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Dairy Tales



Country Dairy New Era, Michigan

Andrew Van Gunst sailed to the US from the Netherlands with family in the late 1800's. Four generations later, Country Dairy in New Era, MI is a 1st class working dairy farm milking ~1,500 cows three times a day!

Wendell Van Gunst, Andrew's son, guided his family in building the dairy. Back in 1983, they pursued the construction of an on-farm processing plant. Bringing local milk to the community, they also offered new job opportunities. Now, also, they had to market that milk and get it to the consumers while complying with a vast array of regulations for milk quality, safety, and labeling. They selected the P&P LactiCheck Milk Composition Analyzer to assist with fat, solids, and protein testing.

The Moo School was established after the Creamery got going. Every year, they guide hundreds of school kids and visitors along the route milk takes from the cow to the bottle. At the end of the tour, their guests get a deliciously delectable bottle of chocolate milk or some "Moochies" (cheddar cheese curds)! See <http://www.countrydairy.com/about/farm-tours>.

Taking it a step further, when Wendell retired (turning ownership over to family members Paul Arkema and Rober Eekoff), he decided to broaden his outreach to the global community. Working with Partnership Worldwide, he undertook the building of a research dairy farm in Uganda to help the war-torn people of the Gulu region re-establish an infrastructure to help them feed their families.

Page & Pedersen was honored to have the opportunity to donate to their cause by underwriting some expense for a LactiCheck MINI Milk Composition Analyzer. This rugged unit helps with herd management, giving them the information they need to make the best decisions regarding feeding, breeding, etc.

A hardworking, successful family farm that continues to have a vision and a mission – BRAVO!!!