



## Scholze Family Farms, 2017

### Pasture-Raised Beef

We're counting down the weeks until our first group of pasture-raised steers are ready! During the past couple years, we have been transitioning our dairy herd from Holstein to Jersey cows. During this transition, we learned that Jerseys are highly sought after as beef animals for their taste, marbling, and tenderness. We decided to raise some steers on available pasture, and to approach selling it in a non-traditional way: through a subscription box service.



Customers who order a subscription box will receive around 8 pounds of beef monthly or every other month. Beef is processed by Augusta Meats, frozen, packaged, and shipped directly to our customer's doorstep. This way, people who don't have storage space for a large portion of meat can still enjoy farm-raised beef. We still have beef halves and quarters available locally for those who are interested but are focusing more on smaller quantities. Get in touch with us if you're interested in trying out our subscription service. We also have a gift option that would be a great idea for that hard-to-shop-for person on your Christmas list!



Ryan and Jill Stubrud

### Heifer Grower Partners

This year I would like to take an opportunity to highlight two partnerships that we have to help us raise our heifer calves. We keep all of our calves here on the farm for the first two and a half months after they are born. During this time they are fed milk, grain and water, and are also vaccinated to protect against disease. They are kept in groups of 4 to allow for social interaction and to help with warmth in the winter. After they are weaned about half of them stay here on the farm. The other half go to Ryan and Jill Stubrud's farm, located between Humbird and Alma Center. Here they are fed hay, grain and water by the Stubrud family until they are approximately 6 months old.

At 6 months of age all of the heifers, those at Stubrud's and those here at the home farm are taken to Ihle Farms in Osseo. Under the guidance of Mark Martinson and Matt Torpen they are raised from 6 months and return to our farm approximately 4 weeks before they have a calf. During this time they are fed a TMR ration that is designed by our nutritionist to keep them healthy and growing properly. At 12 months of age, working in partnership with Select Sires they are mated and bred to a Jersey bull to take advantage of the best available genetics, which will give us a calf and someday a cow who will be a healthy producer of high quality milk for processing into butter and cheese.

Pregnancy is confirmed by a veterinarian here and approximately 4 weeks prior to calving they return to our farm to have a calf and begin their career as a milking cow.

## 2017 Intern



Morgan Westover, from Ohio State University, spent two months with us this summer as our 2017 intern. Morgan is an Animal Science major, so she was happy to spend her days working with cows and calves. She helped to create a series of standard operating procedure videos that we will use on the farm to help train new employees.

## Farm Visitors



We had some fun visitors this fall—Steven Haryono and Johan Kausyar are farmers from Indonesia who are working on building a dairy there.

## Humbird FunDays

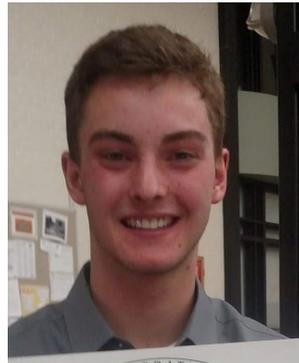
This year we chose to display our chopper in the Humbird Fun Days Parade. Will drove with help from his co-pilot Liam, and Zoie and Owen were the official candy-throwers for the event.



## Scholarship Winners

Each year Scholze Family Farms awards a \$500 scholarship to each of our local school districts. The recipient is a senior who plans on attending further education in an agriculture field.

This year's winners: Lauren Anderson from the Alma Center-Merrillan-Humbird school district, and Jacob Bradley from Osseo-Fairchild.



## 4th Annual Land Partner Picnic

This summer we had a fantastic turnout for our 4th Annual Land Partner Picnic. We enjoyed pulled beef and pork, along with sides catered by Pigeon Falls Meats, and ice cream for dessert. The weather cooperated and we had a perfect day to spend a couple hours on the farm. Thanks to everyone who joined us for lunch.



## Cropping Update



I think the 2017 cropping year will go down as one that certainly caused us some headaches along the way! We started with a late, wet spring. —a very short window to get crops planted in a timely manner. One thing I am always proud of is the job our crew does to hit small windows and get our work done when we need to. We had to plant around a few wet spots, and finished planting soybeans after we finished first cutting alfalfa, which is rare for us! The heavy rains we experienced in the spring were discouraging, and unfortunately caused a lot of washing in fields.

Haying was another challenge. We ended up needing to use tractors to pull the trucks through the fields during both first and second cuttings. Putting ruts in hay fields is not what we want to do, but getting hay made at the proper maturity is one of the most important things that a dairy farm can do, so we did what we had to! Despite the challenges the hay yielded well and quality was good on most of it.

Corn silage went well, fields had dried up from all of the heavy rains, and we had nice yields.

From corn silage we go to soybean harvest. The weather turned damp again, and soybeans are finicky with moisture at harvest, so while the yields were nice on soybeans it was a challenge to get them off! We ended up hiring some help combining them, and glad that we did! Soybean yields were slightly above average.

We finished up with grain corn. Harvest went fairly well, we did get a larger grain drier, so had some headaches in getting that up and running, but it did help speed up the drying process. Corn yielded nicely, not quite as well as last year, but solidly above average.

## Right Fertilizer, Right Time

We use fertilizer to help our crops grow. Each crop has different needs, and each field has different needs. We soil sample fields to help us decide how much fertilizer to put on each field; most of this is put on in the spring “pre-plant”.



One of the most important fertilizers for corn is nitrogen. The problem with nitrogen is that the corn plant uses the majority of it later in the growing season. Nitrogen is much more “mobile” than other nutrients, meaning rain can leach it into rivers and streams, where it can be harmful to aquatic life, and does the corn no good!. That is why you see us “side dressing” our corn with nitrogen. We have a couple ways we can do this, but most recently we have been doing it with drop hoses on the sprayer. Hoses hang off the booms, and drag on the ground, sprinkling the liquid fertilizer in between the rows. If the nitrogen splashes on the leaves, you will see it burn the leaves, it looks almost like frost damage. The corn plant quickly grows out of this. The hope is the corn plant quickly uptakes the fertilizer before it leaches away.

Keep up with us year around



[www.facebook.com/scholzefamilyfarm](http://www.facebook.com/scholzefamilyfarm)



[www.scholzefamilyfarms.com](http://www.scholzefamilyfarms.com)



[www.twitter.com/theo\\_farms](http://www.twitter.com/theo_farms)



[www.instagram.com/scholzefamily/](http://www.instagram.com/scholzefamily/)



*All the best from our family to yours*

## School Involvement

This year we had several opportunities to get involved with local schools to help promote ag education. Theo teach cow anatomy in an ag class, presented about value-added products to an econ class, and had Lincoln high school students out to the farm for a tour.



## Farm Kids

