



Photo by HOARD's Dairyman

INVOLVEMENT KEY TO SUSTAINABILITY

Industry involvement is vital to the farm's environmental progress and economic success. The farm has provided case studies for the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy's Farm Smart™ project and the University of Wisconsin's Discovery Farms Program. It has helped the Department of Agriculture and Gathering Waters Conservancy to reform Wisconsin's working lands preservation program and develop the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program. The farm is a member of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin and has served in leadership positions for the Manitowoc County Chamber of Commerce, Glacial Lakes Conservancy, Dairy Business Association's Green Tier Committee, and Manitowoc County Agriculture and Environmental Task Force.



OUR STEWARDSHIP

OUR SUSTAINABILITY

CARING FOR COWS AND LAND

15621 S. Union Rd., Cleveland, WI 53015

WHOLESOME PRODUCTS



920.693.3360

www.saxonomestead.com



Photo by Mary Francis

DANCING WITH THE "STARS" ...ER, COWS?

Barn dance celebrates rural sustainability

Since 2009, the Klessigs have partnered with local organizations to host a barn dance to raise funds for rural development – Gathering Waters Conservancy, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership and the Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers. The goal is to conserve farmland and natural resources, support new and existing farmers and sustain vibrant rural communities. This year 250 attended the event raising more than \$18,000.

STEWARDSHIP LEGACY AND PROGRESS

Seeking the American Dream, the first Klessigs arrived in America in 1848 and carved a 160-acre homestead from Wisconsin's wilderness.

Ed Klessig, 4th generation Klessig, fell in love with Margret Kraft, who came to Wisconsin from Austria in 1923. They married in August 1941 beneath the black walnut tree that still lends its shade in front of the brick farmhouse. Together they raised eight children and instilled within them the virtues of self-reliance, social responsibility, and stewardship.

Today, Saxon Homestead Farm is known for its rotational grazing, pasture-raised dairy cattle, grass-fed dairy steers, and seasonal calving. The farm has received the 2004 River Champion Award for excellence in stewardship, the 2005 Distinguished Agricultural Leader Award and the 2006 Manitowoc-Two Rivers Chamber of Commerce Cooperation Recognition Award. In 2012, Karl Klessig received the Honorary Recognition Award from the University of Wisconsin-College of Agricultural & Life Sciences.



Passionate about Pasture

Photo by HOARD's Dairyman

TO OUR READERS:

Pride and tradition run deep at Saxon Homestead Farm. We are in a position to grow, thrive and prosper because of our dedicated family and employee team, strong business relationships and an abiding respect for the land, natural resources, animals, and community.

We believe that putting people first and wisely caring for our environment drive our sustainability and ability to continue providing integrity products (milk, cheese, grass-fed finished beef and maple syrup) to local consumers. Stewardship and sustainability truly drive our decisions and, in the end, add flavor, quality and authenticity to everything we do.

The Klessig Families

FARM AT A GLANCE

FARM

Owned / operated by 5th generation families: Karl & Liz Klessig, Robert & Kathleen Block-Klessig and Jerry & Elise Klessig Heimerl

DAIRY

Pasture-based dairy
500 Holstein-Jersey crossbred herd; raise all young stock on the farm; cows graze at every opportunity

LAND

850 acres of permanent pasture; 200 acres for forage and corn silage

SAXON CHEESE

Only milk from our own herd is used to make our family of American original cheese

BEEF AND SYRUP

Raise / sell grass-fed finished beef (only grass is fed after first birthday); sell harvested maple syrup (from own trees)



FAMILY VALUES

SELF-RELIANCE. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. STEWARDSHIP.

FAMILY. EMPLOYEES. LAND. ANIMALS. COMMUNITY.

FIVE GENERATIONS OF A FAMILY LEGACY



Thanks to photo contributors: HOARD's Dairyman and Mary Francis

Passionate about pasture, soil and water

WE ARE GRAZIERS

Since “day one” Saxon Homestead Farm has focused its philosophy around the fertile soil and ample acreage that allows us to graze our dairy and beef cattle on some of the state’s finest farm land.

ROTATIONAL GRAZING AND COW HEALTH

Rotational grazing is the cornerstone of our dairy farm. It’s what makes our milk and cheese so rich and flavorful. Grazing has dramatically reduced our farm’s reliance on fossil fuels and energy, thereby reducing our carbon footprint. Cows graze every opportunity they get. Every 12 hours, they are moved to a fresh paddock of lush grasses.

Rotational grazing is central to our stewardship of land and animals. For the land, we’ve developed more than 1,000 acres of improved pasture, organized into various paddocks from two to six acres in size. It is truly a “Sea of Grass.” For the cows, pasture provides nutrition and exercise. In addition to grass, our cows are fed a blend of home-grown forage and ensilaged winter feed. Since winters are often harsh, cows have access to pasture as well as comfortable, bedded free stalls.

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

All farm improvements are carefully weighed for environmental and economic benefits. Because our farm land includes three unique biological

environments, each requires different management. Due to our close proximity to Lake Michigan, we carefully maintain nutrient, manure and pasture management plans to ensure vibrant pastures, healthy soil and clean water.

Giving back is everything. Robert Klessig’s tireless conservation work has improved 45 acres of wildlife habitat and grassland bird and waterfowl populations. Along with county and state efforts, he has developed critical waterfowl nesting habitats and ensured that ours was the first farm involved in the county’s Conservation Stewardship program. Also in 2004, the farm participated in Wisconsin’s Discovery Farms research program on water quality.