

Holstein Canada 2010 Enrolment Program

Participation for Profit

PROGRAM DETAILS (VALID TILL DECEMBER 31, 2010):

- Free copy of Functional Conformation of Dairy Cattle CD (\$20 value).
- Herd consultation visit with an experienced classifier. Discuss the potential benefits of classification and how the information can be used on your farm.
- Free herd visit fee (value \$75) for first classification. Take advantage of this no obligation opportunity to see how this service can help you.
- You don't need a registered herd to have your cows classified. If you decide to register your classified animals at a later date their score will be applied.
- If you haven't registered animals in more than 3 years we can help you with that:
 - Registration fee discounted by 50% for all animals (excluding base) registered within 6 months of commitment to program.
 - No charge to transfer ownership of animals resident in herd prior to commitment to program.
 - Ontario Holstein Field staff available to help you with the registration process



Holstein Canada

Birchlawn Farms Ltd

ATWOOD, ON

FAMILY IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS SUCCESSFUL FARMING OPERATION IN THE HEART OF PERTH COUNTY. Birchlawn Farms is home to the Terpstra Family and is owned by Nick and Catherine Terpstra and their children Darryl, Brian, Cheryl, Steve, Scott and Dwayne. Nick purchased the farm in 1981, and after starting with 100 cows, the family has continued to grow and prosper now milking 460 cows in a 40 cow rotary parlour and also maintaining a 900 sow farrow to finish operation.

In speaking with one of the shareholders, Brian Terpstra, management has played an obvious role in the success of this thriving operation, and as a result led the farm to take advantage of Holstein Canada's Herd Enrolment Program. The herd is and has been involved in numerous research projects with the University of Guelph and this led them to become more interested in information on individuals in the herd.

In 2007, the farm was approached with a project from Holstein Canada, DHI, NLID and OMAFRA to use NLID tags and incorporate the RFID reader in their management practices. This made the transition to registering their herd very easy and allowed them to become even more efficient. The classification of their herd soon followed.

According to Brian, classification has allowed him more opportunity to selectively mate the herd with the mating program from his AI companies that uses the classification information generated at the time of the herd visit. Value is seen not only in the genetic improvements that are expected in the future, but also by utilizing the expertise of the classifiers unbiased opinions. Classification was also adopted by the herd for the young sire incentives offered by the AI companies, as well as the potential that they will bring to the herd.

Since the use of classification, animals are now looked at on a more individual basis and mated accordingly. Genomics is another tool that is being used in the herd, to continue to breed for the sound animals that Brian and his family enjoy working with. Cows with sound feet and legs, good udders and dairy strength will continue to allow this farm family to grow and succeed in the dairy industry.



The Terpstra family at Birchlawn Farms Ltd. sees great value in the Holstein Canada Enrolment and Classification Programs. Pictured (l to r): Brian, Nick and Catherine Terpstra (Photo by Angela Howard)

For more information on the Holstein Canada Herd Enrolment Package, contact the Ontario Holstein Branch:
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