



Dave Wood

WORK: Owner, Eildon Tweed Farm

David and Connie Wood operate Eildon Tweed Farm in West Charlton, NY. Connie's ancestors came to the United States from Melrose, Scotland to find the farm in 1794, which is named for the Eildon Hills and Tweed River of Scotland. David grew up on a 5th generation dairy farm in Central New York and began his career as a county agriculture agent with Cornell Cooperative Extension. He and Connie were married in 1964 and settled into a farm owned by Connie's grandparents adjacent to the historic family farmland.

As soon as he could afford to, in 1970 he bought his first two calves as a part-time hobby. David's hobby grew to 80 heifers when, in 1985, he was able to purchase Eildon Tweed farm and its 50 cows, young stock, and machinery. He retired as Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County in 1998 after 35 years of service, and has been a full-time dairyman ever since.

David's current operation includes a herd of 1280 cows of which approximately 90% are registered Holsteins with a few Jerseys. His 2,500 acres of crops includes corn for silage and hay and alfalfa to feed the herd. A handful of chickens and a rooster also call the farmyard

home. Eildon Tweed Farm employs 24 people covering all aspects of the operation from calf care to milkers, maintenance to mechanics, and field hands to truck drivers.

In the milking parlor, two people do the milking while one person moves the cows to and from the parlor. The cows are milked three times a day at 5 AM, 1 PM, and 9 PM for an average of about seven minutes each. The farm's herdsman, Seth Wadsworth, moves the cows, tracks production, attends to the cows' health, and does pregnancy exams with a veterinarian.

While the farm's main business is selling milk, David has recently begun doing genomic testing on some of the calves from his registered herd and breeding them for high quality traits. A handful of these cows may command a price and are raised to sell instead of milk.

Connie Wood is a former school teacher and local shop owner. Together they have three children - Rebecca, Elizabeth, and Jonathan - and Elizabeth and her husband Robert have given them two grandchildren, Bryan and Thomas. David is a farm bureau member, on the committee for the town of Charlton's comprehensive plan, and represents the dairy industry as a member of the board for the New York Farm Viability Institute, a farmer-led nonprofit that awards grants for research and education projects to help New York farms thrive.