

Lots of Changes in 50 Years of Farming

Jack Ferguson says farming is all he has ever known, growing up as the fourth generation on a dairy farm in Bayview, Pictou County.

He says the farm used to have about 20 sows and some laying hens, but things have changed and now it is specifically dairy.

A lot of things have things have changed over his 50 years in the business. "I never went to the Agricultural College, I came directly home to work. My father used to sell meat in town and then he had a heart attack and I had to come home and take over deliveries to town," says Jack. "We started milking the cows at 8 am and 7 pm, and this seemed to work so we never changed it."

When asked how many hours a day he puts in on average, Jack says 14 hours days...at least!

Some changes to the industry have included new technology and computers. "I know nothing about computers," he laughs, adding he still does all his bookwork by hand, leaving any computer work to his niece and nephew who work on the farm along with their father, William.

The four dairy farmers have about 150 head of cattle, milking 65. The cows are



Jack Ferguson has been farming "forever", he says, starting milking cows when he was just 10 years old, at a time when there was no running water and no electricity in the barn.

still milked more of the "old fashioned" way, with the cows tethered instead of a freestall / milking parlor. They have doubled their milk quota over the last twenty years.

"One of the biggest changes was going from canned milk to bulk hauling," says Jack. "We had our own little dairy in Pictou County, owned by 15 farmers. In 1973, Scotsburn bought the dairy and soon all the 5 or 6 dairies in the county were bought out. Then last year Scotsburn's fluid division was bought out by Saputo, of Montreal"

Jack says he is disappointed to see these changes, not only in agriculture but other industries. "Big business has taken over and there is nothing left for little businesses. No little community stores, just big malls and big business," he says. "I think this is hurting our economy, and it is the same in the dairy business. Big companies take over; their head offices move out and we lose the infrastructure out of our communities and out of the province."

Wise words from a veteran farmer with over 50 years in the business.



Brian Cameron, DFNS GM, presents his annual report during the business meeting.



Gerrit Damsteegt presents Havey Whidden with a gift on behalf of the DFNS, on his retirement as Chairman from the DFNS Board of Directors.

The **Shoreline** Journal

is proud to provide coverage of community events. For coverage of your event contact Maurice Rees at 647-2968



Heini Hehli, brought greetings from the Dairy Farmers of Alberta.



Will Vanderhorst brought greetings from the Dairy Farmers of Ontario.



Richard van Oord brought greetings from the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick.



Matthew Graye brought greetings from Dairy Farmers of Manitoba.



Bruno Letendre, brought greetings from Dairy Farmers of Quebec.



John Vissers presents Dave Angevine with an Honourary Membership in the Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia in recognition for faithful service to numerous dairy farmers during his 38 years at Clarence's Farm Services.



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