

## Dairy Day Bios

### **Dr. Kelly Barratt DVM:**

Dr. Kelly Barratt is a large animal veterinarian and part owner of Heartland Veterinary Services with locations in Listowel, Mount Forest and Drayton. She grew up in Tara and now lives with her husband on a small farm just north of Listowel. Kelly is passionate about being a dairy veterinarian and specializes in Udder Health. She is on the executive of the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners. Recently, Kelly was involved in the roll out of the CQM program in Ontario by training all of the veterinary advisors across the province.

### **Robert Larmer B.Sc. (Hon.), CSP:**

Robert was raised on a small dairy farm in Blackstock, Ontario, Canada. He & his parents continue farming approximately 500 acres of crops and milking 30 head of registered Holstein cattle.

Robert received his B.Sc. from the University of Guelph in 2007 where his major was animal biology with a focus on dairy nutrition. After graduation, Robert worked as a Dairy Specialist with the nutrition company Grand Valley Fortifiers for just over a year before joining Pioneer Hi-Bred in the summer of 2008 as the Dairy Key Accounts Manager for Canada.

Robert is responsible for providing technical leadership for on-farm nutritional troubleshooting as well as how Pioneer nutritionally profiles and develops corn, alfalfa and forage and grain additive products to meet the needs of the livestock industry. He works closely with both Pioneer management and sales representatives to ensure the needs of Canada's dairy producers are being met by Pioneer brand products. Robert resides in Blackstock, Ontario with his fiancée Katelyn McEachren.

### **David Davenport:**

David is partners with his father and brother in a dairy and crop farm. He and his wife Julie have two daughters.

### **Ralph Dietrich**

Dairy Farming with my family at Mildmay Ontario. Milking 60 Holstein cows. The next generation is in the process of integrating into the farm business. Past member and chair of Bruce County Milk Comm. Past director and chair of Gay Lea Foods Cooperative Ltd. Currently board member on DFO for Region 11 which consists of Grey and Bruce Counties.

### **Jerry McDowell:**

Gerard (Jerry) McDowell is the Canadian Business Manager for Zinpro Performance Minerals. He has been with Zinpro since 1996. His particular area of interest is dairy cattle lameness.

Prior to his employment with Zinpro; Jerry worked 10 years at Agway, Inc. in the Northeast U.S. During that time he held various positions including on-farm sales, technical support and nutrition/formulation.

Jerry grew up working on dairy farms in northern New York State. He is a graduate of Cornell University with a B.S. in Animal Science and Microbiology.

He makes his home in Canastota, NY where he lives with his wife Elizabeth and their 2 children Leah and Ryan. Jerry enjoys all sorts of outdoor activities including fishing and hunting. He is also plays adult ice hockey.

**Atul Bali:**

**Jim Algie:**

Jim received a B.A. from York University in English Literature, in 1972. He was employed by the Owen Sound Sun Times, where he was farm reporter for 30 years.

**Jeremy Scheurwater, Scheurleena Farms Ltd**

Jeremy is the second youngest of four boys to John and Ann Scheurwater. Growing up, the family farmed veal and gradually switched over to milk in two separate dairy barns with parlours. Jeremy, his parents and older brother Michael operate the 220 milking head dairy farm which consists of 700 acres. In 2010, Scheurleena changed one of the parlours over to a Galaxy Robotic Milking system. Today, Jeremy and his wife Sheena live next door to the home farm with their daughter Brooklyn.

**Henry Reinders, Reinderock Farms**

Reinderock Farms was created in 1988 when Henry and Shirley Reinders took over the family farm from Henry's parents who bought the 200 acre home farm in 1963. Today the farm consists of 480 acres with 315 workable. Henry works in partnership with his sister and brother-in-law, Larry and Brenda Foster who own and rent a further 200 acres. They milk 60 purebred Holstein cattle in a single DeLaval VMS. Crops grown include alfalfa/timothy for haylage and hay, corn for silage, and barley to feed the livestock while spring wheat, soybeans and extra hay are grown and sold as cash crops. Dry corn and feed supplements are purchased to complete the dairy ration.

**Frank Kieftenburg, Kieftenburg Holsteins Ltd**

Frank bought the farm in 1989 as a single guy. 150 acres with 40 dairy cows. First year he shipped about 200,000 ltrs of milk. Old bank barn, with 46 stall tie-up barn. Old house and buildings but good land.

In 1990 he met me, Ella (here for a year with a work permit from Holland) and we married in 1991. We kept buying quota every month to try to get ahead. In 1994 we build our first free stall barn. We put a used double 6 milkparlor in there. That barn held 69 free stalls and by that time we had doubled our quota and increased the milk production. We kept buying quota and when we were milking 90 cows in this barn it was time to do something else. So in 2003 we decided to build a new dairy barn. After looking at all options for parlours Frank talked to somebody that has Lely milkrobots and after talking to him he wanted to check it out. So to make a long story short, we build the barn and put 1 milkrobot in (Lely A-2). So we moved 60 cows in the new facility to get milked in the robot, and the other 30 we milked in the parlour in the older barn. That was not really the greatest to be milking with 2 systems, so the next summer robot nr 2 went in. And that has been working very well for us. In 2007 we were approached by Lely if we wanted to update our robots. (same as with cars, every few years

there is a new model coming out) And since we were getting a lot of visitors at this point they were looking for a place where they could show their latest model. So we said yes and both A-2 robots were replaced with the A-3 model. They have a few advantages over the A-2 model and those A-3's are still in the barn. We are milking about 130 cows right now and last year we shipped 1.375 million litres of milk. In 2008 we bought 100 acres of land about 7.5 km up the road. We have the customworker for planting, fertilizing and harvesting, other than that we do the fieldwork ourselves. Barnchores can be done by 1 person. (it is still a family operation so we all chip in whenever needed) We have no hired help at all.

We also updated our heifer and dry cow facilities over the years. Dry cows are on straw bedding and can go inside or outside as they please. 2 weeks before calving we put them in the calving pen so we can keep an eye on them (in the winter months) In the summer months they calve outside.

Calves are on a Lely Calm feeder. We feed them colostrum for 3 days, and then the heifer calves go on the feeder. Bull calves get picked up once a week and are bottlefed while they are on our farm.

We were blessed with 5 children. 2 boys and 3 girls. The oldest is 19 and the youngest is 8 years old. The oldest is in his last year at Kemptville (part of the University of Guelph) and is planning to come home next summer. 2 girls are attending Listowel District Secondary School and the youngest 2 children are attending Listowel Christian School.