

Mapledale Farm

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April 2017

Welcome spring! With the April showers now upon us and the expectation of being out in the fields soon, we would like to send greetings to our friends and neighbors of Mapledale Farm.

This year, we would like to start by putting a spotlight on the dedication of the individuals who comprise the quality team here at the farm. Currently, responsibilities at the farm are taken care of by: Bradley Bink, Breanna Brundige, James Brundige, Tim Button, Tim Button, Jr., Samantha Duval, Wilson Gates, Kevin Legg, Keith Liebenow, Jacob Montero, Matthew Montero, Bruce Mosher, Christina Shupe, Curtis Stevens, and Jason White. This crew has worked diligently to produce quality milk here in Center Berlin. Just to brag them up a little more, it should be noted that Mapledale Farm maintained the highest quality tier for milk production during all of 2016 and 2017 to date at Garelick Farms (our milk processor). Feeding both calves and cows, maintaining clean, dry bedding, milking cows, and a host of other critical tasks occur every day of every week of every month of every year. The caring staff here at Mapledale make sacrifices to ensure the work is still completed on weekends and Christmas too. Cows simply do not take days off!

Mapledale Farm's herd of cows is comprised of what are commonly referred to as Holsteins. Holsteins are the most common breed in the United States. They are easily distinguished by their black and white markings (think Chik-Fil-A commercials!). The origins of the Holstein cow



can be traced back nearly 2,000 years to the Netherlands. Two breeds of cows were crossed to create what is now so common. Black animals from the Batavians (present day Germany) and white animals from the Friesians (present day Holland) were crossed to create Holstein-Friesians. Over time, the Friesian portion of the name was dropped and they are now referred to as Holsteins. Winthrop Chenery is credited with bringing Holstein cattle to the United States. Winthrop

was from Massachusetts and purchased the first Holstein from a Dutch sailing master, who had a Holstein on board to provide fresh milk to the crew during the voyage. It is reported that

Chenery continued to import Holsteins as he was impressed with the first cow's milk production. The Holstein-Friesian Association of America was founded in 1885 (source: Melissa Elischer at www.MSU.edu, Michigan State University). Currently, the Holsteins working in partnership with the staff here at Mapledale Farm are producing between 3,900 and 4,000 gallons of milk per day. That is roughly the equivalent of providing 64,000 people with their average drink of milk every day. We are proud to be part of the American farming landscape that produces healthy food to help feed a world population of nearly 7.5 billion people.

Additionally, we would like to continually express our appreciation to all our friends and neighbors who support farming here in the Taconic Valley. It is truly a privilege and a blessing to farm in a community like this. If you would like to have a farm tour to see some Holstein cows up close, feel free to give us a call. The farm number is: 518-658-2419. We enjoy having visitors!

Finally, some quick Greene family updates. Carl and Cindy's family continues to reside in Hebron, PA where Carl is pastor of the Hebron Seventh Day Baptist Church. If you are interested in catching one of Carl's sermons, they are on YouTube(HebronSDB). The boys (Seth, Luke, and Sam) are very involved in music lessons and performance. Ellie is in dance and Cindy is on the leadership team of a regional Homeschool Co-op. The Greene's at Mapledale Farm continue to be active in the Berlin Seventh Day Baptist Church (BerlinSDB.org). As always, if you are looking for a place to worship, we would be glad to save you a seat! John and Damian's family has been hosting an exchange student, Jack, from South Korea this school year. Damian is now in her second year as principal at Grace Christian School in Bennington, VT where Katie is a junior and Wade is in eighth grade. Katie and Wade recently had a roll in the school musical "Honk!". Casey is currently a junior at Houghton College, studying education and Wyatt has been working as a carpenter. Paul and Gerri stay busy with farm and church activities as well as, attending grandchildren's events. At 97, Arlie continues to live in the Greene family farmhouse where he was born. He still enjoys keeping track of the happenings at the farm.

As we close our Easter-time letter, we encourage you to search out the peace and comfort of the words from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 28, verses 5-6: But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."