

# A triumphant return

by Kory Glover  
AgriNews Staff Writer

**N**EPEAN – AFTER A DEVASTATING FIRE TOOK OUT PETER RUITER’S WHOLE OPERATION INCLUDING 80 COWS AND THREE BARN, HE FINALLY HELD AN OPEN BARN ON SAT., JULY 13 AT HIS BLACKRAPIDS FARM TO OFFICIALLY TELL THE COMMUNITY THAT HE’S BACK ON TOP.

“We wanted to bring

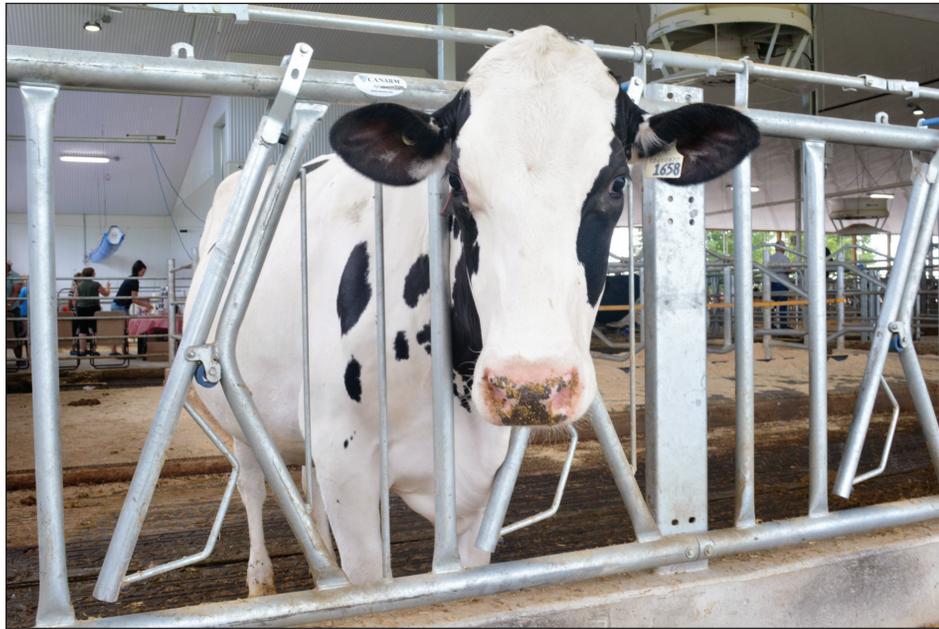
the neighbourhood in and show off what we’ve got,” he said. “I think the biggest highlight is that everything’s under one roof, from the baby calves to the mature cows. In the wintertime, I just come in, take off my coat and do my work; you don’t have to go from one barn to another.”

Ruiter continues to use a Lely robotics system in

his new barn to milk the cows, which is a system he’s been fond of working with.

“It milks the cows and the cows figured it out pretty quick to come for the treats and when they get treats, they get milk,” he said. “That system’s been around for a long time and that’s the one we decided on.”

Back in September of 2017, a fire took out most of Ruiter’s operation. It took him over a year to



## Contented cows

Ruiter continues to use a Lely robotics system in his new barn to milk the cows, which is a system he’s fond of working with. The spacious barn provides an improved environment, not just for the Ruiter family but shows the contentment of the cows.

Glover photo



## A major comeback

After a fire took out their whole operation back in September 2017, Blackrapid Farms spent 15 months building from the ground up with a brand-new barn and 47 cows ready for milking. Pictured from the left, Blackrapid Farms owners Rosemary and Peter Ruiter.

Glover photo

rebuild with a brand-new barn and a few dozen cows. Currently there are 47 cows on the milking robot and 35 heifers.

“We started to plan the project over the winter, and we started building the barn in the end of June [2018],” he said. “It happened and you can’t change the past, we decided to just drive

ahead.”

The origin of how the fire started is still a mystery to Ruiter.

“We have no idea how it started – still,” he said. “It started at about 1 p.m. in the afternoon. We wish it didn’t, but it did. It was a complete loss, there was nothing left.”

However, after a total of 15 months and hard

work, Blackrapid Farms was finally back up to its former glory with everything working as well as it used to.

“So far, everything’s coming back to normal,” said Ruiter. “There’s still things we’ve got to learn. We really appreciate people coming, hope they got some food and enjoyed the day.”

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