

## Silo Art Shares Dairy's Story

Folks around Hutchinson, Minn., don't have to drive to town to see art. They just need to look up at an old 100-ft. stave silo on the Luthens' farm, Skyview Dairy.

"There are many different types of dairy products lined up along the bottom of the silo. As you work your way up the silo it takes people back to our roots of how our farm started when Daryl Luthens first purchased it in 1969. Our goal was to remind people that as dairy farmers, we all love our cows," daughter-in-law Melissa Luthens explains. The second-generation farm started with seven cows, and now two Luthens brothers milk 1,400 cows and farm 3,000 acres.

The family worked with artist Tony Staffki (Walls of Art LLC) from the Twin Cities to brainstorm a design that he outlined on the silo before painting in the details with high quality industrial paint. The Luthens rented a lift for Staffki to easily work all the way around the silo. It can be seen from Hwy. 7, Nickel Ave., and the Luce Line and Dakota trails.

The biggest challenge of the 5-week project was wind, weather and painting on and around the silo's steel cables.

"No matter what size your farm is or how many generations your farm has been in the family, we all have the same passion and produce the same product that people all over have enjoyed and will enjoy for years to come," Luthens says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Skyview Dairy, 18503 Nickel Ave, Hutchinson, Minn.



Painted 100-ft. stave silo "takes people back to the roots of how our farm started," says Melissa Luthens.

55350 (ph 320 587-3658; melissa@luthens.com; Facebook – Skyview Dairy; Facebook – Walls of Art LLC).

## Farm's Own Livestock Painted On Silo

A 15-ft. tall pig and 30-ft. tall cow let passersby know exactly what Gord and Lee-Ann Lang raise on their Walkerton, Ontario, farm. The oversized, lifelike paintings are the focus of a silo mural painted by Lacey and Layla Art based out of Montreal and Edmonton.

"The cow is our own heifer," Gord Lang says, "taken from a photo. Overall, the painting captures our farm; we have hogs and beef."

The owner of a construction company, Lang has an articulated manlift that the artists used to paint the 42-ft. tall concrete silo. He worked closely with the Langs on the design, power washing and prepping the silo for three days. The artists created a grid and painted the silo in a week.

They personalized the silo on the back side with a silhouette of the Langs and their three adult children. The Lang's eight grandchildren got involved, too.

"They gave them paint brushes to paint around the bottom," Lang says.

Because they used quality paint and the mural is on the northeast side, the Langs expect the color to be vibrant for at least 20 years. It can be easily seen on the highway 150 ft. away.

The Langs are pleased with the mural and how it represents them.

"We did it for the enjoyment of people driving by," Lang says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gord



The 2 children shown at bottom of photo stand in contrast to the 15-ft. tall pig and 30-ft. tall cow painted on the Lang's silo.

and Lee-Ann Lang, Langland Farms, 112 Concession Road 6, Walkerton, Ont. N0G 2V0 Canada (ph 519 366-2222; langsgc@outlook.com).

Machinist Wayne Godshall builds several different scale replicas of steam locomotives big enough to sit on.



## He Builds Steam Locomotives To Scale

Live steam train engines big enough to sit on and control are Wayne Godshall's passion. The professional machinist has more than 40 years in a business that lets him do what he loves best, building live steam trains to scale. He estimates he has worked on well over 365 engines and scratch-built more than 60 locomotives over the years.

"You can't make a living building trains, so we do all kinds of work," says Godshall. "We have 5 full-time employees and fully computerized equipment. We had one of the first CNCs. If I can't do it in-house, I have friends who can."

It's friends who got him into the business. Already a machinist, Godshall had started on a kit locomotive but needed to do boiler work. He didn't know how, but was told a man named Joe Mastrococo did.

"Joe took me under his wing, and within a 2-year time span, I completely scratch-built a locomotive with the exception of the steam gauge," says Godshall.

He makes boilers for the train engines he makes and sells. Tested at up to 300 psi, they normally operate at only 125 psi. Many of them today are for his own locomotive

design, a scale steam locomotive called a Pennsylvania R.R. Consolidation. Known by its designation H-10 2-8-0, it is 9 ft. long, 16 in. wide and 22 in. tall. The coal-burning

steamer weighs in at 850 lbs. It has proven to be a popular design.

"It does everything you want from a model locomotive in terms of pulling power and

braking," he says. "It's not too big. One man can operate it, tend it, track it and rerail it if it derails. You just sit on the tender and do everything from there."

While providing a look back at an old technology, Godshall uses the latest technologies in producing them, such as water jet-cut steel and CNC machining. A unique steam-over-hydraulic disc brake system provides strong braking power.

The H-10 Consolidations can sell for \$29,000 unfinished, but ready to run. "At that stage, it is in primer," he says. "Just add water to the bladder in the tender and oil, build a fire, and it will run. It comes with handrails and a headlight, but there are a lot of details to add."

Fully detailed, painted, wired and complete can bring the price to around \$40,000 or more.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Godshall's Custom Machining & Live Steam, 4614 Valley Rd., Shermans Dale, Penn. 17090 (ph 717 215-7776; godshallworks@embarqmail.com; www.godshallcustommachining.com).

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