

Follow the Build on Twitter



Ontario Harvestore's Growing Family of Harvestore Owners

Marcel and Annika Steen, of Celmar Dairy Ltd. are progressive in their decisions with their new dairy operation. Purchasing their dairy farm in 2006, their first endeavor was to build a new barn to house their 140 cow purebred Holstein herd. On April 6, 2007 they began milking in their new facilities complete with Lely robotic milkers.

Feeding at Celmar Dairy has continued to be a labour intensive task. The home farm, operated by Marcel's brother, Remko, supplies feed from the bunker silos to Marcel's farm. Marcel has transported feed from the home farm for the past six years. While the bunker silos offered an efficient alternative at the time, Marcel realized that if he wanted to improve his feed storage and have more control and precision of feeding times, he needed to look at alternative storage. Understanding the benefits of automation, Marcel and Annika researched how further automation of their new expanding dairy operation would provide more precision and quality to their feed. As well, reduced times would enable them to focus on other aspects of their dairy operation and also provide some flexibility allowing them to spend valuable time with their children Jasmine, age 2 1/2 and her brother Alex, 15 months.

Ontario Harvestore Systems provided information on feeding, nutrition and storage options. Marcel and his father, Herman visited a number of dairy farms in Manitoba to see how automation had become an integral part of these advanced operations. In addition visits were made to the Thornlea Farm of Scott and Victoria Carson as well as the family farm of Mike and Melissa Hansma at Drayton. Overcoming skepticism and reestablishing the family's confidence in the first-in first-out feeding capability of the XL unloader became apparent at the Thorncreek dairy located at Drayton. Home of the first XL 400 unloader installed six years ago this farm bears witness to the significant advances Harvestore has achieved with the XL technology. Following the farm visits, the decision to build two forage units with XL 600HD unloaders and one cone bottom high moisture corn unit was made.

The building of the 3 new Harvestore structures is an exciting time at the Celmar Dairy farm. Under the careful direction of Ontario Harvestore's project manager Sean McSpadden the first two 28' x 110" forage structures are currently being built. With experience and knowledge both in agriculture and industrial tank building, Sean can provide Celmar Dairy the assurance of delivering a precision controlled feed management system for their future.

Marcel and Annika continue to work hard, committed to build their dairy operation to produce an excellent quality product that meets the demanding standards of the Canadian Quality Milk (food safety) program.

Watch the Progress - The construction of the Harvestore structures including regular updates are closely being followed by a growing number of followers on Ontario Harvestore System's twitter account; @ontharvestore



Celmar Dairy Ltd. - Annika & Marcel Steen, their daughter Jasmine and son Alex, (shown above) feel their move towards precision feeding with Harvestore will allow them more flexibility with their time.