move cattle but the water got high and took out a bridge, so we all got stranded at our place," Phil recalls.

Late that night, he made the difficult decision to accept an evacuation offer and hope for the best – flooded roads were being closed in all directions due to the unsafe conditions.

But the water just would not stop rising, and they returned the following day with watercraft across the flooded fields to evacuate his youngest calves. The older heifers were okay standing in brisket deep water, and they were fed hay from the boats. "Sietsma's JCB and trailer were parked at #4 Road waiting to load the babies from the boats. We moved 60 calves and every single one survived," Phil says with appreciation for the people who made this possible. "Dicklands took the oldest and Gracemar took the ones on milk. Everyone did a fantastic job," Phil's voice tapers off emotionally. He acknowledges the terrible reality of the big heifers who could not be evacuated and were humanely euthanized.

Phil returned almost daily, at first wading a half kilometer through deep water to monitor the water level and checking on the hay – at risk of heating and catching fire. As the water slowly receded, he and volunteers could start on recovery tasks like hauling out equipment. December 4 marked the official day they could go full bore on clean-up and recovery.

The Return

Without a willing army of volunteers, the clean-up would have been overwhelming. "I don't even know how many days Matt DeJong was here, organizing the volunteers and taking care of the clean-up. He took away my tractors to get repaired, he brought water in…" he pauses again. "Without all those volunteers, I don't know how we could have got back on our feet." All the hay was ruined but most of the silage was ok. "There were three loaders moving the hay out of the barn – it was really hot – and we didn't need a fire on top of everything else."

The dairy and parlour equipment were checked and refurbed, thanks to Pacific Dairy. "The DeLeeuws had a grain vac, which we used to salvage about 3/4 of the grain from the big bins. Just a few days before the flood, we got a delivery of mineral and salt blocks. The salt blocks disappeared and the mineral was a solid rock." West Coast Robotics took care of returning the alley scraper motors to function. All the free stall mattresses were layered with muck. "People pressure washed for days. Tony Meier was here with his loader helping to clean up. There were volunteers everywhere – they gutted our house so it could start to dry out," Phil recalls with disbelief and deep appreciation. "The semen tank was laying on its side for days. We had the semen tested and it was good, so we used it through the year."



Matt DeJong wades through flood water, directing the recovery of equipment.



Phil and Trina are grateful for all the help they received to help them get back on track. (L-R) Hunter, Kassie, Layla in Trina's arms, Piper with Phil, Stella in the back tire



The new drive-through barn was over half-way complete when the flood rolled though.

For three weeks, volunteers kept coming. "One group was from the Cheam Christian School. **Man, those kids worked hard**," he smiles his admiration.

The cows finally returned home a month after they were first evacuated.

What a Year

An additional layer to the Grahams' story is that they were over half-way into the construction of a brand new milking drive-through for 280 head. Many thousands of dollars of supplies were sitting, waiting for installation. The big ventilation fans were swamped by the high water. But it could have been worse. "We had recently finished putting the roof on the barn – all that metal roofing and plywood, lumber…it could have all been lost."

Phil brought a mobile trailer in for his family. While he was thankful for some heifer donations from kind dairy people, he had to pick-up heifers and cows to keep up with regular herd turnover.

In time, the crews returned to work on their new dairy barn and their house. The trailer was not ideal for a family of six, so they *happily* moved into their repaired house over Easter while continuing the remaining repairs after. On July 19, the cows *happily* moved into the new drive-through barn with generous light, ventilation and fans. Less than a week later, Phil and Trina *happily* welcomed their fifth child – a girl, Piper.

About 150 acres of winter wheat/rye grass cover crop was lost, leaving them without a very important source of forage for their year. Buying forage, as many others experienced, was very expensive and difficult to find dairy quality. "We struggled with production all year, but it's finally getting back where it should be."

It's been a tough year. And the consequences, especially financial, will take a very long time to overcome. Insurance, government and other funding can never completely compensate the losses. But through this terrible crisis…what also stands out is the caring of so many others to ensure farmers like Phil were not in this alone. "It's been hard. But my family is here - safe and happy."

Helping Sumas Prairie Farmers – One Year Later

Jimi Meier

It has been one year since the words 'potential flooding' became a reality for Sumas Prairie as well as other BC communities.

When we hear 'atmospheric river' now, it makes many understandably nervous.

It has been a really long and difficult year. Many are surprised when they hear that people are struggling and many still have not returned home. The needs are still there. Many have used their retirement funds to cover costs, while others put the unexpected costs on their credit cards and are struggling to cover this financial burden.

There are many reasons for this. Over the last year, financial assistance has been slow to come in. While a few had insurance, the majority did not. Red Cross gave an initial $2000 to each residence, and there were a handful that received additional funds that were quite helpful. The same for DFA. The struggle has been red tape, and difficulty with paperwork. The response was slow for most and not at all for many. This is all very overwhelming when you have just gone through a disaster.

Nonetheless, there were so many who did step up and help: AgSafe, United Way, Bowls of Hope, Archway Community Services, Samaritans Purse, Gateway Church and The Pantry, Alison Arends from Crossroads Hub, Victoria from the Yarrow food hub, Arnold Church, and so many more! Businesses and PEOPLE...lots and lots of people. **This** gave strength and hope.

Many of these groups are still working together, along with Hallie Jacobs and I with Helping Sumas Prairie Farmers, to continue the support. We have organized 'Coffee Chats' where people can come and just visit. Some need to talk and others are there to give support.

Community Fall Harvest was another wonderful event organized by Alison Arends, Tracey Tuin, Kristin Dahl, Jimi Meier, AgSafe, United Way and Kris and Cindy Dueck at Whitehouse Farms. The intention was to acknowledge how far everyone had come while also giving back to each other. We collected donations of produce, fruits and vegetables from local farms/businesses, baking, canning, blankets and gifts – then offered them to those who were affected by the flood. Lunch was donated by Tim Hortons Whatcom Road, along with coffee and donuts.

It was an uplifting day of **community.**

As everyone left with their items, as well as a bag of potatoes and beautiful pumpkins, it was so nice to see the smiles and hope coming alive again in Sumas Prairie.

Just minutes after closing, word came that there was a dairy farm on fire up the road and they needed help. Farmers, cattle trucks, neighbours arrived first, then emergency response. We loaded up what food was left from the market, ordered pizza and drinks and took it right to the farm.

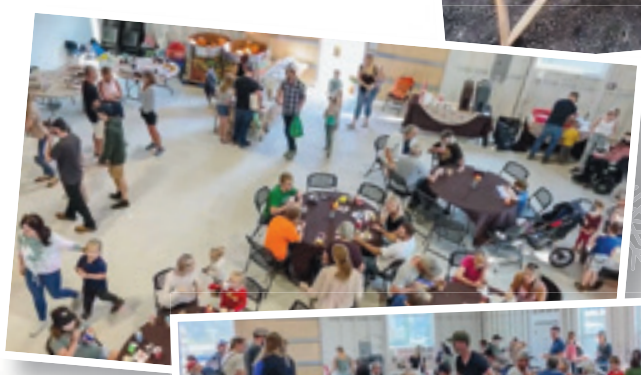
It was a sight to see, that in the midst of a horrible situation, once again Sumas Prairie was coming together to help a neighbour.

To sum up the last year, I would say that I have lived in Sumas Prairie for 24 years, getting to know many people along the way. But this year...*this was the year* I finally MET my community and watched it become a family.

There is still much need in the community, but I am certain, **Sumas Prairie is going to be okay**.



A year later, people and businesses continue to rally around the affected Sumas Prairie residents – sharing goods, encouragement, caring and friendship.





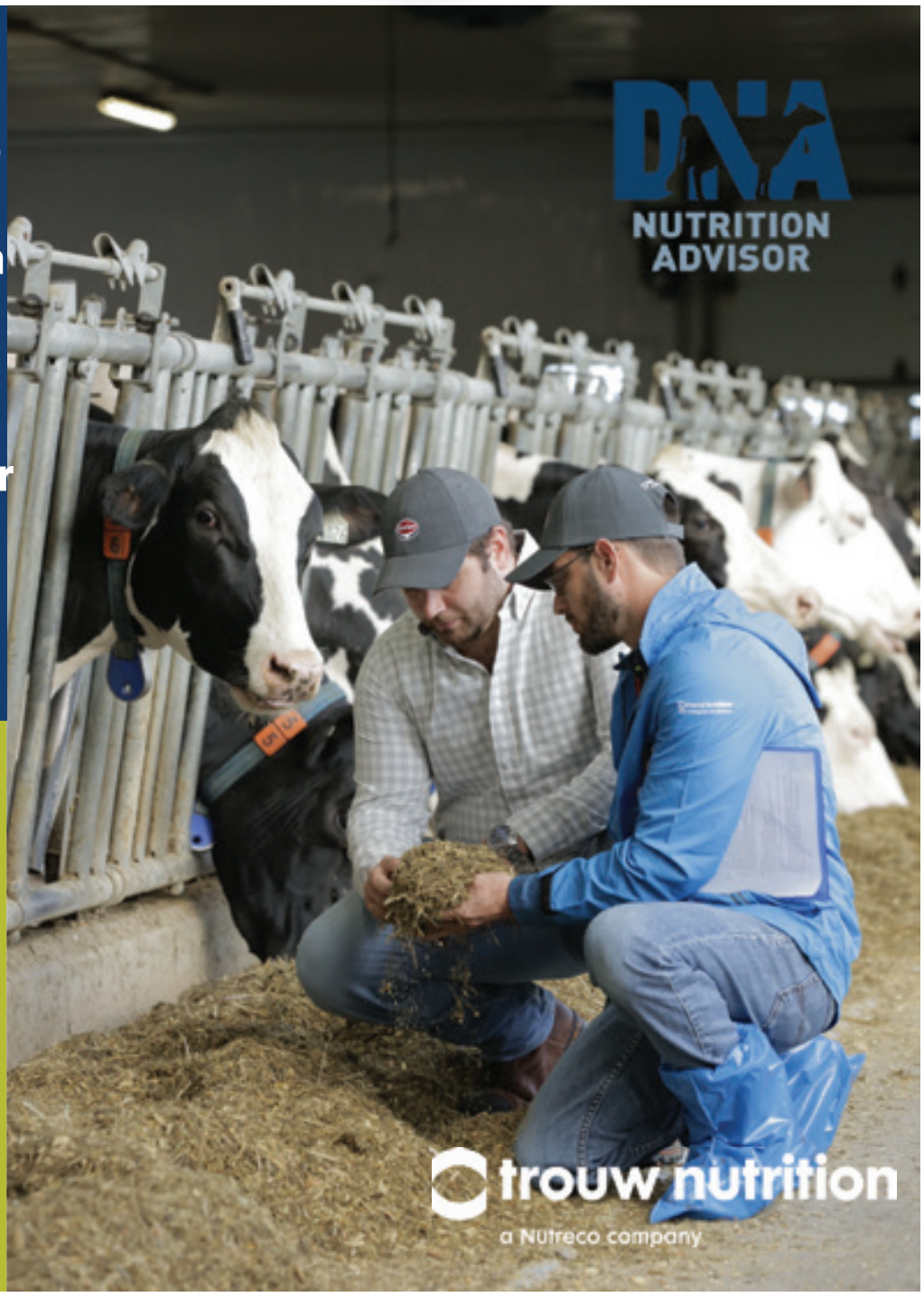
Jimi Meier photos

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A and J of Hoften Farms

On the Road Again...and Again...

Tars Cheema

If there was a prize for the best traveled dairy herd in Canada, Hoften Farms would surely win it! Their Jersey herd traveled from Barrhead, AB (about 120 km northwest of Edmonton) down to Didsbury, before venturing east to St. Claude, MB (1250 km), then westward more than 1800 km to Grindrod, in BC's north Okanagan. All within six years.

I just had to start asking questions...



Long retired, the 1953 3-ton GMC now welcomes guests to Grindrod, after serving this role in St. Claude the past two years.



Road trip 1

Arjan Otten moved with his parents and two sisters from the Netherlands in 1991. They had been farmers back home, but saw more opportunities in Canada, landing in Barrhead where the family milked 75 cows. Arjan, who had completed his diploma at Olds College with a major in Ag Mechanics and a minor in two-stepping, went on to work as a heavy-duty mechanic. But when his father was injured in 2009, Arjan dropped his tools on the spot and returned to take over the farm. "I wanted efficient cows, so I started adding Jerseys – they came from Adrian Haeni – Lone Pine Jerseys," Arjan explains the Jersey genesis.

Meanwhile, Jessica grew up on a livestock hobby farm in Whitecourt, with non-dairy 4-H projects for many years. Her dairy experience came during high school, working at neighbouring farms. Naturally, dairy got into her system, and she proceeded to Saskatoon where she graduated with her Animal Science degree. Jessica was home from Uni for the weekend in Barrhead when she met Arjan in the Fall of 2011 at a farmer dance. Maybe it was Arjan's fancy two-stepping, maybe it was his pick-up line, "I have cows," either way, he and Jessica have been together ever since.

Road trip 2

It was October 2016 when they decided to make the move south to Didsbury and begin their very own dairy operation exclusively with Jerseys. "It's a day I'll never forget – milking the cows one last time before we headed for our adventure down south. That day was a step into our future," Arjan recalls.

They milked the cows at a different farm while they built a new facility for 50 cows, which they excitedly moved into in June 2017. It was on their very own farm that they tied the knot in September. The following year, they were thrilled to receive the Jersey Young Achiever award - recognizing the accomplishments of Jersey breeders in Canada under the age of 40.



The 1928 McCormick Deering tractor had no doubt endured many harsh conditions in its life before joining Arjan and Jessica in Grindrod. This steel-wheeled, metal-cleated 'iron horse' still runs!

Dairy life was great as they welcomed baby Rayna to the family in February 2020. But soon after, Covid's many disruptions also resulted in the end of the lease-quota program. "The answer was to move to Manitoba where we could afford the additional quota to support what our herd was producing," explains Arjan. "We were milking about 50 Jerseys with a used robot and the cows were averaging about 1.9kg fat daily. There was no question they were coming with us."

Road trip 3

They bought a suitable farm in St. Claude, just south of Portage La Prairie and hit the road in September. "Rayna was six months old as we moved and she was miserable with teething," Jessica remembers with a maternal concern. On the other hand, maybe Rayna was worried about the weather that lay ahead?

"We were in Manitoba for two years and two winters. There were floods, big snow, drought... I'm sure we experienced every weather condition possible!" remembers Arjan. "And we knew winters would be cold and tough..."

Their distant dream of moving to BC was still alive, so it seemed like a prayer answered when a family came wanting their farm in April of this year. With a deal finalized in May and move-out in September, they had no time to lose!



Jessica, Arjan and Rayna are happy to be settled into their new home with their well-traveled herd!

Road trip 4

"We had done our math and knew what we were looking at. It was an ad in the *BC Holstein News* in June that sparked a huge response," shares Arjan. "We came out and looked at a dozen farms. Some were just out of our budget, and some didn't fit our vision. We had a serious time crunch and had to make this happen!" The deal with the Drydyk family of Westside Holsteins in Grindrod came together quickly – and the countdown was ON! "The comfort level with the Drydyks was great," Jessica expresses. Arjan continues, "They understood, and we understood how this had go with the short window we had."

Back in St. Claude, they knew they had to "pack smart" and be decisive with what would travel west to BC. "They went above and beyond to help us make this work," Jessica says of Rick and Heather. "They allowed us to bring in equipment and a lot of stuff before we took ownership. They were really good through it all," she reinforces.

"It was a hot trip across – we only had to stop and milk once in Lethbridge. But just outside of Golden the truck broke down," Arjan explains. Fortunately, it didn't take too long, and the cows weren't far from their new home.

"The move took lots of planning and trust in people, but it worked out really good," Arjan is happy to say in **past** tense. "The cows came through this move so well," adds Jessica.

End of the Road?

Milking in Grindrod for just a couple months, they are already feeling settled into the dairy community while the cows only took a few days to get back on track. "Our plan is just slowly grow, and eventually get up to 70 cows," says Jessica. "We prefer quality over quantity. Maybe we'll show a little bit, pay attention to our genetics with good function, efficiency and longevity," adds Arjan of their near plans. Modest goals perhaps, given that they recently had three cows complete 305d lactations exceeding 575kg fat and/or 460kg protein landing them in the Jersey Canada 'Single Hall of Fame.' And last year, their herd classification summary tallied 1ME - 3EX - 23 VG - 45 GP. They have already established good longevity with an average age of 5yr with most of their herd still tracing to Lone Pine and with solid production besides – 1.7kg BF as they left Manitoba.

They recognize that there were a great many people helping them make this Grand Plan come together. "It takes an enormous effort to move a whole farm across the prairies. We would like to say thank you to our families, our friends, Rick and Heather, our realtors Sheldon and Chris, our main guy Konrad, the truckers; Knills Transport, Dangremond Transport, Richwall Trucking, ET Custom Transport. Penner Auctions, Wilson Colony, Tars and the *BC Holstein News*, and thank you Don and Andre, Jared and Charlie, and Stephen and John."

Is there another road trip in their future? Too soon to tell. But the Hoften Farm sign *isn't in concrete just yet...*



Dazzle and her herdmates rebounded quickly following their 1800+ km journey to BC.

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After the Flood: Looking back one year later

Monica deRegt

The week of November 14 marked the one-year anniversary of the devastating floods in British Columbia that destroyed hundreds of homes, farms, and animals last year. Authorities estimate that over 630,000 animals died, and approximately 1100 homes and farms were impacted by the flooding that was caused by record-breaking rainfall, the overflow of the Nooksack River and the breach of the Sumas Dike in Abbotsford. Along with flooding, the storms also caused highway closures and landslides, with five people losing their lives.

In the Sumas Prairie, over 150 square kilometres of farmland were under water, leaving thousands homeless and looking towards an uncertain future. So where are they now? And what has this last year been like for them? The answers to these questions seem different for everyone, according to dairy farmer Tracey Tuin.

"The stories are as varied as the people who live them and even though we all share the same crisis, it has affected each person differently and everyone has their own journey of recovery," explained Tuin, who is now the Crisis Response Coordinator at The Pantry at Gateway Community Church in Abbotsford.

The Pantry was initiated in response to the flood, becoming one of the many organizations providing food and supplies to displaced families. It has since grown into a place of connection and community, where people meet to share their stories and find healing through the process. It has also become an avenue through which flood victims who have received support and assistance are now giving back to the community. The Pantry continues to partner with agencies to connect people with food, financial support, housing, and other services, in addition to planning community events. Recently The Pantry has been able to welcome some Ukrainian families who have fled the devastation of their war-torn country.



Last December – the clean-up begins...

"There's been a neat sense of giving back, which is important to the recovery of flood affected families," said Tuin, adding that the experience of loss and displacement has deepened the sense of empathy for those who are now experiencing crisis in a whole other exponentially more traumatic way.

The Tuins moved back into their renovated home in February, which has helped them return to a sense of normalcy despite the longer lasting effects of the flooding. For many others, a year later, this has not yet happened.

Tracey says that despite the strength of community that has been such a helpful balm through this difficult year, "there's also a strong sense of frustration and exhaustion. For many people they are not at the point that they had hoped to be 12 months later. For many there has been endless paperwork, endless waiting, disappointing assessments, and lack of financial support. There is much physical and mental and emotional exhaustion."

Alison Arends echoes this sentiment of mixed emotions, expressing that the community gatherings have been such a positive experience for people to not feel that they are going through this alone, and that it has been rewarding to see so many people helping in our community. But the journey is not over.

"Some are in their homes again, some still in progress, some haven't even started anything yet, awaiting what money may be coming in. For most, it has not been a pleasant outcome," Arends states. "As we come to the first anniversary, there are so many nervous people. So many dikes and roads have not been fixed or upgraded. The words 'atmospheric river' set off a lot of PTSD-like feelings. Kids hear rain falling and ask if they have to leave their home again. This is a very scary way to live."

Arends opened and ran The Hub at Crossroads Dairy, which sprang up overnight as relief support to the community in the middle of the flood zone. At one point, she was feeding and organizing support for over 100 people per day. Although The Hub has now closed down, Arends still receives financial donations, which she is now using to purchase much-needed appliances for the many who are still in great need. She says there are new people every week who are just finding out about the various ways they can receive help. Moving forward, Arends expressed a desire to see better communication with the city and through social media, to ensure that all affected people can receive timely help.

The range of experiences and emotions, from frustration, stress, and grief to thankfulness for a strong sense of community and support, is strengthened by another common theme – that of hope, and of a desire to help each other.

Amanda Bouwman and her family are looking forward to moving back into their home *next* summer following more extensive rebuilding, as they try to prevent future flood damage. She says that the feeling of "back to normal" isn't far off.







The amount of muck that the flood water left behind was unbelievable.



Like so many dozens of homes across Sumas Prairie, the walls were stripped down in the middle of winter – a cold snap made conditions difficult.



Another flood-related chore was collecting heavy, saturated round bales from all over the farm for disposal.

Continued from previous page

"The thing that stands out the most is the continued generosity from everyone! It's amazing how even a year later people still want to help, donate, support people who are currently not home yet. When we saw Manitoba flood a few months ago our hearts went out to them. Seeing the support we received, we hope and prayed they got the same support."

Bouwman summarizes it well: "While many are back in their homes, settling into normal life, there's still a lingering feeling of 'Will it happen again?' We all hope and pray this winter is quiet and uneventful."

The sense of community continues to grow, as gatherings were/are hosted by the community and multiple churches – particularly on November 14 – with the theme of "True Peace and Hope are possible even when life is challenging."

Tracey Tuin explains that, "the events gave something for people to look forward to - an opportunity to meet up with friends and often connect with resources available to help their recovery process. The face-to-face contact with support helped them feel less alone in their journey."



Robots Yield Efficiencies at Halarda



Anton and Cheryl Borst of Halarda Farms continually seek ways to improve and become more efficient on their family farm.



Halarda Farms Ltd., owned by Anton and Cheryl Borst and family, currently milk 1300 cows with 20 robots on their attractive Elm Creek, MB, farm.

Bonnie Cooper, becooper2010@gmail.com

With 20 robots milking close to 1300 registered Holstein cows, Halarda Farms Ltd. at Elm Creek is one of Manitoba's largest dairies, and the largest milked by robotic units. Owned by Anton and Cheryl Borst and family, this progressive dairy farm's use of the latest milking system technology and automation, combined with exceptional management skills, has kept them moving forward.

Anton Borst, 50, was 12 years old when his parents moved their family from Holland to Canada in 1984 and bought an existing Manitoba dairy farm with 80 cows. "Our farm name and prefix, Halarda, comes from the first letters of my parents, myself and siblings' names," Anton says. "I have always worked on the farm. In 2013, my wife Cheryl and I officially took over the farm." The Borsts have nine children ranging in age from 9 to 29, plus nine grandchildren. One son, Michael and his wife Janique, are already part of the farm company. They have 17 full-time and a number of part-time employees, and crop 4500 acres of land, growing alfalfa, corn and barley.

Investigating a New Direction

In 2008, the Borsts were milking 635 cows in a double-10 parlour with one person. With the parlour getting old, they went touring to see what kind of new parlour they wanted. They also stopped at a couple large robot barns. "Very quickly," Anton recalls, "it was: How can we do this? How can we incorporate robots? We were convinced that if other people could make robots work, we could too." He continues, "We also knew, and suspected, then that it was going to be very hard in future to find labour, especially milking labour. We aren't close to any large centres and so had limited staff availability. I knew I didn't want to milk an 8-hour shift, so I could hardly expect other people would. We also saw the information about how your management could change with robots. We were very much intrigued by that. Three months later, we decided we were building a robot barn."

Managing with Robots

In 2009, the Borsts moved into a new barn and started milking with eight Lely Astronaut A3 robotic milking units. They continued to add more new and used Lely robots as herd numbers increased. In 2019, they installed 20 new Lely Astronaut A5 robotic milking systems. Their 1300 milk cows, who wear activity/rumination collars, are housed in two barns. The one barn has 12 robots. It houses second lactation and older cows in four groups with three robots each in a "tollbooth" configuration. The second barn, for first-calf heifers, has eight robots with heifers divided into four groups with two robots each in a "tandem" configuration. Of the two robot designs, Anton says, "I prefer the tollbooth over the tandem. In the tollbooth, cows walk straight in and out and once they have been through the robot they are removed from the area and funnelled to a sort gate. They can't circle back and try to get in the robot. This means less robot refusals and wasted robot time."

When cows reach the sort gate, they are either returned to the main pen or routed into separation pens where all of the herd management tasks are performed, like A.I., health, hoof trimming, vaccinations, etc. "A lot of the decision making of who to put in the separation pen is 'automatic' and done by the robot's computer software system which is continually monitoring the cow's health," says Anton. As a result, rather than produce a list of cows and have staff search for them in the main pens, which can delay treatment by 8-10 hours, the computer software and gates are programmed so that cows needing attention automatically end up in the separation pen, making the whole process faster and more efficient. Once in that pen, Anton and his staff combine as many tasks as possible which makes for better results and translates into more rest for the cows and better cow visit behaviour. "We basically manage by exception. The 98% of the cows that are having an average day, we try to leave them alone," remarks Anton. "Our focus is on lean management. Let the software and equipment do the work and let the cows come to you. If you just use robots to milk cows, I don't think you are using them to their total capability. You are only getting part of the labour savings."

The Details

Having the right barn layout and pre-robotic training are essential for success in a robot barn. The Borsts have computer feeders in with their breeding age heifers to get them used to the idea of going into a robot box and being rewarded. The first week after calving, heifers are kept in a separation pen to ensure they go through the robot 3X/day before moving into the main group. That training definitely pays off, with the Borsts recording only three "fetch" cows/day (0.4%) in the 12-robot barn with 780 cows.

Excellent mobility/hoof health is also crucial to good cow-flow through the robot units.

"We work with Rippleview Hoof Care who's a very progressive hoof trimmer, trimming one day per week, those cows about to go dry, mid lactation and any cows that may have an issue developing," Anton explains. Automatic footbaths are run four days a week, with cows routed through the sort gates. They use formalin and copper sulphate in alternating weeks.

In the robot, cows receive a pellet of 44% barley, 25% corn, 21% canola meal and 10% wheat, plus roasted soybeans. In the free-stalls, cows get a PMR of corn and alfalfa silage, prepared protein supplement, potato waste and *pea cream* (a liquid by-product after extracting pea protein). An automatic bedding system deposits chopped straw and hydrated lime in the main pens where stalls are water beds with foam underlay.



One of the 20 Lely Astronaut A5 robots that the Borst family utilizes in their large Halarda herd.

The farm's old milking parlour continues to be put to good use, being used to manage their fresh and sick cows and for drying off cows. "We are happy to have a parlour to deal with our special needs cows as it saves robot time and ensures we have only saleable milk going through the robots," says Anton.

The average milk production per cow/day at Halarda is 41 litres with 4.0% fat and 3.3% protein. The herd is enrolled on Lactanet's eDHI service. To accelerate genetic improvement, the Borsts genomic test all of their females and then use only the highest genomic animals to produce their replacement females. Sexed, conventional and 30% beef semen is used in the herd, with genomic results dictating those usages.

The Borsts' keen attention to management is evident throughout the operation. Newborn calves are raised in a climate-controlled facility for the first eight weeks. From there, weaned calves move into a non-insulated barn until 5 months old, after which they go to outside corrals until breeding age. The farm's older facilities house pregnant heifers and dry cows. All heat detection is done by activity, with zero time spent on visual heat detection. Defined and set work schedules, systems and processes ensure the farm runs smoothly and efficiently.

Anton Borst attributes Halarda Farms' success to being focused and always looking for ways to improve and become more efficient. "We never really stand still," he says. He also credits the "great people" who work with and for them, many of whom are long-term employees and also extended family members. A proud father and grandfather, Anton says, "We are just really happy with the way we have been able to grow and build up a nice farm and a nice place to work. We are a family farm, just bigger."



The Borst family came to Canada in 1984 and today their Halarda Farms' operation encompasses 4500 acres of land and some 1300 registered Holstein cows plus young stock (located midway between Brandon and Steinbach).



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What a Show!!

The Westerner Dairy Showcase



Grand Champion BENBIE HIGH OCTANE CIARA in Champion form.



(L-R) Grand Champions - Ian Crosbie with ZIMMER KRUSADER AVA (Hon. Mention), Ridley Wikkerink with MIDAS-TOUCH JEDI JANGLE-ET (Reserve), Gary Vanderpost with BENBIE HIGH OCTANE CIARA (Grand Champion), judge Mike Duckett.



(L-R) Red and White Champions - Dale Bienert, Barclay Phoenix with KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL-RED (R&W Reserve Champion), Rory Timlin with SHANALTA WELCOME AVALANCHE (R&W Grand Champion), judge Mike Duckett.



(L-R) Wendon's Winning Breeders Herd – judge Mike Duckett, Connie McLellan, Marshall Hastie, Joel Phoenix, Rory Timlin, Don Chalack, Egbert Korenberg and Linsey Whelan.



(L-R) Intermediate Champions - WENDON EMILIO FINE (Champion), KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED (Reserve), MOSNANG BRIDGESTONE LIVE WIRE (Hon. Mention).

Ella Wright photos

Morgan Sangster

The Westerner Dairy Showcase is the largest dairy show in Western Canada where exhibitors from the four western provinces come together. Its reputation for exceptional quality cattle strengthens every year, with this year's show reflecting particularly well on the western breeders/exhibitors. Over 250 head made the journey to Red Deer, with Orville Schmidt (Southrise Holsteins/past HC President) saying, "It is a Championship show for a reason. Red Deer is one of the best places for the western breeders to get together and show off their best cattle and come together as people with a united passion."

Thursday started off with the Alberta Holstein Association hosting a judging clinic with a special guest Official Judge, coming all the way from the Netherlands, Nico Bons. The well-attended judging clinic sparked much valuable discussion from the participants and judges at the end of each class. Nico was thankful for the opportunity to come to Western Canada as the official clinic judge, expressing how he was impressed with the calibre of cattle.

The Junior show kicked things off Thursday afternoon with one of the biggest Peewee classes to date this year which suggests an optimistic future for the dairy industry.

The Jersey Show featured over 50 head, a great turnout for the brown eyed beauties. In fact, many exhibitors now have a Jersey or two in their strings, having a positive impact on the breed in the west. With over 200 Holstein entries, the calf classes were some of the biggest ever seen at the Westerner! Dale Bienert observed, "Walking through the barns, there are a lot of great quality cattle, but not one that is a standout winner this year. The competition is tight, and the breeders should all be proud."

This year's judge, Mike Duckett from Wisconsin, certainly had his work cut out for him. He expressed his appreciation for the quality of the cattle in Western Canada many times as he gave his reasons over the course of the two-day show. At the awards banquet, he emphasized how impressed he was with the quality of the animals, but even more so with the camaraderie and hospitality of the Western Canadian exhibitors. He said that he's never been to a show where all of the exhibitors are so fiercely competitive, and yet will celebrate when a fellow breeder takes the win. The banquet itself was another win, bringing together everyone that participated in the show, fitted the cattle, committee members, organizers and sponsors – socializing and celebrating this wonderful event.

You can visit the Facebook page or newly created Instagram account Westerner_dairy_showcase_AB to see interviews with breeders and sponsors, as well as live streaming show coverage! Big thanks to Trish Tetz and John Copithorne as they toured the barns visiting and interviewing!

Make plans to attend the Westerner Dairy Showcase next year and experience the enthusiasm and excitement!

Westerner Dairy Showcase Holstein Show

** Results courtesy of Cowsmo.com*

Grand Champion
BENBIE HIGH OCTANE CIARA
Benbie Holsteins, SK

Reserve Grand Champion
MIDAS-TOUCH JEDI JANGLE-ET
Westcoast Holsteins, BC

HM Grand Champion
ZIMMER KRUSADER AVA
Benbie, Zimmer & Robella, SK

R&W Grand Champion
SHANALTA WELCOME AVALANCHE
Straub & Son Dairy and Wendon Holsteins, AB

R&W Reserve Grand Champion
KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED
Bill Schilling and R&F Livestock, SK

R&W HM Grand Champion
WENDON JORDY CLEAR
Wendon Holsteins, AB

Intermediate Champion
WENDON EMILIO FINE
Wendon Holsteins, AB

Reserve Intermediate Champion
KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED
Bill Schilling and R&F Livestock, SK

HM Intermediate Champion
MOSNANG BRIDGESTONE LIVE WIRE
Westcoast Holsteins, BC

R&W Intermediate Champion
KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED
Bill Schilling and R&F Livestock, SK

R&W Reserve Intermediate Champion
WENDON JORDY CLEAR
Wendon Holsteins, AB

R&W HM Intermediate Champion
ZESSEN UNSTOPABULL NATIVITY
R&F Livestock, SK

Junior Champion
COBEQUID TATTOO RIDDLES
R&F Livestock, SK

Reserve Junior Champion
MOSNANG CHIEF DARLA
Mosnang Holsteins, AB

HM Junior Champion
LAMPADA SIDEKICK KATHLEEN
Fred Fornwald & Sons, MB

R&W Junior Champion
KOZAK WARRIOR RED BLAZE
Ells Dairy, Kozak, Orville Schmidt and R&F Livestock, AB

R&W Reserve Junior Champion
LUCKY MEIHAVEN WARRIOR RORY
Lucky Hill Dairy, AB

R&W HM Junior Champion
LUCKY ALTITUDE LUVA LOVE
Lucky Hill Dairy, AB

Premier Breeder
Wendon Holsteins, AB

Premier Exhibitor
R&F Livestock, SK

See Jersey Show results on page 64.

KING OF THE RING!



Ten year old Croteau Lesperron Unix EX-96 ST'17 greeted many visitors at the 2022 Royal. Part of the Semex display, he is one of the few Holstein bulls to have made the trip to Toronto since bull classes were discontinued many years ago. A very popular conformation sire, he has earned much admiration for his show-winning daughters. His daughters have also earned Unix the title of Premier Sire in 2022 at both The Royal and World Dairy Expo and in 2021 at WDE and the Canadian National Holstein Show. His August 2022 proof shows he has 10,779 daughters, 87% GP+ and 176 EX.

Congratulations Matlak Family

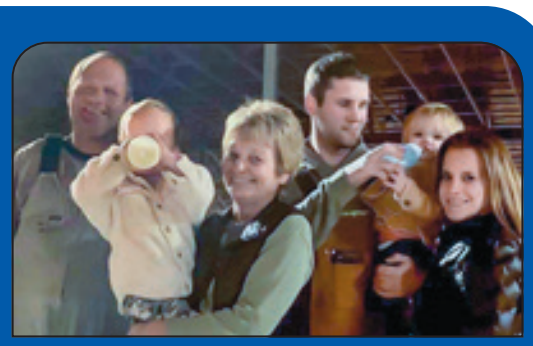
BC's Highest Milk Quality

The Matlaks of Deroche are honoured to be awarded BC's Milk Quality Award for the 2021-2022 dairy year. Having no infractions through the year and being continuously proAction compliant are base requirements. Their SCC averaged 41,000 and IBC averaged 3500, bringing them to the top of the list among a great many high quality milk producers in BC.

They switched to robotic milking November 9th 2021, installing Lely A5s for their 110 cows. Production went up almost 20%. Currently the herd averages 3.5 visits daily, resulting in 42kg average with 4.4% BF.

"Maintaining cleanliness, excellent animal care and high quality milk has always been very important to us. We love dairy farming, we are happy, and most importantly, our cows are happy!"

Established in 1942 by Joseph Matlak, Matlak Dairy is operated by David Sr. and David Jr. with hopes that young Luke will be the fifth generation!



(L-R) David, Melinda holding Luke, David Jr. holding Wellsley, and Aimee. Farm kids thriving on BC's highest quality milk!



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Lone Pine Creamery
The Haeni Family

Alberta's newest on-farm creamery is up and running. Lone Pine Creamery, located east of Didsbury in Central Alberta, is the latest business venture of the Haeni family.

Ray Gourlay

The Farm

Adrian and Vreni Haeni, along with Vreni's parents Kurt and Marie-Louisse, moved to Canada from Switzerland in 1993. They purchased Lone Pine Jerseys, a going-concern dairy farm of 480 acres with a milking herd of 55 Jerseys. Adrian, who grew up milking Red Holsteins in the Swiss Alps, intended to transition away from Jerseys but soon fell in love with the breed and their lively, curious temperaments, vitality, and resilience. He noted that their efficiency to feed and the high solids of their milk also made economic sense given Canada's component pricing system.

In the ensuing years, they purchased additional land, growing their farm to 820 acres on which they grow barley, oats, wheat, canola, and grass forages. They established and retained a great deal of pastureland on which they currently practice rotational grazing throughout the summer months. They increased their herd to 120 head, now being milked with two DeLaval Voluntary Milking Systems (VMS). Their four sons all grew up working alongside in the dairy operation.

The Haenis passion for the Jersey breed has continued and the quality of their herd has been well recognized, including at the 2022 Westerner Dairy Showcase where their cows received Grand and Reserve Champion awards. They sell around 70 first and second lactation cows and numerous show heifers every year.



Diversifying the Dairy

The idea of incorporating a processing facility into their farm operations began 15 years ago. They saw the need for more processing capacity in their region and Adrian was drawn to the opportunity for independence and innovation. "We've always believed in adding value to the product. With processing, it's your own failure or your own success and you can influence that." As Adrian and Vreni began to look for more ways of incorporating their sons into the family farm, they started taking tangible steps towards opening a creamery.

After graduating with a degree in Agriculture Management from the University of Saskatchewan, Michael Haeni began working at a cheese plant near Brantford, Ontario. He gained valuable knowledge and skills in dairy processing and cheesemaking while training there and visiting nearby creameries. Eventually, he moved back to the family farm where he helped create a multi-phase business plan for the on-farm production of dairy products.

After a year and a half of construction, equipment procurement, licensing and product development, Lone Pine Creamery began production in September 2022.

The Creamery Opens

They are currently processing 2-3 days a week and offering whole milk (average 5.7% butterfat), cream-top milk and chocolate milk in 1L and 2L glass bottles as well as fresh cheese curds (a Canadian specialty known as the signature ingredient in poutine).

The Haenis have been very pleased with demand so far and are selling their product through local stores and restaurants, directly via their website, and in their small on-farm store. As they continue to grow, they plan on offering butter, cream and kefir – products for which they've already sensed a demand. Their long-term goals include making traditional Swiss-style cheeses such as Raclette and Gruyere.

The farm remains a family affair with everyone sharing responsibilities across all departments. Adrian continues to provide management of most farm logistics and works closely with Jonas on field work and herd health. Samuel has a growing passion for cheesemaking and is taking on more of the production in the creamery on top of his farm responsibilities. Michael oversees most logistics of the creamery and enjoys the marketing and advertising aspects of the role. Youngest brother, Nils, has a desire to stay involved in the family business but is currently gaining valuable off-farm experience as a Class 1 commercial driver for a local construction company.

When asked what advice he would share with other dairy farmers thinking about processing, Adrian said, "Don't be scared – there's a lot of people out there that want to help. If you really have a passion to do that, don't hesitate, just go for it." He emphasized that from an outside perspective, it can seem like a daunting venture but, "It doesn't have to be big at the beginning - you can grow into it."

To find out more about Lone Pine Farm & Creamery visit their website at www.lonepinejerseys.com or their pages on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



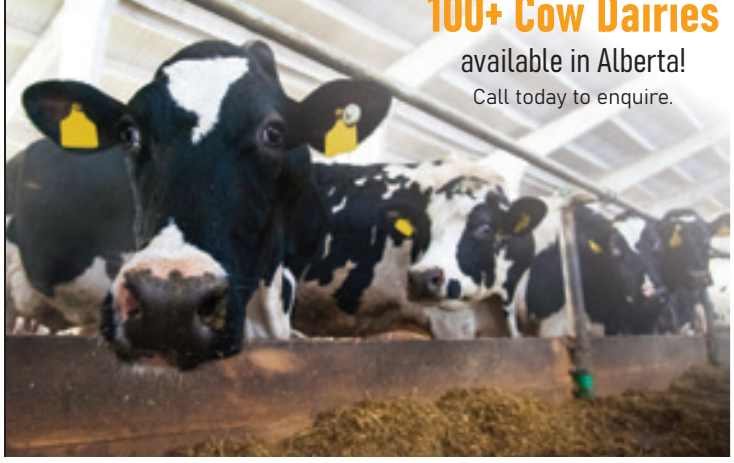
Master Breeders, the Haeni family likes to breed and show the good ones. (L-R) Michael, Vreni, Adrian, Hannah, Sam, Jonas, Tay, Nils.



Extra hygiene is an understandable precaution when working with the delicious cheese curds!

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Congrats Richard Bosma

Amanda Poelman

It is our privilege to recognize Richard Bosma as the newest Honourary Lifetime Member of the BC Holstein Branch.

Richard has been a proud yet humble member of the dairy landscape in BC his whole life. After returning to the home farm full-time in 1982, Richard has consistently been involved in dairying, breeding and serving in various industry roles.

Vedderlea Farm has been in operation since 1967. Richard credits his father, Haye Bosma, for getting him started in dairy farming and encouraging his participation in the local Holstein Club as a young man. Over the years, more than 250 VG and EX cows have been bred by the Bosma family, and well over 45 Star Brood Cows. Vedderlea cows have also graced the cover of the esteemed Holstein Journal – not once, but twice!

He first served as a director of the BC Holstein Branch in 1990 and was the Branch President in 1998-1999. Richard has also served on the Chilliwack Fair Board, the CanWest DHI board, Semex's Genetic Advisory Committee, the Dairy Research Council and is a past president of the Upper Fraser Valley Holstein Club.

In 2005, Richard was elected as BC's National Director, which began a 10-year term with Holstein Canada. During this time, he sat on several different committees including Awards, Audit & Risk, Finance, Governance and Breed Advisory. In 2012 he became the Vice-President and in April of 2014, Richard was elected President of Holstein Canada.

Thank you, Richard, for your wisdom, advocacy and leadership in the dairy industry in BC and across Canada, through the highs and lows the dairy business has experienced.



Amazing Numbers at World Dairy Expo

The West Makes an Impact!



(L-R) Associate Judge Richard Landry, OAK-RIDGE-K GCHIP TURBO (HM), BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE (Res.), OAKFIELD SOLOM FOOTLOOSE-ET (Grand Champion), Pierre Boulet Official Judge.



BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE, Intermediate Champion, Reserve Grand Champion in the B&W Show.

Bonnie Cooper, becooper2010@gmail.com

The classes were **huge**, the quality **exceptional**, and the judging days **long** at the 55th World Dairy Expo held in Madison, WI, from October 2-7. Expo set a new record in 2022 for animals on the grounds with 2663 dairy cattle competing in the eight breed shows and selling at auctions during the beautiful fall week. Luckily, changes had already been put in place to condense the showring display and remove the ring's west rail spectator area to create more room for the animals as they moved across this year's classy black coloured shavings. The "Essential Elements" themed show had also implemented some scheduling shifts that made Expo a six-day event with a five-day cattle show and four-day trade show. Three Holstein show strings from Western Canada, representing exhibitors from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta, realized great success at the event and were part of the large Canadian contingent that again competed in Madison.

At 508 head, the International Holstein Show was the largest show ever in its history at Expo. It boasted the event's largest class of 57 Fall Heifer Calves which prompted Judge Pierre Boulet of Quebec to remark, "I have judged a whole show in one class." A show week investment by Bryce Fisher of R&F Livestock Inc. (SK), and a gamble to exhibit in the Black & White and not Red & White Show (you can only show in one breed show at Expo), paid off as BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE was declared first Senior 3-Year-Old, Intermediate Champion and Reserve Grand Champion for Fisher and American partners Kevin Doeberiener & Lindsay Bowen (OH) and Bill Schilling (MI). This third calf, well-balanced Unstopabull daughter matched in well with the show's first 5-Year-Old, Senior and Grand Champion, and eventual Expo Supreme Champion, OAKFIELD SOLOM FOOTLOOSE-ET, owned by Duckett Holsteins (WI), Vierra Dairy (CA) and Tim & Sharyn Abbott (VT). Footloose is a granddaughter of HARVUE ROY FROSTY, the 2009 and 2010 Expo Grand Champion and Supreme Champion.

R&F Livestock exhibited the winning Summer Yearling, COBEQUID TATTOO RIDDLES, a feminine and good ribbed Tatoo daughter. Westcoast Holsteins (BC) took second place in the Junior 3-Year-Olds with MOSNANG UNIX LIPSTICK, and then showed her dam, MOSNANG SOLOMON LIQUIFY, to third in the 5-Year-Olds. Placing second in the Summer Junior 2-Year-Olds was a Skycrest Holsteins (AB) bred entry, SKYCREST SIDEKICK NAILPOLISH, who is now owned by Frank & Diane Borba (CA).

There were 372 head placed by Judge Pat Lundy of New York in the International Red & White Show which saw MS RANSOM-RAIL BETH-RED, the first place 4-Year-Old from MilkSource Genetics, Ransom-Rail Farm & Laurie Fischer (WI), selected as Grand Champion. Westcoast Holsteins



Second Summer 2 Yr. SKYCREST SIDEKICK NAILPOLISH for owners Frank and Diane Borba, CA.



Second Junior 3 Yr. MOSNANG UNIX LIPSTICK, for owners Westcoast Holsteins.



Sixth and first B&O Junior 3 Yr. CRESTOMERE SIDEKICK VALKYRIE, owned by Crestomere, Mosnang and Stanhope-Wedgwood.



Third 5 Yr. MOSNANG SOLOMON LIQUIFY for owners Westcoast Holsteins.

Ella Wright photos



Second Junior 3Yr. R&W WEDGWOOD UNSTOPABULL HOPE, owned by Stanhope-Wedgwood.



First Milking Yearling R&W KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL, owned by R&F Livestock and Bill Schilling.

Ella Wright photos

clinched Reserve Junior Champion on their powerful and stylish winning Spring Yearling, HOLZER WARRIOR PRINCESS, who is sired by Warrior-Red, the show's Overall and Junior Premier Sire. A crisp and feminine Unstopabull daughter from Westcoast, BETLEY UNSTP LIONIZE-RED-ET, headed the Winter Yearlings. A handy winner in the Milking Yearlings with her modern frame and beautiful udder was KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL-RED, the Warrior daughter bred by Kozak Holsteins (AB) and owned by R&F Livestock and Bill Schilling. Finishing second in the Fall Calves for Westcoast was an Analyst-Red daughter, KRESS-HILL SPARKLE-RED-ET. A homebred entry from Stanhope-Wedgwood (BC), WEDGWOOD UNSTOPABULL HOPE, claimed second in the Junior 3-Year-Olds. A Jordy-Red daughter bred by Chubanna Holsteins & Lucky Hill Dairy (AB), CHUBANNA LUCKY DUCK, was second Senior 3-Year-Old for Quality Holsteins & Agriber Society Agricola (ON). The powerful, almost 12-year-old MEADOW GREEN ABSOLUTE FANNY, bred by Meadow Green Farms (BC) and owned by Tom DeGroot of T&L Cattle (BC) and his American partners, took second in the 125,000-lb. Production Cow class.

Nearly 1900 exhibitors, representing 36 US states and six Canadian provinces, competed at Expo this year. In addition to the Holsteins and Red & Whites, there were 439 Jersey, 390 Brown Swiss, 289 Ayrshire, 243 Milking Shorthorn, 197 Guernsey and 258 in the Junior Holstein Show.

Next year's World Dairy Expo will take place from October 1-6, 2023 in Madison.



Second in the 125,000-lb. Production class at nearly 12 years, MEADOW GREEN ABSOLUTE FANNY, bred by Meadow Green Farms (BC) and owned by T&L Cattle and partners.

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Vet Focus

Should You Become a Beef Farmer?

Michael Walker, DVM,
Abbotsford Veterinary Clinic



A long time ago, on a cold New Brunswick September day….I'll spare you all the details, but I was born and raised on a small cow-calf beef farm. We would calve roughly 40 purebred cows every year in the cold January-March maritime weather. Through vet school I worked full time on dairy farms during the summers. I picked up milking shifts during the school year. I've since spent the last eight years primarily as a dairy veterinarian. With the benefit of a little bit of hindsight, I can look at the similarities and differences in the operations. The first two years of the animal's life are similar, but the outcome after two years is obviously different: many beef cows will go for slaughter as finished beef while the dairy animal will begin her career producing milk. There are a few key areas in beef production that I think we can learn from and leverage in dairy.

1. Colostrum! Colostrum! Colostrum!

Most beef producers like to see a new calf up and nursing within two hours of birth. Should a calf go much longer without nursing, assistance is usually given to the calf and cow, either by giving frozen/replacer colostrum or by helping the calf nurse while the cow is restrained in a chute. Cow-calf operators have been on to something all this time…the newest research shows that there is up to a **50% reduction in the calf's ability to absorb colostrum after six hours.** We always believed we had 12 hours until gut closure (the point when the calf loses the ability to absorb the colostrum) but this is happening much sooner than originally thought.

Because they milk less, beef cows' colostrum is much more concentrated. A challenge with the dairy industry is dilution of the colostrum and getting the minimum levels of IgG (note that minimum shouldn't be the goal). **Newer recommendations are 300g IgG over the first 12 hours. Testing is critical to ensure they're getting enough.**

2. Average Daily Gain (ADG)

You would never see a purebred beef animal for sale without his/her ADG reported. It is such an important metric to show the performance of a calf. The younger the calf, the more efficiently it will convert feed and gain weight. Although we don't often look at it specifically, ADG is a metric that is at the center of what we're trying to achieve when raising dairy youngstock.

A) Birth to Calving: 1600lbs (mature wt.) 0.83 (% mature weight calving for first time) =1328lbs - 90lbs (Birth wt.) = 1238lbs to gain from birth to calving.

B) Birth to Breeding: 900lbs (breeding wt.) - 90lbs (birth wt.) = 810lbs to gain from birth to breeding.

C) Breeding to calving: 1328 - 900 = 428lbs/280 days gestation = 1.53lbs/day

There are essentially two phases of raising youngstock: birth to breeding and breeding to calving. Breeding to calving is easy to calculate as gestation is 280 days. If we want our heifers to become pregnant at **12 months of age their ADG must be 2.22lbs/day**. For heifers to become pregnant at **15 months their ADG must be 1.8lbs/day**. If we can achieve pregnancy at target weight, with 90 less feeding days, our overall profitability with be greater.

3. Weaning

In my opinion, a significant challenge the dairy industry has, compared to the beef industry, is weaning. The biggest difference: beef calves nurse for 6-7 months typically, dairy calves are on milk for 2-3 months (sometimes even less). Beef calves are much bigger and less susceptible to challenges at weaning. You've heard it 10 million times, **weaning is stressful on calves**. The question is, what can we do to mitigate this stress? Beef producers know that every day a calf isn't gaining weight (or worse, losing weight) is a day they're not making money on their cattle.

All these strategies are of no use if we aren't constantly measuring our progress. Weighing youngstock should become a management practice on every farm. It would be a good management strategy to weigh at birth, weaning, four months, 6-8 months, at breeding and calving. Another strategy would be to weigh every time an animal changes a pen. We could weigh weekly or bi-weekly but starting with strategically weighing 5-6 times, we will have most of the information we will need.

As margins in dairy farming continue to struggle due to stubbornly high feed prices, inflation, interest, fuel etc., the cost of raising youngstock will be an area to address. I think the math shows doing a better job raising fewer replacements works out in your favor.

STRATEGY	BEEF	DAIRY
Gradual weaning	Insert nose rings while calf still with cow.	Very slow step-down milk reduction (2 weeks). Never skip a milk feeding.
Nutritional	Train to feed bunk	Starter consumption 1kg/day. Water consumption. Forage consumption?
Protection	Vaccinate/deworm	Vaccinate/deworm
Socializing	Generally raised as part of a herd	If individually housed, pair with one other calf before large group pen environment.



Are **peaks** and **persistency different** for cows in robotic milking?



By Gervais Bisson, agr., Dairy Production Expert in Robotic Milking & Strategic Advisor, Lactanet Canada

Do cows in robotic milking systems get off to the same start in lactation and maintain the same persistency as those in other milking systems?
To answer that question, we consulted the Lactanet database. The cows were divided into two groups, those in robotic milking systems and those in other milking systems with two milkings/day. Average daily milk yield per 10 days in milk was used for comparative purposes.

Number of milkings varies among robots

Robotic milking is the only system in which the number of milkings is variable. More frequent milking is encouraged at the start of lactation to stimulate the mammary gland and obtain higher peak yields. The number of milkings decreases gradually in mid- and late lactation. Does the variation in the number of milkings affect lactation curves?

A strong start

Primiparous Cows

Initial production is slightly lower for first-lactation cows in robotic milking systems, but by 50 days in milk, they surpass conventionally milked cows and reach a higher peak yield. In both cases, production peaks at around 70 days in milk.

Table 1 Evolution of milk yield (kg/day) for primiparous and multiparous cows in robotic milking systems versus other systems with 2 milkings per day, for all levels of production.

	Primiparous cows *(a young cow pregnant for the first time)*		Multiparous cows *(a cow that has given birth more than once)*	
Days in milk	**Robot**	**Other systems** (2 milkings)	**Robot**	**Other systems** (2 milkings)
10	22.3	25.7	33.3	35.9
20	27.1	29.3	40.1	40.5
30	30.8	31.9	44.4	43.5
40	32.6	33.2	46.1	44.8
50	34.0	33.8	46.4	45.1
60	34.1	33.9	46.0	44.7
70	34.4	33.9	45.5	44.1
80	34.3	33.7	44.7	43.4
90	33.9	33.5	43.5	42.7

For primiparous cows, production from 10 days in milk to peak milk at 70 days in milk increases more rapidly in robotic milking systems. Average daily gains are as follows:
- Robotic herds: 0.20 kg of milk/day in milk
- Conventional herds: 0.14 kg of milk/day in milk

Multiparous Cows

The lactation curve for multiparous cows is similar to that of first-lactation cows, with cows in robotic milking systems producing slightly lower yields than conventional herds at the start but surpassing them at 30 days in milk. In both cases, peak milk occurs at around 50 days in milk. But cows in robotic systems have consistently higher peaks.



Production from 10 days in milk to peak milk at 50 days in milk increases more rapidly in robotic milking systems. Average daily gains are as follows:
- Robotic herds: 0.33 kg of milk/day in milk
- Conventional herds: 0.23 kg of milk/day in milk

Milk yields increase much more rapidly in robotic herds from the start of lactation to peak milk, 43% faster in fact, and this applies as much to cows in their first lactation as to mature cows. This is part of the reason that research shows a risk of ketosis that is 1.45 times higher in robotic milking systems than in other types of milking systems.

Persistency, higher and lower

We looked at persistency in two different time periods: the period from 130 to 190 days in milk, and the period from 190 to 330 days in milk. Persistency was calculated on a 30-day rolling basis for each of these two periods.

Primiparous Cows

Primiparous cows in robotic milking systems show slightly higher lactation persistency than those in other milking systems. Average persistency is of course lower toward the end of lactation (96.8%) than in mid-lactation (97.6%).

Multiparous Cows

There are no major differences in persistency between robotic herds and herds in other systems for the period from 130 to 190 days in milk, although the average was slightly lower in robotic herds (94.2% versus 94.4%).

The findings were similar for the period from 210 to 330 days, with robotic herds showing slightly lower persistency (92.8% versus 93.0%). Persistency is lowest at 270 days, and this result is consistent for all herds.

Results seem to exceed expectations

The results differ somewhat from the generally-held perception of robotic herds. There are herds with much lower persistency at 200 DIM than the results shown here.

It is important to note that the number of milkings per cow decreases gradually over this period until dry-off. Some farms are more aggressive than others and demand a higher minimum milk yield per milking. The higher the target, the more the number of milkings at the end of lactation is compromised, and persistency is likely to decline as well. This approach does keep more milk in the mammary gland, making it easier for the robot to attach the teat cups. In the case of a robot near maximum capacity, the decrease in the number of milkings at the end of lactation means that milking time can be redirected to cows in early lactation, which in turn allows fresh cows to milk more frequently and achieve higher peaks.

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Research shows that ketosis can be up to 1.45 times higher in robot milking systems than parlour or tie-stall based milking systems.[1] This is due to the rapid increase in the number of milkings at the start of lactation, a much higher energy demand for fresh cows, and when her needs cannot be met through feed intake alone. By knowing which cows are at-risk for ketosis, or are experiencing subclinical ketosis, can help you better manage their robot pellet or consider other proactive health treatment interventions. To maximize a cows lactation peak and to help them stay persistent, consider screening for KetoLab before clinical signs appear.

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[1] Elise H. Tatone, Todd F. Duffield, Stephen J. LeBlanc, Trevor J. DeVries, Jessica L. Gordon. Investigating the within-herd prevalence and risk factors for ketosis in dairy cattle in Ontario as diagnosed by the test-day concentration of ß-hydroxybutyrate in milk. Journal of Dairy Science, Volume 100, Issue 2. 2017, Pages 1308-1318.

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Celebrating the Return to the Royal

Records Set at 100th Royal



Three Way Winner! Supreme Champion BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE receives audience appreciation as she is graced with the rose garland from BC Holstein Branch President Carl Barclay (left) and Holstein Canada President Ben Cuthbert (right).



(L-R) Curtis McNeil, Kenny McRae with Supreme Junior Champion HOLZER WARRIOR PRINCESS (Westcoast), Ari Ekstein (Quality Seeds – sponsor).

Ella Wright photos



Markus Hehli (Mosnang) was elated to win 2nd place Breeders Herd with Liquify and her two daughters - Lipstick and Live Wire.



KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED, first place Fall Yearling in Milk (R&W) for R&F Livestock and William Schilling.

Bonnie Cooper,
becooper2010@gmail.com

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair marked a "Century of Champions" when it was held from November 4-13 at Exhibition Place in Toronto, ON. The first Royal was held in 1922 and over the last 100 years it has been a showcase for the very best in Canadian agriculture, livestock and equine excellence. As National Black & White Holstein Judge Paul Trapp of Wisconsin said, "There is nothing quite like coming to Toronto in November and coming through those Princes' Gates and walking in here. You can feel the atmosphere. It is very special. There is no place in the world like this."

After a two-year in-person hiatus due to Covid-19 restrictions, Holstein and Red & White exhibitors from across Canada and the United States were ready to return to the Royal. It was worth the wait! Joining in the exciting competitions, and enjoying great success, were Western Canada exhibitors from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

A Senior 3-Year-Old Red & White Holstein, BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE, made Royal history as she captured Grand Champion rosettes in both the National Red & White and Black & White Holstein Shows and was declared Quality Seeds Supreme Dairy Champion over a course of three straight days of judging for owners Bryce Fisher of R&F Livestock Inc. (SK), Kevin Doeberiener and Lindsay Bowen (OH), and William Schilling (MI). Tabbed as Supreme Junior Dairy Champion was the first prize Spring Yearling Heifer and Junior Champion by Warrior from the Red & White Show, HOLZER WARRIOR PRINCESS, owned by Westcoast Holsteins (BC).

The **National Black & White Holstein Show** attracted a new record high of 429 animals. The Grand Champion MAPLE cow by Unstopabull used her overall length and advantage in mammary system to go over JACOBS HIGH OCTANE BABE, the winning 5-Year-Old by High Octane who was Reserve Grand Champion and Champion Bred & Owned for Ferme Jacobs Inc. (QC). Ferme Jacobs was the show's Overall Premier Breeder, while Elmvue Farms (NY) was Overall Premier Exhibitor.

Three of the top five placing animals in the Junior 3-Year-Olds were bred and owned in Western Canada. MOSNANG UNIX LIPSTICK was the "most complete package" in that class as she took the win and went on to be Honourable Mention Intermediate Champion for Westcoast Holsteins. She was part of a trifecta of Unix daughters named Intermediate Champion, Reserve and Honourable Mention for the show's Overall Premier Sire who was also on live display in the Semex booth during the Royal. LIPSTICK'S dam, MOSNANG SOLOMON LIQUIFY, finished second in the 5-Year-Olds, while a younger maternal sister, MOSNANG BRIDGESTONE LIVE WIRE, was sixth Fall Yearling in Milk. These three family members, who are now owned by Westcoast Holsteins, combined to take second place in the Breeder's Herd class for their breeder, the Hehli family of Mosnang Holsteins (AB), who were also elated to be runner-up for Overall Premier Breeder.

COBEQUID TATTOO RIDDLES, a Tatoo daughter who defines dairy strength, was first Summer Yearling and Honourable Mention Junior Champion for R&F Livestock, while a recently fresh, long framed AltaDateline daughter, also from R&F Livestock, DAPPLEDALE DATELINE FLINT, was first Winter Yearling in Milk.

The **National Red & White Holstein Show** recorded its biggest show ever at the Royal with 129 head coming under the assessment of Judge Blair Weeks of Prince Edward Island. Five class winners (including the earlier mentioned MAPLE and PRINCESS) had Western Canada connections. Claiming the top ribbon in the Spring Heifer Calves was SMYGWATYS AFTER PARTY WARRIOR, a fancy Warrior calf owned by Hamming Holsteins Ltd. (BC). R&F Livestock and Pierre Boulet (QC) took first in the Summer Yearlings with a Luxor daughter, LUCKY LUXOR RED-ROSE. Another Warrior daughter, KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED, headed the Fall Yearlings in Milk for R&F Livestock and William Schilling. Westcoast Holsteins clinched the Junior Premier Exhibitor banner in the Reds.

It has been 40 years since a Red & White Holstein has been Grand Champion of the Black & White Holstein Show at the Royal. The first, and only other Red cow to do so was CONTINENTAL SCARLET-RED from Continental Holsteins (AB) in 1982. A small picture of Scarlet and her owners from that show was hanging above the R&F Livestock show string in the barn.

Livestreaming of the shows, with commentary, was available online so people could watch from the comfort of their homes wherever they lived. The Royal announced during the event that it had just signed a new contract to continue to hold the Royal at Exhibition Place in Toronto for the next five years.

The 100th Royal was a great show! It is generally accepted that access in and out of the Royal is tough and the costs are significant, but once inside, there is **no place like the Royal**. After the long Covid absence, the event drew record numbers in both the Holstein and Red shows. The winners were exceptional, and the audience was thrilled to be back enjoying the show and visiting with friends.



First place Junior 3 Year Old MOSNANG UNIX LIPSTICK went on to be Honourable Mention Intermediate Champion for Westcoast Holsteins.



First place Spring heifer (R&W) L-R: Jon Raymond Dykstra, Jill and Brian Hamming (owners), Smygwaty Family (breeders): Emily with her former 4-H calf SMYGWATYS AFTER PARTY WARRIOR, Kerry, parents Terry and Holly.

Ella Wright photos

Everyone should experience the Royal at least once!

Supreme Champion
BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE
R&F Livestock, William Schilling, Kevin Doeberiener and Lindsay Bowen, Cudworth, SK

Reserve Supreme Champion
SSF ANDREAS CAMILLA: (Jersey)
Ernest Kueffner & Terri Packard, Boonsboro, MD

Grand Champion
BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE
R&F Livestock, William Schilling, Kevin Doeberiener and Lindsay Bowen, Cudworth, SK

Reserve Grand Champion
JACOBS HIGH OCTANE BABE
Ferme Jacobs, Cap Sante, QC

Intermediate Champion
ROSEMARY UNIX GOLDIE
Jim Butler, Chebanse, IL

Reserve Intermediate Champion
GLENIRVINE UNIX SALLY
MilkSource, Kaukauna, WI

HM Intermediate Champion
MOSNANG UNIX LIPSTICK
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

Junior Champion
KINGSWAY ALLIGATOR A TWIX
Velthuis Farms Ltd, Osgoode, ON

Reserve Junior Champion
MS THUNDERSTORM ETERNITY-ET
La Femme Fatale Syndicate, Kaukauna, WI

HM Junior Champion
COBEQUID TATTOO RIDDLES
R&F Livestock, Cudworth, SK

R&W Grand Champion
BLONDIN RD UNSTOPABULL MAPLE
R&F Livestock, William Schilling, Kevin Doeberiener and Lindsay Bowen, Cudworth, SK

R&W Reserve Grand Champion
MS RANSOM-RAIL BETH-RED
MilkSource, Ransom-Rail, L. Fischer, Kaukauna, WI

R&W Intermediate Champion
HM Grand Champion
HILROSE MOOVIN ADELINA-RED
Jim & Joel Phoenix, McCallum Farms & Hodglynn Holsteins, Uxbridge, ON

R&W Reserve Intermediate Champion
LOOKOUT BURNING IT UP RED
Elitehaven Genetics, Lookout Holsteins, Canton-de-Hatley, QC

R&W HM Intermediate Champion
KOZAK WARRIOR BOMBSHELL RED
R&F Livestock Inc, William H Schilling, Cudworth, SK

R&W Junior Champion
HOLZER WARRIOR PRINCESS
Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack, BC

R&W Reserve Junior Champion
KARNVIEW RED ROCKET P
Up-Ridge Holsteins, Embro, ON

Additional Western Success

1st R&W Spring Calf
SMYGWATYS AFTER PARTY WARRIOR
Owned/Exhibited by Hamming Holsteins, BC

1st R&W Summer Yearling
LUCKY LUXOR RED ROSE
(co-bred by Lucky Hill and Hamming)
Owned/Exhibited by R&F Livestock, SK and Pierre Boulet, QC

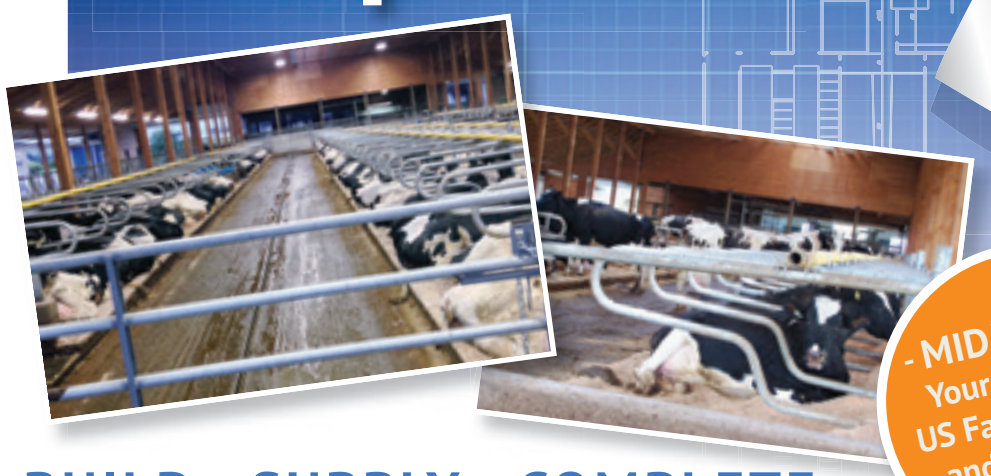
1st B&W Winter Yearling in Milk
DAPPLEDALE DATELINE FLINT
R&F Livestock, SK

** Results courtesy of cowsmo.com.*

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BUILDING DAIRY SUSTAINABILITY – *AHEA*

Sustainability a priority for Canadians and our dairy farmers

Dairy Farmers of Canada staff

Addressing climate change continues to be a focus for the Canadian government, which published a 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan in March 2022. The government's goal is to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and for its enhanced Paris Agreement target to reduce emissions by 40 to 45 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Proactively aligning with these national and international goals, Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) has committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by the year 2050. This ambitious target was informed by studies assessing the adoption of best management practices (BMP) within the dairy sector and the positive impact on GHG emissions and carbon storage potential they have.

We know that it's possible, but that it will take a concentrated and collaborative effort to reach net zero. To set the stage, DFC has created a strategic roadmap including leveraging and enhancing measurement tools, focusing on research, innovation and knowledge transfer, building strategic partnerships, enhancing economic opportunities, advocating for a positive regulatory environment and communicating to the public in a transparent and data-informed way about dairy's sustainability journey.

The roadmap to net zero

What does 'net zero' really mean? Net-zero emissions for dairy farms means reaching a balance between GHG emissions from farms and greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere. To get there, farmers make efforts to reduce emissions as much as possible, and act to sequester carbon in their landscape to offset the remainder.

Dairy farmers have already made great strides towards this goal. At present, emissions from dairy represent just one per cent of Canada's total greenhouse gasses. **The last Canadian Dairy Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) in 2016, which is completed every five years, found that through the adoption of best practices the carbon footprint of milk production dropped by 7.3 per cent between 2011 and 2016.** Additionally, within the same time frame, dairy farmers reduced water consumption by 6% and land use by 11%. Few industries can attest to this level of environmental commitment. This LCA is being updated with data to 2021 and will be published in early 2023. These results will further show where dairy farmers are making great strides towards net-zero and where further refinements can be made.

In addition to the regular LCA update, DFC will conduct a carbon storage and sequestration assessment, utilizing recently published guidelines from the International Dairy Federation (IDF), in order to get a more robust picture of how much carbon is being stored and the sequestration potential of land managed by Canada's dairy farmers.

To help guide this work, DFC established a farmer sustainability advisory group in 2021 with 55 dairy producers from across the country.

Chilliwack dairy farm aims to world to reach zero-emiss

Dicklands Farm biodigester going onl methane-free barn concept

BC Dairy Staff

Chilliwack dairy farmer George Dick is about to take a first big step towards a lofty goal – re-creating his 400-Holstein Dicklands Farms as the first zero-emissions dairy farm in the world.

"That's the end goal," George says. "The biodigester is step one of three."

George has worked with agricultural energy and waste consultant Matt Dickson for the last six years to get an anaerobic digester, or biodigester, operating and to develop a concept for a new type of barn that captures methane from the cows living in it.

Construction on the biodigester is largely complete. It's set to start generating renewable natural gas from manure and food waste in early 2023. With two large digesters, each eight-metre-high round structures with a 5,500 cubic meter capacity, he'll be able to convert all of his manure's methane and the methane from some neighbours' manure to renewable natural gas, which Fortis has agreed to purchase on a 20-year contract. The Fortis connection between the biodigester and its retail gas distribution network is already complete.

The biodigesters will reduce the farm's methane emissions by an estimated 1,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent each year, which they figure is about half their production. Once reductions from manure they're taking in from other farms, food waste, and displacement of fossil-fuel natural gas are added in, that grows to 9,000 tonnes annually. The biodigester will also deliver about 180,000 gigajoules worth of renewable natural gas to Fortis annually – enough to power several thousand homes and a significant new revenue stream for the farm.

Once piped into the biodigester, the manure will be mixed with food waste supplied by a local company – sourced from food processing facilities, restaurants, and grocery stores. Un-packaged, clean items like trimmings from a processing plant will go straight into the system. They're also installing a de-packer that will work through batches of packaged food to separate it from packaging, which can be sent for recycling. The system can handle everything from carrot tops to pallets of mayo and tins of soup past their best before dates.

Manure and food waste each have their benefits in a biodigester – food waste offers more energy, while manure is rich in the microbes needed for digestion and provides a homogenous base. A 51%/49% manure to food waste mix will provide an optimal churn of gas while meeting regulations requiring that at least half of the material going into the biodigesters is from farms. The regulations are intended to ensure farmland is protected for food production and not used to build giant biodigesters. At Dicklands Farms, the biodigester and associated infrastructure will cover about four acres – one per cent of their land.

The by-product left over after digestion – an odorless material called digestate that's more than 95 per cent water – will be dried and turned into dry fertilizer pellets in a plant they're building on the site. The pellets, rich in nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus, will initially be for sale to local non-animal agricultural operations, and ultimately could be bagged for the retail market. Heated to 40C for 45 days inside the biodigester, and then cooked at 70C for one hour, the fertilizer pellets will be free of pathogens and weed seeds, which are killed by the heat.

The water left over will be clean enough for watering cows or field irrigation.

"This is a pretty sophisticated plant," George says, adding the technology is all readily available commercially and has been proven in other applications in Europe. The only new thing they're doing is applying it on a dairy farm with a connection to Fortis and an associated fertilizer pellet plant to turn digestate into something useful.

Next up – step two. The pair is in the final stages of developing plans for a new kind of barn that will capture methane from cow's 'burps and farts' and intend to build a prototype for 120 milking cows and young stock in 2024. If proven successful, they hope to build enough barns to house the entire herd, which together with the biodigester would eliminate the farms' entire methane production.

The prototype barn will be completely closed, with a specially designed air management system to remove carbon dioxide as it accumulates. Doing so will keep methane captured in the barn – once this methane reaches the required threshold needed to be flammable (0.3%), it will be burned off, converting it to carbon dioxide. Because the carbon being released was initially absorbed from the air by the plants the cows eat, this carbon dioxide isn't considered a new greenhouse gas, making the entire system carbon neutral.

When they started their R&D for the barn, George and Matt initially hoped to funnel methane from the barn to the biodigesters for conversion to natural gas, but found the concentration was too low – just 0.3% vs. the 65% that the digesters produce. After several iterations, they've landed on their model based on similar carbon capture operations already functioning in other industries. They've been working with several Swedish experts to finalize it – Sweden has been working with its farmers to adopt innovative carbon-reduction technologies for the last several decades.

In the future, because the new system will concentrate carbon dioxide before venting it, that gas could be captured instead, which would make the operation carbon negative. There isn't enough of the gas or high enough concentrations for a large-scale carbon capture operation that an oil and gas company might pursue, but perhaps enough to support a nearby agricultural greenhouse.

For more information on DFC's sustainability efforts, please visit: dairyfarmersofcanada.ca/en/sustainability

AD OF THE CURVE

bcdairy.ca

o be first in the sions target

ine shortly; new drafted

"In the challenge of capturing methane, we've come to capturing CO2," Matt laughs.

All of that's a development for down the road, however.

"At some point we will seize that opportunity," George says.

Today, their hope is the barn proves itself so they can build more to house the rest of their herd, and share the technology with other farmers interested in reducing their own farms' environmental impacts.

"I think the barn has exponential potential if we can make it work," George says. "We want to have things that are repeatable so it can be used by other farms."

He adds that whether his one family dairy farm is carbon neutral is 'insignificant in the scheme of things.' He hopes that by adapting and combining existing technologies to make his farm zero-emissions, he will create something that can be used by other farmers in the sector, while also diversifying his farm income.

Farmers, he says, are used to running lean, low-margin operations and readily adopt new approaches and technologies once they're proven.

He added they came across a significant side benefit when creating the design – the closed system maintains air temperature at 12C with low humidity, regardless of the outside conditions. That's an ideal temperature for cows and will help them through future heat domes and frigid winters. It potentially could even allow dairy farming in environments it's not currently viable.

"There's a lot of research out there that shows cows kept at 12 degrees at low moisture eat less feed, drink less water, and produce more milk," George says. "When it's warmer they burn a lot of calories to keep themselves cool."

George says he's optimistic their feed cost savings will cover the barn's electrical costs.

The inside of the barn will be similar to that of a modern conventional barn – large enclosures with room for cows to move around and interact, brushes and other grooming implements for them to rub on, and other comforts. It will have robotic milking systems, which are lower stress for cows.

Once the barn is proven, they plan to start looking at vertical farming to grow grass – the third and final step in their plan. Vertical farming is an emerging industry, allowing farmers to significantly increase yields from small plots of land by vertically stacking growing trays inside climate-controlled buildings. Again, it's a newer but proven technology George and Matt are looking at adapting to the farm's needs.

They estimate modern vertical farming technology will allow them to grow all the grass they need on a single acre, allowing George to expand his herd and achieve better economies of scale.

What then? They could look at using their own renewable natural gas in tractors and other equipment to reduce emissions from diesel, maybe at better ways to grow corn.

Ultimately, however, eliminating methane with the biodigester and new barn concept is what will have the big impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

Why invest so much time and money in making the farm carbon-neutral? Regulation of greenhouse gas emissions is likely coming, and this allows the farm to get ahead of that. There is also two key longer-term financial benefits - the gas creates a significant new revenue stream, while the ability to manage more manure and grow more forage will allow them to expand their herd size on the same land.

"It's about the ability of the farm to carry on," George says. "The need to be carbon neutral is coming, and I'm trying my best to get ahead of it. I'd rather help write the regulations than have to follow them."

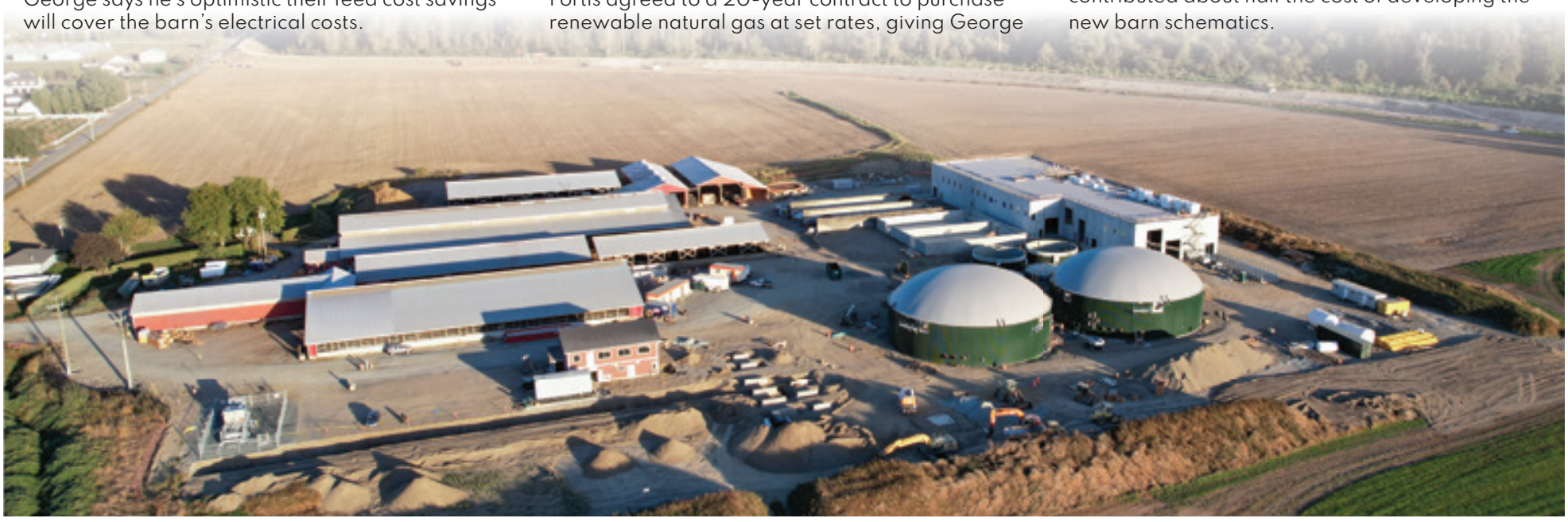
"I can also double the size of the dairy herd. Dairy farming is pretty tight right now and increasing the number of dairy cows isn't the only answer, but if we want to stay in business we have to keep growing."

And while most of the financing for both the biodigester and the new barn plan come from George, he's had some financial support for R&D. Both the Investment Agriculture Foundation and Fortis provided modest grants towards the biodigester's development. More importantly Fortis agreed to a 20-year contract to purchase renewable natural gas at set rates, giving George certainty about the revenue he'll make from gas. Ultimately, he expects gas revenue will cover his up-front development and capital costs. Earlier biogas projects were challenged by a lack of certainty about what they'd be paid for gas, which contributed to the failure of at least two undertakings in the last decade.



"Fortis is a pretty darn amazing utility. To be fair, what they're doing supporting R&D and giving long contracts is bankable. It's a business model," George says. "It's ensuring them a long-term supply, while giving people like me an opportunity to do this."

BC Dairy's Research and Education program and the Investment Agriculture Foundation together contributed about half the cost of developing the new barn schematics.



We're entering Winter. Be sure to follow AEM Code Guidelines regarding manure.

First Breeders Cup a Hit with Island Breeders

VIHC Breeders Cup

Amanda Poelman, President,
VI Holstein Club

The inaugural Vancouver Island Holstein Club Breeders Cup was held on August 25th, a replacement for the longstanding Futurity Competition. The Breeders Cup aims to showcase the enthusiastic and accomplished group of breeders we have on the Island, as well as cows that may not necessarily make it to a show ring. Each farm was allowed to submit two entries for each of the four classes. Although washing and clipping was allowed, there could be no toplines prepped and entries could have no more than 12 hours of milk.

Six breeders submitted a total of 36 entries for our first Breeders Cup! The event was judged by Carl Barclay (current BC Branch President) from Maple Ridge. Carl was impressed by the cows he saw, saying, "I saw a lot of really nice cows on the Island! It was a pleasure to judge this event and I really enjoyed seeing the cattle and visiting with the breeders. The 80,000kg class was amazing with some tremendous old cows - definitely a lot of longevity on the Island."

We will be excited to see this farm-friendly event grow in the coming years.



1st Lactation (9 Entries)

1. WILLSWIKK FUEL DONNIE VG-87 2YR
   Willswikk Holsteins
2. WILLSWIKK DUKE HARMONY VG-86 2YR
   Willswikk Holsteins



3+ Lactation (11 Entries)

1. WIKKSHAVEN CONTROL DIANA EX-91 4YR
   Wikkshaven Holsteins
2. SILVERMAPLE SAMMY JOE EX-91 2E
   Silvermaple Holsteins



2nd Lactation (11 Entries)

1. WIKKSHAVEN WINDBROOK DELLA VG-88 3YR
   Wikkshaven Holsteins
2. WEDGWOOD UNIX HOLLY VG-87 3YR
   Stanhope-Wedgwood



Production Class 80,000 kg+ (5 Entries)

1. MEADOW GREEN WINDHAM MORGAN EX-90 3E
   Meadow Green Farms
2. WILLSWIKK DEFIANT DYNAMITE EX-93 3E
   Willswikk Holsteins

Grand Champion Overall

WIKKSHAVEN CONTROL DIANA EX-91 4 YR
Wikkshaven Holsteins



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Industry Updates

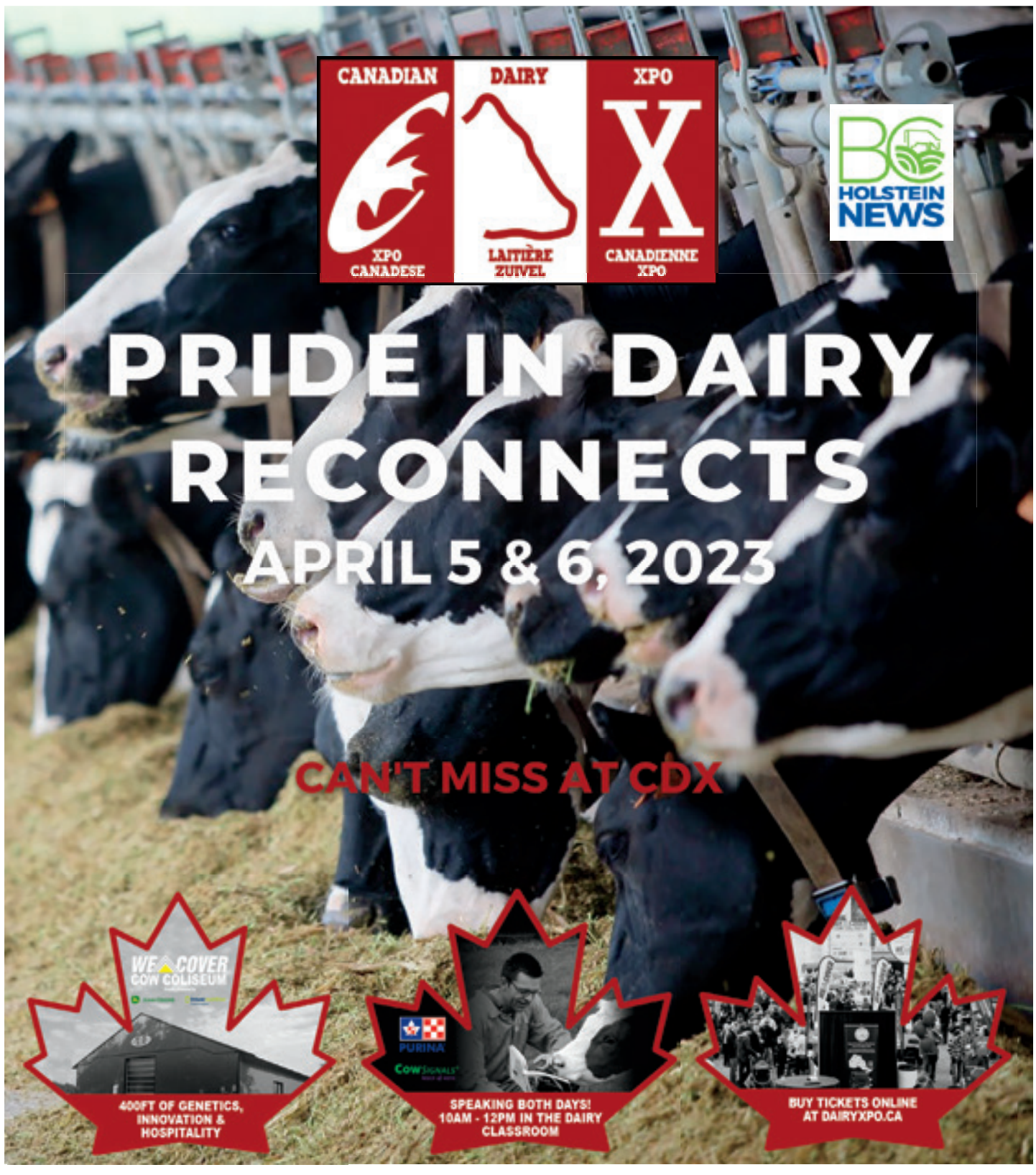
CHINOOK FARM INNOVATIONS INC

Introducing Chinook Farm Innovations

The merger of Proline Manufacturing and Chinook Dairy Service earlier this year was both logical and beneficial for producers in the west. With over 25 years of experience in barn equipment, Proline was well established in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Their line of products included everything from gates, stall dividers, headrails and headlocks to stall mattresses, ventilation, automated feeding, manure handling, and calf feeding systems. Chinook Dairy was also well-established for some 30 years in BC and Alberta, with a strong base in BouMatic Dairy equipment. It was a natural fit that the product lines of both companies complemented a dairy producer's needs. Customer service was the main focus for both companies and will be for Chinook Farm Innovations from now on.

Chinook is excited for the future with their full range of dairy systems, products, manufacturing capacity and locations in Chilliwack, Blackfalds, Lethbridge and Hague.

Chinook Farm Innovations is an even stronger company with strong company values that looks after customers long after the sale is made.



FULL DETAILS AT DAIRYXPO.CA

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IPE 2022 – The Show That Honoured



IPE 4-H Show Champion Calves: (L-R) Reserve Champion HAMMING LIMITED SUNSHINE with Alicia Postma on the halter, Grand Champion HAMMING ALLEYOOP SHEVONNE shown by Cayden Hamming, Dave Hamming, presenting awards.



Junior Champion Female: (L-R) Judge Mike Flaman, Markus Hehli with MOSNANG CHIEF DARLA, Team Mosnang – Wyatt, Adair, Georgia and Sawyer.



Open Show: (L-R) Holstein Grand Champion (and Supreme Champion of both breeds) HAMMING SIDEKICK ROSE of TaZo Farms and Jersey Grand Champion MOSNANG SHE'S GONE VIRAL of Mosnang Holsteins.



(L-R) Michael Haambuckers with SUNNY HILL VIDEO ARCADIA ET (Reserve), Larissa Slingerland with MOSNANG SHE'S GONE VIRAL (Champion), judge Mike Flaman, Amanda Hehli with Team Mosnang: Adair, Georgia, Wyatt and Sawyer.

Jill Hamming photos

This year's IPE in Armstrong took place with the shock of the recent WCC cattle liner tragedy still raw and in everybody's hearts. Most of the WCC heifers lost were to be exhibited at the show along with three heifers from Mosnang that caught a ride with the truck.

Being there, together, helping one another through the aftermath and honouring the truck drivers with a display was a healing and positive step forward. While the show brought some normalcy during a time of emotional turmoil, it also testified to the resilience of all involved. We humbly congratulate all on a strong show and stronger character.



A memorial display was set up at the IPE by leaders and members of WCC Team BC. A priority was to recognize Tanner Liefting and Brandon Johnson in the display with truck elements.

2022 IPE Open Dairy Show

Junior Calf
Born March 1st to May 5th, 2022
1. HAMMING LIMITED SUNSHINE
   Hamming Holsteins
2. HAMMING JORDY MONAE
   Hamming Holsteins
3. MOSNANG BELIEVE IT OR NOT
   Mosnang Holsteins

Intermediate Calf
Born December 1st, 2021 to February 28th, 2022
1. MOSNANG AMARETTO WHIZZY
   Mosnang Holsteins
2. HADDINGTON DELECTABLE DOC
   Sandy and Lilian Stewart
3. HAMMING DESTINY CLARA
   Hamming Holsteins

Senior Calf
Born September 1st, 2021 to November 30th, 2021
1. MOSNANG CHIEF DARLA
   Mosnang Holsteins
2. GOLDENSET FAME SIDEKICK
   Goldenset Holsteins
3. SILVERMAPLE MOMENT FARRAH
   Hamming Holsteins

Summer Yearling
Born June 1st, 2021 to August 31st, 2021
1. HAMMING ANALYST REPLAY
   Hamming Holsteins
2. FOXTROT ETESIAN THYME
   Nadia DeVos
3. BLONDIN WARRIOR SYSMIC-RED
   Hamming Holsteins

Junior Yearling
Born March 1st, 2021 to May 31st, 2021
1. LAZY-M ALT RAINE-RED-ET
   Hamming Holsteins

Intermediate Yearling
Born December 1st, 2020 to February 28th, 2021
1. WILLVUE-ND MOOVIN TAVIA-ET
   Mosnang Holsteins
2. BLONDIN MIRAND DAKOTA-RED-P
   Hamming Holsteins

Junior Champion
MOSNANG CHIEF DARLA
Mosnang Holsteins

Reserve Junior Champion
HAMMING ANALYST REPLAY
Hamming Holsteins

Junior Group of Three
1. Mosnang Holsteins
2. Hamming Holsteins
3. Hayden Thomson

Milking Yearling
1. HADDINGTON AMMO- P MITZI
   Sandy and Lilian Stewart
2. SKYCREST SUPERMAN SUPER DUPER
   Hamming Holsteins
3. GOLDENSET LAYLA MIRAND PP
   Goldenset Holsteins

Junior 2-Year Old
Born March 1st, 2020 to August 31st, 2020
1. ROSEDALE SHAKIN ITUP-RED
   Hamming Holsteins
2. HAMMING OTHELLO DARALEE
   Hamming Holsteins
3. HAMMING LANDSLIDE BRENNA
   TaZo Farms

Senior 2-Year Old
Born September 1st, 2019 to February 29th, 2020
1. HAMMING MIRAND CORALIN
   Hamming Holsteins

Junior 3-Year Old
Born March 1st, 2019 to August 31st, 2019
1. NEW MARS TATOO ARALUEN
   Mosnang Holsteins
2. HAMMING ARMY MONAE
   Hamming Holsteins

Senior 3-Year Old
Born September 1st, 2018 to February 28th, 2019
1. HAMMING SIDEKICK ROSE
   TaZo Farms
2. HAMMING 1ST GRADE SMARTY PANTS
   Hamming Holsteins
3. MOSNANG JACOBY MEMORY
   Mosnang Holsteins

Intermediate Champion
HAMMING SIDEKICK ROSE
TaZo Farms

Reserve Intermediate Champion
HAMMING 1ST GRADE SMARTY PANTS
Hamming Holsteins

4-Year Old
Born September 1st, 2017 to August 31st, 2016
1. MOSNANG JACOT MARSHA
   Mosnang Holsteins

5-Year Old
Born September 1st, 2016 to August 31st, 2017
1. SILVERMAPLE AWESOME FRANCE
   TaZo Farms
2. HAMMINGVIEW DOORMAN SUNSHINE
   Hamming Holsteins

Grand Champion
HAMMING SIDEKICK ROSE
TaZo Farms

Reserve Grand Champion
HAMMING 1ST GRADE SMARTY PANTS
Hamming Holsteins

Breeders Herd
Hamming Holsteins

Scotia Super Cow
HAMMING 1ST GRADE SMARTY PANTS
Hamming Holsteins

Premier Breeder and Exhibitor
Hamming Holsteins

Thys Haambuckers Memorial Jersey Show

Junior Calf
1. SUNNY HILL TEKASHI ARRIVE ET
   Sunny Hill Jerseys
2. SUNNY HILL WEBCAM MOOFASA
   Sunny Hill Jerseys

Intermediate Calf
1. SUNNY HILL TEKASHI APOSSUM
   Sunny Hill Jerseys
2. TRIPLE S DELICIOUS JORDAN
   Wilma Haambuckers

Senior Calf
1. MOSNANG DELL NEVER GIVE UP
   Mosnang Holsteins
2. SUNNY HILL JAMIE DIOXIDE
   Sunny Hill Jerseys
3. COYTEE EW CASINO ROYALE NITE
   Mosnang Holsteins
4. TRIPLE S DASH SKYCLASS
   Wilma Haambuckers

Senior Yearling
1. TAZO TOUCHDOWN BRADY
   Tazo Farms
2. SUNNY HILL JAMIE ARAKI
   Sunny Hill Jerseys

Junior Champion
MOSNANG DELL NEVER GIVE UP
Mosnang Holsteins

Reserve Junior Champion
SUNNY HILL TEKASHI APOSSUM
Sunny Hill Jerseys

Junior Group of Three
1. Sunny Hill Jerseys

Junior 2-Year Old
1. MOSNANG SHE'S GONE VIRAL
   Mosnang Holsteins
2. SUNNY HILL VIDEO ARCADIA ET
   Sunny Hill Jerseys

Grand Champion
MOSNANG SHE'S GONE VIRAL
Mosnang Holsteins

Reserve Grand Champion
SUNNY HILL VIDEO ARCADIA ET
Sunny Hill Jerseys

BMO Super Cow
MOSNANG SHE'S GONE VIRAL
Mosnang Holsteins

Premier Breeder and Exhibitor
Sunny Hill Jerseys
Michael & Gina Haambuckers

Interior Provincial Exhibition 4-H Dairy Show

Junior Showmanship
Annabelle Carlson

Reserve Champion
Lyla Derksen

Intermediate Showmanship Grand Champion
Ashley McAvoy

Reserve Champion
Jasmine Lemke

Senior Showmanship Grand Champion
Kate McCune

Reserve Champion
Cayden Hamming

Grand Champion Showmanship Grand Champion
Ashlee McAvoy

Reserve Champion
Kate McCune

Calf Placings Grand Champion
HAMMING ALLEYOOP SHEVONNE
Cayden Hamming

Reserve Champion
HAMMING LIMITED SUNSHINE
Alicia Postma

Interclub
1. Milky Way Dairy 4-H Club
2. Shuswap 4-H Dairy Club
3. Deep Creek 4-H Dairy Club

RESULTS PROVIDED BY THE IPE OFFICE.



Passing the Torch

J&D Farmers Dairy Service

With Ed Vandenburg set to retire soon, we announce his successor in Capital Sales at J&D Farmers Dairy Service. Born and raised in the Fraser Valley, Caleb Brandsma attended Dordt University in Iowa where he completed his undergraduate in Business and Economics in 2020. Caleb spent the last two years working for Vyefield Farms, learning a lot from the Kielstra family.



Caleb's passion for dairy is genuine, having grown-up with cherished memories of hauling cows around the valley with his Dad.

He understands how lucky he is to work in an industry with such high-quality people, something he never takes for granted.

Caleb's time learning from and being mentored by Ed Vandenburg has been a blessing. "Ultimately at the end of my career if I could be known as someone who is honest, respectful, dependable, and hard-working, I will consider that a success."

BC Dairy Industry Achievement Award

Mike Yusko, BC Dairy Historical Society

Congratulations Ben!



Jim Byrne congratulates Ben Brandsema (R) at the BC Dairy Industry Conference.

The 2022 BC Dairy Industry Achievement Award was presented to Ben Brandsema at the 2022 BC Dairy Industry Conference. Ben began dairy farming in Glen Valley and soon joined the Fraser Valley Young Cooperators Leadership Group, serving as President for two years. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Fraser Valley Milk Producers Association in 1990 and in 2001, to the board of Agrifoods International Cooperative Ltd., where he served as its President for 15 years. Ben was the chair of Ultima Foods for 10 years and is proud of the lögo Yogurt brand launch. When elected to the BC Dairy Association, he served on the BC DIREC Committee, Milk Industry Advisory Committee, the Specialty Product Advisory Committee (15 years) and as a delegate to Dairy Farmers of Canada. Ben has been an innovator in the industry; he began producing organic milk in 1999 and worked to ensure that organic milk became part of the milk Supply Management system.











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Caring For Calves

Reduce, Reuse, Refeed – The Ultimate Trifecta

Lauren Yanch MSc. | Technical and Operations Specialist, Grober Nutrition

The agriculture industry has a reputable foundation and history it should be proud of. To continue growing into the future, integrating efficiency of nutrient utilization that improves cost efficiency and health for animal use is a vital component. Environmentally, this has a large impact on waste reduction, as using byproducts from the food industry can serve as a great benefit to our industry and planet, while utilizing their nutrient profiles to the fullest extent.

With dairy production, we see this trend often as it relates to milk replacer processing as well as other dairy related products used for feeding young animals. Many of the byproducts we often come across are whey, whey permeate, milk permeate and milk/whey protein concentrates and others. Although there are limited uses for some of these products in food production, there is often a vast profile of vitamins, minerals, protein and fat in these byproducts that can contribute towards improved animal health status, while providing more economically beneficial feeds for producers. Exploring where ingredients come from and how we obtain them provides a more substantial basis towards the innovation of new byproducts, and can increase usage of current byproducts by enhancing the process in which they are obtained.

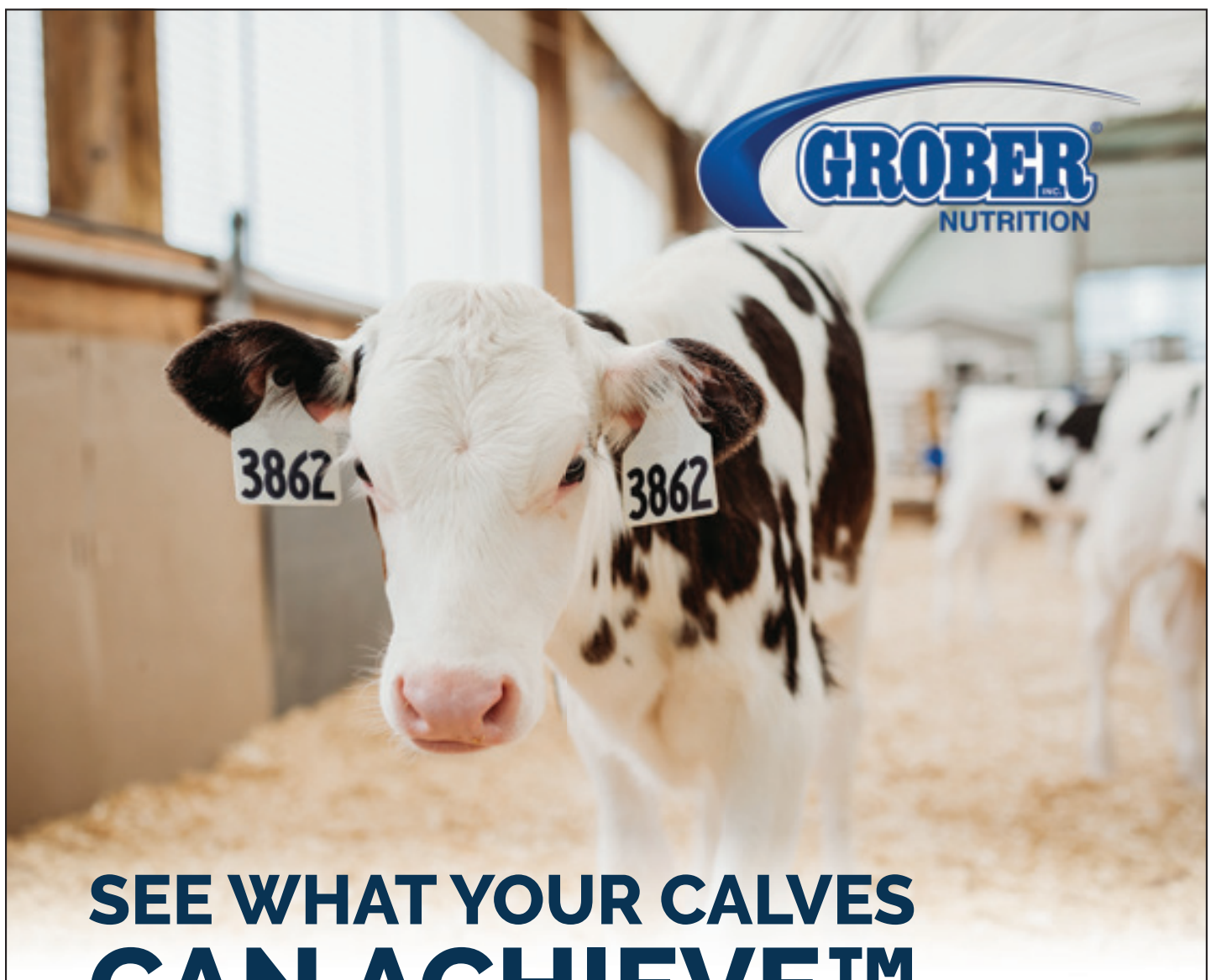
> “Food processing byproducts are often rich in vitamins, minerals, protein and fat which can contribute towards improved animal health, while providing more economically beneficial feeds for producers.”

Although there are many byproducts used in the industry, a common dairy source used in both food and feed production is skim milk. Skim milk is an abundant byproduct, resulting from butter and cream production. From whole milk, the fats are extracted to create a highly dense product such as heavy creams and butter. What remains is a liquid that still contains a wide variety of proteins, vitamins and minerals, and rather than discarding the byproduct, these nutrients can be utilized to their full potential, creating less global waste while continuing to be resourceful. This illustrates one of the many ways in which byproducts continue to promote sustainable measures to optimize food and feed usages.

Understanding food and feed manufacturing processes is key to determining the full potential of byproducts, as this can contribute towards improved efficiencies. Byproducts can become a vital resource when facing global crises, such as interruptions in supply chains. In today’s world, it is crucial to continue exploring the optimization of nutrient use and its adaptability. Technology advancement should continue to be paralleled with nutrient sustainability, as this will ultimately be the tool that helps feed our future.



Dairy processing byproducts can economically supply a vast profile of nutrients for animal feed such as milk replacers – it also reduces waste – making dairy more sustainable.



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How Complicated Does Safety Have to Be?

Chad Stewart, AgSafe

Chad Stewart is AgSafe's Regional Safety Consultant for the North Okanagan. AgSafe is the health and safety association for agricultural employers in British Columbia. The role of AgSafe safety consultants and advisors is to provide workplace safety education and advice to help producers achieve long-term safety goals.



Chad Stewart on site at Cliffview Dairy Farm 2018 breakfast event.

When thinking about what is involved in developing a robust safety program, it's easy to get sucked down the safety *rabbit hole*.

The Mining industry is well-known for exhaustive safety training for their workers.

Aside from wanting to ensure every worker goes home healthy at the end of each day, injuries and incidents cost time and that means money. This is why it's a challenge to find any large company with a poor safety record – it's simply too costly to do business.

But do we need a Mine-level safety program to see the benefits? The most effective programs I advise are rooted in simplicity, which also allows for effective and easy implementation.

Basically, a safety program can be broken down into answering three questions. AgSafe has developed commodity-specific safety programs that can help answer each question.

A – What's the problem?

B – What have you done about it?

C – How can you prove it?

Every farmer I've met knows the hazards and risks associated with their operation and takes the necessary precautions to safeguard their workers. They're great at A and B.

The issue tends to lie with answering C – their inability to **prove what they've done**. If it wasn't written down or documented, you can't prove it happened. Should we expect farmers to become Occupational Health and Safety professionals? No, but neither can we ignore health and safety laws, because they are there for a reason and they aren't going away.

WorkSafeBC is not cryptic in what they are looking for in your safety program (answering C). Their expectations align with those that are used to establish **due diligence** in the event of criminal proceedings that can result from a workplace related fatality. You can find their expectations in the back of every WorkSafeBC magazine – employers need to ensure their workers have been provided with the appropriate information, instruction, training and supervision. Signs, posters, risk assessments, safe work practices, competency determination and supervisor notes are all tools that we use to satisfy provincial and federal requirements.

Many producers also firmly believe that safety programs are only a WorkSafeBC requirement that need to be ripped off the shelf and dusted off when the WSBC officer comes to their site. Not only can a safety program be used to help establish your due diligence (as noted above) but with the legislative changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations on September 26 of this year, it's now a critical component of any producer's operation that currently has or is thinking about engaging with the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program.

For producers that are just getting into the TFW program, before a Service Canada agent even reviews your Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), you have to provide specific safety program documentation. For those that are already in the program, having several safety program elements implemented with your TFWs will make that aspect of your Integrity Service Branch (ISB) audit quick and efficient.

Conversely, not having specific safety program elements can result in your account with Service Canada being frozen, not allowing any new LMIAs to be processed until the required elements have been implemented.

The less time you're spending scrambling to get documentation together for that inevitable ISB audit, the more time you can spend farming. Thus, implementing a basic and robust safety program becomes more of a business decision.

While agricultural safety programs do not have to look like those found in mining operations, the decision to implement a program, regardless of complexity, is the same for both – **it's good for business.**

If we view safety programs as just an irritant, the harder it will be to change the culture surrounding agricultural safety. If we view safety as **valuable,** the less daunting it will be to implement. The goal is the same for every employer – every worker goes home (whether that's here in BC or abroad) to their family with ten fingers and ten toes intact.

May the warmth of family, friends and community make your season bright.

Merry Christmas from AgSafe.

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Welcome to Dr. Emily Vossler DVM and Dr. Mirna Topic DVM

A Solid Foundation is all about the "Footing"

Morgan Sangster,
Producer Support Manager, BC

It's no secret lameness impacts animal welfare and the bottom line; the increased time, treatments, and loss of production quickly add up to hundreds of dollars per case. Many factors contribute to lameness: production, flooring, housing, nutrition, heat stress, outdoor access, etc. Although each farm is different, these factors apply to everyone.

I have summarized many priority recommendations from some of BC's Certified Hoof Trimmers – who have extensive experience with hoof health over many years and across many herds.

Cleanliness. If you can keep the feet as clean and dry as possible, this will help increase the ventilation between the claws and reduce bacteria growth. Scraping alleyways, crossovers and high traffic areas frequently, and providing clean dry bedding often should be routine. Most focus mainly on lactating cows, however this applies to heifers as well. Heifers develop lameness issues that are only accentuated after the stress of calving and can become chronic issues if not dealt with at earliest stages. **Prevention** should always be our first goal.

Solid footbath regimes. No surprise here, the frequency, concentration, and size (length, width and depth) of the bath are all important. Ideally you want to see each foot get dipped twice and have it cover the hoof hairline. Taking shortcuts or not running it as often during busy times of the year will negatively affect the hoof health during that time of year. It's one of the simplest forms of hoof maintenance, but it requires dedicated, consistent follow-through with effective protocols.

Structural environment. Reducing tight corners or 90 degree turns, putting rubber in high traffic areas, grooving/traction milling the concrete so that it is textured enough to prevent slipping, but not so rough it causes excessive wear, will all help. Providing comfortable beds for the cows is very important; most trimmers prefer deep bedded, as they provide the most comfort for the cow and encourage her to rest longer. If possible, have a trim chute accessible to assess lame animals in between trimmer visits; waiting for the next trim visit could cause irreparable damage.


Photo Courtesy of AR-PE Hoof Trimming

Regular hoof trimming is an important part of an overall healthy hoof strategy.

General considerations. Each of the trimmers interviewed emphasized the importance of having a good working relationship with your hoof trimmer. Develop a trimming schedule that works for your herd, you, and your trimmer. That may be twice a year, quarterly, or monthly depending on herd size and environment. Have an area where your trimmer can set up with ease and access the cows – ideally, there is a workable/realistic number to do in one day. If you are finding that number gets up to/over 60-70 cows each visit, increase the frequency of the visits or plan it over two days. Most trimmers travel with a pressure washer, so help them maintain biosecurity by having a designated place they can wash their equipment after a day's work.

If you have productive animals, you will have lameness in your herd. Nobody will dispute that; however, the prevalence and severity are things that are in your control. Keeping good records and developing a strict culling protocol if no improvement is shown are imperative to your operation. The industry is evolving, benchmarks are changing, and lameness issues can be detrimental to your farm and overall business health. These are a few basics, they may seem overly simplified, however doing these routinely will ultimately improve your herd's hoof health and general animal care. The optimal time to trim a cow…is when she needs it.



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50 Years of Animal Welfare

Dr. David Fraser Looks Back



Current and former students and staff of the UBC Animal Welfare Program gathered after Dr. Fraser's lecture.



Dr. David Fraser's lecture provided a look back over 50 years of Animal Welfare in marking the 25th anniversary of UBC's Animal Welfare Program.

From the UBC Animal Welfare Program

In October, to mark the 25th anniversary of the UBC Animal Welfare Program, Dr. David Fraser gave a public lecture, reflecting on the changes he had experienced during his 50-year career.

Dr. Fraser noted the role of the dairy sector in the creation of the Animal Welfare Program. When the BC SPCA initially proposed helping to fund a university-based centre for animal welfare, Dr. Fraser realized that solid connections with the animal-based industries would be important to keep the program connected to the farm community. Dr. Rejean Bouchard, who was then on staff with Dairy Farmers of Canada, recognized the value of research to help the industry meet public concerns and expectations, and the dairy sector became the largest industry supporter of the Program. Since then, dairy has remained a major focus for the Program, aided by the creation of UBC's Dairy Education and Research Centre, led by Dr. Jim Thompson.

In his presentation, Dr. Fraser described the huge changes that have occurred since his initial appointment in 1971, researching (at that time) the welfare of pigs. Historically, animal protection had been left mostly to SPCAs and other charitable organizations. In the 1970s, however, many governments felt compelled by public concern to provide more leadership and they began by sponsoring Codes of Practice for farm animals, including Canada's first dairy code in the 1980s.

By the 1990s, major food corporations were becoming involved. McDonald's, Burger King and other restaurants set animal welfare standards that their suppliers were required to follow. One result was a major improvement at slaughter plants because plants had to pass annual animal welfare audits in order to continue selling to these companies. Major grocery chains in the



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Continued from previous page

US followed suit and developed standards through the Washington-based Food Marketing Institute.

Then in the 2000s, major international agencies became involved. The FAO – the United Nations agency dealing with food and agriculture – began to emphasize animal welfare as part of agricultural development, and at the World Organisation for Animal Health, the 180 member nations adopted over 100 pages of global animal welfare standards, these being the only animal welfare standards that exist in many countries. Dr. Fraser noted the key role that science has played in these developments by, for example, establishing effective means of pain management, showing the links between bedding and injuries, and quantifying the decline in health seen during long-duration transport of cull cows.

Turning to future developments, Dr. Fraser noted that many of the current standards focus on aspects of the physical environment such as feeder space, stall size and bedding. However, basic welfare indicators such as lameness and injuries vary enormously from farm to farm even when similar environments are used. The difference, he proposed, lies in the quality of animal care provided by owners and staff.

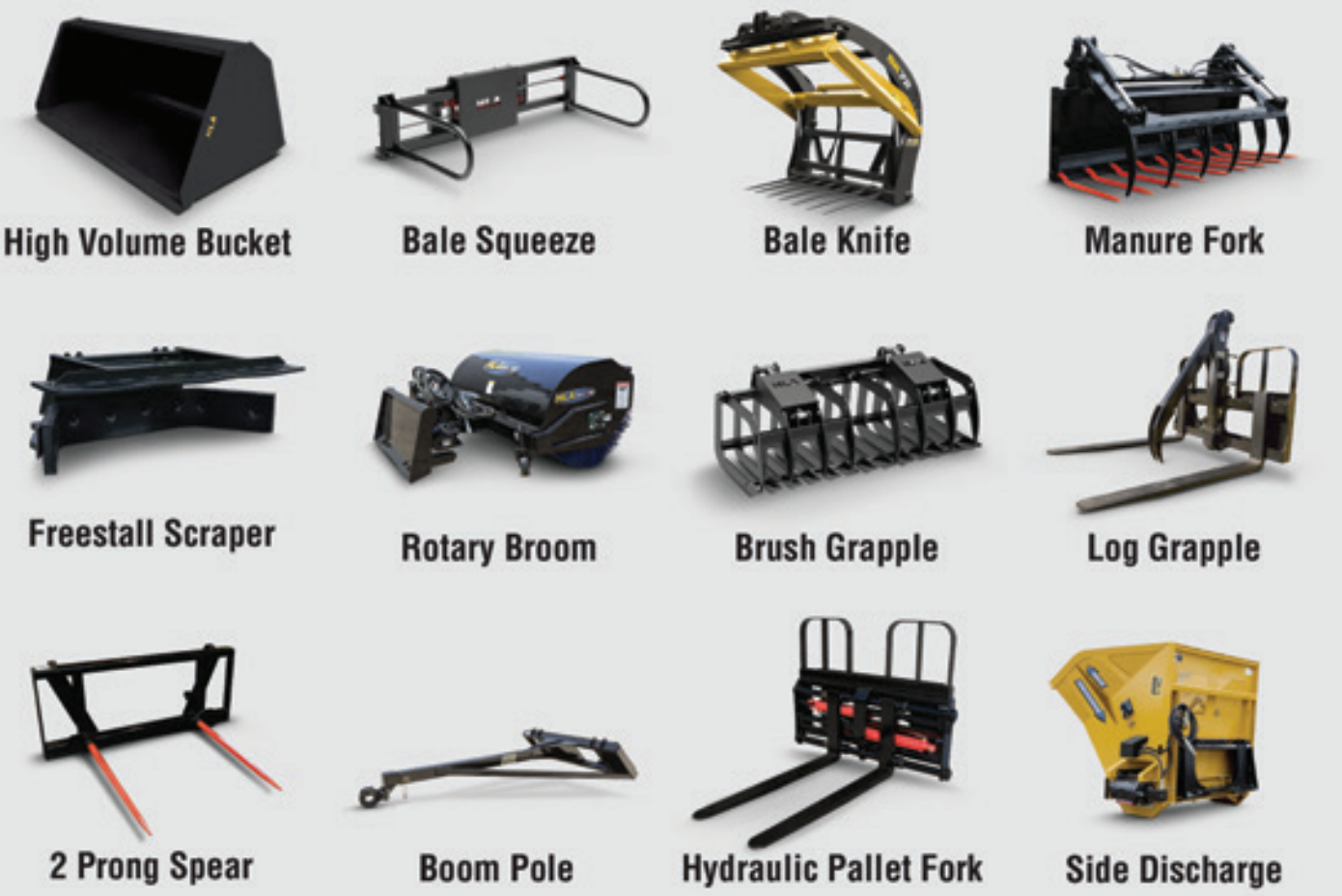
One element of care is skill in animal handling. Negative handling by hits, shouts and tail-twists can make cows chronically nervous around people as reflected by higher levels of cortisol (a stress hormone) in their milk.

Worker attitude is another important factor. Studies have shown that workers who have a positive attitude toward cows use better handling and achieve better results than those with negative attitudes.

And job satisfaction is a key element. Dr. Fraser described a study of 900 dairy farmers in Norway who took part in a survey about job satisfaction and job-related stress. An animal welfare score was calculated for each farm and showed a positive correlation with the producer's score for job satisfaction and a negative correlation with job-related stress. This illustrates the principle of "One Welfare": ***working conditions that are good for the well-being of the people are also likely to promote animal welfare.***

These and other findings show that for the future, welfare standards need to put more emphasis on welfare outcomes and how these are affected by the people involved.

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September-October 2022

YEARLINGS (16 COWS REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
TRIWEST AMBER PARACHUTE 1370 GP-81	391-386-385	1162	84	34	74	192	Triwest Farms Ltd., Chilliwack
PROGENESIS GUINESS BRANDI 3581 GP-82	381-381-378	1140	104	65	87	256	J. Dick & Family, Chilliwack
DICKLANDS HARDROCK 3573 GP-83	340-410-339	1089	63	94	48	205	J. Dick & Family, Chilliwack
WEST JOSUPER 1229 GP-81	341-368-331	1040	51	31	19	101	West River Farm, Rosedale
LYBA HOTROD 1363	321-363-339	1023	39	49	45	133	Shadow Ridge Dairy, Chilliwack
HUSO CRIMSON 9104 G-76	307-373-342	1022	41	65	60	166	Country Charm Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
LYBA HOTSHOT 1353	309-376-319	1004	27	62	25	114	Shadow Ridge Dairy, Chilliwack
LOCARNO DUMBLEDORE 0045 GP-82	329-325-347	1001	69	29	74	172	Locarno Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
WENLAY LUIS 535 G-77	305-371-319	995	44	72	42	158	Wenlay Dairy, Chilliwack
BREMERDAIRY SKIPPY 586 G-78	299-374-313	986	31	81	33	145	Cliffview Farms Ltd., Enderby

2 YEAR OLDS (41 COWS REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
TRIWEST LYDIA ALBUM 1292 GP-82	373-392-356	1121	67	42	46	155	Triwest Farms Ltd., Chilliwack
TRIWEST BARBARA USEFUL 1294 G-75	374-369-367	1110	68	19	57	144	Triwest Farms Ltd., Chilliwack
MAYSONS HOT SUMMER GP-82	352-392-361	1105	84	105	86	275	Duncan May & Sons, Richmond
UBYSSEY ALLIGATOR EBBA 8167 GP-82	371-373-347	1091	107	60	78	245	UBC Dairy Ed. Centre, Agassiz
CEDARWAL BIGGIE CHIFFON GP-82	360-354-369	1083	89	48	89	226	Cedarwal Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
MAYACRES ROCKIT BREWMASTER GP-80	329-423-328	1080	61	136	53	250	Mayacres Farms Ltd., Richmond
CASH KINGROYAL HAELEY VG-85	345-354-377	1076	95	97	116	308	Precision Genetics, Chwk, John Sunder, Deroche
WEST SPOCK 1217 GP-81	337-381-356	1074	47	44	44	135	West River Farm, Rosedale
VALEDOORN MASTER 3286 GP-83	327-392-348	1067	52	73	64	189	Valedoorn Farms Inc., Agassiz
LLOYDSHAVEN DARWIN ARA GP-83	336-393-332	1061	61	74	46	181	Lloydshaven Holsteins Ltd., Courtenay

3 YEAR OLDS (29 COWS REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
WILLSWIKK DUKE MISSISSIPPI VG-88	344-423-363	1130	57	79	62	198	J.W. Wikkerink Farms Ltd., Cobble Hill
LAVENDER COMPLEX LAMBDA VG-85	374-364-366	1104	97	41	78	216	Lavender Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
COLBRIT MIDNIGHT SKY VG-85	353-355-378	1086	55	26	79	160	Colbrit Holsteins, Agassiz
MARTIANN FUEL KASSIE 643 GP-82	320-400-346	1066	59	92	74	225	Martiann Holsteins Ltd., Delta
TRIWEST MYRNA USEFUL 1287 GP-81	322-388-350	1060	16	38	40	94	Triwest Farms Ltd., Chilliwack
DICKLANDS IMAX 3141 GP-81	331-379-340	1050	54	63	49	166	J. Dick & Family, Chilliwack
MELINKE GRIFF STEPHANIE GP-83	328-382-338	1048	52	69	51	172	Melinke Farms Ltd., Deroche
DICKLANDS STEEL 2985 GP-82	338-377-323	1038	61	61	32	154	J. Dick & Family, Chilliwack
TRIWEST SOPHIA AIKOSNOW 1239 G-77	322-389-321	1032	16	39	11	66	Triwest Farms Ltd., Chilliwack
KAMBROS MATEUS LEXUS 7036 GP-82	299-394-336	1029	20	65	39	124	Kambro Farms Ltd., Abbotsford

4 YEAR OLDS (19 COWS REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
WILLSWIKK EXPANDER FREDA VG-88	333-402-322	1057	45	55	19	119	J. W. Wikkerink Farms Ltd., Cobble Hill
WISSELVIEW SSI PHANTOM DARVA VG-87	336-355-361	1052	46	39	63	148	Wisselview Farms, Pitt Meadows
WEST MONTEREY 1007 VG-86	322-369-356	1047	32	32	44	108	West River Farm, Rosedale
MAYACRES MARA ANNE GP-80	292-413-328	1033	24	126	53	203	Mayacres Farms Ltd., Richmond
HAMMING FITZ SHANDA VG-85	313-413-301	1027	61	110	38	209	Hamming Holsteins Ltd., Vernon
SUMMERSHADE IGNITEDTOUR VG-88	313-355-352	1020	24	49	41	114	Summershade Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
WILLSWIKK EXPANDER DARLA EX-90	311-389-320	1020	24	45	19	88	J. W. Wikkerink Farms Ltd., Cobble Hill
WENLAY SMURF 107 G-76	313-381-325	1019	52	82	48	182	Wenlay Dairy, Chilliwack
WIKKSHAVEN ATWOOD DAHLIA EX-90	293-396-318	1007	51	110	69	230	Wikkshaven Holsteins, Cobble Hill
ELKVIEW MOGUL MITRA GP-83	308-372-326	1006	35	69	41	145	Elkview Farms Ltd., Grindrod

5 YEAR OLDS (9 COWS REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
PROGENESIS FEDEX CELESTE EX-91	324-430-326	1080	64	124	56	244	Martiann Holsteins Ltd., Delta
RONELEE HEINZ DAISY MAY-ET VG-86	334-361-341	1036	58	48	54	160	Melinke Farms Ltd., Deroche
LAVENDER WICKHAM HAZZIE EX-90	316-358-336	1010	42	37	49	128	Lavender Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
WESTCOAST ABURN GRACE 4010 VG-85	292-352-349	993	18	40	61	119	Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack
WENLAY NUMERO UNO 63 GP-82	282-394-315	991	21	95	37	153	Wenlay Dairy, Chilliwack
UBYSSEY DIRECTION ERINA 5120 GP-80	298-378-304	980	35	64	37	136	UBC Dairy Ed. Centre, Agassiz
HUSO DREAMWEAVER 6112 GP-82	300-340-331	971	34	32	49	115	Country Charm Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
SUPLESSE FIX RIVELLA EX-90	286-349-320	955	5	43	32	80	Suplesse Farm Ltd., Agassiz
KAMBROS KAL CANDA 6497 GP-83	260-351-325	936	-19	22	28	31	Kambro Farms Ltd., Abbotsford

6 YEAR OLDS (3 COWS REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
SILVERMAPLE SAMMY JOE EX-91	303-377-336	1016	67	106	85	258	Ben & Suzanne Cuthbert, Ladysmith
KAMBROS SS DEVINE 6217 G-78	265-357-320	942	-13	29	24	40	Kambro Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
WESTERNROSE C SILVER CALAMITYJ VG-85	268-370-297	935	-6	59	13	66	Rose Gate Dairy Farms Ltd., Matsqui

7 YEAR OLDS (1 COW REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
HAMMING EPIC EVERLY EX-90	285-382-284	951	33	78	20	131	Hamming Holsteins Ltd., Vernon

9 YEAR OLDS (2 COWS REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
EVERGRAZE MONETARRI DEMPSEY EX-92	306-375-323	1004	35	58	41	134	Evergraze Holsteins Ltd., Armstrong
WISSELVIEW WINDHAMMER DARCY VG-85	277-355-311	943	-13	39	13	39	Wisselview Farms, Pitt Meadows

10 YEAR OLDS (1 COW REPORTED)

NAME	BCA	TOTAL BCA	DEV. M	DEV. F	DEV. P	COMP.	FARM NAME
BALME GARRETT INCOME 1 VG-87	334-341-327	1002	68	52	49	169	BALME-AYR FARMS LTD., COBBLE HILL

Top Total BCA Records B.C.

LONGTIME PRODUCTION-100,000 KGS OR MORE (16 COWS REPORTED)

NAME	LACTATION	KGS MILK	% FAT	% PROTEIN	KG PER DAY OF LIFE	FARM NAME
KLEINVALLEY MAURY MALTA 941 EX-90	7	153,456	3.21	2.93	37.87	Kleinvalley Farms, Langley
WESTAR SHOTTLE ROSALIE 183 VG-85	8	136,871	3.87	3.18	32.1	Westar Holsteins, Rosedale
HUSO STOLJOC 99 VG-85	9	132,482	3.98	3.19	30.72	Country Charm Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
KAMBROS JUNCTION GABY 4982 VG-85	10	127,000	5.07	3.61	27.25	Kambro Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
UBYSSEY SIRIUS SATIS 2131 VG-87	7	117,274	3.91	3.13	33.39	UBC Dairy Ed. Centre, Agassiz
SCHURSTAR MR BURNS CARNATION GP-80	8	110,617	3.96	3.32	26.26	Schurstar Dairy Inc., Abbotsford
ROCKYCREST SHOTTLE AWESUM VG-88	9	107,721	4.20	3.28	23.97	Rockycrest Holsteins Ltd., Duncan
BONIVISTA SID MARVELOUS EX-91	7	106,723	3.33	3.21	27.96	Bonivista Farms, Salmon Arm
WISSELVIEW SUPERSIRE DELILAH VG-86	5	106,341	4.39	3.51	31.37	Wisselview Farms, Pitt Meadows
ALPINA SMURF KELOWNA VG-87	6	106,166	3.90	3.17	32.1	The Hessels Family, Delta

STAR BROOD COWS

NAME	NO. OF STARS	FARM NAME
CEDARWAL SASSY ALLEN EX-92	26	Rockledge Farms Ltd., Enderby
LINDENRIGHT DUNDEE L LAURAL EX-93	21	Stanhope-Wedgwood, Victoria
WILLSWIKK SHOTTLE DEIDRE EX-93	12	Wikkshaven Holsteins, Cobble Hill
SPRINGBEND GOLDWYN DENALI EX-91	10	Springbend Farms, Falkland
LEGEND-MAKER MAG MAGNIFICENT P VG-86	10	Cedarwal Farms Ltd., Abbotsford
ELMBRIDGE MR BURNS LIVELY VG-89	9	Peter Tuytel, Jr., Nicrest Farms Ltd., Chilliwack
EVERGRAZE MARIA STORM EX-92	9	Evergraze Holsteins Ltd., Armstrong
WILLSWIKK GOLDWYN DOMINIC EX-90	8	J. W. Wikkerink Farms Ltd., Cobble Hill
HADDINGTON BLITZ LEILA EX-90	7	Elkview Farms Ltd., Grindrod
WISSELVIEW MCCUTCHEN DELLIA VG-85	6	Wisselview Farms, Pitt Meadows
WILLSWIKK GOLDWYN DELORA EX-93	6	Wikkshaven Holsteins, Cobble Hill

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MIAC Appoints new Director to BCMMB

The following Announcement was made by the BCMMB at end of October:

"The Milk Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) is established by the BC Government, under the Natural Products Marketing Act (BC) and the British Columbia Milk Marketing Board Regulation. The committee's makeup of producers and processors is unique in providing non-binding recommendations by consensus to the Milk Board in all matters involving production or pricing. The committee plays an integral role in helping to maintain the dairy industry's stability in the province.

MIAC is also responsible to appoint one non-producer Board Member to the BC Milk Marketing Board (BCMMB) every three years. On October 28th, 2022, MIAC appointed Jeff Zonneveld to the BCMMB effective November 22, 2022, following the BCMMB Annual General Meeting."



Introducing Jeff Zonneveld

There's more to Jeff Zonneveld's dairy background than his Dutch roots, although having a father who delivered milk in cans around Amsterdam in the 1950's before emigrating to Canada is a nice starting point. Jeff was a partner in the family's Royal Oak Dairy (mid-sized dairy processor) in Victoria on Vancouver Island for 14 years. He left the dairy in 2000, moving to the mainland where his experience in the dairy processing business took him to Lucerne as a plant director. He continued on as the plant sold to Sobeys, then to Agropur. His processing/managing expertise was next leveraged at Meadowfresh (Agrifoods) as VP and GM.

Jeff was also gaining experience on boards – he was on the BC Dairy Foundation when it was merged with the BC Milk Producers to form the BC Dairy Association. He participated on the Marketing and Nutrition Committee after the merger. President of the BC Dairy Council, Jeff was involved in the industry consolidation which led to the formation of the Western Dairy Council. From 2010 to 2015, Jeff was on MIAC's board. While there, he was on the Specialty Production Advisory Committee (such as organic and grass fed).

Along the way, Jeff recognized the value of structured organizational governance. It led him to get his Chartered Director designation (ICD.D) from the University of Toronto.

"I'm excited to be back in dairy. I've always enjoyed collaborating with producers, processors, government and other key stakeholders across the industry," Jeff shares with enthusiasm.

Jeff and Holly have four grown sons and three grandchildren.

Pierre Boulet Wins Curtis Clark Achievement Award

Pierre Boulet of Ferme Pierre Boulet Inc. (prefix Pierstein), Montmagny, QC, has won the Curtis Clark Achievement Award for 2022. His selection was announced on November 11th during the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, ON, as the Royal celebrated 100 years since its inception in 1922.

Pierre Boulet is a talented and passionate cowman, showman, judge and auctioneer. He established his own Pierstein Holstein herd in 1993. Since then he has bred 228 Excellent cows and developed three Excellent-97 Holsteins, including the 2019 Holstein Canada "Cow of the Year" and 3X Royal class winner, LOYALYN GOLDWYN JUNE. He has shown the Grand or Reserve Grand Champion cow and won Premier Breeder and Exhibitor banners multiple times at the Royal Winter Fair and World Dairy Expo Holstein Shows. His winners include such famous cows as THRULANE JAMES ROSE, a 3X Royal Grand Champion and 2X Supreme Champion, plus a World Dairy Expo Supreme Champion; MS GOLDWYN ALANA and BEAVERBROCK MAGIC PETUNIA, Royal Reserve Grand Champions; PIERSTEIN GOLDWYN SUNSHINE and PINELAND GOLDWYN TIDBIT, Royal Reserve Intermediate Champions; and HOWES BC SASSY, a 3X Royal class winner and Honourable Mention Royal Grand Champion. Boulet has earned over 110 All-Canadian Holstein nominations resulting in 44 All-Canadian or Reserve titles. He has had nine Breeder's Herds nominated for All-Canadian. Boulet has judged major breed shows in ten different countries, with assignments including both the Royal and World Dairy Expo Holstein Shows. An accomplished auctioneer, Boulet is a partner in Les Encans Boulet Inc., the sales management company established by his father Alfred in 1986. Pierre and his wife Katie Coates and their five children currently manage a Pierstein herd of over 400 animals which also includes Jerseys, Ayrshires and Brown Swiss.



Boulet is the 34th recipient of the Clark award which recognizes a Canadian dairy cattle exhibitor who is respected by their peers for their ability, sportsmanship and dedication. The Alberta Holstein Branch established the award in 1988 to honour the late Curtis Clark of Acme Holsteins, a noted Alberta Holstein breeder, cowman and showman.

For more information, contact Bonnie Cooper, Secretary, Curtis Clark Achievement Award Committee, 904 – 12 Rockford Road, North York, ON M2R 3A2; Cell: 416-579-6572; Home: 416-663-8515; e-mail: becooper2010@gmail.com.







Wishing Harold Steves a Wonderful Retirement



In 1959, Harold Steves' future should have been very *black and white* – the great grandson of Manoah Steves, the first importer of purebred Holsteins in BC and son of H.L. Steves, the Secretary of the BC Holstein Friesian Branch from 1926 and the first Holstein Association of Canada Fieldman from 1926-1933.

A graduate student in UBC's ag program, Harold's dairying future abruptly turned *grey* with the change in zoning that signaled the end to their dairy farm. But it also led Harold to a long 51-year career in politics mostly as a Richmond City Councillor.

First elected in 1968, his only hiatus was a three year term in BC's NDP government in the 1970's where he helped along the establishment of BC's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Two career projects stand out for him. The first is BC's enduring ALR – though it remains a hot potato at times, the ALR contains about four and half million hectares of farmland, roughly 5% of BC's land area.

The second project is the Richmond Farm School at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Located on urban, city-owned ag land, the initial discussions began in 2006. The Farm finally launched three years ago, and today has both greenhouses and about 20 acres in cultivation of various vegetable crops.

Just retired in November, Harold and wife Kathy are busy restoring their original farmhouse and scanning/archiving the vast amounts of Steves agricultural history.

With their handful of Belted Galloway cows gone for the winter, Harold chuckled, "I started going to the barn when I was 10, and this winter will mark the first time in 75 years that I don't have cow chores to do."



Observations From the Field

Updates from the Fall Open Industry Sessions



Paul Meyer, Sales Manager, WestGen

Each year dairy producers are invited to take in a host of presentations on genetic evaluation proposed additions, changes and considerations. It's a time for those who represent the industry on the Genetic Evaluation Board to listen to producers and their input on these topics before the meeting makes decisions on their behalf. These meetings are virtual – anyone can and is encouraged to attend/participate. Since going virtual, the Open Industry Sessions regularly attract several hundred participants from across the entire country including researchers, industry folks like me and lots of producers too, who are just really interested in where we are headed with genetic evaluations and wish to provide input.

Following is a summary of the presentations and information shared at the meetings in October:

Lactanet CEO, Neil Petreny gave an update on some significant changes to the lactation publication rules for "publishable" lactations. These changes allow for inclusion of component sensor data, making supervision of test days optional, eliminating the minimum of 80% first lactation cows being herdbook registered, the option to share management locations with breeds and new data source labelling for lactation records. Implementation is intended to be January 2023.

Other changes coming include:

Cow Ranking by Income, Genomic Testing for Non-Herdbook Females and Methane Evaluations as early as April 2023.

Some Facts and Trends of interest were provided:

Robots

- **990+** Herds ***(16%)***
- **124,000** cows ***(20%)***
- **125** cows average
- **12%** PEI to **47.5%** in MB

eDHI

- **90+** herds with **17,500 cows**
- **~200 cows** per herd
- Robots and parlours
- **75%** with component sensors

Lactation Publication Changes

Key Changes for Publishable Lactations:

1. Inclusion of component sensor data
2. Lactanet staff "Supervision" is optional
3. Minimum 80% first lactation cows herdbook registered no longer required
4. Option to share qualifying Management lactations with breeds
5. Data source labelling for lactations
6. *January 2023* implementation target

Dairy Comp Hoof Trimming Data to be added to Hoof Health Evaluations

Hoof trimmers have been supplying hoof lesion data via Hoof Supervisor that records this data in a standardized way. Data quality that has led to Hoof Health evaluations is considered to be high, but the number of hoof trimmers supplying data is limited and declining. For this reason, using DairyComp data from herds directly is a consideration to augment the records available so that high quality Hoof Health evaluations can continue. Modeling done at Lactanet proposes to only include DairyComp data that is comparable to the data currently used.

By combining Trimmer and DC305 data, nearly a 30% increase in data is obtained. Test runs have shown that nearly 70% of animals change by a point or less while average reliability increases by an average of 3% for sires and about 4% for genotyped females. If approved, implementation is expected to happen in April 2023.

Feed Efficiency to be added to LPI and Pro$ indexes in December

Lactanet introduced Feed Efficiency evaluations for Holsteins in April 2021. Other breeds do not yet have evaluations simply due to lack of data at this point. The current evaluations include 1st lactation data only, however, plans for December 2022 are to add 2nd lactation Feed Efficiency data and then to add Feed Efficiency to both LPI and Pro$ indexes. By adding 2nd lactation data, we can expect ~ 30% increase in cows with Feed Intake data and genotypes. Analysis shows that having FE in 1st + 2nd lactation gives a better prediction of lifetime efficiency. Bulls will re-rank noticeably for FE with Correlation between current and the new two-lactation model data at 84% for Young GPA bulls. As a reminder, LPI and Pro$ will change with the addition of FE. Expect a 25 Pro$ impact per point and a 10-point impact on LPI per point of FE.

Genetic Selection to reduce Methane Emissions

Dairy Farmers of Canada are committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions from farm-level by 2050. Canada joined other countries in endorsing the Global Methane Pledge: Reduce emissions by 30% by 2030.

In Canada, the average methane produced per cow is ~150 kg per lactation and it is important to add that the impact of methane has many times more potential to affect global warming than does CO_2.

The concept of selecting against methane production could be an important contributor to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Main challenges:

- **Methane is very expensive and difficult to measure**
- **only a few animals with phenotypes**
- **Producers expected to be reluctant to sacrifice production traits**

Selecting for lower emission cows would only be a practical solution if it could be done without requiring additional cows to produce the needed milk. Interestingly, we already have the ability to evaluate methane via a proxy, using milk MIR (mid infrared) spectroscopy data. From Lactanet data files, we already have 13 million records from 1.6 million cows, of which 137,000 are already genotyped. It is expected the accuracy of prediction using this method will be around 68% and the genetic correlation to actual collected methane from cows is around 85% - so in fact pretty good - until we have more actual measured methane data from cows.

To establish the actual model, milk samples from only 1st lactation cows will be used from day 120 to 185 DIM. Using this edit, 669,000 records from 467,000 cows remain. Methane Efficiency (as the new trait will be called) has a surprisingly high heritability of 25%, meaning significant gains can be made via selection. It is not highly correlated with any trait however, cows with higher fat content in milk do appear to produce more methane. Methane evaluations are expected to be released in April 2023.





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MYMP Harvest Party
In-person MYMP events are back!



Michael Haan photo

Christine Koch

The first Harvest Party in three years was held on October 28. To kick off the year, this year's Harvest Party featured a live band – Outlaws and Lace. After being held for years at the Chilliwack Corn Maze, this year's Harvest Party was held in a barn loft on a Kooyman farm. The barn setting and the live band raised the event to a new level. As always, it was a casual evening with lots of time to socialize, listen to music, dance, and snack on great appetizers. MYMP would like to thank Jeff Kooyman for hosting the event this year.

MYMP would also like to thank all the dairy allied trades that sponsored the great appetizer buffet and the ever-popular Toonie Bar. MYMP could not hold events like this and keep ticket prices low without their support. A special thanks to West Coast Robotics, Kloot Construction, Trouw Nutrition, Scotiabank, Mid Valley Manufacturing, WestGen and Voltage Solutions.

Next up: MYMP's Winter Gala and AGM on December 13 at the Clarion Hotel, starting at 6:30. This event sells out, so get your tickets early to avoid being disappointed!

Annual Sale Returns to North Okanagan



Gary Booy photo

The Sale Topper: (L-R) Buyer Jared de Dood (Sunninghill Holsteins), Josh Telford with DARIDELITE LAUTRUST GLAZING, Brian and Clayton Hamming (consignors). Auctioneer Don Raffin and Dave Hamming (pedigrees) in back.

The North Okanagan Holstein Club held their annual sale on October 28 in Armstrong, after missing the past two years. Twenty head of top-quality cows and heifers sold along with two lots of ETs and two lots of semen. The evening's top seller was DARIDELITE LAUTRUST GLAZING VG 86, out of an EX Ronelee dam. Consigned by Hamming Holsteins, she will make her new home at Sunninghill Holsteins, the de Dood family.

The sale averaged $2475.

Several buyers took home more than one animal, with Foxtrot Dairy buying four head.





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Continued from previous page

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TOP 5 SELLERS:

Lot 24 ..... $4000.00
DARIDELITE LAUTRUST GLAZING
Consigner: Hamming Holsteins
Buyer: Sunninghill Holsteins

Lot 10 ..... $3500.00
SUNNYHOME ALLIGATOR RUBICS
Consigner: Sunnyhome Farms
Buyer: Foxtrot Dairy

Lot 16 ..... $3500.00
SPRINGBEND GOLDY MIRAND
Consigner: Springbend Farms
Buyer: Hamming Holsteins

Lot 4 ..... $3400.00
GOLDENSET LAYLA MIRAND PP
Consigner: Goldenset Holsteins
Buyer: Spallvue Holsteins

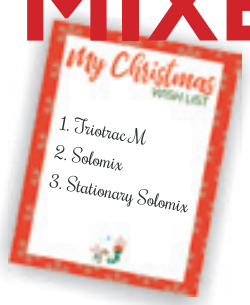
Lot 5 ..... $3250.00
HADDINGTON UNDENIED MARIAH
Consigner: Haddington Holsteins
Buyer: Elkview Farms

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Vancouver Island Holstein Club Annual Awards

Back Together Again



Vancouver Island Club President, Amanda Poelman (left) and director Yvonne Roemer (right) presented Karen Rendle (centre) with flowers as the club honoured her long service to the club with Honourary Lifetime membership.



(L-R) Production Award Winners – William Wikkerink, Ben vanBoven, Cindy Wikkerink, Amanda Poelman.

Tars Cheema

Club President Amanda Poelman welcomed the group, recognizing the importance of gathering among friends to socialize and celebrate achievements after the difficult years of limited opportunities for group activities.

She called on a moment of reflection for the lives lost in the last year from the VIHC family – Maria Roemer, Henry Van Boven, Parkash Judge and Anita Abma.

The club AGM is to be conducted in January with all the requisite business – but tonight was for an upbeat celebration of awards. This year featured a *return to the ring* with the Show and Sale in July, the inaugural Breeders Cup competition and Barn Tour at Rockycrest Holsteins. With the Futurity competition waning, the time seemed right for a Breeders Cup challenge as seen in other club areas. Carl Barclay was the official judge and he thoroughly enjoyed both the experience and the calibre of the cattle presented on each of the farms.

Recognized for longtime membership by Holstein Canada was Saanwood - 50 years (Taylor family) and Vanvalley - 30 years (vanBoven family).

Matt Lee of Island Dairy presented the Milk Quality awards for Vancouver Island producers. 2020: William Wikkerink; 2021: Fred Wikkerink (Wikksview Holsteins) with runner-up William Wikkerink.

Thirty-year director and Treasurer, Yvonne Roemer made a special speech to recognize the generous and tireless work of past director Karen Rendle. Karen provided many years of substantial service to the club, serving on nearly every committee as well as vice-president and president. "Even before she was a director, Karen could be seen giving a helping hand at the various club activities from Barn Days, to judging days and at the Holstein Show," shared Yvonne. "Karen spent many years doing the entries for the show, recording the show results as well as calculating points for Premier Breeder and Exhibitor and she continued helping even after she retired as a director. Karen always lent a willing hand, and along the way, became a really good friend," Yvonne offered with sincerity. Karen received flowers, a framed picture and hearty applause as she was bestowed Honourary Lifetime Membership in the Vancouver Island Holstein Club.

In the production awards, William Wikkerink was the big winner this night.

Of special note – the Lifetime Milk winner, VANVALLEY EPIC SIIRI EX-90-2E 5 , calved for the 14th time right on her 17th birthday this summer (with a heifer calf)! Unfortunately, although she was off to a good start, Ben reports she was lost to health complications three weeks into lactation. Five of her nine milking daughters are VG, the rest GP and two heifers are yet to calve.

Please see the Breeders Cup results on page 38.

PRODUCTION AWARDS 2021

VI Holstein Club and Lactanet

YEARLINGS

1. WILLSWIKK CHIEF DEENA
12,080M 503F 434P
BCA 316 357 356
J. William Wikkerink Farms, Cobble Hill

2. LLOYDSHAVEN MASTERFUL BAMBI
10,902M 486F 394P
BCA 303 360 343
Lloydshaven Holsteins Ltd., Courtenay

2 YEAR OLDS

1. WILLSWIKK DUKE MISSISSIPPI
15,081M 745F 501P
BCA 342 449 353
Willswikk Holsteins, Mill Bay

2. WILLSWIKK CINDERDOOR DESTINY
13,905M 682P 463F
BCA 307 408 322
Willswikk Holsteins, Mill Bay

3 YEAR OLDS

1. WILLSWIKK DOORMAN ADELAIDE
17,792M 645F 553P
BCA 391 384 379
Willswikk Holsteins, Mill Bay

2. ROEMERS ALZONO R DIANN
14,701M 742F 496P
BCA 321 442 340
Willswikk Holsteins, Mill Bay

4 YEAR OLDS

1. J-A-TELFORD AUTUMN LEAVES
15,783M 741F 529P
BCA 320 401 335
Frueh Farm Ltd., Duncan

2. WEDGWOOD GOLDCHIP PRIDE
16,509M 684F 536P
BCA 333 368 337
Adshead Holdings Ltd., Ladysmith

5 YEAR OLDS

1. WILLSWIKK DURBIN RAMSEY
15,847M 731F 534P
BCA 321 397 338
Willswikk Holsteins, Mill Bay

2. BALME AYR DECAF HANNAH LI
12,058M 613F 397 P
BCA 321 398 320
Balme Ayr Farms Ltd., Cobble Hill

MATURE COW

1. MOUNTAIN POWER SURGE REMINGTON
16,607M 540F 526P
BCA 387 316 351
Glenview Farm, Duncan

2. WILLSWIKK BROKAW GLADYS
15,672M 740F 537P
BCA 313 400 338
Willswikk Holsteins, Mill Bay

10 YEAR OLDS PLUS

1. BELLAYRE COPPER DOMINO
10,403M 409F 299P
BCA 282 278 247
Balme Ayr Farms Ltd., Cobble Hill

2. FRUEH FORTUNETELLER IVY
10,769kgM 528kg F370kg P
BCA 229 307 247
Frueh Farm Ltd., Duncan

TOP OVERALL PRODUCTION

1. WILLSWIKK DOORMAN ADELAIDE
17,792M 645F 553P
BCA 391 384 379
Willswikk Holsteins, Mill Bay

2. WILLSWIKK DUKE MISSISSIPPI
15,081M 745F 501P
BCA 342 449 353
Willswikk Holsteins, Mill Bay

LIFETIME MILK

1. VANVALLEY EPIC SIIRI
13 Lactations
173,693M 5,771F 5,071P
BCA 268 240 245
Vanvalley Farm, Duncan

2. FRUEH DB MISS
11 Lactations
169,019M 6,645F 5,570P
BCA 262 266 264
Frueh Farm Ltd., Duncan

LIFETIME FAT

1. FRUEH DB MISS
11 Lactations
6,645kg F
Frueh Farm Ltd., Duncan

2. WILLSWIKK BAXTER DOTTIE
10 Lactations
5,859kg F
J. William Wikkerink Farms, Cobble Hill

LIFETIME PROTEIN

1. FRUEH DB MISS
11 Lactations
5,570kg P
Frueh Farm Ltd., Duncan

2. VANVALLEY EPIC SIIRI
13 Lactations
5,071kg P
Vanvalley Farm, Duncan

TOP PRODUCTION HERD AVERAGE

1. Willswikk Holsteins
William Wikkerink, Mill Bay
BCA 286 332 292
52 Records
13,112M 564F 427P

2. Lloydshaven Holsteins Ltd.
Barbara Milley, Courtenay
BCA 264 292 270
80 Records
11,659M 480F 379P

TOP MANAGEMENT SCORE HERDS

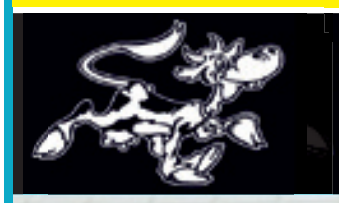
1. Lloydshaven Holsteins Ltd.
Barbara Milley, Courtenay
Score: 832
Records: 99

2. Willswikk Holsteins
William Wikkerink, Mill Bay
Score: 830
Records: 63

Merry Christmas

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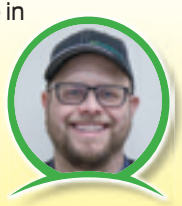
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Warm Okanagan Greetings from Dream Acres

(formerly BC Holstein News)

Karen and Gary Booy

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the big things,
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in between...

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CANADA
4-H British Columbia

COWICHAN 4-H HOLSTEIN CLUB

Club Reporters: Tak Aldrich-Wikkerink, Jordan Wikkerink, Kaydence Baird

This past August and September, our club members showed their heifers at the Cobble Hill fair and the Cowichan Exhibition. We would like to thank Mr. Thomas Cuthbert and Mr. Darryl Woof for judging and giving us some great advice. We had fun scooping ice cream as our annual club fundraiser at the Cowichan Exhibition. Thank you to everyone who purchased ice cream from us!

Our club year finished with an awards evening, where all of the members went home with something. We would like to thank our many club sponsors for their support over the past year. We would also like to thank our club leaders: Mrs. Darlene Brandsma, Mrs. Leslie Ann Baird, Mrs. Henrietta Groenendijk, Miss Michelle Laszczyk and Mr. Ridley Wikkerink for all of the hard work and time they put into helping us this year.

Our club would love to have new members join us next year. If you are interested in joining the Cowichan 4-H Holstein club please email Miss Michelle Laszczyk at glenviewfarm@hotmail.com or Mrs. Henrietta Groenendijk at chgroenendijk@shaw.ca. Registration begins at the end of December, with our first meeting mid-January.



SUMAS HOLSTEIN 4-H CLUB

Club Reporter: Gavin Dueck

Sumas Holstein 4-H Club has wrapped up for the year and what a year it was. First, we would like to thank our sponsors for their support over the years. We couldn't have done it without you. We just had our year-end wrap up banquet with dinner and awards at the Duecks' barn.

Congratulations to all of our members for their achievements this year. Thank you to the parents and leaders; Cindy Dueck and Shelley Hammersmark for all their hard work and their commitment to the 4-H program.

2022 Sumas Holstein winners:

- **Senior Orator:** Aiden deRegt
- **Junior Orator:** Gavin Dueck
- **Senior Educational Display:** Elinor Hammersmark
- **Junior Educational Display:** Caleb Moore
- **Senior Judge:** Janessa Vaandrager
- **Junior Judge:** Caleb Moore
- **Senior Record Book:** Olivia Dueck
- **Junior Record Book:** Gavin Dueck
- **Senior High Aggregate:** Elinor Hammersmark
- **Junior High Aggregate:** Gavin Dueck
- **Helping Hands Award:** Olivia Dueck
- **Best Effort:** Elinor Hammersmark/Jenoah Winkelaar
- **Most Improved:** Jackson Schurmann

Showmanship awards went to Evan Hammersmark, Kaycee Meier and Janessa Vaandrager and Top Calf went to Kylie Luymes, Janessa Vaandrager and Celina Vaandrager.

First year member awards went to:
Caleb Moore, Kylie Luymes, Kayla Schurmann, Quin Bartsch and Evan Hammersmark.



It's been a fun year as club reporter and I'm looking forward to the 2023 4-H season starting in January.

Karen Scott and Kirstie Bobetsis of Ritchie-Smith Feeds (sponsor) were on hand to present awards.

MATSQUI 4-H HOLSTEIN CLUB

Club reporter: Addison Dunne

We wrapped up this year with our awards banquet.

Junior High Aggregate – Michael Kampman
Senior High Aggregate – Alicia Postma
Citizenship – Kylie Langelaan
Best effort other than project – Rees Tidball
Most Improved – Emily Bongers

It was a great year!



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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

Central Fraser Valley

Alpina Dairy Farm Ltd, Abbotsford
ALPINA ENDURE DONNA EX 90
Silverridge Endure
ALPINA LAUTRUST HUMBOLDT EX 90
Comestar Lautrust

Cedarwal Farms Ltd, Abbotsford
CEDARWAL LADYBUG MOOCH EX 90
Cedarwal 1141

Kambro Farms Ltd, Abbotsford
KAMBROS FERDINAND DIXID 6762 EX 90
De-Su Ferdinand 12489-ET

Lavender Farms Ltd, Abbotsford
LAVENDER MONTANA CUPCAKE EX 90
IHG Montana-ET
LAVENDER SEAVER SIZZLE EX 90
R-E-W Seaver-ET

Nicki Meier, Abbotsford
TWOMEIER SEAVER FINLEY 1088 EX 90
R-E-W Seaver-ET

Rose Gate Dairy Farms Ltd, Matsqui
WESTERNROSE BLAME UR ADDICTION EX 90
Mr Ansly Addiction-P-Red-ET

Summershade Farms Ltd, Abbotsford
SUMMERSHADE ICEISILVER EX 90
Seagull-Bay Silver-ET

Vedderlea Farm Ltd, Abbotsford
VEDDERLEA CHIEF MEREDITH EX 91
Stantons Chief-ET
VEDDERLEA EMPEROR ELSIE EX 90
Stantons He Emperor
VEDDERLEA LAMBDA LOUANN EX 91
Farnear Delta-Lambda-ET

Lower Fraser Valley

Hammingview Farms Ltd, Pitt Meadows
HAMMINGVIEW UNIX DEBBIE EX 91
Croteau Lesperron Unix
HAMMINGVIEW SIDEKICK MARSHA EX 90
Walnutlawn Sidekick

Wisselview Farms, Pitt Meadows
WISSELVIEW OCTANE CHANCE EX 91
Wisselview Octane 1174
WISSELVIEW WINDBROOK JAYDEN EX 90
Gillette Windbrook

North and Kootenays

Brantanna Dairy Inc, Smithers
BRANTANNA HIGH OCTANE 579 EX 90
Stantons High Octane

North Okanagan

Bonivista Farms, Salmon Arm
BONIVISTA CHIEF LEGISLATOR EX 91
Stantons Chief-ET
BONIVISTA LEBOWSKI MORLEY EX 90
Generations Morley

Dari Delite Farm Ltd, Sicamous
TOLAMIKA CATO LIZZY EX 91
Silvermaple Doorman Cato
DARIDELITE COREY DUCHENE EX 90
Even-Par Corey-ET
DARIDELITE MONTROSS FERGIE EX 90
Bacon-Hill Montross-ET

Delterra Holsteins, Salmon Arm
DELTERRA CALIFORNIA DREAMER EX 90
EK-STJ California-Red-ET

Elkview Farms Ltd, Grindrod
ELKVIEW BREWMASTER LIONELA EX 90
Mapel Wood Brewmaster
ELKVIEW IMPRESSION MARCIA EX 90
Monument Impression-ET

Hamming Holsteins Ltd, Vernon
HAMMING NEVER AGAIN STIRLING EX 90
Vogue Never Again PP
HAMMING WILSON PEONY EX 90
Vieuxsaule Wilson
VOGUE SPLENDID SAMARA-PP EX 90
Pine-Tree Splendid-P-ET

Joe Mazur, Enderby
MAZJESTIC MOGUL PARIS EX 90
Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul-ET

Luttmerding Farms, Armstrong
SPALLVUE GOLDCHIP CHICAGO EX 90
Mr Chassity Gold Chip-ET
SPALLVUE IMPRESSION EMBER EX 90
Monument Impression-ET

Peak Valley Farms Ltd, Sorrento
JONKERVILLE PURE NICKY EX 90
Ste Odile Pure

Rockledge Farms Ltd, Enderby
ROCKLEDGE SABRINA ATLANTA EX 90
Luck-E Ladd Atlanta 529
ROCKLEDGE SASSY MILEHIGH EX 90
Lindenright Milehigh

Suncountry Holsteins Ltd, Armstrong
SUNCOUNTRY STEFF CARMELLO EX 90
Gillette Carmello

Sunninghill Holsteins, Grindrod
DELTERRA CALIFORNIA DREAMER EX 90
EK-STJ California-Red-ET

Sunnyhome Farms Ltd, Salmon Arm
SUNNYHOME CHIEF MULAN EX 90
Stantons Chief-ET

Tappenvale Farm Ltd, Pritchard
TAPPENVALE CONTROL ROSIE EX 90
JK Eder-I Control
TAPPENVALE DOORMAN ALYSSA EX 90
Val-Bisson Doorman

TaZo Farms Ltd, Falkland
HAMMING UNIX DANICA EX 90
Croteau Lesperron Unix
HAMMING UNIX RADIANT EX 90
Croteau Lesperron Unix

Richmond-Delta

Martiann Holsteins Ltd, Delta
MARTIANN BREWMASTER KARA 560 EX 90
Mapel Wood Brewmaster

The Hessels Family, Delta
HESDON IMPRESSION NEMO 119 EX 90
Monument Impression-ET

Upper Fraser Valley

Benco Holsteins, Chilliwack
BENCO CHARIS CONTROL EX 90
JK Eder-I Control
BENCO MAKK WILSON EX 90
Vieuxsaule Wilson

Bert Tuytel, Chilliwack
TUYTEL GOLD CHIP LOCH NESS EX 91
Mr Chassity Gold Chip-ET

Bonnie Doone Dairy Ltd, Harrison Mills
BOONEMILL SUPERMAN JUMPSTART EX 90
RH Superman-ET

Michael Haambuckers, Agassiz
SUNNYHILL REBEL MCDOUGAL EX 90
Ladys-Manor McDougal-ET

Peter Tuytel, Jr, Chilliwack
ELMBRIDGE SIDEKICK MISTRESS EX 90
Walnutlawn Sidekick

UBC Dairy Ed. Centre, Agassiz
UBYSSEY IMPRESSION JUNKIE 4050 EX 90
Monument Impression-ET

Valedoorn Farms Inc, Agassiz
VALEDOORN DISCO 3191 EX 90
TJR Altadisco-ET

Vyecroft Holstein Farms, Rosedale
VYECROFT DEMSEY RYAH EX 90
Lirr Drew Dempsey

Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack
CRAIGCREST RUBIES SMARTY PANTS EX 94
Braedale Goldwyn
KNONAUDALE LULULEMON EX 91
Cycle McGucci Jordy-Red
ROEMERS EXPANDER JAVA EX 91
Stantons Expander-ET
WESTCOAST AXEL ASPARAGUS EX 91
Kulp-Dale Ag Dr Axel-Red-ET
JACOBS APPLE-CRISP VEDETTA EX 90
Siemers Oct Apple-Crisp-ET
OCD JORDY LOCHNESS-RED-ET EX 90
Cycle McGucci Jordy-Red
PEAK CELIA GENIUS 20666-ET EX 90
Co-Op RB Mntrs Genius-ET
WESTCOAST BYWAY 30932 EX 90
Oh-River-Syc Byway-ET
WESTCOAST DANIEL LICORICE EX 90
She-Ken Uno Daniel
WESTCOAST EXPANDER RAVE EX 90
Stantons Expander-ET
WESTCOAST INCREDIBULL ADDISON EX 90
Riverdown Incredibull Red
WESTCOAST SALVATOR ARYANE 5823 EX 90
Mr Salvatore RC-ET

Vancouver Island

C&H Groenendijk, Chemainus
GREENDIKE SANTANA EGYPT 912 EX 90
Benner Santana

Frueh Farms Ltd, Duncan
FRUEH BUDDY BERMUDA EX 91
Frueh Buddy Holly
FRUEH CHARITY CLIMAX EX 90
Marilyn Climax ET
FRUEH COTTON PICKA EX 90
De-Su 12794 Cotton-ET

J. W. Wikkerink Farms Ltd, Cobble Hill
WILLSWIKK ARMY DAYLA EX 90
Siemers Apples Army-ET
WILLSWIKK LIGHT MY FIRE HONEY EX 90
Mapel Wood Light My Fire

Michael Laszczyk, Duncan
ROEMERS CARMELLO RENO EX 90
Gillette Carmello

Quebequa Holsteins, Victoria
WESTCOAST INCREDIBULL ADDISON EX 90
Riverdown Incredibull Red

Rockycrest Holsteins Ltd, Duncan
ROCKYCREST ALONZO ROSALYN EX 90
Norca Silky Alonzo

Viewfield Farms Ltd, Courtenay
SAANWOOD MOGUL PRIM EX 90
Mountfield SSI Dcy Mogul-ET

Wedgwood Holsteins, Cobble Hill
WEDGWOOD LM GRANITE WILLOW EX 90
Progenesis Granite

Wikkshaven Holsteins, Cobble Hill
WIKKSHAVEN DOORMAN DREAM EX 90
Val-Bisson Doorman
WIKKSHAVEN JACOBY DARRA EX 90
Cycle Doorman Jacoby-ET

BC's Elite New VG 1st Calvers (86 points and higher)

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

Central Fraser Valley

Cedarwal Farms Ltd, Abbotsford
CEDARWAL MIRAND BRIGHTSIDE VG 86
Coomboona Zipit Mirand-PP
CEDARWAL RAPID RIVAL VG 86
St Gen R-Haze Rapid-ET

Lavender Farms Ltd, Abbotsford
LAVENDER IMPRESSIVE RILEY VG 86
Monument Impression-ET

Lower Fraser Valley

Wisselview Farms, Pitt Meadows
WISSELVIEW RAPID TAFFY VG 86
St Gen R-Haze Rapid-ET

North Okanagan

Dari Delite Farm Ltd, Sicamous
DARIDELITE MACNUT SHIVER VG 86
Hulsdale B Macnut PP
TOLAMIKA ALLIGATOR BAYOU VG 86
Stantons Alligator-ET

Upper Fraser Valley

Bonnie Doone Dairy Ltd, Harrison Mills
BOONEMILL MACADAM ACDC VG 86
Westcoast Macadam

Peter Tuytel, Jr, Chilliwack
ELMBRIDGE DROPKICK ALGEBRA VG 86
Progenesis Dropkick

T&L Cattle Ltd, Rosedale
RED-BRAE JORDY THIERRY VG 87
Cycle McGucci Jordy-Red

Vyecroft Holstein Farms, Rosedale
VYECROFT SILVIO EDEN DELLIA VG 86
Villy Silvio

Westcoast Holsteins, Chilliwack
LANDIS-MRK DILLY BEAN VG 86
Blondin Thunder Storm
MOSNANG BRIDGESTONE LIVE WIRE VG 86
Walnutlawn Bridgestone
PROGENESIS ZAZZLE PINK VG 86
Peak Altazazzle-ET
WESTCOAST SPARTACUS CAMOMIL VG 86
K-Style Tarino Spartacus-ET

Vancouver Island

J. W. Wikkerink Farms Ltd, Cobble Hill
WILLSWIKK UNIX LULU VG 86
Croteau Lesperron Unix

Stanhope-Wedgwood, Victoria
WEDGWOOD SIDEKICK MALLORIE VG 86
Walnutlawn Sidekick

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Udder News

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Dan and Jolene of Gietema Farms in Enderby are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Lyla Sylvia Gietema, born September 7, weighing 5lbs 8oz. Also excited are big brothers Harvey, Jacob, and Brodie and grandparents John and Louise De Jong of Bewelcome Farms, Deroche and Harvey and Brigitte Gietema of Whatcom Acres Farm, Abbotsford.

Congratulations to Camilla Delloca and Brad Driessen, who were married Saturday, July 30, 2022. Camilla is the daughter of Richard and Tiffany Delloca of Delloca Farms in Deroche, and Brad is the son of Fred and Rose Driessen of Driessen Farms, also in Deroche. The wedding and reception were held in the field at the bride's parents' farm. It was a hot day, but it was enjoyed by all their family and friends who came to celebrate with them, especially their adorable little daughter Carter. After a little getaway, the happy couple returned home to Driessen Farms, where they continue to work and raise Carter with the rest of the crew on the farm.





John and Judy Chard of Joamy Farm Ltd in Dewdney and Ed and Trina Legault from Hatzic are pleased to announce the marriage of Dannielle Chard and Eric Legault. On August 27, they had a beautiful ceremony held on the bride's family farm property. The couple arrived in true farm style to their reception, riding in the tractor bucket! Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple!



John Court DeWitt

March 24, 1961 – September 3, 2022

"I was born on March 24, 1961 to Dutch immigrants Chris and Nellie DeWitt in New Westminster, BC. When I was 9, we moved to Sicamous in the spring of 1970.

In 1978, I drove to Saskatchewan and worked for the Wiens family in Dalmeny. God had a plan. This short experience grounded me for my future in farming and life. I came to them in May and by August, I knew that I had to go back home...I really missed my Mom.

Joni and I had our first date in 1979 at the IPE. I went to youth group with her and came to know Jesus as my Savior. At Christmas time, I gave Joni a hope chest and proposed to her. We were married on August 9, 1980.

We moved to our little "farm on the hill" on Solsqua Road in Sicamous after a year working down at the coast. Our kids started joining us. Lexi 1981, Colby 1983, Nicolas 1986, and Steffanie 1988. Things were not always easy. God was our strength then, and He still is today.

In 1992, we were able to trade our farm for the Ekkel farm next door to the Simantons in Crestomere, Alberta. Almost a year to the day, in 1993, our oldest son Colby went home to be with the Lord...at this time God was our strength!

I was finally diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy in 1996. We sold the farm and moved home to Sicamous in 1997. By fall of 1998 we started farming again...on farm #4. We decided to buy a second farm down the road to secure a future for our family...which is known to this day as Daridelite Farm (farm #5).

"My ultimate goal in life was to finish well, and spend eternity with my Savior...work hard, do the best I can, and have no unfinished business... Live God's way."

John joined his eldest son, Colby. He left behind his wife Joni, his children Lexi and Jeff, Nic and Lindy, Steffi and Steven, Robbi and Lyle, and his thirteen grandchildren. "Papa" to his grandkids...he shared so much wisdom in his lifetime that they will cherish forever.

John's entire dictated story can be read on our website: holsteinnews.com



Bruno Giacomazzi

April 6, 1937 – October 10, 2022

Bruno passed away suddenly, but peacefully, at home on the Aldergrove farm Thanksgiving Day, October 10, 2022. Bruno was born in a one-room mining cabin in Mercoal, Alberta on April 6, 1937 to Amabile and Primo Giacomazzi. Primo worked in the mine alongside his brother Leone. In 1938 the four Italians (Leone, his wife Luisa, Primo and Amabile, along with two children- Roy and Bruno) purchased an 80-acre, half forested property in Aldergrove, BC and began farming.

Joining the local 4-H club fostered Bruno's love of showing, judging, and raising purebred Holstein cattle. In 1954, Bruno met his future wife, Shirley, on her parents' farm in Ladner, BC for a judging day (Shirley's dad Bill also had a love of purebred cattle). Their next meeting was the following year at the Pacific National Exhibition where they met in the cattle wash rack while preparing their 4-H projects for competition. Bruno and Shirley married on February 28, 1959, and in 1963, Bruno and Shirley purchased the farm and renamed it Brondell Holsteins.

An accomplished official cattle judge, Bruno judged cattle shows across North America, in Venezuela, and Columbia. He devoted much time to working with and mentoring youth, particularly in the cattle industry. Bruno was a founding member of the Western Canadian Classic junior dairy show, and he chaired and served on numerous agricultural committees over the years.

Bruno was also an avid Vancouver Canucks season's ticket holder, attending games with Shirley since the 1960's. He was a curling enthusiast in both the Abbotsford and Langley leagues, and in his later years took up lawn bowling. Bruno made friends everywhere he went and always had a joke or story to tell. Bruno will always be remembered as a kind, loving, and generous man who loved to dance, spend time with his family and friends, and cheer on his favorite sports teams.

Bruno is survived by his devoted wife of 63 years Shirley, his four children, Donald Giacomazzi, Jill Thimer (Greg), Tom Giacomazzi (Michele), Terri Giacomazzi (Jon), his two sisters, Gina Alary (Dan), Bruna Giacomazzi (Bob), and numerous grand children and great grandchildren.

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Edwin and Kari Crandlemire (Wally Ann Holsteins, Grindrod) and Anthony and Liza Lawson (Salmon Arm) are beyond thrilled that their kids tied the knot September 3, 2022. Jordan and Chanelle were married on the Shuswap River in Mara, at a property owned by the groom's parents, surrounded by all the people they love the most. We wish them all the happiness in the world!



September 2, 2022 was a beautiful sunny day at Martiann Holsteins in Delta! Family and friends from far and wide gathered on the farm to witness the exchange of vows of Lorna Hamming, daughter of Perry and Angela, and Kenny McRae, son of Jim and Robin (Ontario). This was followed by a fun-filled reception full of laughter, wonderful food – including Lorna's home-made ice-cream for dessert, and dancing long into the night! The happy couple now reside on the farm.



Berend (Bert) Huizing

December 26, 1931 – October 6, 2022

Berend was born in Zuidwolde, Netherlands to Berend and Roelfina Huizing, the fifth of twelve children. He grew up as a farmer's son and that became an integral part of who he was. In 1954 Bert, wanting a better life for his family, took a leap of faith and immigrated with most of his family to Canada, making their home in Iron Springs, Alberta. There they worked on a sugar beet farm as a family, living and working there. Bert also had a few other jobs, including digging post holes for fencing and working on the railway. Early in 1958 he invited Styntje (Tina), who he had met through his sister, to come join him with his family to test out life in Canada. By July, they were engaged and travelled back to Holland at the end of the year and were married on January 22, 1959.

In November of 1959 they moved to the Fraser Valley and settled in Sumas where Bert worked as a farmhand. In 1967 they moved to the farm in Matsqui which they rented until they were able to purchase it in 1972. Life on the farm was busy with their growing family but Bert and Tina were a team and together they built a beautiful place, full of love and laughter.

Bert loved the land. He was a farmer to his core. Despite only having a formal education to Grade 6, along with some agricultural schooling, he was incredibly knowledgeable in many areas of life. He was well-read and enjoyed life-long learning.

He loved his family fiercely, giving the gift of his time and love generously. He was quite likely the most positive person you would ever meet, always with a twinkle in his eye.

Bert's love of the Lord topped it all. He lived out his faith in plain sight. Always trusting, always loving, always thankful, right until the very end.

He was predeceased by his dear wife Styntje (Tina) in 2014 and is survived by his loving family Chris (Diana), Phil (Karen), Howard (Sarah), Joy (Bart), Marlene (Andreas), 18 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.



Edward Brunoro

September 23, 1939 – September 25, 2022

You could tell what kind of man Edward Brunoro was just by looking at his hands. They were big, strong, and calloused. He loved to get them dirty. They were the hands that cleared the land he farmed almost his entire life.

Edward was about five years old when his parents, immigrants from Italy, took a chance and bought land in Aldergrove. He began his education in a little two-room country school called Patricia, only speaking Italian when he entered the first grade. Rarely ever taking a day off, his family slowly cleared the land and transformed something wild into something beautiful – a dairy farm where Ed raised his own five children along with his wife Marge. The farm is still in the family, now run by one of Ed's sons.

He coached several of his sons' hockey teams, also playing hockey himself with the "Old Timers" into his seventies. He had his first heart attack on the ice, and in typical Ed fashion, he went to the bench instead of the doctor. But that didn't keep him away from the rink for long.

He also served as a director with the Mainland Dairymen's Association. Ed was still driving tractor and working on the farm until a few months before his death.

Ed and Marge were always a team. Ed would start a sentence and Marge would finish it. They prayed together and made decisions together. They worked side-by-side for 57 years.

Edward died September 25, 2022, a few days after his 83rd birthday. He instilled in each of his children and grandchildren a strong work ethic and a desire to make the world a better place.

If you knew Ed, you knew he wasn't afraid to speak his mind. Tough on the outside, kind-hearted on the inside, he was committed to helping those in need. It's not something he would talk about. It's just something he did.

Ed lived up to the word **father** and he lived up to what it means to be a man. He was a protector, and a provider. He put his faith in Christ. Edward was authentic. He was one of a kind.

And he is deeply missed by his wife Marge, his children Gail, Michele, Daryl, Carolyn and Brian, and many friends.



Ronald Allen Faber

April 24, 1962 – October 11, 2022

Tuesday, October 11th, 2022, Ron Faber of Abbotsford, passed away while at home with his wife Jennifer.

He was a son, brother, husband, best friend, father, grandfather. Ron was a dairy farmer, chicken farmer, cattle broker, a skilled rider, accomplished fisherman and a natural on the open waters living life to its absolute fullest. He had a heart softer and kinder than most could appreciate!

Quirky smiles and quiet replies pulled everyone to laugh with him. His exuberant sense of fun drew everyone together in celebration of any occasion. Those he touched were privileged and blessed to know him. He was truly beyond one in a million.

Simply said Ron was a good man, a forever happy man full of love and integrity. He did not ask for anything but friendship.

He is survived by his loving wife Jennifer Faber, daughter Carlin (Chris) Elliot, son Fred (Christine) Faber, son Joey Faber; stepdaughters Bryanna and Brooke, and six grandchildren: Jackson, Annalise, Brantley, Alexis, Madison and Natalie.

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Jersey Canada News

Jersey Canada AGM

Jacob Lucs, General Manager Jersey Canada

Join Jersey Canada for its 2023 Annual General Meeting in Levis, Quebec. The meeting will take place April 1, 2023 and will be followed by an awards banquet celebrating Canadian Jersey breeders. Farm tours will take place on March 31st, where attendees will visit: Ferme Belflamme, home of the majority of the milking herd from the recently dispersed Master Breeder herd Rexlea Jerseys; and Constructive Breeders Ferme des Marroniers, Ferme Verjatin and Ferme Bellaska.

Jersey Canada offers a unique financial assistance program geared toward Jersey breeders ages 18 – 35 to make it easier for out-of-province young people to attend the Jersey Canada AGM. Three (3) $1000 travel bursaries are available for applicants to individuals in the following regions: Jersey West, Jersey Ontario and Jersey Atlantic. To apply visit www.jerseycanada.com/AGM

Westerner Dairy Showcase, Open Show: Jersey

October 21, 2022
Red Deer, AB
Judge: Mike Duckett

GRAND CHAMPION

Best Udder of the show,
Bred and Owned Champion
LONE PINE JOEL SWEET DREAMS
1st 5 Year Old
The Haeni Boys, AB

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LIQUORICE
1st 4 Year Old
Lone Pine Jerseys, AB

HM GRAND CHAMPION

ROBELLA ZIMMER JOEL NATALIE ET
1st Junior 3 Year Old
Robella & Zimmer, SK

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION

ROBELLA ZIMMER JOEL NATALIE ET
1st Junior 3 Year Old
Robella & Zimmer, SK

RESERVE INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION

LONE PINE VIDEO TARYN
1st Senior 2 Year Old
Lone Pine Jerseys, AB

HM INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION

LONE PINE MATT BOUJEE
1st Summer Junior 2 Year Old
Bridon Farms, ON

JUNIOR CHAMPION

MOSNANG DELL NEVER GIVE UP
1st Senior Calf
Markus Hehli, AB

RESERVE JUNIOR CHAMPION

SUNNY HILL TEKASHI APOSSUM
1st Junior Calf
Michael & Gina Haambuckers, BC

HM JUNIOR CHAMPION

SUNNY HILL TEKASHI ARRIVE ET
1st Intermediate Calf
Michael & Gina Haambuckers, BC

PREMIER BREEDER

Bramville Jerseys
Nokomis, SK

PREMIER EXHIBITOR

Lone Pine Jerseys Ltd.
Didsbury, AB



Reserve Junior Champion SUNNY HILL TEKASHI APOSSUM with Gina Haambuckers on the halter, Junior Champion MOSNANG DELL NEVER GIVE UP, Markus Hehli leading with daughter Georgia, and Judge Mike Duckett.



An udder view of the Intermediate Champions: (L-R) Connie McLellan with HM LONE PINE MATT BOUJEE, Sam Haeni with Reserve LONE PINE VIDEO TARYN, Alexandra Labbé on the halter of Champion ROBELLA ZIMMER JOEL NATALIE ET, and judge Mike Duckett.



Intermediate Champion ROBELLA ZIMMER JOEL NATALIE ET, with Alexandra Labbé leading and Judge Mike Duckett.



Grand Champions: (L-R) Judge Mike Duckett, Sam Haeni with Grand Champion LONE PINE JOEL SWEET DREAMS, Nils Haeni and Reserve LONE PINE VICTORIOUS LIQUORICE, and Alexandra Labbé leading HM ROBELLA ZIMMER JOEL NATALIE ET

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BC Dairy – AGM Very Condensed Highlights

Tars Cheema

The hybrid (in person & online) AGMs of the BC Dairy Association, BC Milk Marketing Board and the Dairy Industry Development Council were all held on November 22. BC Dairy Board Chair Holger Schwichtenberg thanked outgoing Directors Mickey Aylard (Vancouver Island) for her three years, and Jeff Hanson who stepped down after one year. Brian Janzen begins a three-year term and Henry Bremer completes Jeff's remaining two years.

Holger highlighted elements of the new three-year strategic plan. "Fact is, our world has changed and we need to change with it," he started. Goals: * pursue more processing, * pursue more advocacy, * work with the Western Milk Pool to have a single strong voice. "Changing our governance model will not be an easy change, but it's necessary," he stated in reference to the previously announced plan to integrate five dairy organizations of the WMP. Key focus areas will be transportation efficiency and increased processing capacity.

GM Jeremy Dunn continued, "BC Dairy is evolving to better serve our members today and for the future." He expects the governance transition to take three years. The new mission statement: "BCD works to grow the market for dairy products and to support profitable, environmentally and socially responsible dairy farm businesses." To support long-term market growth, they need to expand processing capacity while addressing changing consumer preferences and ensure farming practices align with social license. The organization also seeks to enhance advocacy to address increased regulation, rising production costs, evolving expectations for animal care and climate related challenges.

"We must be able to help our producers – whether as a group or a single farm. This has been a challenging year for emergency management," Jeremy stated. New processes for a more effective emergency response plan are being developed – including capacity to deal with the varied situations.

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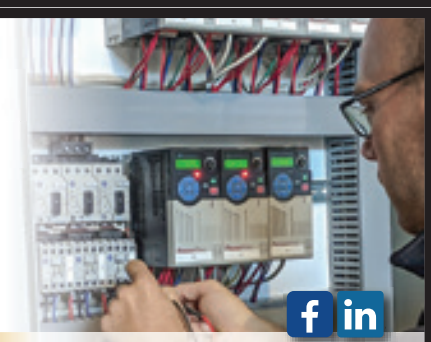


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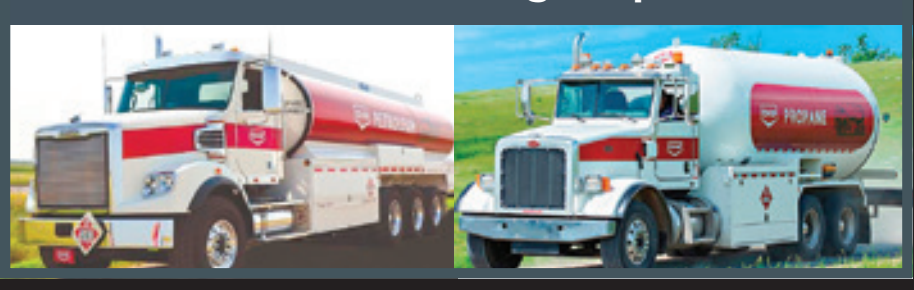
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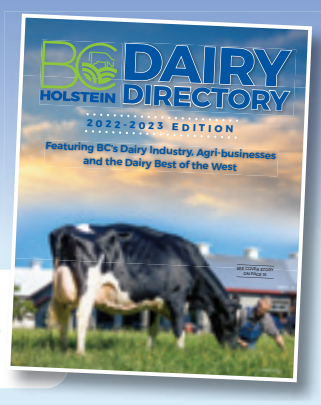
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Nutrition Focus

Alternative Feedstuffs for Dairy Rations

John Maltman MSc. P. Ag.
Nutritionist, Highline Manufacturing



Sainfoin is an interesting anti bloat legume forage.

Feeding cows and raising feed for them engages a dairy producer full time. For most herds it is an 'everyday all year long' task. The challenge is to match nutrients in forages and non-traditional feedstuffs to the annual needs of the herd in terms of energy and protein that will satisfy the cow and maximize milk and components. Land and weather determine what can be grown and how much will come from an acre. For the most part the dairy industry has access to a wide range of forages that combine great growth characteristics with valuable nutrient profiles. Occasionally alternative forages or post-consumer material may appear and through research we can place their value against traditional forages and cropping practices.

Intercropping with barley and peas has been on the radar for quite a long time. Typically, it can show a slight increase in barley yield but will show a decrease in pea yield over the same two crops being grown separately. It has had some application where soils are poorer but does not give the hoped-for advantage of higher protein and energy. [1]

Vegetative sorghum-sudan or sudangrass are acceptable protein and energy sources. Sudangrass hay cut early in the vegetative state has nutritional values similar to good-quality grass hay. This has shown up on a few farms over the last three years as a forage which has some drought resistance. A Manitoba dairyman has used this crop as silage and had acceptable results. But with the return of good moisture this crop cannot generate better results than barley silage. Stems of sudan grass are thick and should not be harvested late as NDF levels climb quickly in older stands. Also, Prussic acid is present in low amounts and as such should not be fed to lactating animals even though the animals can tolerate some of this anti-nutritive material. It is suitable for dry cows and heifers.

Rye grass is gaining in popularity due to its ability to persist over the winter in the prairies. It tends to have higher sugars than other grasses and cattle will preferentially consume it. Yields are good and it can tolerate a range of soil types. Its digestibility is on par with Timothy, and lignin levels are several points lower than brome grass. This is something to consider in the forage production schedule.

Bakery by-products are used minimally in Canada but are present in commodity bins on US dairies. This is usually in the form of bread meal which is dried then ground. It is a consistent source of energy with high digestibility and low fibre. It can be used as equivalent to wheat and can have a place in dairy diets based on cost per unit of nutrient and consistency of availability. Most nutritionists are reluctant to use alternatives unless supply is consistent. Changes to rations are done gradually over weeks to avoid rumen upset - so an ingredient may be available but unless it is going to be readily available over a long period of time, it may be rejected.

All of these alternatives are well researched and as others present themselves, they must show an advantage in nutrient yield and cost to produce. It is hard to outperform alfalfa, barley silage, corn silage, and the main cereal grains in common use. They are proven, cost effective and well received by the cow.

[1]. *Intercropping barley with pea for agronomic and economic considerations in northern Ontario, T. S. Sahota, Sukhdev S. Malhi,* ***Vol.3, No.7, 889-895 (2012) Agricultural Sciences*** *doi:10.4236/as.2012.37107.*



Labour Report Highlights Serious Shortage in Ag

Joel Slomp, RCIC, Recruiter & Immigration Consultant
The Admin Barn Immigration Consulting Ltd.



A new report commissioned by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business highlights the severity of the labour shortage in Canada's agriculture industry. The report, titled *Help Wanted: Labour Shortages Threaten the Future of Canadian Agriculture*, paints an interesting, if sobering, picture of Canada's ag-labour market. It finds that nearly two-thirds of agri-businesses consider themselves to be understaffed, with little hope things will improve in the near future. According to the CFIB, farm owners and their staff are working excessive hours, turning down sales contracts or decreasing service offerings in order to cope with labour shortages.

While the causes of this shortage are varied, the report identifies a couple of the most significant reasons. First, many employers report that high business taxes, including the Carbon-Tax, EI and CPP, divert capital away from investment in efficiencies and employees. Secondly, as I'm sure nearly ever reader can attest, there is a shrinking supply of local labour for agriculture employers. The problem is severe now and looks to be getting worse. For example, an estimated 33% of British Columbia's agriculture workforce will be lost to retirement by 2029 and these jobs are not being replaced by the next generation. Increasingly, young Canadians are prioritizing flexible hours, days off, and work close to home – difficult perks for agriculture employers to offer.

The report also examines some of the current strategies employers are using to combat the labour shortage. These include increasing wages, recruiting retired workers, reverting to automation, or accessing the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. While each option comes with pros and cons, the Temporary Foreign Worker Program is the option producing the results that employers are most satisfied with. The report states that agriculture employers who access the TFW Program report a nearly 100% success rate with the program. The popularity of the program continues to grow, as according to CFIB, in 2020, 23% of Canadian ag employers had a workforce comprised of more than 50% of new immigrants, higher than any other industry.

Despite the positive reviews of the TFW Program, there are shortcomings that need to be addressed by policy makers to ensure that the program is efficient as possible. Canada's immigration system continues to be plagued by historic levels of applications in backlog. (There are currently 2.6 million active applications as of today across all immigration categories, with almost 1.5 million exceeding service standard). Paperwork and processing times continue to take far too long for employers who are in a pinch. The Federal government has made numerous commitments to address these concerns with mixed results to this point.

The reality is that this labour shortage is here for the foreseeable future. As the CFIB report points out, officials need to act with urgency to ensure implement solutions. In the meantime, it's likely employers will need to use a combination of strategies to make sure the work gets done.

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BC Agriculture Day



(L-R) Sarah Sache (BC Dairy), Jennifer Critcher, (VP BC Grain Producers Association), Minister Katrine Conroy (Forests), Werner Stump, (VP BC Cattlemen's Association), Jeremy Dunn (GM BC Dairy).



(L-R) Minister Mike Farnworth (Public Safety and Solicitor General), Kevin Boon (GM BC Cattlemen's Assn.), Jeremy Dunn (GM BC Dairy) and Steve Heppell (Pres. BC Poultry Assn.).



(L-R) MLA Ian Paton (Delta South), Stan Vander Waal (Pres. BCAC), Minister Lana Popham (Agriculture and Food). Stan is holding the Proclamation declaring that October 25, 2022 is BC Agriculture Day.

BCAC Staff

BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) held its annual advocacy event, Ag Day, in Victoria on October 25, 2022, allowing farmers and ranchers from across the province to meet with Cabinet ministers, MLAs, Ministers and senior government officials. As a result of the pandemic, this year marked the first in-person Ag Day event since 2019. Farmers and ranchers emphasized that their commitment to bringing healthy, quality food and plants to the homes of British Columbians has not faltered.

The event kicked-off on Monday, October 24th with BCAC's industry workshop to prepare for the government meetings. This year, this included a presentation and moderated question-and-answer period with Keith Baldrey and Vaughn Palmer. This informative and lively discussion provided valuable government insights and key takeaways to incorporate into the following day's meetings.

Monday evening, BCAC held its Ag Day reception and agriculture showcase, with over fifty-six MLAs, Ministers, and senior government staff attending, along with the BCAC Board of Directors, members, and industry representatives. The night included a variety of local food and wine and various speeches, including one from The Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food, and Ian Paton, Official Opposition Critic for Agriculture and Food. It was during the reception that Hon. Lana Popham proclaimed October 25, 2022, to be BC Ag Day across the province.

On Tuesday, October 25th, the day of meetings began. Thirty meetings were scheduled where sixty farmers, ranchers, and agriculture representatives divided and delivered the agriculture sector's key messages which were: rising input costs, farm classification, environment and climate change, and trespassing on farmland.

During the meetings, BCAC and their members included forward action recommendations for government related to each key topic: working with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture to pursue solutions for rising input costs at the federal level in addition to seeking provincial support on this issue; farmland being used for agricultural production and asking the government to launch a government-industry task force to review the threshold for property tax reductions and lowered municipal levies; providing feedback on the province's development of a Watershed Security Strategy including asking for protections for agricultural water uses; and ensuring meaningful penalties for farm trespass be included within provincial legislation to ensure the safety of farmers, their families and their operations.

The Ministers in attendance included: Hon. Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food; Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety; Hon. George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; Hon. Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation; Hon. Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests; Hon. Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education; Hon. Lisa Beare, Minister of Citizens' Services.

To learn more about BC Agriculture Council, Ag Day, or other Council activities, please visit our website at www.bcac.ca.




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