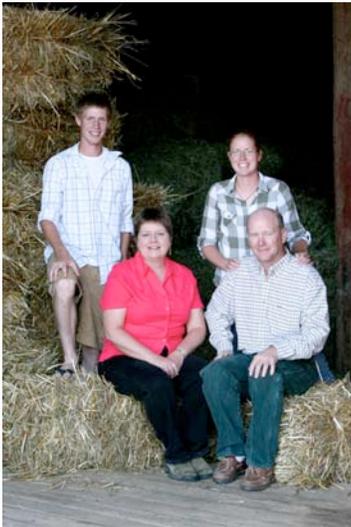




December 2010



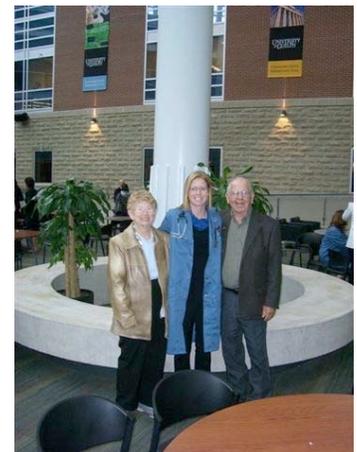
2010 was a year filled with ups and downs for the Cornell Family. Rebecca was accepted into the Ontario Veterinary College and the cattle business continues to grow. Mixed in with the ups there were also a few downs with some family health issues.

Cornell Farms had a fairly good year selling breeding stock to a variety of markets – local, Winnipeg, Swift Current, and even Kazakhstan. All the crops were good this year with lots of hay and grain – every bin is full. The calves looked great coming off pasture even though we did have a few losses from wolves in one of our rental pastures. Calving season had some interesting anomalies as well. It's always a challenge without a large animal veterinarian in the District.

Kim continues to travel throughout the region for Farmers' Markets. This part of our business continues to grow with markets in Thunder Bay, Fort Frances, Sioux Lookout, Atikokan, Kenora and Red Lake. Cornell Farms also participates in various other ventures throughout the region with food products – the Northern Networks Conference, the Fort Frances Trade Show, the Harvest Dinner in Atikokan, the Clover Valley Food Store, and the Rainy River Valley Agricultural Fair. Just recently, we began work on a walk-in freezer in the meat house to help with these expanded markets.

Besides participating in the markets and farming, Kim is also busy as a Director of the Clover Valley Farmers' Market, a member of the local Health Coalitions and recently met with Tony Clement, Federal Industry Minister to discuss local economic development issues. Pat continues to be involved with the local Foodbox programmes, is a member of a variety of church committees, and a member of the local agricultural awareness committee. She continues to quilt, scrapbook, make jams and jellies from local berries, and work on her gardens. Pat was also a volunteer judge at the Iron Chef Competition at the local foods conference in Thunder Bay – back to her roots as a home economist!

Rebecca had a great year in 2010. She continued working in the lab at the University of Guelph with a PhD student analyzing the lake trout data that she had collected for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in 2009. Then in February, she came home to help us during the calving season. In the summer, she continued working for the MNR but this year she was based at home which was great. We even had the MNR Warehouse located in our garage! The big news is that she was accepted into the Veterinary Medicine programme at the University of Guelph. Pat's parents attended the welcoming ceremony while the rest of us watched it on-line. It was a proud moment for all of us. She continues to play soccer, powder puff football, and hockey. Unfortunately, she completely tore her ACL and partially tore her MCL (knee injury) in the championship soccer game this summer (they won). Surgery is scheduled for February.



Garnet is in his second year at the University of Guelph studying Earth Surface Science with a Minor in Music. He and Rebecca are living together with makes for interesting times. They do get along great. He is also busy playing basket ball, soccer, and singing in the Guelph Symphonic Choir. Rebecca and Pat's parents attended their December concert. By all accounts it was an extra-ordinary performance – some of it performed in German.



We've all had a few trips this year. Kim, Pat, and Kim's parents Gordon and Jeannine travelled to Pennsylvania for a wedding (we left Rebecca in charge of calving). They also made time for a bit of sightseeing of Gettysburg and Lancaster Country where the Amish are situated. Pat was in southern Ontario to visit her family in June, October, and December. Kim traveled with her in June, and Rebecca and Garnet joined her in October for Thanksgiving with her family. It was also a chance to see Pat's parents' new home along the St. Clair River. Joanne and Earle have moved out of the farm house. Sharon and Ed's son Owen (grandson) and his wife Calla will soon be moving in. Pat's father has lived there over 70 years so it's been quite a transition. In November, Kim and Pat joined brother-in-law Ralph Eyre and his son Colin in Regina to take in Western Canada Agribition – the largest agricultural show in Canada.

We've also had a lot of visitors. Pat's Mom, Dad, and three sisters, Sharon, Dianne, and Marie all came up for a visit this summer. Marie even built a fountain for the garden. It was quite a feat using a boulder that Kim had dug out of a field on the farm. Marie's son Earle arrived for an extended visit and helped with some of the field work. I'm sure he felt like he was a long way from home when he and Rebecca had to make a 7 hour detour to get here because of a road wash-out. Max and Mabel Heeney and family also stopped by on their travels. Quite a few of Rebecca's friends stopped on their way through to and from summer jobs in Calgary and Red Lake. It's always nice to have visitors.

We hosted three barn activities this year – singer-songwriter Cara Luft, bluegrass group House of Doc, and Salamander Theatre's production of "Romeo and Juliet". Check out our website www.cornellfarms.ca to see pictures of all the fun. We did manage to get some water skiing and fishing in throughout the summer. We live in a vacation paradise so it's important to take advantage of it.

As mentioned at the beginning of this letter, there were a few downs to the year. Brother-in-law Bill Darby has had to deal with prostate cancer. His prognosis is good and we look forward to a good report in 2011. Pat's mother Joanne has had some undiagnosed health issues since her return from Europe last year. It all seems to be triggered by something on the plane coming home. We have been blessed by some excellent doctors and we should have a final diagnosis in the New Year. Meanwhile, Joanne fell in early December and first spent some time first at University Hospital in London and then at the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia recovering from a head injury. Luckily, no bones were broken.



Well, that's all the news for this year. We send out a monthly e-newsletter with all the happenings (and pictures). If you would like to be included on our e-mail list, let us know at cornellfarms@tbaytel.net. Hope you all had a good year and all the best in 2011.

Kim, Pat, Rebecca, and Garnet