

*Progressive Dairy Operators*  
*Study Tour to*  
**Alberta**



**August 18 to 21, 2015**





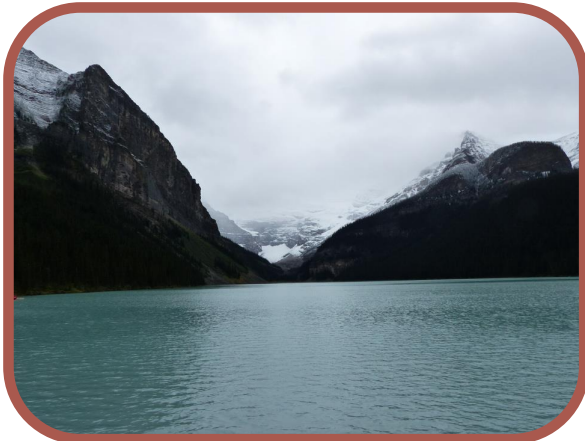
**Our Group**  
82 Participants from  
BC, AB, ON, NS





# Four Day Tour

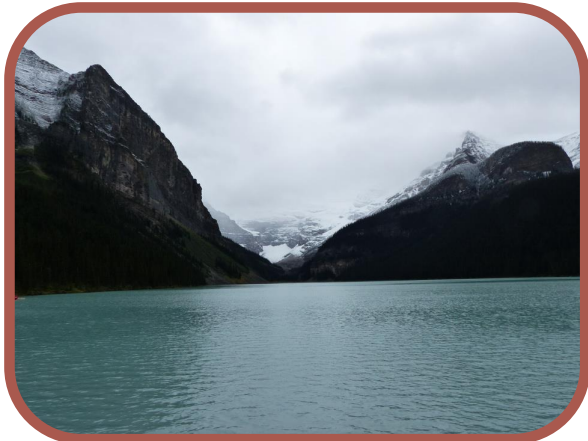
- 10 Dairy farms
- Beef feedlot
- Hutterite Colony
- Pre-cast concrete plant
- Agricultural museum





# Highlights

- Pre-fab construction
- Automated feeding
- Large scale rotary parlours
- Robotic milking
- High production
- Multiple room calf raising

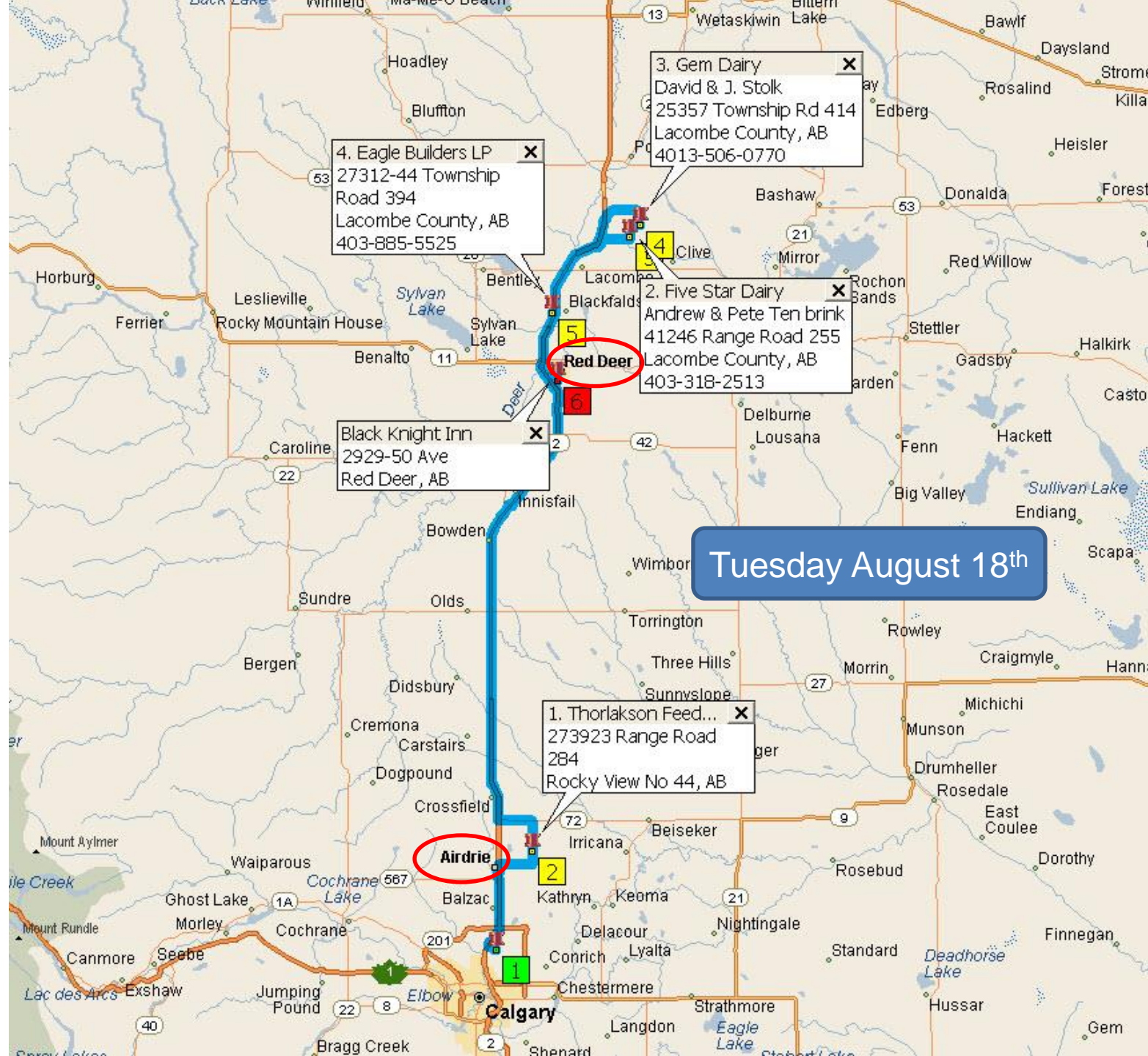




**Lunch &  
Coffee  
Sponsors**

**Dinner Sponsors**









# Thorlakson Feedyards

- 17,000 head on feed
- Started in 1970 by Ben Thorlakson
- Feedyard, Nature's Call, Bullpen





## Thorlakson Feedyards

- 17,000 head on feed
- High as 20,000 head
- Cattle raised on mounds
  - Less rainfall than Ontario





## Nature's Call

- 3M – 50l bags of compost based products per year
- Athabasca peat & feedyard manure
- Bag for Scotts and other brand names





## Bullpen

- Team penning
- Ranch sorting
- Cutting





## Five Star Dairy

— Andrew Ten Brink

- Moved from BC in 1999
- Milking 400 cows
- 36 l avg
- D14 herringbone
- No udder prep — for 30 yrs.
- Herd Navigator





## Free Stall Barn

- 6 row
- Bedding with compost-sand mix
- Screw press in heifer barn – does not produce enough compost
- 243,000 SCC





## Heifer Barn

- Converted potato storage
- Screw press for compost – all heifers on compost

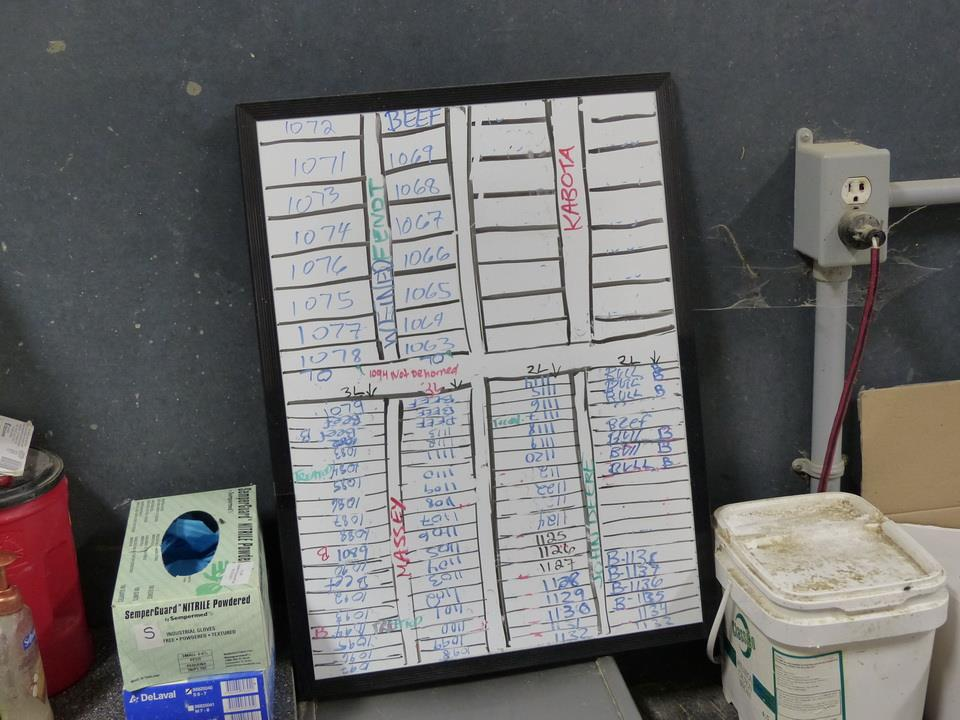




## Calf Barn

- 4 individual rooms
- Mechanical ventilation
- Adding heat





## Calf Barn

- Feeding pasteurized milk
- 4 individual rooms
  - Fendt
  - Kabota
  - Massey
  - John Deere





## Feed Centre

- Automated feed mill – run from cell phone
- Small hoppers for different ingredients
- Cost saving
  - Grinding & trucking
  - Act on fluctuating markets





## GEM Dairies – David Stolk

- Moved from BC in 1979
- 2011 – new barn
- Milking 110 cows
- 2 Lely robots
- 34l avg.





## GEM Dairies

- Precast concrete panels
  - Cost competitive and durable
  - 2 weeks to build in factory
  - 24 hours to put up at farm
  - 2' in ground on 18" x 18" footing
  - 2" concrete, 2" Styrofoam, 2" concrete
  - Glazed finish inside









# Automatic Feeding System

- “Ag Bag” feed storage
- Fill two hoppers daily
  - Alfalfa silage, oat silage
- Mix 2 batches per day – feed 8x by belt conveyor
- Computer controlled





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## Eagle Builders

- Founded in 2000 with 9 staff
- Innovative precast products
- Agriculture, industrial, infrastructure
- 150 employees





## Eagle Builders

- All products made to order
- Quality control
- Hogs, dairy, poultry
- Oil field work







Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>

9. Reynolds-Alb...  
6426 40 Ave  
Wetaskiwin, AB  
1-800-661-4726

Wetaskiwin

A L B E R T A

2A

Hobbema

7. Poly-C Farms  
Cor & Cathy  
Haagsma  
43097 Hwy - 795  
Ponoka County, AB  
403-302-8818

Ponoka

8. Morsan Dairy  
Leanna Morrisac  
42565 Range Road  
252  
Ponoka County, AB  
403-783-8784  
(Office)

6. Doornenbal D...  
Peter & Hennie  
Doornenbal  
265051 Hwy 53  
Ponoka County, AB

5. Pleasant Hill F...  
Hank & Marry Pierick  
Range Road 264  
Ponoka County, AB  
403-704-0968





## Pleasant Hill Farms –

Marry & Hank Pierik

- Immigrated in 1994 from Netherlands
- 300 cows milking
- 44 stall DeLaval external rotary parlour





## Rotary Parlour

- 44 stall DeLaval rotary
- Feeding on platform
- Retention bars – cows can go around twice
- Adjustable platform
- 1 person - 200 cows per hour (1 cow every 18 sec.)





# Rotary Parlour

- Spray stall
  - Teat spray
  - Hoof spray
  - Fly control (back spray)





## Free Stall Barn

- 6 row
- Boreco stall cleaner





## Calf Section

- Calves housed in section of milking cow barn

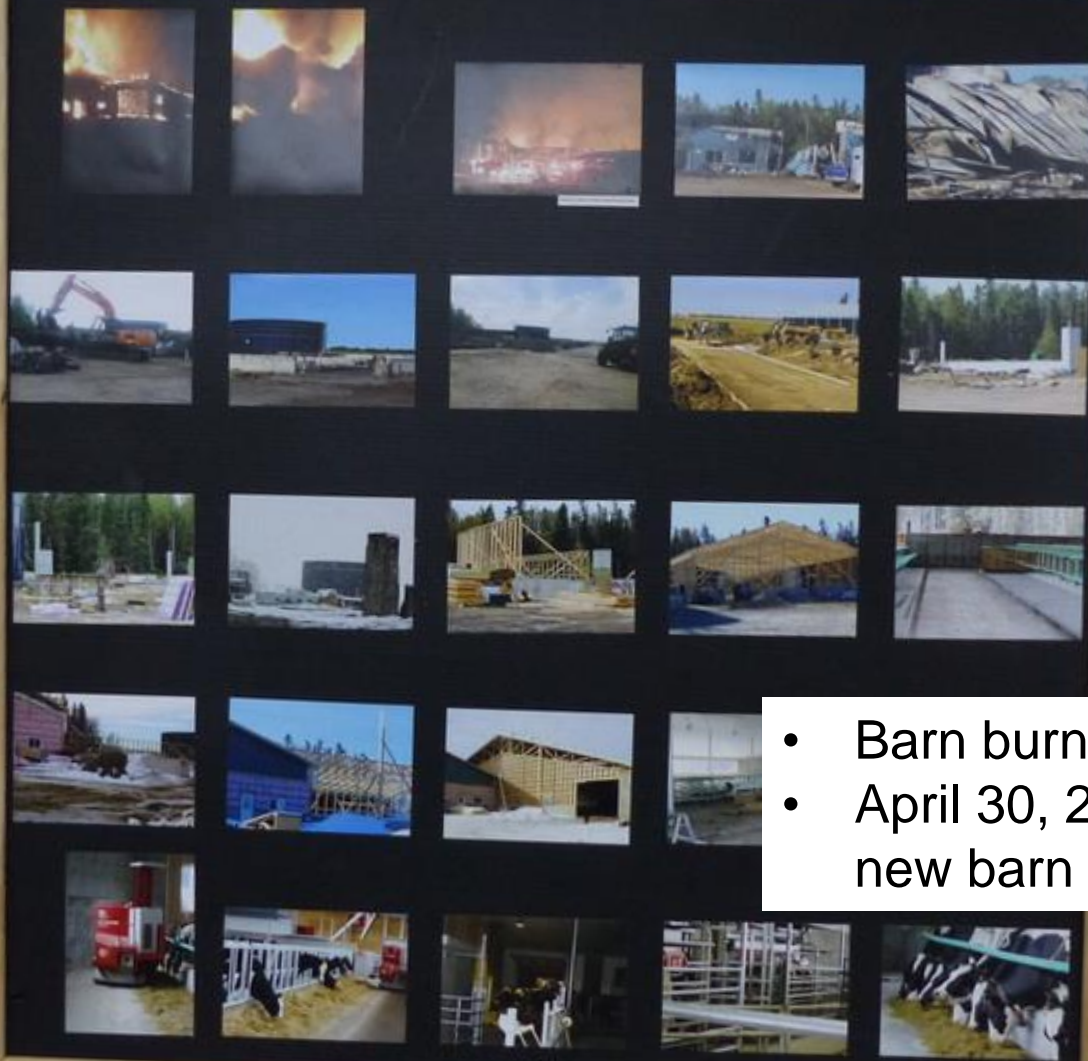




## Doornenbal Dairy – Peter & Hennie Doornenbal

- 110 cows milking
- 3 Lely robots
- Vector feeding system
- “Green” free stalls





- Barn burned down June 2, 2014
- April 30, 2015 started milking in new barn













- Green Free Stalls with water beds
- Canola for bedding







## Calf Room

- Group feeding
- Single room
- Combination of natural and mechanical ventilation









# Poly-C Farms

– Cor & Cathy Haagsma

- 300 cows milking 3X
- 278-303-273 BCA
- Pack area for older cows
- D20 - Boumatic parallel parlour





## New Calf Barn

- Pre-cast – set up in 2 days
- 4 rooms with 22 calves each
- feed to 4 months – pull panels
- Jul 18 moved calves in





## New Calf Barn

- Mechanical ventilation with heat
- Feed pasteurized milk
- Gates swing out to allow for cleaning with skid steer





- Low winter humidity allows for open front housing









- Localized hail storm destroyed corn for silage







## Westcoast Holsteins

- Started by Morris Thalen
- Recently purchased by Kooyman family of Chilliwack Cattle Company
- 700 to 1000 cows
- 300 to 500 milking

















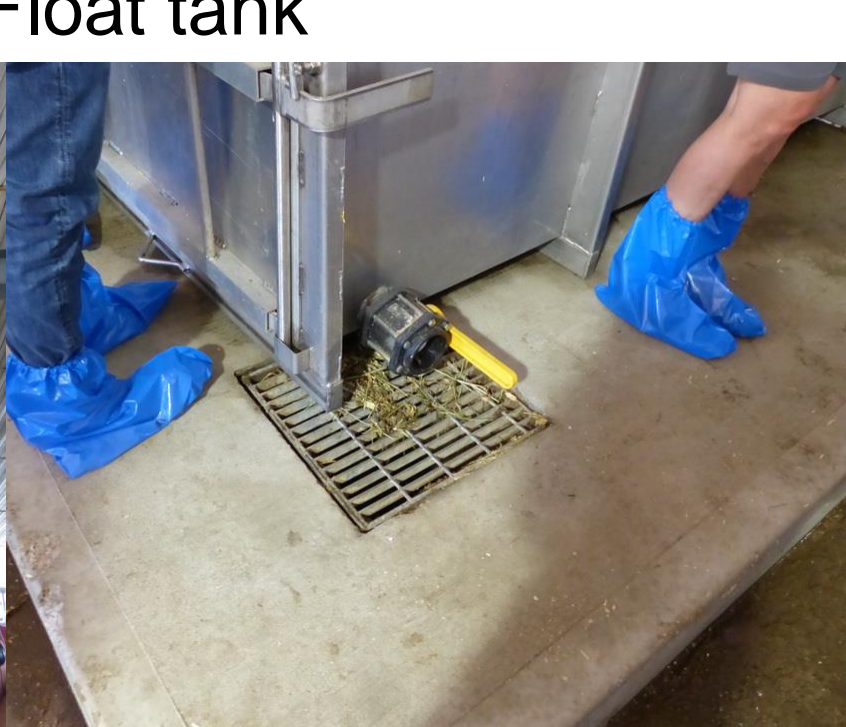
# Westcoast Holsteins

- Calve 15 cows per day
- Two shifts
- Supplying dairies in Saskatchewan and BC





• Float tank























<p><b>ROOM 1</b></p> <p>3053- 3088</p> <p>Keeper - 3057, 3063, 3064, 3080</p> <p>Done up to 3083</p> <p>Weaned BIR</p>	<p>2.5L June 12</p> <p>3.0L June 19</p> <p>DEHORN June 23</p> <p>WEAN July 21</p> <p>MIX</p> <p>BIR July 28</p> <p>PULL PANELS Aug 4</p>
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- Heifer feedlot
- Transition barn for 960 heifers
- Open lot for 1,120?















## Westcoast Holsteins

- D32 Boumatic herringbone parlour
- 700 to 1000 cows
- 300 to 500 milking









## The million-dollar Holstein

The pride of Ponoka, Alberta, Missy is the most valuable cow in the world today. She's owned by a consortium consisting of Morsan Farms owner Morris Thalen, two other Canadian investors and Mark Butz, owner of a cattle genetics firm in the United States. Missy has won more than a dozen major titles, including supreme champion at both the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and the ever more prestigious World Dairy Expo in 2011. 'Some people might think we're crazy having this cow outside,' says Greg Thalen, one of Morris Thalen's three sons who, along with their father, run Morsan Farms. 'But these show cows are babied, they're high-strung, like thoroughbred horses. It's good to let her out in a pasture to run around and socialize with other cows.' Missy is fed a carefully calibrated blend of alfalfa and grass hay with wheat, barley grain, rolled oats, ground corn, soybeans and peas. Molasses or bee pulp may be added, for taste. She also gets as much water as she wants—more than a bathtub's worth a day, much more in the heat of the summer.







# Reynolds-Alberta Museum

- Collection from Stan Reynolds
- Industry, Transportation, and Aviation























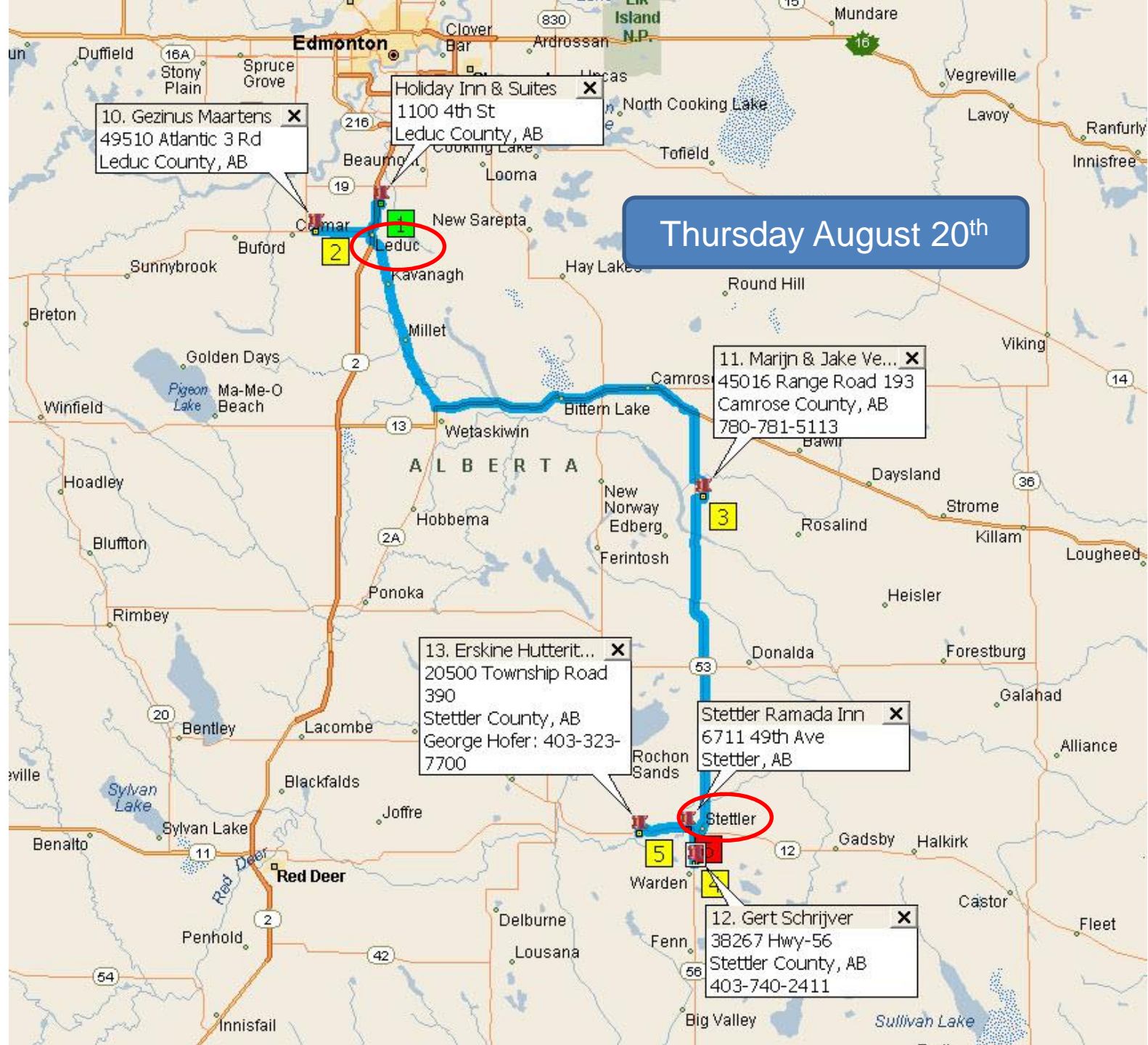






AVIATION DISPLAY &  
CANADA'S AVIATION HALL OF FAME













## Triple M Dairies –

Gezinus Martens

- 3 different operations
- 120 milking
- 2 – DeLaval VMS
- Production increase from 31 kg now to 39 kg
- Simple add-on conversion





















## Vermeer's Dairy – Jake & Marijn Vermeer

- 410 cows milking
- 32 kg, 2X
- 40 stall Westfalia external rotary
- Started construction on new site in 2007
- Pre-cast concrete





## Vermeer's Dairy

- 410 cows milking
- 32 kg, 2X
- 40 stall Westfalia external rotary





## Vermeer's Dairy

- Single 6 herringbone for fresh and treated cows
- Milk pasteurized and fed to calves





## Milking Barn

- 4 row tail-to-tail
- 550 stalls
- Sand bedding
- Tunnel ventilation









## Tunnel Ventilation

- Fans staged
- Inlets adjusted
- Misting tubes for summer cooling





## Sand Bedding

- Grooming stalls
- Sand separation lane
- Building new 130' sand lane
- “Cleaner water – cleaner sand”





## Calf Barn

- Multiple calf rooms – 18 calves per room
- Addition for transition
- Milk transferred from parlour





## Calf Barn

- Group pens – 18 calves per room
- Start in removable individual pens





















## Mars Dairy – Gert

Schrijver

- Milking 230 cows 3X
- 300 BCA
- 14,225 kg per cow
- One of top production herds on DHI





## Transition Cow Barn

- Close up 3 weeks before calving





# Calf Barn

- Individual pens





## Transition Calf Barn

- Precast concrete
- Ventilation end-to-end





# Heifer Housing

- Open front housing





## Milk Cow Barn

- 240 stalls
- 3 row barn
- Sand bedding





# Feed Storage


- Barley silage





File:Long-billed Curlew (Numenius americanus), in late evening light.jpg

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<p>Size of this preview: 800 × 533 pixels. Other resolutions: 320 × 213 pixels   640 × 427 pixels   1,024 × 683 pixels   1,280 × 853 pixels   3,888 × 2,592 pixels. Original file (3,888 × 2,592 pixels, file size: 4.95 MB, MIME type: image/jpeg). ZoomViewer: flash/no flash</p>			





## Mensch Self-Propelled Vacuum Tanker

- \$180,000 US
- \$237,000 CAD
- For use with sand bedding









## Erskine Hutterite Colony

- est. 1976
- Milking 135 cows
- 350 sows farrow-to-finish
- 11,000 layers
- 450 cow/calf feed lot
- 11,000 acres













## Calf Barn

- Precast concrete
- Multiple rooms













- 350 sows farrow-to-finish
- 11,000 layers







## Layer Barn

- 11,000 Layers

















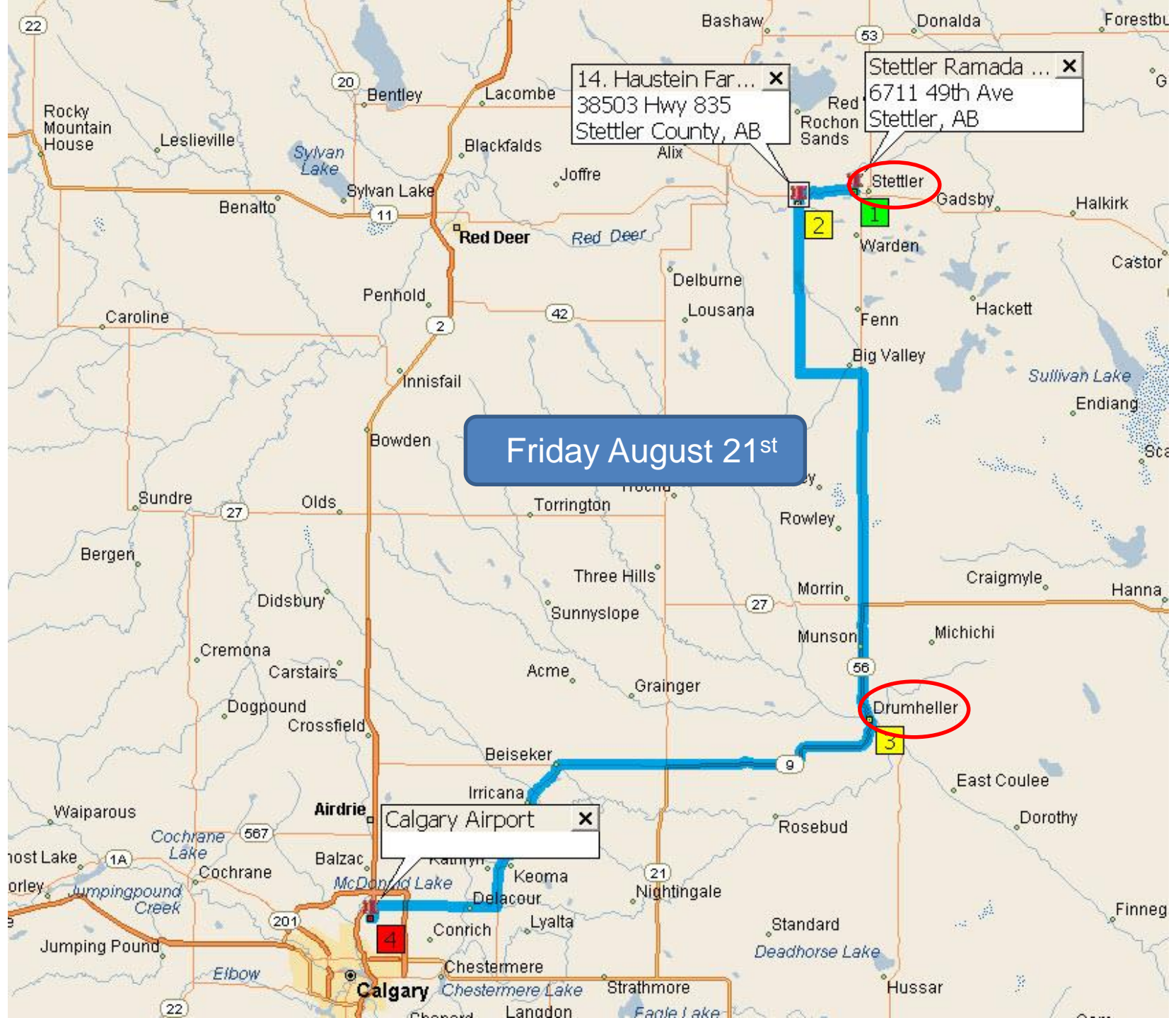
















# Haustein Farms –

Conlee Haustein

- Milking 95 Bavarian Fleckvieh
- 33l per day
- 150,000 SCC
- 2 Lely robots
- Flush manure system





- Gel mats







- LED lighting











- Aerobic lagoons
- Flushing aerated water







- Flush tank















29 of us continued on to Banff







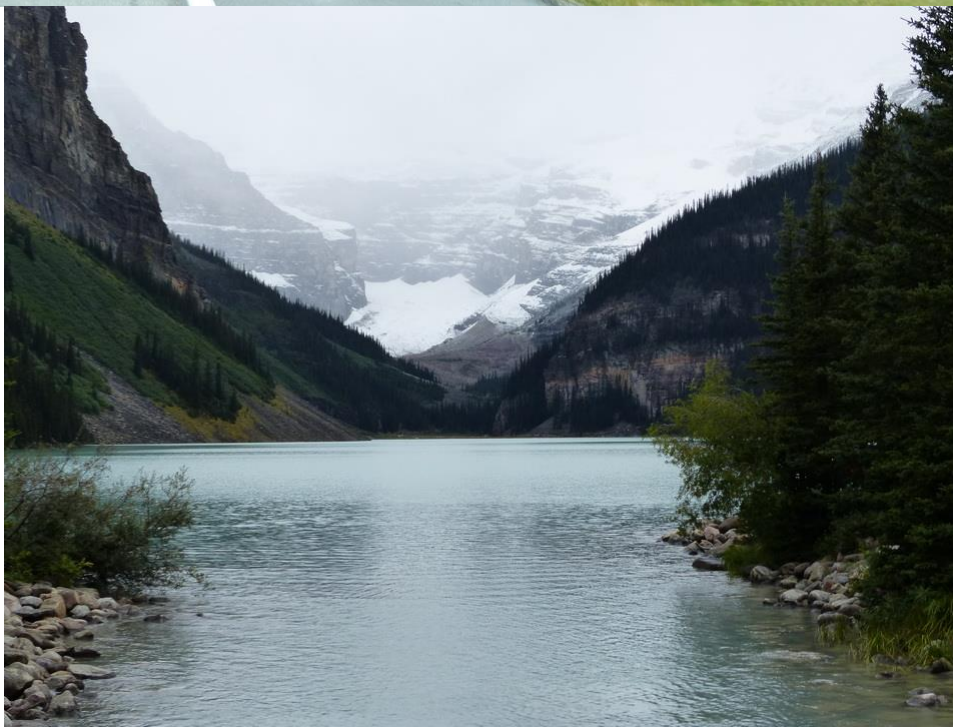




Yes – that is snow!











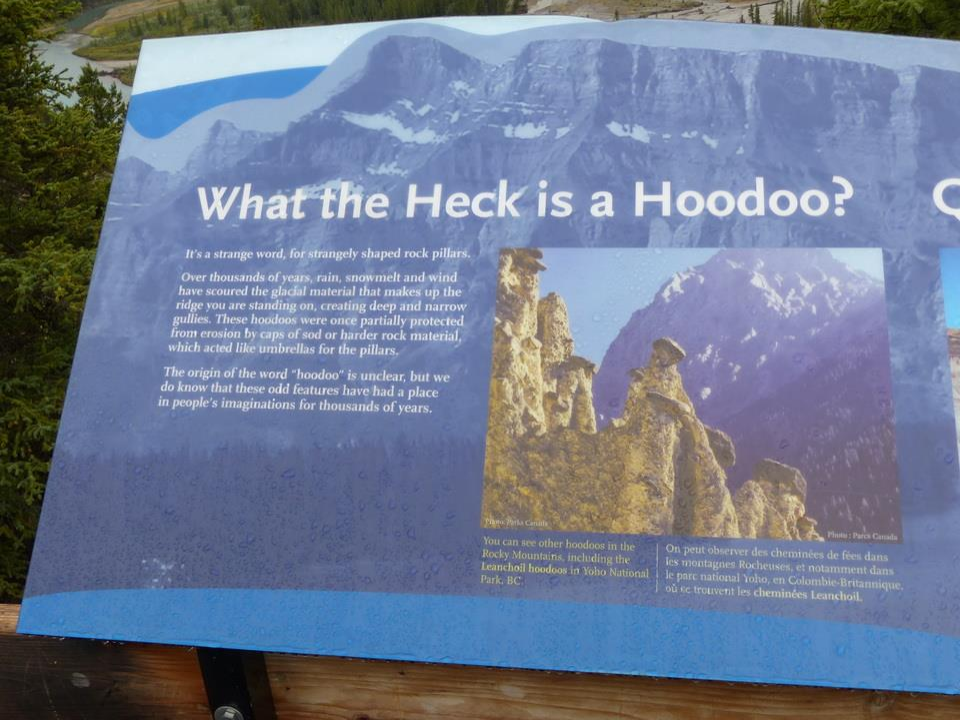
























Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>

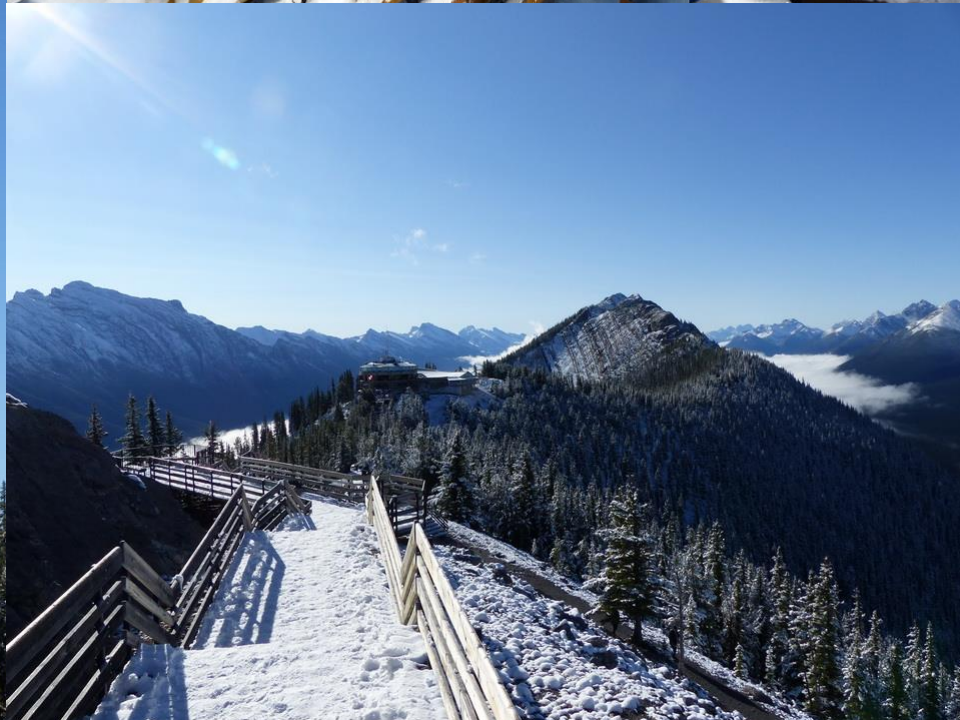






























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