



BEFORE



AFTER



featured project **CENTRAL DAIRY**

The VanHemert family at Central Dairy had a history of farming, but not in dairy. They were chicken farmers from British Columbia. Pete VanHemert was raised on the family chicken farm, and after completing Ag College, his parents helped him get started on a broiler breeder farm. Pete intended to run and grow that farm, and hopefully, one day, transition it to his future children if they had an interest.

While operating the chicken farm, Pete spent time working for a neighbouring dairy farm where he began to develop a passion for dairy cows. With his wife Andrea, and four children, Pete moved to Ontario in 2011 to prepare to purchase a dairy farm. In 2012 an opportunity arose for them to buy a 100 cow dairy farm in the Belmont area where they began the next chapter of their lives.

The dairy barn they purchased was a 5 row barn with one feed alley and a feeding trough running down the free stall area. They had a stationary mixer that fed cows with conveyor belts over the feeding trough, and they used a feed cart to distribute feed in the feed alley. Heifers were fed with a mixer wagon. In 2015 they had a barn fire where they lost their heifer barn and feed room.

Last year, Mike van Logtenstein stopped in to see how a GEA manure pump was working that Pete had recently purchased from DLS. In conversation, Pete casually mentioned getting a price on building a new barn parallel to his existing barn with a breezeway connection to allow for more room for transition and milk cows. One week later, Mike was back with a quote and a barn drawing, and as he handed Pete the drawing, Pete recalls him saying, *"I'm not happy with the idea. Give me a week or so, and I'm going to come back with an alternative plan."* A week went by, and Mike returned and presented a new idea calling for a complete renovation of the old barn along with...[See more on page 4](#)



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DECEMBER'S product of the month



The Maximus Solution is manufactured in Canada, and they are designed and supported by a team of engineers, tech support and sales with real agriculture experience. Maximus offers a versatile ventilation management solution with ventilation based on temperature, SP, Rh and CO2. It is a scalable, modular solution that can grow with your farm. The Maximus is compatible with a weather station that can manage curtains and circulation fans based on outdoor weather conditions (rain, wind speed and wind direction). The Maximus can be managed remotely in real-time, has robust lightning protection and is complete with a full 5-year warranty based on commissioning.

The Maximus Solution goes far beyond managing just the ventilation systems. They can manage and monitor virtually anything in your barn. To highlight a few practical examples:

- Manage light levels and schedules in your facility
- Manage multiple manure scraper and pump systems
- Monitor feed delivery system and on-farm feed inventory
- Monitor water pressure and consumption
- THI monitoring and real-time notifications
- Power management program
- A complete alarm solution
- Card readers for employee time tracking



JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



1

A.H.E. Dairy Farm Watford, ON

This upcoming 5 x GEA R9500 robot project is progressing well! The DLS inlet curtains were recently installed, and they will be controlled with a Maximus unit. Soon the GEA robots will be put in place. The anticipated start-up date will be in early January.

2

Jeffreholme Farms Thorndale, ON

Congrats to Jeffreholme Farms on making the transition from tie stall to GEA R9500 robots this past month! The barn also features Jourdain stabling, Easy Swing cow brushes, DLS tip troughs, GEA manure equipment, DLS X-brace panel fans, DLS curtains & Maximus control units.

3

Friedridge Dairy Plattsville, ON

Congrats to the Fried family on their start-up this past month! This 6 row perimeter feed barn features Jourdain stabling installed by our dealer, Gerrit's Ag Service. The barn also features DLS tip troughs, GEA manure equipment, DLS X-brace panel fans & Maximus control units.

featured project

CENTRAL DAIRY

continued from page 1

an addition instead of a new barn. In reflection, Pete said, *"This definitely was not on my radar at all, and I most definitely did not see myself proceeding with this plan. Mike recommended that I discuss the options with my family and also to seek out input from other dairy producers to help me make the best decision for our farm."*

Pete did just that. He vividly remembers taking the drawing to his neighbour, Reinoud Verhoef (Verhoef Dairy Farm), who did not take long to tell Pete to go with the renovation over building a new barn with a connecting breezeway! Pete still wasn't totally convinced, but after many discussions with Mike and various producers, he decided to renovate the existing barn and build the addition. Pete said, *"To do this, we needed to send the cows away for 3 months. I am very thankful to New Morning Holsteins and Warby Dairy for agreeing to take my cows and heifers in order for us to proceed with this renovation. Henry Van Ginkel Construction and DLS worked very hard at completing the reno and addition in less than 3 months!"*

The 5 row barn with the feeding trough was converted to a 4 row tail to tail barn with a center feed alley. The barn features Jourdain stabling, DLS tip troughs, Easy Swing cow brushes, GEA manure equipment, the new DLS X-brace panel fans and Maximus control units. The barn now houses milking cows, transition cows and heifers. Some basket fans leftover from the original barn were installed on the heifer side.

Initially, installing a new parlour was not going to be part of the renovation, but discussions to make their existing parlour communicate with the sort gates during milking led to the decision to upgrade the parlour. The holding area was extended, and sort gates were installed at both return lanes. The new parlour is a D-8 DLS/GEA parallel parlour with vertical lift and individual indexing.

Pete says that *"Looking back at our initial plans, and how they evolved, and now experiencing the results of our decisions each day working in the barn and new parlour, I am very happy that we decided to do a complete renovation. Every day when I go to the barn I can't believe how much easier our daily chores are and how enjoyable milking cows is in our new parlour. I can't thank Mike enough for all the work he put into designing the new layout and for coming up with the idea."*

Now the VanHemert's have six children, and they are all active and showing interest on the farm. Throughout this past summer, the children enjoyed watching and helping during the construction phase. Their children are Arie 18, Ashley 16, Hailey 15, Candice 11, Jaclyn 6 and Ava 2.

