

Anwender Cattle Company

Anwender Cattle Company is located in south eastern Saskatchewan, on the gently rolling prairies northwest of Radville, SK, approximately 70 miles south of Regina. This is where Gary and Kim Anwender and their daughter Sadie, work, live, and raise their Shorthorn cattle. The Anwender farm is situated on one of the few small hills in this country, on the original farmstead that was settled by Kim's grandfather in 1905.

Many who read this probably consider the ACC prefix as being new to the Shorthorn breed, but the Shorthorn roots run deep in Gary Anwender's family. Gary was raised on his family's farm near Kendal, SK and his father Peter purchased his first purebred female in the early 1940's and his family raised purebred Shorthorns under the Bar P herd prefix. Gary says that his grandfather raised commercial Shorthorns for many years before this, so there is a lot of Shorthorn heritage in his past. When Gary took over his father's herd, he continued to use the Bar P name until a major herd reduction sale was held in 1997.

Like most of the Anwender children, Gary grew up showing Shorthorn steers and heifers in 4-H that were raised on his family's farm. He says his first purebred heifer purchase was in 1985, when he bought a heifer from George Cleggett at Balcarres, SK. He started to help some of his neighbors show at Agribition and his interest in raising and showing his cattle grew stronger. In 1989 Gary purchased a bull from Glenn Bender, Neudorf, SK to use in his herd. This bull was Glenford Excaliber 20X, a son of JT Titan 3T. Gary was impressed with how Excaliber continued to develop through the summer and he decided to show him at Canadian Western Agribition that fall. Excaliber was named Grand Champion bull at that show. He decided to show him again in 1990, and he took Excaliber to the Canadian National show which was held in Edmonton, AB that year. Not only was Glenford Excaliber named National Champion Bull, but he was also Supreme Champion of the show. Agribition followed a few weeks later, and Excaliber repeated his win from the previous year, as he was again named Grand Champion Shorthorn bull.



HC Fairest Faye 25L

Excaliber proved to not only be a good show bull, but he was also a very good breeding bull, leaving an excellent group of daughters in the Bar P herd. He worked exceptionally well on the daughters of AF Dividend's Dealer 2, a son of Deerpark Leader 13th that Gary and his father had used. The Anwenders still have Dealer 2 in their semen inventory, and they plan on using him more in the future.

In 1993, Gary moved to a farm east of Radville and he brought the Bar P herd from his family farm at Kendal. His parents were planning to retire and this was an opportune time for the Bar P herd to be continued

by the next generation. Kim was raised in Radville and had started her own business, Kim's Hair Studio in 1990. Gary and Kim were married on June 11, 1994 and Kim continued to run her hair salon business in the town of Radville for several more years.

In 1997, Gary took employment in the oil patch near-by, and with Kim working full time in her hair salon, it appeared that they could not juggle their off farm work and their purebred herd. They decided to hold a herd reduction sale in Saskatoon that fall. This sale was one of the best sales of the year in Canada, and their cattle were eagerly purchased by purebred and commercial cattle producers from all across Canada and the US. They retained some of their Shorthorns and the commercial cows, and used this herd to develop some good steer and heifer prospects. Gary says that there were still lots of Shorthorn genetics in their herd through this period.



*ACC Fairest Faye 12X
Proud Augustus x HC Fairest Faye 25L*

Gary and Kim decided to move to her grandfather's homestead in 2001.

This farm was northwest of Radville, and with Gary working off the farm, and Kim working in her hair business in town, along with looking after the cow herd at home, they eventually decided to close her hair studio in town. Kim has continued to maintain her hair business, but she says it is more of a mobile business now. She either goes to the client's home, or they come to the farm. This has allowed her to provide the management of the cow herd. Besides carrying out these busy activities, Kim is also the leader of the local Radville 4-H beef club, which is one of the largest in the district. As they say, if you want something to get done, you better ask a busy person to do it.

It has been 11 years since they moved to this farm, and it is quite amazing what they have accomplished in this time. They purchased a house from a farm in the district and had it moved to their farm. Once the house was set on the foundation, Gary and Kim completely renovated it themselves. They also built a Quonset building and sheds and pens for their cattle herd. With both of them working off the farm, it definitely meant a lot of long days and few days off, and it is an example of what can be accomplished if you want something bad enough.

When asked why they decided to establish their purebred Shorthorn herd again, Gary says that it was seeing one cow that started him thinking of getting a purebred herd again. This cow was New Beginnings Elsie's Jade, at Horseshoe Creek Farms. Gary said that they were looking for a Shorthorn bull for their cowherd, and had stopped in at the Alexander farm. They saw four ET full brothers sired by Byland Gold Spear out of Elsie's Jade. He says that he wanted a son of this cow when he saw her, and she planted the seed in his mind to reestablish a purebred

herd. They purchased HC Gold Nugget 28N x, as well as a couple purebred females in the Horseshoe Creek production sale, in February, 2003. Their purebred herd was re-established. They decided to use the ACC prefix for their re-established purebred Shorthorn herd.



Me 'N My Hawkeye as a yearling - Sadie's first Shorthorn from her own herd.

Early in 2006, Gary and Kim decided that they wanted to get a few more purebred Shorthorns as Sadie was showing great interest in the cattle and she was about to enter 4-H. They felt that this was something that they could work together as a family. As Gary was working off the farm, Kim again travelled to the Alexander's and she selected four bred females, all of which have had a positive impact on their herd. One of these females HC Fairest Faye 25Lx has been flushed extensively and she is one of the cows they want to build their herd around.

Gold Nugget worked well in their herd, but had to be replaced in 2006. They selected HC Notation 5N x, a son of WF Player, to take his place. Their bad luck with herd bull injuries had not ended, as Notation was injured the following breeding season and would never breed again.

2007 turned out to be a major year in the redevelopment of the ACC herd. Gary and Kim purchased the first female for Sadie to show in 4-H. This heifer was HC Daffodil 21T and she was purchased in the Fever Sale, at Olds, AB. This heifer became Sadie's 4-H heifer and she was shown extensively including a trip to the Canadian National Junior Show in Russell, MB in 2008.



Star P Matrix 4N on pasture at the farm.

This was the start of Sadie's own herd, which she has named Me'N My Shorthorns. The first calf Daffodil had was Me'N My Hawkeye 22W and he is now a herd sire in their herd. Sadie has also had two heifers from Daffodil so far, by AF Dividend's Dealer 2 and Star P Matrix 4N.

Two more females were added in the fall of 2007 from the Butterfield dispersal in Alberta. Kim had also gone to the sale to purchase Star P Matrix 4N, a herd sire in the Butterfield herd. Since their herd and ours here at Horseshoe Creek are only a few miles apart, we partnered to buy this great breeding herd sire. Matrix worked in both herds for the past few years and sired excellent offspring. Matrix is now gone, due to an injury, but Gary and Kim plan on using him extensively by AI for many years to come. Their herd saw more expansion when a set of 12 bred females were leased from the Stephenson's Diamond Shorthorns, Okotoks, AB in the fall of 2007 as well. ACC General 4U was born in the first crop of calves from the Diamond cows. General is sired by Northern Legend 3N and he has developed into a herd sire in their herd as well. Some of his first calves have done very well at shows and sales, and include ACC Baby Blue 14Y, who topped the Prospect Heifer Sale at the

Saskatoon Fall Fair at \$3600 in 2011. 2007 was also their first year to show again at Agribition, and they have been back every year since.

Another of the original Diamond females was Circle M Candy's Kit Kat 9K, and she produced one of the females that the Anwenders plan to use as a building block for their herd. This is ACC Candy's Winegum 14W, a daughter of Star P Matrix 4N. Winegum was an exceptional female from birth and it was very evident that she was going to get noticed in the fall shows. Sadie showed her to Grand Champion of the Agribition Junior Beef Extreme show. The following summer, Winegum was named Grand Champion female over all breeds



ACC Candy's Winegum 14W - a many times champion for Sadie.

at the Weyburn Regional 4-H show. She was also in the winner's circle at several other Western Canadian shows including being Grand Champion Female at the Canadian National Shorthorn Junior Show held in Alberta. In 2011, tragedy struck again, when Winegum severely broke a back leg while being bred on pasture. After consulting with their veterinarian, the Anwenders decided that Winegum was worth the gamble and the expense to try to save. Their veterinarian designed a special splint to support her leg and they invested not only some money, but also a lot of time, but today, Winegum is able to move around quite well with a healed leg. She is close to calving for the second time, and because her life span has probably been jeopardized by this injury, they plan on flushing her and hopefully banking embryos from her to use in building their herd into the future.

When an opportunity arose to purchase a set of full sib embryos to the Elsie's Jade female that ignited their interest in having a purebred herd again, Gary and Kim jumped at the chance and purchased all the embryos and also got the donor mother in the deal. By then, Diamond First Elsie 1F was an older cow but she did give them a couple more calves. From the embryos, they have a heifer named ACC Your Elsie 4Y who was a part of their show herd last fall. She is definitely another female that will develop into a superb building block for their herd.



Winegum's first calf Bubble Yum 39Y by Hawkeye.

Two more herd bulls were purchased in 2008 and 2009. HC Trademark 18T was purchased in the 2008 Sun Country Bull Sale. Trademark was a flush-mate to HC Timeline 17T who was the top selling bull that year. Unfortunately, Trademark only saw one year of service, as their bad luck with herd bulls continued. In 2009, LCCC QS Proud Augustus 707



ACC General 4U

*x was selected for them in Denver by Rolly Bateman. Their present herd bulls include ACC General 4U x, Me'N My Hawkeye 22W *x, and ACC Trooper 3X x (by General). Their main AI sire for the coming breeding season is Star P Matrix 4N x.

In 2009, another major addition to the Anwender farm was a new calving and show barn. They had the building shell erected but completed everything in the interior of the building themselves. This building contains heated calving pens, a heated wash rack, as well as additional pens to use during calving or fit their show cattle in. It also contains a room in the front of the building where Kim can do her client's hair. It is very well designed so that Kim and Sadie can move cattle easily when Gary is away at work. Another feature is a set of cameras that show all parts of the calving pens so that they can watch the progress of a cow calving from their house.

Sadie is now 12 years old and she has a very active life with school, sports, 4-H, and several other activities besides her interest in the family's cattle. You don't have to be around the Anwender farm very long to see that Sadie knows every animal and knows its pedigree. She has a genuine love of working with cattle and by the way all the young calves come to her, it is also evident that they like her as well. Sadie is very active in her school activities as well. She is presently the Grade 7 representative for the Student Leadership Council in her high school. She plays softball, volleyball and curling. As I write this, Sadie is at the Provincial 4-H Curling Championships where her team has just won the Provincial 4-H Curling Championship! I think this is an amazing feat for a 12 year old to be on a winning team against 4-H members several years older and more experienced. She has been taking dance for the past six years as well. Sadie is also the President of the District 7 4-H Council this year, which is quite an accomplishment, considering her young age and that this is one of the largest and most active 4-H districts in the province. She is a very busy girl.



Sadie & ACC Baby Blue 14Y - top selling prospect at Saskatoon.

Gary's work can take him to any part of Southern Saskatchewan and occasionally to other parts of Western Canada, so he is often away from the farm. He is the first to say that their purebred herd would not exist if

it wasn't for Kim running things at home. Kim and Sadie often load the show cattle and head to a summer show, oftentimes several hundred miles away. Gary says he is blessed with the best partner in Kim, that he could have ever wished for. You don't have to be around the Anwenders long to see that they are a good team.

In the fall of 2010, they were approached by Gerry and Betty Wyatt, Kisbey, SK to see if they would be interested in leasing some of their McBeth herd, seeing they had sold their farm,. They decided this was another opportunity to add improvement to their herd and they leased the top end of the Wyatt herd. Because Gerry and Betty were one of the original founders of the Sun Country Bull Sale and operated this bull test and sale on their farm, it was just a good and natural fit for the Anwenders to become partners in this sale. Their first set of bulls are presently on test and they will be offered in the Sun Country sale on April 14-2012.



Gary and Sadie showing Princess Wynonna and her bull calf at the Prince Albert Exhibition in 2011

Today the Anwender herd is comprised of 55 breeding cows and heifers. Their main goal is to continue to add improvement to their herd, rather than just increasing their herd numbers. They are using AI and ET to help move this improvement forward at a faster pace and it appears to be working in their favor. When I visited their farm last week I was shown a couple of beautiful ET heifer calves from their Fairest Faye donor that are very promising.

2011 was another year where the Anwenders plan for their herd became very evident by the successes they had at the shows they attended. Their two year old female, ACC Princess Wynonna 1W was Grand Champion female at several shows and was the top selling female in the Agribition Shorthorn sale at \$8,900. They also had the two top selling prospect heifers at the Saskatoon Fall Fair. The cattle exhibited under the ACC banner, received admiration and acclaim from cattle producers of all breeds. The Anwenders are true ambassadors for the breed!

I would urge anyone who has the opportunity to visit the Anwender farm, to do so, I guarantee you will not only see an excellent group of Shorthorn and Shorthorn cross genetics, but you will meet a family that works hard and works together. Their enthusiasm is infectious and their work ethics are second to none. Oftentimes, success

in the beef industry comes at a slow pace, but the Anwenders have already achieved more in a few short years than many others do in their lifetimes. In their case, this has been achieved by each person in this family working together towards a common goal. ♦