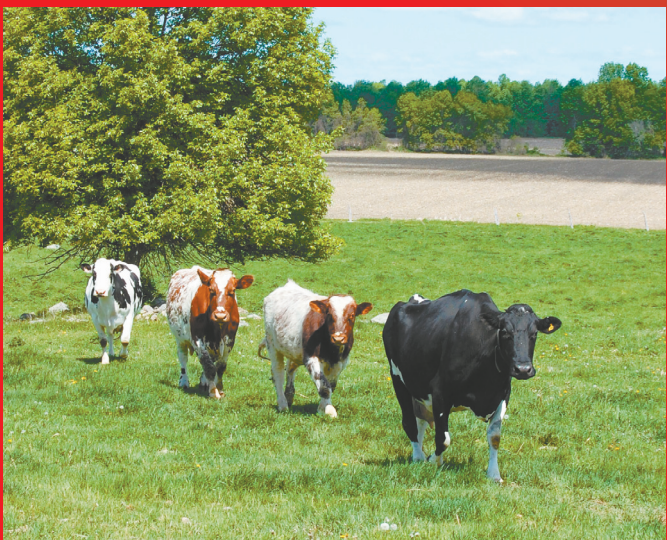


A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE WINCHESTER PRESS



June is
dairy month



Meet a Dairy Farmer



Jacquie and Evan Porteous

Harmony View

Jacquie and Evan Porteous just completed their first year running the 100-acre Harmony View farm, which Evan took over from his parents Wilmer and Linda. The farm, which has been in the family for three generations and nearly 60 years, milks 38 Holstein cattle, which Evan said he feeds six times a day to optimize production.

Evan also keeps the cows well-ventilated to prevent heat stress, which he said can impact production through the hot months of the summer.

"Without the fans, the cows overheat during the summer. You see them panting, and they have little energy. They eat less, and they produce less milk," Evan said.

Harmony View Melissa, the first prize winner in the Dundas County Breeders' Cup, and second in her class during the Leeds-Grenville-Dundas Holstein Show in 2007, comes from a good pedigree, eight or nine generations deep, of Harmony View cattle. Evan also has just bred his first red-and-white Holstein calf, which will also be a show cow. Evan said the red colour is rare, and well-regarded by judges at shows.



Photos — Terry, Barbour

Net wrap or twine?

by Joel Bagg, forage specialist,
OMAFRA

LINDSAY — What's better on large round bales — net wrap or twine? The question is largely a matter of personal preference, but it has been objectively researched by Dr. Kevin Schinners, agricultural engineer at the University of Wisconsin. Some of the suggested advantages of net wrap include faster baling, lower baling losses, better bale integrity during handling and transport, better water shedding ability, and lower outdoor storage losses. The net wrap material and equipment do add to the costs of baling, but Schinners' research results justify the added costs in many situations.

Faster baling

Only one or two turns of the bale are required to wrap a bale with net wrap, compared to 20 to 30 turns with twine. According to the Schinners' research, a baler set up to net wrap can bale 32 per cent more bales per hour than one using twine. This speeds up the baling process, allowing more to get done when the weather is good. It also saves fuel and labour. This significantly greater productivity is the main advantage of net wrap balers, particularly for farmers with large acreages and custom operators who can pass on the higher costs to their customers.

Reduced baling losses

Because you are spinning the bale in the chamber significantly fewer times while wrapping with net wrap rather than with twine, there is significantly less leaf loss dropping out of the baler. In the WI research, wrapping losses were one per cent of dry matter with net wrap and 2.9 per cent with twine.

Reduced outdoor storage losses

Outdoor hay storage results in a great deal of spoilage. Storing hay inside is recommended, but not always possible. Tarps can work, but can be challenging to maintain. The reality is that there are often lots of bales stored outside uncovered. "Water shedding ability" for outdoor bale storage is frequently cited as a perceived advantage of net wrap.

In the Wisconsin trials measuring moisture levels in the "outside rind" of the bales, net wrapped alfalfa bales did

shed rainfall better than twined wrapped bales and were less moist. Finer stemmed grasses seemed to form a better thatch. However, the advantage of improved water shedding ability is lost if bales are not stored on a well drained surface (crushed rock, pallets, etcetera). Otherwise, rainwater will run off the bales and accumulate at the bottom.

In this study, in the outside hay rind, nutrient composition was significantly higher and dry matter losses were lower for net wrap compared to twine, but the core was generally unaffected. Average total dry matter losses for bales stored outside on the ground were 11.3 per cent for plastic twine wrapped bales and 7.3 per cent for net wrap. However, both of these options have significantly higher losses than inside storage. Net wrapping bales for uncovered storage outside does not substitute for inside storage.

Other advantages

If you are selling hay, net wrapped bales have greater aesthetical appeal and marketability, particularly cover-edge net wrap. Net wrapped bales have better bale integrity during handling and transport. This is particularly the case with round bales of chopped straw.

Additional costs, disadvantages

Balers can be easily equipped to net wrap bales. The wrapping mechanism can increase the initial cost of the baler by 15 to 25 per cent. For example, it could add \$5,000 to the cost of a new \$30,000 round baler. The net wrap material also costs more. Depending on the number of wraps and other assumptions, the cost may be doubled from about 50 cents to about \$1 per bale, or about \$1.25 to \$1.75 more per tonne of dry hay.

Some producers have found that net wrapped bales are more inclined to freeze hard to the ground. Although removing frozen twine from an iced-over bale during the dead of winter is nobody's favourite job, this can be even more challenging with net wrap.

A net wrap system costs more than twine, but in many situations, including large volume operators, hay producers marketing large round bales, and farmers using some outdoor storage, those costs can be recovered by faster baling and reduced dry matter losses.

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Delcreek Holsteins awaiting second Master Breeder award

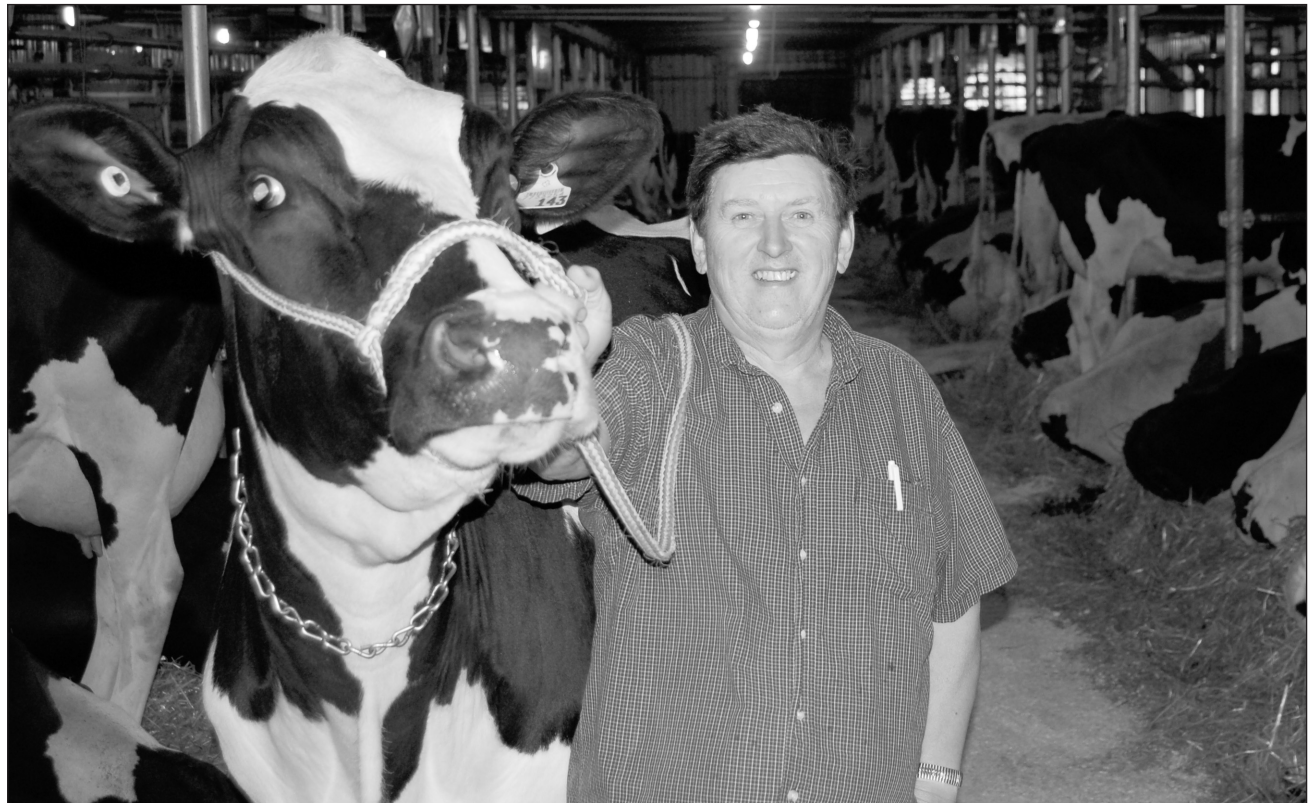
by Matthew A. Terry

MARIONVILLE — Peter Rylaarsdam, owner of Delcreek Holsteins and winner of approximately 150 awards for herd excellence, milk production, and show-stopping cows, is now waiting for his second Master Breeder award from Holstein Canada.

The Master Breeder shield, — “the most prestigious award a Holstein Breeder can obtain,” according to Holstein Canada — is an award that honours the farmer who combines quality in breeding, and high production values for both quantity and quality of milk. It can only be given to the same breeder once every 14 or 15 years.

Rylaarsdam uses embryo implantation for breeding, which he said is a “cool but costly” procedure. Many of his cattle are products of embryo implantation.

Rylaarsdam also shows cattle in various fairs, such as the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. Rylaarsdam’s primary show cow, Delcreek Sexy Lady, is an award-winning cow that has placed 10th in her division at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, as well as receiving various other awards. She is the fifth-generation of Delcreek cattle to be bred by Rylaarsdam and the second generation of show cows, with her mother being Delcreek Cheesecake, the cow with which Rylaarsdam’s son Jonathan, 21, won second place for showmanship at the Royal. Jonathan “loves to show cattle,” according to Rylaarsdam, and he has been working on the farm for the past 12 years.



With her ears forward, Delcreek Sexy Lady (left) posed for the camera with her owner, Peter Rylaarsdam. Sexy Lady has won several awards as a show heifer, and has placed 10th in her division at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. Photo — Terry

Rylaarsdam has also won awards for production, with a second cow, Delcreek Brandy, achieving a gold award for lifetime production, which is 100,000 kilograms of milk produced over the course of the cow’s life.

Rylaarsdam bought Delcreek Holsteins in 1976, when it originally had 180 acres, which he has expanded over the years to the current 325 acres. His milking herd is 65 cattle strong, with an average

production of 9,931 litres a year.

His milking herd includes seven cows rated excellent, 40 rated very good, and the remainder rated good plus, as classified by Holstein Canada.

Rylaarsdam has modified his farm recently by building a new silo to support more feed, as well as investing in a new harvester.

“I am really happy with the [new silo and harvester]. It cuts down on a lot of

work,” Rylaarsdam said.

The improvements are necessary, especially with the Mad Cow Disease — or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy — scare, which he is just now rebounding from, Rylaarsdam claimed.

Thinking toward the future, Rylaarsdam said he hopes that Jonathan will take over the farm, and more immediately he said he is “looking forward to the next Master Breeder shield.”

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Artificial insemination strategy for Heifers

by Blair Murray
Dairy Genetic Improvement Specialist,
OMAFRA

KEMPTVILLE — Heifers have the best genetics in a dairy herd. In order to take advantage of this, use the best possible sires as mates for heifers. Offspring of the heifers bred for the first time this year will make up 30 per cent of the milking herd in three years time. Selecting the best sires to use on these heifers will positively affect the potential for these heifers to contribute to the profitability of the herd.

At approximately 70 per cent non-return rate, heifers have higher fertility than milking cows. This means lower number of inseminations per pregnancy and more efficient use of artificial insemination (AI). High genetic merit along with high fertility means using the best AI bulls gives the biggest bang for the buck when used on heifers.

Heifers do need special consideration when it comes to calving ability. Breeding to the greatest bulls in the world is useless if the result is a difficult calving, a stillborn calf, and a first lactation cow that does poorly and is culled early in life.

Selection of sires to use on heifers requires some further care to reduce the risk of calving difficulty and improve calf survival. A simple strategy is to pre-select or eliminate the bulls that cause greater than average problems with calving ease and poor calf survival.

Calving difficulty and stillbirths are a much more important and bigger concern with first time calvers. In Canada, stillbirths occur at over 10 per cent of first calvings but only about five to six per cent for second and later calvings. Stillbirths and difficult calving are highly related. A recent New York study showed that the more difficult the calving the greater chance of the calf being stillborn. At the worst level, 60 per cent of calvings rated “very difficult” resulted in a stillbirth.

In Canadian bull proofs, calving ease and calf survival are now reported in a combined trait called “calving ability.” Because there is a 60 per cent relationship between calving ease and calf survival, a plus for calving ability usually, but not always means the bull improves both traits. If in doubt, look up the bull’s proof and in the detailed evaluation to find information on both traits.

We need to be concerned about calf survival. Take an example herd with 100 calvings per year, 30 of which are heifers. A 10 per cent stillbirth loss in first lactation means three death losses. Overall the loss due to still births in the herd would be seven calves per year at \$300 average value per calf or \$2,100 in total.

Effects on the cow are more costly than the value of the calf according to a Cornell University study, which points out that increased days open by 88 days, or about \$350 loss revenue per cow, and that there is a higher risk of the cow being culled before the end of lactation.

As well, along with the difficult calving are increased risk of retained placenta, metritis, increased treatments, and milk loss. Longer term, stillbirths mean less heifers available for herd replacement or sale and slower rates of herd improvement.

The costs amount to at least \$650 per stillbirth or in our example herd \$4,550 per year.

Daughter calving ability is also important. In our need to have calves that calve easily and survive well, we must not forget that the females grow up to have babies of their own. Sires selected for calving ease and calf survival need to be improvers for daughter calving ability as well.

If you take the Top 100 LPI Holstein Sires in the April 2008 genetic evaluations, and eliminate the bulls that had less than 100 EBV for calving ability or daughter calving ability, 50 bulls remain on the list. Of these bulls the average LPI increased slightly by 20 points, and the range from top to bottom remained about the same. If the list is narrowed to the top 20 bulls eliminating the poor calving ability bulls lowered the average LPI slightly. In other words a producer can select for average or better in calving ability and still have a good range of superior bulls to use to breed heifers.

Some AI centres highlight the bulls in their extended proof list that improve calving ability so that the choices for breeding heifers are more obvious.

The barnyard bull is, for a number of reasons, not the best choice to use on heifers. Barnyard bulls are lower in genetic quality than the average AI bull. They are also unknown for calving ability, and when used on heifers could cause a lot of damage.

The use of sexed semen on heifers is an option that could be considered. The high fertility of the heifers helps to balance out the usually higher cost and lower fertility of the sexed semen. A virtually all female calf crop helps reduce risk of calving difficulties and calf loss from stillbirths.

A recent study from Norway shows that the Scandinavian red breeds have stillbirth rates of around three per cent with first calvers and 1.5 per cent for second and later lactation calvings. Reducing the rate of stillbirths in Canada by five per cent would bring us close to the Scandinavian rate. Selecting the sires to use on heifers to improve calf survival is a good place to start.

Breeding to the greatest bulls in the world is useless if the result is a difficult calving, a stillborn calf, and a first lactation cow that does poorly and is culled early in life.

Meet a Dairy Farmer



David and Sandra Fawcett

Coachside Holsteins

David Fawcett posed with his wife Sandra on Fri., May 23, which happened to be their 16th wedding anniversary.

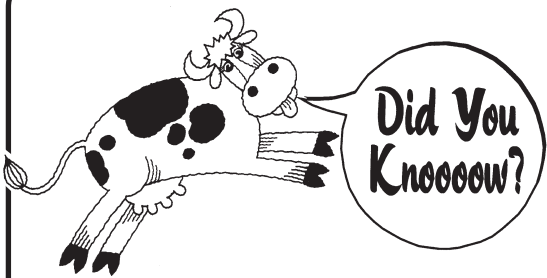
Fawcett has worked on the family farm in Winchester since he was young, and 13 years ago took over the farm from his father. The farm has been in the family since 1955.

“I’m a fourth generation farmer... I never really considered doing anything else,” Fawcett said.

Fawcett’s wife and his two children, William and Abby, also work on the farm, helping out with the little things right on through to the big. William participates in the 4-H club, and Abby is interested in sheep, which exist as side work for the farm.

Coachside Holsteins is now currently 20th for production in Dundas County, according to Canwest DHI, which “is a new position for [Coachside],” Fawcett said, noting he is “very pleased with [the ranking].”

Photo – Terry



The concept of mozzarella sticks had its origins in the 14th century. A recipe for fried cheese sticks, referred to as pipefarces (which means stuffed straws) dated 1393 was found in a French work entitled “Le Me’nagier de Paris.” These sticks were “Munster sticks” as opposed to Mozzarella sticks.

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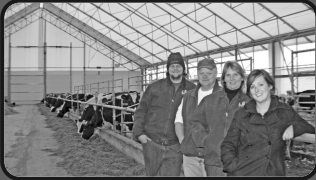
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‘Help Us Help You’

Marvellane Farms ranks first with highest BCA in Carleton County

by Matthew A. Terry

KENMORE — Theo and Maria Nyentap, owners of the 400-acre Marvellane Farms south of Kenmore, took the top spot for average BCA — or Breed Class Average — in Carleton County for the 2007 production year with a score of 277 in the Canwest DHI listings.

Hailing their free stall barns and getting “all the little things right” as reasons for their quality production, the Nyentaps said they take pride in their workplace, and in the work of milking 120 cattle.

Theo said he firmly believes the dedication to the farm is the most important thing.

“We know a farmer... he’s about 67 years old, and he starts his day at 2:30 in the morning and finishes at 10:30 or 11 o’clock at night. I have a lot of respect for someone like that,” Theo said.

Despite the dedication they put into the farm, they also place some emphasis on staying on the curve, if not ahead of it. The Nyentaps use sand bedding for their 300-head herd, which they said is the most comfortable for the cattle, and more comfortable cows means better production.

“A lot of people don’t have sand bedding... it seems to make a huge difference,” Theo said.

Maria added that “we have to do all the little things right: good feed, good genetics, good bedding, good ventilation, and good help.”

And they do have good help: the Nyentaps hire people from the community and surrounding area, and also have brought in an exchange student from Holland, who is one of the principal hired hands.

With the additional help, they are able to milk three times a day, rather than the typical industry average of twice a day, according to the Nyentaps.

“We couldn’t possibly milk three times per day without good reliable help,” Theo said.



Theo (left), Mark, puppy Daisy, and Maria Nyentap showed their newest facility, a free stall barn built in 1999, to the Press. They said that among other reasons for building the facility, such as a milking parlour, it also improves cow comfort and production.

Photo — Terry

They also pay close attention to the pre-fresh and transition cows.

“If cows don’t have a good start to their lactation, they won’t have a good finish,” he said.

Theo grew up on the family farm near Russell, and Maria hailed from a farm in Cumberland — both started by parents who moved from Holland in the mid-1950s.

“Farming’s in the blood,” claimed Theo.

“If you like [farming] then it’s a good life: a great place to raise a family... you all get to work together,” agreed Maria.

The Nyentaps have a son, Mark, who routinely helps out on the farm. Maria said she hopes to impart her and her husband’s dedication to the farm on Mark.

“As a family you have to understand the goals [for the farm], and work together to realize them. Sometimes

Mark has to miss out on some activities because there’s something on the farm we need him for. When it comes right down to it... it’s a team effort,” said Maria.

“And it has to be a team that can work together in harmony,” added Theo.

Maria summarized their beliefs. “You’re only as strong as your team is, because you wouldn’t be able to do it alone,” she said.

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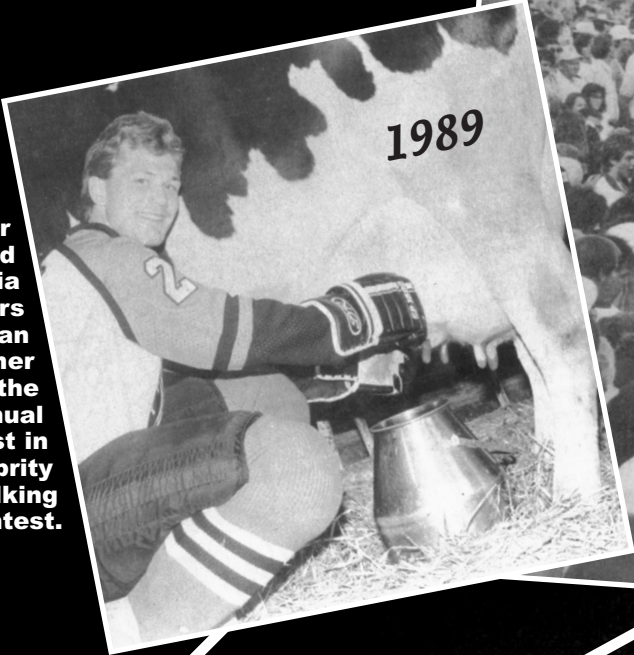
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1989

Winchester native and Philadelphia Flyers defenceman Terry Carkner kicked off the first annual Dairyfest in the celebrity milking contest.




1991


The third annual festival brought in 20,000 visitors, many of which enjoyed the tug-o-war competition.



1993


Bikers of all ages took part in the bike decorating contest at the fifth festival.





1997

The mini-midway attracted lots of kids to the ninth annual Dairyfest.



1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998



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Dairyfest celebrates 20 years of fun



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Organizers created Moo-vivor — similar to Survivor, but a little messier for contestants.

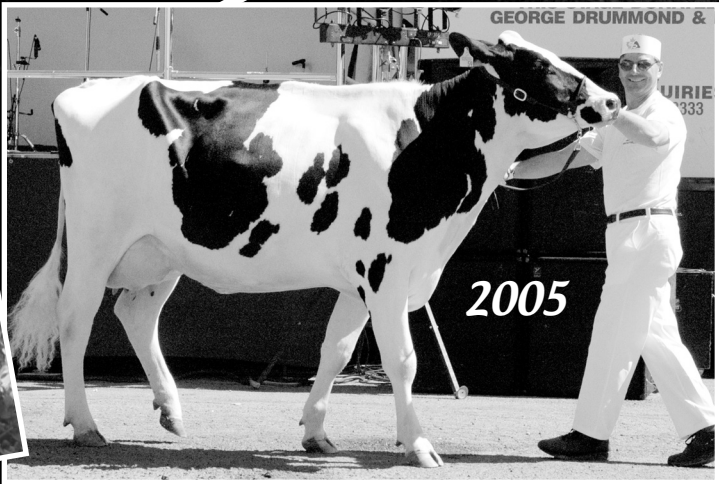


Bikers got big air at the 19th annual event — truly making it a bigger and better event.

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Everybody and their dogs had fun at the 12th annual Dairyfest.



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Parmalat Winchester's cheese specialist Rejean Galipeau (left), and Balderson marketing manager Mike Sobol accepted the awards that Parmalat received at the World's Cheese Making Competitions in Wisconsin. Parmalat received a "Best of Class" gold medal as well as a silver medal in the sharp cheddar category (cheddar cheeses aged from six months to one year).

"Best of Class"

Parmalat wins big at World Championships

WINCHESTER — Parmalat Canada won several gold and silver medals for entries in a variety of cheddar cheese categories at the World's Cheese Making Competitions.

Most notably Parmalat received a "Best of Class" gold medal in the sharp cheddar category (cheddar cheeses aged from six months to one year). Parmalat also won the silver medal in that category.

Other top scores included silver medals in the mild cheddar class (cheddars aged up to three months) and an aged cheddar class (cheddars from one to two years). This is the highest medal total that Parmalat has received in the international competition.

These award-winning cheese are available retail under Parmalat's Balderson Cheese brand name — Canada's leading premium-aged cheddar that has received many championship and grand championship awards in other cheese making competitions including The Canadian Grand Prix, British Empire Dairy Competition, and the Royal Winter Fair.

Parmalat has had an ongoing history of awards at the World's Natural Cheese Competition including the prestigious Grand Championship (top scoring cheese of all world wide cheese entered) in 1982.

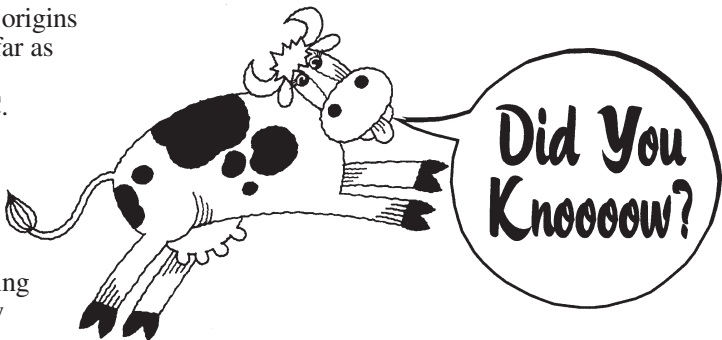
Commemorating this Grand Championship win, as well as its long-standing tradition of award-winning cheese, Balderson began selling its Balderson Championship Cheddar in 1983.

The World's Cheese Making Competition is held every two years and is sponsored by the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association. Each Competition brings over 1,700 entries for cheese and butter from over 18 countries from around the world. The cheeses are entered into a variety of classes depending on cheese type and age. The highest scoring cheese for each class is awarded a gold medal for the Best in Class. All of the gold-medal winners then go on to compete for the Grand Champion title.

The gold and silver medals were accepted on behalf of Parmalat by Rejean Galipeau (Parmalat Winchester's cheese specialist). Galipeau is recognized as one of Canada's leading Master Cheese Makers and has been making and aging premium cheddars for over 30 years under Parmalat's Balderson, Black Diamond, Cheese Makers, and Lactantia brands.

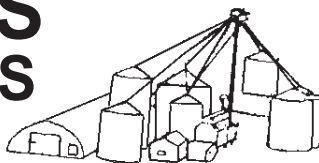
Based in Parma, Italy, Parmalat produces some of Canada's most popular consumer brand names such as Astro, Black Diamond, Lactantia, Beatrice, and Balderson.

- Ice cream's origins go back as far as the second century B.C. Historians estimate that ice cream evolved from flavoring frozen snow with fruit juices to what we now know as ice cream somewhere around the 16th century.



- Until 1800, ice cream was a rare and exotic dessert. When insulated icehouses were invented, ice cream manufacturing then became an industry.
- Ice cream novelties such as ice cream on a stick and ice cream bars were introduced in the 1920s.
- More ice cream is sold on Sunday than any other day of the week.
- Celebrity Naomi Campbell launched the Got Milk? mustache campaign in November of 1994.

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...It Just Makes Sense



Dairyfest celebrates 20 years of fun

by Meghan Duncan and Sarah Kelford
Press staff

WINCHESTER — The first two tickets for Dairyfest 2008 have been sold — to tourists coming all the way from California.

The San Diego residents are huge fans of Kim Mitchell — who will hit the Winchester arena stage on Fri., Aug. 8 at around 11 pm following Cory Coons' set — and have followed his career closely via the internet.

The fans saw the Dairyfest listing on Mitchell's website and "thought it would be great fun to attend (the) festival and see him play in a rural setting."

Coons will open the Dairyfest dance at 9:15 pm. Mitchell's set is expected to last until about 12:30 am. Tickets for the Friday night entertainment are \$25 — general admission.

Saturday will feature the traditional merchant sidewalk sale, and the arena will play host to a refreshment tent beginning at 1 pm. There will be live entertainment all day and the third-annual rib cook-off competition.

A wrestling show — featuring all categories of professional wrestlers ready to entertain the all-ages crowd — will take centre stage at the arena on Saturday (Aug. 9) from 7 to 10 pm.

Sunday will feature a vendor craft sale, paint ball, a midway, and live entertainment, culminating with Ambush and the customary fireworks display — this year with an increased pyro-technics budget for the 20th anniversary. Admission is free.

"Dairyfest is a great event that brings together the whole community," said Dairyfest committee co-chair Janine Stevenson. "I have enjoyed working on it and am proud to call Winchester my home."

The *Press* reported in its June 4 issue that 2008 may be the last year for Dairyfest — but organizers want to make sure that this year's festival is better than ever.

A lot has changed since Dairyfest began in 1989 when Joel Steele, Frank Morgan, and Linda McMahon teamed up to create the first-ever Dairyfest, in an effort to continue an annual community festival that began the previous year with a centennial celebration.

"I certainly have mixed feelings," Steele told the *Press* about the potential end of a two-decade tradition. "We had some great parties over the years."

But, Steele pointed out, a lot has changed in those two decades.

"Voluntarism was so different back then," he pointed out. "We had so much help. Everybody just came forward."

Community groups used to use Dairyfest as a fundraiser for their organizations — 20 per cent of the funds they raised through various activities during Dairyfest weekend would be given to the organizing committee to help fund the following year's 'fest. But, Steele said, over time those organizations wanted to keep all the money they raised, making it harder for the Dairyfest organizers to find the funds they needed to run a successful community weekend.

There are currently four members on the Dairyfest committee.

"We believe we're doing the best we can to draw people," said co-chair John Orton at the May 27 North Dundas council meeting, adding that on average 5,000 people attend Dairyfest (down from over 20,000 in 1991).

While future plans for Dairyfest aren't confirmed — organizers have suggested a change of venue or timing — the committee is planning to make the 20th anniversary extra special.

"If this is the last Dairyfest as we know it — it will be a spectacular event," assured Orton, adding that in the end it isn't up to the committee to end Dairyfest.

Stevenson told the *Press* that community support is the most important part of Dairyfest.

"We need to all make more of an effort to support our local merchants and businesses," she pointed out. "Without them, this event would never happen."

The Dairyfest website (www.winchesterdairyfest.net) is currently being updated, but will contain a full list of events once details are finalized.

"I hope to see everyone over Dairyfest weekend as we celebrate its 20th anniversary extravaganza, and Winchester's 120th birthday," Stevenson said.

2007 DHI listings announced

WINCHESTER — Canwest has officially announced the Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) annual listings for 2007.

In the herd management scores for Dundas County, Andy and Ruth Punter's Big Horn Farm in Chesterville topped the rankings with 877 points. Chesterville resident Gary Brugmans, owner of Brugline Farms, took second place with 874 points, which is an improvement from last year's third place win. Ranking third on the list was John and Rina Groniger's Weenarda Farms in Iroquois with 845 points.

In Carleton County, Alexerin Farms, owned by father-and-son team Ron and Todd Nixon of Manotick, took the top spot for the second year in a row with 934 points, and took 12th place overall in the province. Gerald and Janet Vanbokhorst's Topfarm Holsteins in Osgoode took second place with 892 points. Third place went to Andrew and Maryan Zandbelt of Metcalfe with 847 points.

In the publishable herd listings for average composite BCA — or Breed Class Average — in Dundas County, Ken and Shirley Rose of Mountain took first place with a BCA of 269.3. Westergreen Farm in Brinston, owned by Gerald and John Westervelt, took

second place with a BCA of 257.3. Finally, in third place is John De Vries of Straderhill Farms in Williamsburg with a 245.7 BCA.

In Carleton County, Theo and Maria Nyentap of Russell took top spot with a BCA of 277, making this their seventh year in a row as top producers in the community. In second place is Oakstone Farm, owned by Todd and Carolyn Styles, with a 264.7 BCA. Velthius Farms in Osgoode took third place in the publishable herds listings, with a BCA of 253.7.

Canwest DHI is a non-profit organization that provides dairy farmers across western Canada and Ontario dairy management services. Farmers can improve the efficiency of their herd by subscribing to the DHI service.

Herd management listings can be used to indicate the general health of a herd. The herd management scores depend on various factors such as milk quantity, somatic cell count, udder health, and the average age of the cows at first calving.

The progress report also lists the top publishable herds with a composite BCA equal to or greater than the county average. The BCA is an overall score of milk quality, fat content, and protein content throughout the herd.

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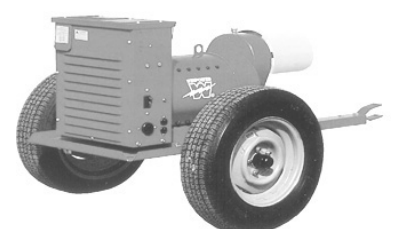
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Serving the needs of farm families

by Debra Pretty-Straathof
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Executive Committee

WINCHESTER — Because agriculture is in a constant state of flux — some good times and some bad times — farmers have found benefit in having peer counselling services available, especially for the bad times.

The Farm Help Line was created in 2000 to help with family stresses resulting from the eastern ice storm of 1998, and tough economic challenges for pork producers at that time. While some sectors have recently enjoyed the benefits of higher returns, there continues to be difficult times for the pork, beef, horticultural, and tobacco producers.

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs has acknowledged the need for the type of counselling provided by the volunteers at the Farm Help Line.

Recently, a grant of \$200,000 was provided by OMAFRA to help enhance the telephone service, provide additional training for the volunteers, and assist with organizational development and strategic planning.

The board of directors, that administers the service, will soon be enlarged to better represent the agricultural community. To do this, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will be calling on agricultural partners in the commodity sectors, especially from the pork, beef, tobacco, and horticulture, to join them for a strategic planning exercise in the near future.

The new funding requires a new budget for the Farm Help Line, and a renewed effort to reach those in need of the service. The toll-free and bilingual Farm Help Line offers peer-to-peer emotional support and referrals to mentoring and advisory services that deal with farm family dynamics, as well as legal and financial issues.

The volunteers ensure that callers are aware of the regular services provided by OMAFRA, when appropriate.

Debra Pretty-Straathof serves as

interim chair of that board, and works alongside past-chair Denis St. Pierre, secretary Martin Oldengarm of the Christian Farmers Federation of Intario, Kim Delaney of the National Farmers' Union Ontario, and Heidi Wagner, who is a rural health advisor.

The Farm Help Line boasts a dedicated roster of volunteers who answer incoming calls. They are people with a strong background in agriculture, its complexity of issues, and training for the often-difficult task of assisting those in distress.

Although the service operates with volunteers, there are expenses that require cash support. In 2004, the organization was incorporated and in 2005, received its charitable status.

Memberships and donations provide the bulk of the organization's funding along with OMAFRA's yearly contributions.

OFA believes the Farm Help Line should be recognized as a social service, and be funded by the government like so many other services in Ontario. The factors of stress and financial counselling dealt with by the organization responds directly to serious health issues that can result from exposure to the difficulties that farm families encounter on a regular basis.

The OMAFRA grant is appreciated, but doesn't give the organizers of the Farm Help Line the stability needed for long-term service planning.

Farmers have always wanted to be able to survive on the economic success of their industry, but realistically we know there will be times in the future when one sector or another will be suffering.

When this happens, the farm families involved in the unfortunate sectors will surely need the type of support provided by the Farm Help Line.

Faced with this reality, OFA and its commodity partners will continue to seek full-time funding from the provincial government for the Farm Help Line service. The toll-free number for the Farm Help Line is 1-888-451-2903.

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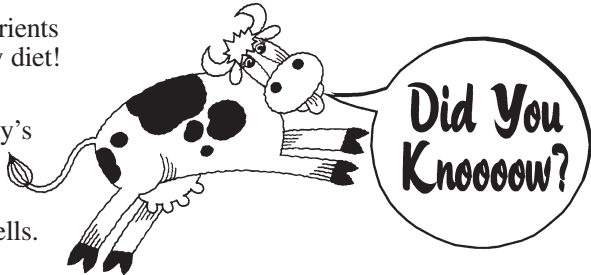
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Preventing mouldy hay using propionic acid

by Joel Bagg, forage specialist,
OMAFRA

LINDSAY — Trying to make dry hay between rainstorms can be frustrating. When haymaking periods without rain are short, we frequently get into a no-win situation. Either the hay isn't dry enough to bale before the next rain and it gets rain-damaged, or it gets baled "tough" before it is dry enough and becomes mouldy, poor quality, dusty hay. Propionic acid can be used as a dry hay preservative to prevent mould when baling hay at moistures that would otherwise be too high.

Mould damage

Mould greatly reduces the value of dry hay, particularly when targeting the "quality" horse hay or dairy hay markets. Moulds consume hay nutrients and cause dry matter losses, as well as produce toxins that are detrimental to animal health. Mouldy, dusty hay contains spores that can cause respiratory problems, particularly with horses. Mould growth can even result in hay fires from spontaneous combustion.

Propionic acid preservatives

Propionic acid is an organic acid that acts as a fungicide, inhibiting the growth of aerobic micro-organisms that can cause heating and moulding. Other organic acids, such as acetic and citric acids are sometimes also included, but propionic acid is the most effective as a mould inhibitor.

The propionic acid inhibits mould growth while the bales "sweat" and "cure" down to safe moisture levels by dissipation and evaporation. Do not confuse organic acid hay preservatives with enzyme, bacterial inoculant, or nutritive additive products, which differ in modes-of-action and effectiveness. Propionic acid is sprayed onto hay as it enters the baler. Equipment includes a baler-mounted applicator with a pump, nozzles, and tank.

Hay treated with buffered propionic, and other organic acid products, is safe to feed to livestock. Propionic and acetic acids are organic acids that are produced

by microbes in the rumen (and the cecum and colon of horses) and then used by the animal as part of the digestion process.

The hay-drying curve

A standing crop of forage is about 70 to 80 per cent moisture. Initially, the drying rate is quite rapid, but slows considerably when it gets to the low 20s. Getting the moisture down that last few percent before baling can take a lot of drying time.

Inevitably, there will be situations when the storm clouds are moving in, but the hay isn't quite ready to bale. Rain on almost-dry raked hay is much more damaging than rain on hay that has just been cut. Using propionic acid enables us to bale considerably earlier. This is especially true with poor, slow drying conditions, such as high relative humidity and low wind speed. With large square balers, the use of propionic acid is almost a necessity, because the moisture must be very low to avoid spoilage.

Buffered acid products

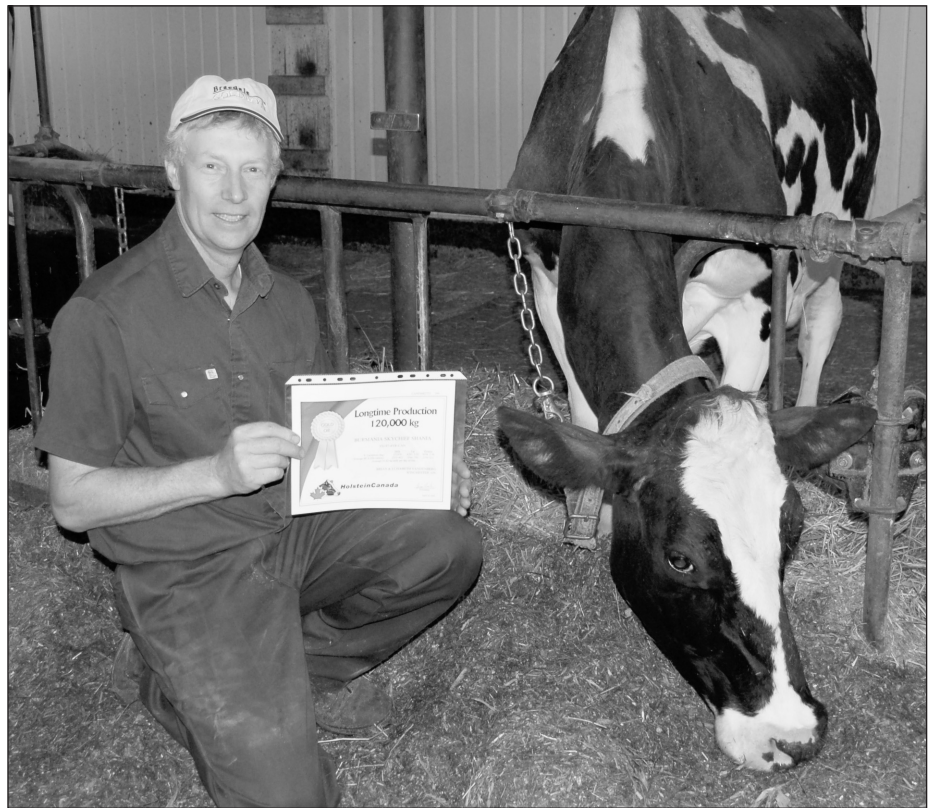
The original propionic acid products were unbuffered, which meant they were highly corrosive, very volatile, and difficult to work with. Products now marketed are buffered to a pH of 5.8 to 6 with ammonium hydroxide. Buffered products are much less volatile and corrosive, making them much easier to use. Other ingredients sometimes included are surfactants and green colouring. Products differ in concentration of propionic acid, so purchase decisions should be based on the price per kilogram of active ingredient.

Follow label directions

Read and follow label directions. Enough acid must be applied using the correct rate of active ingredient at various moisture levels for it to work properly. Different products have different concentrations of active ingredient. Using very diluted products provides greater coverage, but requires more water to be applied on the hay to be dried.

• continued on next page

Meet a Dairy Farmer



Brian Vandenberg

Bergridge Farms

Brian Vandenberg posed next to Burmania Skychief Shania, his first cow to achieve Holstein Canada's lifetime production award for 120,000 kilograms of milk produced.

Burmania Skychief Shania was acquired at a calf sale in Kemptville in 1997.

Vandenberg and his wife Elizabeth have farmed for over 24 years. They started by renting a farm in Newcastle, and in 1992 they moved to their current farm on the west of the intersection of County Road 43 and County Road 31.

Bergridge Farms milks 40 cows, producing 9,566 kilograms of milk a year.
Photo — Terry

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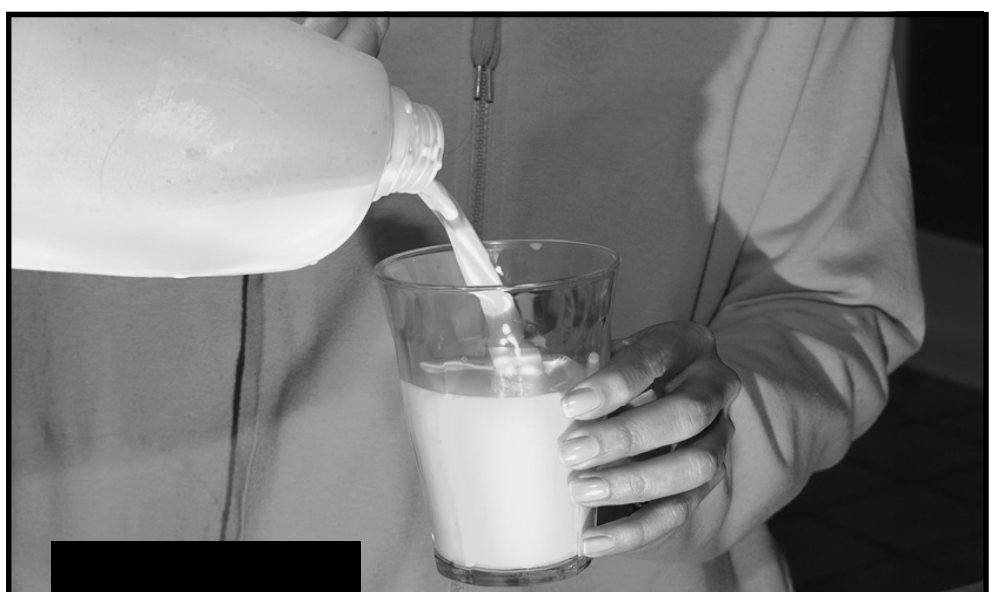


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Mouldy hay

Recommended moisture levels

Optimum moisture levels for safe storage vary according to bale type and density. Dry hay storage moisture guidelines without propionic acid for various bale types are: small square — 15 to 18 per cent; large round (soft core) — 13 to 16 per cent; large square and large round (hard core) 12 to 15 per cent.

Specific acid application rates at various moisture levels are detailed on the product labels. At lower moisture levels, product costs are typically in the \$7 to \$14 per tonne range. If targeting quality hay, these costs are easily recoverable. While some product labels indicate acid can be added to hay up to 35 per cent moisture, this would be at a much higher risk of heating and spoilage, as well as significantly increasing the amount and cost of the product per tonne of hay, making this less practical. When using propionic acid, most hay producers seldom exceed 25 per cent moisture.

Using electronic moisture testers

An accurate measure of hay moisture is required to determine the proper application rate. Electronic moisture testers estimate per cent moisture by measuring the resistance of electricity to move through a hay sample. The wetter the hay, the more electricity flows through. There are two basic types — hand-held probes and in-baler sensors. In-baler moisture sensors enable the operator to monitor moisture on-the-go from the tractor seat. Sensors can be located in-chamber on square balers, and on the sidewalls of large round balers. In-baler sensors have the advantage of giving numerous, continuous readings. Application rates can then be adjusted either manually or automatically according to the moisture. In-baler moisture sensors with automatic applicators are virtually standard on large square balers, and are also available for large round and small square balers.

Electronic moisture testers are an excellent tool, but keep in mind they cannot guarantee there are no errors in application rates. Hay can gain or lose three to five percentage points of moisture in an hour, and there can easily be five percentage points of variation in a windrow. Accuracy is affected by bale density, whether it is grass or alfalfa, whether it is plant moisture or dew moisture, and whether acid has already been applied. Electronic moisture testers need to be calibrated to the conditions and well maintained. Beware that digital readings do not give you a false sense of accuracy. Moisture testers should be used to supplement personal experience.

Applicator capital costs

Basic acid applicators, including a small tank, pump, and nozzles, start for about \$1,000. Probe-type hand-held moisture testers can be purchased for about \$300. Of course, adding bigger tanks, in-line moisture sensors, and automatic flow regulators can add a few thousand more to the cost.

When is using acid most economical?

The main advantages to using propionic acid to preserve hay are less

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mould, reduced drying time, less potential rain damage, and more weather suitable for baling. Using propionic acid provides baling flexibility. You can start earlier, quit later in the day, and keep the baler baling when the weather isn't perfect.

There are three situations when propionic acid application to dry hay is most economical: to avoid rain damage on "almost-dry hay" when the weather doesn't co-operate; when large dense bales are difficult to dry to low enough moistures to avoid mould; and for custom operators and producers baling large volumes that can pass the costs onto customers that demand mould- and dust-free hay.

Baling at higher moisture also reduces mechanical harvest loss from leaf shattering and should increase forage quality. So, does it pay to use propionic acid all the time and bale at higher moistures to prevent leaf loss, or only strategically when the weather doesn't co-operate? This will depend on the expected amount of raking and leaf loss, the final value of the hay product and the nutritional requirements of what it will be fed to. Routine acid application to reduce leaf loss would be more economical on alfalfa hay than on mixed or grass hay, and more beneficial when targeting higher value, well-stored, high quality hay.

Cautions

There is a "learning curve" for a high batting-average when making "no rain, mould-free" hay. Although a useful and successful tool, the use of propionic acid will add to that learning curve. Errors can result in mouldy hay, or even worse, a dangerously heating mow.

Application at the correct and uniform rate is key. Uneven windrows or fields with wet spots will not have uniform moisture. Use a moisture tester to determine application rate, using the highest reading. If you use the average reading, you won't get enough acid on much of the hay to prevent spoilage. Spraying should be as uniform as possible to ensure good coverage.

Hay can still heat and become mouldy and discoloured if inadequate acid is applied. Tightly stacked bales in a confined area don't allow the bales to "sweat" and cure. The acid can dissipate in four to six months, which may be before hay moisture is low enough if conditions are unfavourable. Extended periods of high humidity will extend the curing time. Don't store treated and untreated dry hay in direct contact with each other as the moisture will migrate to the dry hay.

Some horse owners aren't comfortable feeding acid treated hay and prefer not to purchase it. There may initially be some propionic odour in the hay until it has dissipated. Be sure to inform hay buyers that propionic acid has been applied.

Conclusions

Propionic acid is most economical when used strategically to avoid rain-damage and mould with poor weather conditions. Propionic acid is very effective with higher density bales, such as large squares, that need to be drier at baling to avoid mould growth.

Meet a Dairy Farmer



Ian and Tracy Porteous

Ayrporte Farm

Ian Porteous, his children Cassidy, Bruce, and Felicity, and his wife Tracy welcomed a newborn calf to their herd on Thurs., May 29.

The Porteous family has operated the 310-acre farm just outside of Ormond for four generations, and Ian took over from his father in 1990.

They milk 40 Ayrshire cows three times a day. The Ayrshire breed, known for its relatively high protein and moderate butterfat content, has been the source of Ayrporte's milk since 1886, when the farm was put into operation, according to Ian.

As for the future? "We just want to keep going, keep the farm going, see if we're still here in 20 years time. Maybe one of the kids will take over the farm," said Ian.

Photo — Terry



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Joel Bagg, forage specialist,
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LINDSAY — Wide swath haylage to achieve “haylage-in-a-day” and improve forage quality is a management practice we are hearing more about. This is contrary to the more typical practice of using the mower-conditioner to place the swath in a narrow windrow for a day or two of wilting, and then chop directly. Wide swath haylage requires some innovation and significant changes in both equipment and management, but research indicates that improvements in forage quality can be quite impressive.

Respiration losses

Rapid wilting after cutting is critical to minimize the often significant respiration losses of sugars in high quality haylage. This is especially true for higher yielding first-cuts. Plant respiration continues after cutting until about 60 to 65 per cent dry matter, when the cells are actually dead. Respiration converts stored carbohydrates (starch and sugar) to carbon dioxide, heat and moisture, and causes dry matter losses and increased fibre per cent. Forage that is higher in the soluble carbohydrates will have greater digestible energy, but also can provide more readily fermentable substrate to lactic acid bacteria resulting in better haylage fermentation. The longer the wilting period in the field, the greater the respiration losses (less sugars), and the lower the forage quality.

Wide swaths

Wider swaths dry faster, so adjusting the mower to leave as wide a swath as possible makes sense. Research by Tom Kilcer, Cornell University Extension, indicates that wide swath width (85 per cent of cutter-bar width) and sunlight (cutting in the morning) are the keys to fast wilting for haylage high in digestible energy and improved fermentation. Freshly cut forage doesn't know it's dead yet. Carbohydrates gained from photosynthesis in a wide swath exposed

to sunlight typically exceeded the respiration losses. The Cornell research indicates that wide swaths can significantly improve forage quality, consistency and “milk-per-ton” of haylage. Milk per ton was improved by 300 pounds. As a bonus, haylage-in-a-day also reduces the risk of rain-damage.

Equipment changes, modifications

Most mower-conditioners have an easy swath width adjustment. Dr. Ron Schuler (extension engineer, University of Wisconsin) report that the average maximum swath width on the North American market is 61.4 per cent of the cut width, with a range of 28 to 87 per cent. Self-propelled widths are usually narrower. Swath width percentage should be a consideration when purchasing a new mower. The wider the better!

Of course, wide swaths will likely require that the swaths be moved and narrowed for chopping. This is an obstacle preventing many from making wide swath haylage. Some are adopting the use of windrow mergers that use a pickup and belt (similar to an inverter, but wider) rather than rakes, in order to reduce the risk of rocks, clostridia and ash. A rock in the chopper is a huge problem to be avoided. Combining two or more windrows into one with a merger creates the need for an extra field operation, but it also increases chopper capacity and speed. Moving an “almost ready” swath with a merger also speeds wilting. A merger is cheaper and faster to run than a harvester.

There is some concern about driving on a wide swath. The Cornell research indicates that in a wide swath situation, driving on the cut swath with the tractor is not an issue that significantly affects drying. However, there may be some potential for soil contamination that adversely affects fermentation, particularly in wet field conditions. Tractor tires can be set as wide as possible.

• continued on next page

Meet a Dairy Farmer



Francine and Jos Melenhorst Melna Holsteins

Francine and Jos Melenhorst of Winchester, owners of Melna Holsteins, showed the Press their new barn and cattle herd, which replaced the ones they lost in a devastating fire in March 2007.

The operation, which Jos took over from his father, has always been a family operation. The Melenhorsts succeeded in achieving a composite BCA — Breed Class Average — score of 240.7 with their over 100-head herd before the fire, according to the Canwest DHI listings.

The Melenhorsts say they feel “optimistic” about their new herd and that by keeping the new cows comfortable and fed well, they hope to have their production as great as ever.

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Wide swath haylage

Before purchasing wide swath haylage equipment, it is important to consider the compatibility of the: mower (or mower-conditioner) swath width; merger pick-up width; and the forage harvester pick-up width.

Impact of conditioning on wilting

Increasing the swath width is often limited by the width of the conditioner on the mower. So if I have to forego conditioning to widen the swath, doesn't that negate any advantage of having a wide swath? According to the Cornell research, conditioning actually reduced wilting speed in wide swaths at haylage moisture levels by disrupting the capillary flow and evapotranspiration of moisture through the stems to the stomata (pores) in the leaves.

In a narrow dense windrow, the stomata close, so conditioning is an important drying mechanism. On the other hand, if you have a wide swath and sunlight to keep the stomata open, the Cornell research indicates you could forego conditioning in a haylage system.

This is in contrast to a recent field study by Dr. Kevin Shinnars (agricultural engineering, University of Wisconsin) that showed a benefit to conditioning in all haylage swath width situations. He concluded that it may only be advantageous to give up conditioning in situations where swath width could be nearly doubled (for example, 35 to 65 per

cent) by eliminating the conditioner. More research is being done to sort out these conflicting conclusions.

Conditioning is unquestionably essential when the stomata moistures fall below 60 to 65 per cent during dry hay making. Conditioning stems is extremely important at lower moistures in making dry hay. Strategies for wilting silage are quite different than dry hay making, but wide swaths are advantageous for both.

Cut in the morning?

Stomata are generally open during the day and closed at night (or on the bottom of a tight swath). A wide swath maximizes exposure to sunlight, which keeps the stomata open and maximizes exposure to solar radiation (heat and lower humidity). Contrary to some western U.S. research, in conditions similar to Ontario with high humidity and warm nights, respiration losses during the night exceed the extra sugars expected by cutting late in the day.

Bottom line

Leave the swath as wide as possible by adjusting the mower, and cut in the morning. The full adoption of wide swath haylage will require some machinery innovation and modification on the part of forage equipment companies and farmers. In the mean time, open your mower as wide as practical.

• continued from previous page

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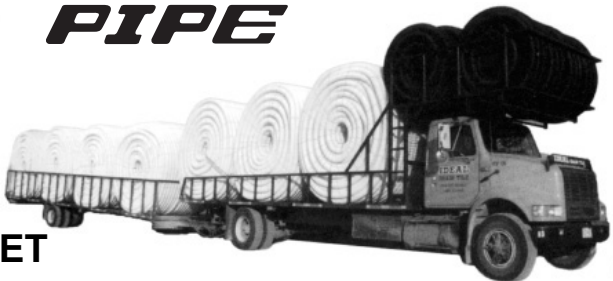
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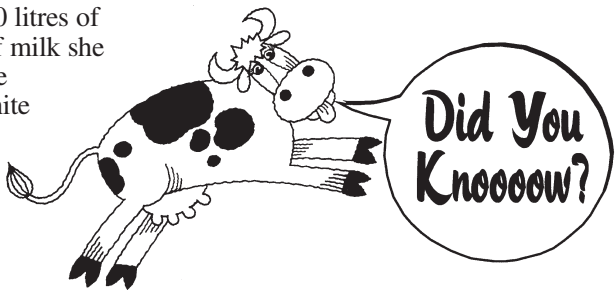
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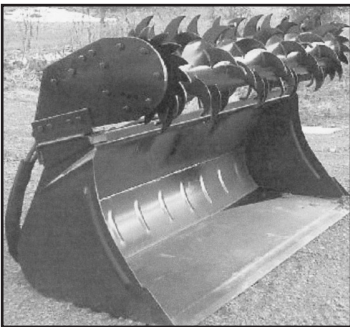
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What's next for you?

EBI builds on success at 29th annual 4-H showcase

KEMPTVILLE — Eastern Breeders Inc. (EBI) has set the dates for its upcoming 4-H Showcase dairy and beef shows: July 4 to 6 at its facility south of Kemptville.

“Last year’s event was arguably one of the highest-calibre district 4-H shows of the year, and we are determined to build on that success this year,” said Paul Stewart, genetic programs and communications supervisor with EBI.

The EBI 4-H Showcase attracts participants ages 12 to 21 from the 16 eastern-most counties of Eastern Ontario. The Showcase is a three-day learning-based event. Participants will show up on Fri., July 4, and the formal event starts with registration at 10 am on Sat., July 5.

About 150 4-Hers will participate in two alternating learning stations, after which they will be given time to practise what they learned in preparation for show day. Participants will also hear a third industry-based presentation and take a quiz.

“The quiz will test the participants on aspects of all three presentations and their general knowledge of our agricultural industry,” Stewart said.

In partnership with The Co-operators Insurance, EBI will host an entertainment event for the participants.


“(It) will be sure to break the tension of the competition,” said Stewart. “(Participants can have) some good old-fashioned fun!”

The 4-Hers will strut their stuff in the ring on show day — Sun., July 6.

“This year’s event should be the biggest and best Showcase show day yet,” Stewart said. “There are over \$5,000 in prizes up for grabs.”

Overall Grand Champion honours will be awarded to the participants with the highest number of total points by combining marks earned in their calf conformation class, showmanship class, and correct answers on the showcase quiz.

“We are looking at expanding our event to attract even more participants,” Stewart said. “This will be the 29th edition of the EBI 4-H showcase, and we are determined and confident that it will be the best yet.”



29th Annual

EBI 4-H SHOWCASE

2008

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Show: Sunday, July 6, 2008 9:00 a.m.
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Dairy Judge: Norm McNaughton, London
Beef Judge: Jim Murray, Toronto

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Register at www.ebi.ca or call 1-800-267-9222 for details!

A snapshot of the Canadian dairy industry

WINCHESTER — The dairy industry ranks fourth in the Canadian agricultural sector following grains, red meats, and horticulture.

According to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian dairy industry is primarily located in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario (81.8 per cent), with 13.7 per cent in the western provinces and 5.5 per cent in the Atlantic provinces.

The dairy sector creates employment directly and indirectly for 160,000 Canadians, making it one of the largest employers of the agricultural sector; 57,700 of those jobs are on the farm, 74,300 in the processing industry and another 28,200 in sales of goods and services to dairy farmers.

The dairy sector in Canada operates under a supply management system, based on planned domestic production, administered pricing, and dairy product import controls.

The 14,660 dairy farms in Canada produce milk from 989,000 dairy cows and generate total farm cash receipts of \$5.2 billion annually.

In addition, 445 dairy processing plants (including 280 federally inspected) in Canada account for dairy product sales worth of \$11.6 billion annually (15 per cent of sales in the Canadian food and beverage sector).

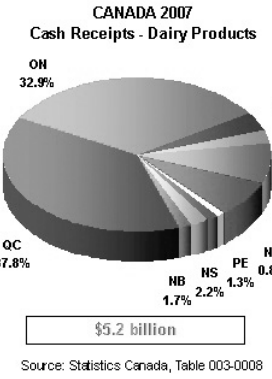
More than 450 fine and traditional cheeses, including goat, ewe, and raw milk cheeses, are produced in various regions of the country.

Canadian milk and dairy products are world-renowned for their excellence. Enforcement of strict quality standards in dairy farms and in processing plants contributes to this international reputation.

High quality standards applied throughout Canada’s production and processing chain contribute to that reputation.

The Canadian dairy industry is also famous for the superior genetic quality of its cattle herd. Thanks to the strict standards enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), several serious cattle diseases are eradicated from Canadian dairy herds.

The above is provided by the Canadian Dairy Information Centre — a partnership between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Dairy Commission, the Dairy Farmers of Canada, and the Dairy Processors Association of Canada.



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Meet a Dairy Farmer



Greg Mount
Ayrvale Farm

Greg Mount, the owner of Ayrvale Farm on Bank Street north of Vernon, showed his 11-year-old barn and Ayrshire cattle to the Press.

Mount said he farms because he enjoys the lifestyle. "I don't have to drive to get to work. I'm outdoors, in the fresh air for most of the day. There is a strong sense of community in rural areas," he said.

Mount built a new addition to his barn in 2004 to support the changes to his herd. He increases the number of cattle in his herd every year in order to steadily increase production.

He said he had a rough start this year, when he had a dry cow that died Victoria Day weekend.

"Sure, there are ups and downs, but you have to go with the flow. You can't let it bother you too much," he said.

Photo — Terry

Eastern Breeders launches young sire promotion program

KEMPTVILLE — For five straight years, Eastern Breeders Inc. (EBI) has invested over \$1 million into local dairy farmers' herds to support its breed improvement efforts.

Canada has about two or three per cent of the world's cow population, yet it supplies close to 30 per cent of the world's semen exports, according to an EBI press release.

"With of our targeted, aggressive investments towards genetic improvement and our successful efforts at sourcing out the very best genetics available anywhere, Canadian genetics are in demand around the world," said Paul Stewart, genetic programs and communications supervisor with EBI.

"Breeders world-wide have accepted and endorsed our efforts. The numbers speak for themselves."

Canada also has a renowned network of breed-improvement agencies and a genetic evaluation system. Canadian genetics are used reliably to improve the profitability of dairy farmers around the world, Stewart explained.

EBI — a farmer-owned co-operative — and three breeder-owned AI (artificial insemination) partners are sole owners of the Semex Alliance. Semex markets semen, on behalf of Canadian farmers, to close to 120 countries around the world and the resulting profits help fuel continuing domestic breed improvement efforts while improving the genetics of local breeders' herds.

"It is a home-grown success story that is driven and directed by dairy and beef farmers across Canada... the owners of the Semex Alliance partners, including EBI," Stewart said. "EBI continues to be creative and encourage the use of more young — yet to be proven — genetics

and the use of genetic evaluation tools."

EBI's Special Sampler program is the latest in a series of promotions. Breeders can receive free personalized farm shirts by contributing to the cause.

EBI has selected five Special Sampler young sires, each with a local connection. Use 10 doses of Special Sampler in conjunction with sires from EBI's proven sire line-up, and breeders receive a personalized farm shirt.

Special Samplers are young sires that EBI has selected to make exclusively available.

"We are successful at what we do in large part due to the success of our young sire sampling efforts," said Barry Mooney, manager of genetics, marketing, and field services. "We are determined to grow our program and feel that most breeders are willing to try young sires from recognizable breeders and cow families. This promotion encourages and rewards them for their support."

The promotion ends July 31.

"EBI's current promotion is targeted to stimulate both these goals by giving an additional premium product back to those who support our efforts," Stewart said. "Breeding advanced genetics is core to our business, yet it's only together that we have been able to achieve such enviable and successful results. This is just another way that EBI wants to say thanks to our members."

For more information on the program, call EBI at 1-800-267-9222 or visit www.ebi.ca.

EBI is a non-profit, farmer-owned co-operative based in Kemptville. EBI serves the dairy and beef breeders of Eastern Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island.

"Breeding advanced genetics is core to our business, yet it's only together that we have been able to achieve such enviable and successful results...."

— Paul Stewart, genetic programs and communications supervisor



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Local shorthorn cream of the (milk production) crop

by Meghan Duncan
Press staff

HALLVILLE — For two years in a row, Mountain Ridge Lane's Devin is the top shorthorn in the province, according to the Canwest DHI 2007 progress report.

The four-year-old's average BCA (breed class average) is 352 and her production is listed at 10,515 litres.

She is owned by Andreas Jampen and Angela Daly, who operate Mountain Ridge Farm on Kerr's Ridge Road near Hallville.

"She's a really good milker, but she's not really a show animal," Daly pointed out.

She is half milking shorthorn, one-quarter beef shorthorn, and one-quarter holstein, which allows her to be judged in the shorthorn category.

Daly's parents used to own purebred shorthorns on Echo Dale Farm north of Wakefield, Que. When she and Jampen took over Mountain Ridge Farm, she brought some of the shorthorns with her. When a few cows wouldn't get pregnant, instead of using artificial insemination, Daly explained that they put them out in the pasture with a shorthorn, and Devin was the result.

Her two-year campaign with the top-in-the-breed title follows her top placement in the appendix registry when she was two years old.

"There are only two or three animals (in the Shorthorn breed) in Canada that have a higher production than her," Jampen said.

Devin's great-grandmother, Echo Dale Crystal Ball, was the national show champion in the shorthorn breed.

The couple has continued to breed Devin with holsteins. The offspring are classified as holstein.

Devin's high production level — 10,515 litres — is about half the average of a holstein, at around 20,000 litres. The highest shorthorn milk production rate in Canada this year is 15,815 litres, and the world record for a shorthorn's milk production is 17,854 litres, according to the Canadian Milking Shorthorn Society.

"We don't push her," Daly explained about Devin's high production levels.

Devin gets a standard diet — the same as the holsteins on Mountain Ridge Farm. The ration is balanced for 32 kilograms of daily production, Jampen said, as well as additional "top dressing" for extra protein.

"There's 62 per cent forage in the rations," Jampen explained.

The feed is made up of three kinds of baleage and corn silage — no haylage — as well as a protein supplement, salt, and minerals.

"She never stops eating," Daly said about Devin, who is a relatively small cow, noting that shorthorns do not have the massive structure that some holsteins have.

Shorthorns have unique markings, and don't have a dominant gene when it comes to their colour, so you "never know what you're going to get," Daly said. Some of the Mountain Ridge holsteins have shorthorn markings on their legs and other distinguishing marks.

Jampen and Daly took over the Mountain Ridge operation from Jampen's parents in 1998 following the ice storm, and have owned the farm since Jan., 1, 1999.

Over the last decade the couple has made improvements to the circa-1928 barn (a section of which dates back more than a century), including the installation of tie stalls, a new head rail, mats for cow comfort, lighting, and tunnel ventilation.

They purchased a TMR mixer in 2002, which allows them to keep a high forage content in the feed they mix on-site.

"We want decent production without sacrificing the health of our herd," Daly explained. "The vet says we're doing a good job."

Jampen makes one mix of feed a day



Andreas Jampen and Angela Daly operate Mountain Ridge Farm on Kerr's Ridge Road. Their holstein herd of 37 includes some shorthorn cross breeds. Press Photos — Duncan

— which is enough for four daily feedings — while Daly handles the first milking.

The couple's children — Kyleigh, 10, Caitlin, 9, Patrick, 7, and Riley, 5 — help out with chores on the farm. Kyleigh is involved in the Dundas 4-H Dairy Club and will be showing a Mountain Ridge calf this year, while Patrick has shown in pre-4-H shows in the past.

The couple milk 37 holsteins at their Kerr's Ridge Road farm. According to the DHI listings, their herd averages a 207.3 BCA, and produced 9,321 litres of milk in 2007.

"We don't have a very big herd by today's standards," Daly said, noting, however, that they feel quality is more important than quantity.



Mountain Ridge Lane's Devin is top producer in the shorthorn breed in the province, according to the Canwest DHI listings.

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DFO closes marketing office on Main Street

Same level of service will be provided

by Meghan Duncan, Press staff

WINCHESTER — The Dairy Farmers of Ontario office on Main Street in Winchester is closing its doors, but the level of service provided by the organization to Eastern Ontario will not change.

The contact numbers — phone 613-774-2835 or fax 613-774-0087 — will stay the same once the local office doors close at the end of June.

“With the changing numbers in the industry, we don’t need a full-time, fully-staffed office anymore — we can handle it remotely,” said DFO communications spokesperson Bill Mitchell. “It makes more sense to (conduct business) on a virtual office basis.”

The DFO office began operations in Winchester in 1967 in a temporary location before moving to its current office in 1969. Its workforce originally included one staff person but grew to include four people in the 1970s, and has since shrunk back to one full-time staff member.

The office deals with transporters and plants — making sure the milk gets from point A to point B as efficiently as possible. The Winchester office services the nine eastern-most counties in Ontario — Carleton, Dundas, Glengarry, Grenville, Lanark, Prescott, Renfrew, Russell, and Stormont.

“From a service point of view, it won’t be any different,” Mitchell pointed out, noting that most of the office’s business is conducted over the phone or internet.

The mailing address for the office — P.O. Box 487, Winchester, K0C 2K0 — will also remain the same.



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- A holstein’s spots are like fingerprints — no two cows have the same pattern.
- A cow spends up to eight hours per day eating.
- Dairy cattle remains have been found in various areas throughout Turkey that date back to 6,500 B.C., although they may have been domesticated as early as 9,000 B.C. The ancestor of all modern domestic cattle is the aurochs, the last of which was killed by a poacher in 1627 on a reserve near Warsaw, Poland.
- The world’s largest registered Holstein dairy herd can be found in Elsie, Michigan.
- The Jersey breed of dairy cattle originated on the island of Jersey, a British island off the coast of France. It is one of the oldest cattle breeds, and is

believed to be purebred for almost 600 years. They were commonly called Alderney cattle before the late 18th century. Since 1789 they are the only breed allowed on the island of Jersey.



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Local agricultural issues are brought to the monthly OFA Directors meetings, ensuring grassroots input. Become a member of OFA and help to make our voice stronger.

DFA holds regular monthly meetings in the Dundas Meeting Hall, Chesterville, on the first Wednesday of every month, (no July meeting), at 8:00 pm. Please bring any questions or concerns you may have and we will do our best to help.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has significantly changed its governance process with a new Board and policy consultation structure. To learn more about the new election process and how it will affect you, please direct your call to a DFA Board Member and watch the local papers for more information.

For more information contact
Jackie Pemberton at 613-774-5914

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- 1) Bales need to be 36”-38” in length.
- 2) Bales need to weigh 48-52 lbs. when going into the barn.
- 3) Bale must moisture test no more than 15% moisture in bale in order to store properly.
- 4) Bales must be a consistent size and be piled on edge in mow to keep a good square form.
- 5) An option is to put a hay pin on baler plunger to put a hole in the bales.
- 6) To minimize handling, store hay in a building that has good easy access for loading the trailer.
- 7) Extra wedges in bale chamber of baler to ensure well-formed bales while baling.
- 8) Get hay inside building as soon as possible to prevent discoloration of hay.

Our markets are changing and we are now looking for hay that is 90% or more timothy with balance 10% orchard grass. So if you are growing hay for resale market and planting new seeding this year, we suggest the 90% timothy and 10% orchard mixture.

Baleage tips

by Joel Bagg, forage specialist,
OMAFRA

LINDSAY — Making large bale haylage, also known as “baleage,” reduces weather risk and can result in very high quality forage. However, the risk of spoilage can be frustrating. “Baleage disasters” can sometimes result in a total loss. Extra care is required when making baleage to avoid mouldy feed.

Baleage does not reach as low a pH as chopped haylage, so there will always be an increased risk of spoilage. There are many management factors that contribute to a consistently good fermentation of wrapped baleage and the subsequent “keeping ability”. The consequences of making mistakes are additive and interactive, so it is sometimes difficult to pinpoint why some baleage spoils while other baleage does not.

Make firm, dense, bales

Make uniform, tight bales. These bales have less oxygen in them and allow less oxygen penetration. Large square bales are typically more dense than large round bales. Size bales so they are not too heavy for the available loader tractors to handle, or too big for the wrappers. Heavier bales are more difficult to handle without tearing plastic. Plastic twine or wrap is preferred over sisal twine to reduce plastic wrap degradation. With continuous wrappers, bale uniformity is important in order to avoid air gaps between bales. Use windrow and baling techniques to maximize bale density and uniformity. These include wide uniform windrows (no barrel-shaped bales), slower baler ground speeds, and using large square, hard core, and round-silage balers with precutters.

Bale at the correct moisture

The recommended moisture for wrapped baleage is generally 40 to 55 per cent. Moisture greater than this result in bales that are too heavy. Excessively wet bales increase the risk of clostridia spoilage with butyric acid production, resulting in sour, foul smelling, unpalatable baleage. Wet bales are also very heavy to move, and more prone to freezing.

Some producers have had success when wrapping large bales as “low moisture baleage.” While some prefer “low moisture baleage,” it is also

sometimes the result when the original intention is to make dry hay, but due to impending rain it gets baled at moistures in the 25 to 35 per cent range instead. Although low moisture baleage can be high quality, it has a higher risk of spoilage because it usually doesn’t ferment as well and ends up with a higher pH. It can be very unforgiving if everything isn’t done right. This includes making dense bales (large squares can work better), avoiding rained-on forage, wrapping quickly, repairing holes, and all the other management factors mentioned in this article. It is critical that low moisture baleage be covered with plenty of plastic. Moisture should come from the plant, not dew or rain.

Use enough plastic

Bales should be wrapped air tight with at least six millimetres of plastic film (six wraps of one millimetre). To ensure against tears and punctures, eight millimetres or more is preferable, particularly with drier baleage. Because of their large area of contact with the ground, large square bales sometimes require more plastic to protect them from punctures. Many baleage failures are due to lack of plastic. Avoid overstretching the plastic. Plastic wrap products can vary in strength, thickness, evenness of stretch, UV protection, and puncture resistance, so purchase a quality product.

Wrap soon after baling

Round bales should be wrapped within two hours of baling on hot days and within four to 12 hours at cooler temperatures. Large square bales have a higher density, and don’t “squat” and stretch the plastic wrap, so they are more forgiving of delayed wrapping up to 24 hours. Plastic wrap is often easier to work with in the cooler temperatures and higher humidity of night or early morning, as opposed to a hot afternoon.

Wrap high quality forage

Avoid trying to make baleage out of mature hay with a low sugar content. Sugars are required for a good fermentation with adequate lactic acid production and a low pH.

• continued on next page



And the winner is...


Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) announced the winner of the Canadian World School Milk Day poster contest on May 21. Melanie Juneau, a Grade 5 student at St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School in Gloucester, won the nation-wide contest with her poster depicting children from around the world drinking milk delivered by a parachuting cow. Canada's Food Guide recommends students aged four to eight need two servings of milk and alternatives (such as cheese and yogurt) daily and youths aged nine to 13 need three to four servings as part of a well-balanced diet. The DFC-developed Elementary School Milk Program (ESMP) is now in its 22nd year, and encourages partnerships between schools and local dairies to provide students with cold, nutritious, and affordable milk. Juneau and her school received monetary prizes of \$100 and \$500 respectively, and the winning poster will be distributed to elementary schools all across the country to help kick-off the next World School Milk Day, which is scheduled to take place Sept. 24.



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Dairy Recipe

Quick and nutritious spinach dip

This is a colourful dip that is full of good nutrition and energy. It's so simple to make that it's perfect for a family snack — and it's so tasty, your family will be asking for more vegetables!

Ingredients:
1 can (19 ounces or 540 mL) chickpeas, drained and rinsed
1 small clove garlic (optional)
1 cup (250 mL) packed fresh baby spinach
1 cup (250 mL) shredded old Canadian cheddar or Canadian Havarti cheese
3 tbsp (45 mL) freshly squeezed lemon juice
1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper or hot pepper sauce
1/4 cup to 1/2 cup (50 mL) water
Carrot sticks or other raw vegetables pieces

This recipe takes about 10 minutes in preparation time and about 20 minutes cooking time to make about two cups or eight portions.

Preparation:
In a food processor fitted with a metal blade, combine chickpeas, garlic, and spinach. Pulse until chickpeas and spinach are finely chopped, scraping sides of bowl if necessary. Add cheese, lemon juice, and pepper and pulse until evenly combined. Gradually add enough of the water to thin the dip to desired consistency.

Transfer to a serving bowl. Serve with carrots for dipping.

For a warm dip, transfer to a small baking dish. Bake in preheated 350 F (180 C) oven or toaster oven for about 20 minutes or until warmed through, or microwave on medium (50 per cent) power for two or three minutes, stirring once, or until warmed through. Serve with carrots for dipping.

If you have a shredding blade on your food processor, use it to shred the cheese first and transfer the cheese to a bowl then switch to the metal blade to puree the dip. The dip can be prepared, covered, and refrigerated for up to two days. Add more water before serving if it gets too thick. Orange juice can be used in place of the lemon juice.

Nutritional information (per serving)
Energy: 159 Calories
Protein: 7 g
Carbohydrate: 21 g
Fat: 6 g
Fibre: 4.5 g
Sodium: 323 mg
This dip also provides calcium, vitamin A, vitamin B6, vitamin C, and folate.

Baleage

Also, stiff coarse stems can more easily puncture the plastic. Wrapping mature, coarse, stemmy baleage is often disappointing. It won't turn poor quality forage into high quality baleage, and this makes the added cost of wrapping more difficult to justify.

Avoid using haylage that was rained-on. Sugars are leached out and are not available for fermentation. Rained-on windrows also become contaminated by soil borne clostridia bacteria which is splashed up by the rain, resulting in a poor fermentation. For the same reason, if possible, avoid raking to minimize contamination by clostridia bacteria. Do not use fields contaminated by manure, and avoid cutting too close to the ground.

Early-cut grasses often ferment more easily than alfalfa or red clover because they have more available sugars, and have less buffering capacity which makes it easier to lower the pH. This helps to explain why second-cuts, which are usually mostly alfalfa, are sometimes more difficult to ferment successfully and have a higher risk of spoilage.

Location, location, location
Wrapping should be done on an area free of sharp projections that can tear the plastic, such as rocks and hay stubble. Select a well drained, clean storage site that reduces the risk of rodent damage. Stacking individually wrapped round bales on their flat side (ends) prevents squatting and provides more plastic between the bale and the ground.

Moisture migration
Some spoilage is the result of moisture migration within the bales. During hot summer days the moisture vapourizes, and then during the cooler nights the moisture condenses on the cooler north sides and bottoms of the bales. The wet portions of the bales get a slimy, butyric acid fermentation, while the dry parts of the bale don't always ferment enough and can mould. Setting up baleage rows in a north-south direction, or selecting a shady area in a tree line out of direct sunlight can help minimize this.

Plastic repairs
Rodent, bird, raccoon, and other wildlife damage is a constant threat. Cats, dogs, and kids should also be kept off the bales. Continually monitor stored baleage and be prepared to repair tears and holes. Be sure to use the appropriate tape, available from the plastic suppliers, that sticks more permanently to the wrap. Bad things can happen to baleage when you're not looking. The bales should be located where regular inspections are more likely to happen. Carefully stack wrapped bales individually if possible to provide some protection and easier inspection.

For more information refer to "Maintaining Quality in Large Bale Silage" on the OMAFRA Forage website at www.gov.on.ca/OMAFRA/english/crops/field/forages.html, or call the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300.



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Dairy Recipe

Smokin' cheesy potatoes

Leftover mashed potatoes take on a whole new light with the addition of cheese and barbecue sauce. Use your family's favourite barbecue sauce and cheddar to prepare tasty mashed potatoes in only a few minutes!

Ingredients:

2 and a 1/2 cups (625 ml) leftover mashed potatoes
2/3 cup (150 ml) shredded Canadian Cheddar cheese
2 tbsp (30 ml) prepared barbecue sauce (or to taste)
1 green onion, sliced (optional)
This recipe makes four portions in three minutes or preparation time and five minutes cooking time.

Preparation:

In a large skillet, over medium heat, cook leftover mashed potatoes, stirring for four or five minutes or until potatoes are heated through. Remove

from heat and stir in cheese and barbecue sauce. Serve sprinkled with green onions. Substitute barbecue sauce with one chopped canned chipotle pepper, or use Canadian Swiss instead of cheddar for a different taste.

No leftover mashed potatoes? With the tip of a knife, pierce all-purpose potatoes, arrange on a paper towel and Microwave on High power until very soft. Peel and mash potatoes; gradually beat in enough hot milk and butter to give desired consistency. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Nutritional information (per serving)

Energy: 191 Calories
Protein: 7 g
Carbohydrates: 27 g
Fat: 6 g
Fibre: 2.1 g
Sodium: 600 mg
These potatoes also provide calcium, vitamin B6, vitamin C, phosphorus, and magnesium.

Feds invest \$925,000 to further dairy innovation

GUELPH — The Government of Canada is investing \$925,000 to assist with the development of new, innovative dairy products. The announcement was made in March

"This project will allow the dairy industry to continue developing innovative new products while taking advantage of new market opportunities," said MP David MacKenzie who made the announcement. "This project will not only lead to a more competitive dairy industry, but provide Canadian consumers with a greater variety of healthier foods, such as different varieties of cheeses."

This project, funded in part through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program, will be co-ordinated by the Gencor-owned Thornloe Cheese Plant in New Liskeard,

Ont. It will support the development of novel dairy products, including different varieties of cheeses and cheese alternatives with functional food characteristics. Functional foods provide additional health benefits beyond basic nutrition, such as probiotic-fortified yogurt.

"This project will help explore and evaluate opportunities for the development of innovative niche dairy products," said Kim Turnbull, Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) chair. "It will also provide an opportunity for producers to be involved in an integrated value chain with the production and processing of milk directly through to the consumer."

The ACAAF program is delivered in Ontario by the AAC on behalf of the federal government.



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Dairy Recipe

Honey cranberry French toast with gouda

Ingredients:

Honey Cranberries:

2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
2 cups (500 mL) fresh or frozen cranberries
1/3 cup (75 mL) liquid honey

French Toast:

5 eggs
1/4 cup (50 mL) granulated sugar
2/3 cup (150 mL) milk
1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla
8 slices whole-grain bread
Butter for cooking
5 oz (150 g) Canadian Gouda cheese, thinly sliced

This recipe makes four portions, with a preparation time of about 20 minutes and a cooking time of 10 minutes.

Preparation:

Honey Cranberries:

In a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add cranberries and cook, stirring, until starting to soften. Add honey and cook, stirring, until cranberries are soft and honey has thickened (about three minutes).

French Toast:

In a wide, shallow dish, beat eggs with sugar, milk and vanilla. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium

heat, and spread it with a thin layer of butter. Dip each slice of bread in egg mixture for several seconds per side. Bread should be well coated but not saturated. Cook in hot skillet in batches, for three to five minutes per side, turning once, until golden brown and cooked through. Repeat with remaining bread, adding more butter to the skillet as necessary between batches. Arrange French toast on serving plates, layering with slices of cheese and Honey Cranberries.

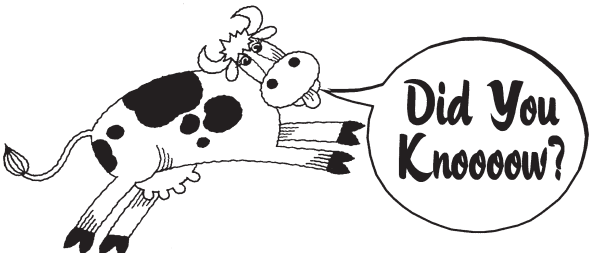
Honey Cranberries can be prepared ahead, cooled, covered and refrigerated for up to two days or frozen in an airtight container for up to one month. Thaw if necessary and serve cold or reheat if desired.

French toast may be cooked ahead, cooled, covered and refrigerated for up to a day. Reheat in 350 F (180 C) oven for five to 10 minutes.

Try Canadian Brie, Canadian Havarti or Canadian cheddar in place of the Canadian Gouda.

Nutritional information (per serving)

Energy: 584 Calories
Protein: 26 g
Carbohydrate: 65 g
Fat: 26 g
Fibre: 6.2 g
Sodium: 679 mg
This recipe also provides calcium, vitamin B12, phosphorus, riboflavin, and zinc.



- If all the cows it takes to produce the amount of cheese needed for the Pizza Hut chain stood end to end, they would span the distance between the international space station and Earth at its point closest to the planet (333 kilometres). A lake containing all the milk used annually to make Pizza Hut cheese would cover 1,130 acres at a depth of about one foot.
- McDonald's uses about four million gallons of low fat vanilla yogurt each year in its fruit 'n' yogurt parfait.

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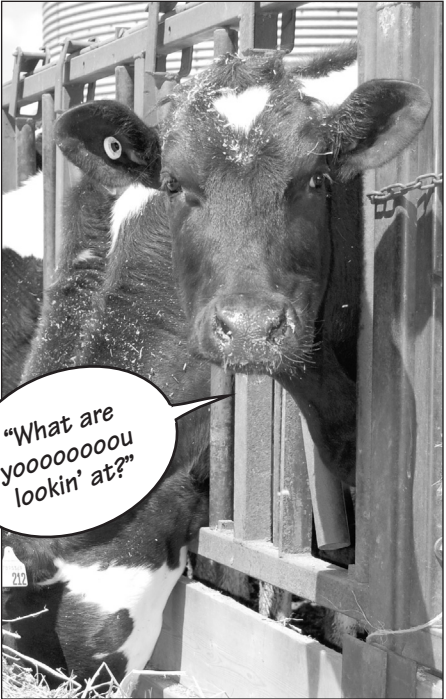
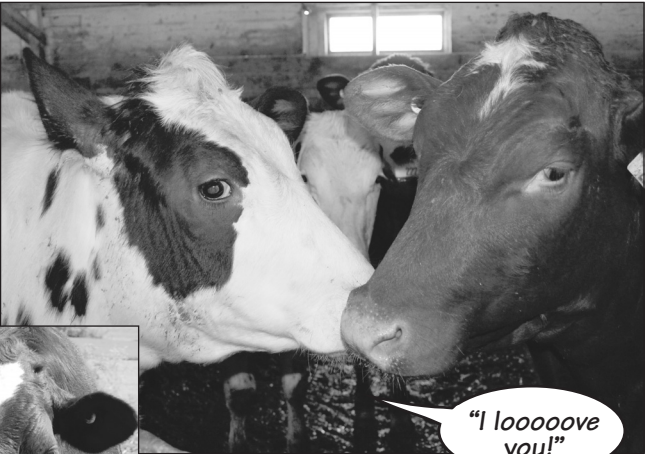


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Fair season's here!

WINCHESTER — Whether you're getting ready to show a calf in the 4-H showmanship competition, or you prefer to grab some cotton candy and hit the midway, the fair season has something for everyone. Agricultural societies work hard to ensure a cross section of activities are available — many of these society members are your friends and neighbours.

According to the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies website, fairs are almost as old as recorded history. There were two types of ancient fairs: trade shows and festivals. In medieval England, fairs were used as market places and carnivals. In the 1700s, the British crossed the agricultural improvement society with the traditional carnival, and agricultural fairs were born.

In Canada, the first agricultural society was formed in 1765 in Nova Scotia. Ontario followed suit in 1792 with the Agricultural Society of Upper Canada based at Niagara on the Lake.

After a few false starts, the system of agricultural societies and their fairs spread all over Ontario in the 1800s. They were organized by county and township and at one time numbered over 500 in Ontario alone. While agricultural societies used many methods to improve agriculture and the rural lifestyle, their most enduring and endearing legacy was the fair.

Ontario fairs have changed since their inception, but they still carry their mandate of promoting agriculture and the rural lifestyle.

Here's a listing of local fairs. Get out and support this century-old tradition.

Maxville Fair

(Kenyon Agricultural Society)
June 20 to 22

Featuring entertainment by the Shiners, a Little Ray's Reptile show, a Western Games Horse Show, and a mini modified tractor pull. Visit www.maxvillefair.ca.

Avonmore Fair (Roxborough Agricultural Society)

July 18 to 20 at the Avonmore Fairgrounds (Fairview Drive, North of County Road 43)

Featuring entertainment by James Kirkham, Bucking Bronco monster truck rides, a mixed Three-Pitch Ball Tournament, a baby show, and a talent show. Visit www.avonmorefair.ca.

Kars Fair

(Kars Community Recreation Centre)

July 18 to 20

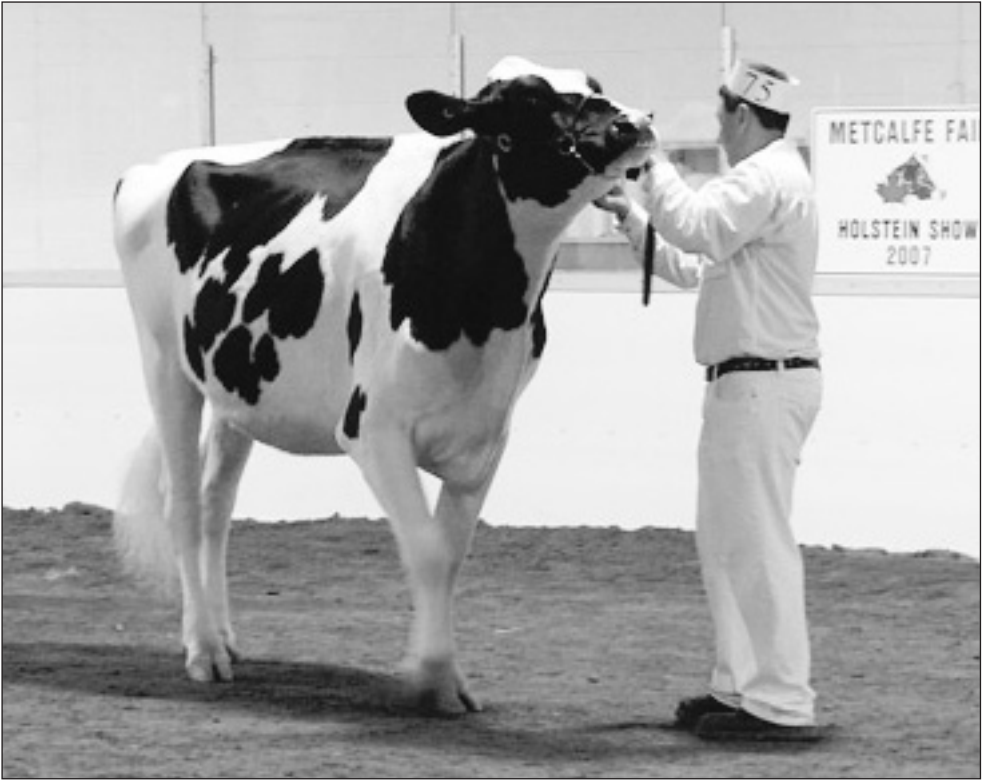
Featuring a horse show, a three-day International CKC sanctioned dog show, and more. Visit www.kars.ca.

Chesterville Fair

(Chesterville and District Agricultural Society)

July 25 to 27

Featuring the North Dundas United Soccer Festival, a demolition derby, poultry and rabbit show, kids scavenger hunt, Jiu Jitsu demonstrations, and entertainment by Ambush. Visit www.chestervillefair.com for a full schedule.



Navan Fair

(Cumberland Township Agricultural Society)

August 7 to 10 (1279 Colonial Rd., Navan)

Ambush will play for the infamous Navan Fair Street dance, and the popular bed races will keep fairgoers laughing. Visit www.navanfair.com for more.

Merrickville Fair

(Merrickville Agricultural Society)

August 8 to 10

Featuring a local talent contest, as well as entertainment by Eddy and The Stingrays, and Ambush. Check out www.merrickvillefair.com.

Williamstown Fair

(St. Lawrence Valley Agricultural Society)

Aug. 8 to 10 (19629 John St.)

Participate in talent and karaoke contests, try your luck at bingo, or check out the highland dancing competition and petting zoo. See full details at www.williamstownfair.com.

• continued on next page

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Fair season

• continued from previous page

Central Canada Exhibition

(Central Canada Exhibition Association)
August 14 to 24 (1015 Bank St., Lansdowne Park, Ottawa)
SuperEx is the largest family and community event in the area, featuring eight stages, a 55-ride midway, and lots of agricultural education. Check out www.ottawasuperex.com.

South Mountain Fair

(Mountain Township Agricultural Society)
August 14 to 17 (2967 Lough Rd., South Mountain)
Featuring entertainment by Cory Coons, Shane Yellowbird, DW James, Gail Gavan and the Ryan Brothers Party Band, and Gene Watson and his Farewell Party Band. Visit www.southmountainfair.ca for a full list of events.

Shawville Fair

(Shawville Agricultural Society)
Aug 28 to Sept. 1 (215 Lang St., Shawville, Que.)
Aaron Lines, George Canyon, and Prairie Oyster, among others, will all hit the stage at this year's Shawville Fair. Visit www.shawvillefair.ca for more information.

Stormont County Fair

(Stormont Agricultural Society)
Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 (Newington Fairgrounds)
Featuring a demolition derby, horse drawing competitions, fastball and volleyball tournaments, and more. Check out www.stormontfair.ca.

Perth Fair

(Perth and District Agricultural Society)
Aug. 29 to Sept. 1 (Arthur Street)
Take in the annual Perth Fair parade, or participate in the pet show, or watch the Canadian Cow Chip Throwing Competition. Visit www.perthfair.on.ca.

Russell Fair

(Russell Agricultural Society)
Sept. 4 to 7 (1076 Concession St.)
Canadian rocker Tom Cochrane will headline this year's 150th anniversary fair. Visit www.russellfair.com for more details.

Spencerville Fair

(Spencerville Agricultural Society)
Sept. 11 to 14 (Ryan Street)
Featuring team penning, the great Punkin Chunkin contest, a talent show, and a demolition derby. Check out www.spencervillefair.ca.

Richmond Fair

(Richmond Agricultural Society)
Sept. 18 to 21 (6121 Perth St., Richmond)
Featuring horses shows, dairy, beef, and sheep 4-H Activities, a parade, and pig races. See more at www.richmondfair.ca.

Carp Fair

(Carp Agricultural Society)
Sept. 25 to 28 (3790 Carp Rd.)
Featuring cattle, sheep and horse shows, live entertainment, and more. Visit www.carpfair.ca.

Metcalf Fair

(Metcalf Agricultural Society)
Oct. 2 to 5 (2821 8th Line Rd.)
Each year the Metcalf Fair hosts the Regional 4-H Championship Show, and features a wide-variety of live entertainment, including step dancing, a one-man band, and age-of-majority dances. Visit www.metcalfefair.com for more information.



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Small-scale production

Energrow launches green technology for farmers

NEWTON — Imagine farm machinery that runs on vegetable oil and produces food! Energrow Inc. launched its eco-friendly and cost-reducing farm technology on Sat., May 17 at its facility in Newton, Ont.

The open house event welcomed local farmers and the general public to celebrate the official product launch of its on-farm production system.

As a business specializing in farm-scale vegetable oil presses and production systems, Energrow enables farmers to press their own crops (oilseeds) and produce their own feed and fuel directly on the farm.

Energrow's eco-friendly press, the EE 3700, creates two main bio-products: meal (a palatable animal feed high in natural proteins and energy) and vegetable oil (a value-added product).

The pure vegetable oil produced by the Energrow system has a variety of uses ranging from eco-friendly fuel for tractors and generators to lubricant

and feed additive.

At 65 cents per litre of oil, approximately 30 cents cheaper than retail diesel, 10 cents cheaper than dyed diesel and biodiesel, the oil produced can be used as a fuel to run a converted diesel generator to produce power, feed the grid for building credit, or avoiding peak time use.

Fresh meal used as an energy and protein feed supplement for ruminants and non-ruminants replaces bean roasting process and increases milk production in dairy cattle, as well as weight gain in swine and poultry, according to Energrow.

Why small-scale production?

The Energrow website states that small-scale production can reduce operational costs of feed, fuel, and energy; allow the production of value-added products directly on the farm; lower energy requirements in production; and allow producers to be independent from volatile commodity markets.

Dairy Recipe

Pear-cinnamon cheese dreams

A time-honoured classic snack with a fresh twist with the addition of pears and cinnamon.

Ingredients:

4 slices whole-grain sandwich bread
1 firm ripe pear
1/2 cup (125 mL) shredded Canadian

Mozzarella or Havarti cheese
1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground cinnamon

This recipe makes four portions, takes five minutes to prepare, and five minutes to cook.

Preparation:

Preheat toaster oven or broiler. Lightly toast bread slices in toaster oven or under broiler, turning once if necessary. Meanwhile, cut pear lengthwise into quarters and cut out stem and core. Cut each quarter lengthwise into thin slices. Place on

toast. In a small bowl, toss together cheese and cinnamon. Sprinkle evenly over pear slices. Broil in toaster oven or under broiler just until cheese is melted (about two minutes). Cut each bread slice diagonally into quarters and serve immediately.

Try this with apple slices in place of the pear. In place of the sandwich bread, use 16 slices whole wheat baguette and use one slice of pear per slice of bread. Try Canadian brick, Canadian Swiss, or Canadian cheddar in place of the Canadian Mozzarella.

Nutritional information (per serving)

Energy: 137 Calories

Protein: 7 g

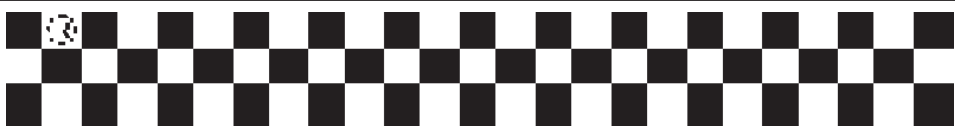
Carbohydrate: 19 g

Fat: 4 g

Fibre: 3.4 g

Sodium: 221 mg

This recipe also provides calcium, vitamin B12, magnesium, zinc, and phosphorus.



Dundas Feed & Seed Ltd.

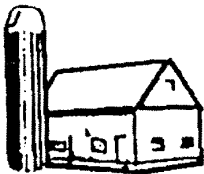
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New field service co-ordinator hired

BRANTFORD — Holstein Canada hired Jill McCallum as the new field service co-ordinator on May 8.

McCallum will divide her time between visiting non-customer Holstein herds in Ontario and several other provinces promoting participation in all breed improvement programs — registration, classification, milk recording, and artificial insemination.

Reporting directly to the Brantford office, but working closely with field and branch staff and industry partners, McCallum will communicate the importance and value of registration regarding animal traceability and age verification.

McCallum was raised at Shylane

Holsteins in Stratford. She recently received her diploma in agriculture from the University of Guelph's Ridgetown campus.

McCallum has been an active 4-H member in Perth County since 1999 and has competed successfully at the local and regional levels, as well as at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. She has also assisted many 4-H members train and fit their project calves.

McCallum is organized, confident, with a broad-based knowledge of Canada's dairy industry, and is enthusiastic about the programs and services offered by Holstein Canada. She looks forward to the challenges and opportunities that accompany her duties.

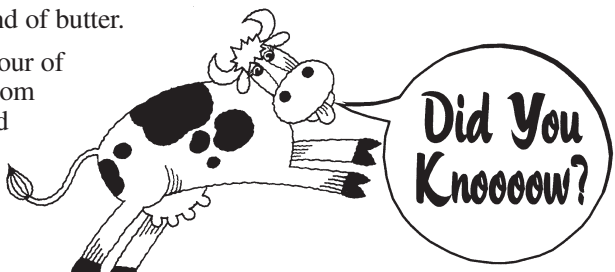
- It takes 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese.

- It takes more than 21 pounds of whole milk to make one pound of butter.

- The natural yellow colour of butter comes mainly from the beta-carotene found in the grass cows eat.

- One cow produces about 350,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime, but it takes all the milk from 330,000 cows each year to fill the fluid milk needs of Wal-Mart (about 700,000 cows are needed to make all the dairy items sold through the Wal-Mart chain).

- Cheesemaking dates back more than 4,000 years.



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Past-president Hugh Graham (right) of Prince Edward County handed the gavel over to newly elected EBI president Barry Boothe of Russell County.

Barry Boothe elected EBI president

KEMPTVILLE — Barry Boothe of Russell was recently elected president of Eastern Breeders Inc. (EBI), a farmer-owned co-operative.

Boothe operates Balsamlane Farms Ltd. with his wife Nancy, son William, and daughter Laurel. Balsamlane Farms Ltd. consists of 290 acres, and 100 head of cattle and over the years has exported cattle to Russia, China, Europe, and the United States.

Boothe has been a member of EBI's Board since 1998. He brings to the table a wealth of experience from his involvement in the agricultural community that include past-president of the Carleton Holstein Club, former Holstein Councillor, former 4-H leader, former fair board director, and past winner of the Ontario Distinguished Achievement Award.

"It's a great honour to be president of EBI," Boothe said following his election. "I look forward to building on the success of last years board of

directors by finalizing the merger between EBI and Prince Edward Island Animal Breeders Association.

Upgrades to the EBI facilities will also be a top priority to adhere to the new regulations from the European Union."

Joining Boothe on the executive are: past president Hugh Graham (Prince Edward County), first vice-president Brian Wilson (New Brunswick), second vice-president John Devries (Durham and Northumberland), and executive member Charles Bennett (Grenville).

Eastern Breeders Inc. is a non-profit, farmer owned co-operative based in Kemptville. EBI serves the dairy and beef breeders of Eastern Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Prince Edward Island. EBI and three partner co-operatives across Canada are proud owners of The Semex Alliance, which is a renowned leader at developing and marketing elite dairy and beef genetics around the world.



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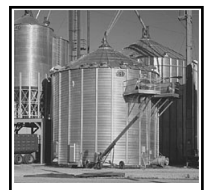
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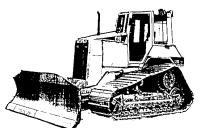
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*“The
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WORD ON THE STREET



**What is your
favourite
memory
of Dairyfest?**



**Juanita
McNairn**

*“Walking
around
with my
kids.”*



**Linda
Seabrook**

*“It’s like
old home
week. I like
the music,
the food,
and the
fireworks.
Mostly it’s
the people.”*



**Geoff Guy
with Jacob**
Winchester

*“My
favourite
memory is
of the
legion party
on the
street.”*



**Melanie
Racine**
Winchester

*“The ball
tournament,
and my
bachelorette
party.”*

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Live entertainment and Dance under the big tent!
9:15-10:45 pm **Cory Coons**
11:00-12:30 pm **KIM MITCHELL**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Live entertainment and Beer Gardens (no charge admission)
2-7 pm approx. **Micky Armitage Band** under the big tent
4th Annual **RBC Ribfest** serving up ribs from 1 pm to 5 pm, \$2 samples.
Cooking demonstrations and BBQ’s on display at the new Pavilion at the arena.
7 pm to 10 pm **TNA WRESTLING SHOW** inside the arena, \$10 per person

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

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