

## featured project **CARL-LOU FARMS**

Sisters Katie and Lesley work together to operate Carl-Lou Farms. Having grown up on the farm, they greatly value the farm life and are thankful to have the opportunity to raise their children on the farm as well.

At the age of 12, with a grade 8 education, Katie and Lesley's Grandpa took over running the original Bryson Family Farm when their Great Grandpa's polio had progressed. They were the first farmers in Lambton County to put in a parlour (single 4) because their Great Grandpa loved milking but could only stand. In 1959 their Grandparents purchased their current dairy farm and called it Carl-Lou Farms after themselves, Carl and Lucy Bryson. Over the years, Grandpa Carl has done many things in the farming community, including having a large custom operation, showing cattle, and being a Badger farm equipment distributor. Of all this, his main passion (besides his wife, of course!) was his love of milking!

Between farming, custom work and children, in 1979, Carl needed some help, and he put out a nationwide advertisement for a main herdsman position. Through a long grapevine, Alan Woodfinden applied for the position from England! No one applied to the position locally, so Carl sponsored Alan to come here to live. One thing led to another, and Alan married the love of his life Darlene, Carl's youngest. Over the years, he continued as the main herdsman, and he instilled the love of farming in his two daughters Katie and Lesley.

After their Grandpa Carl passed away, Katie and Lesley purchased the farm with the goal to "bring the farm back to its glory years." Alan had planned to mentor and assist his daughters with the big learning curve that comes with running a farm, but sadly he passed away after a car accident just one year into the sisters owning the farm. Katie and Lesley said, "This tragedy made us more determined to succeed. We are very proud to be an operation that is only female-owned". As young mothers, this is what also pushed them to inquire more about robots when the time...[See more on page 4](#)



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## Orion Holsteins 60 Stall Rotary

Watch the Van Stuyvenberg family at Orion Holsteins talk about their 60 stall stainless steel GEA rotary and see their complete milking process! They started up in the new rotary almost one year ago (March 2020), and you can read their story in our July newsletter @ [go.dairylane.ca/july](https://go.dairylane.ca/july)



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Evan Pranger**  
Stabling Installation/Service  
Joined DLS October 2017



Evan started with us on the DLS Structures team but has since moved to the stabling side of the business.

Before working at DLS, Evan's first job was as a line chef at a restaurant in his hometown of Strathroy. Next, he worked as an automotive technician apprentice; however, he found it too repetitive and decided it was not the right fit for him! Evan drove past DLS while going to work each day, and one day he noticed a sign out front indicating that we were hiring. He decided he'd give it a shot and apply, which turned into his job with the structures team. Three years later, Evan's enjoying the variety in the work he gets to do each day. What he likes most about his career at DLS is the daily on the job learning.

Evan spends much of his spare time helping on his family's hobby farm. The farm is 50 acres with mainly cash crop and hay. They have some sheep and a few speckled park beef cows.

Evan is pursuing his red seal in carpentry and hopes to help with future structures work with the skills and knowledge he is learning. He wants to continue learning and growing at DLS and see what future opportunities come his way.

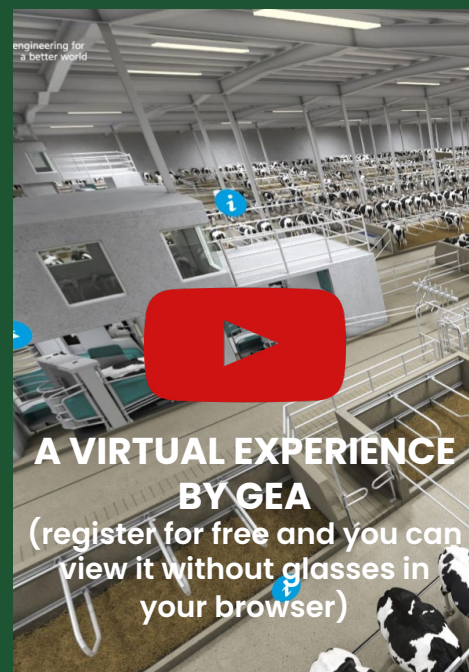


# FEBRUARY'S product of the month

The GEA R9500 milking robot features an open, cow-friendly design with adjustable place dimensions to suit different cow sizes and breeds. There is easy access to the udder for special need cows. A G5 Time-of-Flight (TOF) camera on the MilkRack detects the position of the cow's teats to automatically and precisely apply the teat cups on the teats. This TOF principle allows for maximum attachment reliability in a matter of seconds.

The GEA R9500 is the only robot that performs everything in the liner – teat preparation to milking to post-dip. This creates the most gentle and consistent milking possible for robotic milking. See how this works @ [go.dairylane.ca/GEA\\_In-Liner](https://go.dairylane.ca/GEA_In-Liner)

A 12" touchscreen displays all the milking data. Complete management and monitoring tools are available, including FarmView, a program designed to provide complete and accurate data on the daily operating costs of the GEA R9500. Check out this great video detailing the GEA R9500 features @ [go.dairylane.ca/GEA\\_R9500](https://go.dairylane.ca/GEA_R9500).



## JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



1

**Schipper Farms**  
Aylmer, ON

This D-12 parlour stall reno was completed this past month with a DLS super structure and DLS parlour stalls. There's new life for this parallel parlour with vertical lift rapid exit and individual indexing.

2

**A.H.E. DAIRY FARM**  
Watford, ON

Congrats to the de Jong family on starting up their 5 x GEA R9500 robot project this past month! The new robot barn features a tunnel ventilated DLS Structure with a 6 row perimeter feed layout. There is room for a 6th robot in the future.

3

**Reijnen Dairy**  
St. Mary's, ON

Another older parlour received extended life with a DLS super structure and DLS parlour stalls. This D-10 parallel parlour stall reno features vertical lift rapid exit and individual indexing.



## featured project

# CARL-LOU FARMS

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...came to update their outdated parlour. It was also important for them to find a way to make it work within their current facility.

They decided to go with the GEA R9500 robot in their existing barn, and renovations were made to add sand stalls and a pack behind the robot location. After the robot start-up, the parlour was removed, and a second pack was added in its place. "We are beyond surprised at how well the transition went! Within one week of the start-up, half of the herd had fully adjusted to going through the robot. The ladies love it, and we've seen a big improvement in herd health and our capabilities to monitor and catch illnesses before they happen. The retrofit was a success, and we would encourage others who may be in a similar situation that retrofits are nothing to be shy about. Thank you to the team at DLS who gave us this option and not the typical "no build a new barn" response."

They are a proud half Holstein, half Jersey herd with an average so far of 2.79 robot visits. "38.6 kg is the best average since we started, that number may not seem great to some people out there, but we could hardly break the 28 kg average in our barn with the parlour. With cows entering a higher and longer peak, we have ten cows over 45+ kg, and of those six are over 50+ kg, with one sitting at 63.4 kg at 82 DIM."

Katie and Lesley concluded with, "some of our biggest allies and advisors through this transition and new era on our farm have been Kirkton Vets, our independent nutritionist Tom Palen, and the crew at DLS that became like extended members of our crazy clan!!" In response to Katie and Lesley, we would say crazy or not 🤪, we have enjoyed the opportunity to work with you both!

