



Belgian waffles are a New Year's Day tradition in most Belgian households. The basic recipe is a delicious waffle that can be served with butter, syrup, fruit or any topping of choice.

The Traditional Belgian Waffle Mom always served on NY's Day is soaked in warm milk, sugar and cinnamon. My Scottish husband was convinced Mom was serving him "cat dish" the first New Year's he spent on the farm! Perhaps an acquired taste, but we did manage to convert Maureen (Dutch heritage), to a Traditional Belgian waffle connoisseur!

## Mom's Belgian waffles

### Ingredients

- 1 tsp. salt
- 6 tsp. baking powder
- 5 cups flour
- 1½ tsp. cinnamon
- 6 eggs — room temperature
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ cup melted lard
- 2 cups half & half — heated to lukewarm
- 2½ cups whole milk — heated to lukewarm

### Instructions

- Whisk together salt, baking powder, flour, and cinnamon.
- In a large bowl, beat eggs and sugar; then add the lukewarm lard, half & half and milk.
- Add dry ingredients and mix just until all ingredients are incorporated. Do not over mix.
- Preheat waffle iron. Spray lightly with oil or brush with lard.
- Pour batter into hot iron.
- Cook until lightly browned, about 4 minutes, depending on iron.
- Iron will quit steaming when waffles are done.
- Place on a wire rack or parchment paper to cool.
- Serve with butter, syrup, whipped cream or toppings of your choice.
- Store in a plastic bag with sheets of waxed paper between layers. Freezes well.
- Makes nine 7" waffles.

### Traditional Belgian soaked waffles

- Layer waffles in bowl or saucepan that fits the width of the waffles, sprinkling sugar and cinnamon between each layer.
- Heat enough milk to cover waffles, with additional sugar and cinnamon to taste. Pour over top of waffles. Place a saucer or weight on top of waffles to keep immersed in milk.
- Let soak for a few minutes and serve warm.



## Quarterly Moos - Christmas 2019

### Christmas greetings to our friends and neighbors!

This has always been a magical time of the year for our family. Our parents worked incredibly hard to ensure that the next generation knew just how special the Christmas season really is.

Christmas trees and decorations are on full display at the farm, just as they have been for generations. If you haven't had a chance to view the display, we would encourage you to drive by and check it out.

Holiday celebrations are in full swing, and many family and friend gatherings will soon be taking place. Great food, great friends and family make these get-togethers memorable and precious.

The timing of Christmas on the calendar also coincides nicely with our farm's growing season.

It is a great time to reflect upon and give thanks for the blessings of the previous season, and to begin planning for the excitement and endless possibilities of the next growing season.

Our parents also made sure that the reason for this wonderful season remains the focal point... The celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a privilege to carry on the traditions started by our parents and grandparents so many decades ago, and we love the Christmas season as much as farming itself.

Our family's wish is that the magic of Christmas is with each and every one of you this holiday season, and that the joy of the season stays with you throughout the year.

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Lee, Rod & Maureen Kinnard,  
Jackie & David Stewart*



Mom and Dad, Christmas 1982



David, Jackie, Lee, Maureen, Rod and Holly the calf



## Harvest 2019



As farmers, our life revolves around Mother Nature and the calendar. The 2019 growing season proved a bit trickier than most. An unusually wet weather pattern settled into our area in August of 2018, which meant many field operations were left incomplete, moving into the winter of 2018 and the spring of 2019.

A snowy and cold winter that lasted much longer than usual, turned into a cold and wet spring leaving fields soggy and unfit to plant. Farmers were faced with a difficult decision - do you plant the field in unfit conditions, potentially damaging soil health, or do you attempt to wait for Mother Nature?

Our team made the difficult decision to be patient and wait for fit soils. This decision did not come easy and was unnerving for all involved. April turned into May, and May turned into June, and the rains just kept coming.

On June 10th, with 75% of our intended corn acreage planting complete, our team made the tough decision to stop planting corn. This decision was made a bit easier by a storm that rolled through the region and deposited nearly 3" of rain to already waterlogged fields. At times like these, it is tempting to disregard soil health and go ahead and plant into unfit soils. However, generations of experience have taught us that it is usually better to forgo this season's planned crop than to negatively impact many years of future crops due to damage to our soil health.

As it turned out, this decision proved quite wise. The rain persisted throughout the summer, and by mid-August, precipitation in our region had already shattered all records for ANNUAL rainfall ... with four months left to the year. Along with the rain came cool weather and a lack of sunshine, which left many of the late-planted crops struggling to reach the proper maturity for harvest before winter set in.

The rain was a double-edged sword. Though it was tough to get any cropping done, the corn and the alfalfa yields responded quite well to the constant watering, with respectable yields in the end.

The corn silage harvest proved incredibly challenging. The never-ending rains kept fields waterlogged throughout harvest, taking more than double the manpower and machinery it usually would.

This challenging harvest left fields rutted and needing tillage to smooth them over in preparation for next spring. Many hours were spent checking fields to determine what type of corrective tillage would be necessary, and many more hours were spent performing these field operations.

We are extremely thankful to be in a really good spot going into winter. Our feed quantity and quality is excellent, and we were fortunate to finish most field operations before winter set in.

We are also very thankful to the talented and dedicated people on our team for making this challenging cropping season a success. Our team worked incredibly hard to turn a seemingly impossible harvest into a huge success story. A huge "thank you" also goes out to our custom harvest providers, they and their teams worked extremely long hours to get the job done.

This dedicated and talented team worked exceptionally hard to make sure that our girls will be well fed this winter, and even harder to ensure that our precious soil is ready to produce again next year.

No two seasons are ever the same, and that is part of what we love about farming. Difficult times can be hard to maneuver, but success in a difficult season is even more rewarding than success in ordinary times.

**Thank you to all who were involved in making our cropping season a success!**



## Cow Power; who Moo?



*Aerial view of digester construction*

If you've driven past the farm since July, you have likely noticed that there is a new construction project underway. It's been hard to miss the 200-foot construction crane, the 200 skilled tradesmen at work 24/7, and the erection of several new structures.

Kinnard Farms is proud to announce that we have partnered with DTE Biomass Energy to construct a state-of-the-art digester project which will soon be producing renewable natural gas from cow manure right here at the farm.

This project is different from other digester projects, as we will be producing renewable natural gas instead of electricity.

The digester itself is a completely sealed unit, which will eliminate odors produced during the digestion process. This type of digester has become the gold standard in other countries, but ours will be the first installation of its kind in the United States.

Converting waste manure to renewable natural gas is a win-win for our dairy and our community. Leaving manure to decompose without digestion releases methane to the atmosphere. Capturing this gas and converting it to a renewable natural gas reduces our farm's overall greenhouse gas footprint. It also produces a clean, sustainable vehicle fuel that displaces fossil-based gasoline or diesel fuel.

In partnership with Kewaunee Renewable Energy, a subsidiary of DTE Energy, we will produce enough renewable natural gas annually to provide energy for approximately 2,476 homes. In other words, the anaerobic digester system at our farm will produce enough energy each year to displace the greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 2,293 gasoline-powered cars.

As an added bonus, a large percentage of the odor commonly associated with manure is removed during the process.

We are excited to move forward with this project as it is the perfect fit with our family's "Smart Sustainability" mission and vision statement.

**We will be announcing a grand opening ceremony early next spring, and we hope to see you there.**

## Christmas on the Farm

