

HOLSTEIN YOUTH



JUSTIN CROWLEY
CROVALLEY HOLSTEINS, HASTINGS

In partnership with his parents, John and Cynthia Crowley, and brother, Ryan, Justin owns and operates Croyvalley Holsteins in Peterborough County. He is the fifth generation on the farm, which has been in operation for almost 145 years! For most of his life, Justin and his family milked in a tie-stall facility. Then, after studying Agriculture at Kemptville College and upon returning home to farm full-time in 2010, Justin's family made some major improvements, which included installing a liquid manure tank, adding silo bunks for feed, converting to a TMR feed strategy and building a new heifer facility. They also acquired more land, and in late 2016, they built a new robot milking barn. The barn consists of a six-row, sand-bedded, free-stall facility with two Lely robots and room for a third. There is a large pack for calving, 16 stalls for fresh cows, show cows, or any other special needs cows, and four box stalls for show cows. All of these have full access to the robots. Currently, the Crowleys milk 100 cows and have 150 heifers. They made good use of their old facilities after building the robot barn, converting the original tie-stall to a calf barn and renovating the heifer facility to make it into a more efficient show barn.

The Crowleys own 950 acres and rent 400. Most of their land is dedicated to growing their own feed consisting of corn silage, haylage, high moisture corn, and some dry hay for heifers, while the rest is for grain corn and soybeans. At Croyvalley, they breed for a functional cow that milks well. To this end, their barn is equipped with comfy-curve head rails, eight Big Ass Fans, two DeLaval cow brushes, and Isocell curtains as cow comfort is of utmost importance to them. They are a two-time Master Breeder herd and have won many All-Ontario, All-Canadian and All-American Awards.

Justin is a graduate of the Peterborough County 4-H Association, focusing mostly on Dairy Clubs. For many years, he attended the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic at the Royal Winter Fair, where he had Grand Champion Calf in 2005 and was Grand Champion Show Person in 2010. He has been the leader of Peterborough County's 4-H Dairy club for the past two years, is a Director on the Peterborough County Milk Committee, and is now 2nd Vice-President of the Peterborough County Holstein Club. Justin enjoys judging and as a Level 3 Judge, he has judged 4-H shows, Breeder Cup competitions and some regional and county shows across Canada and in the United States.

In the future, Justin and his family would like to improve conception rates and BCA, and continue to grow their herd and quota.



LINDSEY COOK
COOKRIDGE FARMS, WELLESLEY

Lindsey and her husband Robert, along with family purchased Cookridge Farms in Wellesley, Ont., as an ongoing operation in 2015. There, they milk 90 cows in a Double-6 GEA parallel parlour and have 80 heifers in a free-stall barn they've been busy renovating for the past four years. Animal comfort is key for the Cooks. Early in the renovation process, existing mats were removed in the free-stall and switched to DCC waterbeds and shavings. This has improved the cow's feet and legs dramatically. A combination of fans and curtains maintains an even temperature throughout the year and a series of brushes help keep the cows clean. In 2019, the Cook's installed a sprinkler system in order to keep the cows cool and comfortable during the hot months of the year. In the temperature-controlled calf nursery, calves are fed milk in groups with a mob feeder and kept there until they are weaned. Their herd is comprised of registered Holstein cows where a portion of these cows are red and white. Top cows and heifers are bred with sexed semen, while beef bulls are used for cows that are in the bottom portion of the herd and for difficult breeders. A red and white herd bull from one of their best cow families is used as needed.

For Lindsey, a strict breeding program, improved facilities and animal health are the top three best management decisions to focus on in order to ensure a profitable dairy farm. To this end, several changes have been implemented on her farm, including a new breeding program, regular hoof trimming, vaccine programs as well as increased record keeping. Cows at Cookridge are fed a TMR diet via a centre feed alley in the barn. The ration consists of mainly haylage, corn silage, high moisture corn and supplements. Similarly, the heifers and dry cows are fed a TMR ration where energy is balanced with the addition of hay, straw and baleage. The Cook's farm 290 acres (100 owned) of hay, silage corn, grain corn, wheat, and soybeans.

The Cook's have ambitious plans for the future expansion of their operation. These plans include devising a better solution for manure and feed storage while making room for a barn expansion. Eventually they'd like to install robots and expand to milking 120 cows. On the crop side, the Cook's goal is to increase their acreage to support more animals. Though they acknowledge these expansion goals won't happen overnight, a well-organized and creative plan, paired with reduced inputs and greater efficiencies will be key in realizing their goals. Lindsey and Robert are keen and consider themselves very fortunate to have the opportunity to be dairy farmers.

Lindsey works for Select Sires Genervations as a Genetic Advisor and also has a purebred Suffolk sheep flock. She is very active in her community and is a passionate runner and hockey player. Currently she plays goalie for the Wilmot Senior B team and competed provincially with the team this spring. Lindsey has always been involved in 4-H and her farm has played host to several meetings. She is currently a member of the Waterloo Holstein Breeders Club as well as a DPC Member for Waterloo County. She enjoys being part of her community and loves to learn, meet new people and volunteer her time to causes she deems important.



JILL MCCALLUM
SHYLANE HOLSTEINS, STRATFORD

Jill McCallum of Shylane Holsteins, along with her husband, Kurtis Moesker, and parents, John and Sheryl McCallum, milks 115 cows with a Double-10 parallel parlour in a sand-bedded free-stall barn which was newly built in 2016. They also start Holstein steers and finish veal and crop 350 acres of mostly corn and alfalfa. Prior to 2015, the family had a tie-stall system and milked 70 cows. After a devastating barn fire that year, the McCallums were forced to start over. They were fortunate enough to not lose their herd in the fire, but the transitional year of moving to the new barn presented an extremely steep learning curve, not only for the cows, but for the family as well. Before the fire the family had 21 EX cows, but only six survived and came with them to the new barn. This drastically affected their breeding program because that was the majority of their brood cows. Jill is proud of her family's resiliency and ability to adapt to the new system and is thankful that the cows that didn't survive still left their genetic mark. Shylane's current classification is 10 ME, 12 EX, 43 VG, 39 GP, 1 G and 15 NC.

Jill and Kurtis milk in the morning and Jill and John milk again in the afternoon. Their milking ration is forage-based, while their dry cow ration is straw-based. Jill handles all of the paperwork and day-to-day management of herd health, reproduction and vaccines. Breeding decisions are made by Jill and John and all eight rations for the dairy and beef operation are overseen by John. Kurtis manages the entire beef operation and does all of the bedding for the barns. On average they bring in 50 new calves per week for the beef operation. They have two full-time employees for the beef operation and several part-time students to feed calves.

In 2011, Shylane Holsteins was honoured to receive a Master Breeder Award. They family breeds for stylish yet functional, high-producing cows and pays close attention to rear legs, thurl placement, and pin set as they have become aware of the importance of athleticism when it comes to making breeding decisions. They also focus on sires with "Immunity+" and those that carry the A2A2 trait. Recently, they have been considering implementing the use of beef semen for problem breeders and bottom-end cows to hopefully improve conception. Jill stresses the importance of registration, classification and milk recording and believes this is the only way to effectively benchmark to ensure they are on par with others in the industry. As well, they base a lot of their breeding strategy off of the data they receive. On the dairy side, the family plans to continue buying quota and land, as well as add some minor touches in the barn (fan and brushes) to improve cow comfort. A commodity shed and a large beef barn are in the works for the beef operation this summer, to cut down on time spent feeding and allow the family the ability to manage the herd more closely.

Jill is a member of Perth County 4-H Dairy Club and has represented Perth County seven times at the 4-H Dairy Classic. She was a Director on the Perth County Holstein Club and Perth-Waterloo Holstein Show Committee. Jill was the Chairperson for her Dairy Barn Management Class at Ridgetown and was the top student in Animal Science. Jill is the mother of three young children and hopes to pass on her love for the Holstein breed and inspire them to one day join the industry.



STEVE OOSTERHOF
JOB0 FARMS, NORTH AUGUSTA

At JOB0 Farms, Steve Oosterhof (along with his wife, Lindsay, and boys, Isaac, Judah, Reuben and Levi) works closely with his parents (Henry and Evelina) and uncle and aunt (Alex and Julie) to run a successful 110-cow operation. While all family members work together to support one another, Steve focuses on the management of the herd and his dad cares for the calves and keeps the farm books. Steve's uncle looks after the machinery and crops and makes the feed mixes each day. The farm consists of 600 acres (450 owned) on which hay, haylage, corn silage, grain corn, and soybeans are grown. Both heifers and dry cows are fed a base TMR and are topped up with grain and hay and the milking herd is fed a TMR mix twice a day with some pellets fed while being milked in the robotic milker.

Cows and heifers at JOB0 are housed in a free-stall barn outfitted with two Lely A4 robots, while calves are kept in a new calf pack barn until four months of age, being fed with the use of an automatic calf feeder for first two months. Steve's goal with breeding is to breed for a balance of type and production to continue the breeding success that JOB0 Farms has had in the past. The farm has bred 16 Excellent cows over the years with some of the highlights being JOB0 Seaver Ainsly EX-94 US, who was a class winner at World Dairy Expo's Junior Show; and her daughter, JOB0 Jett Air Amber, who claimed first 3-Year-Old at the 2017 EOWQ Championship Show. Steve's ultimate goal is to have a herd of good type cows that make volumes of milk with high components. The Oosterhofs strive to have their herd producing over 1.4kg of fat per day and Steve's goal is to get 50 per cent of the herd Very Good or better! They use sexed semen on their top cows and some heifers and have started using beef semen on some of their bottom end cows.

Since returning home to farm full-time 11 years ago, Steve has initiated several changes. He helped his family with decisions to build a new robot barn seven years ago, to put on an addition to the robot barn for heifers two years ago and to add a calf barn with a calf automated feeder most recently. Herd health visits are now scheduled every two weeks, instead of every three or four, and he introduced genomic testing. The Oosterhofs just got their first batch of results back and are looking forward to improving their herd this way, with genomic testing possibly becoming the norm. Of all the changes implemented, Steve is most proud of the improvements made to the animal housing facilities. Though the calves from that first group have not yet calved out, Steve is impressed by how well the group is growing and how healthy they are. Steve believes the use of genomic testing, sexed semen, and automated feeding will produce the financial advantages needed on the dairy farm. Having already implemented these management tools at different levels he is interested in some day introducing a completely automatic feeding system in order to reduce labour requirements, increase milk production and lead to profitability.

Steve participated in 4-H Dairy Calf programs for five years and has been on the Leeds-Grenville Holstein Club for almost a decade, serving two years as President. For the past 10 years, he has also volunteered as a leader in the Boys' Program at his church and has been Head Counselor there for the past three years.



ONTARIO DAIRY YOUTH 2019 AWARD WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 WINNERS OF THE ONTARIO DAIRY YOUTH AWARD!

Established in 1980, the competition recognizes young people aged 25-35 who are actively involved in the operation of a dairy farm, who have demonstrated leadership and taken an active role in their communities. These talented winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip to World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin this fall. The Ontario Dairy Youth Award is funded through the Ontario Dairy Youth Trust Fund and the Ontario Holstein Branch.