



December 2013

The Cornell Family has had a very good year. Cattle prices are up and farm markets well attended.



Calving season was very busy and for the first time in many years, we were calving with a lot of snow on the ground. Kim and Pat were on their own so it was a bit of a challenge.

As well, Cornell Farms has been in the breeding stock business for 50 years so we had a few different ways to celebrate throughout the year. We had a naming contest for the first

ET (embryo transfer) bull calf. We had over 100 entries. The winner was Heather Manty Miller from Thunder Bay with the name Aspire“. She won a 50th Anniversary Chore Jacket and the official name of the calf will be “CRNL 719T Aspire ET 1A“. Bull buyers also received a jacket.

We planted soybeans for the first time this year. It was a great crop and even though it was a bit of a challenge getting them off with all the rain we had this fall, we were pleased with the yield. They are still in the bin but will hopefully be sold in the next few weeks. We are also busy building two solar tracker systems. They should be operational in the New Year.



Garnet graduated in April from the University of Guelph with a Major in Earth Surface Science and a Minor in Music. He decided to spend the year at home helping us around the farm. It has been great having his help. In fact, he practically runs the place since we're so busy with markets and other projects. Our nephew Earle, from southern Ontario also arrived and spent the summer with us. He was focused on helping us with our markets. Between the two boys, they gave us a wealth of marketing ideas and helped us implement some of them. Here's a picture on graduation day - Rebecca, Kelsey, Kim, Pat, Garnet.

Kim continues to travel throughout the region for Farmers' Markets in Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Kenora, Atikokan, Fort Frances and Red Lake. Our sales keep increasing in this area and we are always developing new products. It seems to be an expanding market for us. Besides our beef products, Garnet raised some chickens for us to sell. They are selling very well.

Rebecca is just finishing up her degree in Veterinary Medicine. She will graduate in the spring and has been busy travelling across the country participating in a variety of internships. She was awarded one of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners Bovine Veterinary Student Recognition Awards in September which has helped with some of these costs. She and Garnet (with a couple of other friends) travelled to Ireland during last February's reading week to visit cousin Shannon Darby who was completing her Masters in Community Music. They had a great time. Rebecca became quite adept at driving a standard car on the other side of the road. Garnet spent last Christmas in Europe with Shannon and other relatives as well. Here's a picture of Kelsey, Rebecca and Garnet in Ireland.



Kim and Pat continue to be busy with church and community commitments including helping to make their local church accessible. Pat also continues to work as a Justice of the Peace based in the Fort Frances

Courthouse. She has been relocated from her office since July, 2011 when the basement of the 100 year old building flooded. It has been challenging sharing chambers with a variety of visiting Judiciary. She is hoping to be moved back in to a fully renovated office, chambers and courtroom in the New Year.

We all had a few trips this year. Pat and Kim went to Southern Ontario a few times this year – Muskoka and Niagara Falls (for work), Guelph for Garnet's graduation (with Kim's parents Gordon and Jeannine) and Swift Current in mid-December to sell some bred cows and heifers. Pat also met up with her sister Marie and her friend Marnie to vacation in Cape Breton. Marie is there every July completing a Master's in Business so they tack on a week at the end to tour around. As mentioned earlier, Garnet's been busy – Europe, Ireland, and a concert in Toronto. Rebecca went to Ireland, Milwaukee, Alberta and in the Minneapolis in the New Year to complete some more of her internship hours. Here's a picture of Pat, Marie, Rachel (Marnie's daughter) and Marnie during the hike of the Skyline Trail (7 kilometres and we all survived!).



We had two barn concerts this year. Del Barber performed in August. He's a singer-songwriter from Manitoba who tells great stories as well. He's a real crowd pleaser. Local performers Mike McCaig and Lauren Gurski opened. In September The Brothers Landreth performed. They are a fairly new band from Manitoba with lots of individual experience. Some of the members performed at the Canadian Country Music Awards the night before and then the band opened for Dwight Yoakam the night after so it was a bit of a whirlwind for the band. Garnet and Wayne MacIntyre opened. You can see a couple of performances from all these concerts on the Cornell Farms YouTube Channel. We also have pictures of all the fun on our website www.cornellfarms.ca.



Pat had a great experience with her hive of bees (Kim gave them to her last Christmas) with lots of help with nephew Earle. Although it was a steep learning curve, (especially how to work the smoker) we did get around 60 to 70 pounds of honey and she's gung-ho to do it again next year in spite of a few stings. Hopefully, our bees will survive the winter. Maybe we'll even add on another hive in the spring.

The extended family is well and just as busy as we are. Pat's parents have traveled to New Orleans and taken a river cruise in Europe. Kim's parents have travelled to Guelph for Garnet's graduation and to Alberta to visit Doug's family for Thanksgiving. Kim's brother Doug has a new job as General Manager of the Alberta Wheat Commission. Sharon's daughter Holly has moved to Red Lake, Ontario and is now only 5 hours away so we hope to see her fairly often. A variety of nieces and nephews have spent some of the year traveling all over the world (afraid to list who and where in case we miss someone). Suffice it to say that the travel bug has hit the next generation of Cornells and Clydsdales.

Well, that's all the news for this year. We send out an 'almost' monthly e-newsletter with all the happenings. If you would like to be included on our e-mail list, let us know at cornellfarms@tbaytel.net. We have been doing more regular updates on Facebook and Twitter. Just search for "cornellfarms". And don't forget to check out our YouTube channel. Hope you all had a good year and all the best in 2014.

Kim, Pat, Rebecca and Garnet