

## **The Matt Hill story (so far)**

My name is Matthew Hill, I am 21 years old and am five months into a one year dairy internship via Ohio State University at North Florida Holsteins (NFH) Dairy farm in the USA.

I graduated from Plumpton College in the UK with triple distinction in the summer of 2010 having studied for a National Diploma in Agriculture for 3 years. I feel very proud and honoured to have been awarded top student in dairy cattle husbandry twice in that time.

I am passionate about dairy farming and although not from a farming back ground I have worked on local dairy farms since the age of 14. To further broaden my knowledge and skills base I decided to come to the USA to experience working life on a 'super dairy'. At NFH cows are milked 24/7, 365 days a year though a 80/80 rapid exit The farm ships out six tanker loads of milk a day, each tanker holding 22,712 litres.

Don Bennink is world renowned for his farm, being an innovator in the dairy industry, with his herd of around 4,000 milking cows 90% being Holstein registered. Also with his tunnel barn systems with cow comfort and herd health being paramount to his philosophy and in addition being awarded top dairy man 2010 at the world dairy expo in Wisconsin.

In my time here I will be spending six weeks in each department on the farm Parlour, Heifer crew, Herd health, Calf yard, Maternity, Hospital barn and Feed department.

In the short time I have been here I have experienced new cultures; not just the American way but 90% of the workforce on the farm are of Hispanic origin. I feel that my knowledge about cows is being taken to the next level being able to work with the best genetics level of cows and seeing how the management systems developed this.

I feel very grateful to the Worshipful Company of Farmers for their support and award. I would also like to say a special thanks to Jeremy Courtney for his interest help time and support.