

COME TO ELGINVUE - WH

By: Mirinda Bye, MHA Intern

Upon arriving at Elginvue Farms, a person's visual range is filled with open fields, a well laid out operation and the two farm dogs Sassy and Betty Boop who are eager to meet new friends as they come to see this historic farm.

Kenn Mueller is a fourth generation dairy farmer and seventh generation native to Arlington, Minn. Kenn along with his mother Carol are excited to open Elginvue Farms up to the public and host the 2009 Minnesota Holstein Field Day on July 15. They are eager to share their history as well as reconnect and make new friends in the Holstein industry.

Along with being a dairy farmer, Kenn has also been a police officer in LeSueur for 16 years. In addition, he dabbles in the art of viticulture, growing grapes, with three acres of grapes that he sells to a winery in Redwood Falls, Minn. 2009 marks the third year of production for Kenn and a goal of selling a large crop has been set for this season. Helping Kenn to balance out the many duties of a farmer is Cody Haefs. Cody is the herdsman on the farm and helps out with the work load by splitting it with Kenn.



and cattle have since returned to the farm. Renovations to the old barn started in 2005 for the conversion to box stalls. Currently the farm consists of 600 acres that is rented out and around 50 head of cows, heifers and bulls.

Other awards and honors given to the family include: Karl being honored with the Klussendorf Award at World Dairy Expo in 1991, Kenn with the C. Whitie Thompson Award, both John and Karl with the Minnesota PDCA Breeder of the Year Award and induction into the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Hall of Fame and Karl attending the Minnesota

State Fair consecutively for 67 years along with various other awards.

HISTORY BEHIND THE FARM

Elginvue Farms has been at the current location since 1864 when the first barn was built. This barn is still standing and currently under renovations to be furnished with ten large box stalls. The farm operation itself was started by Roy Mueller and then transferred to sons Karl and John. Elginvue did not start off as a dairy farm, but rather a farm of Red Poll cattle. In 1956, the decision was made to sell the Red Polls and move on into the Holstein breed which leads us into how the prefix Elginvue came into being. Using the name of a popular Red Poll bull, Elgin Advancer AR, Elgin was pulled and placed into the prefix. Coming from a large German community, they decided to use the German word "vue" to help describe the view of the Red Poll cattle that they once had sired by Elgin Advancer AR as a "view of Elgins."

Since beginning as a dairy farm, many exciting things have happened on Elginvue Farms. Muellers raised and exhibited Minnesota's first Triple Crown winner with a young bull by the name of Sir Prestige Reflection Elgin EX-93. They have also bred and raised numerous All-American candidates and winners as well as exporting embryos worldwide since the early 1980s. In 1990, a complete herd dispersal happened

THE FACILITIES

On the farm there will be two main barns for working with the cows. The current milking facility consists of thirteen stalls and four box stalls. A large spacious milk house was renovated in order to decrease clutter. The top of this barn has been converted into a space for social gatherings and will be open to people during field day. The nursery also has some history behind it that is quite unique. This building is home to calf stalls as well as a maternity pen and office for Kenn, but started out as a hog barn. It was then converted into horse stalls in which they raise calves in. Kenn states that he puts two calves together in a stall to help encourage some competitiveness so they grow better. Kenn also says that he likes this set up because he can pay special attention to each calf and set up the growing program to fit that individual calf. The way the farm is laid out may appear to be labor intensive, but Kenn can do chores within a half hour unless he is cleaning or bedding. As said before the 600 acres that is apart of Elginvue is rented out so this means that all of the feed is purchased.

A WORKING PHILOSOPHY

When asked about his breeding philosophy, Kenn says that going older can be just as good as picking the next big thing to