






FARM FAMILY AWARD
 2022
C2 CHAROLAIS-CAVERS FAMILY



Cavers
Family

C2 Charolais

Historical Background
Jeff started C2 Charolais under the influence and mentorship of his Aunt Loraine and Uncle Lloyd Cavers of Neepawa.

Type of Farming Operation
The Cavers family raises an elite herd of Charolais cattle, selling to both commercial and purebred breeders across Canada.

Family Participation
C2 Charolais is a family operation. Jeff and Jackie work full time on the farm with the help of their boys, Keegan, Fisher and Lucas. Keegan graduated from university this past year and works off farm at a local equipment dealer while helping with the day-to-day operations of C2 as well. Fisher and Lucas help with the day-to-day operations and are very much part of showing the C2 genetics off through showing in the junior programs.

Conserving the Past and the Future
By practicing and adapting an intense, rotational grazing plan, they have been able to increase their grazing capacity on two different restricted land bases near

their farm. These pastures are capable of retaining more moisture, show better weed control and have allowed more species of native grasses to return. The actual number of grazing days has risen significantly since they incorporated this practice.

Jeff and Jackie work hard to maintain the land which they use for producing their livestock, through adaptive thinking to ensure the land will produce for the boys in the future.

In terms of the genetics of their livestock, C2 continues to focus on sound, functional, ease doing, fertile cattle. Jeff spends a lot of time researching the genetic background of livestock to ensure that any livestock they add to their farm will add genetic benefit to their herd as well as their customers.

Land Stewardship
The family demonstrates environmental practices by reducing their erosion and conserving moisture through their rotational grazing program, using both annual and biennial plants to build soil health and conserve the soil.

Community Involvement
Jackie teaches spin class at the local gym, and volunteers for many different organizations within the community. Jeff and the boys are involved with minor hockey in the community. Jackie is the secretary of the Manitoba Youth Beef Round Up, and Manitoba Junior Charolais Parent advisor on the National Board.

Jeff has taken on a leadership role with the Manitoba and Canadian Charolais Association. He is past president of the Manitoba Charolais Association, and is a current member of the Canadian Charolais Association.

Jeff and Jackie were the 2020 Manitoba Charolais Ambassador of the Year which is in line with Jeff and Jackie's support of youth in agriculture.

Awards and Highlights
2017- Manitoba Charolais Breed of the Year
2018 CCTA Honore Award
2020- Manitoba Charolais Ambassadors of the Year
2017- National Champion Charolais Bull with JB&B Fisher

BMO

On March 31, at the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, Jeff and Jackie Cavers and family – C2 Charolais, were presented with one of the six 2022 BMO Farm Family Awards. The BMO Farm Family Awards recognize the impressive contributions to the agriculture community across the province. The Cavers demonstrate a strong commitment and passion to the agricultural way of life. They excel at building their business with a focus on new management ideas, efficiencies, sustainability and people.

Jeff started C2 Charolais under the influence and mentorship of his aunt and uncle, Lorraine and Lloyd Cavers of Neepawa. His focus is raising and developing an elite herd of Charolais cattle, selling to both commercial and purebred breeders across Canada and the USA. C2 Charolais is a family operation, with both Jeff and Jackie working full time on the farm with the help of their three boys, Keegan, Fischer and Lukas.

The Cavers demonstrate many environmental practices, one of which is their intense rotational grazing plan. They have been able to increase their grazing capacity on two different restricted land bases near their farm. These pastures are now capable of retaining more moisture, are showing better weed control and have allowed more species of native grasses to return. Year after year Jeff is continuously amazed how significantly these areas have improved and continue to flourish. It was especially noticeable this past year when the province was hit with a drought. Established root systems were able to hold on to moisture and supply grazing opportunities for the herd. The actual number of grazing days has risen significantly since they incorporated this practice.

Jeff and Jackie work hard to maintain the land which they use for producing their livestock, through adaptive thinking to ensure the land will produce for the boys and the community in the future. “ You can’t make more land”, expressed Jackie. “I’ve always felt privileged to be a land owner and am very aware that comes with a great responsibility. It’s a gift if you really think about it!” She continues to share how Canada’s prairie grasslands are one of the worlds most endangered ecosystems and feels a strong obligation to do her part to properly care for her own land-base.

They have also taken an active role in repairing the riparian areas in their pastures along the Pembina River. Trees and grasses in riparian areas stabilize stream-banks and reduce floodwater velocity, resulting in reduced downstream flood peaks. Taking advantage of project sharing programs from their municipal and provincial conservation districts, Jeff and Jackie have been able to better organize and expand pastures with the installation of watering systems. Collaborating with conservation technicians has helped the couple make decisions that will benefit the water way, land and animals long term. These changes are widely noticed and confirm what good livestock management and a proactive plan can elevate and maintain natural habitats.

In terms of livestock genetics, C2 continues to focus on sound, functional cattle that work! Jeff comments, "Cattle need to pull their weight and get the job done. Raising cattle is a business and businesses need to make a profit. I want to see as much money in a cattleman's pocket as possible! This is a good, but hard lifestyle and all producers deserve to be compensated at the end of the day. Genetics and land management is a key factor to that." Researching and following up on different bloodlines is a steady exercise. Jeff spends countless hours studying and scrutinizing cattle looking for optimal performance traits. Knowing the pedigrees and their backgrounds is so pivotal to ensure that any new livestock the Cavers do add to their program will only add genetic benefit to their herd, as well as their customers.

The Cavers view their role as producers as influential. They believe that being transparent with their cattle program and educating the public is the answer to bridging the gaps between consumers and producers. Jeff and Jackie want to install trust, be accountable for their practices and follow the guidelines and standards set out in the Verified Beef Production plus program. This quality assurance program focus on farm food safety, animal care, environmental stewardship and biosecurity. An annual audit helps prove to consumers that the Cavers operation adheres to the highest level standards.

Jeff and Jackie are involved in the community they live, as well as the Manitoba and Canadian Charolais Associations. They act as Parent Advisors with the Canadian Charolais Youth Association and serve as members on the Manitoba Youth Beef Round Up board, that organizes an all breed cattle show and educational weekend. They were the 2020 Manitoba Charolais Ambassador of the Year which is in line with Jeff and Jackie's support of youth in agriculture. Congratulations on this well deserved award!