

# Managing Costs on My Farm

Hunter Haven Farms  
Pearl City, Illinois

Hunter Haven Farms was established in 1976, in Pearl City, IL, when Douglas & Edith Block and Thomas & Mary Block purchased the 320 acre "Home Farm" from Robert & Ruth Block (parents). The Registered Holsteins previously had the prefix of "Hunter Haven" as Robert had originally purchased the farm from Cape Hunter in 1948. After 1976 the Block families continued to build the herd of Registered Holsteins and increased hog production in the farrow to finish confinement facilities. Two smaller farms were eventually purchased -- "Bub's Farm" to the north where the large dairy is located, and the "Johnson Farm" which is located southeast of Pearl City. The Doug & Tom Block families continued to upgrade the 100 cow Registered Holstein herd, and market hog production increased to 1100 head per year. In the fall of 1996 the decision was made to expand the dairy herd and eliminate the hog production.

Hunter Haven Farms, Inc. was established March 1, 1997 and the construction of the new 400 cow dairy facility began. During the summer of 2000 a 100 stall addition was added to the existing 400 stall Dairy Free-stall Barn. In the spring of 2005 the Methane Digester ( partially grant funded ) went on-line with electricity production and compost bedding production. During 2006 the construction of an additional 200 stall dairy free-stall barn was completed, allowing the dairy facility a capacity of approximately 900 cows. The mission of the farm is to foster an environment of personal growth and advancement for our families and employees; effectively manage resources for present and future generations, continuously improve their products in quality, value, and profitability. At present the farm is in the process to transfer the administration of the farm from the Block's to the employees Scott and Nathan.



Left: Scott Benner. Right: Doug Block