

Ed and Julie Danen

Danzel Holsteins, Shakespeare

Ed and Julie both grew up on dairy farms. Ed on a 70 cow dairy and Julie on a 40 cow Master Breeder Herd. Ed decided to farm because he enjoyed the flexibility of being his own boss, the potential to achieve financial success and the diversity of work and challenges that dairy farming would provide. Julie had grown up showing cattle in 4-H and enjoyed the challenge of improving the conformation in cattle. They both loved the industry and the way of life farming could provide for them.



Danzel Holsteins is a family run dairy farm located in Perth County between Shakespeare and New Hamburg. It is run by Julie & Ed and their 3 children Rose, Emily & John. The farm currently milks 86 cows in a new free stall barn built in 2008. Current BCA is 215-212-215. 107 cows are classified 18VG, 60 GP, 18G, 11NC.

Ed and Julie split the farm management. Ed is in charge of overall farm management, reproduction, feeding, repairs, crop management and hired labour while Julie takes care of the bookkeeping for Danzel and Danen Farms, is in charge of calves and assists with farm management and reproductive decisions. All family members help with labour on the farm. Rose and Emily are able to chase cattle into the holding area and scrape stalls. All three children are excellent help feeding calves and taking care of pets. They also have three part time staff.

There are two parcels of land totalling 260 acres where corn, soy's, wheat & alfalfa are rotated. All of the field work is custom done by Danen Farms, a partnership between Danzel Holsteins and Ed's brother Jack's dairy farm, Danensview Farms. Danen Farms also cash crops an additional 245 acres.

Ed says that "In July 1995, we wrote down our future goals, one of which was that within 15 years, we wanted to be milking 100 cows on our own. Looking back, it's satisfying to see that we have nearly achieved our 15 year goal of milking 100 cows on our own. We're currently filling 94 kg of quota on 260 acres of owned land with an average BCA Milk of 224."

The community certainly benefits from the Danens. Ed is heavily involved in the Perth Federation of Agriculture and was one of the founders of Ag101 in 2004, a program which brings together MPP's and their families to Perth County for a day to educate them about issues in agriculture. Ed is also involved in the Perth County Milk Committee, Trinity Lutheran Church and was behind the development of the first dairy management clubs in Ontario. Julie is just as busy with her duties as a dairy 4-H club leader, and the church. They have also participated in the Relay for Life every year since 2004.

The Danens were nominated by Clare Schlegel

