



December 2015

Another great year for the Cornell Family. Cattle prices were a record high this spring but they have fallen off a bit this fall. We are finally recovering after the lean years after BSE. Our breeding stock sales are also up so life on the farm has been good for us this year.



Rebecca continues to work as a large animal veterinarian at the Kirkton Veterinary Clinic and lives in St. Mary's Ontario. Since she plans to stay there for a few more years, she just bought a house and will be moving in in early January. Last Christmas, we all travelled south to spend Christmas with her and Pat's family. It was the first time we've spent Christmas in Mooretown since 1986. It was a surprise Christmas present for Pat's parents Earle and Joanne. She also came home and did our pregnancy checks this fall. Garnet is now working full time as an Environmental Technician for New Gold - Rainy River Project. Although it is long hours, he is enjoying it very much. They are in the construction stage of the gold mine so there is a lot to do.



Kim continues to travel throughout the region for Farmers' Markets in Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Kenora, 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. The increased cost of live animals has made it a bit of a challenge to keep a profit in the food part of our business but we are managing.

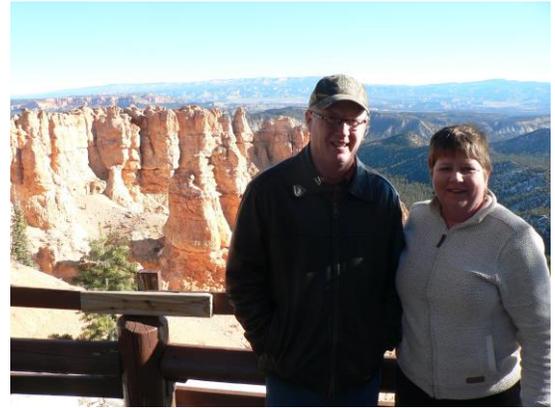
Kim and Pat continue to be busy with community commitments. Pat was the Artistic Director for the Harmony of Nations Music Festival. This Festival celebrates music from the First Nation, Métis, Canadian and American cultures and is held in Fort Frances each July. She also continues to work as a Justice of the Peace based in the Fort Frances Courthouse. We have also been busy with a few house renovations – new counter and wallpaper in the bathroom, new paint in the upstairs hallway and kitchen, and refinished cupboards, new counter, backsplash and floor in the kitchen. Next year we will be targeting the living room.

We all had a few trips this year. Pat and Kim went to Southern Ontario a few times this year – Niagara Falls and Niagara on the Lake (for work) and Ottawa for a friend's wedding. The whole family was in Mooretown in June for niece Holly's wedding. It was wonderful to see everyone. Here's a picture of the whole Clysdale clan as well as a picture of Laura Darby with Garnet and Rebecca.





Rebecca and Kelsey travelled to Chicago and New Orleans while Garnet travelled to Montreal for the Osheaga Music Festival. Pat and Kim spent a couple of weeks in January visiting



friends around the Phoenix area and then travelling north through northern Arizona and southern Utah, finally spending a week in Elko, Nevada at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. It was great fun with lots of music, poetry, story-telling and even some rodeo swing dance lessons. So much fun, that they will be going back in 2016.

We had lots of visitors this year. Pat's sisters Marie, Dianne and Helen arrived in April for a few days. Cornell relative Tom Oates and his friend Helen arrived from England in August. Garnet's roommate Trevor, from all his years at the University of Guelph also arrived in August for a visit. Pat's sister Sharon, her husband Ed, daughter Christine and grandson Jackson made an overnight stop in late August on their way to Red Lake to visit Holly and Cory. In October, we had a visit from the Pope side of the family (Gordon's maternal side and the part of the family who homesteaded the farm). Norman Pope arrived from Vancouver Island for a few days. He had found an aerial photograph of the Pope farm in LaVallee, Ontario in his mother's things. An internet search led him to us. It has certainly become a small world with the world wide web.

We had two barn concerts this year. Brent Newman and Rough Cut Pine performed in June as part of a fundraiser for the Community Chest programme that helps local residents with health care costs not covered. It was quite a success with a BBQ, games, auction and concert. Union Duke, a blue grass group from Toronto was back in the barn in August with openers Ben Sletmoen and Kenneth Kellar. Eli Barsi, a singer-songwriter from Saskatchewan who we saw perform in Elko was supposed to perform in the fall, but got sick just hours before the concert. With the help of social media and a few telephone calls, only a few people arrived at the farm. Eli is planning to come back in 2016 to perform.



But the big event of 2015 was the celebration of Earle and Joanne's 60th Wedding Anniversary in August. We held a grandchildren's talent show the night before at the Sixth Line United Church followed by a BBQ at Brenda and Ralph's farm. The next day, we had a come and go tea at the Corunna Legion with 100's of people attending – a hugh crowd! Here's a picture Earle and Joanne with all their girls – Pat (1), Brenda (6), Dianne (4), Marie (2), Sharon (3) and Helen (5) with birth order indicated.

Well, that's all the news for this year. We send out a quarterly e-newsletter with all the happenings. If you would like to be included on our e-mail list, let us know at cornellfarms@cornellfarms.ca. 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 2016.

Kim, Pat, Rebecca and Garnet