

Tower Silos are a Popular Choice for Feed Storage in Ontario Canada

Some farmers dream of passing on their homestead to the next generation so that their children and grandchildren can continue the traditions that they began many years ago. Gary and Elaine Ray from Kenilworth, Ontario, Canada have expanded their farm and dream of passing on their tradition, Rayview Farms to the next generation.

This past September, the Rays celebrated the 30th anniversary of owning Rayview Farms. Named for its view of the rolling landscape, the Rays have spent those years growing their farm and making their family a part of it. The Rays adult children - one son and five daughters - all did their share while growing up to help out on the farm. Their son and his family live on the farm next door and are raising beef cattle and their daughters have also expressed interest to come back to farming.

The farm next door is one of four farms within a mile radius that Gary purchased to acquire more land. The Rays milk 105 cows, have around 120 heifers and work their 375 acres, as well as, an additional 150 acres they rent.

When Gary and Elaine bought the farm 30 years ago, the couple ran the small farm while Gary also worked full-time at a factory in the city. But 10 years ago when the factory closed, Gary joined his wife Elaine in making their passion a full-time job for the both of them.

Since then, they've built a new 84 x 130 heifer barn on their "Home Farm." The "Home Farm" is where the Rays live and milk cows in the new parlor they added. On a farm next door, they took down two old barns and built a new 64 x 200 barn for heifers. After years of using bags for feed storage, Gary decided he had enough of the weather issues and rodents chewing holes into them.

He added three concrete stave silos next to their existing silo. The most recent silo was built this summer and as Gary went

to place the order for the 24 x 85 concrete stave silo, he discovered the silo company was busier than he expected with many silo orders. "I found a greater demand than what I expected," Gary said "and ordering early was important to have it completed for this year's crop."

The biggest reason for going with silos had to do with the quality of feed. "I found that once we were done with the covered pile outside and we opened the silo up, we always found the cows went up in milk production. It happened every year when we opened the silo." Gary tried bags and one year even rented a bunker. He found out how much time and energy you need to commit to continually pack and cover it. "With a silo, you can blow it in and it packs itself. It's pretty well the same from top to bottom," Gary said.

The Rays have worked hard to build Rayview Farms into a successful family business. His addition of new barns, a milking parlor, construction of three new silos and dedication day-in and day-out is Gary and Elaine's way of ensuring they'll have a farm ready for their children. As they get ready to celebrate the birth of their third grandchild in January, the Ray's have done their part to ensure a long-lasting, successful family farm that is ready for the next generation.



Rayview Farms has four concrete stave silos: 16 x 60, 18 x 80, 20 x 80 and a 24 x 85



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