

Farmer: Dave Tooley

~~Andie Rusk~~

## Farmers: Mr. Dave Tooley

Dave Tooley has been farming all his life. "I've pretty much farmed ever since I was born." Mr. Tooley told me. He has 70 milk cows, and 60 calves/heifers. His cows get milked twice a day, every day. He bought a pipeline milker a few years ago and he thinks, "It's the best thing invented!"

Mr. Tooley told me he has one full-time employee, and about four part-time. He has 540 acres, and uses it all. 70 acres is tillable, and the rest is mostly deer habitat, and his farm. His cows have "total confinement!" This means they only get to go out to the exercise lot.

"My daily routine is this, I wake-up between 5:30 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. I feed the cows, heifers, and the calves. Then I pretty much do field and machine work the rest of the day." Mr. Tooley told me. Dave started running the farm in 1984. He acquired ownership in 2004. That's when Bee, the owner, passed away. "She left the whole farm to me!" Mr. Tooley said.

"The only other animal I have on this farm is cats. About 30. 10 of em' are kittens. He thinks his farm is different from other farms in the valley because he not only milks cows, but he also chops other farmer's corn.

My very last question to Mr. Tooley was, "If you could choose any other occupation, what would it be?" He replied, "Well, I think that's the hardest question I've ever answered!" Then he said, "I definitely think it would be construction because I love being outdoors, and working with my hands."

Interviewing Dave Tooley was a great experience because he gave me a lot of information. One of his favorite memories is of when he started farming for him-self. His least favorite memory is of when his chopper burned up last spring.

Interviewing Mr. Tooley was fun. He gave me info he usually wouldn't give out. He also gave me info I never would have thought of. I'm sure Mr. Tooley's information will add to the pawlet/Rupert historical societies collection.

~~By [redacted]~~