

PUREBRED CHAROLAIS BREEDER OF THE YEAR

C2 Charolais - Jeff & Jackie Cavers & Family

By: Joan Airey

C2 Charolais a third generation operation located near LaRiviere in the Pembina Valley received Purebred Charolais Breeder of the Year Award at the annual Manitoba Charolais Annual General Meeting and Pen Show in Dauphin recently. C2 is owned and operated by Jeff and Jackie Cavers along with the help of their three sons: Keegan, Fischer and Lukas. They have thirteen hundred acres of grain and one hundred and twenty purebred Charolais cows with a strong yearling bull program.

“Jeff’s Dad always had cattle and used Maine Anjou bulls. From the day Jeff could walk he was always out helping with the cattle. His love for cattle grew when he was in 4-H and his career in 4-H was successful. In 2001 when he was in his early twenties he leased his first group of Charolais cattle from his Aunt and Uncle Lloyd and Lorraine Cavers who own Cavers Charolais in Neepawa.” said Jackie Cavers.

“The Charolais breed is the easiest way to add value to a commercial herd as buyers want Charolais calves to feed! We were running two hundred and twenty commercial cows when he started into the purebred business. When we had the commercial herd we had various breeds bred to different breeds. Once we used more and more Charolais bulls those calves always brought more money. Especially the heifer calves. We were getting more money for the char heifer calves than the steers of other breeds.” said Jeff Cavers.

“Jeff worked out west in Camrose for a year but wasn’t happy when not working with cattle. Cattle are part of who we are as challenging as this farm lifestyle can be in today’s world. The cattle end of our operation is what keeps us going. We promote our cattle at small community fairs all over southern and central Manitoba, Ag-Ex in Brandon, Agribition in Regina, Douglas Test Station, No Borders Purebred Sale, and Hi-Way Sale in previous years. We have exported cattle to Russia three years in a row through Xport International. We market our bulls through a purebred sale Prairie Distinction Charolais Bull in Neepawa every March.” said Jackie Cavers.

Jeff has been active on the board of Douglas Test Station, Vice-President of the Manitoba Charolais Association, and involved with Manitou Ag Society. Jackie is a 4-H leader on the committee for Manitoba Beef Round-Up. While son Keegan is a Junior 4-H leader and on CCYA National Board as representative for Manitoba MCYA. Keegan is attending his second year at Brandon University working on his science degree with an interest in agricultural economics. He has started his own Charolais herd, continually adding to it. The Cavers family strongly support many youth programs and event such as local 4-H shows, Young Ranchman’s in Swift Current, SK. and have attended the Canadian Charolais Youth Association Annual Event the past four years and Alberta Synergy.

Jackie is a graduate of Olds College Animal Health Technology program. She worked in dentistry and general medicine for fifteen years in a small animal hospital. She is a advocate for youth programs. The Cavers let young people in the community

adopt a calf so they can experience and participate in the 4-H beef program and also encourage these young people to attend events such as Round-Up in Neepawa.

“There is so much untapped potential in our young people and so many opportunities and life lessons in the cattle environment that can build solid character, confidence, and good work ethic. I believe these values are not always presented in a young person’s life now a day. Cattle can help give them this.” said Jackie.

Jeff, Jackie and family work together on the farm and make C2 a successful operation.

