

Dedication on This Mayer Dairy

Lyle had a stake in dairy early on. His parents, Louis and Melba Honebrink, milked cows, along with raising chickens and hogs farrow to finish. Lyle and his older brother, Larry, did chores around the farm. In high school they got their own patron numbers with the local creamery.

"I would ship my own can of milk every day," said the Mayer dairyman. "That's how I got started."

When he was a junior in high school, his dad sold the dairy cows. "We still had hogs and beef cattle, and I would help the neighbors with their cows—I stayed involved in dairy one way or the other."

Then, in 1976, Lyle bought seven dairy heifers and his dad helped him remodel the farm's original barn, which was part log, to start milking again. From that point:

- 1977—Lyle and Wanda married. Wanda grew up on a dairy farm near Gibbon. The Honebrink herd numbered 26 by that time.
- 1979—Lyle and Wanda bought the family dairy and paid for an addition to the barn, which brought the herd up to 46.
- 1990—The Honebrinks built their house on the farm.
- 1992—They built a calf barn.
- 1993—They bought a neighboring farm, adding to their feed production capacity.
- 1995—They remodeled a pole barn and installed free stalls for the dairy cows.



- 1996—They expanded their dairy herd to 75.
- 2002—They built a free-stall barn with a double six parabone milking parlor, and in subsequent years, the Honebrink's herd reached a high of 108 cows in milk.

"We have four children—Gwen, Dean, Gail and David—and all of them did chores," said Wanda, who remembers a time when they hand-fed grain to the herd seven times per day.

"That really made milk," recalled Lyle.

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The Honebrink Family left to right: Back row - daughter Gwen and Keith Hand, Jennifer Iverson and son Dean Honebrink, daughter Gail and Marvin Schuff, son David and Paula Honebrink. Middle row - Lyle, grandson Garrett and Wanda. Front row - Grandsons Bode, Damon and Tyson. Not pictured - newborn granddaughter Olivia Schuff.

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When their last child was a senior in high school, they had to come up with something that didn't require as much labor. So, in 2002, they expanded by building a new free-stall barn and a milking parlor. The expansion made things workable for Lyle and Wanda when all the kids had left home.

"Now one person can milk if they have to," said Lyle, but it's easier with two people. Wanda and Jennifer, Dean's girlfriend, do the milking.

Lyle does all the feeding, scraping and grooming stalls, with some help from their son, Dean. Dean is an accomplished mechanic, and operates a shop on the family farm, fixing and fabricating equipment for the Honebrinks and their neighbors.

For the past 30 years, the Honebrinks have relied on sales nutritionist Mike Foust for advice, both for the feeding and for the management of their cattle. "If he goes to seminars, we get the benefit from it," said Lyle.

The Honebrinks have always tried to use the top-quality protein that their supplier offers. "For instance, Munson Lakes offers different levels of starter," explained Lyle. "We feed AMPLI-CALF." Lyle and Wanda put up high-moisture corn and corn silage and raise their own hay. Unusual weather in the past two

years resulted in a shortage of good quality hay. Mike helped them find and incorporate corn gluten pellets in their milking rations.

"That's been very good for us," said Lyle. "It has improved production."

The farm's current rolling herd average is 27,947 lbs, with a fat content of 1,249 lbs and protein of 877 lbs. That compares with a rolling herd average of 18,323 lbs, fat of 712 lbs and protein of 570 lbs back in July of 1989, according to Mike, who has kept these records from the early years of his relationship with the Honebrink Dairy.

"I'm happy with where we are and very surprised we've been able to make progress in the last two years with the poor hay," said Lyle. "I'm guessing it was because of the corn gluten in the feed."

Mike says a key to the Honebrinks' success is their commitment. "It takes dedication, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, to run a dairy farm, and they do that."

This dedication also extends to their community involvement. Wanda plays the organ at their church, and Lyle sings in the choir. "To do all that and run a dairy farm is remarkable," Mike added. ●

Purina All the Way

Since Mike Foust began working with the Honebrinks back in 1986, Lyle and Wanda have supplemented farm-grown feedstuffs with Purina feeds and good advice.

Mike's philosophy as the Honebrinks advisor is summed up in this four-panel graphic Purina created several years ago.

"Each of these four squares is vitally important by itself, but all four areas are interdependent," said this sales nutritionist who has counseled

hundreds of dairies for over three decades. Mike is as high on the Purina brand as he was when he started.

"No other feed company has developed so much information about today's dairy operation or is in a position to convert that vast experience into such a broad range of products and services for every purpose and situation," he stated.

Supplied by Munson Lakes Nutrition, Purina products currently being used on the Honebrinks' dairy farm include:

- Pasteurized Milk Balancer® Protein Blend (a milk powder to be added to whole milk)
- AMPLI-CALF® Starter
- HEIFERSMART® DD Mineral for Growing Heifers
- Propel® Energy Plus for Lactation Cows
- Rally® Dairy Feed for Lactation Cows
- NutriTek® Technology for Lactation Cows ●



2017: Feed Directive Rules to Begin

Barring a late change of U.S. Food and Drug Administration rules, the use of antibiotics in livestock feed will dramatically change as of Jan. 1, 2017. The feeding of antibiotics, approved for both humans and animals, will no longer be allowed for growth promotion.

Furthermore, the feeding of these antibiotics for therapeutic purposes will be allowed only under veterinary supervision. A licensed veterinarian

must issue a veterinary feed directive (VFD) before a manufacturer can add a restricted antibiotic to feed, and the producer must show that its use was discontinued by the expiration date on the VFD.

This change will require veterinarians, feed manufacturers and producers to work closely together. Stay tuned for more details in future issues of the MLN Advisor. ●

Your Partner in All Your Needs

By John Zander, General Manager



Our newsletters focus on the nutrition work we do and the feed we manufacture here at MLN. I also know many of you make stops at our Country Store in Howard Lake. If you haven't been there, be sure to let Wade, Mo, Paul and Elise help you with any of your needs. The store features Ritchie® waterers and parts, Carhartt® clothing, Red Wing boots, Farm-Oyl® products, as well

as handling many different pet foods and lifestyle feeds. With spring here soon, we also have many lawn care items available for you—and if we don't have it Mo will find it for you and get it in. Please go to our website and click on the Country Store tab to get all the details.

Update on Munson Lakes

The Howard Lake mill continues to do well. We're two months into 2016, and our feed volume remains solid. Thanks for your business.

This summer, we'll upgrade a mill to make our production of pelleted feeds a little better, faster and more efficient. We'll also address areas around the mill that still need blacktopping to keep things clean.

Two energetic young men have joined us. Ted Radintz, a calf and heifer specialist, has lots of experience and has hit the ground running. Nate Dressel, a lifestyle production specialist, has a passion for horses. Please read their stories on this page.

We are committed to fulfilling our mission (see page 4) as we work to serve you. ●

A Passion for Cattle

Growing up on a dairy farm, Ted Radintz was in charge of the calves and heifers. He showed cattle in 4-H and earned a degree in animal science at the University of Minnesota. So he fits right in as our new calf and heifer specialist—joining Munson Lakes last November.

Previously, Ted worked in cattle marketing with Central Livestock Association, on animal health issues with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and on policy issues with Minnesota Milk Producers. "I have a strong passion for cattle," he said.

He was drawn to MLN because of our dedication to customer service. "I appreciate the progressive nature of how we conduct business and keep the farmer first," he stated.

Ted's goal is to help livestock producers accomplish their goals—particularly younger ones without a lot of margin for error.

Ted is available to come out and talk through your issues and concerns.

Just call his cell, 763-218-7590, or email him at tradintz@landolakes.com.



Ted Radintz,
Calf and
Heifer
Specialist

Editor's note: Ted and his wife, Rebecca, live in Independence with their three children: Callie, 8, Carter, 6, and Kendra, 1. ●



Nate Dressel
Lifestyle
Production
Specialist

Below, Nate competes at a sorting event.

A Passion for Horses

"I loved horses as soon as I knew what they were," said Nate Dressel, Munson Lakes' new lifestyle production specialist. Over the years he managed several horse barns. Riding and showing horses has always been a big part of his life.

"I've attended competitions or competed in western, English events, hunter/jumper and dressage," he said. "Currently, I compete in sorting and penning."

Nate worked as a welder and a production coordinator in a welding shop for

several years. Now he looks forward to working with horses again. "I jumped at the chance to grow into this position and move forward with my career in horses," he states.

Based at the Munson Lakes Country Store in Howard Lake, Nate's goal is to meet people and advise them on animal nutrition—not only horses, but also chickens, ducks, goats, dogs, cats and any kind of lifestyle animal.

If you have a nutrition question, call Nate at 952-564-5339, or at the Country Store, 800-663-9177.

Editor's note: Nate and his wife, Danielle, a labor and delivery nurse, have two children: a daughter, Austin, 4; and a son, Brooks, 1. ●



PO Box 549
 Howard Lake, MN 55349



Toss Your Hay in and Walk Away

The Howard Lake Country Store is pleased to announce we now carry Hay Chix™ Hay Nets. These nets were designed for horse owners to prevent hay waste and gorging, but people are using them for cattle, goats, alpacas and other animals, too. Hay Chix, located in St. Croix Falls, is actually partnering with the Minnesota Zoo.

We stock a variety of Hay Chix nets:

- **The Free-Up Feeder** is great for stall hay feeding and swings open to fill in less than 30 seconds. The frame measures 12 inches by 24 inches and features safe, rounded corners. The netting is made of equine-quality, UV-treated DuPont fiber.
- **The Small Bale Net** holds a whole square bale, increases yield and

immediately reduces waste. Fits two-string bales up to 70 pounds.

- **The Round Bale Net** holds bales up to a 6-foot diameter. It reduces hay waste up to 6.3 percent, and with the high cost of hay, it quickly pays for itself.

We also carry **Hay Chix Mini** and **Micro Mini Cinch Nets**.

Just arrived

We now carry a brand new Hay Chix hay net called the **Hay Rack**. It's a corner feeder that works in stalls, lean-tos, turn outs, on panels, fence or barn walls—anywhere there is a corner, indoors and out.

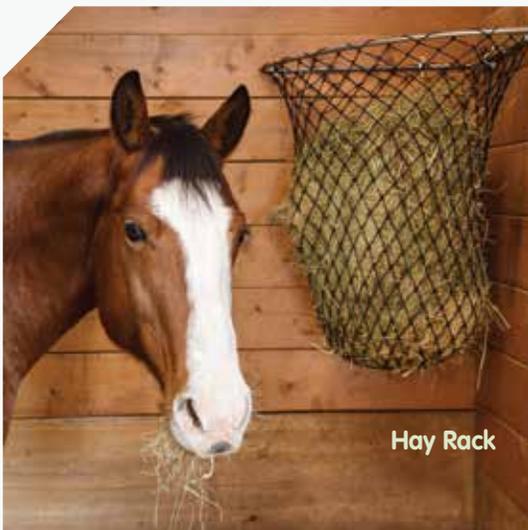
Stop at the Howard Lake Country Store to see our extensive inventory of Hay Chick Hay Nets today. ●

OUR MISSION

Some things never change—even after 80 years.

THE VALUES THAT SHAPED OUR HERITAGE WILL REMAIN. MUNSON LAKES NUTRITION WILL CONTINUE TO:

- MANUFACTURE A GREAT PRODUCT AT A FAIR PRICE.
- GIVE GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE.
- BASE EVERY DECISION ON FAIRNESS AND DECENCY.



Hay Rack



Bale Net

MUNSON LAKES NUTRITION DIRECTORY

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