

## Fair Oaks Farms, Fair Oaks, IN

We will take in the whole "tourist experience" including the Dairy Adventure, the Cheese and Yogurt Factory, the Birthing Barn and the Bus Tour of the barns, the 72 stall rotary parlor and the digester, followed by lunch in the Farm House restaurant and discussion about what we have seen at the two stops this morning. These events and meal are sponsored by **Lely**.



— innovators in agriculture —

## Shuler Dairy, Baroda, MI

Bill Shuler and his ancestors have milked cows in Michigan since 1882 and with their new barn built in 2016, this family is taking a new direction to secure their future in the industry. While others pursue efficiencies through economies of scale, the Schulers are hoping to develop a niche market for retail fluid milk and ice cream in an area with substantial tourist traffic. With a focus on maximum cow comfort, they have chosen a WeCover barn with compost bedding pack and a hybrid tunnel ventilation system that includes Cyclone fans in the barn. The herd is milked with two DeLaval VMS. A dairy treat at this farm will be provided courtesy of **WeCover Structures**.



**DAIRY LANE**  
SYSTEMS LTD.

Tonight's dinner at Lansing's World Buffet is sponsored by **DAIRYLANE**.

## Return Home

Estimated time return time to Wyoming is 9:30 PM and Woodstock at 10:30 PM.

## Registration Deadline October 11\*

*Includes 3 days of touring, all meals, all accommodations.*

### REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

1) Mail completed form to: **PDO, c/o Nicole Perkins, 16 Blue Forest Cr., Guelph, ON N1E 0P2**

2) Fax form to 519-265-0684 or scan and email to **admin@pdo-ontario.ca**

*Indicate payment method with this form. You can also pay online at [www.pdo-ontario.ca](http://www.pdo-ontario.ca)*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Farm/Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Pickup Location:  Woodstock  Wyoming

My preferred roommate is: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred room type is:  1 King Bed  2 Queen Beds

*Price based on double occupancy. Unless specified, a roommate will be assigned. For single rooms, please add single supplement.*

### REGISTER

3 Day Farm Tour: \$440 (per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Single Supplement: \$180 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-PDO Members add 10% \_\_\_\_\_

### OPTIONAL PDO MEMBERSHIP

1 Year (\$75)  3 Year (\$150) \_\_\_\_\_

**SUB TOTAL AMOUNT** \_\_\_\_\_

**Plus 13% HST** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT OWING** \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT METHOD

Mastercard  Visa  Cheque Included  On-line

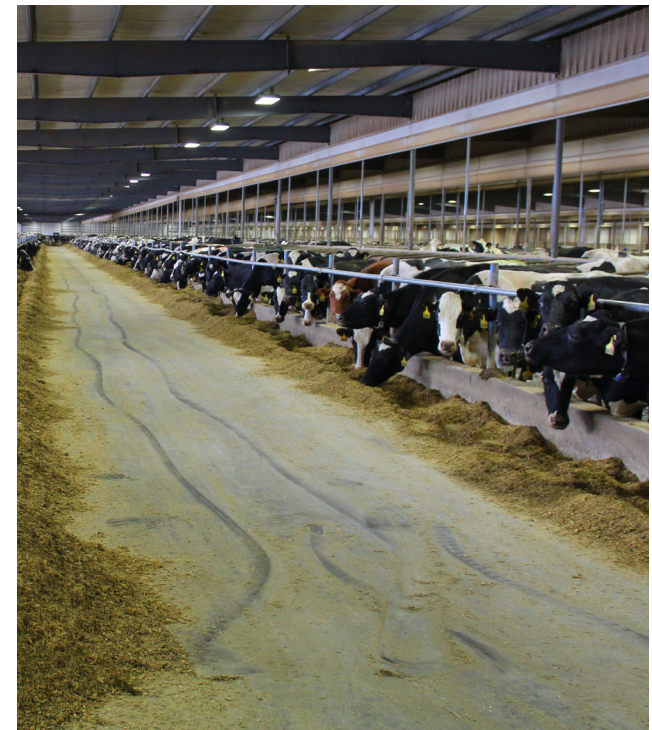
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make cheque payable to Progressive Dairy Operators.*

**\* Minimum tour age is 16 years old. Please ensure your passport is up to date and let us know if you have any food allergies.**



# MICHIGAN & INDIANA FARM TOUR

**OCTOBER 17-19, 2017**

**REGISTER BY OCTOBER 11!**



Rooms are available for August 21st under "Progressive Dairy Operators" for \$114.95 (includes breakfast). Please call 519-537-5586 to book. The tour departs at 8 AM from the lower parking lot of the Quality Inn Hotel and Suites Woodstock, 580 Bruin Blvd. (exit 232, Hwy 401 and Hwy 59 N). At 9 AM another pickup will take place at Esso Service, 5906 Oil Heritage Rd., Wyoming, ON.

## Tuesday, October 17

### Michigan Sugar Crosswell Processing Plant

Sugar beets are an important cash crop in Michigan and a source of by-product feed for the dairy industry. Harvest is a few weeks away so not much to see now, but this plant employs 190 people for about 220 days per year processing 4,200 tons of beets into 500 tons of sugar per day. There are plans for a new farmer owned sugar beet plant in Ontario, so it may be useful to understand this industry. A boxed lunch sponsored by **DeLaval** will be served on the bus.



### Roto Z Dairy, Snover, MI

This 3,500 cow dairy built by Jake Zwemmer in 2014 on a greenfield site features a 15 row sand bedded, wide body, free stall barn with retractable baffles. Cows are milked 3x in a 100 stall DeLaval external rotary. Commodity storage and feed mixing is all under one roof. This dairy operates with minimal labor as there are only milking cows on this site.

### Z-Fresh Dairy, Elkton, MI

Aptly named, Z-Fresh is where the Zwemmer family handles all the dry cows and calving for Roto Z and two other dairies. Staff walk the close-up pens hourly to sort cows that are calving into a large bedded area with calf boxes on the side. Fresh cows are milked in a 2 x 12 parlor. Baby calf management has strict protocols and all calves are sold, with Jake buying back the ones he likes. Z-Fresh shares this site with a 2,000 cow "production dairy" with an 80 stall external rotary.

Coffee break will be sponsored by **SILOKING Canada**.

### Aquila Farms LLC, Bad Axe MI

John Verhaar and family have adopted a similar management strategy managing dry cows and calving at one site for four farms. Aquila is the "home farm" milking 2,200 Holstein, Swedish Red, and Montbéliarde crossbred cows in a 2x36 BouMatic parallel. This dairy also features a calf barn with hutches and a new feed center for commodity storage and feed mixing.

### Aurora Farms, Fairgrove, MI

Johnny and Maria Verhaar (John & Anja's eldest son), get their fresh cows from Aquila and milk 750 cows with 12 Lely robots with two employees. The farm features 2 six row sand-bedded perimeter feeding with minimal insulation. Barns are tractor scraped with a width adjustable scraper that can clean a full alley width in one pass without moving the cows. All dry cows and young stock are housed at Aquila Farms and all field work is completed by custom hired local crop farmers.

Accommodation tonight is at the Bavarian Inn in the picturesque German heritage town of Frankenmuth. A family-style chicken dinner will be served sponsored by **EasyFix**.



## Wednesday, October 18

After a hot breakfast buffet we depart at 8:00 AM.

### Vanderploeg Friesians, Ithaca, MI

For Klaas and Mares Vanderploeg, Friesians represents both their world-class horse farm and a 3,500 cow dairy. The main herd is milked in a 72 stall GEA external rotary running 22 hours per day, and a 1,000 stall fresh cow barn is milked in a parallel parlour. This dairy has switched from sand to compost bedding and back to sand, and features two Mensch self-propelled vacuum tankers scraping the sand manure from the alleys, and 3 Daritech Sand Cannons and a Single Shot, so that sand is recycled and re-used in the stalls. Calves are raised in hutches under a roof and shipped to a heifer farm in Kansas at 4 months of age.

### Westvale-Vu Dairy/MOO-ville, Nashville, MI



Lunch at Moo-ville is sponsored by Ontario Mensch Dealer, **Triaro Farms**.

MOO-ville Creamery is family owned and operated. The Westvale-Vu dairy milks 200 holsteins with 4 Lely robots and had a year around 2016 production of 47 kg/cow/day. The barn is situated on top of a hill behind the ice cream shop allowing milk to gravity flow from the tank to their creamery. They believe in producing high quality milk and process it as little as possible. They bottle their own milk, make their own ice cream, cheese, yogurt smoothies, and butter, under the MOO-ville logo.

### Mensch Manufacturing, Hastings, MI

The bedding choice of most herds visited on this tour is sand, so it is fitting that we include a brief stop at Mensch, a leading manufacturer of bucket and trailer sand and bedding slingers, sand stall grooming equipment, feed pushers and vacuum tankers for sand laden manure.

Accommodation tonight will be at the Swan Lake Resort in Indiana where we will enjoy a group dinner sponsored by **WeCover Structures** at 7:00 PM. Dinner will be followed by a speaker from Fairlife, a new and innovative marketing initiative involving dairies in Indiana, where we visit in the morning.



## Thursday, October 19

After a hot buffet breakfast we depart from Swan Lake Resort at 7:00 AM.

### Homestead Dairy, Plymouth, IN

The Houin family started in dairy in 1945 with 9 cows. Today, we visit their new 400,000 sq. ft. cross-tunnel ventilated barn with 24 Lely A-4 robots, with EasyFix stabling and mats. We will also tour their 3 group housing calf barns with DeLaval automatic feeders. Homestead also has a digester and a parlour-based dairy and milks over 5,000 cows in total.