



2005 BMO – Bank of Montreal Farm Family Awards
Cypress County



Biemans Farms

Ken Biemans and Family
Seven Persons, Alberta

Mario and wife Sonia, Roger and wife Lynda, Peter and wife Janet and Ken and wife Marlene are all actively involved in the farming operation.

The Biemans family came to their present location in 1960 from the Lethbridge area. Originally Peter and Liz came from the Netherlands in 1954. Peter and Ken were born Coaldale, with Roger born in Bow Island and Mario in Medicine Hat. Peter and Liz retired to Medicine Hat where Peter has since passed away.

The farm is a crop based irrigation operation. Over the years numerous different crops have been produced including wheat, soft wheat, durum, winter wheat, flax, canola, lentils, dry beans, grain corn, fava beans, peas, barley, oats, alfalfa and timothy. At present the crop profile includes wheat, durum, winter wheat, canola, dry beans, alfalfa, and timothy. Efforts towards conservation are ongoing, both to better utilize the soil and water resources and also for economic considerations.

There are no specific duties for each member of the family, as everyone has been “cross-trained”. This allows for more flexibility for personal time, even during busy work periods.

All the family members grew up and attended school in Seven Persons. Mario, Peter and Ken live on the farm and their children are presently attending or have attended the K-9 school in Seven Persons. Roger works in the oil and gas industry in Denver, Colorado but is still an integral participant in the farming operation.

Improvements in equipment design and center pivot irrigation have streamlined what was once the onerous part of farming. Another big change was the personal computer becoming available in the mid 1980's. The honor of having Cypress County forward the farm as this year's recipient of the Farm Family Award is a milestone for the Biemans farm.

The goal for the Biemans farm is to keep building on the opportunities that have arisen for them, as well as keeping to the standard that Peter and Liz Biemans originally set when they founded the farm.

