



featured project **VIEWHILL HOLSTEINS**

Like many Canadian dairy farmers in Southwestern Ontario, Rene and Bianca Strik immigrated from Holland where Rene grew up working on his family's dairy farm. In 1999, Rene and Bianca bought their first dairy farm in Holland and started farming for themselves. In 2010 they bought a dairy farm in Canada and moved across the ocean with their four children, Daan who is now 16, Lynn (14), Liza (12) and Jill (10). After moving, they built a new 4 row center feed alley dairy barn with a GEA D-10 parallel parlour accompanied with the Daritech Biolynt flush system to clean the parlour and holding area after milking. Milking in the new facility began in October 2011.

In 2013 they bought a second dairy farm and started milking with a Single 10 GEA parallel parlour that started up in October 2014. They also have a steer barn on the second farm where they finish all their bull calves. The Strik's employ a family, Erik and Marije Dijkgraaf, to operate the second farm. The second farm was converted to a robot facility featuring two GEA Monobox robots that started up this past January. The switch to robots on the second facility came down to three reasons (1) the DFIP grant program (2) the ability for one family (Strik or Dijkgraaf) to operate both farms on the weekend and holidays and (3) with the children getting older there will inevitably be less in house labour as they transition into the college years.

With three of the four children interested in farming, this contributes to the drive for the Strik family to keep investing and moving forward with their dairy operations.



1 We're Social Too

There is so much going on at DLS! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

2 Tradeshow Season

We would love it if you dropped in at our booth! Check our tradeshow schedule @ dairylane.ca/tradeshows

3 Dairy Lane Is Hiring

Looking for an exciting career? We hope you will consider working at DLS! Apply @ dairylane.ca/careers

EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



Jason Riva

Warehouse/Yard Attendant



Devon McInroy

Construction Labourer



Mark Wescott | Marketing Coordinator

February with its 28 days flew by and while we are not out of winter weather yet, the hope of spring is near!

February 13th was a big day for DLS. First, despite the nasty snow storm over 1,000 people came out to the open house at Hogendoorn Dairy! We heard of several others who attempted to come out, but due to the weather decided it was best to turn around and go home. Whether you made it out or not, be sure to check out the recap video of the Hogendoorn Dairy Open House at www.go.dairylane.ca/hogendoornrecap!

Also, on February 13th, DLS started up the new 50 stall GEA rotary at Ijsseldijk Dairy! In just two weeks' time on the rotary, the Ijsseldijks' have been milking at a speed of 280 cows/hour! Stay tuned for a DLS video and open house announcement on this project.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Rick Pruder

Route Supply Specialist

Joined DLS December 2003

Rick has perfected the position of Route Supply Specialist in his years here!! It's the only job he's done.

Prior to working here Rick held a few driving jobs. He worked for a greenhouse company, Rosalee Gardens hauling flowers to the US 6 days a week with Wednesdays as his off days. He also did a stint with Brewers Retail delivering beer to hotels and bars, and prior to that he was with Murphy Distributing for 20 years in a Sales capacity.

Rick is an avid Knights fan and is a season ticket holder, he attends most of the London Knights home games! He's a real outdoorsman and often heads to the north country for some relaxing outdoor sporting. Rick has two daughters and enjoys spending time with them and their guys when time allows.

A new puppy has recently joined the Pruder family, Charlie is an adorable 3-month-old black lab, Rick's spending lots of time training him so he can join him on his outdoor sporting excursions! If you haven't seen the YouTube video of Rick singing in front of the London Knights crowd a few years ago you really should check it out! We thought he was Neil Diamond (for real)!! [Watch Video >>](#)



MARCH'S product of the month

To kick-off 2019, GEA has updated the Monobox robot and they rebranded it to the GEA DairyRobot R9500. One of the most innovative features that the DairyRobot R9500 brings to the barn is how the complete milking process takes place in-liner. As soon as the teat cup attaches, the predipping process begins and is followed by drying. When the individual quarters finish milking, the post dipping process begins by applying a dipping agent uniformly to protect against mastitis pathogens.

Even during the milking process, the emphasis on cow comfort is evident as the milking cluster adapts to the cow's movements to avoid exertions on the udder. After milking is complete, the milk cluster moves back into the CIP unit for cleaning both internally and externally to prevent cross contamination between cow milkings.

Data is collected throughout the process as sensors monitor the flow from each quarter to measure milk volume. The optional DairyMilk M6850 can provide real time somatic cell count analysis for each individual quarter to help you monitor and ensure the health of your herd.

If you have questions about the new DairyRobot R9500 please reach out to DLS to learn more about the new system.

JOB PROGRESSION HIGHLIGHTS



1

Ijsseldijk Dairy
Springfield, ON

The cows moved into the new dairy barn and began milking in the 50 stall GEA rotary on February 13. In just two weeks after starting up the cows are being milked at a speed of 280 cows/hour! While the existing dairy barns are flush barns, the new dairy barn flushes the holding area, sort area and pack area and the free stall area is scraped manually.



2

Guntensperger Dairy
Seaforth, ON

On March 5th, the cows moved into the new dairy facility and milked for the first time in the DLS / GEA D-10 parallel parlour. The cows were previously milked on a herringbone parlour which made for a longer start-up, but over these first few days the cows have been adjusting to their new parallel parlour and are getting the hang of it! This is a turnkey DLS project complete with a tunnel ventilated DLS Structure.



3

Hanai Farms
Gowanstown, ON

Hanai Farms will be transitioning from a parlour to a two-robot facility this month. This new facility will feature DCC Waterbeds and Jourdain stabling installed by one of our new Jourdain partners, Gerrit's Ag Service located in the Listowel area.

what's going on in the dairy industry **AN UPDATE ON THE DFIP**

The Dairy Farm Investment Program (DFIP) is in full swing and reports show that more than 500 dairy producers across Canada have been approved by the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

This exciting report means that around \$23.5 million is being invested into the dairy industry. This investment will go towards helping producers fund improvements ranging from cow comfort equipment to automated milking systems.

Canada's minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Lawrence MacAulay, said in a statement:

"The fact that a majority of applicants will have at least one of their projects supported under the DFIP is great news for Canada's dairy producers right across the country. These investments are just one of the many ways the government continues to support the dairy sector to ensure it remains strong."

The DFIP received over 2,500 applications for funding assistance - we hope you were one of them and were able to take advantage of the program to help with improvements on your farm.

If you applied to be part of the DFIP program, just remember that you are required to fill out a detailed application between March 11 and April 5, 2019 as applications received after this date will not be considered!

For more information about the DFIP program, visit www.go.dairylane.ca/DFIP.



FEATURED TWEET



Kees Hogendoorn
@hogendoorndairy

Great turnout for our #hogendoornopenhouse yesterday! Thank you to everyone who came out and to those who tried. Hope everyone had a good time!



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