

Anthony and Marj Sjaarda, Wyoming Sjaarda Caprine Farms

Anthony and Marj Sjaarda operate Sjaarda Caprine Farms, a dairy goat operation located near Wyoming, Ontario. Both Anthony and Marj were raised on family farms – he on a dairy farm and she on a hog operation. As a teenager, after a long summers' day of picking rocks, Marj decided that farming was the last thing she wanted to do. However, after completing a nursing degree, and meeting Anthony, her mind was quickly changed and their farming life began.

The farm is home to the Sjaarda's five sons, 750 milking goats, 600 replacement goats, a few dairy cows, chickens, turkeys, laying hens, beef cows and calves and most recently rabbits. They own approximately 97 acres and rent an additional 60.



Farm goals include producing high quality milk, increasing production, improving the genetics of their herd, and maybe most importantly to diversify their operation in order to give their children the opportunity to develop experience in different types of farming.

Anthony and Marj are both committed to the environment and were the first goat farmers in Ontario to development a Nutrient Management strategy. They also look to continually improve their knowledge and recently completed the Canadian Total Excellence in Agricultural Management (C-Team) offered by the George Morris Centre.

The dairy goat industry, the Lambton County Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Wellandport Farmers' Cooperative, the local church, local youth groups, and the town of Wyoming are all beneficiaries of hundreds of volunteer hours given by the Sjaardas. Anthony also currently serves as Chair of the Ontario Dairy Goat Cooperative.

The Sjaardas want to be seen as “farmers who excel at producing high quality goat milk and meat products, serve as a positive example to others interested in the industry and all the while being proud, engaged members of our community.”

The Sjaardas were nominated by the Ontario Dairy Goat Cooperative