



featured project **KELLERCREST FARMS**

Kellercrest Farms started milking with 8 Jersey cows in 1987. Walter Keller immigrated from Switzerland at 18, and he worked on dairy farms in Grand Valley before starting Kellercrest Farms in Shedden. Walter married Susan in 1983, and they have 6 children. In 1990, when they were one week away from having their 4th child, Fred, a tornado hit the farm damaging most of their milking barn. The cows temporarily relocated 5KM away while rebuilding.

By 1993, the main barn with 32 tie stalls was full, and in 1995 an addition to the tie stall was put on to accommodate 52 milking cows. Susan did most of the milking, and she recalls giving birth to a few of their kids within hours of finishing the evening milking! As the kids grew older, they began to develop a family system of rotating the kids so that 3 kids would do house chores, and the other 3 kids would do barn chores.

Once Fred completed high school and expressed his eagerness to keep farming, it became clear to the family that they needed more land base, quota, and eventually a new barn. Fred married Katie in 2014, and they began to purchase farmland. In total, the Keller family owns 400 acres. Early on, in 2017, initial thoughts were to go robot, and they toured several facilities with different layouts. They debated on a coverall barn with a pack, free stall barn with sand or mats, and a 6 row perimeter feed natural ventilated barn versus a 3 row tunnel ventilated barn. They said, "We wanted to build for 100 milking cows with all pregnant cows under one roof. All of the barn layouts could have worked. However, we decided to go with a 3 row tunnel ventilated barn with a parlour and holding area in front of the barn, allowing us to utilize the tunnel ventilation through the whole barn. We thought this was the best layout option for cow comfort, production, and workflow for our farm."

The barn is 330' x 67' plus the milk house built on the one side. The barn has 100 stalls for....**Article continues on page 4**



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EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DLS is pleased to welcome the following people to the Dairy Lane team:



Cody Oliver
Welder/Fabricator



Josiah Campbell
Welder/Fabricator



Mackenzie Hayes
Welder/Fabricator



Kyle Hartman
Welder/Fabricator

RECENT PROJECT VIDEO

Bloemen Dairy 60 Stall Rotary

Consistently milking up to 320 cows/hour, "Cow traffic is like a breeze", says Otto Bloemen. Check-out the 60 stall rotary at Bloemen Dairy and hear what they have to say!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Scott Prest
Stabling/Manure Technician
Joined DLS September 2008



Scott has been with DLS for over 12 years. He started in the warehouse for a few weeks before getting his first DLS work truck and working on job sites. He worked closely with Martin Peeters (currently a DLS sales rep) for a couple of years. Martin taught him all there was to know about stabling and manure installations, and how to service them. As he progressed, Scott began to train some of the new employees, Joel Windsor, another long time DLS employee being one of them. Scott has always enjoyed passing on his wisdom and teaching new employees.

Before joining DLS, Scott did many things, including home renovations, and most surprisingly to us, he was a Microsoft Certified Product Specialist. In that role, he had numerous big-name clients that he supported, and he was a suit and tie guy – can you imagine that? Scott attended college and attained a few diplomas (photography, multimedia, and computer network support specialist); however, this was not his true passion. He was drawn back home to care for his grandmother and the family farm, and a few years later, he landed here!

Scott's an active guy who enjoys skeet shooting, working on his property, cutting wood, snowmobiling and 4-wheeling. Yes, in case you are wondering, he says there have been injuries sustained during these activities!

Scott aspires to stay with DLS through his working career and eventually work into a Project Management position.



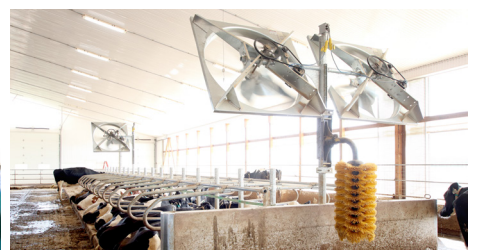
AUGUST'S product of the month

The GEA IQ milk unit has a lot of great features, while still being lightweight for ease of the operator. A few of these features include: maximum milk quality through a smarter vacuum control, improved udder health with four separate guide chambers, proper unit alignment on virtually any udder shape, faster milk-out times, quieter operation throughout the milking, and a slim unit profile that makes it more difficult for cows to kick-off.

The most unique feature on the IQ milking unit is the 4 separate guide chambers. This 4-way system keeps the milk separate per quarter and eliminates the threat of teat to teat cross-contamination. Our customers love how lightweight and user friendly it is! You can check-out the GEA IQ milk unit brochure @ go.dairylane.ca/iq_brochure. If you are interested in learning more about the IQ unit, or would like to demo it, give us a call!



JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



1

A.H.E. Dairy Farm
Watford, ON

This project is just getting underway! The DLS Structure is being erected, and there are 5 GEA R9500 milking robots on-site to be installed in this upcoming perimeter feed robot barn.

2

Carl-Lou Farms
Watford, ON

Congratulations to the Bryson family at Carl-Lou Farms on a successful GEA R9500 start-up last month with their mixed Holstein/Jersey herd in their existing barn. Some stabling renovations took place behind the robot, giving them a few sand stalls and a sand pack.

3

Viewland Farms
Thamesford, ON

Last fall, the cows moved into their new dairy barn featuring GEA manure equipment, Jourdain stabling, DLS tip troughs and Easy Swing cow brushes. Just recently, the new DLS X-Brace panel fans were installed in this barn to keep the cows comfortable in this summer heat!



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...milking cows, 50 dry cow stalls, and two pack pens for calving and transition cows. It features a used GEA D-8 parlour (expandable to D-12), GEA manure equipment, Jourdain stabling and DLS tunnel ventilation. There is potential and capacity to grow up to 150 milking cows in this barn.

"The barn's air movement is great, with all air exchanging in the barn in just under a minute! With transitioning to tunnel ventilation, we have been pleasantly surprised by the lack of fly pressure. We moved into the new barn in April, and the first few days transitioning from the tie stall were challenging for us, but it just keeps getting better! As we learn, we're getting more efficient doing chores, and the cows are more comfortable and confident being free."

The main reason the Keller's switched from their initial thoughts of robots to an expandable used parlour came down to their ability to grow while keeping a low overhead. They hope to have the barn full in 15 years, and perhaps consider robots again, with an option to replace the parlour with three robots at the front of this barn. Fred says, "Right now, life is good. Milking takes one hour, and it's satisfying to see our boys, Noah and Owen, taking an interest. They love to help with chores! We felt this was the best option for us and our lifestyle to provide them with a similar experience and work ethic that my parents provided me growing up on the farm." Fred shared with us this cute video ([go.dairylane.ca/kellercrest](https://www.dairylane.ca/kellercrest)) of their older son, Noah, helping with the milking! It looks like he is going to be a good milker one day!

