

## featured project **COMRIE FARMS**

The McNaughton family farm was hit in 1953 with a tornado that leveled the barn and tore the roof off the house. John McNaughton, who was a young teenager at the time crawled out of the barn. None of the animals survived the tornado, but thankfully all the family lived and moved forward to rebuild their farm. Up to this point the farm was a mixed farm that milked a few Jersey cows.

In the 1960's, John along with his wife, Katherine, focused on transitioning the mixed farm to a dairy farm with a small tie stall operation. In the 1980's, another transition occurred when John and Katherine's son, Norm McNaughton, came home to farm with his parents. The barn was renovated to only house cows in a more comfortable tie stall setting. The focus was on milk and breeding sales.

Today, Norm's son, Mike McNaughton, is the 6th generation of farmers in the McNaughton line. With Mike wanting to stay and continue the family farm that was milking 45 cows in tie stalls, the McNaughton's knew they needed to transition again to set-up their farm for future success. With milk sales being the primary source of revenue, they based their decision on cow comfort and labour savings.

Be sure to check-out the video showing their new GEA milking robot facility that started up in October 2018 @ [go.dairylane.ca/ComrieMilking](https://go.dairylane.ca/ComrieMilking). Also you can view pictures from their recent community event @ [go.dairylane.ca/ComrieRecap](https://go.dairylane.ca/ComrieRecap).



**We're Social Too**



**Tradeshow Season**  
[dairylane.ca/tradeshows](https://dairylane.ca/tradeshows)

**Dairy Lane Is Hiring**  
[dairylane.ca/careers](https://dairylane.ca/careers)

## EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



**Dwight Garrett**  
Milk Quality Specialist



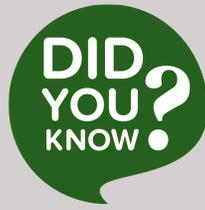
**Tim Earley**  
Delivery Driver



**Rick Temming**  
Construction Labourer



**Sean Campbell**  
Construction Labourer



## DLS provides network solutions to dairy farms!?

Times are changing and the need to have the internet available everywhere is becoming more of a necessity rather than something that is just nice to have. DLS has the ability to set your farm up with a network to connect your barns, offices, and automation devices.

To fully understand all that goes into a network, it is important to understand the differences between a personal network and the internet. The internet uses a global net of interconnected networks to provide information and communication facilities to your home or business. When you subscribe to receive internet service at your home or place of business, the service provider will provide you with a modem that will allow you to connect to this global network.

DLS can extend the capabilities of the global network by providing you with your own personal network. This will enable you to access the internet anywhere you need coverage around your farm or business, have a central storage area to access files no matter where you are, and even allow technicians to access your automated farm equipment remotely if there is an issue that arises. If the internet service goes down, you will still be able to connect to your local interfaces within your business without interruption.

The benefits of having your own personal network extend far beyond just being able to access the internet. Call today and ask for Marlon to get a free on-site survey and quote to setup or extend your local network.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Frank Huse**  
Parts Specialist  
Joined DLS July 2015

Frank has been at DLS for almost 4 years, and he has become a wealth of knowledge in the inventory department. He also plays a key role with shipping and receiving.

Prior to joining the DLS team, Frank worked at North Star Windows and Doors for over 9 years. At North Star, Frank dealt with a team of 30 people as a Plant Assembly Supervisor. Before working at North Star, he worked in an inventory role at Autoliv, an automotive safety supplier.

Frank is an avid motorcyclist, and if you know him at all, you know he won't be at work if the 13th lands on a Friday!! In addition to riding his bike, Frank enjoys playing sports as opposed to watching them. He's been known to take part in tennis, basketball, hockey, and he also has a real interest in martial arts. Frank has a daughter and enjoys spending as much time as possible with her and his wife, Tina.

Frank enjoys his job at DLS, and hopes to continue learning more about the dairy industry over the coming years.



# MARCH'S product of the month

ACME is a world leader in the design, manufacturing and distribution of fans, blowers and ventilation equipment. ACME's manufacturing facility in Oklahoma is over 350,000 square feet and is equipped with modern computer assisted machinery and automated tooling. The ACME fan line is completely manufactured in the USA.

Spring is here, and HOT weather will be just around the corner! Get prepared now in your naturally ventilated barns with ACME 54" panel fans. They are super quiet fans and have a CFM rating of 24,400. An ideal set-up in a naturally ventilated barn will include fans over the free stalls spaced every 40' as well as fans on the feed alley. Fans in the stalls keep the cows cool and comfortable and fans on the feed alley encourage the cows to get out of the stalls and eat while still being comfortable. All this to make you more milk! Don't forget to include fans in your pack areas too for your dry cows and fresh cows!

## JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



**1**

**Kastnerville Farms**  
Stratford, ON

Kastnerville Farms will start up in the first week of May. They will transition from a tie stall operation to a new DLS / GEA D-12 parallel parlour. The new dairy barn is complete with two rows of stalls and a pack area where the dry cows and heifers are currently residing.



**2**

**SML Farms**  
Thorndale, ON

The Harris family started milking in their new DLS / GEA D-10 parallel parlour on April 17. They previously milked in a GEA D-6 herringbone parlour. Along with the new milking parlour the cows moved into a new 4 row sand barn that will be skid steer scraped to the cross gutter.



**3**

**Sonneberg Dairy**  
Otterville, ON

The DLS Structure at Sonneberg Dairy is coming along well! This is a 500 cow cross ventilated dairy barn with 8 rows of stalls and 3 feed alleys. The cows will walk through the crossover and old barn to their existing parlour.



## FARMERS & MENTAL HEALTH

Depression. Anxiety. Stress. Panic Attacks. All of these words have something in common - they can affect even the strongest of individuals, and farmers are no exception to this. A survey conducted by Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton from the University of Guelph showed that 35% of Canadian farmers fit the criteria for depression, 58% for anxiety, and 45% for high stress.

At the annual FarmTech conference in Edmonton, a meeting discussing mental health was held. The meeting, filled with farmers and those who worked with farmers, was at capacity. Kim Keller, one of the hosts, asked those in the audience to stand if they knew someone who had taken their own life. Nearly the whole crowd stood. "It's kind of hard to take in and watch but at the same time you realize the impact," said Keller, "They look around that room and they see that they're not the only ones."

It's no wonder why these numbers are so staggering. Farming can be an extremely rewarding career, but it is more than that. Being a farmer is a lifestyle. It's a lifestyle of being always "on". It's hard to get away from it all and take a vacation to unwind and relax. There are many challenges to overcome on a daily basis; the isolation of working in remote areas with very little support can further add pressure and stress.

Deborah Vanberkal, a farmer herself, therapist, and registered psychotherapist with 14 years of counselling experience, is working on bridging the gap between farming and mental health. She holds traditional one on one sessions, as well as sessions by phone and video calls



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## FEATURED POST



**Willem Bouwman**

April 3, 2019 at 7:59 PM

Romantic date with the lady 😊 #CDX2019 Dairy Lane Systems



to accomodate schedules and locations. "Sometimes, all people need is an outlet where they are able to talk about things to a neutral third party," she stated. Her program focuses on combating farmer stressors such as long and irregular hours, isolation, physical labour and dependence on the weather and milk market.

The Ontario government has noticed these challenges, and Ernie Hardeman, the Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs has pledged to support farmers and provide support. In the April 2019 issue of Milk Producer, he wrote, "Farmers are tough, resilient people, but they tend to hold their problems close to their chests. I want farmers affected by these challenges to know they are not alone and that it's OK to reach out and ask for help when daily struggles become too much to bear."