

FARM news



Fall/Winter 2014

Busy Year for Projects

As the farm continues to grow to support the extra families that are now involved, we have added a couple of new buildings. In the summer of 2013, we put up the first half of a 100-head freestall barn to the west of the original barn. This summer it was completed, and now houses an additional 100 cows.

In an effort to promote cow comfort and health, we are just beginning another project, a barn that will house all our dry cows. This will keep them inside a majority of the time, in a controlled environment where they will be comfortable and out of the elements.

We have also made improvements to our calf facilities and milk house, and keep busy with many other small projects when there is time.



Concrete alleys in the freestall barn



Beginning concrete work on dry cow barn



Addition to calf-feeding facilities



Finishing second half of the new freestall barn

Dairy News

By Theo Scholze. Since I concentrate on the dairy aspect of the business and so probably am not as familiar to many of you as Will is please let me take a minute to introduce myself. My name is Theodore Scholze, I am the oldest of Marv and Minnie's kids. I am married to Sarah and we have two kids, Zoie, 4 and Owen, 3. Sarah is an accountant by training so has been immensely important in helping Will and I transition into an ownership role on the farm.

As 2014 draws to a close we look back on what was a very busy year and say thanks for your help in making it possible. This past year we have added 150 milking cows to our herd which necessitated the building of the last phase of our free stall barn at our current state. By the end of the calendar year we will be near 500 milking cows which is roughly the maximum we can comfortably house in this facility. However, this rapid expansion did lead to one other need, our housing for dry cows and replacement heifers has become inadequate so we are in the process of building a new dry cow barn that will allow for more comfortable and cleaner housing for our animals. We are hoping on being able to move into this barn before winter is over.

One other thing that we tried as an experiment this year was raising some of our bull calves to feeder steers before selling them, This has opened up some new opportunities and connections and we will see where it leads us. We have tossed around the idea of finishing out some beef for local sale but currently don't know the level of interest, nor do we have the facilities. Please let us know if there is an interest in that and we will take into account as we plan for the future.



Owen loves the calves!



Calves waiting for their next meal

*Enjoying lunch
in the materni-
ty barn.*



Brand new baby over the summer

Planting and Harvest 2014

By Will Scholze. Spring planting in 2014 got off to a slow start with the cold and wet weather. We finally got all our crops in, which included grain and silage corn, soybeans, alfalfa, sorghum sudan grass, and some winter wheat.

It was another interesting cropping year. Our alfalfa performed exceptionally well, with some of our best yields ever. We were able to dodge the rain while putting up hay; most was put up without getting rained on. Corn silage did very well also. We harvested and put up about 5200 tons of silage in 4 days. We also chopped sorghum sudan grass as feed for heifers.

Grain corn was a mixed bag; some fields did well and some did poorly, resulting in average yields across our farm. Soybeans were close to our average as well, with some fields a bushel or two above average. Wheat did extremely well, with nice yields and a large amount of straw.



Planting corn



Chopping haylage



Combining wheat



Chopping corn silage.



Side-dressing nitrogen onto corn

To view a gallery of more harvest and farm photos, visit our website: scholzefamilyfarms.com

Land Partner Appreciation Picnic

This summer we were excited to host our first annual Land Partner and Employee Appreciation Picnic. We hosted landowners and employees and served a delicious catered lunch in our farm shop. Chef Juan smoked meat through the night to serve up shredded pork and beef sandwiches, along with sides and of course, cheese samples and ice cream!

After lunch, Theo led a farm tour to offer an up-close look at the calf facilities, free stall barn, and milking parlor. We enjoyed getting together and are planning to do the same next summer—so don't forget to check the mail for your invitation!



Lunch served in the farm shop at our first annual Land Partner Appreciation Picnic

Scholarship Winners

Scholze Family Farms had the opportunity this past fall to support two local high school seniors as they pursue post-secondary education in the ag field. One senior from the Osseo-Fairchild school district and one from the Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan district were chosen as recipients of the first Scholze Family Farms Scholarship. This year's winners were Blake Dehnke from Osseo-Fairchild, and Brielle Lien from Alma Center-Humbird-Merrillan.

Keep up with Scholze Family Farms!



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Check out our website for more farm news, in addition to photo galleries of farm happenings:

www.ScholzeFamilyFarms.com



Follow our blog for more detail on everyday farm life:

www.WisconsinDairyFarmer.com

To contact Theo or Will directly:

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Blake Dehnke receives his Scholze Family Farms scholarship from Will Scholze.



Marvin and Minnie and all the grandkids



Theo and Sarah, Zoie and Owen

Family Happenings

Three Scholze families are now involved in the farm operation: Marvin and Minnie, who are mostly retired, Theo and his wife Sarah, and Will and his wife Becky.

Theo and Sarah have two children, Zoie (4) and Owen (3). Zoie started pre-K this fall and goes to school two days a week, and Owen is anxious to start next year. They are farm kids through and through; they love the animals and riding equipment, and are ready to “help” when needed!

Will and Becky are expecting their first child in April of 2015 and are excited to become parents! So far they just have a dog named Sophie to keep them company.



Will, Becky, and Sophie



Helping “Poppa” feed the calves

Marv and Minnie have stepped back from the daily farm operations and were happy to head south to Texas for the winter!



Fun playing in the commodities shed!