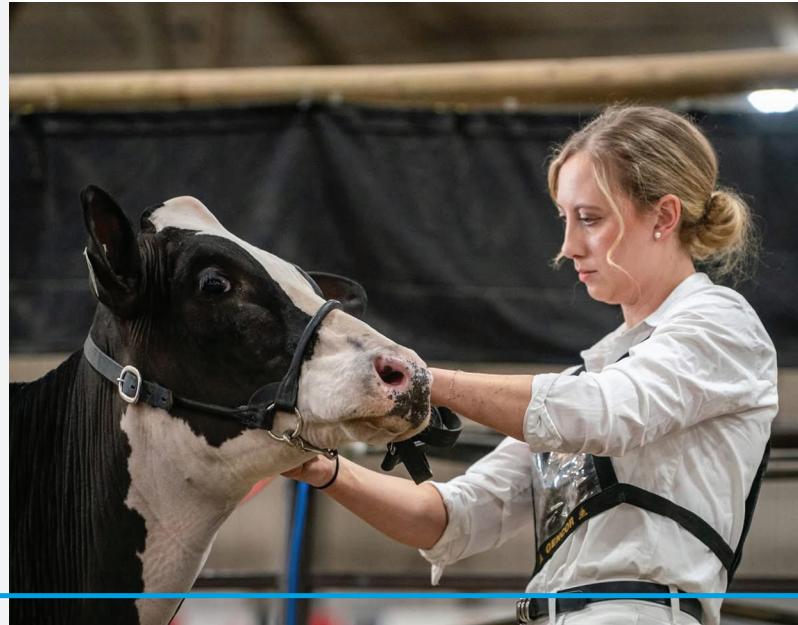




2026 WOMEN OF THE WEST



MEGAN BAARS

BAARSVIEW FARMS | DEROCHE, BC

Megan Baars is a seventh-generation dairy farmer at Baarsview Farms in Deroche, British Columbia, where she farms alongside her parents, siblings, and extended family in a deeply rooted, multi-generational operation. Raised on the family dairy, Megan's passion for agriculture began early and was shaped by hands-on experience, youth involvement in 4-H and WestGen Canadian Classic (WCC), and a strong family tradition in farming.

Driven by her interest in the dairy industry, Megan pursued post-secondary education at Lakeland College and the University of Saskatchewan, earning a Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness and a diploma in Dairy Science. After completing her studies, she returned home to take on an increasingly integral role in managing the family farm.

Today, Megan serves as the Herd Manager at Baarsview Farms, overseeing milking, genetics, herd health, employee management, and record keeping. Her role has evolved steadily over time—from feeding calves as a child, to milking during high school, to now leading key decisions that shape the performance and future of the herd.

Megan is most involved in herd management and genetics, making all mating decisions and overseeing the daily care, health, and productivity of the animals. She also manages farm records through DairyComp, coordinates staff schedules, and ensures the farm's operational systems run smoothly.

Her days start early, with mornings beginning at 3:00 a.m. to milk the farm's 250 cows. During milking, Megan conducts health checks, breeds cows, and treats animals as needed. The remainder of her day is spent managing records, planning daily tasks for employees, overseeing breeding programs, and ensuring registrations and herd documentation are up to date.

Megan takes particular pride in the herd health and genetic progress made at Baarsview Farms. Working closely with their veterinary team, the farm continually refines vaccine and breeding protocols to improve milk quality, animal health, and efficiency. A strong emphasis is placed on building longevity within the herd by breeding cows with proven cow families behind them.

Beyond her role on the farm, Megan is actively involved in the dairy community. She currently serves as a Director for the BC Holstein Branch, sits on both the 2026 Holstein Convention Dairy Show and Sale Committee, and coaches Team BC at WCC, contributing to the development of the next generation of dairy leaders.

"I'm a seventh-generation farmer on my dad's side and a fifth-generation farmer on my mom's side."



“What started as feeding calves has grown into managing the health, genetics, and future of our herd.”

Megan has encountered challenges as a woman in agriculture, particularly assumptions around leadership roles on the farm. She has navigated these experiences by being actively involved in farm meetings with banks and agricultural partners, confidently demonstrating her leadership and decision-making role within the business.

“Don’t be afraid to ask questions – learning from others helps your farm grow.”

She believes women bring valuable strengths to farming, including a detail-oriented approach, adaptability, and a strong focus on animal care—qualities that are increasingly important in today’s evolving agricultural landscape.

Family support has played a central role in Megan’s journey. Her parents have consistently encouraged open communication, welcomed ideas from all siblings, and fostered a collaborative approach to problem-solving. Farming is a shared lifestyle for the Baars family, with family values guiding both business and personal decisions.

Looking ahead, Megan is excited about the future of Baarsview Farms. Plans to expand and modernize facilities will help address current bottlenecks and support continued growth of the operation.

When asked what advice she would give to young women considering a future in dairy farming, Megan emphasizes the importance of asking questions, seeking support, and staying open to new perspectives—whether from advisors, industry partners, or family members.

Being recognized during the International Year of the Woman Farmer holds deep meaning for Megan. Coming from generations of farmers, she credits her grandfather, Cor Hamming, and her father, Gerard Baars, as her greatest role models and sees this recognition as a reflection of the work and dedication she brings to her role every day.

“Being recognized makes me feel like I’m doing a great job.”