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Dairy Tales

Ferndale Farmstead Creamery Ferndale, WA

Daniel Wavrin went away to college and fell in love...with cheese! He didn't just want to consume it – he wanted to create it! Studying at Vermont Institute of Artisan Cheese at UVM, he became driven to embrace artisanal cheese and design cheeses with character and provenance! Daniel grew up on a dairy farm, surrounded by several generations of family committed to raising healthy, happy, productive cows. He knows what effort goes into producing good milk. Now, he was compelled to take this great milk and make great cheese! His father, Dr. Bill Wavrin (a veterinarian) bought into his son's dream and the rest is, as they say, "history."

The Ferndale Farm Creamery looks for practical tools to assist in process control and documentation. Two tools they rely upon are the LactiCheck Milk Composition Analyzer, which helps Daniel in his cheese-making and also supports Dr. Bill in herd management and the CheeseCrafter Total Production and Quality System Software. Daniel says these tools are, 'his best friends':

"The CheeseCrafter Software has helped me manage the control of our processes by providing a record of make data over the first 2.5 years of production in our plant. It has helped identify seasonal trends inherent to our farm and is one of the primary tools used to predict necessary online adjustments to the recipes. We are able to have a result within minutes, which is now used to predict the quality of set that we should expect that day across our vats. Even day to day swings in fat can have a significant effect on the coagulum and have a snapshot of what the day looks like before the rennet is even added is immensely helpful to the observant artisan."

Most recently, Ferndale Farm Creamery won two awards for their cheeses at the 2018 American Cheese Society's annual competition. Keep an eye out for Daniel's new line of small batch artisan cheeses under 'Daniels Artisan' collection, launching this year!

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