

Dun-Ravin Acres



Calvin McConnell was building farm silos in Aylmer when a group of cows standing along a neighbour's fence caught his eye. That eventful day in 1951 saw him purchase and bring the first 2 Brown Swiss cows to his father's farm in Bruce county. Purchasing his uncles farm in 1954, Dun-Rovin Acres has bred, worked with, promoted, enjoyed and loved Brown Swiss.

The current herd of 65 cows are housed in 44 tie-stalls with pack pens and milked in a double six parlour. Newborns are started in a calf barn with individual suites; then moved to a canvas covered heifer facility until ready to calve then brought to the cow barn. Dry cows and heifers are pastured.

Animals have found new homes in many provinces and countries including USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Russia, United Kingdom and Australia with some bulls in AI.

Displaying and showing has played a big part in promoting Brown Swiss including displays at the Royal Winter Fair leading to celebrating the first Brown Swiss show at the Royal in 1976 with Grand Champion female, Premier Breeder and Exhibitor. Numerous successes have been achieved over the years in the show ring. Cattle are presented at every opportunity, be it school fairs, milking competitions or when travellers stop on the road to see the cattle lined up along our fences, hoping you'll come to give a little scratch under the cheek.

Functional cattle of correct type, adequate production and the quiet gentle nature of the breed have been the focus everyday by the 3 generations of caretakers. Current classification is 3 ME, 2 EX, 33 VG, 21 GP, 5 G, 2F. Current herd average is 10,885 kg Milk, 483 kg Fat, 387 kg Protein, BCA 272-295-269.

Family has played the biggest and most important role. Calvin and Norma have been very active over the years in the Brown Swiss breed at national and provincial levels and with their children, Mark, Shannon and Geoffrey in 4-H activities. Mark's wife Rosanne works fulltime off the farm, oldest daughter Bailey since graduating college looks after milking and other daily duties, while other daughter Ashley helps out when home from college. Rosanne, Bailey and Ashley maintain a small Limousin herd and market cattle which has taken them across Canada and internationally. Son Geoffrey farms in Saskatchewan with his family.

The farm has grown from 175 acres to 700 with all feed home grown and some cash cropped, there is also a 45,000 bird broiler enterprise.

We are thankful for the many friendships the Brown Swiss cattle have brought to our lives and the honour of receiving this Master Breeder Award.



Shady Lane Swiss Farm



The Shady Lane Swiss farm has been in the family since 1833. It started as the Armstrong family farm & then was passed on to Barrie Drummond from his Aunt Bess Armstrong in the late 1970's. It was a Shorthorn beef cattle farm at the time.

In the early 1980's, Barrie and Diane made the decision to go into Cream production. The herd consisted of grade Jerseys, Holsteins and a few crossbreds. In 1985 the opportunity to purchase some Brown Swiss from James Wallace of Twin Creeks farm of Cobden, Ontario arose. They chose to register them under the Shady Lane Swiss prefix, and this started them on their Brown Swiss adventure!

In the early 1990's, they had the opportunity to exchange their Ontario cream quota to Quebec fluid milk quota, which they did and started shipping fluid milk. By 1997 the herd was comprised of 100% registered Brown Swiss. The Drummond children all showed Brown Swiss calves as their 4-H projects. This led to being selected for both regional championships as well as the Scotia Bank 4-H Championship in Toronto. This started the show bug that took them to Expo cite in Quebec City, the Spring show in Ste-Hyacinthe and the RAWF in Toronto.

Ken graduated from MacDonald College in the spring of 1999, and joined the farm as a partner. Shannon and Ken were married in 2007, and welcomed their son Riley in the spring of 2010 and daughter Keira in the spring of 2013. The farm has experienced many changes through the years. They still have many Brown Swiss, but also now have Holsteins, which were acquired when they bought a farm nearby with its cows and quota in 2002. In 2011 they purchased part of the Drummond Homestead farm when Barrie's brother retired from farming. Presently they milk approximately 55 cows and have around 135 head of cattle.

Some achievements with their Brown Swiss over the years include 3 consecutive years of winning Premier Breeder and Exhibitor at the Royal and Champion Brown Swiss at the Quebec Brown Swiss Spring Show with Crimson Maple Igloo. They recently had the #1 Canadian GLPI cow with Shady Lane Swiss BRKNGS Alpha and bred the present #1 GLPI Canadian bull Shady Lane Swiss Apex et.

To date they have raised 30 excellent animals, 25 of which carried the Shady Lane Swiss prefix. Their BCA stands at 230-239-227.

Farming has always been a passion for their family, and has provided many opportunities. The family enjoys showing cattle locally, educating the public on where milk comes from and how it is produced. They hope that future generations will also share their passion for farming, and appreciate the lifestyle it allows!

