

BREEDER OF THE YEAR- Central Alberta Holstein Club- ASPENRIDGE FARMS

I was always interested in cows, production and farming so after high school I went to Olds College for a dairy course and then helped Dad manage the family dairy. For many years it was just the two of us running the farm. My parents, Dick and Erylce TenHove, were generous in transitioning the farm, and Dad continues to be part of morning milking. Together with my wife, Sherry, and our children, Hailey, Ciara, Justin and Megan, we milk about 55 cows and employ two part-time employees. Our nutritionist, veterinarian, and hoof-trimmer, Santiago, Peter, and Elbert, are important members of our team.

We have a loose-housing barn and milk 2 times a day. We value cow comfort, cow health, and a balance between work and family. With 2x milking, we breed for higher components so we can get the same revenue with less litres.

We are a closed herd and all our animals are homebred. We have not done embryo transfers but have focused on genetic improvement through sire selection. Our goal has been to have a uniform herd of high producing cows. There have been a number of memorable cows over the years. My favourite cow was TenHove September Sandra. She was EX-90-5E, a 5 star brood cow, produced 135,000L and over 10,000kg fat and protein.

A few of our Homebred cow accomplishments

- Tenhove Aptitude Abby became Excellent 90.
- Tenhove Rising Celine - Super 3
- Tenhove Jettair April - Super 3
- Tenhove Windbrook Joy EX90 - Super 5.

We had 19 Superior Production Awards and 8 Longtime Production awards of which 3 are 100,000kg awards.

In the past year our rolling herd average was 13,662kgs of milk for 305 day milk. Our BCA is 309M 353F 306P with a scc of 154,000 and a Herd Management score of 873. In the last year we were also listed as one of the Holstein Canada Dairy Herds of Distinction.

As the owner and main operator of a small dairy farm, I am grateful for those who serve on our industry boards and committees. We aim to be positive spokespeople for our industry and the Holstein breed in conversations with friends and neighbours, and with letters and phone calls to media, MLAs and MPs. We enjoy giving farm tours and allowing people to have a close up look at dairy farming. We also try to contribute positively to our community. I have organized drop-in sports, Sherry has directed a children's choir, and we are on church and school committees.

The classification service offered by Holstein Canada is vital to genetic progress. Our herd's accomplishments are the result of the genetic improvements in the Holstein breed. When I think about the top cows from 25 years ago, I marvel at the gains we see in conformation, udders and milk components. The dairy industry relies on the expertise of breeders, geneticists, nutritionists, vets, researchers, and others. Together we work to produce high quality milk that we can be proud to offer to all Canadians.

