

Farming has been a part of the Haag family for as long as anyone in the family can remember. John Haag grew up farming alongside his father on a small farm just outside of Waunakee. After city expansion overtook the family farm's land, John completed the UW-Madison's short course program and decided to work for a few other farms in order to stay active in the farming lifestyle. John soon met Julie and together, they had two children, Josh and Amanda. The Haag's rented a small farm just outside of Waunakee for a few years, before buying the current family farm from Ben and Eleanor Maier in 1993.

Initially, John milked about 50 cows in the stanchion barn, while Julie managed all the record keeping for the dairy, as well as feeding calves. As Josh and Amanda grew older, the kids took on more active roles in helping with the family farm chores and the cow numbers slowly increased to about 80 milking cows. In 1997, the stanchion barn was modified to accommodate the building of the present-day double-six Germania herringbone parlor.

Josh graduated from high school in 2003 and followed in his father's foot-steps by attending UW-Madison's Farm and Industry Short Course program. Upon completion of the program in 2005, Josh bought into partnership with his parents and Haag Dairy, LLC was formed. The new freestall barn was built in 2005 and the herd size was slightly increased to 120 milking cows in order to support the addition of Josh to the full-time farming business. Other small changes ensued on the farm, including turning the old freestall barn into the current dry cow barn and previous small pens were expended into maternity and special needs cow pens. A recent big change to the farm came in 2008, as a new heifer shed was built to modernized accommodations for the youngstock.

Amanda graduated from high school in 2007 and currently attends UW-Platteville in pursuit of a BS degree in Animal Science with a special emphasis in Dairy Science. She still helps out with chores on the farm when she is home from college. Josh married Melissa in the summer of 2010. Melissa currently attends UW-Madison and is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year of Veterinary School. She also helps out with chores when she has free time away from school.

The latest change to Haag Dairy, LLC occurred in the summer of 2010. A decision was made to increase the milking frequency from twice per day to three times per day. Karson Westedt (nephew of a family friend) was hired to help with the additional milking. As is the case with every change made to the dairy, optimization of cow comfort has always been the Haag's number one goal. Careful attention to detail and a passion for farming allows the Haag's to provide a high quality milk product. They would like to thank you for your visit to the family farm and your support of Wisconsin's Dairy Industry.