

2013 EXISTING

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Ohlde's Dairy, Inc.



Growing Kansas Entrepreneurs

Owners	Steve & Cindi Ohlde, Justin & Becky Ohlde, and Kyler Ohlde
Nature of Business	Working Dairy
City, County	Linn, Washington
Phone	(785) 348-5697
Structure	Corporation
Began	1955
Employees	26 Full Time & 2 Part Time
KSBDC Consultant	Linda Sutton

In 1955 newlyweds Robert and Norma Ohlde started what is now Ohlde's Dairy, Inc. It all began with three Holsteins that Bob had for a FFA Project. In 1980 Ohlde's son Steve and his wife, Cindi, joined the operation followed by their sons Justin and Kyler in 2007.

58 years later, Ohlde's Dairy is three generations of Christian dairymen producing wholesome milk and quality cows. They are committed to preserving our natural resources, being profitable, and helping the community they love.

In 1996, the dairy expanded and grew to 850 happy cows, 22 amazing employees, and the best community a farmer could ask for. In 2012, Ohlde's knew they wanted to expand again and needed a plan. Linda Sutton with the NCK SBDC suggested a strategic plan to guide them.

Most cows are housed in free stall barns to help protect them from the elements. With this expansion, the Ohlde's will increase their herd to 1,200 cows and build another barn. In the heat of the summer the barns provide shade. A sophisticated system of sprinklers and fans further cool the cows. For the winter months, curtains shield cows from the frigid winds. The cows also have access to food and water at all times in the barns and access to soft sandy beds. The Ohlde's do everything they can to keep their ladies (aka cows) content. It may call for some dirty work, but they find it incredibly rewarding.

Ohlde's Dairy is a family farm, and their cows are very much a part of that family. The cows' needs always have and always will come before their own. Ohlde's Dairy is all about keeping their ladies comfortable and happy.

SECRET TO SUCCESS

“There is **no limit** to what we can achieve as farmers. There is a great satisfaction in **working as a team**. It's a good family environment”

Steve Ohlde, Owner



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