

Holstein Canada 2011 Enrolment Program

Participation for Profit

PROGRAM DETAILS (VALID UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2011):

- 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

Herrington Bros & Sons

BRIGHTON, ON

IN 2003, COUSINS ADAM AND JUSTIN HERRINGTON DECIDED IT WAS TIME FOR CHANGE ON THEIR FARM. THEY ELIMINATED THEIR BEEF HERD, EXPANDED THEIR DAIRY HERD TO 70 COWS, AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HOLSTEIN CANADA'S ENROLMENT PACKAGE FOR NEW MEMBERS IN ORDER TO WORK TOWARD A LONG-TERM GOAL OF IMPROVING THEIR DAIRY EFFICIENCY.

Animals were tagged with NLID tags, and since breeding records had been kept up over the years, it was determined that many members of the herd were 75 per cent pure or higher. Never having joined 4-H, Adam and Justin missed out on the opportunity to learn about functional and ideal conformation as youngsters. Yet they still enjoy milking and breeding good cows and are always interested in seeing improvement. They took advantage of the low start-up registration costs and registered the first animals under the Breakaway prefix seven years ago. The fact that all animals are now tagged and can be easily identified has increased the interest of all farm members working with the cattle.

In 2006, they classified their animals for the first time and had all first lactation animals scored, along with a select group of older cows. The unbiased classifier evaluation of each animal's strengths and weaknesses has been a great complement to the sire recommendations provided by area AI staff. Today, Adam registers calves online, with milk being recorded and cows being classified every seven months. Interestingly, while Adam & Justin were going through the registration process, it soon became obvious that some families produced many more heifer calves and from fewer breeding services while other families seemed to have generations of multiple inseminations per pregnancy.

The Herringtons, overseen by Adam's father, Stewart, are great feeders and calf raisers. They have been able to sell half a dozen heifers annually, and with the help of the family information they have kept on each animal, they retain the best four heifers in a pen of eight. They then allow buyers like Ed Werry to select any two from the remaining four. The registration certificates, in turn, generate many more opportunities for Werry to find new homes for the surplus dairy replacements.

Production on the Herrington Farm is currently 32 kg with 4 per cent butter fat and a rolling BCA of 220-249 -212. Conformation levels are improving and strong families are being developed. The herd is currently 70 per cent GP or better, with 10 VG. An upbeat Adam is pleased with the breed improvement tools that they are able to take advantage of, and says now that the herd is fully registered, they are able to create, select and develop more profitable cows to fill each one of their stalls.



With the help of Holstein Canada's Enrolment program, the Herringtons are working toward improving their dairy efficiency. Pictured (l to r): Justin, Adam and Stewart Herrington. (Photo by Adrian Vander Wielen)

For more information on the Holstein Canada Herd Enrolment Package, contact the Ontario Holstein Branch:
Email: branch@ontario.holstein.ca • Ph.: 519-653-6180 • Fax: 519-653-2129