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# BREANNA SIMPSON

**BREWAY FARMS | AGASSIZ, BC**

Breanna Simpson's path into dairy farming is rooted in family, resilience, and a lifelong love of working with cows. Alongside her husband Jarrod, Breanna is a first-generation dairy farmer who entered the industry through the New Entrant Program in 2020. Today, they milk 35 Jerseys at Breyway Farms in Agassiz, British Columbia, while raising three young children & building a future they are deeply proud of.

***"I bought my first Jersey cow just for fun — and now I wouldn't farm any other way."***

Although Breanna's family moved away from dairy when she was 12, the connection never left her. She grew up dairy farming in the Fraser Valley before her parents relocated to Saskatchewan, where they transitioned into chicken farming. Even then, Breanna knew her heart was still with dairy cattle and large animals. After high school, she enrolled in the Veterinary Technology program, completing a six-week practicum at UBC Dairy — where she met Jarrod, her future husband.

Following college, Breanna worked in small animal emergency medicine in Saskatoon, but she soon

realized how much she missed the cows. She returned to the Fraser Valley and spent four years as a herdsman at Elmido Farms in Chilliwack before going on maternity leave with her first child. During that time, she applied to the New Entrant Program and was selected — a turning point that allowed her and Jarrod to begin their own farming journey.

Today, Breanna manages the farm largely on her own. From milking and feeding cows and calves to breeding, pen cleaning, and daily herd care, she is involved in every aspect of the operation. While Jarrod helps whenever possible, his excavation business keeps him busy, leaving Breanna to handle most of the day-to-day responsibilities.

Breyway Farms began with 17 Holsteins, but the herd has evolved over time. Two years into farming, Breanna purchased her first Jersey cow, Buttercup, just for fun. It wasn't long before Jerseys became the focus of the operation — a shift Breanna says she wouldn't change for anything.

Her days start early, well before sunrise. At 4:15 a.m., Breanna is scraping manure, milking cows, and feeding calves before her children wake up around 7. Late mornings are spent feeding cows and catching up on pen cleaning when time allows. The rest of the day is dedicated to raising kids until evening milking begins at 4:30 p.m., when her children join her in the barn and help feed calves.

***"I manage a farm and raise kids — it's busy, but I wouldn't trade it for anything."***



**“Never underestimate how capable you are as a woman in agriculture. You will surprise yourself with what you can accomplish.”**

She rarely works alone, often with a child by her side. While challenging at times, Breanna treasures the opportunity to teach her children what hard work looks like, where their food comes from, and that women play an essential role on farms.

Like many women in agriculture, Breanna admits that confidence didn't come overnight. Learning to believe in her own capabilities was one of her biggest challenges. Since starting their farm, she has grown her family alongside the operation, welcoming two newborns and returning to daily chores as soon as she was able each time. The balance isn't always easy, but it's one she deeply values.

Support has been essential throughout the journey. While Breanna's immediate family lives in Saskatchewan, they have been unwavering in their encouragement and even step in to take over milking shifts when visiting. Friends, neighboring farmers, and the team at Cordine Farms have also played an important role, offering guidance and lending a hand whenever needed.

Looking ahead, Breanna is excited to continue building her Jersey herd. Over the past two years,

she has focused on breeding as many replacements as possible from within her own operation and looks forward to seeing that progress take shape. Long-term, she and Jarrod hope to purchase their own farm one day — even if that means leaving the Fraser Valley to make it happen.

For young women considering a future in dairy farming, Breanna offers simple but powerful advice: never underestimate how capable you are as a woman in agriculture. “You will surprise yourself with what you can accomplish.”

Being recognized during the International Year of the Woman Farmer is an honour Breanna holds close. She hopes that by sharing her story, she can inspire another young woman to see a future for herself in dairy farming — and take the leap.

***“If sharing my story sparks the fire in another young woman to start farming, it's worth it.”***