

FEATURED ORGANIC DAIRY PANELISTS

	John Brunsveld, Lizton Acres Farm	Justin Bell, new entrant
Organic dairy history	Began conventional dairy farming in 1987 near Hamilton, Ontario, and transitioned into organic in 2007	Family has farmed since the 1800s near Chatham, Ontario. August 2018 accepted in the DFO Organic New Entrant Program.
Employees/owners	Farms full-time with his two sons (who plan to take over the family farm) with his wife, Mary, and three part-time employees	Farms with grandparents but also holds a full-time job in ag finance
Number of milking cows	125 Holstein and Holstein-Jersey cross	30 Holsteins with a few Jerseys, with plans to grow the herd
Facility	In 2006, built a compost pack barn and used the old tiestall barn as a flat parlour. Built a swing parlour in 2011, and converted the pack barn to a sand-bedded freestall in 2013	Original plans included a freestall, single-10 parlour, sand bedded. New facility to include a freestall (converted from a pack barn), single-10 parlour, deep bedded shavings – with plans to switch to sand after the first year (see editor’s note)
Land	600 acres of cash crop with 90 pasture acres	20 acres of corn silage, 50 acres of sorghum-sudan grass, 60 acres of new seeding alfalfa with oats and peas, 30 acres of existing hay ground and 15 acres of pasture
Production	Averaging 30 litres per cow; 4.3% fat and 3.3% protein	Begins milking Sept. 1, 2019
Goals of operation	Produce organic milk as efficiently as possible	Keep a low cost of production, grow the quota holdings and reduce debt load.