

2013

**BMO® Bank of Montreal
Ontario Farm Family Awards**





Chairman's Greeting



On behalf of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, welcome to the BMO Farm Family Awards and the 2013 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo. It is an honour to have you join us.

We know the farm families are the very heart of the agricultural industry in Ontario and around the world. Through your innovation, dedication and family values, you have set an example for many and produced abundant, safe and favourable food.

The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo are built on the same values as each of your farming business. Since 1913, this event has been built by farmers and farmers-at-heart to offer agricultural and rural living experiences and education for our urban and rural non-farm friends.

We are pleased to be partnering with BMO to present these awards. As you know, last year BMO became a presenting partner a presenting partner of the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo – a partnership that will positively influence this event and the agricultural industry in Ontario.

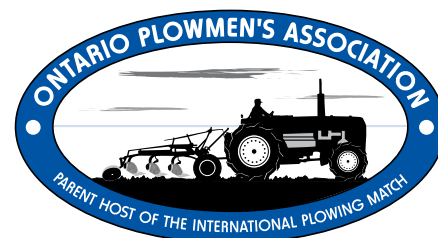
Congratulations to the families being recognized today. Thank you for your personal and family commitment to agriculture.

We hope you enjoy your day. If we can be of assistance in any way, please let us know.

We have accomplished much by all of us working together.



Robert McLean
President
Ontario Plowmen's Association



Greetings from BMO



On behalf of BMO Bank of Montreal, I would like to acknowledge the 2013 BMO Ontario Farm Family Award.

We are privileged to partner with the Ontario Plowmen's Association to recognize outstanding Ontario farm families.

The vital contribution these families make to the province's economic growth and to the health and wellness of citizens in Ontario and throughout Canada is recognized with great respect. Those we honour with this award represent important examples of the spirit and admirable traditions that come from "working the land."

Through these awards, we will be supporting a renewed urban-rural relationship that showcases how the values and hard work of the farm family unit enhances our quality of life.



Susan Brown
Senior Vice President, Ontario Regional Division
BMO Bank of Montreal

Congratulations!

We are proud to recognize the Top Ten Honourees of the 2013 BMO Ontario Farm Family Awards.

The BMO Ontario Farm Family Awards allow BMO and the Ontario Plowmen's Association the opportunity to showcase 10 outstanding families from across Ontario.

These families best represent the values and hard work of the family farm unit within their rural communities and enhance everyone's quality of life.

We couldn't be prouder.



Congratulations

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Barkey Family

Alton Lea Farms



current treasurer. This year, the farm will be hosting the Durham County Twilight meeting for the third time in 30 years.

Glenn is a former member of the Canadian Genetic Evaluation Board. He is also qualified as Official Holstein Canada judge and is a member of the Durham Region Milk Committee. Frazer is vice-chair of the Durham Agriculture Advisory Committee. He is also on the executive of the Leading Livestock Genetics Alliance.

Karen works for Durham Farm and Rural Family Resources, which provides quality and flexible children's services and programs to farm and rural families in the Durham Region. She is also a member of the Blackstock Fair committee, and the local soccer club.

Carolyn works for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. She volunteers as part of the Durham Farm Connections working group, and helped to start the East Central Junior Show, an educational event for children aged 9–12, focused on the dairy industry.

Glenn, Frazer, Karen, and Carolyn have been 4-H leaders for over ten years and are all leading clubs this year.

Awards and Highlights

In 2010, Frank won the 4-H Legacy Award for exemplary contributions to the Durham East 4-H, and Glenn received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2013.

Altona Lea Farms is a founder member of the Livestock Export Alliance and has hosted groups to see its cattle and facilities from the following countries: UK, Scotland, Ireland, Sweden, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Germany, France, Hungary, Netherlands, and USA. In 2012, it was one of the host farms for the World Holstein Conference.

The farm has won many cattle breeding awards, and has been awarded Master Breeder three times. Only 12 herds in Canada have won this prestigious award for a third time. Premier Breeder at the Durham County Holstein Show for 22 years, Altona Lea Farms has bred six fifth-generation homebred Canadian Excellents, five sixth-generation homebred Canadian Excellents, and two seventh-generation homebred Canadian Excellents. Altona Lea Triple Threat Amethyst was the 1992 Grand Champion at the Royal Highland Show in Scotland.

Frank and Donna were featured on the cover of the Holstein Journal in April 2005, and the Barkey family were chosen to be on the cover of the 2010 Faces of Farming calendar.

Goals for the Future

The Altona Lea Farms motto is: "Where Families Have a Meaning" and the family's goal is to continue breeding generations of trouble-free, profitable and award-winning Excellent cows.

The Barkeys are continually refining their succession plan, reviewing short, medium, and long-term goals at monthly meetings of the co-owners. They examine each production area (dairy, cash crops, and hay) for cost reductions and efficiency opportunities. A major goal for the future is to plan, design and construct a new barn for improved labour efficiencies.

Historical Background

Frank and Donna Barkey purchased a 155-acre farm in Blackstock, Ontario in 1978. Since then, 152 acres has been added, and the Barkeys also farm 420 acres of rented land. Frank's Pennsylvania Dutch family arrived from Pennsylvania in 1804, and Donna's side of the family is from England and Wales. Since 2011, Altona Lea Farms has been owned and operated by Donna, son Glenn and his wife Karen, and daughter Carolyn and her husband Frazer Puterbough.

Type of Farming Operation

Alton Lea Farms is a family-focused dairy operation, anchored by an award-winning herd of 150 Holsteins. The herd has 50 cows in milk. During the winter, 30 cows are housed in a tail-to-tail tie stall, and the rest are housed on a straw pack and milked in an older parlour. In the summer, all the cows are pastured round the clock and milked in the parlour.

Corn, wheat, soy and hay are grown for horse feed, with 50% of the cropping in hay. The farm switched to no-till about 10 years ago.

Frank Barkey started planting trees 34 years ago, and the family has continued this practice, planting up to 150 trees per year. The trees are planted for environmental and aesthetic reasons, and as they mature they provide shade for grazing cattle.

Family Participation

Glenn and Frazer handle the day-to-day management of the farm. Donna looks after the accounting, and both Karen and Carolyn are still heavily involved.

There are six children aged from 4 to 11 in the family, and they all enjoy spending time at the barn and helping out. The have also had an interest in showing cattle from an early age. Other members of the family not directly involved with Alton Lea operations are either farmers with their own operations (dairy and turkey), or working in the agriculture industry.

Community Involvement

Donna has been involved with the Solina Women's Institute for the over 30 years (11 years in an executive role) and in her spare time is often found giving piano lessons to some of her 18 grandchildren.

Glenn and Frazer are both active on the board of the Durham County's Holstein Club. Glenn is a past president and Frazer is the

Bennett Family

E.E. Bennett & Sons Farms Ltd.



Jim's wife Chantelle helps with the lambing operation, and also runs her own dog breeding kennel. The three children, Joshua, Andrew and Heather, help on the farm after school and at weekends.

Community Involvement

Ed is a member of the Jersey Club, the Frontenac Holstein Club, and the Frontenac Soil and Crop Association. He is president of the Frontenac County Federation and the Frontenac County Milk Committee, and was president of the Kingston Fall Fair in the 1980s. He sits on the board of the Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation. Ed is a 4-H club leader and has been a member of Storrington Lions Club for 25 years. He is an active member and trustee of the United Church.

Maria co-chairs the cheese festival sponsored by Frontenac Federation of Agriculture, is secretary of Frontenac Agriculture Committee, and volunteers for the Kingston Festival of the Trees. She was chair of the parade committee for 1998 International Plowing Match, and a former president of the Kingston Fall Fair. Maria is a steward of the United Church, a member of the United Church Women's group, and is bookkeeper for the church hall.

Jim is chair of the Frontenac Soil and Crop Association, a member of the Frontenac Federation of Agriculture and the sheep association, and takes part in many 4-H clubs. He is also a steward of the United Church.

Chantelle is also active on the church committee for the United Church and member of the United Church Women's group, and helps out at the local BMX track.

Joshua and Heather are members of the 4-H Swine Club. Joshua, Heather, and Andrew are regular attendees of Sunday school at Trinity United Church.

The Bennetts host frequent farm tours, for 4-H clubs, public schools and college programs. There were six tours last year, including a sheep club from Michigan, students on the McGill University agriculture program, and the local Rotary Club.

Awards and Highlights

The farm has won many awards at Kingston Fair, for crops and cattle. The Bennett family received an award from County of Frontenac for their "community involvement" and "dedication to family commitment and values" in 1996.

Jim was Young Farmer of the Year in 2004, and Ed received an Agricultural Award of Merit from the Soil and Crop Association in 2008.

Goals for the Future

The goals of the Bennett family are constantly evolving, but they are always striving to improve and simplify operations so they can spend more time with family and community.

Historical Background

In 1930, the Bennetts moved from Pittsburg Township to a 150-acre mixed farm with 18 milking cows in Storrington Township. As the family farm grew in the 1940s, the herd increased to 28 Jersey cows, and the farm shipped milk to the city of Kingston.

In the 1950s, the farm expanded to 250 acres, and the dairy herd increased to 40 cows. The second generation of Bennetts, Ed and Maria, started to take on more responsibility, and in 1972 became partners in the family farm. The milking herd was enlarged to 56 purebred Holsteins, and an additional 150 acres of land was purchased.

In 1982, the farm incorporated, the herd increased again, and another 200 acres were purchased. The farm diversified, starting a hog operation and a pick-your-own strawberry business. Jim Bennett became the third generation of Bennetts to join the family firm in 1993.

A new dairy facility was constructed in 1997, and the herd increased to 130 cows. However, dairy farming ceased in 2007, and the farm developed a meat lamb operation.

Type of Farming Operation

The farm has a 900-ewe accelerated lambing stock, and ships lamb weekly. A cash crop of soybeans and hay is grown on 250 acres by a double-cropping method that goes from forage to beans in the same year. The crops provide the feed for the lambing operation, and the surplus goes to contract hay sales.

The Bennett family have practised no-till farming since 2003. They take part in the Environmental Farm Plan, and have received several grants for environmental practices.

Family Participation

Jim is responsible for overall management of the farm. Ed is responsible for feed cropping and the delivery of farm products, and Maria takes care of the farm's bookkeeping.

Brander Family

Brander Farms



feeding the cattle, and helping with general maintenance. He also has his own landscaping company.

Community Involvement

The Branders have been actively involved in the agricultural community for 38 years.

Bob is president of Halton-Peel Cattlemen's Association, and an executive member of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association. He is a founder member of the Ontario Cattle Feeders Association, serving as director and president, and was instrumental in securing the Ontario Corn Fed Beef program at the Loblaw's grocery chain.

Betty is a Peel 4-H volunteer and leader. She is a director of the Caledon Agriculture Society and a former director of the Peel Federation of Agriculture. She volunteers at Bolton, Brampton and Orangeville fairs, and is actively involved in the Cheltenham United Church.

Harry is director of Peel Mutual Insurance, and VP of the Peel-Dufferin Plowmen's Association. He has held many positions in the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and chaired the OFA Land Use Committee for 10 years. He has been a director and treasurer at Ontario Agri-Food Education, and president of Halton Soil and Crop Association and the Halton-Peel Cattlemen's Association.

Abbie is secretary of the Peel Soil and Crop Association and the Halton-Peel Cattlemen's Association. She is a director of the Peel-Dufferin Plowmen's Association.

Judy sings in the choir and volunteers at Norval United Church.

Awards and Highlights

The Branders received the Centennial Farm Award in 1967 for most improved farmstead. Two generations of Branders have been Farmer or Farm Family of the Year; William Sr. was honoured in 1982, Harry in 1992 and Bob in 1994. Betty was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 2012.

In the late 1960s, both Harry and Bob won inter-county and inter-school plowing competitions, and plowed at the World Plowing Match in 1963 in Caledon, Ontario.

Abbie was Outstanding Young Member for Junior Farmers at age 15, and has completed 55 4-H projects. She was the Peel-Dufferin Queen of the Furrow in 2004 and the Ontario Queen of the Furrow in 2005.

The family have had four class wins at the Queen's Guineas Show at the Royal Winter Fair, and first place in the Beef Carcass Competition at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. The Clydesdales won the Team of Mares at the Royal Winter Fair in 2012, and the All-American Four Horse Hitch. In the World Clydesdale Show in 2011, Bob won the Amateur Driving Championship.

Goals for the Future

The Brander family are stewards of their land, and want to pass on this responsibility to future generations. William and Abbie are keeping the farms in touch with new technology and techniques, and working on succession plans with their parents.

Abbie and her partner Pat plan to expand the hay and straw business to meet local demand.

Historical Background

In 1923, William Brander Sr. and his family moved from Milliken to a farm in Malton, Toronto Township. The Ontario government expropriated the Brander family farm in 1974 during the construction of Highway 407, and William Sr. and his son Harry purchased two farms in the Norval area. William's second son, Bob, purchased a farm in Caledon in 1978.

Type of Farming Operation

The Brander family have been cash cropping and finishing cattle for beef for over 35 years. At one time, they finished 600 head of cattle on each farm, but this has been reduced as margins became slimmer.

Harry and Bob are licenced to produce Ontario Corn Fed Beef. The Branders were among the first producers in the area to install scales to ensure accurate cattle weights.

In the early 1980s, Bob and Harry converted to a liquid manure system to collect run-off from the feedlot to the creek, and fenced off pastures to keep cattle and horses out of the watercourses. In 1992, they began using the no-till method and went on to mentor other farmers in the practice. They were one of the first farming operations in the area to own a no-till drill. In 1992, Harry was one of the first farmers in the area to participate in the Environmental Farm Plan.

Fifteen years ago, Bob's family began breeding Clydesdale horses, which they show across North America.

Family Participation

Bob is a licensed Ontario cattle dealer. He looks after marketing, contracting, and purchasing the feeder cattle for both operations. Bob is also responsible for primary tillage.

Harry does the seeding, combining, and equipment repair, as well as taking care of his own feedlot. Always at the cutting edge of new technology, he uses GPS mapping, auto steer and swath control on the planter and sprayer.

Betty and Judy have helped in every aspect of farming operations, from fieldwork to administration, for over 35 years.

Bob and Betty have three daughters. Abbie is taking over responsibility for bookkeeping and the hay and straw business. She is also the decision-maker and groom for the Clydesdales. Amanda and husband Steve are dairy farmers in Tara, and Ashley works for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Harry and Judy have a son and daughter, and William Jr. farms with the family. He is responsible for the planting and harvesting,

Burnham Family

Burnham Family Farm Market

Historical Background

Asa Burnham and his brothers were among the first to settle in Northumberland County in the 1790s. Burnham Farms, Lot 25, Concession 1, has been in the Burnham family since 1830. Paul's direct ancestors have continuously occupied the farmhouse since 1867.

The farm was typical of farms established in the late 19th century and early 20th century by settlers of European origin, mixing arable farming with the raising of livestock. Gradually, it focused on a dairy herd with some cash cropping.



Type of Farming Operation

The farm expanded in 1994 to establish the Burnham Family Farm Market, and dairy farming ceased the following year. Since then, cash cropping and market gardening have been the farm's main focus.

About 1200 acres are used for corn, soybeans, wheat and hay, with crop rotation to maintain soil structure and fertility. The Burnhams are experimenting with cover cropping to reduce soil erosion over the winter, and do not use fall planting for 80% of the crops. The market garden grows strawberries, raspberries, asparagus, peas, beans, sweet corn, apples and pumpkins, all sold locally – either directly from the farm market or at weekly farmers markets in Cobourg.

The farm also has four solar panel installations, and sells "green" power to the grid. In 2002, an old dairy barn on the farm was converted into a riding school, stables and boarding facility.

Family Participation

Paul Burnham is the overall farm manager, and takes care of general administration, including oversight of bookkeeping and spray records. He is primarily responsible for the market garden crops. His wife Anne manages the farm market, which employs around 22 people. She also ensures the quality of the produce, and oversees the on-site bakery. Kate co-manages the farm market, and will be taking on more responsibility as her parents become less involved the management of the farm.

Mark is the primary operator of the cash crop business. He has one fulltime employee, and takes care of the ordering of seeds and plants, and managing the harvest.

Jennifer owns and manages the riding and horse boarding facility. She is responsible for the health of over 50 horses, including boarders. She conducts summer riding camps, and employs teachers and stable hands.

Community Involvement

Paul is a Soil and Crop Improvement Association director, and was chair of the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture for 20 years. He chairs the Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce, and is currently VP of the Cobourg Farmers Market, having previously chaired that association. Paul is a member of the Trinity United Church Outreach Committee, and is involved in the 2013 Canadian Foodgrains Bank Project. In his spare time he enjoys local theatre and performing with his band "Toast".

Anne is a member of the Northumberland Agricultural Awareness Committee Promoting Education, and previously was involved in the Port Hope Agricultural Society and on the board of the Lakeshore Genealogy Society. She volunteers for Hospice Community Care, and serves on the Outreach and Affirm Committees at Trinity United. Anne is on the board of both the Oriana Singers of Northumberland and La Jeunesse Girls' Choir. She has directed three productions for the VOS community theatre group in Cobourg, and also plays with husband Paul in "Toast".

The family work with Northumberland County on local food initiatives, and the Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) study on agricultural needs.

Mark is a director of Junior Farmers, and Jennifer is a member of the Northumberland Pony Club.

Awards and Highlights

In 1999, Paul and Anne were awarded the YMCA Northumberland Peace Medal for supporting development issues and organizations and local and international aid. They have also received an Agricultural Achievement Award from the Port Hope Agricultural Society, but they believe one of their greatest achievements is that they have instilled in their children a love for the land and a strong sense of the importance of retaining land in agricultural production.

Goals for the Future

The Burnham family is committed to continuing their work of educating the public how their food is produced, and on the importance of preserving our food-growing land through school tours, talks in the community and private chats.

Cranston Family

Cranston Farms



Family Participation

Doug is responsible for the overall management of the farm. Joan looks after milking and bookkeeping, and manages the sweet corn market in the summer.

James is a full-time farmer and partner, and manages the dairy herd. He is responsible for breeding decisions and embryo production. Krista is a music teacher, and occasionally lends a hand. Their grandfather Howard also helps out on the farm as often as he can.

Community Involvement

Doug is chair of the Hamilton/Wentworth Milk Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, a sub-committee of Hamilton City Council. He is on the boards of the Equestrian Association for the Disabled and the Ontario Clydesdale Association. Doug has previously been president of the Wentworth Holstein Club and Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers Program. He is a former board member of Western Ontario Breeders and the Ancaster Agricultural Society, sat on the Hamilton Airport Expansion citizen's committee, and has been director of the Wentworth Soil and Crop Association. He is a former chair of the Board of Managers of St. Paul's Church.

Joan is a program manager for Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers. She is a former chair of the Board of Managers of St. Paul's Church, is on the wheelchair accessibility and OYF hosting committees, and sings in the church choir.

James is a 4-H Calf Club leader, and the current president of the Brant/Wentworth Holstein Club. He is a member of the National Holstein Convention Committee and the Glanbrook Slo-Pitch League.

The farm has hosted many tours from both agricultural and urban communities, with over 2000 people visiting since the construction of the composting pack barn.

Awards and Highlights

Doug and Joan were named Ontario Outstanding Young Farmers in 1995, and Wentworth Farm Family of the year in 1996. In 2002 they received a Master Breeder award from Holstein Canada, and in 2009 were regional award winners in the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence Program. They received a Hamilton Tourism Green Award in 2010.

Cranston Farms have had one Brown Swiss and two Holstein cows named All-American and All-Canadian.

Goals for the Future

The Cranston family intends to continue to improve production and reduce the carbon footprint of the farm through innovation. They aim to enhance herd genetics to gain a second Master Breeder award, and are working to transition the farm to the next generation.

Historical Background

The Cranston family began farming in Ancaster around 1920. Doug Cranston's grandparents farmed the property next to the current farm, which Doug's parents, Howard and Bernice, started as a dairy operation in 1955.

Doug joined his parents as a full-time farmer and partner in 1978. His wife Joan is also from a well-known dairy farm family. Their children Krista and James are the third generation of Cranstons to farm in the area.

Type of Farming Operation

In 1983, Doug and Joan built a 44 tie-stall barn to help market their purebred cattle worldwide. In 2007, a new milking parlour, office and conference room was installed in the old tie-stall barn, and a new composting pack barn was constructed. Both buildings incorporate energy-saving and sustainable features. The washing and sanitizing water is reused to clean the parlour floor, and the composted pack, a mixture of sawdust sanding from plywood construction and reclaimed drywall paper crumbles, is used as a fertilizer on the crops. As a result, the dairy herd is healthier; there are fewer foot problems and reproductive difficulties, and milk production is improved.

In 1996, Doug and Joan developed an interest in Clydesdale horses. They have shown a 6-horse hitch with wagon across the eastern states from Florida to Indiana, and at the Royal Winter Fair. Currently, they only show at local fairs and parades.

The farm has 300 acres of hay and corn, providing all the forages for the dairy herd, and 40 acres of sweet corn. Where possible, grassed waterways are used to prevent erosion. Eighteen different varieties of sweet corn are fresh-picked daily, and sold from a roadside market stand in front of the farm.

Fennema/Ringelberg Family

Fennema Holsteins

Historical Background

Peter Fennema and his father are originally from the Netherlands, and in 1955 they purchased a farm in Wentworth County, in the township of Beverley. Peter and his wife Joanne still own the farm, but a few years ago they sold the cattle and quota to their daughter Janet and son-in-law Jake Ringelberg. Jake was raised on his family beef farm in Wentworth County,

Type of Farming Operation

The Ringelberg family own 125 purebred Holsteins, and milk 55. All the cattle are homebred. The milking operation has been extensively modernized, and features an integrated dairy management system that collects electronic data for Canadian Quality Milk requirements.



Forages are homegrown, and are supplemented with ground corn and a custom mineral/protein blend. The farm has 155 acres under cultivation, growing hay, corn, soybeans and wheat. An Environmental Farm Plan is in place, and has been used to fence off the creek from the cattle pasture, to improve fuel storage, and to install eavestroughs to prevent runoff in the barnyard.

Family Participation

Peter does the bulk of the fieldwork, and Joanne keeps the farmstead, barn and milk house clean and tidy. Janet has worked full-time on the family farm since graduating from the University of Guelph with a BSc in agriculture.

Jake also has a BSc in agriculture, and has worked off-farm for 24 years in the feed industry, focusing on dairy nutrition. He currently works part-time so he can spend more time on the dairy operation.

Jake and Janet have four children – Kathryn, Deanna, Mikayla and Ethan. They all help with chores on the family farm, such as feeding the calves and heifers, bedding down pens and stalls, and milking. The kids also have their own farm business with 100 laying hens, and will use the profits to help fund their university educations.

Community Involvement

Fennema Holsteins hosted the Brant-Wentworth Holstein Club twilight meeting in 2006, and host Holstein Club farm tours. Janet holds annual tours for her children's kindergarten classmates to educate them about the source of their food. Jake and Janet

support the Ontario Dairy Youth Trust Fund, which funds 4-H junior shows and competitions, and Ontario Holstein branch scholarships.

Janet is an associate director of the Rockton Agricultural Society, and director and secretary of the Wentworth Dairy Producers' Committee. She is director and secretary of Brant-Wentworth Holstein Club, has been a Gay Lea Foods delegate since 2010. She is a member of Zion United Reformed Church, has taught Sunday school, and volunteers at Dundas Calvin Christian School's fundraising bazaar and Springfest.

Jake is an associate director of the Rockton Agricultural Society, and a former chair of the Hamilton-Wentworth 4-H Leaders Association. He is a member of the Brant-Wentworth Holstein Club, and a Gay Lea Foods delegate. He has been on the board of administration of Zion United Reformed Church in Sheffield, is a former Sunday school teacher, and sits on the Dundas Calvin Christian School education committee.

Kathryn, Deanna and Mikayla are all active 4-H members and junior associate members of Rockton Agricultural Society, and volunteer regularly for school, church and for the society.

Awards and Highlights

The farm received a soil and water conservation award from Wentworth Soil and Crop Association in 2013. This spring, native maple trees will be planted along the pasture fence lines by the Grand River Conservation Authority through the Species At Risk Farm Program. The Ringelberg family was the 2011 Hamilton-Wentworth Federation of Agriculture Farm Family of the Year.

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies presented Janet with an Agriculture Accomplishment Award for "outstanding contribution to the success and enhancement of rural life" in 2009. She is a former Wentworth Dairy Princess and North Wentworth Queen of the Furrow.

Jake recently implemented a milking-cow ration that maximizes the use of forages, reducing the amount of crude protein and subsequent nitrogen output back to the fields.

Kathryn, Deanna and Mikayla have all been Hamilton-Wentworth Top Junior 4-H member, and regularly compete at 4-H shows and competitions. Kathryn won a \$1000 scholarship in the Optimist Oratorical competition in 2011, and is the current South Wentworth Queen of the Furrow. Deanna was Grand Champion Showman at the Rockton fair in 2011, and at New Hamburg fair in 2012, and Mikayla won the junior Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition in 2010.

Goals for the Future

The Ringelbergs focus on family, church, community involvement, and managing a profitable dairy operation. Their mission statement is to strive to use their God-given talents to produce high quality milk, to maintain a healthy herd and to be environmentally sustainable, while finding a balance between work and family.

The family will continue to adopt new technology and be environmentally responsible, building a successful family farm for future generations.

McBride Family

CMcB Holsteins

Historical Background

In 1911, local blacksmith Alex McBride purchased a 200-acre farm just outside Cobden, Ontario. The farm was mostly bush, and Alex set about clearing and developing the land as a dairy farm. The red brick home on the farm today was built in 1918 to replace the original log home. In 1937, the main dairy barn burned to the ground. Undeterred, Alex cut and sawed lumber from the bush by hand, and with the help of family and neighbours, rebuilt the barn. Sadly, he passed away from a heart attack just as the barn was completed.

Cecil McBride kept his father's dream alive. Most of the local farmers sold their milk for cheesemaking, but Cecil produced milk for the profitable business of bottling and distribution from a dairy in Pembroke. When he too suffered a heart attack in 1948, he left the day-to-day running of the farm to his eldest son Clarence.



In 1968, Clarence and his wife Eileen purchased the adjacent 200-acre farm. With the help of their son Stewart, Clarence milked their 40 Holsteins in a tie-stall barn with a dumping station. The dairy barn was converted to a pipeline system in 1980. In time, Stewart took over the running of the family farm, assuming full ownership with his wife Vera Springer in 1996. Their children Shawna, Shelley and Paul are the fifth generation of McBrides to live and work on the family farm.

Type of Farming Operation

McBride Farms have 140 registered Holsteins, with around 66 currently milking. The dairy barn was extensively renovated in 1997, and Canadian Quality Milk program standards are in effect.

Three hundred acres of the two farms are tillable. The McBrides practise crop rotation, and are completing a nutrient management analysis.

Family Participation

Stewart is responsible for feeding the livestock, artificial insemination, preparation and cleanup at milking time, and fieldwork. Vera and Paul are responsible for the milking, with Paul also taking care of equipment maintenance and fieldwork. Paul and his wife Jessica will eventually take over the family farm.

Shawna takes care of bookkeeping, herd mating and cattle registration. She is also the family cook, having prepared all the family meals since she was ten years old.

Community Involvement

Stewart is president of the Cobden Agricultural Society, and is the fourth generation of McBrides to be involved with the society. A member or director for over 38 years, he served a two-year term as president in 1979. Vera is also active in the society, and was secretary and treasurer from 1978 to 1986. Stewart is a member of the Renfrew County Plowmen's Association, and McBride Farms hosted the local plowing match in 2010. He was a member and director of the Soil and Crop Association for five years.

Stewart is on the fire committee for Admaston and Bromley Township. He is on the Waste Management and Emergency Planning Committees, and the Board of Stewards of the United Church. As a member of the Cemetery Committee, Stewart has managed operations of the local Union Cemetery.

The McBride family has hosted the Rural Ramble, an annual agritourism event in the Ottawa valley celebrating rural living. Stewart is also on the committee for the Taste of the Valley, a community-based event promoting local produce and agriculture.

The McBrides are heavily involved in the Cobden Curling Club. Stewart has been a director for 13 years, serving as president and VP. Vera has been Lady President, and has been treasurer for the past 14 years. Shawna has been Lady President for 14 years, and coaches the Little Rockers, a private program to introduce local children from ages 6 to 12 to the game of curling.

Shawna, Paul and Jessica are active members in the Cobden Agricultural Society. They are always keen to volunteer for community-based events organized by the society.

Awards and Highlights

McBride Farms was granted Century Farm status in 2011, to celebrate 100 years of continuous ownership and operation by direct descendants of the same family.

Both Vera and Stewart have service diplomas in recognition of many years of service to the Cobden Agricultural society.

Shawna has received a citizenship award from the Cobden Civitan Club.

Goals for the Future

The McBrides' goal for the future is to continue the operation of the family farm into the next generation, maintaining the rural way of life for their family and their community. Keeping traditional family values, and striving to improve the technology and standards of dairy operations in Canada, they are honouring the legacy of their ancestors.

McIntosh Family

McIntosh Family Farms



Historical Background

The McIntosh family are originally from Scotland, and began farming in Carrick Township in 1855. Elmer McIntosh purchased the present farm in 1947 after returning from serving with the air force in England during the Second World War. With his English bride Ann, Elmer ran the farm for 36 years, and raised four children. Their youngest son Lyle, along with wife Leigh and brother Ron, purchased the farm from his parents in 1983. Lyle and Leigh became sole partners in 1992.

The original herd of 20 Ayrshires were milked for cream. Between 1983 and 1988, production was switched from cream to milk, and the herd was gradually changed to Holsteins.

Type of Farming Operation

The McIntosh family run a small dairy operation, milking 28 Holsteins in a renovated tie-stall barn. They grow most of their own feed, by crop rotations of forages, corn and barley. Solid manure is used as a fertilizer, and they try to have it incorporated within 24 hours of spreading to reduce smell and run-off. The family use the local crop specialist for soil sampling and weed identification to reduce the amount of fertilizer and spray needed for each crop.

Family Participation

Lyle and Leigh have three children, all of whom have been involved in the day-to-day operation of the farm from an early age. Lyle was a DHI Supervisor for many years, and the children often had to help in the barn and fields while he was away from the farm. As they have grown up and started families of their own, they have continued to be an active part of the family farm.

In 2006, Leigh suffered a severe back injury when she fell through the barn floor, and is now paraplegic. Friends and neighbours rallied round to help the family with the milking and the harvest, but it is the dedication of the three children that has enabled the farm to keep operating, and even to expand and prosper.

Lyle and Leigh have recently purchased an ongoing dairy operation in the neighbourhood for daughter Kathryn and son-in-law Matt Rehorst. Their other two children, Stuart and Sarah,

will be working closely with both farms, and intend to develop full-time farming careers themselves.

Community Involvement

The McIntosh family have always been very involved with sporting activities, as both players and coaches. Lyle coached the kids' minor league hockey teams for many years, and now they in turn are coaching soccer, hockey, and baseball.

Leigh was a 4-H leader for many years, and served a three-year term on the Bruce County 4-H Council. Stuart, Kathryn and Sarah were all involved in various 4-H clubs.

The family is very much involved with their church. It is a small rural church, and community help is much needed. The family has helped with lawn care, catering, and administration, and participate regularly in Sunday morning worship services.

Stuart has been a member of the Mildmay Fire Department for the last three years. As well as providing a valuable community service, he enjoys their various fund raising activities too.

Sarah has recently moved back to the area and is looking forward to working and volunteering in the community. While in London, she coached a junior track and field club and volunteered for the Run for Retina and Corporate Challenge.

Awards and Highlights

The Registered Purebred Holstein herd is ranked in the top 20 herds in Canada for Lifetime Profit Index and is one of the top 20 herds in Bruce County for management and production. Sixty percent of the herd is classified as Very Good.

Goals for the Future

The McIntosh family intends to continue improving the type classification of the herd, and to successfully market the genetics achieved.

Their ultimate goal is to help the sixth generation of the McIntosh family to fulfill their dreams of living and working on their own farms in Bruce County. Working together as a family unit, they will continue to improve on herd, soil and woodlot management to achieve this goal.

McNeil Family

Heather Holme Holsteins



Historical Background

The McNeil family are originally from Scotland. They moved to Ireland, and emigrated to Canada during the potato famine. In 1933, Glen McNeil's parents, Cliff and Evelyn, purchased a farm in Colborne Township, Ontario from another Scottish family, the Heatheringtons. When the McNeils joined the Holstein Association of Canada in 1959, they named their operation after the inscription the Heatheringtons had placed on the bridge leading to the farm lane.

Type of Farming Operation

Heather Holme Holsteins is a family-owned and operated dairy farming business. Milk sales account for 80% of income, and marketing of elite genetics accounts for 20%. The McNeils export 80 embryos worldwide annually.

The farm grows hay and forage, corn silage, barley, and soybeans on 200 acres, 50 acres of which are rented.

Family Participation

Glen's focus is the marketing of Heather Holme genetics domestically and internationally. He is also responsible for the cropping. Vanda is responsible for calf management, bookkeeping, cleaning the dairy barn, and yard work.

Their son Curtis is responsible for the day-to-day care and management of the Heather Holme herd, including nutrition, feeding, milking, genetic mating and artificial insemination. He is also responsible for string preparation of the herd for dairy shows. A graduate of the University of Guelph, with a Diploma in Agriculture, Curtis is joining the family business as a partner this year.

Community Involvement

The McNeil family is strongly involved in the community. Heather Holme Holsteins donates embryos every year to the Britespan Invitational 4-H Dairy Show in Lucknow, Ontario, and the EastGen 4-H Dairy Show in Stratford. The McNeils have welcomed countless visitors from local schools and campgrounds, the University of Guelph, the Chamber of Commerce, Huron County Ag Tours, and fellow dairymen from around the world. They have had visitors from Africa, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, China, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Ireland, Istanbul, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Spain,

Switzerland, United States, Yugoslavia, Wales, and the West Indies.

Glen is a Governance Board Member for Alexandra Marine and General Hospital in Goderich, and on the Board of Trustees of Nile United Church. He is chair of the Board of Directors of United Breeders Sire Committee, and a former president of the Holstein Association of Canada, the Huron County Holstein Club, and the Ontario Branch of Holstein Canada. Glen is a member and leader of the Huron County 4-H Dairy Calf Club, and pitched fastball for the Canada Company baseball team in Goderich.

Vanda is a member of the Huron County 4-H Dairy Calf Club and Life Skills Club, and a parent volunteer for the 4th Goderich Scouts, minor baseball, hockey and field hockey, and both provincial and junior national field hockey.

Vanda and Glen co-chaired the Huron County Museum agriculture exhibits "Crops and Produce Showcase" and "Dairy Exhibit", and the 1999 International Plowing Match in Dashwood, Ontario.

Curtis a Western Ontario Councillor, representing Huron County. He is a Huron County 4-H Dairy Calf Club leader, and a committee member for the Britespan 4-H Invitational Show. Curtis is a former president of the Huron County Holstein Club.

Awards and Highlights

Heather Holme Holsteins has been awarded three Holstein Canada Master Breeder Shields, in 1980, 1996, and 2010. It has the top Canada Health Accredited Herd for bovine leucosis in Canada, and has bred 111 Excellent cows. Heather Holme Gibson Jolene was a 2005 All-Canadian Summer Yearling, and Heather Holme Warden Echo was a 1981 All-Canadian Two Year Old. The McNeil family has won many awards at the Huron County Fair.

Glen is a Holstein Canada Official Judge, and has judged dairy cattle throughout Canada and internationally. He received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Ontario Branch of Holstein Canada in 1981. He was Grand Champion Showman in the Silver Dollar Competition in 1972.

Curtis was Grand Champion Showman in both the Scotiabank Dairy Classic and the Holstein Canada President's Cup at the 2005 Royal Winter Fair – the first person to win both classes in their 20-year history.

Goals for the Future

The McNeil family wants to continue producing high quality food and developing Heather Holme genetics, while being conscious of the environment and a benefit to the community. Glen and Vanda are looking forward to the eventual transition of the business to their son Curtis, and to continue enjoying the company of friends and family on Ontario's West Coast.

Curtis has been a judge at numerous 4-H dairy shows, and aspires to be a Holstein Canada Official Judge.

Weber Family

Weblyn Farms



Historical Background

Weblyn Farms was originally purchased in November 1919 by Carl's grandparents, Philip and Christine Weber. Carl's parents, Wilfred and Iva, bought the farm in 1952. Wilfred Weber was instrumental in the formation of the Normanby Plowmen's Association, while Iva was very involved with the Women's Institute in Ayton.

Carl graduated from the University of Guelph in 1970 with a Diploma in Agriculture, and in 1973, he followed family tradition by buying the farm from his parents. His wife Joyce is also from a farming background; she was born and raised on her family farm near Owen Sound. Their children Sarah, Heather and Erich are the fourth generation of Webers to be actively involved with operations at the family farm.

Type of Farming Operation

Formerly dairy farmers, the Webers now run a beef cow-calf operation, along with cash cropping and custom work. They take land stewardship seriously, and have an environmental farm plan. They use variable rate fertilization processes, follow appropriate nutrient management practices, and have completed several reforestation programs. The family is determined to preserve land quality by the use of manure, crop rotation, and cover cropping.

Family Participation

The whole family is actively involved in a variety of jobs on the farm, including raising the livestock, helping to feed and care for the animals, and growing and harvesting the crops. Decision-making is a collective family task, with a focus on environmental practices and sustainability.

Community Involvement

The Weber family is well represented at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ayton. Carl has chaired the Church Council; Joyce has been organist, choice director and President of Women of Faith; Heather and Erich are readers and lay assistants; Heather is secretary of the Church Council; and Erich is a former Sunday school teacher. They have all played important roles in the 4-H organization, both locally and nationally; Joyce was an Ambassador and a Life Skills and Agriculture leader, Heather and Erich have been Ambassadors, and Heather is a Leader and Provincial Facilitator.

Carl helped form the Ayton Junior Farmers Club. A member of Normanby Plowmen's Association since 1972, he has been Provincial Director of the Ontario Plowmen's Association since 1983. He has served on the Community Care Access Committee

and the Public Liaison Committee for Waste Management in Grey County, and is a past delegate to the Gay Lea Foods Co-operative.

Joyce has been heavily involved in extracurricular school activities and community initiatives. She has been a School Board Trustee and has sat on the Community Care Access Committee.

Sarah judges at the Bluewater Regional Science and Technology Fair, volunteers for the Kincardine Relay for Life event, and has taught German for an after-school program. She is also a member of the Southampton Bell Choir.

Heather helped to create the National Rural Youth Network, is a committee member and special events organizer for the Bluewater Regional Science and Technology Fair, and has chaperoned Team Bluewater at Canada-Wide Science Fairs. She takes part in a variety of extracurricular activities at Spruce Ridge Community School in Durham, and has been involved in MS Walk events since 2009.

Erich took part in the Peer Helper Program at the University of Guelph, and was a resident assistant and a U of G Ambassador. He is treasurer of the University of Guelph chapter of the Junior Farmers Association of Ontario, and director of finance on the Provincial Executive.

The Weber family have also taken part in numerous roadside cleanup initiatives.

Awards and Highlights

Carl was president of the Ontario Plowmen's Association in 2009, when the most northerly International Plowing Match in history was held in Temiskaming. Members of the Weber family have won many awards at local plowing matches.

Joyce was awarded the Flora Durnin Scholarship for outstanding 4-H member, and this honour has also been won by Sarah, Heather and Erich.

Sarah won the International Plowing Match plowing competition (with Heather) in 1993. She represented Ontario at the Growmark Conference in Chicago, and won the 1999 Royal Bank Interprovincial Exchange to Saskatchewan. Sarah was crowned Grey-Normanby Queen of the Furrow three years running.

Heather was the first Canadian to sit on the National Member Conference Council, at the National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC in 2001. In 2011, she was identified as a "difference maker" by the Rick Hansen Foundation for the Man in Motion tour. Heather is also a former Grey-Normanby Queen of the Furrow.

Erich has won the John Deere Foundation, Agro and Roland Farms, and Petro Canada Plowing scholarships, the Gold Medal for Student Leadership at Ontario Agriculture College, and in 2008 was the first CKNX Farm Advisory Board Award winner from Grey County. He was the Ontario Plowing Champion in 2012 and Reserve Champion in 2010 and 2011.

Goals for the Future

The Webers aim to be stewards of the environment while producing the best quality products; to be champions of sustainable agriculture; to continue the Family Farm concept; and to be positive role models and actively involved in their local community and beyond.



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