

Industry Spotlight:

Free range dairy farm joins Tillamook co-op

Pacific Pastures farmer wants to teach students about agriculture



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN HOARD

ABOVE: During the spring and summer, the cows will freely roam and graze outside on the 650 acres of pastureland. **TOP RIGHT:** A newborn calf sleeps in the barn in February. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** David Gasquoine, operations manager, also owns a dairy farm in New Zealand.



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Story by Emily Lindblom
Coast River Business Journal
elindblom@crbizjournal.com

About 250 Jersey calves were born at Pacific Pastures this winter, joining their fellow free range cows in the largest dairy in Clatsop County.

It's been about a year since David and Cathy Gasquoine of New Zealand took on operations of the farm on Seppa Road in Astoria.

"Looking around, you could easily be in New Zealand," David Gasquoine said, adding that both places have economies based in agriculture, fishing, the forestry and tourism.

"The pastures here are a lot like what we have at home," Cathy Gasquoine added.

In September 2020, Pacific Pastures became a member of Tillamook County Creamery Association, the cooperative of dairy farmers who produce milk that becomes Tillamook ice cream, cheese and yogurt. At the same time, the farm name was changed from Cowan Dairy to Pacific Pastures.

"Getting Tillamook membership is very successful for a business and we had to comply with the conditions of membership," David Gasquoine said. These conditions required them to upgrade their milk parlor and the general aesthetics of the farm.