



featured project **ORION HOLSTEINS**

The Van Stuyvenberg family, a family of 6, immigrated from Holland in 1987. They started out milking 90 cows in a tie stall barn across the road from their existing dairy facility. They had 250 acres to crop, and through the years, they continually purchased more land to grow to the 1,350 acres that they now have today. The family worked together on the farm until 1994 when the oldest brother bought a farm and began milking in Teeswater.

Jerry van Stuyvenberg, along with his brother Andy, bought the farm from their parents in 1996. They built an addition on the tie stall barn and expanded the herd to 150 cows. Jerry and Christine were married in 1997, and Christine has always been very active in working on the farm. They used to have many visitors looking to purchase cows at the tie stall barn.

Christine recalls their two children, Leah and Noah, starting their life in a buggy in the tie stall barn. Christine's parents were antique dealers, and she fondly remembers having a mini antique horse cutter that she would pull the kids on while bringing them to the barn during wintertime. As the children grew older, both of them were always very interested in working on the farm, and like many farm kids, their first big responsibility was feeding the calves!

In 1999, Jerry and Andy purchased the current property across the road from the tie stall, and 3 years later, they built their first free stall barn, along with a D-20 parlour. At this time, the herd grew to 350 cows, and during the transition, they continued to milk the older cows in the tie stall. After 5 years in the parlour facility, Jerry and Christine bought out Andy's portion of the farm.

By 2017 they were milking 550 cows, and the barns were full. They wanted to milk more comfortably, and as a large family farm, it was essential for them to milk faster and with fewer people. Achieving this...**Article continues on page 4**



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Happy Canada Day

EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Kalvis Nikiforovs
Construction Labourer



Robert Kramer
Warehouse/Yard Attendant

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Jarod Smith
Welder/Fabricator
Joined DLS September 2019

RECENT PROJECT VIDEOS

Hayfield Jerseys – Start-up Day

Congratulations to the Brand family on a successful start-up last month with their new GEA R9500 robots! The Jersey cows were quite calm during the start-up, and they are transitioning well to the robots.



Elliottdale Holsteins – Morning Milking

Watch Andrew Elliott as he performs the daily morning milking routine at Elliottdale Holsteins! Elliottdale Holsteins transitioned from tie stall to their new parlour and free stall facility last November. You can read their story in our January e-newsletter @ go.dairylane.ca/january



Jarod has been with DLS for just over 9 months. He started in the weld shop and continues to work there, learning new tricks of the trade every day! Jarod enjoys the work he's doing, and he especially likes the variety of projects he experiences daily.

Before joining DLS, Jarod worked at Excellent Signs & Displays as a Custom Fabricator, and he used to build transport trailers as an aluminum welder at Titan Trailers.

When not working, Jarod enjoys riding his Kawasaki ER-6n and spending time with his wife. Another hobby of his is performing vehicle maintenance for family and friends. Since he was 17, Jarod has had his recreational pilot's license, and he flies a couple of times a month in a J3 Cub to keep his license valid.

Jarod loves seeing the expansion at DLS, and it is his goal to continue to grow and develop his knowledge and skills with DLS.

JULY'S product of the month



DLS is the Canadian partner for Easy Swing cow brushes. The Easy Swing cow brushes are unique in today's increasingly automated dairy industry in that they are keeping it simple—no motors or electricity involved.

The cows perform the work by rubbing against the brush and swinging it side to side in a way that the brush can sweep across the cow's back and sides. At a fraction of the price of an electric brush, these brushes can be just as effective without the maintenance of an electric brush. The brush comes in three sizes, large (heifers/cows), medium (heifers), and small (calves). There is also a totem brush available that is ideal for outdoor use and especially popular with horses. See the brochure @ go.dairylane.ca/cowbrush

Check-out this recent video showing bison working on the EasySwing brush! Listen to Mark Shouldice at Big Rock Bison (buff.ca) talk about their experience using this brush outside year-round with their bison. See video @ go.dairylane.ca/bisoneasyswing



JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



1 Carl-Lou Farms Watford, ON

The GEA R9500 milking robot is in place for this retrofit installation! They currently milk in a single 12 parlour, and we expect to start the robot up the week of July 20.

2 Nulandia Dairy Farms Mitchell, ON

The GEA 40 stall rotary installation started up last week! There is a large transition and sorting area in the parlour building. The Biolyнк flush system will clean the holding area, breezeway and scrape alleys in the parlour building. Along with the rotary start-up, the cows moved into their new 500 cow sand barn.

3 Kemmerink Farms Kippen, ON

Installation of a new DLS parlour with used GEA electronics is in progress at the Kemmerink's Kippen location! The parlour building connects to their existing barn, which will be renovated.



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...would allow them to perform most of the other duties on the farm by themselves-thus, the planning process for a new milking facility started.

Choosing to go with a 60 stall rotary, the Van Stuyvenbergs said, "When the opportunity allows, we now have the tools we will need to expand the herd from 600 to 800, and beyond". In April 2020, the new 60 stall stainless steel GEA rotary started up. After only a few months, they have already experienced the benefits they desired. They are milking much faster, and the cows are more comfortable and they fight to get on the deck! In the D-20 parlour, they were milking 27 man-hours per day (3 people milking 9 hours per day, including wash-down). Now in the rotary, they have reduced this to 15 man-hours per day (3 people milking 5 hours per day, including wash-down). They are anticipating an even greater reduction in man hours once the automatic post dipper is installed.

The Van Stuyvenberg family has always been family-oriented. They currently have what they feel to be an awesome team of one full-time employee and five part-time employees, and over the years, they have employed several of their extended family. However, most of the workload is done together, as a family of four. Leah (22) and Noah (18) are both actively working on the farm with intentions to continue to grow the family farm into the future with their parents.

