

Hello, my name is Katherine (Rowley) Bosley, a 4th generation dairy farmer on my family's dairy in Milton, Vermont, Rowley Brothers Dairy. Our farm recently rebuilt following our devastating fire in the spring of 2024, as we collectively wanted to continue farming and pass on the legacy to the next generation.

Following the unexplainable turmoil and the hardship of not producing milk for nearly 9 months (without making an income), managing our cattle between 9 farms across the state, and continuing to care for and raise our young stock, we were finally able to bring the cows home. We are excited to be in our new facility, and we continue to remain optimistic for the future of Vermont agriculture, while we continue to work through challenges that are out of our control.

Due to the drought we had to drill a new well to feed our cattle, which was a large, unexpected expense on top of our ever-climbing expenses that allow us to properly care for our cattle and land, to continue to produce our product. In addition, our corn crop was stunted, and we have less hay than in years past. As the milk market is so incredibly volatile (with already a very small profit margin even with a "good" milk price) we are another multi-generational farm that is working *each and every day* to produce high quality food, without the means to pay ourselves and our bills. There are federal relief programs (ELRP - Emergency Livestock Relief Program - Flood and Wildfire) that could help us with these circumstances, however with the government shut down we are not able to apply/access this funding and help our farm stay afloat during unusually trying times. Due to the shut down we also are unable to contact FSA employees to ask about our Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) to help with decreasing milk prices.

We as dairy farmers are eternal optimists. We take pride in waking each day bright and early to care for our animals, our land, and our image. With a full heart, I can say that I love dairy farming. It is more than just a job, it is who I am.

However, as we continue to face new challenges it is becoming increasingly hard to survive and weather the literal and figurative storms, (or lack thereof).

Thank you,
Katherine Rowley Bosley
Rowley Brothers Dairy

