



## Robin and Lincoln Chesmer Graywall Farms

Graywall Farms is a family farm operated by Robin Chesmer and his son Lincoln, with son-in-law David Hevner managing the raising of the young stock. All the grandchildren help on the farm too!

The Chesmers started their business in 1989 when they leased a 185-acre dairy farm and purchased 80 dairy cows and farm equipment. The farm real estate was purchased in 1992 after the owner sold the development rights to the State of Connecticut therefore making the land more affordable for farming.

Connecticut's Farmland Preservation Program is a valuable tool that enabled Graywall Farms to lease and then purchase the dairy farm. Since then the farm has grown to include over 900 acres with the addition of four other farms that are also in the Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program.



### The Farms of The Farmer's Cow

Fairvue Farms, Woodstock • Hytone Farm, Coventry  
Mapleleaf Farm, Hebron • Fort Hill Farms, Thompson  
Cushman Farms, Franklin • Graywall Farms, Lebanon

## The Farmer's Cow Story



The seed was planted for The Farmer's Cow when our six Connecticut dairy farms, with shared concerns, began planning for the future of our family farms. With the growing interest in fresh, locally grown foods we believed consumers were looking for just what we produce: fresh Connecticut milk from Connecticut cows. So we formed our own milk company.

The Farmer's Cow is dedicated to putting a face on Connecticut Agriculture – educating people about farming, sustainable agriculture and ensuring farmland preservation. Our farm tours are one way we do this, offering the public a first-hand look into our working dairy farms. We understand the important role our dairy farms play in the economic health of our communities. We are committed to producing natural, Connecticut milk and other farm products, fresh daily.

### Our Growing Product Line:

Milk • Half & Half • Heavy Cream • Ice Cream  
Eggs • Apple Cider • Summer Beverages • Coffee



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# Welcome to GRAYWALL FARMS



## MEMBER FARM

49 Chappell Road  
Lebanon, CT 06249  
(860) 642-4600

# Facts about Graywall Farms

## COWS IN HERD

450 milking cows & 400 young stock

Mostly Holsteins with a few Brown Swiss, and Jersey cross breeds

## MILKING FACILITY

Cows are milked four times per day

Milking shifts are six hours long

Milking Parlor occupied 2002

Double 14 herringbone

Bright & airy for operator and cow comfort

Radiant heat in the floor

Air operated rapid exit parlor

Automatic arm take-offs

Rubber floor mats for cow comfort

Fans & misters to keep cows cool

Two – 4,000 gallon bulk milk tanks

Herd produces 35,000 lbs milk per day, the equivalent of 3,977 gallons

## FEEDING THE COWS

Cows are fed once per day

The ration consists of corn silage, grass silage, corn meal, canola, and minerals

A recipe is followed in mixing the feed

The cows are fed from the feed truck

## CROPS GROWN

600 acres of corn for silage

500 acres of grass for hay and haylage

460 acres of cropland are rented in order to fulfill our forage requirements

## CROPPING SYSTEM

Forage crops of grass and corn are harvested and stored as silage

The feed is packed into bunker silos where great effort is spent on packing the forages in order to eliminate oxygen & promote good fermentation

Silos are covered with white plastic and covered with tires to shed moisture

## IN THE BARN

Free stall design for cow comfort

Wide alleys & plenty of fresh water

Cows are free to roam around the barn.

Cows need 18-1/2 hours a day to do their own thing. They need time to eat, drink and rest as desired.

Single bar restraint at feed bunk for cow comfort & easy access to feed

Tile lined feed manager provides a smooth surface for cows tongues

Cow stalls with rubber mattress system

Wide stalls for cow comfort & plenty of lunge room to get up out of stall

Stalls bedded with separated manure solids – recycling at its best – plus highly absorbent and comfortable

Barns built with emphasis on cooling

High 14 foot sidewalls for increased air flow

Four foot overhang to maximize shade

Misters spray water over cows backs during hot weather – fans aid in cooling

Alley scrapers remove manure from barn

## CALVES & YOUNG STOCK

Cows calve on a bedded pack

New born calves are quickly fed high quality colostrum – the mothers first milk

Calves are raised in individual hutches

Moved to group pens after weaning

Heifers calve at approximately 22 months & enter the milking herd

## MANURE SYSTEM

We spend as much time handling manure as we do milking the cows!

Manure is scraped to a reception hopper at the end of each barn

Manure then gravity flows to a holding tank

Manure is pumped from the holding tank to the separator where it is squeezed

The manure solids (10-15% volume) are used for bedding or compost

The manure liquids, that are easy to pump, are sent to a lined storage pond or the upright storage tank

The storage facilities enable us to spread manure when cropping conditions are right

## MANURE SPREADING

New this year, a drag-line system, in which manure is directly pumped to the spreader eliminating heavy traffic and minimizing soil compaction

Manure is pumped from the storage facility into a tank truck and delivered to a field

Manure is broadcast on grass land & injected below the surface on corn land