

MN Agriculture: Jared Luhmann, Dry Creek Red Angus



Day 18 of my "30 Days of MN Agriculture" is Jared Luhmann of Dry Creek Red Angus from Goodhue. Goodhue is located in southeast Minnesota--a very scenic part of our state. Jared and his family raise certified red Angus and Herefords in addition to organic corn and black edible beans. I just love to see young people who return to the family farm!

Social Media Sites:

Website: [Dry Creek Red Angus](#)

Facebook: [Dry Creek Red Angus](#)

Tell me a little about your farm and/or business?

We are a family farm, currently operated by myself and my father, Jon Luhman. We believe that with cattle we can not only sustain, but improve the land which we have been blessed to farm. My dad taught me that our job is to leave the land in better condition than how we received it.

How long have you farmed or been in business?

I ask my family how long we have been farming and nobody know exactly how many generations we go back. It's safe to say that it has been a long time! However, I do know that my grandpa bought the farm we currently are on in the 1960's and have been raising cattle since then and started raising organic crops in 2000.

Tell me a little about what you grown/raise/produce or service provided.

Minnesota Farm Living

A guide for navigating where your food comes from
<http://www.mnfarmliving.com>

On our farm we raise registered Red Angus and Hereford cattle. They are entirely grass fed meaning that they are not fed any grain. We try to graze as late into the year as possible and when we run out of stockpiled grass we begin to feed hay. From these cattle, we produce quality grass based genetics for breeding stock and quality grass fed beef. We also raise certified organic corn and black edible beans.

Where do you sell or provide services to? Who is your end consumer?

I prefer to market our beef directly to the consumer rather than selling through restaurants or stores. I love building relationships with them and showing them how and why we do what we do. Our bulls we market through Pharo Cattle Company and will be sold to beef producers across the continent.

Why do you grow/raise/produce? What went into your decision to do what you do?

I believe that the way we raise our cattle and farm is sustainable on every level. It allows us to build the soil and the land that we farm. It also allows us to provide a good life for the cattle we raise. It allows us to be profitable enough to make a living for multiple families that depend on income from this farm. It allows us to work hard yet still maintain a good work-life balance. And at the end of the day, we are able to produce a quality, healthy, safe product that consumer can genuinely enjoy! These all combined with the fact that I just love what I get to do makes doing what I do an easy decision.

If there is one thing you could change about farming it would be . . .

I wish that everybody who wanted to had the ability and resources to get into and make a living off of farming. It can be so difficult to get started! I have been fortunate to grow up on a farm and for there to be a need for me when I graduated from college, unfortunately not everybody is that lucky!

What is a most embarrassing moment you have had on the farm?

I remember several years ago when I was raising hogs for 4H to show at the fair, I learned how smart pigs really were. I got a call from my grandma that my pigs were in her garden and sure enough I found that they had dug under the wall of the shed!

What do you love most about farming/business?

I love that every day I get to step out my door and I am at work! And my coworkers are my family. But I also just love the fact that you never reach a finish line, that I know there will always be something I can do, change, or add to the farm. There is always something else

and that hope and excitement is something that I love. Maybe that's just right now while I'm young and ambitious but I feel as if that is something I will always enjoy! Also the fact that it's a family tradition that I get to keep alive and hopefully pass down some day to my children.

What is one thing you wish consumers knew about what you do or your farm/business?

That our cattle are well cared for, while we know that they serve a purpose of feeding people, that doesn't take anything away from us caring for them. I love my cows, and I have so many friends who love theirs as well!

What is one thing no one knows about your farm/business/product that you would like to share?

While I am busy and might not always be able to, I do love showing people my farm! I want them to see it and understand what we do. So many people don't have that opportunity, I want to give them that opportunity!

Who are your customers? Or what would you like to tell your customers?

Our customers are anybody who enjoys grass fed beef and believes in what we do!

What is one thing about Minnesota that people from other areas do not know about or are missing because they don't live here?

Minnesota definitely has a bunch of both advantages and disadvantages when it comes to farming. We are so fortunate to be in a high moisture area which is obviously essential for plant growth and allows us to get much more production without irrigation. We also have an advantage of mild summer heat in comparison to southern states which doesn't scorch crops or place as much heat stress on the cattle. Unfortunately, the further north you are the shorter the growing season is and as we all know, Minnesota winters can be brutal.