

## MATT HENDEL DIRECTOR DISTRICT VII



Matt Hendel is the owner of Hendel Farms, LLC., a registered Brown Swiss and Holstein dairy operation in the far southeast corner of Minnesota, USA. The Hendel family has owned the farm since 1869, with roots tracing back to Matt's great-grandfather who immigrated from Luxembourg. Matt graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in animal science. Upon graduation, he served as a classifier for the U.S. Guernsey and Jersey associations.

In 1991, Matt and his wife, Pam, returned to the family farm and formed a partnership with his brother, Karl. Together, the brothers expanded the dairy from 35 cows to its present 400 milking cows, 380 young stock, and elite young bulls which sell to A.I. companies. Their farm produces alfalfa and corn on 1,000 acres of owned and rented land.

Currently, the farm employs eight full-time workers along with part-time employees and four part-time high school students who help with calf feeding and milking.

The farm focuses on producing high quality milk. For more than 30 years, the farm has been recognized for their low somatic cell count by their cooperative. Additionally, they have consistently ranked among the top ten low somatic cell herds in the state of Minnesota. Their current SCC is 55,000 with a herd average of 28,100 lbs milk, 1300 lbs fat and 1200 lbs protein.

Matt's passion is dairy genetics. Hendel Farms has sold embryos to Japan, Italy, France, and Germany. Bulls are part of their genetic program and are sold domestically.

Matt currently serves on the U.S. Brown Swiss Association's Board of Directors and the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding Producer Advisory Committee.

Matt and Pam have three daughters, Hannah, Lauren and Sydney. They have all been active on the farm. Daughter, Lauren, currently manages the farm finances and does the farm's night shift. Matt is also proud to be a new grandfather to grandson, Parker.

