

# 2011 World Dairy Expo Virtual Farm Tour

## Meadow Vista Dairy Bainbridge, PA



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Quality Liquid Feeds, Inc.

## Meadow Vista Dairy Bainbridge, PA

### Focus:

- Producing Quality Forages
- Limiting Phosphorus and Nitrogen Runoff
- Recording Crop, Feed and Animal Costs





Risser Family

Jason, Jessica, Jordan, Laura, Gerald, Joyce, Luke, Don, Mim, Austin, Eric, Heidi, Justin (holding Gideon), Melissa, and Tanya Baldwin.

Luke and Austin are sons of Eric and Heidi.

## Ownership/Management

- Partners
  - Brothers
    - Don (since 1972)
    - Gerald Risser (since 1980)
  - Eric, Don's son (since 1999)
  - Justin, Gerald's son (since 2011)
- Day to Day to Day Operation
  - Tanya Baldwin – 13 years
  - Gerald's sons
    - Jason – 8 years
    - Jordan – 3 years



## Industry Awards

- Pennsylvania Master Farmer
- 2010 PA Dairy Industry Pacesetter
  - Implemented a profit team through the Center for Dairy Excellence
  - Profit team meets 3 to 4 times a year



## Recent History

- Milked 270 cows before a fire burned the calf barn and hay barn in 2002
- Rebuilt calf barn in 2003 & restructured feeding layout due to fire damage in feed mixing area
- Build and expanded in 2006-2007
- Increased cow herd from 300 to 750
- In 2008, built another calf barn and calf weaning barn

## Labor

- 9 Full Time
- 5 Part Time
- Tanya Baldwin, longtime employee and herds person



## Dairy Details

- 648 Milking Cows
- 1,323 Total Number of Livestock
- 3 x milkings at 4:00AM, 11:30AM, 7:45PM
- Double 16 Rapid Exit Herringbone
- In 2010, increased milk production by 1,000,000 lbs.



## Dairy Details

- 29,357 RHA
- 982 Fat lbs.
- 3.71% Fat
- 847 Protein lbs.
- 2.96 Protein %



## SCC

- DHIA 12 months- 116,000
- Actual 12 months- 102,000
- Eliminate problem cows
- Focus on cow comfort & stall mgmt.
- Consistent employees



## Cow Comfort



## Facilities

- Transition Barn
  - Dry cows on sand
  - Hospital group on sand
  - Fresh cows on sand
  - Springing cows on bedded pack



## Facilities

- Free Stall Barn

- Six Row Barn
- 512 Stalls
- Deep-Bedded Sand



# Parlor



## Calf Management

- Use a custom grower for half of heifers in 4-12 month range.
- Limited space and acreage
- Goal to keep all animals on the farm



## Young Stock

- Weaning barn for 2-4 months
- Virginia-style barn for 4-12 months
- 140 head raised by local grower because of lack of space at home farm
- In 2010, sold approximately 60 head for dairy and maintained full facilities



## Reproduction

- 29% pregnancy rate
- Own ultrasound
  - Saves time- not waiting for vet
  - Use 3 days a week
  - Saves money- estimate \$12,000/year
- Do own reproductive work with ultrasound



## Sires

- Currently using these sires:
  - Freddie, Super, Gerard, Shout, Garret, Million, Doberman, Bigshot
- Notable sires used include:
  - Toystory, Sharky, Hosea, Paramount, Satire
  - Stopper, Marsh, Encino, Darren, Sebastian

# Transition Cow Management

- Close-up Dry Cows
- Maternity Pen
- Fresh Cow Pen



## Feeding

- Trailer type vertical mixer used to feed all animals over 5 months old
- Nutritionist walks the herd every 2 weeks
- Test feed every two weeks as forage changes



QLF

- Customer since 2005-fits into feed program
- Reduces sorting
- Increases palatability
- Supplies sugars and energy
- More consistent intakes



## Environmentally Friendly

- In 2008, became 100% no-till cropping
- Use alfalfa and cover crops to limit erosion
- Allocate land to use fertilizer as efficiently as possible
- Rye double cropped with corn
- Rye as a cover crop
  - Reduces phosphorus & nitrogen runoff
  - Reduces soil erosion
  - Forage for heifers



## 740 Acres of Crops

- Do all of own planting and harvesting
- 425 acres of corn silage double cropped with rye forage
- 150 acres corn grain
- 130 acres alfalfa
- 20 acres small grain
- 15 acres grass hay
- Own all equipment
- Buy 50% of corn



## Forage Storage

- Upright silo for corn silage, alfalfa haylage and ryelage
- Total capacity of 14,000+ tons
- Hopper bottoms bins with augers used for soy bean meal, soy hulls, bakery, bulk mineral, etc.
- 5 bay commodity shed for chopped hay and straw



## Exact Costs

- Calculate fuel consumption per acre
- Detailed feed, animal and crop records
- Know exact cost of per ton of each crop of corn silage, haylage and ryelage
- Reduces wasted feed
  
- Helps
  - Allocate which crops are grown
  - How much fuel is used to plant & harvest
  - How much fertilizer to apply

## Manure Handling

- Sand/flush system with sand settling lane to recycle sand
- Three stage in ground lagoons for solids separation
- Total capacity of approximately 6 million gallons





## Community Involvement

- Local 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders have toured for over 20 years!
- All are very involved in their respective churches
- Gerald
  - – past board member of Lancaster DHIA
- Don –
  - Mount Joy Co-op
  - President
  - Board Member for 30 years
  - Dairy Lea Cooperative Board Member

## Future

- Turn it over to the next generation
- Need to add acres but rent is high and there is lots of competition for land
- Volatility of feed and milk prices



## Thank you

